

We have no meetings in January or February, but the Stephentown Historical Society is still working on its many projects. This newsletter is being published to let you know about our activities and about our plans for the coming year.

Our first meeting will be Friday, March 5. We are planning a covered dish supper for all members and guests. Bring a covered dish, your own silverware and plates, and your whole family. We ask only that if you wish to bring a dessert or cannot cook and would rather contribute coffee, tea, sugar, etc., to please contact Mrs. Lynn Goodhue, 733-5598, so that there will be enough of everything to go around. The supper is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Any changes will be published in the Echo and other newspapers so keep an eye out.

There will be a regular business meeting at which time a schedule of speakers for the next few months will be announced, and nominations of new officers by the Nominations Committee will be reported.

Among our plans for the coming year is a trip to Historic Cherry Hill in Albany. If you remember, our November 1975 speaker, Ms. Cornelia Frisbee, illustrated her talk with slides of clothing from Cherry Hill. Cherry Hill also has many other interesting exhibits of portraits, furniture, kitchenware and military memorabilia. If enough interest is shown, perhaps other field trips could also be arranged in the future.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual meeting will be held in April at which time election of officers will be held. Officers whose terms expire in April are: Pres., Susan Cooper; V.Pres., Lynn Goodhue; Recording Secty., John Parrack; Corresp. Sec'y., Lila James; Student Coord., Susan Cooper. We have no treasurer at the current time and will elect a new one for a three year term in April. Trustees are elected for a 3 yr. term. The current trustees and the year their terms expire are: Thelma Tomlinson '77, Ross Coates '76, Calvin Kenyon '77, Edwin Cogan '76, Lewis Griffin '78.

The Board of Trustees has already begin the nominating process, but nominations may be made by any member at any time prior to the annual meeting. Send nominations to Al Silvernail, Stephentown, before March 1 so that they may be added to the slate of candidates to be considered.

Election of Officers (cont.)

IMPORTANT: You must pay your 1976 dues in order to vote at the annual meeting. Send in membership blank from the back page of this newsletter or pay at either the March or April meeting.

*** NEW PROJECT:

An exciting new project will be getting underway soon as one of our Bicentennial projects. Susan Cooper reports:

The Historical Society in cooperation with the Bicentennial Committee is going to publish a film strip on the history of Stephentown. When finished the film-strip will be available to schools and local organizations through the library.

Your help in collecting information would be appreciated. We are not only interested in historical facts but trivia as well.

REVIEW OF 1975 MEETINGS

During the past year we have had speakers on many fascinating and diverse subjects. In case you missed any of the meetings, here is a summary of talks we have had:

APRIL- annual meeting. We held a "Show & Tell". Among items brought by members were a magnet from an old Ford, a handmade plane, a flintlock gun, a seed box and a watch winder.

MAY- Vic Rolando presented slides and a talk on iron foundries in Richmond and surrounding areas.

JUNE- Mrs. Peggy Emery spoke on country tin. She brought along tin boxes and examples of designs for painting tinware.

AUGUST- Folk concert featuring Ray Frank and Ray Andrews.

SEPTEMBER- Stephen Budrow spoke on gravestone rubbing and showed us some of his rubbings of American stones and English brasses.

OCTOBER- Philip Tarbell, a Mohawk Indian, spoke on the history of the Iroquois and problems of the American Indian today.

REVIEW (cont.)

NOVEMBER- Cornelia Frisbee from Historic Cherry Hill spoke on design of old time clothing.

DECEMBER- Jim Shaughnessy, author of The Rutland Road, gave an account of the history of the Rutland Railroad.

We are now in the process of lining up speakers for 1976. If there are any topics you are particularly interested in or if you know of someone who could give an interesting and informative talk, please contact Mrs. Lynn Goodhue.

CALENDARS:

One of the loveliest calendars in Rensselaer County has been published by the Stephentown Historical Society. They are illustrated with copies of thirteen old photographs depicting life style in Stephentown around the turn of the century. They are certain to become collectors items for the photographs alone, but they are also very useful calendars with large spaces for date reminders.

We have sold calendars as far west as California and as far south as Florida, as far east as England and we have even received a letter of congratulations from the President of the United States on our fine achievement.

We are still, however, short of our goal to pay our printing costs. The calendars will remain on sale throughout the Bicentennial year. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar you may do so thru the society, Box 39 Stephentown. Please enclose \$2.50 plus 68¢ postage. They are also located at the following locations: Sykes Store, Stephentown. Carrs Store- Stephentown, Wooden Indian Gift Shop- New Lebanon Just For You Chatham, Liberty Package Store- Rt. 20, Hancock, and Dunham Mall Book Store- Pittsfield, Mass.

We would like to thank everyone who has sold or is selling calendars for us. It is greatly appreciated.

HOUSE SURVEY

Surveying houses can be quite an interesting project. It involves photographing old houses and doing a minimal amount of paper work. Unfortunately our project has been temporarily stalled due to either a lack of time or interest of our members. If you think you may be interested in trying your hand at this please come to our next meeting or contact Ms. Susan Cooper at 733-5093.

CEMETERIES AND GENEALOGY

Cynthia Pease is in charge of both the cemetery committee and the genealogy committee. She files the following report:

First of all I need help! Those interested in the cataloging of the cemeteries in Stephentown may contact me by calling 733-5515. We have one more large cemetery in town to do, which is the Catholic cemetery. When the weather breaks I need at least 2 volunteers for this task. Also there are many more small cemeteries to get down on paper. These can make a nice picnic and afternoon project for a family. It teaches reverence for the past and respect for those gone before us. Also the side benefit of this help will be the satisfaction and accomplishment of an important job done, your good deed for the day and your contribution of input toward our great nation's Bicentennial celebration.

The cemeteries that are already done are: Boardman's Cemetery located next to the Beverly Liebenon home on Rt. 22; Hoxie-O'Dell Cemetery located off Griffin Rd. off Rt. 43; Ellis Cemetery located behind Elmer Stuart's home on Rt. 22; Huntington located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off the north side of Garfield Rd. on the Stewart estate; Old Ben Hayes Farm Cemetery located behind the Knoblock home on Knoblock Rd. off Southard Rd.; Presbyterian Hill Cemetery located at the top of Presbyterian Hill Rd. where it joins West St.; East Nassau Cemetery in East Nassau on Stephentown border; Greenman Hill Cemetery located on the south side of Greenman Hill Rd. at the top of the hill. Turner Cemetery located on Stephentown Rd. in Hoag's Corners; Tayer Cemetery located on Tayer Rd.; Hillside Cemetery located on Fire Tower Rd.; Tinley Cemetery located on Tinley Rd.; Brockway Cemetery located off Madden Rd. on Friehofer Farm; Cranston Hill Cemetery located at the top of Cranston Hill at intersection of Newton Rd.; Hall-Gardner Cemetery located on Carter Griswald property off Madden Rd.; Bailey Cemetery located $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. east of the Strauss home on Garfield Rd.; Adams Cemetery located off Losty Rd. at the top of the meadow just inside the woods where it looks like it was bulldozed up in a clump; And the last two but both the most difficult Stephentown Baptist Cemetery located on Cemetery Rd.; and the Garfield Cemetery located off Garfield Rd. next to the Ernest Lindsey property. My thanks go to Patricia Davis, Letetia Hespelien, Nancy Epley, Jeanne Atwater, Susan Cooper, Frances Rathburn, Thelma Tomlinson, Lynn Goodhue and Agnes Coates, Hazel Barrett, Blanche Forman, Susan Schultz, Stewart Pease and all others who have assisted with this project.

GENEOLOGY

So far the only name on this committee is Cynthia Pease. Is anyone else in our organization interested in Geneology? Please contact your president, Susan Cooper. This committee could be activated now that we have some cataloging of names and families in town.

ORAL HISTORY

Another on going project is the gathering of an oral history of Stephentown the recording on tape of reminiscences of the older members of the community. Fond memories of the following longtime residents have already been recorded: Helen and Fred Kenyon, Mrs. Carrie Sykes, Erma Graham, Fred Jones, Lewis Griffin, Alice Wemple, Al Silvernail, Clara Reynolds, the late Clarence Starks, and the late Alma Meddaugh.

Since the frequent stopping and rewinding of the tapes wears them out they will have to be re-recorded on dictaphone tapes in order for complete transcriptions to be made. An outline of each tape could be made now by listening to each one straight through, once or twice. If you would like to help with this fascinating project either by making outlines or by making recordings of people you know (yourself included), please contact Mrs. Agnes Coates, 733-5820.

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for 1976 are payable now. According to the By-laws, membership in the society is open to any person interested in the history of Stephentown. Annual dues are payable in advance, and members in arrears more than six months shall be dropped from membership. Remember that 1976 dues must be paid in order to participate in voting for new officers at the annual meeting in April. Several members have not paid 1975 dues. If you have paid your dues tear off and give to a friend. New members are welcome.

MAIL TO: Stephentown Historical Society, P.O. Box 39
Stephentown, N.Y. 12168

	annual dues
Individual Member (over 17 years)	\$ 1.00
Individual Member (under 17 years)	.50
Contributing Member	5.00
Organization Member	15.00
Sustaining Member	50.00
Life Member one time payment of	100.00

Name (please print) _____

Mailing address _____

zip _____

Phone _____