



NEWSLETTER

Parade, Barbecue Cap off Stephentown's 225th Anniversary Celebration



The citizens of Stephentown turned out in full force for the big summertime Firemen's Muster and celebration of the town's 225th anniversary on September 13, 2009. Above, event organizer Bev McClave follows the Historical Society's float, populated by a group of enthusiastic area children. After the parade, friends and relatives gathered at the Fireman's Hall to enjoy an afternoon of muster competition and a tasty barbecue. (Another photo on p. 5)



Giffy's Dave Schumacher (above), prepares chickens for Stephentown's 225th Anniversary celebration.

Pat and Don Bowman Celebrated by Friends and Neighbors

Long-time residents and Historical Society members Pat and Don Bowman were feted at the Heritage Center in November before returning to the Cleveland area. Don is a former President of the SHS and Pat served as Program Chair



for 25 years. In the photos, above, Pat (in red plaid in left photo) and Don (seated in right photo) enjoy reminiscing with area friends.

Generous Donors Give a Wealth of Artifacts to the Historical Society



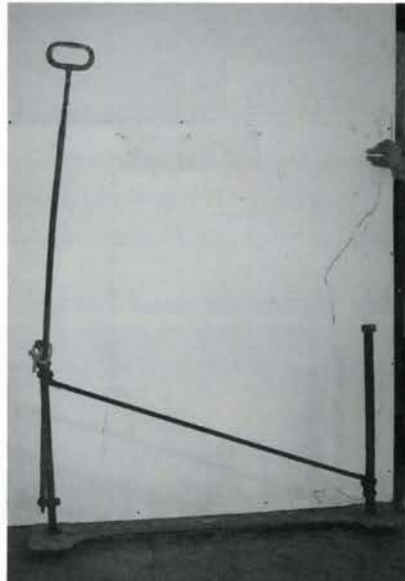
Among the many items donated to the SHS this fall were Civil and WWI uniforms and weapons, Victorian-era clothing, more than 30 indentures (and still counting!) signed by Stephen van Rensselaer and a post office case from Garfield, NY.

Any Idea What This Is????

When cleaning out a corner of the Heritage Center this fall, Pat Flint came upon this interesting object - but no one seems to know what it is.

If you think you know, or know someone who does know, please give

Pat a call at 733-5871 or send an email to her at: patsyaf48@yahoo.com.



**Check Out the Historical Society's
New, Redesigned Web Site:
www.stephentown-historical.org**

Collections Chair Bev McClave is reveling in the large number of valuable papers and objects donated to the SHS this fall. Mary Lou Brown and Calvin Atwater contributed several boxes of items, including a Civil War sword that belonged to Atwater's Great Great Grandfather Capt. Calvin Adams Haynes and more than 30 irreplaceable indentures that Stephen van Rensselaer signed when transferring local properties to some of the first families to settle in Stephentown. Some of the indentures are dated: 1786 (Isaac Winstone and Michael Holcomb), 1790 (Shibnah Spink), 1792 (Samuel Bligh) 1794 (Dr. Nicholas Harris), and 1802 Rev. Robert Niles. There were also deeds dating from 1838 to 1945 including one from William & Louisa Brown to Spencer C. Brown.

Other welcome donations: an 1879 journal of the Board of Supervisors from Trygve Tomlinson; 1898 Stephentown Tax Rolls and 41 glass plate negatives of Troy from Lawrence Sweener; history of the First Baptist Church; a uniform of the Garfield baseball team; photo of a Garfield band and orchestra concert; and a set of books authored by Cherry Plain resident David Larkin (members may borrow these books). Also: Stephentown Elementary School's 2009 yearbook, Garfield Post Office case from Anne Bears, Bicentennial quilt from Ken Knobloch and a wicker basket of Dutch clothing from Howard and Sylvia Leibensperger.

Invaluable Resources for Researchers

"We are so grateful for these documents and artifacts," McClave stated. "The indentures and deeds, in particular, are highly valuable because they go back to the earliest years of Stephentown when the 'Good Patroon' signed over parcels of his land to some of the first families to settle in this area. These records will also provide solid documentation for future researchers and genealogists."

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

2009 OFFICERS:

President: Patricia Flint
 Vice President: Claudette Lefebvre
 and Beverley McClave
 Recording Secretary: Isabel Krebs
 Treasurer: Bill Zimmerman
 Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sullivan

2009 TRUSTEES:

Robert Gorman
 Sandy Hamer
 Fred Haley
 Judith Pierson
 Patricia Coon
 Dale Riggs

In 2009 Patricia Flint completed her first year of a second two-year term as President. Claudette Lefebvre resigned as Vice President in July and was replaced by Beverley McClave.

Finances: The Society closed the year in a very good position. While expenses, including capital expenses, were about \$4,000 over the amount budgeted, due to increased insurance costs and outlays for such things as calendars, t-shirts and new notecards, actual income surpassed budget estimates by about \$12,000, leaving a surplus of approximately \$4,600.

On the income side, membership dues came in at twice the amount estimated. Store sales of \$3,300 and miscellaneous donations of \$2,300 were both considerably more than budgeted. Both the Strawberry Festival and the Tag Sale did better than expected. The Fund Drive brought in over \$4,000, four times more than budgeted. The Town of Stephentown, as a donation toward 225th Anniversary events, contributed \$1,000 over and above their usual support.

Maintenance, Repairs & Construction

- Bruce Hankle completed reconstruction and painting of the south side storm windows.
- In partnership with the Girl Scouts, a spacious shed was built at the Transfer Station for refundable bottles and cans. The Girl Scout parents provided the design expertise and labor and the Historical Society provided funding for materials and for a lockable overhead door.
- The Town provided assistance in correcting drainage problems in the driveway.

New Web Site: Dick Rhindress overhauled the Society's website which is now www.stephentown-historical.org. Dick is now the Webmaster and has committed to keeping the much improved website up to date. He also set up a new, orderly and efficient way to handle the Society's email business.

Programs: The Program Committee did their usual outstanding job in providing us throughout the year with informative, entertaining and fascinating speakers on a broad variety of topics. At the beginning of November we bid farewell to Don and Pat Bowman, Don being one of our past Presidents and Pat Bowman who served outstandingly as Chairperson of the Program Committee for over 20 years. The programs this year included the following:

- January – Photographer Paul Rocheleau on One-Room Schoolhouses.
- February - Tom Carpentier identified various "what's-its" brought in by members.
- March – Author M.E. Kemp of Saratoga Springs on Salem, Massachusetts in 1692.
- April – Erika Nuckles of Albany on 17th Century Dutch Clothing.
- May – Stuart Lehman on the Colonial Physician.
- June – Reprise of experiences in the filming of *Taking Woodstock*.

- July – Potluck Supper & Celebration of the 225th Anniversary of Stephentown with Lorri Parisi's slide show.
- August – Stuart Lehman on the 300th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploration of the river named after him.
- September – Michael Barrett on the Rent Wars.
- October – Thomas Bleezarde on Echoes of The Echo.
- November – Fidel Moreno on The Mohican Heritage Trail.
- December – Holiday Potluck Supper & sharing of memories of Christmas past.

Historical Albums: Reprinting of Historical Albums # 1 and #3 by Troy Bookmakers was completed in April. The digital versions have been archived so that additional copies can hereafter be printed as needed.

Field Trip: The trip in September was to the Bronck Museum in Greene County on land purchased by Pieter Bronck from the Katskill Indians in 1662. Features included Bronck's 1663 Stone House, the oldest surviving structure in upstate New York, the 1685 Stone Addition and the 1738 Brick House. The trip ended as usual with ice cream at Friendly's.

Holcomb Diary: Bill Zimmerman is in a second proofing stage in his project of putting a digital version of the Holcomb Diary on a DVD.

Cemeteries Project: A committee formed last year to coordinate a survey of conditions in 50 burial grounds scattered around the town is still waiting for surveys of a few of the burial grounds. Letters have been sent out to the five active cemetery associations inquiring about their needs.

Stephentown 225th Anniversary

- Celebration of Charter Day, March 29, included a skit by Stephentown Elementary students re-enacting the signing of the Charter, presentation of a commendatory resolution from the County Legislature and a Power Point slide show by Lorri Parisi and Pat Flint, followed by olde-tyme refreshments from vintage recipes.
- The Society designed and ordered t-shirts and new notecards to commemorate the Anniversary.
- A photo contest was held to provide historical pictures for a 2010 SHS Calendar. Twelve photos were selected and 100 copies of the 2010 Calendar were ordered.
- The Society participated in the 4th Annual Rock, Rattle & Drum Powwow and Spirit on the Mountain Music Festival put on by Fidel Moreno and Susan Jameson of Healing Winds and attended by some 6,000 people.
- As part of a combined SVFD Muster and 225th Anniversary Celebration, the Society entered a float in the parade – with the Stephentown Elementary Charter signers returning – and put on a Giffy's BBQ at the Muster.

Acquisitions: Acquisitions this year included some 35 indentures signed by Stephen Van Rensselaer III, donated by Mary Lou Brown. Calvin Atwater donated a Civil War officer's sword along with various other military items and pieces of civilian attire of the period.

Elections: Election of Officers and Trustees for 2009 was held in December. Fred Haley was elected to a first term as Vice President. Lorri Parisi was elected Recording Secretary and Marilyn Osgood and Tammy Madden were both elected to first terms as Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Flint, President
January 4, 2010

WANTED:
THE ONLY
STEPHENTOWN
ON
EARTH

Collections Committee Bev McClave is sending out a plea to anyone who might know the whereabouts of the very last roadside sign that reads: **The Only Stephentown on Earth**. There once were four signs, made under the auspices of her mother-in-law Betty McClave. The signs are unique and Bev would like to have one for the SHS collection in the Heritage Center. McClave said the signs disappeared gradually over the years, until the last one was taken on November 26, 2009.

Please call Bev McClave at 733-5170 if you can be of any help in discovering the whereabouts of this very special sign.



Janet Edwards (r.), checks in Lucille Salitan at the Historical Society's table at Stephentown's 225th Anniversary Celebration on September 13.

**Now's the Time: Please
Send in Your 2010 Dues**

Membership in the SHS is for the calendar year and is still the biggest bargain in town. Please send in your 2010 dues now to help support our valuable preservation activities and to enjoy our many entertaining programs. Membership categories and fees are:

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

Winter/Spring Program Schedule

February 1: *The Life of a Limner: Folk Art Painting, Portraits and Decorations in Upstate New York*

presented by Matthew McKeeby

March 1: *The Tradition of Oxen Driving*

presented by Ralph Hartzell

April 5: *Restoring Cemeteries*

presented by Joseph Ferrannini

May 3: *The First Female Photographer*

presented by Joanne Jennings

June 7: *Historic Wedding Dresses*

presented by Anne Kiely

(Anyone wanting to loan a dress or wedding accessories, please contact Meredith Rhindress 518-733-5675)

July 12 : (Annual Potluck Supper at 6:30 p.m.)

17th Century Dutch Vernacular Architecture

presented by Walter Wheeler

Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month, are free and begin at 7:30 p.m. after a brief business meeting. The public is always welcome.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS		COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS
President		Cemeteries	Newsletter
Patricia Flint	733-5871	Dale Riggs	733-6772
Vice President.		Pat Flint	733-5871
Fred Haley	733-5244	Linda Sullivan	733-5231
Recording Secretary		Collections	Caroline White
Lorri Parisi	733-6455	Bev McClave	733-5250
Corresponding Secretary		Fundraising	David Flint
Linda Sullivan	733-5231	Patricia Flint	733-5871
Treasurer		Genealogy & Heritage Center	Esther Koepf
Bill Zimmerman	794-8430	Bill Zimmerman	733-5811
Trustees:		Historic Buildings	Bill Zimmerman
Patricia Coon	733-6813	Bev Mc Clave	794-8430
Sandy Hamer	733-0196	Sylvia Leibensperger	733-5170
Tammy Madden	733-5603	Hospitality	733-5716
Marilyn Osgood	733-0010	Marilyn Osgood	733-0010
Judith Pierson	733-0196	Membership	
Dale Riggs	733-6772	Fred Haley	733-5244
			Tag Sale
			Bev McClave
			733-5170
			Libby Kogan
			733-6662



The Heritage Center is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fridays and by appointment.

It will be closed on the following dates in 2010: President's Day February 12, Good Friday April 2, Memorial Day May 31, Independence Day July 4, Labor Day September 6, Columbus Day October 11, Thanksgiving November 25, Christmas Day December 25 and New Year's Day January 1, 2011.

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 Email: shs@fairpoint.net

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