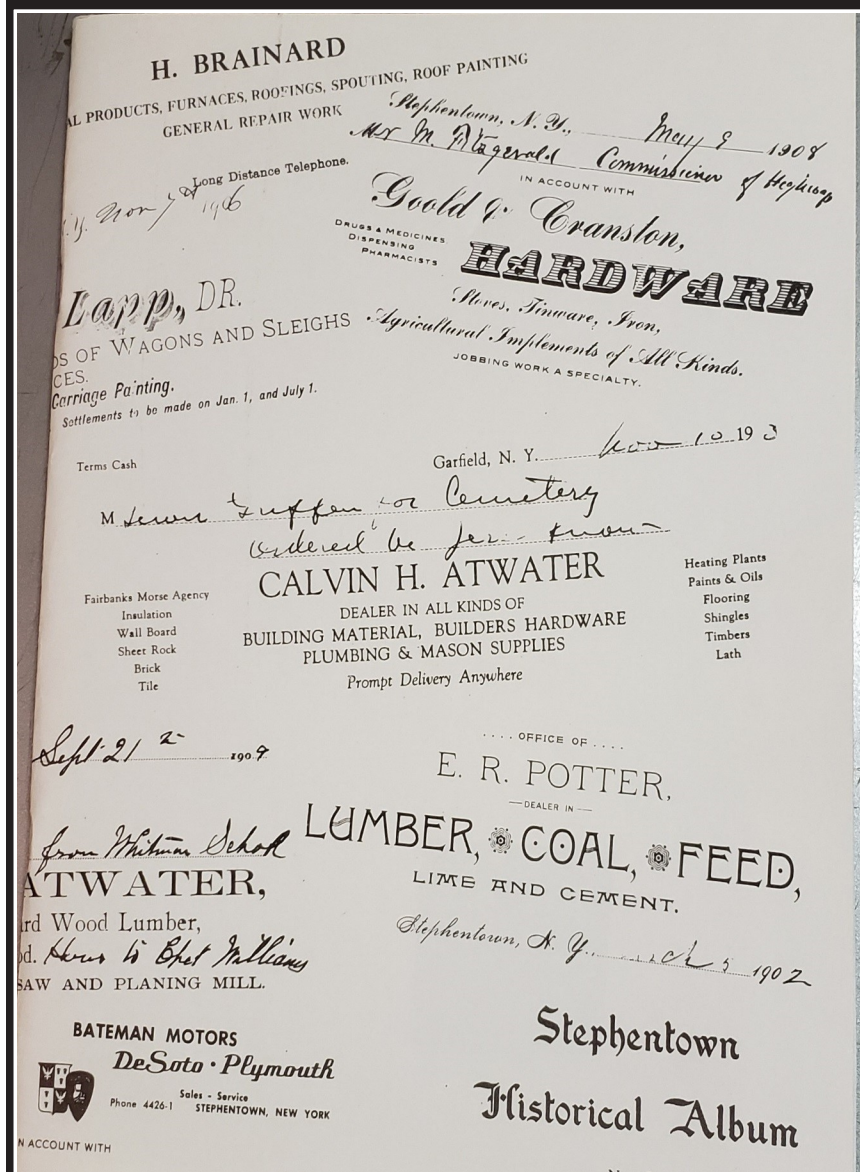




# STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2022



## ALBUMS

As promised in our February issue, we will feature an historical album in each newsletter. This issue's choice is **Stephentown Historical Album #2** (cover pictured at left). This particular album is chockfull of photos but is also a treasure trove of information: the floods of 1936 and 1945; how the neighborhoods looked back "when"; what folks did for a living and for fun; and what homes are still standing today. You'll recognize some things for sure and will likely learn some along the way as well. Life was certainly harder back then but it also seems to have been rewarding. We noticed that people pitched in to help each other and joined in for fun and celebrations too. Families were large and it seems like everyone went to school and to church and the houses were beautiful with wraparound porches. Page 45 shows the amazing volunteer fire department on the day the new fire house was dedicated—October 15, 1973. You can see the pride. This album is available for purchase at the Heritage Center for just \$5.00. We hope you'll enjoy it! (See more photos on page 4)

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## TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

*Patricia Flint***Top Toys Sold in Your Birth Year****Estimated Cost**

1920 — Raggedy Ann Doll	\$1.00
1921 — Lincoln Logs	Up to \$1.00
1922 — Tinkertoys	.59
1923 — Gilbert Chemistry Set	Up to \$10.00
1924 — Erector Set	Up to \$10.00
1925 — TeddyBear	.79
1926 — Crayola Crayons	.05
1927 — Radio Flyer Wagon	\$2.99
1928 — Yo Yo	.05
1929 — Pop Up Book	N/A
1930 — Mickey Mouse Doll	N/A
1931 — Finger Paint	N/A
1932 — Sock Monkey	.10
1933 — Marx Wind-Up Toys	.25
1934 — Buck Rogers Disintegrator Pistol	.50
1935 — Shirley Temple Doll	N/A
1936 — Balsam Wood Model Planes	Up to \$1.00
1937 — Monopoly	\$2.00
1938 — Microscope Set	N/A
1939 — View Master	\$2.00
1940 — Red Ryder BB Gun	\$5.00
1941 — Beach Ball	.05
1942 — Golden Books	.25
1943 — Little Green Army Men	.05
1944 — Soap Bubbles & Bubble Blowers	.10
1945 — Slinky	\$1.00
1946 — Lionel Trains	\$30.00
1947 — Tonka Trucks	\$1.00
1948 — Toy Piano	\$8.00
1949 — Clue	\$3.00
1950 — Magic 8 Ball	N/A
1951 — Colorforms	.25
1952 — Mr. Potato Head	

**SUMMER HEAT CONDITIONS—Weather Conditions in Years Gone By—**

Summers in NYS average 66.5 F which places the state as the 39th hottest in the country.

NYS's hottest ever recorded temperature was in Troy, NY at 108 F long before air-conditioning (not quite sure of the year)! The overall hottest year on average as a whole for NYS was 2012.

**Poughkeepsie, New York:** 104 F on August 1, 1933

31 days or 90 F or higher in 2020 and 20 days of 90 F in 2021! Wow!

We'll have to see how things shake out in 2022



## 2022 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL A BIG SUCCESS!

This year was destined to be something special right from the get-go because it was our 40th!! We decided to go all out. We reached out to our local businesses and invited them to be part of the festivities. We offered to promote their company in return for a donation. And boy, did they ever respond! (Please see the list of these wonderful sponsors below as well as the brochure that was created). Their generosity allowed us to update our signage, add a new banner to our advertising, and purchase a credit card reader for SHS, which has already shown itself to be very popular (who knew no one uses money any more!). See photo below. The day of the festival was bright and sunny and HOT and the crowds were amazing! We sold nearly 30 strawberry rhubarb pies baked by our fantastic volunteers and offered a choice of homemade biscuits or sponge cake shells for our strawberry shortcakes. We even had gluten free biscuits! Our servers and cashiers were kept busy from 11 to 3 in the serving line but also at the “store” table where we sold albums, T-shirts, 50/50 raffle tickets and all sorts of other Historical Society memorabilia. A great time was had by all and it was our most successful ever!

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  
AND CAR WASH SPONSORS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

Gardner's Coffee Shoppe  
Scrub Board Laundromat & Car Wash  
Stewart's Shops  
Averill Park Septic Service LLC  
Four Fat Fowl  
Kinderhook Creek Farm  
Breezy Nook Crematory  
Norte Azul Cantina  
Braveheart Books  
Darcy Construction Corporation  
Atlantis Equipment Corporation  
Morse Fuels LLC  
Berkshire Mini Warehouse  
Troy Sand & Gravel Inc.  
Rensselaer Land Trust  
HHFORGE & The Blacksmith's Wife  
John Senter Gravel  
Berkshire Mountain House  
The Eastwick Press  
KTL & H Tax Prep  
Patrick's Quality Painting & Remodeling Inc.  
Hannaford





## SEE ANYONE YOU KNOW? PHOTOS ARE FROM HISTORICAL ALBUM #2



On the corner of Newton and Moore Hill Road stands the home of George Gerstel, father of Rose Hewett. He bought the house from Joseph Lindsay in the early 1920's. It is now owned by Andrew Davis. This house was used as a church before the Catholic Church was built. A blanket chest was covered and used as a pulpit and stood in the parlor where the services were held. Mrs. Gerstel made the cover. Mrs. Lindsay asked the Gerstels to destroy the chest and burn the cover (Which she believed to be sacred) if they sold the house. They did so.



Stephentown residents planting a tree in front of the Medical Center.  
Left to right: D. Sidor, B. Spaniol, Jim, Cathy and Sharon Spaniol, Carl Jensen (holding shovel), Al Silvernail and M. Mockler (holding the tree), B. Potter and Jill Jensen.



Old Dennison Place — about 1897.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mentor, Mrs. Hiram (Palmira) Derby, Harold Merritt and Rose Merritt (Thomas) (children).  
Now Charles Guimarra residence, corner of Giles Road and East Road.



*Other Albums Available*

## 2022 SUMMER PICNIC—July 10th

This year our Program Committee really outdid themselves. Due to weather concerns we decided to move it to our own location so we could move inside if it rained or was unbearably hot. It turned out to be a great decision in many respects—everything we needed was close to hand (tables & chairs as well dinner service). We set up our “BIG TENT” behind the building, we had plenty of parking, and what a great turnout—over 50 people came to enjoy the day! But the big star of the day was the BBQ CHICKEN that was DONATED by our friends at Dave’s Market! What a nice surprise that was! And it was delicious too. Please support this local supermarket—they have everything you need, and if they don’t, well, they’ll try to get it for you! The occasion was also the first time that “Appreciation Pins” were awarded. Recipients included Bill Zimmerman, Beverley McClave, Patricia Flint, Isabel Krebs, Meredith Rhindress and Ryan Kresge. A great time was had by all!





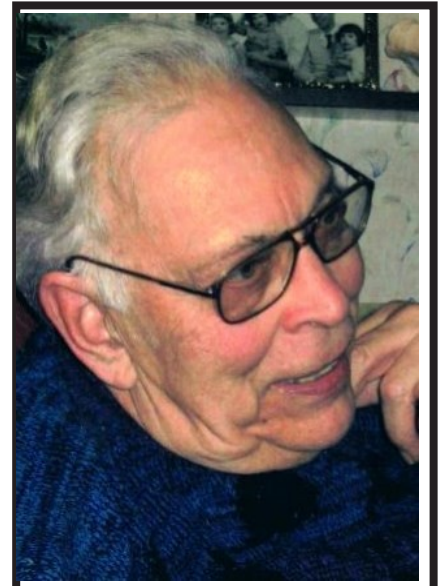
**SEPTEMBER TO JANUARY—2022/2023****All Meetings Begin at 2 PM and are held at the Heritage Center**

Sunday, September 11, 2022	Berkshire Farm School Presented by Dodie Gearing
Sunday, October 2, 2022	Kittle/Culver/Dodge Murders in Stephentown Jill Whitbeck Knapp, Ph.D.
Sunday, November 6, 2022	Women in the Military Diana Clark
Sunday, December 4, 2022	Annual Holiday Luncheon Bring a Dish to Share & Join in the Fun!
Sunday, January 8, 2023	To Be Announced
Sunday, February 5, 2023	To Be Announced

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**HOWARD LEIBENSBERGER**

We are sad to share that we lost a good friend and former member (and treasurer) earlier this year, Howard Leibensberger. Howard was well known and beloved by many. Howard and his wife of 66 years, Sylvia raised 3 daughters in Rockland County before moving to Stephentown in 1977. He and Sylvia were both quite active in the Stephentown Historical Society and in the local community through Sylvia's position as Librarian in the Stephentown Memorial Library. Howard had a quiet, patient manner, a gentle sense of humor, and was known for his generosity and kindness.

We shall miss you Howard — Rest in peace.



**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL  
ADDRESS?**

The easiest and quickest way for us to reach out to our members is by email. If you are a member, have an email address and have not been receiving the SHS newsletters in your inbox, please consider providing us with your information. We promise not to inundate you with a lot of annoying emails— and you can opt out any time you want. We'll be able to keep you up to date on our monthly programs as well, and we can notify you as to cancellations or postponements. Thank You!

**WEAPONRY IN THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION—JUNE 5, 2022**

The Heritage Center has hosted many interesting programs, but not many can match the popularity of this one. Mike Companion and members of the 2nd Continental Artillery (the color guard for Saratoga Battle Chapter of SAR) arrived in full uniform totting cannon and muskets. The group showed the various muskets and artillery pieces and explained their use in such key battles as the 1777 victory at Saratoga, often referred to as the “turning point of the Revolution”. Then they demonstrated by firing the cannon and muskets, much to the delight of the crowd (luckily neighbors had all been forewarned!). After that Mike discussed their “kit” that was taken into battle which contained everything they would need to survive — from mess kit to canteen to a mirror for shaving! This program was well attended—70 attendees!



**Meet Aliyah Caulfield! This 5 year old cutie attended the Weaponry Program and stole our hearts! Along with her mom Bethany and her Granddad Eric she came to the Heritage Center to see the program described above and ended up with an “Only Stephentown On Earth” T-shirt and old fashioned church doll. She had lots of questions and wanted to know everything about everything! And we think those are great qualities to have Aliyah! Come back and see us when you are a little older and we’ll put you to work!**

**IN MEMORIAM  
JOYCE C. ARMSTRONG**

Sadly, in June of this year, we had to say goodbye to one of the Historical Society’s most popular and genuinely nice members, Joyce Armstrong. Joyce served as secretary at the Heritage Center over the years, but it is her kind and loving nature that people talk about when remembering her. She was active at other organizations in town as well (the DAR and the Stephentown Seniors) and it was said that she never met a stranger and could talk to folks for hours. She loved helping people and was an LPN for over 20 years, known for her compassion and genuine caring. You will be missed Joyce.





## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE REST OF THE YEAR

Keeping in mind that NOTHING is certain during these trying times, we do have tentative plans. Our remaining calendar for 2022 will hopefully include (in addition to our monthly meetings):

- \*HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER
- \*COMING SOON! MONTHLY PROGRAMS ONLINE
- \*ANTIQUES APPRAISAL
- \*POST OFFICE DISPLAYS
- \*NEW DISPLAYS @ SHS
- \*CONCERTS—LIVE AT THE LIBRARY

### Stephentown Historical Society

4 Staples Road—PO Box 11

Stephentown, NY 12168

Email: [shs@fairpoint.net](mailto:shs@fairpoint.net)

Website: [www.stephentown-historical.org](http://www.stephentown-historical.org)

Phone: 518-733-6070

Fridays 1pm—4 pm

**Board of Directors**

*President*

Arlene Longo

*Vice President*

Kat Deen

*Treasurer*

Alan Stuart

*Recording Secretary*

Ellen Jennings

*Corresponding Secretary*

Laurenne Teachout

**Trustees**

Isabel Krebs

Sara Demick Ewen

Alex Haley

Jean Bolen

Joe Hogan

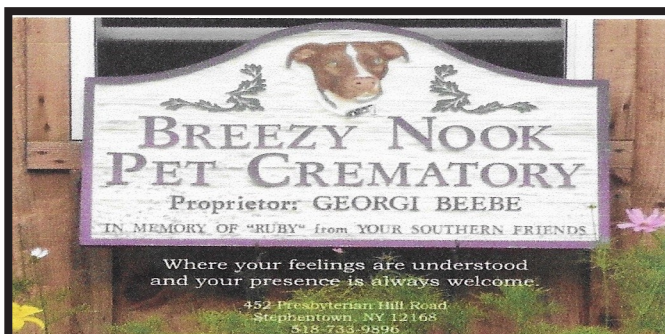
Josie Madison

**Town Historian**

Pat Flint

**Curator**—Bev McClave

**Genealogist**—Bill Zimmerman



## Genealogy buff?

If so, check out

[www.stephentowngenealogy.com](http://www.stephentowngenealogy.com)

This site is maintained by Jeanette Otis and contains a lot of interesting information!

And don't forget the SHS website! Visit us at

[www.stephentown-historical.org](http://www.stephentown-historical.org)

Did you know that we're on Facebook? Check us out! You'll see what's new at the Heritage Center and hear about the latest events, programs and other happenings. Let us know what you like and would like to see. Be sure to give us a "like" and we don't mind if you "share".



**Stephentown Historical Society  
Membership**

**(If you are a current member, a renewal notice will be sent to you.)**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Please complete the form below and return it to:

(Check made out to:)

**Stephentown Historical Society  
PO Box 11  
Stephentown, NY 12168**

**Membership Categories**

Please check one:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member — \$10.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member — \$50.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership — \$25.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (Individual) — \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate — \$60.00 |   |

**(Annual Membership is January—December)**

Dues enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation \_\_\_\_\_ [ 501(c)(3) Organization ]

**I'd like to volunteer—please contact me: YES [ ]**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

