



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August - 2023

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL PICNIC

The Stephentown Historical Society celebrated the 50th year of its founding the weekend of July 8th and 9th in conjunction with the annual picnic. Planning for this special open house began in February with emphasis on not only our town's history, but also the individuals who were integral to the creation, success and progression of our beloved institution. Exhibits featured many photo presentations—we had four monitors showing photos of Stephentown “back in the day”, as well as the town's Veterans , events through the years, the Bicentennial and lots & lots of residents. We had a wonderful working train set up to demonstrate the importance of railroading to the town with a timeline explaining the decades of active passenger & freight service right up to the current recreational Corkscrew Rail Trail. All of the display cases were updated with new exhibits, the Gift Shoppe was well stocked and open for business, and there were plenty of snacks and goodies to eat. A good time was had by all. And that was just Saturday! On Sunday we had all that and more—our Annual Potluck Picnic once again featuring BBQ chicken from Dave's Market—delicious! The cake was from Hanaford's Supermarket and was perfect. We had a wonderful crowd who braved the uncertain weather and humidity to help us celebrate and we really appreciate the support—thank you! Here's to another 50 years! See the pictures below and more on page two.



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ALBUM #4

This month's featured album is #4, titled simply *Stephentown Historical Society*. In addition to a brief history of Stephentown at the beginning, It is chock-full of pictures with an increased emphasis on individuals and families—residents both past and current for the times. Album #4 reverts to the snapshot format of albums #1 and #2. It was published in 1977 and is a very enjoyable read. All albums are priced at \$10 and are available at the Heritage Center or on our website for pickup or delivery—www.stephentown-historical.org. See below for a sampling of what you'll find inside.



50th Anniversary Celebration (Additional Photos)



MAINTENANCE (AND REPAIR!)

We continue to maintain and to repair as needed. Our focus this past spring and summer has been mainly on the outside. The stairs to the back door were completely reconfigured, widened and improved with railings—now they go straight out instead of a hard left turn! MUCH easier and safer to navigate. They'll soon be sanded & painted. And—the parking lot has been completely redone—many thanks to Darcy Construction for the work and to Aldie Goodermote of the Stephentown Highway crew for hauling so many loads of gravel and stone. We surely couldn't have done it without you all and we appreciate you! What a difference it has made.



HISTORIC ROAD CHALLENGE REVIVAL!

Believe it or not, it has been 16 years since the original Road Challenge back in 2007 and we are pleased and excited to announce its return on October 21st! The basic idea is the same—you will enjoy a leisurely 40 mile jaunt around Stephentown equipped with a list of directions, questions and clues. Learn more about your community, answer questions, and have a chance to win a prize! First Place—\$250; Second Place—\$100; Third Place—\$50. Every question is worth 10 points but you can earn additional points by: **1. Preregistering online (+10 points per team)** (use the QR code below or go to our website at www.stephentown-historical.org) OR **2. On the day of the event, wear or purchase an SHS “Only Stephentown on Earth” T-Shirt — (+10 points per team)**. Registration forms are also available at the Heritage Center (Fridays from 1 to 4 pm) and at all events and Sunday programs. Open to Individuals (\$15) or Teams of 2 to 5 (\$20). If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Ellen Jennings at 518-733-5923 or Bev McClave at 518-733-5170.



TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

*Patricia Flint***RESCUE OPERATION BOVINE**

Everyone will agree that the guys & gals of the Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department are everyday heroes—they routinely respond to any and every emergency call that comes in, be it fire, accident, or personal health issue. We can always count on them! And we appreciate everything that they do. But did you know that they also have a soft spot for the furry beasts among us, whether they be large or small, domestic or otherwise, and that they have a long history of such? The article below is dated August 4, 1974 and was contributed at that time by Marie Stanley.

“STEPHENTOWN—It was **Rescue Operation Bovine** Monday afternoon as the volunteer company extricated a 350-pound dairy cow from a 30—foot well.

The boys at the firehouse have taken their share of razzing since the incident. But, Paul Sykes, a member of the company, said, “It just shows what volunteer firemen can do!”

A member of the family called the fire company to see what if anything they could do to help. All three tankers and about 10 to 12 men worked about two and a half hours to free the trapped animal.

Chief Sylvester Close and his men looked the situation over and decided the best bet was to flood the well. They did, using 3,000 gallons, and the buoyancy of the cow brought it up to about three feet from the top of the well. Firemen roped the animal and it almost helped itself out from that point.

An inspection of equipment Monday night by Ruppert Boucher, fire field representative with the Office for Local Government of the state, also brought a few comments. It was “Moo, Moo” as the machines were tested and the local men were asked if the inspection should be stopped for milking time.”

ELROY FACE

If you attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration for SHS, then you most likely saw the display dedicated to **Elroy Face**, Stephentown’s very own Major League Baseball player. Mr. Face grew up in Stephentown and was originally signed by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1949 and was eventually selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He will be inducted into the Pirates’ Hall of Fame with two of his teammates from Pittsburgh’s amazing 1960 World Championship over the NY Yankees. During that season, he recorded 24 saves in the regular season and 3 in the World Series. Face was known as the “Baron of the Bullpen” by Pirates fans and is credited with pioneering relief pitching as we know it today. There is much more to the article—stop in for a visit and read it in its entirety! Also, check out the special display at the post office!



SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER — 2023

All Sunday Programs Begin at 2 PM and are held at the Heritage Center

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Spring Swamp Life
Trix Niernberger

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Cherry Hill Murder
Shawna Reilly, Director of Education
Historic Cherry Hill

Saturday, Oct 21, 2023
(Commencing 1 PM at Heritage Center)

HISTORIC ROAD CHALLENGE

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Berlin Explosion
Patricia Flint, Stephentown Town
Historian

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Holiday Potluck Party at the Heritage

**IN MEMORIAM
CYNTHIA PEASE BRAYLEY**

In January of this year we lost another Charter and lifetime member, Cynthia Pease Brayley. Cynthia led a busy, active life, not only as owner/operator along with her husband Andrew of Pease Farm and Produce for over 25 years, but also as writer of a cooking column for the Echo called the “Owl’s Nest Kitchen”. She was a soprano in the choir of the Stephentown Federated Church, was active with the Stephentown Grange, the Historical Society and the local DAR, all while caring for her husband. Cynthia had a well-known love for owls (she had an extensive collection) and she loved to cook—she had over 5000 cookbooks. You will be missed Cynthia—rest in peace.



**IN MEMORIAM
JUDITH “JUDY” PIERSON**

Judith moved to Stephentown after retirement and right away became an active volunteer in many local organizations, bringing with her a keen sense of humor, a contagious laugh, wonderful ideas and lots of pizzazz. She was always ready to be of assistance. She was a member of the Stephentown Historical Society, Friends of the Stephentown Memorial Library and was active in the Stephentown Food Pantry. She was an avid reader, a lover of music, hiking, and all things outdoors, and loved cooking and travelling as well. She is remembered as always being happy and wearing a smile, punctuated by that wonderful laugh. You were taken too soon Judy—you are truly missed.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Our 41st Annual Strawberry Festival defied all odds by actually occurring on a day when it wasn't raining! The sky was blue, the sun shone, and the crowds came out to hear the 50's music, socialize with neighbors & friends (and to make new ones) and to eat strawberry shortcake! Local businesses generously sponsored us once again (please see the list on page 7 and support them if you can). A great time was had by all as you can see in the photos at right & below (some people like to come prepared for transport and some like to dress stylishly!).



Liebenow Boys



Donna Rose & Charles French

4TH ANNUAL CAR WASH!

The Stephentown Historical Society's 4th Annual Car Wash was held on Sunday, August 13th this year and was again in conjunction with the Stephentown Federated Church SonShiners' Garden and Bake Sale. We had a great time while ensuring that residents' vehicles were clean & shiny and bellies were full of freshly baked goodies and homegrown veggies. Thanks to all who volunteered and to those who came out to support us! (Hey Riley—we can see who's doing all the work!).



SHS "GIFT SHOPPE" GETS A MAKEOVER!

We've renamed our "store" and moved it to a new spot to better highlight our inventory. Our "Only Stephentown on Earth" T-Shirts are available in all sizes (small to 3XL) and colors (red, blue and green) and we have a full line of albums (line priced at \$10) and lots of other items. Come check it out!



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE REST OF THE YEAR

Our plans for the rest of 2023 include (in addition to our monthly meetings):

- *HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER
- *ROAD CHALLENGE
- *ANTIQUES APPRAISAL
- *POST OFFICE DISPLAYS
- *MONTHLY PROGRAMS IN-HOUSE AND ON YOUTUBE

Hope to see you there!

Stephentown Historical Society

4 Staples Road—PO Box 11
Stephentown, NY 12168

Email: info@stephentown-historical.org
Website: www.stephentown-historical.org

Phone: 518-733-6070

Fridays 1pm—4 pm

Board of Directors

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Arlene Longo

Vice President

Kat Deen

Treasurer

Alan Stuart

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Ellen Jennings

Corresponding Secretary

Diana Clark

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Laurenne Teachout

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Alex Haley

Jean Bolen

Joe Hogan

Josie Madison

Town Historian

Pat Flint

Curator—Bev McClave

Genealogist—Bill Zimmerman

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
CAR WASH AND ROAD
CHALLENGE SPONSORS**

THANK YOU!

Please Support Our Sponsors!

Gardner’s Coffee Shoppe

Scrub Board Laundromat & Car Wash

Stewart’s Shops

Hannaford

Averill Park Septic Service LLC

Four Fat Fowl

Norte Azul Cantina

Darcy Construction Corporation

Atlantis Equipment Corporation

Berkshire Mini Warehouse

Troy Sand & Gravel Inc.

Berkshire Mountain House

The Eastwick Press

Patrick’s Quality Painting & Remodeling
Inc.

L.Browe Asphalt Services

XCA Composites LLC

Brunswick Painting

CMV Construction Services

WE’RE ON YOUTUBE!

We have been recording our monthly programs (with the speakers’ permission of course) and posting them on YouTube. So if you are unable to attend in person, you can still enjoy our programs. You can access the site from our webpage—www.stephentown-historical.org or go directly to YouTube and search [@Stephentownhistorical233](https://www.youtube.com/@Stephentownhistorical233) — **all posted videos will come up.** The quality is improving with each recording, so please give us a look and be patient while we improve!



FOUR FAT FOWL
CHEESE WORTH CLUCKING ABOUT

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 what you 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 in January.)

NEW MEMBERS

Please complete the form below and return it to:

(Check made out to:)

Stephentown Historical Society
PO Box 11
Stephentown, NY 12168

OR—go to www.stephentown-historical.org membership tab and renew online!

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 []

