



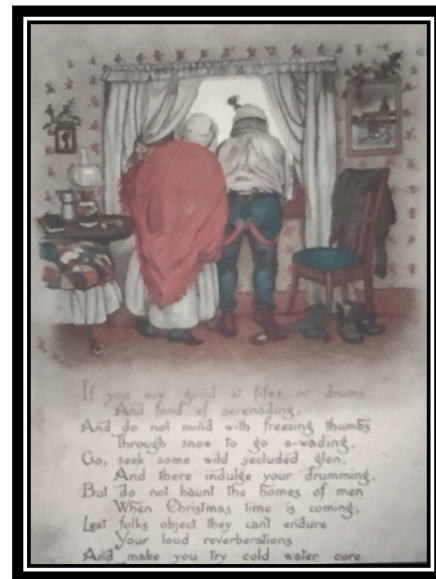
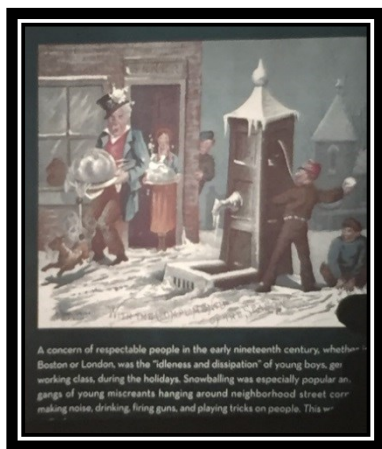
NEWSLETTER

The History Of Christmas At The Stephentown Historical Society Holiday Potluck

The Stephentown Historical Society held its holiday potluck dinner on Monday, December 7, at 6:30 pm at the Stephentown Heritage Center, Garfield Road (County Route 26) in Stephentown. Officers and board members were elected at the brief business meeting. Tom Kernan, guest speaker presented a talk on the origin of America's Christmas, Old World Christmas in different countries and displayed early Christmas cards.



Tom Kernan, presenter of Old World Christmas at the annual Holiday potluck.



Christmas Cards and artwork depicting the wild mischievous actions of young and old when celebrating the Holiday.

Local Race Tracks of the 1950's



Full House at the Heritage Center to learn about Race Tracks of the 1950's in Rensselaer County.

Ken Gypson gave an illustrated talk on the Race Tracks that flourished in Rensselaer County in the 1950's on Monday, November 2, 2015.

A number of dirt oval race tracks were built in Rensselaer County after World War II. They were Burden Lake Speedway, Route 66 Speedway, Pine Bowl Speedway, Carrolls Grove Speedway and State Line Speedway. Pine Bowl was eventually paved and had the longest life, closing in 1966.

Gypson, a Poestenkill resident, owns several antique vehicles, including some race cars. His father drove at some of these tracks. He invites any drivers, mechanics and fans of that era to come and share their personal stories.

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICERS:

Bill Zimmerman, President
 Caroline White, Vice-President
 Beverley McClave, Recording Secretary
 David Flint, Treasurer
 Kelly McGivern, Corresponding Secretary

TRUSTEES:

Isabel Krebs
 Arlene Longo
 Linda Sullivan
 Janet Edwards
 Larry Holder
 Susan Gardner

Caroline White and Bev McClave began their second terms as Vice-President and Recording Secretary, respectively. Bill Zimmerman and David Flint continued their second terms as President and Treasurer, respectively. Kelly McGivern began her first term as Corresponding Secretary. Susan Gardner completed her second term as a Trustee. Isabel Krebs began her first full term as a Trustee. Linda Sullivan completed her first term as a Trustee. Janet Edwards continued her second term as a Trustee. Larry Holder continued his first term as a Trustee. Arlene Longo was appointed to fill the remainder of Joy Gudz's term.

Our finances were negative by about 4% this year due mainly to a stagnant securities market and a capital expenditure to paint the south and east sides of the building. Our Wells Fargo FundSource investment account lost about 2% for the year. Our Fidelity investment account increased about 7%. Our Greylock Federal Credit Union accounts continued to draw virtually no interest. Income from a decreased membership increased slightly. Our annual fund drive in October exceeded our \$2000 goal, and the Town continued to support our work with their annual grant of \$6000. *Continued Next Page*

The Stephentown Historical Society, just like most community based groups, is a not-for-profit organization which operates on a very slim budget. We offer monthly programs, maintain the building to house our activities, archives, and artifacts, and support our volunteers in doing research and providing information from our holdings. Beyond a grant from the Town, our membership dues, and the sales of publications we must rely on donations to support our service to the community.

To help us preserve the legacy of over two centuries of Stephentown, its people, and its neighbors we need your help in three ways: 1) in acquiring and preserving artifacts and records of our history; 2) community support of our fundraising events; 3) donations of money.

Annual Report Continued

There is a small strip of land out back that we thought we owned but do not. We continued to attempt to acquire the land in question. The owner had some tax problems, so that issue remained on hold. The tax problem has apparently been resolved, so we shall resume our attempt to resolve the issue in 2016.

Our computer system with Windows 7 has operated satisfactorily. We shall likely upgrade (free) to Windows 10 next year. Our plan to use the "old" XP system as a backup did not work out due to compatibility issues with the newer software.

Our website upgrade was put on hold for 2015. We still hope to update the site to a user-friendly, menu-driven program that requires little or no professional programming skill.

April 18 and 19 the Heritage Center hosted a show featuring Women Artisans of Stephentown, about a dozen residents skilled in quilting, sculpture, spinning, painting, crocheting, dyeing, weaving, stained glass, rug hooking, needlepoint, basket making, and soap making. 108 people attended this exhibit and reception. The ladies have challenged the men of Stephentown to host a similar exhibition in 2016.

The Heritage Center is available as a facility for meetings of local civic organizations. This year the Rails-to-Trails committee held several meetings at the Heritage Center.

Women of the Revolution- Backstage Heroines

Phyllis Chapman presented Women of the Revolution-Backstage Heroines. The female half of the American populace participated in the Revolution in many ways..



willingly and unwillingly. Conventional history has been remiss in adequately noting the support and exploits of women as battles raged in their towns, and foreign invaders threatened their homes and way of life. The ride

of Paul Revere is well known – and embellished - but what about that of young Sybil Ludington? Who was the woman whose writings gave voice to the revolutionary spirit, and whose concerns about the new Constitution later took form as the Bill of Rights? Known and unknown, patriot and Tory, Chapman recounted how women were key Players in the Revolution.

Phyllis has been portraying historic figures for 15 years, starting at the Bennington Museum. She was an art teacher for 21 years as well. She has a Master's degree in Museum Education from Skidmore College.

PROGRAMS FOR 2016 AT THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sundays, 2 PM

January 10 - Gil Payette tells two Native American stories: "The Boy Who Started a War" and "They Called him Jack Wilson"

February 7 - Deana Mallory of the Bennington Museum - Grandma Moses

March 6 - Gerry Robinson on his great grandfather in the Civil War

Mondays, 7:30 PM

April 14 - Heidi Hill of Fort Crailo - Sustenance and Style: Dining and Foodways of the 17th Century Dutch

May 2 - Steve Trimm of Grant's Cottage - General U.S. Grant

June 6 - Christopher Coon - The Steam Car

July 11 - Pot Luck Picnic at 6:30 at the Stephentown Fire Hall Pavilion

August 1 - James McKay of Lindenwald - Planters and Plain Republicans (Van Buren and Party Politics)

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HERITAGE CENTER is open and staffed by the Stephentown Historical Society most **Fridays from 1 pm to 4 pm**. Visit to see the exhibitions and carefully cataloged artifacts from the local area. Alternate appointment times can be made with Curator Bev McClave at 733-5170. The Center is at 4 Staples Road at its junction with Garfield Road (County Route 26) in Stephentown, New York. The building is handicapped accessible. For directions, telephone (518) 733-0010.

In period correct costume, and speaking in the first person, she introduces you to people you could never meet anywhere (or any time) else. The audience listened to their stories, saw where they lived, examined artifacts, participated in an interactive program and came away from the evening with a richer understanding of our history.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Vice-President

Caroline White 733-5250

Recording Secretary

Bev McClave 733-5170

Corresponding Secretary

Kelly McGivern 733-0416

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David Flint 733-5871

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Isabel Krebs 733-5935

Janet Edwards 733-5217

Larry Holder 766-5099

Dave Cummings 733-5838

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COMMITTEES

Cemeteries

Patricia Flint 733-5871

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Dave Cummings 733-5838

Collections and Exhibits

Bev McClave 733-5170

Pat Mohos 733-5054

Fundraising

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Genealogy & Heritage**Center**

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Hospitality

Patricia Mohos 733-5054

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Membership

Caroline White 733-5250

Newsletter

Lorri Parisi 733-6455

David Flint 733-5871

Nominating

David Flint 733-5871

Pat Coon 733-6813

Susan Gardner 733-5351

Kelly McGivern 733-0416

Program

Isabel Krebs 733-5935

Meredith Rhindress 733-5675

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Patricia Flint 733-5871

Strawberry Festival

Bev McClave 733-5170

Tag Sale

Libby Kogan 733-6662

Bev McClave 733-5170

Corporate Business Member**Please support:**Breezy Nook Pet Crematory,
Ltd.**Technology**

Jeff Brokalis 733-0303

Brad McClave 833-6899

Duane Booth 733-0830

Webmaster**Town Historian**

Pat Flint 733-5871

STEPHENTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 11

Stephentown, NY 12168

Email: shs@fairpoint.net

Web:

www.stephentown-historical.org

Phone: 518-733-6070***The Heritage Center is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fridays and by appointment.******It will be closed for the following dates in 2016:*** Presidents' Day (2/12), Good Friday (3/25), Memorial Day (5/27), Strawberry Festival (6/17 tentatively), Tag Sale (7/22 tentatively), Labor Day (9/2), Columbus Day (10/7), Thanksgiving (11/25), Closed for the Month of December

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

