

Stephentown Historical Society Newsletter

Vol IV, Issue IV

July 2002

PICTURE STEPHENTOWN A CENTURY AGO

The Stephentown Historical Society recently acquired one of the earliest known photos of Stephentown (see page 4). It was donated by Clyde Eugene Martin of Phoenix, Maryland, through his daughter, Jean Martin Warholic, of Freeville, New York. Mr. Martin's grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Wentzel, grew up on a farm on East Road in Stephentown and moved to Indiana as a young woman.

The Howard M. Gillet (Lebanon Springs) photo was taken from the hill south of the village on an early spring day between 1871 and 1910. It shows many buildings and locations that remain today: the Baptist Church, the Stephentown Hotel, the creamery, the railroad station, the Stephentown Cemetery (smaller then), and the several homes and outbuildings along Route 43. It also shows several changes. Gone today are the open fields from which the picture was taken. Gone are the Vanderbilt House, the ice house, and all of the buildings between the Vanderbilt House and today's Sykes' Store. Another interesting and obvious difference is the rerouting of Route 22 after the photo was taken. In the photo Route 22 follows Route 43 and Brown Road. Route 22 wasn't shortcut until years later.

This photo bears a remarkable resemblance to one dated circa 1908 that appears in Album 1. Even the same team of horses and wagon appear in the same location in the field in the left foreground in both photos. However, the

driver is standing in the middle of the wagon in this photo but is seated at the front of the wagon in the Album 1 photo. Also, cattle in the pasture in the right foreground are in slightly different positions. Conclusion: these two photos were probably taken minutes apart circa 1908. How interesting the two paths taken by these two nearly identical photos, one locally into Album 1 in 1977, the other via Indiana, Maryland, and Freeville, New York, 25 years later. History is SO interesting!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Rev. Richard and Ellen Lewis left Stephentown several years ago to be closer to their children in Indianapolis, Indiana. Recently they moved into an assisted-living facility 10 minutes from their daughter Barb. They like the facility and are doing well. They would enjoy hearing from friends in Stephentown. Their address and phone number are:

Rev. & Mrs. Richard Lewis
Atria Heritage #224
7365 East 16th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

317 358-0902

Or you can reach them through their daughter's e-mail: Logrun@core.com.

* * * *In Memoriam* * * *

Bertha Sherman
1922 – 2002

Arline D. Goold
1908 – 2002

* * * * *

RECENT PROGRAMS

February 4 – Nostalgia Night

Members reminisced about the good old days and what they did in the days before television. Chinese checkers and krokanole entertained Meredith Rhindress and Don Bowman. Helen Koepp remembered her mother's wedding dress. Art Koepp described the crops he tended with only a hoe to fight the weeds and the first Bible that he received in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Bob Baum's father played piano and conducted in vaudeville. Alvin Berry pitched a no hitter and tried out with the Washington Senators before studying meteorology with the US Navy. Sylvia Liebensperger had a cinnamon bear when she was five. Jeanne Liebenow remembered the skinny pieces of paper used in spelling and math tests. Alice Mather's Uncle Bill gave a WW I shell casing to his family. Joe Rieger recalled roller skating in the road in Canaan and his government-funded tour of Italy. Joyce Baum fell in love with the hand pump and had a well and a hand pump in her first home with husband Bob.

March 4 – Popular Culture of the 1840's and 1850's

Gregg Berninger teaches English and Hudson Valley history at Columbia Greene Community College. He is also a ranger at Lindenwald, Martin Van Buren's home in Kinderhook. When Van Buren left the Presidency in 1841, expendable income was rising for workers in the Hudson Valley and railroads were providing rapid, affordable transportation. People began to look for additional outlets for their newfound leisure time and money. Songfests and dances at neighbors' homes were popular but began to be supplemented with other forms of entertainment. Plays, skits, and dances were held at more central locations like town halls. Touring lecturers and religious revivals became popular, and minstrel shows flourished.

April 1 – Sand Lake from Mills and Hotels of the 1800's and 1900's to Suburbia 2000

Mary D. French and Robert J. Lilly wrote *Sand Lake*, a collection of photographs and associated narratives that describe the events, businesses, and people of Sand Lake. Mary shared those photographs, narratives, and anecdotes in the form of a slide show. Sand Lake was a center of water-

powered industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The arrival of the railroad turned the area into a tourist destination. Dr. Smith Boughton as "Big Thunder" led the anti-rent wars in the mid-1800's. Coded messages were issued from church pulpits to speed slaves along the Underground Railroad. Uline's Infallible Remedy cured many an ailment. Jerry Lewis worked at the soda fountain in the Park Pharmacy, and Theodore Roosevelt frequented Brown's Crooked Lake House

May 6 – Shape Note Music

George and Jean Seiler and their group of Sacred Harp Singers educated and entertained us with hymns of shape note, or sacred harp, singing. Shape note singing originated in New England in the early 1800's as a method of teaching singing. It is based on four notes, fa (denoted by a triangular flag), sol (an oval or the sun), la (a rectangle), and mi (a diamond). These four notes are repeated to cover the octave: fa, sol, la, fa, sol, la, mi, fa. Itinerant singing schools used this method to make it easier for people to learn the melodies of hymns. Shape note singing spread westward into the Ohio Valley and into the South and is undergoing a renaissance today.

June 3 – What's New In Farming

Larry Eckhardt, noted local farmer, analyzed agriculture from today's and tomorrow's perspectives. In the next three generations we shall need to produce as much food as has been produced since the dawn of civilization, a challenge but not an insurmountable problem. The tools will be the computer, remote sensing and tracking, and biotechnology. Computers will provide information from the field to recordkeeping to the internet. Satellite, infra-red, and other tracking methods will monitor and control crop yields, irrigation, and pests. Biotechnology will give us crops grown to order, from specialty grains to pharmaceutical foods. Even the odor of factory farms will be neutralized by bacterial and enzymatic research. In our local area don't look for mega-farms. Look for specialty crops, and the "farm experience." Regionally we'll see larger farms to support the northeastern market. Nationally there will be more production from fewer acres, with exports playing a smaller role. Internationally information technology will play a bigger role than in the US, and increased yields will slow the indiscriminate clearing of land for farming.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Program Chairperson Pat Bowman continues to inspire us with outstanding programs in a wide variety of historical fields. Meredith Rhindress, Isabel Krebs, and Blanche Nelson help Pat in her continuing searches for outstanding talent in our own and neighboring towns. All programs and events are held at the Stephentown Heritage Center on the first Monday of the month and begin at 7:30 pm unless otherwise specified.

August 5	Oneida Indians David Honyoust
September 9	Stephentown Churches Prelude to Exhibit
October 7	Local Genealogy Files Eric Shyer
November 4	Meneely Bells Eugene Burns
December 2 6:30 pm	Potluck Party and Sinterklaus
January 6	Currier & Ives Revisited Pat Bowman

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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 remember that Contributing and Life memberships, like Individual memberships, are for individuals, not couples.

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

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

EVENTS THIS SUMMER AND FALL

August 3	13th Annual Juried Craftfest – Fire Department Muster Field & Pavilion Grange Hall Road 10 am – 4 pm High-quality craftspersons and discriminating shoppers make the Craftfest a special event
Aug 31 (Rain Date Sept 2)	Tag Sale – Gardner's Field Route 22 9 am – 3 pm Start the weekend off right. Exchange your castoffs for someone else's treasures - or vice versa
Fri & Sat - 9/21 – 10/26	Exhibit - Stephentown Churches Heritage Center 1 – 4 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President	Beverley McClave	733-5170
Vice-President	Donna Mullett	733-5278
Recording Secretary	Bonnie Buddenhagen	733-9295
Corresponding Secretary	Isabel Krebs	733-5935
Treasurer	Caroline White	733-5250

Trustees:

Patricia Flint	733-5871
Bill Jennings	733-5923
Helen Koepp	733-5640
Beverly Liebenow	733-5517
Dale Riggs	733-6772
Vacancy	

Committee Chairpersons:

Cemeteries	Help Wanted	
Collections	Help Still Needed	
Fundraising	Sylvia Leibensperger	733-5716
Genealogy	Virginia Atwater	733-5136
Heritage Center	Bill Zimmerman	794-8430
Membership	Donna Mullet	733-5278
Nominating	Sylvia Leibensperger	733-5716
Newsletter	Bill Zimmerman	794-8430
Program	Pat Bowman (413)	738-5420
Refreshments	Alice Mather,	733-5668
	Ruth Leab	733-6562

Stephentown a Century Ago

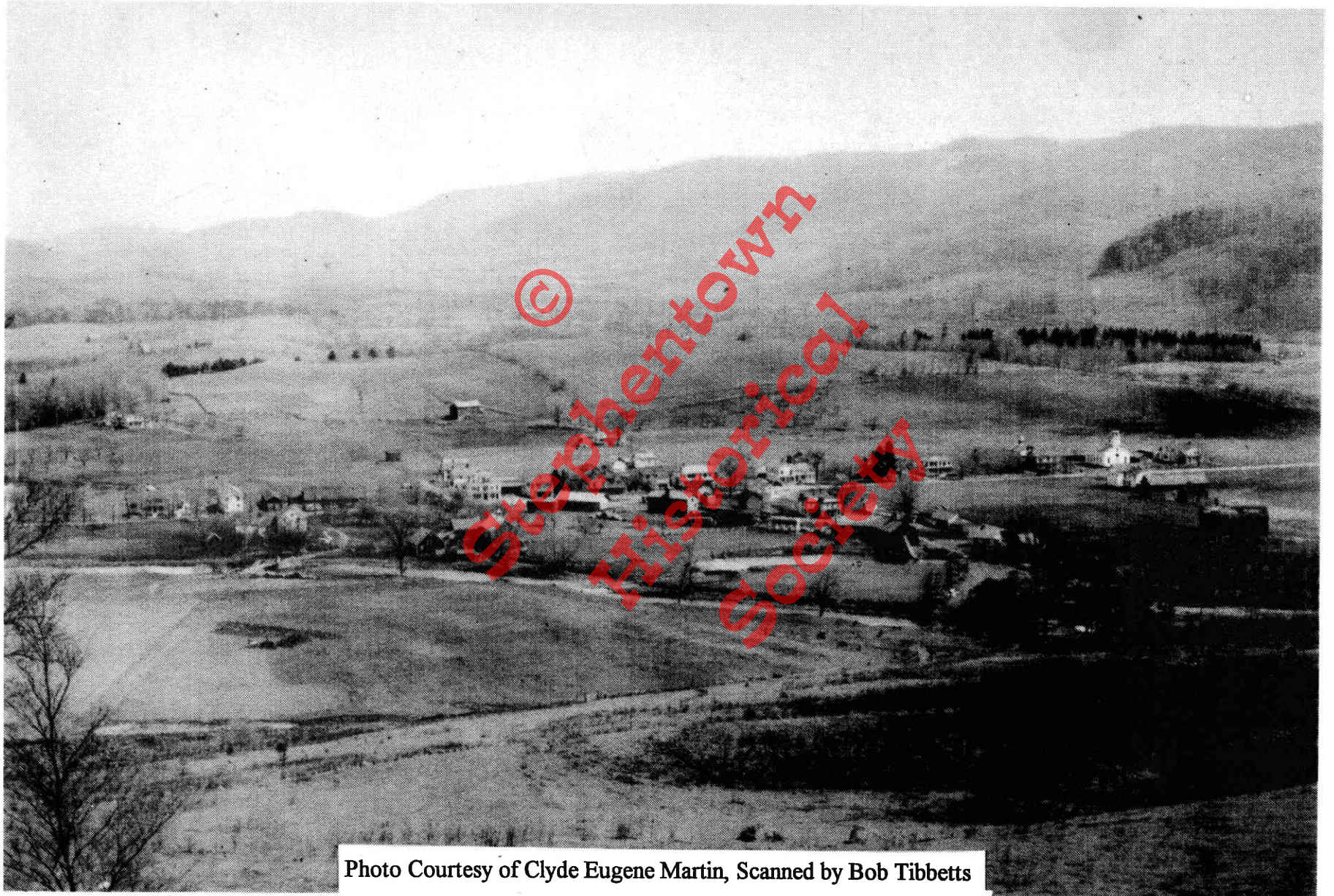


Photo Courtesy of Clyde Eugene Martin, Scanned by Bob Tibbetts

Eighth Grade Final Exam

Remember when our grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an eighth grade education? The following eighth grade final exam was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina and reprinted in the *Salina Journal*, Salina, Kansas, 1895. It gives new (or old) meaning to the saying, "(S)he only had an eighth grade education." Sorry, answers not included.

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.
2. Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.
4. What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of do, lie, lay and run.
5. Define Case. Illustrate each Case.
6. What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.
- 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 ft. long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weights 3492 lbs., what is it worth at 50 cts./bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 in. wide and 16 ft. long at \$20 per meter?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance around which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.

7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?

8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

Orthography (Time, one hour)

1. What is meant by the following: alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u'.
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e'. Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.

Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Courtesy of Bruce Powell

*The Stephentown Historical Society
Presents . . .*

***The 13th Annual
Stephentown***

Craft Fest

***Saturday
August 3***

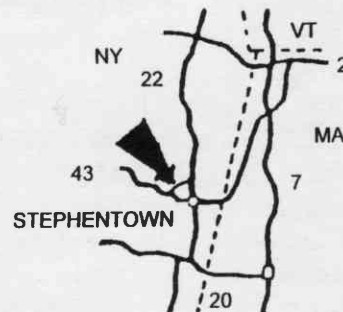
10 to 4

A Juried Art & Craft Show

Free

Held Rain or Shine

**Craft Demonstrations
Delicious Food
Entertainment**



**SVFD Fire Hall at the Muster Field
Grange Hall Road
Stephentown, NY**

*(Grange Hall Road is 0.6 mile west of
traffic light on NY 43, 0.8 mile north of
traffic light on NY 22)*



Web Site: www.cbsco.com/shs
E-Mail: shs@webramp.net

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