



NEWSLETTER

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



Stan Brownell presenting certificate to Bill Zimmerman.



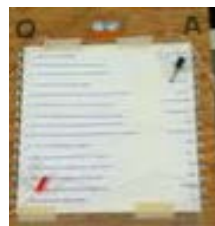
The Stephentown Historical Society was formed on November 8, 1973, with 21 members. With 147 members now, the Society celebrated its 40th Anniversary on Sunday, November 3, with an open house at the Heritage Center on Garfield Road. In attendance were numerous Historical Society members and guests including Legislators Lester Goodermote and Stan Brownell and County Executive Kathy Jimino.

President Bill Zimmerman opened the celebration welcoming the members and guests to the celebration. Bill was presented two awards from Ms. Jimino, Mr. Goodermote and Mr. Brownell to honor the Historical Society in Rensselaer County and Stephentown.

Numerous displays were available for viewing throughout the Heritage Center, including the Rutland Railroad, famous people of Stephentown including a well known baseball player, Elroy Face, photos of founding members and a PowerPoint playing of the one room schoolhouses in Stephentown. A number of local Civil War Veterans were documented in an extensive directory compiled by Patricia Flint, Town Historian.

Refreshments and a cake were served and some gifts were presented. Dean & Donna Herrick won the door prize, an enormous gift basket filled with local products.

Dean & Donna Herrick accepting the door prize



An electronic light up game board with questions pertaining to Stephentown history.



Rutland Railroad Display



Various Displays at Heritage Center on Stephentown history and historians.



Elroy Face, Baseball Player Display



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Annual Historical Society Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner was held on December 2nd. Guest speaker Larry Arnold spoke on

Benedict Arnold and his adventures. Linda Sullivan was the recipient of a floral arrangement that was on display beside the Stephen Van Rensselaer portrait.

The 2013 Fund Raiser effort was a success this year. A membership form was included in the annual fund raising letter in an effort to keep the membership and the donations separated.

Some changes to the board were announced. Caroline White is serving her first term as Vice-President. Bev

McClave is the new Recording Secretary. Larry Holder is a new Trustee this year. Janet Edwards will begin her second term as a Trustee.



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 – June 2014

February 3

Guess Who's Who

Moderated by Pat Flint with audience participation

March 3

The American Chestnut

E. Kenneth James

April 7

To Be Announced

May 5

100th Anniversary of the Mohawk Trail

Lauren R. Stevens

June 2

To Be Announced

July 7

Picnic

For updated information visit our website at <http://stephentown-historical.org/meetings.html#2014>.

ARNOLD CEMETERY UPDATE

The Cemetery Committee completed their work in the Arnold Cemetery. Dave Cummings built a lift to help with replacing the obelisk to one of the Arnold stones. He did this at his own expense & labor. Dave has been a tremendous asset to the Cemetery Committee.



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**OFFICERS:**

Bill Zimmerman, President
 Caroline White, Vice-President
 Joyce Armstrong, Recording Secretary
 David Flint, Treasurer
 Marilyn Osgood, Corresponding
 Secretary

TRUSTEES:

Janet Edwards
 Pat Mohos
 Susan Gardner
 Linda Sullivan
 Milli Smith
 Bev McClave

2013 was a year with more ups and downs than usual.

Bill Zimmerman, David Flint, and Marilyn Osgood began their first terms as President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary, respectively. Janet Edwards and Pat Mohos completed their first terms as Trustees. Linda Sullivan began her first term and Susan Gardner began her second term as Trustees. Milli Smith and Bev McClave continued their first terms. Lorri Parisi resigned as Vice-President and was replaced by Caroline White.

Our finances were moderately positive this year. Our Wells Fargo FundSource investment account followed the general market and gained about 15% for the year. Our Fidelity investment account continued to recover, increasing about 28% and closing in the black. Our Greylock Federal Credit Union accounts in Pittsfield, like most bank accounts in this economy, continue to draw virtually no interest. Income from a membership of over 145 increased slightly. Our annual fund drive in October substantially exceeded our goal.

The Board of Directors began considering the construction of a horse shed to replicate the building once located at the back of the church. The building will house our larger artifacts like farm implements and conveyances. As a precursor to this project Fred Haley surveyed the property and found that we own less land than we had thought. We contacted the owner of the land in question, and a donation of that land is tentatively in progress.

In addition to his website duties Duane Booth reworked our membership list into a data base, which allows it to be used for more than just a simple listing. Our computer system became much more secure with the addition of Carbonite, a remote backup system.

We switched to Ambit as an electricity provider, which is saving us a few dollars per month.

As part of the Stephentown Bicentennial celebration in 1984 the 5th grade class at the Stephentown Elementary School created a time capsule to be opened at the town's 250th anniversary celebration in 2034. The closure of the school building necessitated the removal of that time capsule to a more secure location. On June 8 a ceremony attended by over 60 people, including representatives of the 5th grade class of 1984, was held to celebrate the safe retrieval of that time capsule, which was later reburied on town property between the Stephentown Memorial Library and the Town Garage. Another time capsule, created in 1948, reworked in 1998, and stored behind the cornerstone of the school building, was retrieved and turned over to the Historical Society for safekeeping until its scheduled opening in 2048, the centennial of the Stephentown Elementary School building. A third time capsule, created by a later class, remains buried near the flagpole for later exhumation.

Ceremony attendees of particular note included David Sicko, Superintendent of Schools for the Berlin Central School District for several years during part of the lifespan of the time capsules, Victor Lewin, Head Teacher at the Stephentown Elementary School from 1976 through 1990, five members of the 5th grade class of 1984, and Phyllis Craib, a member of the school band that played for the dedication of the 1948 time capsule.

The 32nd annual Strawberry Festival was held June 23 and took advantage of an earlier date and Caroline White's extra pies. Thanks to Petersburg Boy Scout Troop 222 for their help in picking. Hullers were in short supply this year.

Community Tag Sale participation and attendance were off this year, hopefully only due to utilizing our rain date option because of excessive heat and humidity on Saturday, July 20.

Our annual field trip was held on September 21 to the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke, a restoration of a building central to early travel and trade.

Touchup painting was accomplished along the bases of the south and east sides of the building. The septic tank was pumped for the first time since its installation. We changed our insurance coverage to Philadelphia Insurance Company, a better rated company than Peerless. We got a museum-specific policy and a \$900 savings.

Pat Flint became Stephentown Town Historian. She also headed our cemetery committee, which did restoration work in the Greenman Hill and Garfield Cemeteries. She also arranged for the Cub Scouts to clean up the Tift Cemetery. Of particular note was the extensive effort by Dave Cummings. Joe Ferrannini added his expertise in gravestone restoration, and several others contributed hours of hard work.

On November 3 we held an open house in celebration of our 40th anniversary. Seventy-four people stopped by during the afternoon to congratulate the Society, take in nearly a dozen displays, chat with some of our members, and share cake, ice cream, and memories.

A karaoke machine was donated to the Society to enhance the voices of soft-spoken speakers.

Our annual fund drive was held in October to avoid spring conflicts with two other organizations in town. This move turned out well for us, as donations were up as the tax year drew to a close, and a few people took advantage of the extra 3 months of membership offered to those who joined during the last quarter.

2013 saw the passing of Helen Johnson and Ed Fox, members who will be missed.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the Stephentown Historical Society who, although not specifically mentioned in this report, contributed in many different ways to our success in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Zimmerman, President
 1/6/2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Vice President

Caroline White 733-5250

Recording Secretary

Bev McClave 733-5170

Corresponding Secretary

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Treasurer

David Flint 733-5871

Trustees

Linda Sullivan 733-5231

Vacancy

Janet Edwards 733-5217

Larry Holder 766-5099

Susan Gardner 733-5351

Milli Smith 658-2605

COMMITTEES**Cemeteries**

Patricia Flint 733-5871

Linda Sullivan 733-5231

Dave Cummings 733-5838

Collection and Exhibit

Bev McClave 733-5170

Pat Mohos 733-5054

Fundraising

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Genealogy & Heritage Center

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Hospitality

Patricia Mohos 733-5054

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Membership

Caroline White 733-5250

Newsletter

Lorri Parisi 733-6455

Nominating

Caroline White 733-5250

David Flint 733-5871

Esther Koepf 733-5811

Program

Isabel Krebs 733-5935

Meredith

Rhindress 733-5675

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Patricia Flint 733-5871

Strawberry Festival

Bev McClave 733-5170

Tag Sale

Milli Smith 658-2605

Bev McClave 733-5170

Technology

Jeff Brokalis 733-0303

Brad McClave 833-6899

Duane Booth 733-0830

Webmaster

Duane Booth 733-0830

Town Historian

Pat Flint 733-5871

STEPHENTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 11

Stephentown, NY 12168

Email:shs@fairpoint.net

Web:

www.stephentown-historical.org

Phone: 518-733-6070

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 2014: Presidents' Day (2/14), Good Friday (4/18), Memorial Day (5/23), Strawberry Festival (6/20 tentatively), Independence Day (7/4), Tag Sale (7/25 tentatively), Labor Day (8/29), Columbus Day (10/10), Thanksgiving (11/28),
Closed for the Month of December

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