

# Stephentown Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. II., Issue No. VII

November 1988

## HISTORY OF THE HERITAGE CENTER



### LOCAL SOLDIER WRITES FROM BATTLEFIELD

Rebeldom Sept 3rd 1862

Dear Wife  
I suppose that you would like to hear where I am by this time. We are at Martinsburgh Virginia right in the heart of Secession. it is sunrise the boys are around the camp fires a warming themselves. it begins to look like Soldier Life. we had a good bed last night the ground for a bed and the heavens for a cover. we are liable to have a battle at any moment the Guerrillas are all around us. Their is a regiment of Infantry and Cavalry and flying Artillery stationed here they have got marching orders. at ten o'clock today then we shall have to do our own fighting if we are attacked. I feel just like fighting. to see the country look so desolate Rail roads torn up houses burnt bridges torn down and so forth. we have traveled night and day since we left Troy we arrived at New York at 6 o'clock and then we got on to a steamboat and sailed thirty miles to South Amboy arrived there at 6 PM then we took the cars for Philadelphia arrived there at 10. PM had a good supper then we took the cars for Baltimore traveled all night arrived at Baltimore at 10 am stayed there until 12: 1/2 o'clock at night arrived at martinsburgh yesterday a 5 PM.

(continue on page 3)

Nathan Reynolds gave twenty-five dollars and the lot for the new Methodist Church which had been meeting in the old Christian Chapel and the Swan Schoolhouse. Timbers from a silo which was on the property and new chestnut beams went into the building as it was built in 1870. It was dedicated on April 4th 1871. It cost \$3,242.41 and was free from debt.

In 1877, siding was installed over the rough exterior. In 1880, the walls of the church were papered, the ceiling painted, the woodwork varnished and new carpet put on the floor. The addition of new stoves brought the total cost to \$180! Church sheds were raised in 1898 and these were shingled in 1903. A dining room, the present balcony, was added in 1932.

After the group joined with the Presbyterians to form the Federated Church, the old Methodist Church was used as a Youth Center and for rummage sales by the church. On May 11, 1988, the purchase of the Methodist Episcopal Church by the Stepentown Historical Society became official. Named the Stepentown Heritage Center, it will be an educational center while housing collections. The charter commits the Society to always using the building for this purpose.

### CONGRATULATIONS ON A 60th--

What a pleasure it is to honor a local business that has been in the same family for over 60 years - the Walter C. Sykes Store. Each new member seems to become involved at some point in their lives. It's a family tradition that is becoming a rarity.

The store has truly become a "focal point" from which we plan our buying, give road directions and get a bit of the day's news. Our congratulations Rita, Paul, and family.





#### NEARLY "SOLD OUT"

Excerpts From  
The Berkshire Eagle, Sat., Sept. 17,  
1988

"The Stephentown Historical Society's 1989 desk calendar is a winner in design and content. Cleverly melding a calendar with the topical and seasonal essays of Dave Jacobs and the pen-and-inks of Bill Jackson (they used to collaborate), their talents give outsiders a warm feeling toward the New York state rural community on Route 22 just over the Berkshire line. Newspaper readers will remember the weekly pieces of Jacobs on op-ed page...At least part of his gentle but wry preachments will be preserved longer on heavier stock which is less biodegradable than newsprint...Don Bowman, the society's new president, says the profits will help in the drive for funds to restore the long vacant Methodist church the society purchased this summer for a Stephentown Heritage Center."

THANK YOU...Many thanks to Eva Mayer and Jan Grant for help at the recent Jiminy Peak "Showcase" sale. Only 200 calendars now remain. Orders for Christmas may be phoned to Ini Prior, 733-5122 or Sylvia Leibensperger, 733-5716. By Oct. 12th, 800 calendars had been sold for \$4400.00. Printing and envelope costs came to \$2165.00, with a present profit of \$2235.00. One last effort from enthusiastic SHS salesmen should net a \$3000.00 plus success.

#### SUCCESS STORY

The day was cool, but sunny and travelers and "locals" shopped with enthusiasm at the Oct. 9th Tag Sale at Dave Desormeaux's on Rte 43. The profit of \$384.00 goes toward the Heritage Center restoration.

#### FOR GIFT GIVING

Bicentennial Album	\$ 6.00
Reflections (Stephen Van Rensselaer)	\$ 10.00
Album I	\$ 4.00
Bicentennial Plate	\$ 4.00
'89 Calendar	\$ 7.50

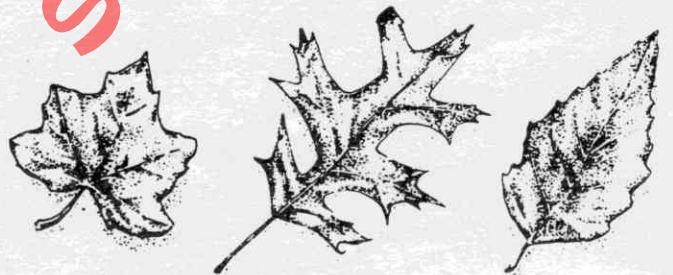
Phone 733-6126

#### Money and Labor is Making The Dream Come True

These are exciting times for the Heritage Center. With the contract let for the much needed roof repair, members volunteered time to help with construction and repair inside the building. We need someone who feels comfortable on a ladder to patch the chancel roof.

We will move ahead with restoration as monies from the fund drive come in. These are listed on the back of the pledge card you received.

As much work as possible will be done this fall, but until we have sufficient funds to rewire, insulate and install a furnace, the winter months will make working there impossible. Every member has a responsibility to do his or her part monetarily or as a volunteer. Help us make our dream come true.



#### DID YOU KNOW

When the United States House of Representative's rules were promulgated, the North did not wish to include blacks and the South, realizing they would have more representatives if their slaves were counted, fought to increase the count. A compromise was reached and all negroes were counted as 3/5 of a man.



We are 19 miles from Harpers Ferry we past through their yesterday and saw where old John Brown had a battle. I think that I shall like it here it is a healthy place there is about 1200 Soldiers here that have been here about three months and only three men have died in the time. I feel first rate this morning considering how I slept. It is very cold here nights but we shall have some tents to sleep in to night if nothing happens. The boys are a getting their guns this morning we have got some light ones they only weigh 8 pounds I shall have to hurry up my letter and go and get mine. I Shall be glad when we get drilled so that we can skirmish around. The next letter I write I will write all the particulars. You must answer this as soon as convient. For I feel axious about hearing from you that you and Ella are well you need not worry about me Lucy because it will not do any good. They have just called us to get our guns and I cannot write any more.

Affectionately, your husband, Calvin

Calvin Adams Haynes, enlisted in the 125th Regiment of Infantry-New York State, which was mustered at Troy, because he felt it was his duty to fight for his country. He was in Company E, recruited from Sand Lake, Hoags Corners, Nassau and Stephentown. He fought in the "Army of the Patomac" until 1863 when he was commissioned 2nd Lt. in the 25th United States Color Infantry. He was then promoted to a 1st Lt. and served in the Dept. of the Gulf. After his discharge in Dec., 1865, he went on to be a leading Custom House broker in New York City. He was the son of Dr. John M. Haynes and Theresa Adams Haynes and was married to Hannah Lucy Allen of Stephentown. Their daughter Ella married William H. Atwater and he is survived by 18 great-great grandchildren in Stephentown and New Lebanon.

Calvin wrote 27 letters which have been preserved. The preceding is a copy of one of his letters, as written.

Copy of our First Directory 1902

COLUMBIA AND RENSSELAER  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

Warren Fowler, Manager  
CENTRAL OFFICE WEST LEBANON, N. Y.

☞ SUBSCRIBERS ☞

\*Telephone is at this time in original location.

**LEBANON SPRINGS**  
Columbia Hall.  
\*Taconic Inn. W. St. Lawrence  
Berkshire Inn. W. St. Lawrence  
C. T. Hemlinway. Store  
A. R. Clark & Son. Lumber  
Haight Bros. Store  
P. Pianagan, M. D.  
B. L. Van Buren, M. D.

**NEW LEBANON**  
\*The Tilden Co. Store  
S. B. Hemlinway. Store  
Chas. Putnam. Drug Store  
T. J. Cleland, M. D.  
Rev. Wm. E. Todd. Residence  
Isaac T. Haight. Residence  
\*Father Sheridan. Residence  
\*P. Cashman. Hotel  
\*J. H. Cox. Residence

**STEPHENTOWN**  
Vanderbilt House. Barber  
Ralph Rose. Store  
C. A. Chaloner, M. D.

**GARFIELD**  
Chas. H. Vary. Store  
\*Elbert Bateman. Residence

**NEW LEBANON CENTRE**  
\*A. B. Adams. Mill  
\*L. D. Parker. Residence  
\*A. S. Haight. Residence  
\*A. S. Haight. Dean Farm  
\*A. S. Haight. Spier Farm  
\*A. S. Haight. Haight Farm  
\*W. H. Donnelly. Residence

**MOUNT LEBANON**  
\*North Family. Shakers  
\*Church Family. Shakers  
\*Second Family. Shakers  
Albert Kipp. Canaan Shakers

**WEST LEBANON**  
\*Warren Fowler. Central Office

\*St. Elmo Hotel. Residence  
\*A. Ross Rider. Residence  
E. E. Saunders. Residence  
New Lebanon Creamery.  
\*John Ederer. Mill  
\*Horatio Hand. Residence  
Frank Fellows. Residence  
I. A. Bateman. Residence  
H. I. Simmons. Residence  
David Bigelow. Residence  
\*H. C. Bull. Store  
Chas. Budlong.

**BRAINARD**  
\*Railroad Station. Crouch's Hotel.  
\*E. B. Ames & Son. Coal & Lumber  
E. S. Comstock. Residence  
O. S. Graves. Store  
Geo. Graves. Shirt Mfr.  
W. D. Barnes. Paper Mill

**EAST NASSAU**  
Nelson Webster. Attorney  
M. A. Bennet. Mills  
F. M. Johnson, M. D.  
\*M. R. Millins. Store  
Geo. Graves. Shirt Factory

**NASSAU**  
O. F. Burroughs. Drug Store  
\*Nassau House. H. N. Smith  
Roshirt Bros. Bottling Works  
Winters Bros. Pork Dealers  
W. Griswold, M. D.  
C. Van Salisbury. Undertaker

**CANAAN**  
\*Berkshire Ind. Farm. Queechy Lake  
Curtiss Inn. Queechy Lake  
\*L. L. Bradshaw, M. D. Queechy Lake  
\*B. & A. Station. Canaan  
W. J. Lord. Coal Office  
M. L. Bates, M. D.

Direct connections with Albany, Chatham, Hudson, Troy, Pittsfield, New York, Boston and all points covered by the Hudson River, New England and American Bell Telephone Companies.



SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY- Dec. 5th, 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. Bring a covered dish. The festivities will include old music hall songs, carols, some games, & gift exchange.

### WARNING

The old family scrapbook—the type of album with photographs secured by those little photo corners, is still the best way to preserve pictures.

The most popular type of photo album—the "magnetic" type with pages of plastic that lay over the photos is very hazardous to photos.

Also destructive are imported photo albums with slip-in pocket pages; chemicals in these pages can completely fade a photograph in three to five years.

Photography professionals say that many albums are so chemically harmful to photos they should carry a label reading "WARNING - The Archive General has determined that PVC and magnetic pages are hazardous to your heritage".

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

JOIN TODAY!

'88 membership categories and dues are as follows:

Individual Member	\$ 3.00
Contributing Member	\$ 15.00
Business/Organization	\$ 25.00
Life Member	\$ 100.00

Dues are payable annually each January. Checks payable to S.H.S., c/o Sylvia Leibensperger, Box 313, West Rd., Stephentown, N.Y., 12168.

Meetings are held at the Town Hall on the first Monday evening of each month. Read The Echo and watch bulletin boards for up-to-date information.



©  
Stephentown  
Historical  
Society

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD 1988

##### Officers:

President: Don Bowman  
Recording Secy: Linda Holder  
Corres. Secy: Claire Watts  
Treasurer: Ellen Lewis  
Education Coordinator: Jan Grant

Editors: Virginia Atwater, Klaus  
Burg, Ruth Leab, Dick Lewis, Laura Zwack