

Delmer Runkel

Delmer Runkel was born in Boght, Albany County, on March 3, 1856. He went to school in Troy and graduated from Troy Business School. In 1872, he became secretary to William Gay, cashier of the National State Bank of Troy. Gay was also treasurer of the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Company of Hoosick Falls.

In 1885, Runkel was hired as head of the collection department at the Wood Factory. The next year he moved to Hoosick Falls and worked in this department until May 1901. After this, Runkel organized the Peoples National Bank. He was the cashier and a director until 1912. After the death of the president, Charles Cheney, Runkel was named president and served until 1929. The bank entered a new era of progress under Runkel's guidance. Many individuals from the surrounding area started doing business in Hoosick Falls, expanding commerce in the community.

In 1931, Runkel became president of the National City Bank of Troy and left Hoosick Falls to be closer to his work. He stayed on as chairman of the board of Peoples Bank, and in 1932, helped guide the merger of the Peoples Bank with the First National Bank in Hoosick Falls.

Runkel was connected with, and took an active part in virtually every business and civic interest in the village of Hoosick Falls. At the time he left the village he was president and trustee of the Permanent Savings and Loan and was one of the organizers of that institution. He was president and trustee of the Cheney Library, the Hoosick Falls Cemetery Association, and an elder in the First Presbyterian Church. He was also a trustee of the local school board for 20 years.