



NEWSLETTER

REMEMBERING CARRIE BATEMAN SYKES

A recent acquisition for the Stephenstown Historical Society is a scrapbook by Carrie Bateman Sykes, containing numerous newspaper clippings of her time.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sykes.

Residents and those in neighboring towns have known Sykes Store as a long standing anchor in Stephenstown for their whole lives. Sykes was the “Walmart” in the region, long before the big box stores came into existence.

The family owned and operated the store and have provided groceries, hand cut meats, large and small appliances, clothing and hardware supplies to the town and the surrounding area.



Sykes Store



Sykes Store has had two locations in over 70 years of operation. The store was started by Walter C. Sykes and his wife Carrie Bateman Sykes. Their first location was in the former Whitman Feed Store. They later moved to the current location at the corner of Route 43 and Brown Road. At that time, Route 43 was the main street in Stephenstown, bustling with businesses.

The store is still running, under the capable leadership of Walt and Carrie's son Paul and his wife Rita.



This home, built in 1790-1800's on South Stephenstown Road was the birthplace of Carrie Sykes. Minnie Hassan owned the home, and the Weinbergs farmed this property

for many years, then sold it to George and Jean Eckhardt. It is now Kinderhook Creek Farm, operated by George and Jean's son Larry and his wife Heather. The Eckhardts have celebrated 50 years on the farm.

Kinderhook Creek Farm



Employees of Sykes Store, 1942

l-r: Walt Sykes, Carl Shaw, George Schmich, Mike Ward, Fred Lucien, Doris Wheeler, Helen Kenyon and Carrie Sykes

Commemorating The 150th Anniversary Of The Civil War

Patricia Flint is doing an expert research project collecting information on the Civil War Veterans that lived in the local area. She and her husband David are

researching the names and stories of numerous veterans in the local cemeteries and beyond.

David Flint has been submitting "Letters From a Stephentown Area Soldier" to *The Eastwick Press* on a weekly basis. Pat has

compiled a number of ring binders with data from each soldier that she can trace in our local history. The project started small and has grown to what may become a published history of soldiers in the Upstate New York Region. This collection will be on display throughout the four years at various Civil War events to be held in the county. The Civil War began April 12, 1861.

The Stephentown Veterans will be hosting a Civil War event in 2012 and have invited the Stephentown Historical Society to join them to provide a booth. A Civil War photo booth has been built with a representation of a soldier and his wife in period costumes standing together. Guests will be invited to stand behind the display and have their picture taken with their faces as the Civil War couple. Other events have been planned at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds.

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, Civil War reenactors recognized the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Civil War with a War Horse named "Moscow," a blacksmith, vendors and food, all hosted by the Sand Lake Bicentennial Planning Committee. Civil War artifacts were reviewed by area experts in the field of local New York regiments. The dedication of Veterans' Memorial Park was held. Names on the memorial honor



Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans. The 14-foot-by-24-foot flag Col. Elmer Ellsworth was carrying after removing it from the roof of the Marshall House in Alexandria, Va. on May 24, 1861, was a part of an eight-flag exhibit that opened July 12, 2011 in the "War Room" on the second floor of the State Capitol. It's believed to be the first time the banner will be on public display since the war, according to Christopher Morton, Assistant Curator at the New York State Military Museum. The Capitol exhibit, "1861: Banners for Glory," features seven other flags unfurled. It runs through June 2012, the first of



exhibits commemorating the 150th anniversary of the war. Events will be held for four years to commemorate this war.

TELL ME ABOUT IT

"Tell Me About It," an oral history project at the Stephentown Memorial Library, is complete and published. A public celebration was held October 23. Participants in the project were presented with printed copies of the book of their stories, entitled "Stephentown Stories". A copy of this book printed by Shutterfly was also added to the library collection and gifted to the Stephentown Historical Society. The project focused on eight local seniors selected to tell their stories. They worked with local youth and the professional storytelling duo Frank-Lee Speaking to bring their tales alive in the form of podcasts and printed books to be shared with the community. The seniors who participated are Audrey Foody, Arthur Koepp, Isabel Krebs, Margaret Lehmuth, Sylvia Leibensperger, Franklin Mooney, Jr., Frank Valentine Negrón, and Paul Sykes. After the seniors were interviewed by the professionals and helped to craft their stories, the teen participants recorded the stories and asked questions. The teens later learned to edit the recordings for production of podcasts and to create a book layout. This project was made possible through a generous Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) service improvement grant provided through the Upper Hudson Library System.

THE 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
CATALOGUED ARTIFACTS FROM THE LOCAL AREA.
ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT TIMES CAN BE MADE WITH
CURATOR BEV McCLAVE AT 733-5170.

PROGRAMS FOR THE
STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
February 2012 through July 2012

FEBRUARY 6 - Warren F. Broderick: Native American Sites in Rensselaer County, including the Stephentown Mounds

MARCH 5 -Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch: The Mount: The Home and Estate of Edith Wharton

APRIL 2 - Tim Chase: A Civil War Veteran Twenty Years After

MAY 7 - Phyllis Chapman: Clara Barton

JUNE 4 - Peter Hopkins - Crane Paper

JULY 9 - Note: This is the 2nd Monday/Potluck
Norman Frye: Bluebird Society of New York

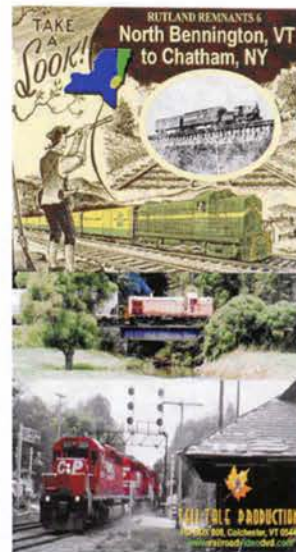
All programs are free and open to the public. They begin after a short business meeting held at the Heritage Center on the corner of Garfield and Staples Roads at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1973

Margo Andsch	Calvin Kenyon
Janet Atwater	Helen Lapp 1903-1994
Agnes Coates	Rosemary Lind 1891-1993
Ross Coates	Cynthia Pease
Suzie Cooper	Francis Rathbun 1921-2003
Greer Fitting	Donna Sidor
Ed Fox	Albert Silvernail 1905-2005
Sally Fox 1925-2006	Irene Silvernail 1906-1985
Ann Gantz	Ulysses Sweeney 1899-1981
Harold Hager 1904-1991	Thelma Tomlinson 1929-2003
Gladys Howe 1898-1999	Edwin Wheeler
Lila James	

Log onto the Stephentown Historical Society's Website:
www.stephentown-historical.org

Corkscrew Division in DVD



Filmmaker James R. "Jim" Jones last November released the sixth DVD in a series titled "Rutland Remnants." His most recent release is titled "North Bennington, VT to Chatham, NY" and documents the history of the "Corkscrew Division."

Jones' video of this line aptly covers Chatham's railroad history, plus that of towns including New Lebanon, Stephentown and Brainard. The Rutland

Railroad Corkscrew line, as he describes it on his Facebook page, also covers the line's history throughout the Lebanon Valley, Little Hoosick River and Kinderhook Creek areas.

Passenger rail may no longer count Chatham on its regular stops, but when it did — 80 to 90 years ago — the train served all segments of the community. From children who would ride the train to school beyond the village of Chatham, to visitors bound for a New York state break from Northeastern urban areas, to railroad workers on the vaunted milk run, who would hoist metal cans filled with fresh milk from farms dotting the Columbia and Rensselaer County landscape, the rail line was an integral part of the community fabric.

Numerous interviews also include appearances by: Jim Shaughnessy, Bob Baumuller, Robert C. Jones, Bruce Cobb, Art Koepf, Bev Bowman Chiarella, George Cameron, Jerry Hebda, William C. Badger, Ken Linihan and Carol Lobdell Van Deusen.

To order a copy of Rutland Remnants DVD for \$20, mail a check to the Stephentown Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, Stephentown, NY 12168 with a note requesting a copy and be sure to include your shipping address. The DVD will also be available on our website at www.stephentown-historical.org.

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		Lorri Parisi	733-6455	Brad McClave	833-6899
				<i>Webmaster</i>	
				Bob Tibbetts	733-6086



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 2012: Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas

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