

***Hermon Historian Report***  
***Hermon Town Board***  
***June 11, 2024***  
***Lenore Zaunere, Town of Hermon Historian***

*Hermon, organized as Depeau in 1830 by the NYS Legislature  
renamed in 1834 to Hermon*

On May 30, I joined with Bryan Thompson, the DeKalb Historian for our annual history “School Days” activity. Each year, the students of Hermon Dekalb School are offered an opportunity to learn about an aspect of North Country living from the past. The history of the topics are experienced through authentic, hands-on activities and the teachers pick the day that works best in their schedules. This year, in 40 minute periods, students from grades 2-5, formed into 6 groups by their teachers, listened to stories about artifacts in the museum and handled and tried them out ranging from music, photography to laundry. Knowledgeable volunteers led the groups that cycled through to the next artifact every time the “school bell” rang! (See pictures attached.)

Pearl’s Department Store – who remembers it? For the second time in the past seven years, I’ve responded to an inquiry from Jay Cohen, an author and descendant of the proprietors of Pearl’s Department Store. He is still working on his book on the history of Pearl’s stores in his family. His relatives, Morris and Dot Pearl were the owner of Pearl’s in Chateaugay, Ellenburg Depot, Champlain, Hermon and Edwards and the National Fashions stores in Malone and Champlain.

He has started a website [afamilyofstores.com](https://afamilyofstores.com) to capture his research and already has quite a bit of information about Hermon’s Pearl’s. He asked if I could send a picture of the current location which I did along with the current street address. You can find more information here: <https://afamilyofstores.com/part-2-hermon-ny-pears-department-store-2>

If anybody has any pictures of the store from the street and especially the inside!, please send them to me and I will digitize them and email them to him. He would love to see the interior! I will return your photographs to you and provide him with a personal recollection you may have of shopping there and the store’s place in Hermon’s history.

You are invited to tour the the newest “*History in the Hallway*” display at the St. Lawrence County Courthouse. As reported last month, it is in honor of June as Dairy Month and displayed through pictures from the towns of St. Lawrence County including Hermon. Creameries and various dairy farming activities throughout the county are on exhibit which is open to the public during normal business hours.

An article in North Country Now states that “According to the Northeast Statistical Handbook, there were 176 dairy farms operating in St. Lawrence County in 2023, making the county the third-highest number of farm operations in the marketing area. Locally produced milk goes into many of the products county residents consume, including Cabot sharp cheddar cheese, which is produced with milk from Upstate Dairy.”

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