

# Stephentown Historical Society

## Newsletter

Vol III, Issue V

June 1997

### HISTORY OF THE TOWNS OF RENSSELAER COUNTY

#### TROUBLES AT HOSECK

As connected with the history of Rensselaer county, it may be related that the sheriff of Albany county, on the 17th of August, 1764, received intelligence from "Hoseck," that the "New Hampshire people had turned Hans Jerry Creiger, an inhabitant under the proprietors of Hoseck patent, out of possession of his lands and tenements, drove off his cattle and took with them a parcel of Indian corn, and for the redemption of the cattle compelled him to pay \$45; and the said express further informed him that the said New Hampshire people were the next day to be at the houses of Peter Voss and Bastiane Deale in order in like manner to dispossess them of their possessions, which they had peaceably enjoyed under the proprietors of said Hoseck patent for upwards of three years, except when driven off by the enemy (Indians) during the two last wars."

The sheriff of Albany county, in company with "two justices and a few other good people of this province," proceeded to Hoosick, where, on his arrival, he was told that the New Hampshire people would not come until the following Monday. Having heard that the New Hampshire people were at the houses of Voss and Deale, he went thither immediately, but on his arrival he found that they had departed. He followed the party, and, overtaking them, arrested four of the number and carried them to Albany, where they were confined in the county jail.

### THE BENNINGTON MOB

What was known as "the Bennington mob" at this period of local disturbance, became a great terror to the people living within the county of Albany, adjoining the province of New Hampshire. Of this lawless body of men it was said that they had seized, insulted and terrified magistrates and other civil officers so that they dare not execute their respective functions; rescued prisoners for debt, assumed to themselves military commands and judicial powers; burned and demolished the houses and property and beat and abused the persons of many of his majesty's subjects, expelled them from their possessions, and put a period to the administrations of justice, and spread terror and destruction throughout that part of the country which was exposed to their oppression.

For the purpose of suppressing these disturbances the governor, by the recommendation of the assembly of the province of New York, issued a proclamation,

(Cont on page 2)



High School, Pittsfield, Mass.

circa 1906

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers:

President	Bill Jennings
Vice-President	Beverley McClave
Recording Secretary	Ruth Leab
Corresponding Secretary	Libby Kogan
Treasurer	Howard Leibensperger

### Trustees:

Betty Feathers	Joan McMillan
Calvin Kenyon	Alan White
Helen Koepp	Bill Zimmerman

### Committee Chairpersons:

Cemeteries	Calvin Kenyon
Collections	Sally Fox
Fundraising	Bill Zimmerman
Genealogy	Virginia Atwater
Heritage Center	Betty Feathers
Membership	Beverley McClave
Nominating	Al Silvernail
Program	Pat Bowman
Refreshments	Sylvia Leibensperger

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome back, **Pat Bowman**. After a very short (nonexistent) retirement, Pat has agreed to continue as Program Chairperson. We look forward to her continued efforts. And we know that she would appreciate some assistance. If you know of an interesting speaker or topic, please don't keep it a secret. Contact Pat and volunteer to set up a program for a meeting.

June 7 - **Exhibit: Our Youth - Yesterday and Today**  
August 23

July 6 **Strawberry Festival**

July 7 **Native American Storytelling & Clothing**

August 2 **Craftfest**

August 4 **Fake Antiques**

August 30 **Tag Sale**

September 8 **Caves**

October 6 **New England Gravestones**

November 3 **Old Locks and Keys**

December 1 **Holiday Potluck Supper and Party**

Save This Calendar of Events for Reference

The Bennington Mob . . . (Cont from page 1)

March 9, 1774, "enjoining and commanding all magistrates, justices of the peace, sheriffs and other civil officers of the counties of Albany and Charlotte to apprehend and take" the ringleaders of the Bennington mob and "to commit them to safe and secure custody in the gaol of the city and county of Albany to answer for the several offenses and to be dealt with according to law." A reward of £100 was offered for the apprehension of Ethan Allen of Bennington, yeoman, also for the apprehension of Remember Baker, and £50 for the arrest of Seth Warner, Robert Cochran, Peleg Sunderland, Sylvanus Brown, James Breckenridge and John Smith.

**DON'T THINK** Of buying a MOWING MACHINE, until you have at least looked at this.



**THE WORCESTER BUCKEYE MOWER.**

We want to show you some points about it, and the

Walter Wood Mower.

Can suit you on a Machine, Horse Rake, Hay Tedder, or anything wanted on a farm during the hoeing or haying season.

Sections and Parts for All Mowing Machines.

When ordering parts for machines, send old pieces to insure a fit.

**H. P. LUCAS.**

Wollison Block, North Street, Pittsfield, Mass.

**H. W. PARTRIDGE**

Desires to call your especial attention to the

**"OLD ALBANY" BRAND**

— OF —

**SUGAR CURED HAMS**

**AND FINE BACON.**

A trial will convince you of the superiority of these goods. We continue to make a speciality of **DRIED BEEF** (Not Smoked).

Respectfully,

**H. W. PARTRIDGE,**

28 FENN STREET.

**Elys Cream Balm For**

**CATARRH**

**THE POSITIVE CURE.**

ELY BROTHERS, 64 Warren St., New York. Price 50 cts.

## EVENTS THIS SUMMER

The 16th Annual **Strawberry Festival** will be held July 6 at Zema's Too on Route 22. Join us for shortcake, low-cal, salt-free, or high-test.

**"Our Youth - Yesterday and Today."** See related article, this page.

The 8th Annual **Craftfest** continues to attract high-quality, juried vendors and discriminating shoppers on August 2 at the Muster Field on Grange Hall Road. It's not too early to begin your Christmas shopping.

The **Tag Sale** will highlight the Labor Day weekend on August 30 at Dave's Market and close out another busy summer.



*Hosea Moffitt (1757 - 1825)*

### MOFFITT COLLECTION

The Stephentown Historical Society's collections include not only the artifacts we use for our various exhibits but also a number of historical records reflecting our community's history. Preserved in the Society's archives are records of past and current Stephentown organizations (the Grange, Youth Commission, Scouts, and Volunteer Fire Department, among others), photographs and information about early Stephentown schools, ledgers and bills from local stores, and letters, diaries, and scrapbooks of Stephentown residents.

One of the first gifts to the Society is of the latter type, the 268 papers of Hosea Moffitt, a Stephentonian, donated by Albert Phelps, a descendant. Moffitt (1757-1825) was a lawyer who also served as the agent for Stephen Van Rensselaer in this area. He was a businessman, trading in hides and other things, a school

trustee, and a trustee of the Presbyterian Church. His papers include land indentures, store receipts, records of loans given and repaid, bills for construction materials for the Church, and letters concerning an internal controversy in the Church, in addition to routine legal matters. The collection even includes the directions for making lamp black.

These fragile papers were encapsulated in heavy plastic so that they could be safely handled. They have also been copied and transcribed to make them easier to read. The originals are stored in acid-free boxes to protect them from further deterioration. They are available for scholars as well as just the curious to examine.

Similar respect will be shown your family papers should you donate them to the Society for safekeeping and posterity. Remember that Hosea Moffitt's records of the early 19th century would have seemed mundane if not actually boring to his contemporaries. However, because they were saved, we have a valuable insight into life in our community 150 years ago. Your 20th century records could be equally valuable to your great-great grandchildren.

### OUR YOUTH - YESTERDAY AND TODAY

The 1997 Heritage Center exhibit will emphasize the youth in our community. It will involve the Scouts, the Youth Commission, the 4-H Club, the Nursery School, the Elementary School, and Church School groups. There will be exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for everyone. The official public opening will be June 7, with exhibits open Saturdays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. through August 23. The exhibit will be closed August 2 because of the Craftfest.

### ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The 1997 Annual Fund Drive has just begun. The Board has established a 5-year plan that will finish the restoration of the tin ceiling and walls by the end of 2000 (less than 4 years away). This year's goal of \$5000 will be used for exterior painting and continued work on the restoration of the interior.

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#### BICYCLES FOR SALE!



25 second-hand Bicycles, mostly Columbias, all sizes, in good order at very low prices for cash or on easy terms, at National Bicycle Co's, over ATWOOD'S Drug Store.  Wheels bought, sold and exchanged.

 No charge for teaching beginners.

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**Children Cry for  
Pitcher's Castoria.**

## HERITAGE CENTER UPDATE

Improvements at the Heritage Center seem to move slowly because we pay as we go. This means that the more expensive jobs wait for successful fundraising efforts before going ahead.

Encouraged by the fine results of the front hall and the upstairs ceiling, we have contracted again with Architectural Conservation to redo the stage area and make molds of all rusted-out ceiling panels this year. The Board has set up a long-term spending plan for the building:

- 1998 Repaint exterior and roof
- 1999 Replace and paint remainder of ceiling panels
- 2000 Refinish all remaining walls and woodwork

The new mini-exhibit wall has been built and will have three dioramas depicting Indian life, the lives of early settlers, and early industry of the area.

In the kitchen the cabinets have had one coat of polyurethane to preserve the wood.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

January 1 - December 31

Membership categories and dues are:

Individual Member	\$ 5.00
Contributing Member	15.00
Business/Organizational Member	25.00
Life Member	100.00

Please join us this year. Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

**Stephentown Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 11**  
**Stephentown, NY 12168**

Monthly meetings are held at the Heritage Center, generally on the first Monday of the month. Check your Newsletter, local newspapers, and bulletin boards for current program information.

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## HERITAGE CENTER WISH LIST

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Stephentown  
Historical  
Society



### Editors:

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