



Stephentown Historical Society

July, 2007

Vol IX, Number 2

Board of Directors

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Vice President:

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Recording Secretary:

Isabel Krebs 733-5935

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Treasurer:

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Robert Gorman 733-9661

Sandy Hamer 733-0196

Claudette LeFebvre 733-0491

Judith Pierson 733-0196

Committee Chairpersons

Cemeteries:

Patricia Flint 733-5871

Collections:

Bev McClave 733-5170

Fundraising:

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Genealogy:

Virginia Atwater 733-5136

Heritage Center:

Bev McClave 733-5170

Membership:

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Nominating:

David Flint 733-5871

Newsletter:

Sandy Hamer 733-0196

Program:

Pat Bowman (413) 738-5420

Youth Coordinator: Need Help

Refreshments:

Alice Mather 733-5668

It was a Berry Successful Strawberry Festival!



The most successful Strawberry Festival yet started in the fields of The Berry Patch on June 21 and 22 when dedicated teams of berry pickers, including Bill Zimmerman and Jeannie Liebenow (l.), picked more than 220 pounds of strawberries.

The "hullers" (top r.) took over on June 22, cleaning, hulling and slicing all those berries. Others, working behind the scenes, baked pies and biscuits and set up a tent and chairs at The Berry Patch in preparation for the June 24th event.



In the end, it was all in the serving and eating, and folks were lined up out the door (lower r.) for generous portions of strawberry shortcake.

Nearly 300 people were served, making the 2007 festival a great success and helping support the Stephentown Historical Society.



New Sign at Heritage Center

A new double-sided sign was recently installed in front of the Heritage Center, thanks to the generosity of two Stephentown residents. Kevin Doherty of Montauk Sign Carving Co. created the sign at cost, and it was purchased by Stephentown Historical Society Trustee Frederick Haley. Thanks to Kevin and Frederick!



Sign Up Now for Sept. 12th Field Trip to Crailo and Schuyler Mansion

The Historical Society's annual fall trip will visit two fascinating historic houses on September 12th: Crailo, an 18th Century Dutch house, now a museum of Dutch culture in the Hudson Valley, and Schuyler Mansion, home to Philip J. Schuyler, the renowned Revolutionary War general, US Senator, and business entrepreneur. Both Schuyler and his wife, Catharine Van Rensselaer, were descended from affluent and powerful Dutch families.

If you plan to go, call 518-733-5675 or 413-738-5420 by September 10. Participants are asked to bring a brown bag lunch.

Fall Programs Schedule Brimming with Interesting Topics About Our Past

A series of interesting programs is scheduled for the last half of 2007 thanks to the creativity of Programming Committee members Pat Bowman, Chairman; Isabel Krebs, Meredith Rhindress and Lucille Salitan:

- **August 6** - "*Albany Silver & Silversmiths*" - presented by Walter Wheeler
- **September 10** - "*Fireworks*" - presented by Paul Guilbeault
- **October 1** - *Program to be Announced*
- **November 5** - "*14th C. Armor*" - presented by Jeff Mann
- **December 3** - Christmas Potluck, optional gift exchange and "*Early Breweries*" - presented by Roger Savoy
- **January 7** - "*How Has Stephentown Changed?*" - an evening of audience participation

Not a Member? Membership Lapsed? Join Today and Help Preserve Stephentown's Heritage for Future Generations

In today's world of escalating prices, the Stephentown Historical Society's \$10 annual individual membership is a good deal that can't be beat. New members and old are enthusiastically invited to come to our events and meetings, meet your neighbors, get involved, and have fun in the process.

Our meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month.

Individual, Supporting and Life memberships are for individuals only. For more information, call Dale Riggs, Vice President, at 733-6772. Membership fees are:

Membership Categories and Annual Fees

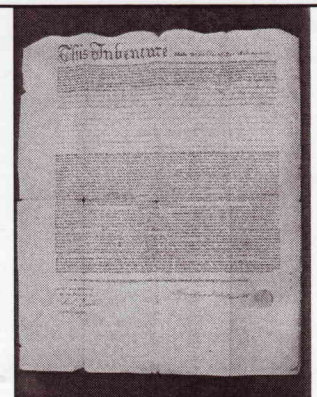
Individual Member	\$ 10
Family	\$ 25
Supporting Member	\$ 50
Life Member	\$200

Make your check payable to the Stephentown Historical Society today and mail it to the SHS at:

PO Box 11
Stephentown, NY 12168

1780 Indenture Given to Historical Society

Former member Bertha Rathbun donated a number of historical documents to the Stephentown Historical Society prior to her death in 2006. Among the items was an indenture, dated January 18, 1780, in which "Stephen VanRensselaer, Esquire, Lord and Proprietor of the Manor of Rensselaer..." leased lot #53 in Stephentown to Mr. Hozehiah Bosworth. One of several indentures in our organization's possession, it will be framed and displayed at the Heritage Center.



SHS Supports Library's Summer Reading Program

The Historical Society is pleased to support, in a small way, the Stephentown Memorial Library's summer reading program for children and teens. Sponsored by the NY State Libraries, the objective is to encourage kids to read. The theme this year is *Get a Clue*.

Library Director Mary Jo Daly and Bev McClave selected six items from the SHS collection that will be displayed in the library. Each time they visit the library, youngsters will be given a new clue about the objects and encouraged to research them. Those correctly identifying the items will receive a prize at summer's end.

In Memoriam

Jonathan D. Tarr

Aug. 8, 1980 - May 19, 2007
Son of Judith and Dana Tarr

New Fall Fundraiser: Scavenger Hunt and Harvest Dinner October 20



The Historical Society's Board of Directors has devised a fall fundraiser that promises to be an enjoyable way for families to have some fun and to learn about Stephentown's history. Scheduled from 1 to 4 pm on Saturday, October 20th at the Heritage Center, the event will enable teams of up to five members to compete to obtain answers to a series of historical clues about Stephentown.

Bev McClave is organizing the event and is seeking a few volunteers with a good knowledge of Stephentown as well as others to help with other aspects of the hunt and dinner. "We'll have several categories for teams of all ages," McClave stated. "It will be a great family event and a wonderful, fun way for children to learn a bit of history."

The cost to participate will be \$5 per person, \$10 per couple and \$15 for teams, which are limited to five people. Participants are asked to bring a vegetable or dessert to the Harvest Dinner, which will feature roast turkey provided by the Stephentown Historical Society. For more information and to volunteer, call Bev McClave at 733-5170.

New Cell Tower Stimulates Renewed Hunt for Isaac Tinley Grave

Upon receipt of a letter from state authorities inquiring if any historical artifacts were in the way of Stephentown's proposed new cell tower off Tinley Road, Collections Chair Bev McClave went on the hunt. On a recent rainy Sunday, Bev and husband Rik drove to the proposed site to see if the grave of Stephentown's first black citizen, Isaac Tinley, would be affected by construction of the tower. She was relieved to find that the remains of Mr. Tinley are outside the construction site.

The gravestone of Tinley, who died on May 8, 1887, at age 68, was transmitted to the Historical Society for protection in 1991 by the owner of the property at that time, W. J. Cowee, Inc. The stone was then moved to the Heritage Center. Unfortunately, little is known about Isaac Tinley, a blacksmith. His lengthy epitaph, engraved on the stone, reads: "Hast thou an arm like God or canst thou thunder with a voice like him. Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency and array thyself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rags of thy wrath and behold every one that is proud and abase him. Look on every one that is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together and bind their faces in secret. Then will I also confess unto that thine own right hand can save thee."



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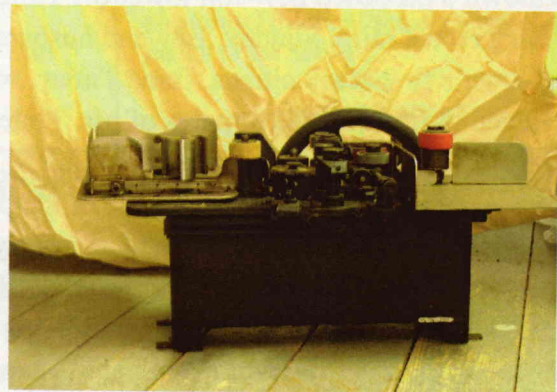
Tag Sale Set for August 11

Start cleaning out your closets now. The annual Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, August 11 at Gardner's Field on Route 22 from 9 am to 3 pm. Setup begins at 8 am, and the rain date is August 12. An important fund raiser for our organization, the annual tag sale is a popular community event.

You can donate clean, usable items to the Historical Society (no appliances or clothing, please!) or you can purchase your own selling space for \$10. Call Bev McClave at 733-5170 to reserve space, arrange to drop off your items or for more information.

Whatzit???

Do you think you can identify the object from the SHS collection in the photograph below? If so, email your name, phone number and your guess to shs@taconic.net. We'll print the names of those who guess correctly in the next newsletter.



The Stephentown Heritage Center, normally open from 1 to 4 pm on Fridays, will be closed on the following dates in 2007: July 4 (Independence Day), October 8 (Columbus Day), November 22 (Thanksgiving), December 25 (Christmas) and January 1, 2008 (New Year's Day).