



NEWSLETTER

STEPHENTOWN HERITAGE CENTER HAS REOPENED



The sagging ceiling of the Heritage Center on Garfield Road has been carefully repaired by Adam Squires, a Stephentown contractor who specializes in Historical Restoration. (Left) Bill Zimmerman and Rik McClave do an inspection while Adam Squires (on ladder) shows that the ceiling tiles were restored and painted after the lath and ceiling braces (right) were reinforced with new supports and hardware. Balcony level shown here.



Heritage Center Ceiling Repair is Complete

The Stephentown Historical Society has returned to the Heritage Center on Garfield Road, now that the ceiling repair is complete. Adam Squires has done an expert job in repairing the sagging ceiling and restoring the decorative ceiling tiles. For the better half of 2010, the Historic Society held its monthly meetings at the Stephentown Fire Hall on Garfield Road while the Heritage Center was under renovation.

Assessment of Historical Collection

During the ceiling repair, the Historical Society's Collection was moved down to the first floor. Bev McClave, Curator, and her assistants reviewed the items and some pieces were deaccessioned. The collection was carefully recorded and returned in

an orderly manner to the upstairs display area. This collection includes a number of local artifacts, photos and publications that represent the history of Stephentown. The Heritage Center is open to the public on Friday afternoons.

Additional Construction at the Heritage Center

Rik McClave was instrumental in reviewing the contract and negotiating the construction of the ceiling repair. He has also been working on an additional construction project. Rik is building shelving in a narrow office space on the first floor. This new space will be a Genealogy Office for Bill Zimmerman to set up a computer and continue working on the thousands of files that are housed here.

The Newly Redesigned Stephentown Historical Society Website

Stephentown Historical Society Stephentown, New York, U.S.A.



About	Events	Exhibits	Books & Gifts	Genealogy
Newsletter	Membership	Location	Photos	Contact Us
Calendar	Donations	Graves		Cemeteries

Heritage Center, Museum, & Library open:
Fridays 1 - 4 p.m. & by appointment.

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Website maintained by  Round Mountain Design

Learn about Stephentown's History at
www.stephentown-historical.org.

Stephentown's 79 Cemeteries Need Your Help

Our town has 79 cemeteries that are in need of volunteers for maintenance and repair so they are not lost and forgotten. Linda Sullivan, Cemeteries Chair, and her committee are continually working to survey, photograph and document each site. Together with Dave Cummings, they are photographing each stone and recording the GPS coordinates to be listed on the Historical Society's website. Volunteers are necessary to help with this monumental task and to verify the accuracy of the information recorded. To volunteer, call the Heritage Center at 733-6070 or Linda Sullivan at 733-5231

Countless hours have been devoted to the newly redesigned Stephentown Historical Society's Website. Dick Rhindress has redesigned the format of the site and added years of data that has been collected by members of the Historical Society. Pat and David Flint have dedicated years to gathering information and photos from the gravestones of Stephentown natives. Over 10,400 records have been added to the website. Photographs are continually added, as well as additional information once its accuracy has been verified. There is a wealth of information on the site along with current program and event calendars. Be sure to visit the site often to see the new additions as the website develops.

New President and Trustees

After four years of dedicated leadership, we say good-bye to Patricia Flint as Historic Society President. We welcome our new President, Marilyn Osgood, who has been active in the hospitality department of the organization. Two new Trustees have also been added to our roster; Pat Mohos and Janet Edwards. We look forward to an exciting 2011. Watch our events calendar for an Open House to show our newly improved Heritage Center and Museum.

Contributions are Welcome

Thank you for all the generous donations our friends have contributed to the SHS Roof Fund, Memorial Donations and Annual Fund Drive. Due to a suffering economy, the town funding has been reduced this year. The ceiling repair was an unexpected expense for the Heritage Center. The Roof Fund needs to be built back up for a future necessary repair. Please keep the SHS in mind when you are allocating your own charitable contributions.

**Programs for the
Stephentown Historical Society
January 2011 through July 2011**

- January 10- Dick Rhindress - A Tour of the SHS Website
- February 7- John "Mac" McEvelly: Morgan's Artillery
- March 7- Laurene Teachout and Friends - "Tell me about it..." The Stephentown Memorial Library's Story Telling Project
- April 4 - P. Thomas Carroll - The Hudson-Mohawk Region: Silicon Valley of the 19th Century Hudson- Mohawk Industrial Gateway
- May 2 -Adam Squires - The Restoration of the Heritage Center Ceiling
- June 6- Jennifer Lee: Historic Indian Clothing of the Northeast Woodlands
- July 11- Note: This is the 2nd Monday-Holiday Pot Luck at 6:30 p.m. followed by John Warren, Jr. :The Poestenkill: Waterfalls to Waterworks

All programs are free and open to the public. They begin after a short business meeting held at the Heritage Center on the corner of Garfield and Staples Roads at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.

**In Memoriam
Sandra Hamer
1938 - 2010**

Help Wanted

The Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help with a broad range of tasks. We need people who can donate some time to take photographs, rake, scan items into the computer, do calendar updates, data entry and help with cemetery clean up.

This is a great opportunity to learn something new, meet people and help your local community. We can use people of all ages and talents who are willing to help, even if it is just for a few hours. You do not have to be a member to get involved. Boy and Girl Scout Troops and other civic organizations are invited to help.

Volunteering for the Historical Society is a wonderful way for kids to learn more about their own community and is a valuable lesson to instill in them.

For more information on how to volunteer, call the Heritage Center at 733-6070. Leave your name, telephone number and a message about which area you are interested in helping. A member of our Board will return your call shortly.

Now's the Time: Please Send in Your 2011 Dues

Membership in the SHS is for the calendar year and is still the biggest bargain in town. Please send in your 2011 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

**Log onto the Stephentown Historical
Society's Website:**



www.stephentown-historical.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Vice President

Fred Haley 733-5244

Recording Secretary

Lorri Parisi 733-6455

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Sullivan 733-5231

Treasurer

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Trustees

Patricia Coon 733-6813

Tammy Madden 733-5603

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Janet Edwards 733-5217

Patricia Mohos 733-5054

COMMITTEES**Cemeteries**

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Patricia Flint 733-5871

Linda Sullivan 733-5231

Dave Cummings 733-5838

Collections

Bev McClave 733-5170

Fundraising

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Genealogy & Heritage Center

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Historic Buildings

Bev McClave 733-5170

Sylvia Leibensperger 733-5716

Hospitality

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Membership

Fred Haley 733-5244

Newsletter

Lorri Parisi 733-6455

Nominating

Caroline White 733-5250

David Flint 733-5871

Esther Koepf 733-5811

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Program

Isabel Krebs 733-5935

Meredith Rhindress 733-5675

Lucille Salitan 733-6063

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Strawberry Festival

Dale Riggs 733-6772

Bev McClave 733-5170

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Tag Sale

Bev McClave 733-5170

Libby Kogan 733-6662



The Heritage Center is open from 1 to 4p.m. on Fridays and by appointment. It will be closed on the following dates in 2011. Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Phone: 518-733-6070
 Web: www.stephentown-historical.org
 Email: shs@fairpoint.net
 Stephantown, NY 12168
 P.O. Box 11



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

2010 OFFICERS:

Patricia Flint - President

Fred Haley - Vice-President

Lorri Parisi - Recording Secretary

Bill Zimmerman - Treasurer

Linda Sullivan - Corresponding Secretary

In 2010 Patricia Flint completed her final year of a second two-year term as President. The Society mourned the loss of much admired Trustee and Newsletter Editor Sandy Hamer in July. Her seat on the Board was left vacant to the end of the year.

Finances

The Society closed the year in relatively good shape despite the unexpected expense of reconstructing the ceiling at the Heritage Center. The year end totals for both income and expenses were better than expected. Income, budgeted at \$14,975, actually ended up at \$16,826 thanks to higher than expected memorial donations and improved income over last year from the Fund Drive and from the Community Tag Sale and recycling of deposit bottles and cans.

Operating Expenses were \$5,414 less than budgeted. Capital expenses, reflecting the ceiling repair and budgeted with \$4,000 for a roofing fund, showed a loss of \$4,710. The unexpected expense means that the fund established to replace the roof, work that will have to be done in the next few years, will have to be replaced with fund raising.

Maintenance, Repairs & Construction

A sagging ceiling above the Heritage Center balcony area was propped up early in the year with a temporary reinforcement but it soon became apparent that the entire ceiling was in imminent danger of collapsing. Doug Williamson and Carl Taubl constructed a temporary support wall on the balcony to forestall the collapse. Adam E. Squires Construction & Restoration Services won the bid to complete the reconstruction work which involved removing the tin ceiling panels and plaster and lath, refastening or replacing the furring strips and removing the insulation above. He installed new insulation and vapor barrier and constructed a new ceiling and refastened, caulked and repainted the tin panels. He also constructed a two foot wide catwalk running the length of the attic, and, to prevent any further sagging, installed steel ties connecting the furring strips to the joist timbers throughout the entire ceiling area.

Construction was completed in August. Bev McClave and

2010 TRUSTEES:

Patricia Coon

Sandy Hamer

Tammy Madden

Marilyn Osgood

Judith Pierson

Dale Riggs

her team then began the process of deaccessioning some of the items that had been cleared out of the balcony area and returning the rest back up there. Program meetings were held at the Town Hall and the Fire Hall from May through November. The Potluck Dinner in December was held at the newly restored and cleaned Heritage Center.

Web Site

Webmaster Dick Rhindress continued work on overhauling the Society's website. Much work was done on the Cemeteries section which now contains most of the data from the Living Gravestones card file that was earlier converted to machine readable form by Pat Flint. The website contains descriptions and locations of all the cemeteries in that file along with information on the persons buried. Pictures of gravestones from most of the larger cemeteries are included and work will continue in 2011 to add more pictures.

Town Historian

Upon the recommendation of Bev McClave, Thomas Laier of Saddleback Ridge Road, was appointed Town Historian in January. The position had not been filled for over 20 years. Laier, whose ancestors settled in Sand Lake in 1765, is a certified History, English and Elementary teacher with degrees from the State University in English, History and Education.

Fundraising Events

Strawberry Festival

About 200 people enjoyed strawberries, shortcake, ice cream, homemade pie and chocolate-covered strawberries under the tent at the Strawberry Festival on June 27. It was hot, humid, cloudy, but no rain. Bill Zimmerman notes that we have now served over two tons of strawberries in the 29 years of this event.

Community Tag Sale

Wonderful weather brought out a horde of early shoppers and pickers on August 28 to Gardner's Field for the Community Tag Sale. A lot more volunteers this year made the load lighter and their cooperation was very much appreciated, as was the leadership of Bev McClave and Libby Kogan in coordinating the event.

Giffy's Barbecue

We hosted the second annual SHS Giffy's Barbecue on September 19 in conjunction with the Fire Department's Muster Day.

Programs

The Program Committee continued their admirable work in providing us throughout the year with informative, entertaining and fascinating speakers on a broad variety of topics.

- January – Saving History with Metal Detecting by Matt Carr
- February - The Life of a Limner: Folk Art Painting, Portraits and Decorations in Upstate New York by Matthew McKeeby
- March - The Tradition of Oxen Driving by Ralph Hartzell
- April – Restoring Cemeteries by Joseph Ferrannini
- May – The First Female Photographer by Joanne Jennings
- June – Historic Wedding Dresses by Anne Kiely.
- July – Potluck Supper with program on 17th Century Dutch Vernacular Architecture by Walter Wheeler
- August – On the Trail of Henry Hudson and Our Heritage through the Municipal Seals of New York State, by Marvin Bubie (Presented jointly with the Stephentown Memorial Library)
- September – The Story of Mum Bett by David Levinson & Emilie Piper.
- October – The Shaker Museum and Library: The First 60 Years and the Future by David Stocks
- November – The Munsee and the Mahicans in the Time of Henry Hudson by Dr. Laurence Hauptman
- December – Holiday Potluck Supper with program on Penny Whistles by Marilee Urbanczyk

Acquisitions

One of the acquisitions in 2010 was an 1801 family Bible, purchased on Ebay, that lists names of members of the Greenman family whose gravestones can be seen in the

Greenman cemetery off of Madden Road.

Field Trip

The Trip in September was to the Firefighters Museum in Hudson and the newly renovated Olana, home of artist Frederic Edwin Church, followed by ice cream at the Dairy Queen.

Elections

Elections of Officers and Trustees for 2011 were held in December. Marilyn Osgood was elected to a first term as President, Bill Zimmerman to a second term as Treasurer and Linda Sullivan to a second term as Corresponding Secretary. Janet Edwards and Patricia Mohos were both elected to first terms as Trustees.

Thanks For The Help

In closing, I would like to thank the officers and Board members and the many volunteers who helped to accomplish what we did over the past four years. Some of what I think are the highlights:

In 2007

• The first Historic Road Challenge was held, organized by Bev McClave, Tammy Madden, Sandy Hamer, Judith Pierson and Ellen Jennings, a lot of fun for participants who had to find the answers to local history questions. It was followed by a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Support provided by many local business sponsors made this a successful fundraiser, well as a fun event.

In 2008

- Thermal insulating clear panels were installed over the inside of the existing windows of the Heritage Center by Advance Energy Panels of Hoosick Falls. The cost was covered by an additional grant from the Town of Stephentown.
- We fixed the leak in the steeple replacing the shingles with new high quality metal shingles over a complete new layer of ice and water roofing.
- We installed a new sign in front of the building thanks to Trustee Fred Haley and Kevin Doherty of the Montauk Sign Carving Co.
- A donation of \$1,000 from an anonymous donor in memory of Jake and Lillian Houghtling was used to purchase 40 new padded chairs.
- A beautiful display case was constructed by Rick Gillespie and installed in the Stephentown Post Office. Bev McClave and others have been changing the displays periodically.

In 2009

- Reprinting of Historical Albums #1 and #3 by Troy Bookmakers was completed. The digital versions will be archived so that additional copies can hereafter be printed as needed.
- Bruce Hankle completed reconstruction and painting of the south side storm windows.
- In partnership with the Girl Scouts, a spacious shed with a lockable door was built at the Transfer Station for refundable bottles and cans.
- The Town provided assistance in correcting drainage problems in the driveway.
- Celebration of 225 years on Stephentown 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 note cards 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.
- Dick Rhindress became Webmaster and began overhauling our website and setting up a new, orderly and efficient way to handle the Society's email business. He is committed to keeping the much improved website up to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Flint,

President 2007-2010

January 10, 2011

Correction

The Stephentown Fire Hall is on Grange Hall Road, not Garfield Road as listed on page 1. The Stephentown Historical Society is on Garfield Road at the Heritage Center.

Sandra Hamer 1938-2010



It is with great sadness that we inform our extended membership of the passing of a friend, board member, and editor of the SHS Newsletter. Sandy Hamer passed away on July 31, 2010 after a courageous 5-year battle with cancer. Sandy was an active member, having chaired the Fall Festival, co-chaired the Road Challenge, and recently worked on the cemetery

committee. She could be seen at the cashier's table for the Strawberry Festival every year as well as the Community Tag Sale. Her input and ideas were valued and usually put into practice. The Newsletter's new format was of her design and met with great approval. She will be sorely missed.

Calvin Atwater 1926-2011



Calvin B. Atwater, 84, of Presbyterian Hill Road died on Thursday, January 20th at his home. He was born on June 22, 1926 in Stephentown, NY to John and Hazel Atwater. He grew up in Stephentown and graduated from New Lebanon High School in 1944. Cal served in the US Army Air Force from 1944 to 1947 with the rank of Sgt Major. Cal married his high school sweetheart

Virginia (Wilt) Atwater on March 6, 1948. Mr. Atwater worked for his uncle in the lumber business and in the late 1940's he and his brother Will formed Atwater Bros., a construction company. For many years Cal worked for Lebanon Valley Speedway doing track maintenance and as the "Pit Steward". In 1990 he retired from the NLCS district after 20 years of driving bus and working in the transportation department. In retirement, Mr. Atwater spent many years caring for the Garfield Cemetery. Mr. Atwater was a member of the Stephentown Veteran's and Stephentown Historical Society. He is a lifelong member of the Stephentown Federated Church. A graveside service at the Garfield Cemetery will be held in the spring.