



DHS News

The Official Newsletter
of the

Deposit Historical Society

April 2026 Vol XXIV Issue I

The Deposit Historical Society
PO Box 134 145 Second Street
Deposit, New York 13754
(607) 467-4422

Website: www.deposithistoricalsociety.org

Note: You can view our newsletters with color pictures in pdf format on our website!

President's Message

As the museum's opening approaches, we have continued to make progress on facility enhancements. The electrical system has been upgraded to provide improved service. Additionally, a grant from the George and Margaret Mee Foundation has enabled us to install a new roof on the rear garage. We're working on transforming the garage into a display space featuring some of our vintage tools.

We are preparing to showcase a collection of vintage hats as part of an upcoming museum exhibit. Furthermore, we are developing plans to enrich the commemoration of the **United States' 250th** anniversary.

We continue to have projects that require our focus, and we would greatly appreciate any donations to support the completion of our remaining building initiatives.

If you are seeking an appropriate gift for someone with whom you share a close relationship, consider presenting them with membership to the Deposit Historical Society.

Terry Raymond President

Mystery at the Deposit Museum

In our last newsletter we challenged you with a "Mystery at the Museum," based on a popular TV show of the same name on the Travel Channel. It included a description and photo of an object and asked if you knew what it was.

It turned out to be an early fire extinguisher.

This time we challenge you with the following object and photo:

The item in question can be found along the ledge of the balcony in the main room of the DHS, along with several very similar objects. The object is a box about 8 and 1/2 " wide, 6" tall and 7" deep. It is made of punched tin with a wooden frame and has a wire handle on the top. It has an opening which allows a small metal tray to be removed.

Answer on the bottem of page 6



Authentic Costuming from the DHS Closets

Anyone who attended the “Voices from the Past” presentation at Laurel Hill Cemetery last fall must have wondered about the costumes worn by each actor. They added so much authenticity to the program! Most came from the DHS collection. Many thanks to **Sue Stobert** for being the “wardrobe mistress” for the event. She searched the museum’s archives and closets to help find the perfect outfit for each character.

The following is part of Sue’s commentary on those costumes



Malina Wheeler Smith, portrayed by **Alaena Sales**, wore a veiled black hat, taffeta jacket and skirt found inside a large leather trunk donated to the museum last summer by relatives of that same Wheeler family. For her role as *Ola Smith Adams-Shriver*, **Atira Dilello** wore a soft taffeta hat also found in the trunk. That trunk and its contents are now on display at the museum.

Jen Valentine, playing the part of *Sylvia Knapp*, donned a dramatic fur trimmed green velvet coat and matching feathered hat. The evening attire was donated in 1982 by Mrs. Virginia McInnes and is also part of the museum’s collection.

To complete her portrayal of *Elizabeth King*, **Kay Hoban** chose to wear a prized possession of the late Ellen Jogo. Ellen’s husband spent every penny he

had to buy her a real fur coat early in their marriage. The coat is Mouton lamb, circa 1945, purchased with his “mustering out pay” at Bryant’s Department Store, Front Street, Deposit, N.Y. The coat was donated by Ellen’s son.

To portray *Albert Bradtke*, **Yosef Dilello** chose to highlight Albert’s time as an infantryman during WWI. The museum has in its possession the uniform worn by Dr. Clayton M. Axtell during his time serving in World War I as a battalion surgeon. The uniform fit Yosef perfectly! You may have also noticed the uniform insignia included Dr. Axtell’s medical bar, a WWI medal “The Great War for Civilization,” a WWI Victory Medal and a NY State WWI medal. The Axtell family donated the contents of Dr. Axtell’s office to the museum. The uniform is on display in the Bundy House.



As part of **Josh Axtell's** portrayal of county doctor *Roswell Kelsey Palmerton*, he wore an antique stethoscope also from Dr. Clayton Axtell's office.

Terry and Becky Raymond played the parts of *Anson Vail and his wife, Elizabeth Vail*. Terry wore a vintage shirt and felt hat donated to the museum by Trena and Aksel Pederson. Becky's costume included a black silk, wide-brimmed hat, with a tag noting its purchase from Hills, McClean & Haskins, Binghamton, NY.

Hostess for the event was **Michele Shirkey**, who portrayed *Emma Wickwire*. She wore a beige great coat donated in 1982 by Mrs. David McInnis and

worn by her grandmother, circa 1905.

Along with **Lars Updale**, playing the part of *JJ Bell*, and **Ed Shirkey** as *Livander Ford*, all members of the crew wore pieces of vintage clothing or accessories in keeping with the time frame of the late 1800's to early 1900's.

Thank you, Sue Stobert, for digging out these tangible pieces of Deposit history to add to the authenticity of "The Voices from the Past." Thank you also to all those contributors who donated family heirlooms to DHS to help preserve the stories of our village. They are treasured reminders of our collective past.

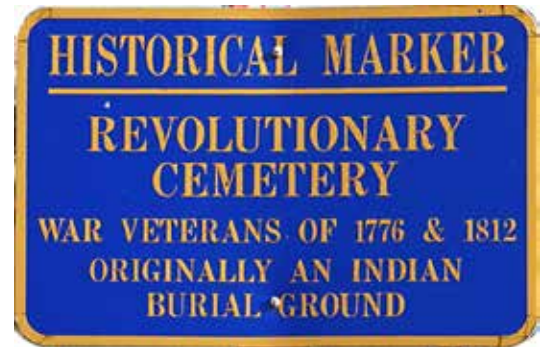


National Recognition

as the United States is celebrating 250 Years

As brought to our attention by Town Historian John O'Connor, Deposit received recognition in the Spring 2025 edition of the national magazine Hallowed Ground for work done at the Revolutionary War Cemetery by the Koo Koose Chapter of the DAR and the Deposit Historical Society. This recognition came for volunteer stewardship activities through the American Battlefield Trust's 29th Annual Park Day event. The stated purpose of the Trust is to "Preserve, Educate, Inspire." Local volunteers replaced grave markers, cleaned gravestones, removed invasive shrubs and dead trees, rebuilt the surrounding stone wall and replaced the entrance gate. These activities were done in preparation for the 250th Anniversary, the "Semiquincentennial," of the founding of the United States.

The DAR will hold a special ceremony in the cemetery in Deposit on Memorial Day 2026.

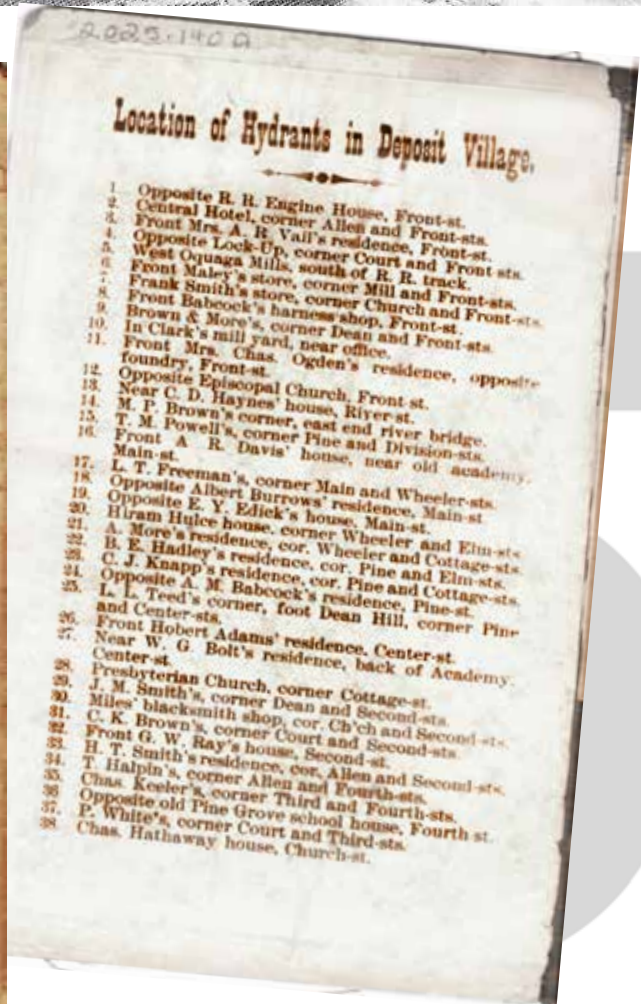
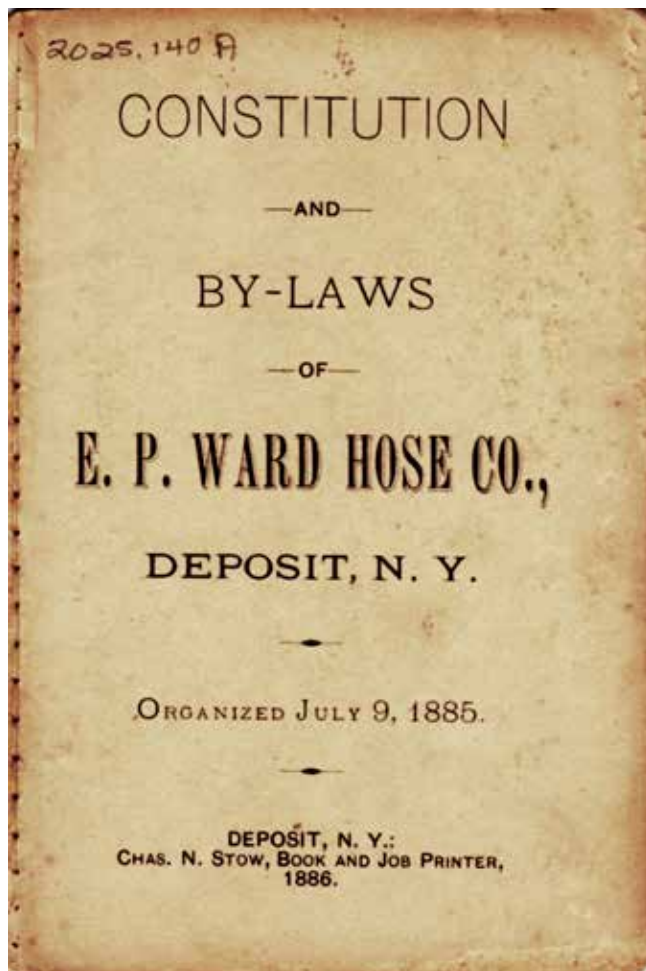
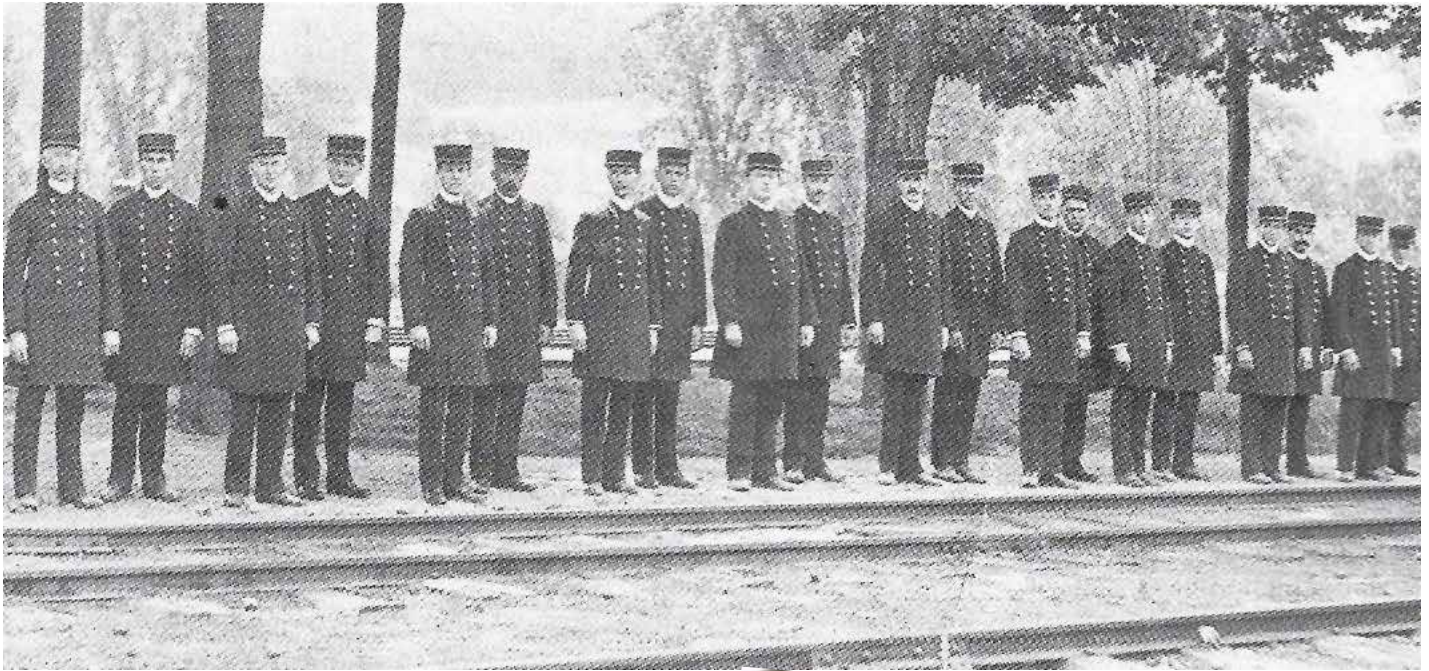


The Deposit Fire Department is celebrating 175 Years of Service



The E.P. Ward Hose Company was formed on July 9, 1885. It is named in honor of the Erie railroad Station Agent at the time. Their station was located on Church Street in the Shellman Building. Half of the building was occupied by the fire company and the other half by Sam Dean's Dry Goods Store. In 1898 (the picture on the opposite page) the members of the E.P. Ward Hose Company, the local fire department here in Deposit, are waiting to board a special Erie rail car at the Deposit Depot. They are headed for Syracuse N.Y. to attend the Syracuse Firemen's Convention.

The E.P. Ward Hose Company



The Following is a Reprint From *The Deposit Courier*

Our Deposit — Years Ago

A Memory of Our Deposit of
Long Ago

By WILLIS W. BURROWS

I was born in the town of Deposit, in Stilesville, January 27, 1856.

My first remembrance of the Civil War was when my oldest brother, along with several other Delaware County boys, joined Company A, Regiment 144, and went to the South. My uncle, Palmer C. Burrows, was captain. Father used to read letters from our absent brother from time to time.

Father at that time was in the hardware business. The old plank road was doing a sort of duty, but was in a very much broken up condition. The plank road extended eight miles toward Cannonsville and west to Afton, unless my memory is at fault.

My father sold our home at Stilesville to John Videto and moved to our farm on the Cold Spring road.

I attended school at the old red schoolhouse at Hambletville, built in 1863. My first teacher, and the first teacher to practice there, was Miss Bolt, who married J. W. Axtell; our next teacher was Miss Sarah Whitaker, who married Charles Stiles, father and mother of our townsman, John Stiles. James A. Vail was our next teacher in 1869.

Father bought the Pine Grove Folkey place in 1870, and I then went to school in the old Pine Grove School. When the Pine Grove School was closed to the higher grades, I attended the old academy one year, under Professor Johonnet, and Miss Truesdale, ending my school days in 1876.

When quite small boys we used to go to the Ira Snyder ax fac-

tory to see how axes were made. (I have one at the present time made about 1865.) John Videto had a carding and wool washing factory near the ax factory. I went there one time with a few pounds of wool and saw how wool was carded for the spinning-wheel.

My father was in business in town, so I used to drive to town quite often. I got to know most of the merchants doing business at that time. The Devereux and Clark tannery was then in full running order. I used to go see how leather was tanned for shoes.

I saw the burning of the Laurel Bank Seminary. My father was superintendent of repairs, after it was taken over by some New York people to use for a boys' school. The fire was in the early morning. We, being on the farm, hurried to town to see it go. There was no water nearer than the river, so the building soon burned to the ground. The next fire of real note was when the south side of Front street, from Mill street to the L. A. Carl building, burned.

Of the firms in business at that time I recall Mr. Mailey, Gallagher and Dailey, F. Milo and Company, J. B. Carpenter, Hathaway and Simpson, Minor and Smith, H. T. Smith and Co., A. L. Scudder, J. Thurman, W. Minturn, M. E. Gilbert, G. W. Holmes, and west of Mill street, Adolph White and S. R. Morehouse; from the west end of town the old Erie Roundhouse, the three hotels, Western, Central and Oquaga. The Vail block was built about 1870 or 1871. Next came Hays and Stoddart, a small meat market, T. and M.

Halpin, Captain William Park, J. P. Dean, who had a residence back from the street with a picket fence, where the bank now is, H. Burrows and Son, Clark and Brown, drugs, P. Stone, H. Herrick, S. O. Dean, Devereux and Clark, H. W. Bixby, Putnam and Minor, B. Radeker, G. Conrow, Ford and Perry (a small building used for post office for many years, J. B. Stow, postmaster), J. B. Stow, William J. Freeman, Alex Cumming, law office and residence, Babcocks, the old Dean homestead (Lee's), the J. B. Stow residence, H. Burrows, and Wickwire and Russell.

I recall the fire at the railroad freight house. When Henry and George Smith, both railroad painters, were severely burned.

Of the downtown stores were George Dann, T. M. Paul, Mr. Quinn, D. L. Demoney, B. E. Hadley, S. Walley, A. R. Davis, gun repair shop. Of all the merchants in town at the time of which I write the only one carried on in the same locality and by the same family the old reliable drugstore of C. K. Brown, since 1843.

The only water to be had was from wells and a few springs. For fire use, there was a well at the corner of Dean and Front street, at the corner of Church and Front streets, and the Oquaga Creek and Delaware River.

Mapes, Clark and Company, sash and blinds, J. Herring, wood worker, Titus Bixby, furniture, Levi Freeman, lawyer, T. and A. More, lawyers, O. T. Bundy, Sr., M. D., Dr. Gregory. These have all passed on. Let us live for a short time and see the old home town through the eyes of our youth.

Answer from page 1

In case you haven't already guessed, the object is a foot warmer from the mid 1800s. The tray would have been filled with hot coals. The punched holes would have allowed the heat to radiate out. These foot warmers were used in carriages, sleighs, trains and unheated churches during cold winter months to help keep your feet warm!



DEPOSIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All Wednesday evening programs are free of charge and everyone is welcome. Programs are held at the Museum, 145 Second Street, unless otherwise specified. Please check our website for any changes or cancellations. All programs are followed by refreshments.

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---------|
| April | 15th. Arbor Day- the American chestnut tree. | 7:00 pm |
| May | 13th. “The Lost Towns of Cannonsville, Then and Now,”
presented by Mike Schowe. | 7:00 pm |
| June | 17th. “Diaries and Desserts,” excerpts from Revolutionary War times. | 7:00 pm |
| July | 1st. “250th Birthday Tea.”Our guest will be a historical reenactor.
Tea and 1776 desserts will be served. | 1:00 pm |
| July | 19th. Stroll with us to explore the Deposit Button Factory, the Outing Publishing Company,
and the history of the Deposit school system, including a tour of the current school
facility. Meet in front of school | 1:00 pm |
| Aug. | 8th. “Teddy Bear Tea.” A conversation with a local children’s book author and
a storytime will included with this tea and sweets. | 1:00 pm |
| Oct. | 17th. Fundraiser: “Voices from the Past,” at the Revolutionary Cemetery. | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. | 18th. Fundraiser: “Voices from the Past,” at the Museum.
Meet voices from the Revolutionary War period and hear their stories. | 7:00 pm |

Beginning Memorial Day weekend and through Columbus Day weekend, the Museum will be open for exhibit viewing on Saturdays from 10:00 am - noon and on Sundays from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Admission is free.

Our Research Library in the Bundy House remains open year round on Tuesdays from 9:30 am until noon, or by appointment (607) 467 - 4422.

CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH A MEMBERSHIP

Consider a lifetime membership as a way to honor USA's 250th

Gift a membership to a history buff

Introduce a young person to Deposit's history with a membership

Lifetime: \$250

Annual: \$20

Deposit Historical Society

PO box 134 Deposit, NY 13754

Contact the DHS News editors for information, suggestions, or address changes...

If you have information to share with us about our mysteries, historical events, or suggestions for new articles or projects at the Museum, **or if you have moved**, mail it to DHS Newsletter editors Michael and Gail Musante at PO Box 134 Deposit, NY 13754, or email it to one of us at gail.musante@gmail.com We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!!

Would you like to receive a paperless copy of future DHS Newsletters?

Please send your email address to dephistsoc@aol.com

The Deposit Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 134
Deposit, NY
13754