

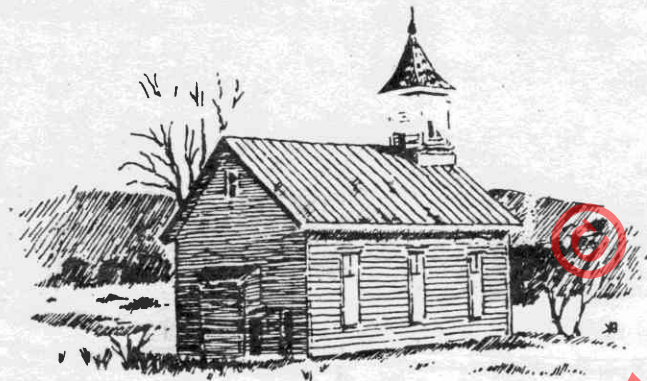
Stephentown Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. II., Issue No. VI

June 1988

NEWS

WORTHY OF NOTE



THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH

THE CHURCH IS OURS!

On Wednesday, May 11 the closing and transfer of deed took place in Henry Zwack's office. The old Methodist Church can now be made ready to house our collections.

Henry has worked long and hard at handling the complicated negotiations. Now the dream of having such a place has finally come true.

Now the challenge of preparing it as an exhibit area while maintaining the integrity of its historic background as a church. We will need to launch a fund drive to bring in enough monies to accomplish this. The kick-off for this fund drive will be on Old Settlers Day, Saturday, July 30th.

Some scrubbing, painting and carpentry can be done by volunteers and we will be looking for your help with this.

OLD SETTLERS DAY-Remember the old fashioned games and contests during the Bicentennial when everyone had fun? Some of these events will be repeated during Old Settlers Day July 30th. There will be Log Sawing contests, a tug of war, and races and relays for young and old. This will all take place at the old Methodist Church. Rain date is Sunday, July 31st.

Update

LAST MINUTE NEWS ON THE S.H.S.

1989 CALENDAR DUE OUT THIS SUMMER

Thanks to the support of S.H.S. members, who have prepaid for the 1989 calendars, 50% of our calendar printing costs have been met. We hope to have 100% paid off by delivery at the end of June. We are very pleased to see local organizations, like the Stephentown Elementary School, Liberty Realty and the New Lebanon Women's Club contributing to our efforts.

A note about our artistic contributors to the calendar:

William D. Jackson, Stephentown resident, is active in our community, sculptor, designer and Chairman of the Arts Division at Simons Rock of Bard College.

David J. Jacobs, resident of Stephentown, was managing editor of the Long Island Press and is a journalist featured for many years in the Berkshire Eagle.

Everyone counts

The US Federal Census

Census means assessment. The first known census was made by David, King of Israel and enumerated all Jewish males over 19 and all cattle. William the Conqueror, in 1181, had a census made in England listing all heads of estates, vassals, etc., and it became known as the Domesday Book. In 1718, Peter the Great had a census made of Russian landed gentry giving listings of population, occupations and serfs. It is therefore obvious that the original data was collected for the purpose of conscription and taxation. The first tally of the population in this country was in 1790 and was done for the purpose of enumerating the population of each state in order to make the proper apportionment for representation in Congress. It gave the head of the household's name, the number/sex and age of household groups and the number of slaves but added no names to those latter statistics. As early as 1800, scientific societies requested additional information. This was achieved in the seventh census (1850) when the format was radically changed. It apportioned a separate line for each individual and is considered the beginning of scientific census taking. The Stephentown Historical Society has just added the 1850 census to its Living Gravestones. The information is fascinating and we believe it should be shared with you. We had 2,504 residents which included "7 free Black People and 1 blind man." Many times the place of birth was omitted so it is assumed the person was born in New York State. They are not included in the following account. States of birth were: Connecticut-14, Florida-4, Maryland-1, Massachusetts-109, Michigan-1, New Hampshire-8, New Jersey-1, Pennsylvania-3, Rhode Island-51, Vermont-23. Countries of birth represented were: Canada-14, England-16, Germany-7, Ireland-56, Scotland-4.

Since the founding of the town, the needs of our citizens have been met through their own resources. The occupations of men over 20 were listed in this 1850 census. The majority were farmers and were not listed in the tally. Agent-1, Basket maker-6, Blacksmith-6, Bottle maker-1, Butcher-1, Carpenter-9, Joiner-5, Carriage maker-2, Chairmaker-1, Clergyman-4, Clerk-1, Collier-11, Constable-1, Cooper-2, Drover-3, Dyer-1, Grocerykeeper-1, Joiner-planer-1, Laborer-4, Merchant-11, Miller-3, Millwright-1, Peddler-5, Physician-3, School teacher-3, Shingle maker-1, Shoe maker-7, Stage driver-1, Stage Proprietor-1, Stone mason-3, Student (law)-1, Student (medicine)-2, Tailor-2, Tanner-1, Teamster-3, Trading-1, Wagon maker-1, Weaver-1, Wood sawyer-3. The names of the men participating in the above trades are listed in the census file. If further information on early families is needed, phone Betty McClave, 518-733-5064.

“An archeologist is the best husband any woman can have: The older she gets, the more interested he is in her.”

—Agatha Christie



EXECUTIVE BOARD 1988

Officers:

President: Jane Dwyer
Vice President: Don Bowman
Recording Secy: Linda Holder
Corresponding Secy: Claire Watts
Treasurer: Ellen Lewis
Education Coordinator: Jan Grant

Editors: Virginia Atwater, Klaus Burg, Dick Lewis, & Laura Zwack

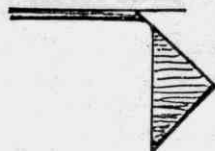
Stephentown Historical Society

1989

CALENDAR

May 26th

PROGRESS UPDATE



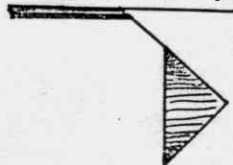
20% OF COST HAS BEEN COVERED BY MEMBERS WHO PAID THEIR BILLS. PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE OF 6 DOLLARS IS CALCULATED TO BRING IN ENOUGH ORDERS AND PAYMENTS TO PAY UPON DELIVERY END JUNE. FROM THEN ON IT'S PROFIT. SUPPORT SHS BY ORDERING AND PAYING EARLY.

TO RAISE 3000 DOLLARS FOR BUILDING RENOVATION BY SELLING 950 CALENDARS.



PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION



- LARGE 9"X12" GRIDS FOR NOTES
- DRAWINGS BY WILLIAM JACKSON
- ESSAYS BY DAVID JACOBS AND
- AN ATTRACTIVE WALL CALENDAR SURE TO BE A COLLECTORS ITEM,

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

QUANTITY



X 6 = TOTAL

Stephentown Historical Society

BOX 133 % PRIOR
STEPHENTOWN N.Y. 12168

@ \$6.00 [PRE-PUB PRICE UNTIL JUNE 30]

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

Dr. Calvin Pardee, born 1757 in Sharon, Connecticut, was a surgeon with Lt. Col. Niles' regiment of the Rensselaer militia. He practiced briefly in Lebanon Springs until he married Rachel Johnson from Amenia, N.Y. in 1778. He began to build on Presbyterian Hill Road diagonally across from Zema's nursery.

The good doctor was all of 23 at the time and must have practiced medicine at 21 or 22 with no concerns about malpractice suits. The house in which he lived from 1780 until his death in 1795 is a salt box that retained its architectural integrity externally a great deal more than on the inside. The building's post and beam construction, its central chimney location with beehive bread oven and low ceilings are the only direct reminders of its early past.

After 12 children in her 17 years of marriage, Rachel Pardee survived her husband by 54 years and died in Hancock, Ma. in 1847.

Ariovistus, oldest of the Pardee children, was town clerk until 1823. Subscribing for repairs on the Presbyterian meeting house, and a new stove, payment for Reverend John Hendricks and other civic deeds must have elevated him considerably in Stephentown's society. He left town with his wife and five daughters for Ypsilanti, MI. in 1832.

Apollo, Edwin and John Rollo bought the house from Ario Pardee in 1833 for \$1,922.62. It is assumed the 62 cents were legal fees for the Rollo brothers, that's less than 22 cents for each. Apollo was Elder of the Presbyterian church for 31 years; therefore his somewhat autocratic epitaph: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worth of double honour".



BUILDING AT THE TURN
OF THE CENTURY

The Rollo brothers were farmers; Edwin with 390 acres that supplied the Pittsfield market with beef, pork and mutton around Civil War times. John was a Civil War veteran, who re-enlisted for a second hitch in 1866.

If we consider that in 1873 John Rollo sold the property for \$2,500 which his brothers had bought for \$1,922.62 forty years previously, the economy was certainly far from inflationary. The buyer was Bernard and Mary Nealon, farm people from Ireland. After 17 years they sold the house for an undisclosed price to their younger son Maurice, also a farmer. It is odd that the "poultry house" (chicken coop) was worth recording as built in 1921 and the much larger and older barn was never mentioned in the property's history.

In 1940 Maurice Nealon sold out to William Webb who passed the property on to Kathleen Webb Small and Cynthia Webb Hastie (probably William Webb's daughters) but with a granted life estate to his wife Grace. Records don't show whether either of Webb's daughters lived in the house; but it is not unreasonable to assume that the house was sold to Joseph and Angelina Pizzuto in 1958 after the death of Grace Webb. Twelve years later the house was passed on to John and Ruth Dietrich with 60 acres.

It has been said that the house had badly deteriorated. The Dietrichs set about to restore it. Restoration included all new internal walls, floors, windows, staircase, bathrooms, plumbing and an entirely new brick facing around three sides of the central fireplace. It was all done quite well but left little of once was. John Dietrich sold the property to Richard and Margaret Pysar in 1977. The Pysars, however, preferring new to old, built in Cherry Plain and sold the Presbyterian Hill property to Klaus and Anitta Burg, the tenth owner, in 1986.

From our Program Committee. The following are tentative events: Researching an Old House, Gravestone Epitaphs, Local History Tour, Old Clocks, & History of Trolleys in the Albany/Troy area.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

JOIN TODAY!

'87-'88 Membership Categories and Dues are as follows:

Individual Member	\$ 3.00
Contributing Member	\$ 15.00
Business/Organization	\$ 25.00
Life Member	\$ 100.00

Dues will be payable annually each January. Checks payable to S.H.S., c/o Sylvia Leibensberger, Box 313, West Rd., Stephentown, N.Y., 12168.

Meetings are held at the Town Hall on the first Monday evening of each month. Read The Echo and watch bulletin boards for up-to-date information.



Among the treasures entombed with young King Tut was an assortment of acne remedies.



Stephentown
Historical
Society