

Stephentown Historical Society

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Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

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Recording Secretary:

Patricia Flint 733-5871

Corresponding Secretary:

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Robert Gorman 733-9661

Sandy Hamer 733-0196

Isabel Krebs 733-5935

Claudette LeFebvre 733-0491

Judith Pierson 733-0196

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Cemeteries: Help Wanted!

Will you help?

Collections:

Bev McClave 733-5170

Fundraising:

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Genealogy:

Virginia Atwater 733-5136

Heritage Center:

Bev McClave 733-5170

Historic Buildings:

Sylvia Leibensperger 733-5716

Landscaping:

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Membership:

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Nominating:

David Flint 733-5871

Newsletter:

Sandy Hamer 733-0196

Program:

Pat Bowman (413) 738-5420

Youth Coordinator: Help Wanted

Refreshments:

Alice Mather 733-5668

Newsletter February 2006

Volume VIII, Number I

Community Tag Sale and Fall Festival Draw Sizeable Crowds and Raise Funds to Help Support Stephentown's Heritage Center and its Programs

GOT ANY BARGAINS?

Visitors to the Community Tag Sale last August 6th look for early bargains as Libby Kogan (l.) and Karin Brown (2nd from l.) put prices on some of the late-arriving merchandise.



Approximately 25 individual, family and community vendors participated in the free event, which netted \$537 for the Stephentown Historical Society. The 2006 event is scheduled for Saturday, August 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and spaces are available at \$10 each. For reservations and information, call Beverley McClave at 733-5170 or Libby Kogan at 733-6662.



SERIOUS BUSINESS!

Under the watchful eye of his mother, a young visitor to the Fall Festival concentrates on creating a masterpiece at the pumpkin and gourd decorating tent. Homemade baked goods were popular attractions, too.

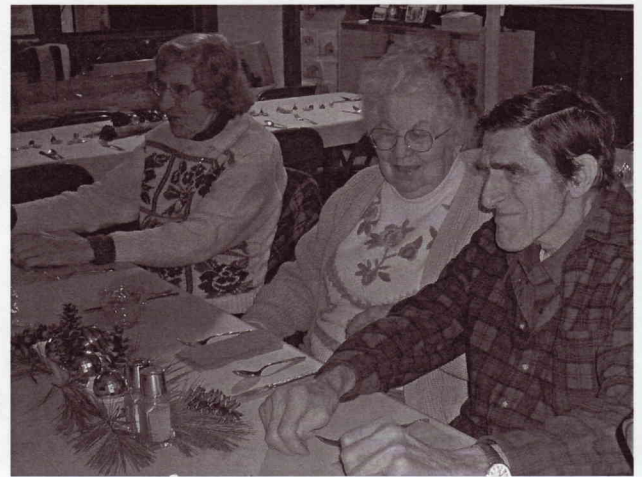
Upcoming SHS Programs: *Quilts, Fur Trapping, Mingo Warriors, Hancock's Estes Mill & Carriage Driving*

Pat Bowman and fellow Program Committee members Isabel Krebs and Meredith Rhindress have scheduled an interesting set of programs for the upcoming monthly meetings of the SHS.

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, with a short business meeting preceding the month's featured program. The one exception to the schedule is the July 10th Potluck Dinner, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

The schedule of programs through July, 2006 is below:

- ◆ **February 6 - *Quilts and Quilting*** - presented by Audrey Foody, Bev McClave & Donna Mullet
- ◆ **March 6 - *The Fur Trade and Trapping, Then and Now*** presented by Ronald W. Alund
- ◆ **April 3 - *A Mingo Warrior in the Ohio Valley*** - presented by Timothy Case
- ◆ **May 1 - *The Estes Mill in Hancock*** - presented by Perry Whitman
- ◆ **June 5 - *Carriage Driving*** - presented by Jeffrey Morse
- ◆ **July 10 - *Potluck Supper - A View from the Hollow*** presented by David Jacobs



READY FOR A FINE FEAST! (l. to r.) Helen Koepp, Shirley Brown and Art Koepp chat with neighbors across the table before filling their plates at the Holiday Potluck Dinner in December.



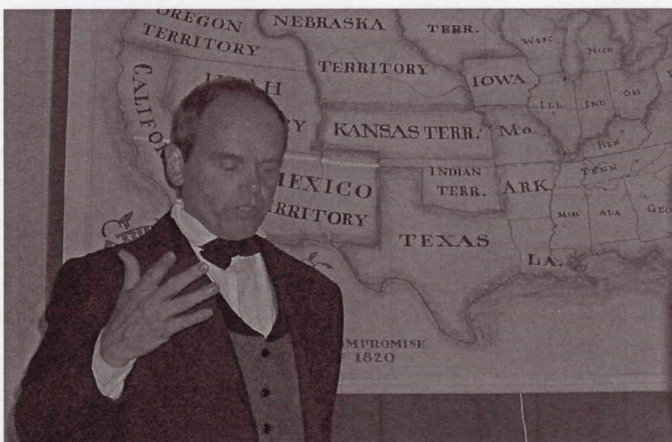
Strawberry Festival !

Sunday, June 25 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Recent Acquisitions

Photographs, correspondence and other personal papers belonging to Walter Lapp, Helen Newton and Mary Pelk are among recent donations to the SHS.

In addition, the Stepentown Historical Society received three bronze plaques from the Route 43 bridge that was replaced last summer. Zwack, Inc. generously cleaned and polished the plaques, which are now on display.



With an 1860 map of the United States in the background, impersonator Drew Gibson, speaking as an Illinois Congressman, gives a rousing lecture to members of the SHS last August.

Gibson, who stayed "in character" throughout the speech and followup Q & A session, talked about "*The Kansas Crisis : Before Lincoln's 1860 Nomination*".

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

2005 OFFICERS:

William Zimmerman, President
Judith Pierson, Vice-President

Patricia Flint, Recording Secretary
Caroline White, Treasurer
Beverley McClave, Corresponding Secretary

In 2005 Caroline White and Beverley McClave began their first terms as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary respectively. Neil Krebs and Sandy Hamer began their first full terms as Trustees. Claudette Lefebvre filled out Beverley McClave's term, and Isabel Krebs began filling out Caroline White's term as Trustees.

Our finances continued moderately positively this year. Our Wachovia FundSource investment account, which had been performing well since August 2003, increased only about 2.4%. Our Fidelity investment account continued to recover, increasing about 4.5%. Our Greylock Federal Credit Union accounts in Pittsfield continue to draw slightly higher interest than bank rates. Income from a substantial membership base remained strong. Our annual fund drive netted only \$2126.67. against our goal of \$3500 in a second year of decreased contributions from the community. Katrina hurt more than the Gulf Coast. We received a bequest from Betty Feathers's estate, which was added to our endowment account. We continued investigating our insurance coverage, which we believe to be low. We obtained a building evaluation from Liberty Realty of \$147,000 and a partial collection evaluation of \$20,000 from the Rensselaer County Historical Society. An evaluation of a few more items in our collection will allow us to upgrade our coverage. Ron Olson audited our books. Electricity costs were examined and considered exorbitant. We began monitoring our usage and meter readings. We turned off our electric thermal storage and modified our water heater usage. NYSEG changed our meter and our rate in August. Next year should see a substantial improvement. Our prepaid oil contract cost increased 29% for the 2005-2006 heating season. We purchased two more new folding tables to replace the six old ones. We began participating with other nonprofit organizations in town in a recycling effort run by Heather Ryder. Through the efforts of David Flint, Bob Gorman, Bill Jennings, and Neil Krebs, picking up recyclables on Friday afternoons, we netted over \$800. We replaced our aged copiers with a 1998 Ricoh Aficio 401, which also operates as a printer and cooks breakfast.

Our experiment in a late winter/early spring agriculture exhibit in the hope of increasing attendance met with little success, as attendance dropped to 49. There will be no formal exhibit for 2006. Instead, we are working with the Berlin Central School District on a history day at the high school on January 31, 2006.

We received a grant for landscaping from the Taconic Valley Garden Club, and Senger's Nursery provided perennials and mulch for the area north of the front door and in front of the oil tank. This fall, with the help of Ed Kueppers et al, we installed 60 feet of split rail fence and parking barriers along the south side of our parking lot. Bill Jennings, Bob Gorman, Bev McClave, and Bill Zimmerman also completed touchup painting on the Heritage Center this fall.

Our annual field trip was held in May. Fourteen people visited the Bennington Museum, the Bennington Monument, and the Old First Church - with ice cream afterward, of course.

Along with the Library, and the Federated Church, we had our relationship with Easter Seals severed this year. Our local organizations were unable to provide the increased hours of work required to participate in their subsidized training program.

The Strawberry Festival coincided with graduation weekend and a heat wave this year, but we still sold over 200 pounds of strawberries, and income was down only slightly to \$872. The Community Tag Sale was also successful at \$537. The Fall Festival continued to grow, making up for the previous year's chilling temperatures with revenue of \$625. Thanks to Dale Riggs, Isabel Krebs, Sandy Hamer, Judith Pierson, Bev McClave, Sylvia Leibensperger, Libby Kogan, and all of the other workers who made these three fundraisers successful.

This year we mourned the passing of Albert Silvernail, Rev. Richard Lewis, and Jacob Bakker.

The Society welcomed Samuel Leonard to Life Membership.

Dave Flint, Caroline White, and Esther Koepp served on the Nominating Committee and prepared a slate of candidates that was elected at the December covered dish supper and holiday celebration.

Pat Bowman, Meredith Rhindress, and Isabel Krebs continued to find outstanding educational and entertaining programs. Twelve regular programs, two covered dish suppers, and a Bennington tour drew nearly 360 people. Also, thank you, Alice Mather, for coordinating refreshments at our monthly meetings.

In addition to our regular programs, the Heritage Center hosted about 105 visitors, 33 from significant distances, including Washington, Montana, Florida, Georgia, Texas, New Mexico, Missouri, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine.

Email requests for genealogical information continue to leave us way, way behind in our responses. Eric Shyer and Bill Zimmerman continue to peck away at entering our Living Gravestone index cards in Family Tree Maker. This area desperately needs manpower. Genealogical research can be a substantial source of income if we can apply some personnel to it. In addition we have received several hard-copy family genealogies and gedcoms, which are computerized family trees that we can incorporate into our own Family Tree Maker program. Of course, we have to check the new info against our Living Gravestones as we enter the data. Our Family Tree Maker file is currently at 17,950 entries. This file includes many imported names, so we are nowhere close to 17,950 Living Gravestone entries out of our over 31,000 index cards. Pat Flint continues to transcribe cemetery information onto a database.

Ongoing efforts continue in the areas of proscenium and wainscoting renovation and genealogical research and data entry.

Sandy Hamer updated our brochure.

We still need more people to get involved and get more things done. We have a plethora of various tasks available: mowing, gardening, painting, maintenance, keyboarding/typing, cataloging, filing, sorting, cleaning, writing, programming, recording, teaching, planning, marketing, researching, administration, liaison, and execution. We can find a job for you.

In closing, I would like to thank the Officers, the Board of Directors, and the Membership for their cooperation, support, and hard work over the past year. Without you, there would be no Stephentown Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,
William B. Zimmerman
President - 1/9/2006

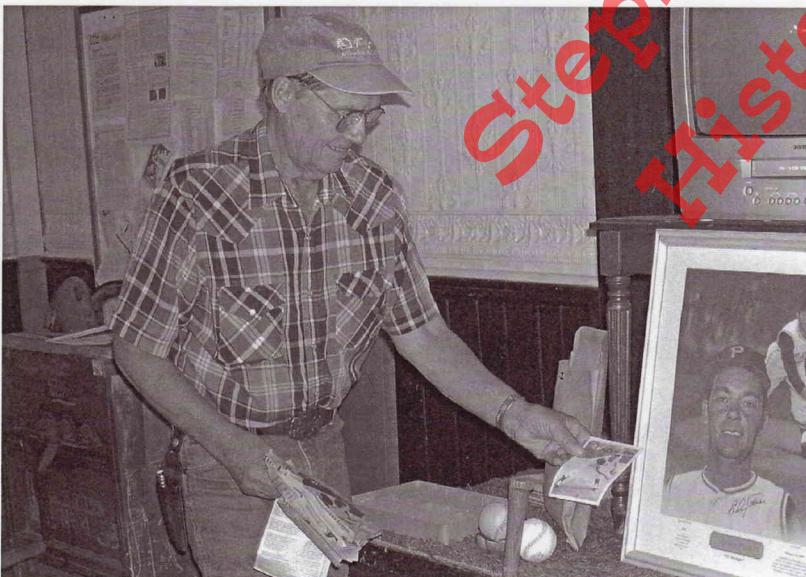
All-Star Pitcher Elroy Face Saluted

Stephentown's Elroy Face, major league relief pitcher whose many records are yet to be broken, was remembered by fellow townspeople at the August meeting of the SHS. Face, who now lives in Pennsylvania, played for the Pittsburgh Pirates.



Face was named to the All-Star team in '59, '60 and '61; was National League Reliever of the Year in '62; is #5 on the all-time career list of games won and lead the National League in games saved in '58, '61 and '62.

SHS members viewed a video of his performance in the 1960 World Series.



Above, Dean Herrick, who grew up with Elroy Face, looks at some of the three-time All Star's mementos.

Town Grant Helps Support Heritage Center

At its January 3rd organizational meeting, members of the Stepentown Town Board voted to contribute \$5,500 to the SHS to help support the Heritage Center.

"We are most grateful for this important grant from the Town of Stepentown," stated SHS President Bill Zimmerman. "This support will help us continue our mission of preserving objects, records and information about Stepentown and its past and current residents for the benefit of future generations."

☆☆☆

SHS Helping Berlin Central School District with History Day

In an effort to make it easier for Stepentown area students to learn about history and their predecessors, SHS President Bill Zimmerman and former President Beverley McClave have been meeting with area school officials to develop a plan that will interest students and meet the needs of the educators.

As an initial effort, the SHS worked with the Berlin Central School District to plan a History Day at the high school on January 31, 2006.

IN MEMORIAM

Jacob Bakker 9/4/1906 - 12/28/2005

Heritage Center Closures: The Stepentown Heritage Center will be closed on February 17 (President's Day), April 14 (Good Friday), May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend), June 23 (Strawberry Festival), June 30 (Independence Day Weekend), September 1 (Labor Day Weekend), October 6 (Columbus Day Weekend), November 24 (Thanksgiving Weekend), December 22 (Christmas Weekend) and December 29 (New Years Weekend).



Web site: www.cbsco.com/shs

E-mail: shs@webramp.net

Tel: (518) 733-6070

Stephentown Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please join us to learn about the history of the Stephentown area and its residents, help preserve that knowledge for future generations and enjoy our programs and activities. Our membership year is January 1 to December 31 and all memberships are tax-deductible. Individual, Supporting and Life memberships are for individuals only. For more information, call Dale Riggs at 733-6772.

Individual Member	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Supporting Member	\$ 50.00
Life Member	\$ 200.00

Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

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

Our meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first non-holiday Monday of each month — join us!

Don't Forget Your 2006 Dues!

Dale Riggs, SHS Vice President and Membership Chairperson, notes that the membership year for all SHS members starts January 1, which means all members should pay their dues for 2006 this month.

SHS Helping Berlin Central School District with Upcoming History Day Exhibit

In an effort to make it easier for Stephentown area students to learn about history and their predecessors, SHS President Bill Zimmerman and former President Beverley McClave have been meeting with area school officials to develop a plan that will interest students and meet the needs of the educators.

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