



# DHS News

The Official Newsletter  
of the

Deposit Historical Society

Sep 2025 Vol XXIII Issue II

The Deposit Historical Society

PO Box 134 145 Second Street

Deposit, New York 13754

(607) 467-4422

Website: [www.deposithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.deposithistoricalsociety.org)

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

## President's Message

As we wrap up the summer months, we are happy to show off our new floor for the program room. We would like to thank the Kenneth Axtell Foundation for the support we received in making this possible. Our members have worked hard to make the Museum building a welcoming presence for the community. Please stop in to see our exhibits and memorabilia!

Our September 10th program "The Big, Bold and Brave" should prove to be very interesting! Meet men and women whose ingenuity and vision inspired the world; the program is written and directed by Judith Present!

*Terry Raymond President*

## HISTORY OF OQUAGA LAKE

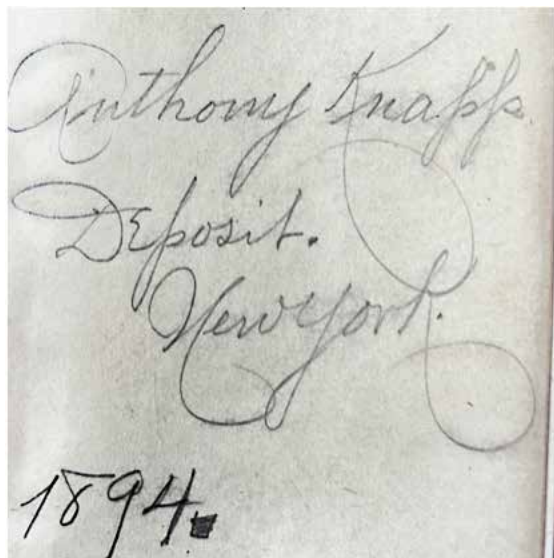


On August 20th Gary Holdrege spoke to a full house (standing room only) about the history of Oquaga Lake. Dozens of vintage photographs and a scale model of the Scotts Showboat were on display. An old video and an old film were shown as Gary mused on the heyday of the Scotts Resort.

# A Glimpse Into the Past by Michele Shirkey

Have you ever wondered what life was like years ago? At the Historical Society, we are fortunate to see artifacts and objects from days gone by, and we also preserve many written documents from early settlers here in Deposit. Sometimes, we end up with more

questions after exploration than we had when we started! Here you will read excerpts from a journal written in 1894 and another from 1951. See how life changed - or perhaps stayed the same - through the years and through the eyes of people that lived here.



Anthony W. Knapp was from a long line of Wheeler descendants, some of the earliest settlers in Deposit. Anthony's mother Henrietta was the daughter of Dr. Knapp and his wife Malina (Wheeler). The Wheeler clan lived in a large house at 20 Main Street. Henrietta married an attorney by the name of Anthony L. Knapp in 1868, and the two of them moved to Chicago, Illinois where they had their only child Anthony W. Knapp in 1869. After his father's passing in 1881, Henrietta and her son Anthony moved back to Deposit and lived with (great) Uncle George Wheeler at the homestead on 20 Main. It was here that Anthony wrote the journal that is now housed at the Deposit Historical Society. The journal, dated 1894, would put Anthony in his mid-twenties.

1/4 Charles Alverson received his appointment as post master today from president James Polk. Went over to the Baptist church and saw them putting in a new organ.

1/25 Today occurs the great fight between James Corbett and Charles Mitchell. Later reports received by wire are Corbett won the championship. Time 9 minutes. (a KO in 3rd round, winning \$20,000). Played mom 3 games of Grubuge and beat her in 2! (Granuge- a popular card game from Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries)

2/13 Election day is today and the whole Republican ticket was elected except for one. Porter Baxter will take the place of Rob Riggs for constable.

Some other February excerpts included:

Attending a minstrel show at Mrs. Wilcox's, ordering a box entitled "Samantha" from NYC at The World's Fair. It was \$2.50, Receiving a letter from Nettie that Mamie has diphtheria, and going to Oquaga Hall to see a Variety Show.

3/9 Jim Burrows came to give mother an estimate on a new heating system for the house. Should be set up and ready to use in 2 weeks. Went to the depot to see cousin Bert off on the number 1 and Chas came in on number 4 from Middletown.

Other March notes:

Mother and I planted our flower seeds that came in the mail. We planted them in cigar boxes that we found laying around the house. Nettie wrote says Margaret and cousin Rob along with Mamie and Eleanor now all have diphtheria. Bought some postage stamps for 2 cents. House getting a remodel. Kitchen and bathroom removed. Arby Evans came and cut down the electric wires to the sitting room and front of the house so we have to use lamps again.

Babcock Brothers will be coming next week for all new wiring. Went to the doctors office and had a tooth filled.

4/15 Went over and saw Mary and read in German and French with her. Went to church this evening and had a very good sermon.

4/17 Went to hear Marie Knibloe in her dramatic interpretation at Academy Hall. It was splendid!

4/19 The men are here to move a house and it now stands in the road by Mr. Ogdens house. Its moving to Grants lot on Elm Street. Fannie and Cousin Kinney sail to Europe today and will be gone until October.

Other April notes included: Sending a telegram to Nettie. Grant Culver busy moving his house today up on Aunt B's lot and by tomorrow he will have it on his own foundation on his own lot.

In May it seemed Anthony was plagued with many cavities and tooth aches. Had some filled with gold filling, and even refilled as his teeth were still very achy. Work on the house continues. The roof was being shingled, Mr. Bisbee was working on the chimney for the furnace and the kitchen, and Jim Burrows sent the updated plans for house. Radiators and registers for the steam furnace are going in, and floors being laid. New windows are in, and a new front double door.

5/8 Mr Sampson sowed our sweet pea seeds was afternoon out by the grape arbor. It's a bright sun shiny day. The plants mother ordered from NYC came and I helped mother plant them.

5/13 Uncle George sang tenor today at church because Dr. Bundy wasn't there.

5/15 Exchanged wheels with Jim Tinkler for a Cleveland pneumatic tire number 7. Rode the new wheel until 9pm and she rides dandy "out of sight".

June seemed to be a very hot month. Anthony wrote many times that it was too hot to do anything. On June 20th he attended the class day exercises of Academy Hall. G. Taylor delivered the valedictory. Went to a ball game at the new field. There was a good crowd and the result was 10 to 3, our favor.

7/4 Went over to Nettie's and shot some roman candles for the children.

7/6 Had dinner at the Hotel in Cannonsville.

7/23 Left on train No. 2 for NYC at 11:44 and arrived at 4:40. Have nice rooms on 2nd floor on Broadway. We went to the 5th Ave. theatre.

8/8 Received a telegraph that Katie Murray from Springfield Illinois will arrive on the No 8 tomorrow. Mother will be very glad to see her.

8/11 Victor Bailey drowned today swimming.

9/1 School commenced this morning and also the Fair.

9/5 Went to Fair. Very crowded. 9/8 Went to Hancock on early morning train and attended the circus. It was very good.

10/2 Em Perry was married this morning to Mr. Harry Pilmore from Utica. Rev. G.A. Liggett tied the knot.

10/20 A glorious day. Rode up town with mother and looked at wallpaper at Vail's store. In the afternoon took mother and aunt Elsie for a ride. Rode past the Water Works, up Big Hollow, and came back Beebe Hill Road.

10/30 Left for Binghamton on the No 1. Have a pleasant room at the Bennett Hotel. Went to see Mr. George Lyons on business with mother. In the evening mother and I went to the Opera House to hear Rev. Sam Small lecture on prohibition. Aaron Babcock died this afternoon of consumption.

In November, Anthony writes that it snowed a lot. He also has many political entries: commenting that many people were in town for voting; that Morton carried the state by an overwhelming majority; and that WK Strong, the Republican candidate for mayor of NYC was elected; that Morton, the governor elect, got 10500 votes. He also writes that Percy Knapp had his leg run over by the DL and WRR just above the ankle. Social hour at WS Russ's was canceled on account of Captain Burrows death. Anthony mentions riding in the carriage with Mother on several occasions and playing cards, Monopoly, Parcheesi, and Casino.

12/2 Saw a cutter this morning, the first of the season, very cold and nasty.

12/25. Mother and I went to Nettie's for dinner and to see the Christmas tree the children had decorated and then went to Oquaga Hall and had a glorious evening.

12/29. A crackling snow and continued bitter cold spell.

In the back of the journal, Anthony lists some of his expenses. In January of 1894, he spent a total of \$13.33. Expenses included: rent for a lock box at the post office for .25, a shave at Lloyd's for .10, the *Courier* for 1 year \$1.00 and a doctor's visit for \$10. In other months, some of his expenses included: cigars at Browns for \$2, sending a telegram for .50, Sunday *Worlds Fair News* for .06. and .25 for a tablet.

Lastly, in the back of the journal he had saved a news clipping of tongue twisters. Try some of these!

The bleak breeze blighted, the bright broom blossoms.

Swan swam over the sea, swim swan swim, swan swum back again, well swum swan.



Eunice Love, daughter of Elmer and Evelyn (Russell) Love grew up in Cannonsville. Her journal from 1951 was donated to the Historical Society. Excerpts from the journal reveal that she was an avid proponent against the building of the reservoir. In a news clipping from the *Walton Reporter*, dated October 13, 1950, the Citizens Budget Commission called the proposed \$63 million water tunnel at Cannonsville a "sheer, complete and futile waste." The Commission claimed the "tunnel would never carry a drop of water to the city if built." The Citizens Budget Commission was a private organization that studied city affairs. The Commission suggested that more water be tapped in the Delaware Water Gap area. A full report on the issue would be coming from Incodel - the Interstate commission on the Delaware River Basin. And so the debate began!

Miss Love never married. She rented a room in a



house in Cannonsville for which she paid \$35 a month. Later in life she purchased a house in Cannonsville. A school teacher and a member of the Eastern Star, she enjoyed writing, mending and making meals for others. Some excerpts from her journal:

Jan 10 it was 6 above this morning. It was cold so I turned the burner up to 74 degrees. It buzzed but did not ignite. Went to neighbors to use the phone and Naylor told me to press button on smoke pipe and it would ignite. Couldn't find a button. Litha came to help me look for it. Went back to neighbors to phone the store and the clerk said no button on this type of heater and they would send a man tomorrow to fix it. Its 40 degrees.

Feb 3 Rode home in jitney. Worked on report cards when I got home and then mended and read in the evening. The mail today included the Readers Digest. I rent mailbox No. 73 for which I pay \$25 a quarter at the Cannonsville post office.

March 13 Floyd was driving one of the county road trucks loaded with dirt and he lost control coming down Sands Creek Hill. It crashed into the rear wall of Bob Boyds house, bounced and ended up upside down on top of Bobs outdoor fireplace. Ambulances, state cops, camera men and reporters were all on the scene.

April 8 Birds sang and I heard peepers on Conrads swamp. Mae and I each got 2 pounds of Fanny Farmer Chocolates. What a great day!

May 14 Went via T.C. to Sidney Center, East Masonville Dam, North Franklin and Oneonta. Got out at Bresee's Store then went to the 5 and 10. Went home by way of Bennettsville, Masonville and Stilesville. The apple trees are beginning to bloom.

June 23. Litha is in the Deposit Hospital for an operation. Nearly all of my last years class came down to tell me they were promoted. The children helped me pack up the room.

July 14 Stopped by Rock Royal store to see Edna. Too tired to write more tonight.

August 25 Did errands in Walton. Went to see Uncle Elmer and Aunt Carrie, found them at Kent's store. Went to Dr. Dumond DDS. Barbara cleaned my teeth. No cavities! My bill was \$2.50. Also picked up my new glasses from Earl Merritt optometrist. The bill was \$5.60.

September 14 Had no coat or umbrella on my way to school. It rained even harder during the day so I did not go home for lunch. Mr. McConnell got cake and a root beer for Mrs. Eastman so we stayed in my room and ate. After school I went to Fentons to see about a car.

October 4 Reached Binghamton about 10:30am Did some shopping at Sears, Fowlers, Grants, Woolworths and then Fanny Farmers. Ate lunch at the Olympia restaurant. Made it back to Deposit by 3:30 and stopped at the bakery to get bread.

Friday Nov 25 The oilman came before I had breakfast. My bill was \$30.28, \$2.26 a gallon. One of the OES people called up to know if I would bake stuff for their bake sale at the A and P Store in Deposit over the weekend.

Dec 25 Snowed a fine snow until about 9am. Earl came about 10:10 am and we left for Sidney via Stilesville and Masonville. Snow on hill in Barbourville and some on Sidney Hill. Arrived at Aunt Edna's 11:10. I helped prepare Christmas dinner. My Christmas gifts included a box of writing paper, 3 boxes of candy, a pickle fork, rain coat, sofa pillow, towel set, sheet for bed and a photo. I also received 137 cards and \$10.

In the journal were receipts from a property on Bridge St, lot No 10, which included 3/4 of an acre. The land tax bill was \$34.17, and the school tax bill was \$16.86 which included the tax collector's fee of 17 cents. There were also three receipts for work done to a car: one from Deposit Motors Lavern Green prop. for a lube and oil, \$7.10; one to Strong's Garage on Front Street in Deposit to straighten wheels, \$10.45;

another to Bronson Smith Motors in Walton to install a new light relay for, \$7.25. It appears Miss Love drove a Buick.

Thanks Miss Love for sharing your story and history with us in your journal. Miss Love was born July 2, 1887 and died December 7, 1969. She was buried in the Walton Cemetery next to her parents, who were originally buried in Cannonsville. The graves were moved to Walton when the Cannonsville Reservoir was being built.

So, what questions did you have after reading this article? Wonder what Oquaga Hall, Academy Hall and the Cannonsville Hotel were like? How did they move houses in the 1800's? What was the importance of the railroad in Deposit's early days? What were early politics or Prohibition like in Deposit? Or what wheels were Anthony talking about? How did life change from the 1800's to the 1900's?

If you have family journals that you don't know what to do with consider donating them to the Historical Society for preservation. And by all means, visit our museum and spend some time looking back into Deposit's past.

---

Have you discovered the TV show Mysteries at the Museum on the Travel channel? A recent episode featured the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The show always physically describes an item, then tells its historical significance. Well, DHS has a few mysteries of its own!

For example: the DHS museum has a bulbous blue glass container, about 7" high and 4" in diameter. It appears to contain some sort of liquid and has a cork at the neck of the bottle. It has a blue star and the words "Harden's Hand Grenade" in raised letters on one side.

Yikes! Hand grenade! Sitting casually on top of one of the glass cases?

You can relax. The item described is actually an early fire extinguisher, popular in homes and work places in the late 1800s and early 1900s. At this time, fires were greatly feared. Everyone had heard of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 which killed an estimated 300 people.

Harden's hand grenades could be found in wall mounted brackets or kept handy next to the fireplace or stove. They frequently held salt water because it would not freeze. They were meant to be thrown at the base of a fire. The thin glass would break and the liquid would hopefully douse the fire.

by Donna Lewis

---

## UP DATE

In the last issue of this newsletter we asked the question, "Who has the family Bible?" Several families have responded and we are still hoping for others. If you have an old family Bible, please consider bringing it to the museum during our open hours or to the Bundy House on Tuesday

mornings between 9:30 and noon. We will take photos of the pages which contain family genealogy and then hand it right back to you. This data will then be added to the research files used by those who come to the museum searching for their family history.

## Mysteries at the Museum



# A STROLL DOWN FRONT STREET MEMORY LANE



Join a tour guide from the Deposit Historical Society on Sunday, Sep 28th, at 1:00pm for a stroll and talk on Front Street. Listen to stories and discover the businesses from days gone by. Reminisce and learn about the history of this part of the Village.

Meet in the Big M parking lot. \$10 donation

Sponsored by the Deposit Historical Society. Donations will help keep our museum open and help the society offer historical programs in the community.

## DEPOSIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**All 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.**

**Sep. 10th.** “The Big, the Bad, and the Bold” presented by Judith Presentarts, 7:00 pm

**Sep. 28th.** “Stroll on Front Street” Tour 1:00 pm

**Oct. 18th.** Fundraiser: “Voices from the Grave,” Laurel Hill Cemetery, 7:00 pm

**Oct. 19th.** Fundraiser: “Voices from the Grave,” At the Museum, 7:00 pm

**Oct. 15th.** A breakfast tea at the Museum 10:00 am RSVP (607) 467-4422

**Dec. 7th.** A holiday music event with The Holdrege’s, 2 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.**

## *Membership Renewal Time Again*

If you are not a Lifetime member, it is time to renew your membership for 2025.

Membership rates are as follows:

Lifetime -- \$250

Annual -- \$20

Please submit your membership renewal promptly to Deposit Historical Society,

PO Box 134      145 Second Street, Deposit, NY 13754.      *Thank you for your ongoing support.*

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:dephistsoc@aol.com)

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