

Stephentown Historical Society

Newsletter

Vol III, Issue IV

January 1997

HISTORY OF THE TOWNS OF RENSSELAER COUNTY

THE CONDITION OF THE PROVINCE IN 1678

It should be remembered that the English dispossessed the Dutch, in 1664, of New Netherland, as their possessions in America were called. However, the Dutch, in turn, wrested the province from the English in 1672, but who, by the treaty of Westminster, restored it again to the English in 1674.

Major Edmund Andros, having received the appointment of governor of the province, he, in 1678, made a report respecting the condition and growth of the province of New York, which, although it shows that little attention was paid to orthography and punctuation, is so full of important information as makes it quite interesting. The governor says:

Albany is a smale long stockadoed forte with foure bastions in it, 12 gunns, sufficient agt Indians.

The Militia is about 2,000, of wch about 140 horse in three troopes the foote formed into companyes, most under 100 men each all indifferently armed with fire-arnes of all sizes.

Our principal places of Trade are New Yorke and South'ton except Albany for the Indyans, our buildings most wood, some lately stone & brick, good country houses & strong of their severall kindes.

Wee have about 24 townes, villiages or parishes in Six Precincts, Divisions, Rydeings, or Courts of Sessions.

Our Merch'ts are not many but with inhabitants & planters about 2,000, able to beare armes, old inhabitants of the place or of England, Except in & neere New Yorke of Dutch Extraction & some few of all nations, but few serv'ts, much wanted & but very few slaves.

Ministers have been soe scarce and Religions many that noe acct can be given of Children's births or christenings.



Wishes everybody at
your

Merry
Xmas
and a Happy New Year

W561

circa 1943

Scarcity of Ministers and Law admitting marriages by Justices, noe acct can be given of the number married.

Noe acct can be given of burials, formes of burials not being generally observed & few ministers till very lately.

A merch't worth 1,000 lb. or 500 lb. is accompted a good substantiall merchant and a planter worthe halfe

(Cont on page 2)

EVENTS SINCE JUNE

The 15th Annual Strawberry Festival was held July 7 at Zema's Too on Route 22.

"Our Watery World: Water Then & Now in Stephentown" including a real lily pond, highlighted the Heritage Center summer from July 12 through July 28, emphasizing history, environmental conservation, and fun.

The 7th Annual Craftfest continued to attract high-quality, juried vendors and discriminating shoppers on August 3 at the Muster Field on Grange Hall Road.

The Tag Sale highlighted the Labor Day weekend at Dave's Market and closed out a busy summer.

* * * * *In Memoriam* * * * *

Ellen Smith

March 21, 1903 - October 31, 1996

Jeanne Atwater

October 5, 1924 - December 15, 1996

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

A PUZZLE

Hidden Away in This Curious Picture is
A CAT—A SERPENT—A LIZARD—A FLY
A MULE—AN ELEPHANT—TWO BIRDS
A RAT—A BOY—A DOG—A FISH and five
other objects. Copyright secured.

CAN YOU FIND THEM?



YOUTH IN ACTION

The 1997 Heritage Center exhibit will emphasize youth and its activities in our community. We shall involve representatives of the community youth organizations in the planning, execution, and presentation of this exhibit. A spring opening will allow work to take place before summer activities begin. Youth in Action will open May 24 and continue through Labor Day.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The 1996 Annual Fund Drive has ended. Although we fell short of this year's goal of \$4,500, we came close with over \$4,100. A very sincere **Thank You** to all of you who contributed - and special thanks to those people who knocked on doors and did all of the legwork:

Betty Feathers

Beverley McClave

Virginia Atwater

Sally Fox

Bill Jennings

COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARY

After several months of effort, Sally Fox and the Collections Committee have gotten the Library in order and most of the artifacts in storage and visible.

Many books are available for borrowing, and others are available for use in the Library. Books restricted to Library use are marked with a small, white dot.

We have several fiction books, but most of the collection is nonfiction. These resources include the following categories: history, medicine and health, cookbooks, gazeteers, histories of area towns (most published during America's Bicentennial, a few more recently). Copies of our albums are available for perusal (or purchase at the Museum store). Information on gravestones and cemeteries, maps, crafts, Indians, and wars from the American Revolution through World War II will be of interest. There is an entire shelf devoted to glass bottles, pottery, silver, artists, houses, and architecture. Our newly labeled files contain notes and pamphlets to supplement the material on the shelves plus additional topics.

Come in and browse, study a topic, borrow a book, and enjoy! Better yet, learn what we have and where it is by volunteering to help in the Collections or the Library. Call Sally Fox at 733-5817.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

JANUARY 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Condition of the Province. . . (Cont from page 1)

Officers:

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 Program Position Available
 Help Wanted
 Refreshments Sylvia Leibensperger

that in moveables accompted with all the Estates may be valued at about £150,000.

There may lately have traded to ye Collony in a yeare from tenn to fifteen shippes or vessells of about together 100 tunns each, English new England and our owne built of wch 5 small shippes and a Ketch now belonging to New Yorke foure of them built there.

There are Religions of all sorts, one Church of England, Several Presbiterians and Independents, Quakers & Anabaptists of Several sects, some Jews but presbiterians & Independts most numerous & Substantiall. - As published in the *Troy Daily Times* 1880

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thank You, Pat Bowman, for 10 years of outstanding programs, always interesting, always informative, always entertaining, and always there!

- January 6 Native American Night
- February 3 What We Did In Winter
- March 3 Fake "Antiques"
- April 7 Potluck/Preserving and Restoring Old Photos
- May 5 Rensselaer /Taconic Land Conservancy
- May 24 - Labor Day Exhibit - Youth in Action
- June 2 Face to Face
- July 6 Strawberry Festival
- August 2 Craftfest

Save This Calendar of Events for Reference

TELEPHONE CONNECTION
 Stephentown, N. Y., April 13th 1913
 Miss Mary [unclear] and [unclear]
 TO EDWARD J. QUINLAN, DR.

Stephentown and Pittsfield Express.

Shoes & Suits	85	
Suits	68	
Shirts	40	
23 - [unclear]	20	
Jan 9 - [unclear]	1 10	✓
[unclear]	25	
[unclear]	20	-60
[unclear]	75	
[unclear]	25	
[unclear]	70	
[unclear]	50	
[unclear]	10	
[unclear]	75	
[unclear]	40	
[unclear]	40	
[unclear]	25	
[unclear]	25	
[unclear]	30	
[unclear]	1 30	
Credit by Cash Jan 3rd		10.25
By [unclear]		2.00
[unclear]		18.25
[unclear]		1.10
[unclear]		7.15

I don't know for sure whether the 2.00 for Mrs. [unclear] is correct or not. It has been paid for it. Defect came from Bill.

E. J. D.

Rec'd Pay -
 April 6th 1913
 E. J. Drumbauer

HERITAGE CENTER UPDATE

Encouraged by the appearance of the rug at the front of the hall, we went to the warehouse in Hoosick Falls and bought more carpet to finish the front hall and the hall outside the rest room. To this we added freshly painted trim boards and a new sill in the hall.

Anna Bayba gave us 15 boxes from her collections. Her contributions included books, leaflets, and scrapbooks. Many newspaper clippings have been Xeroxed, as copies survive better than newsprint. These items have been added to our collections. Each book and booklet was added to the library, which meant rearranging the library shelves, entering each item in our accession book, marking those that can be circulated with library cards in pockets, and those that can only be used in the library for reference with white dots.

The supplementary research material files have been rearranged. Most of the shelves have been arranged according to topic and can be viewed through their protective coverings.

With the closing of McClave & Co., Rik has upgraded our computer system with an IBM 386 machine. **Thank you, Rik.**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

January 1 - December 31

Membership categories and dues are:

Individual Member	\$ 5.00
Contributing Member	15.00
Business/Organizational Member	25.00
Life Member	100.00

Please join us this year. Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

Stephentown Historical Society
P.O. Box 11
Stephentown, NY 12168

Monthly meetings are held at the Heritage Center, generally on the first Monday of the month. Check your Newsletter, local newspapers, and bulletin boards for current program information.

HERITAGE CENTER WISH LIST

Copier



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Stephentown
Historical
Society

Editors:

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