

# NEWSLETTER



## 2016 Holiday Luncheon

Photo of those attending the SHS Holiday Luncheon at the Heritage Center on December 4, 2016.

Front Row: Frank Mohos, Nancy Zimmerman, Dave Cummings, Isabel Krebs, Caroline White, Arlene Longo, Bill Zimmerman, Everett Madden

Second Row: Pat Mohos, Marilyn Osgood, Pat Flint, Linda Sullivan, Tammy Madden, Unknown, Rik McClave

Back Row: Ellen Jennings, Lois States, Neil Krebs



Stephentown Brass Band,  
an old photo donated by John  
Houghtling of Stephentown.  
This photo is included in the  
SHS Album #1.

Front Row: Irving Hunt, George  
Coutant, Harry Reynolds;  
standing: Caleb Moffitt, Ernest  
Wemple, Haynes Atwater, Rev.  
Wager, Calvin Atwater, Lewis  
Wager, Ed Gallup, George  
Edwards, Henry Lapp.

*(George Edwards was Wes  
Edwards' grandfather.)*



**Stephentown Brass Band**





## Rebuilding an Historic Stinson Aircraft

Dana Tarr of Stephentown was the guest speaker at the November meeting. He recounted with slides and videos his experience rebuilding an historic American aircraft. Close to two years he spent recently, tediously and patiently putting back into airworthy shape a Stinson 108-3, known by some as the forerunner of the Piper Cub. The model he restored was originally built in 1948 by the Stinson Division of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft

### *Stinson as Dana received it*

Corporation, later taken over by the Piper Corporation. With its reinforced floor, removable rear seats, and external baggage door, it could accommodate 600 pounds of baggage and was dubbed the "Flying Station Wagon."

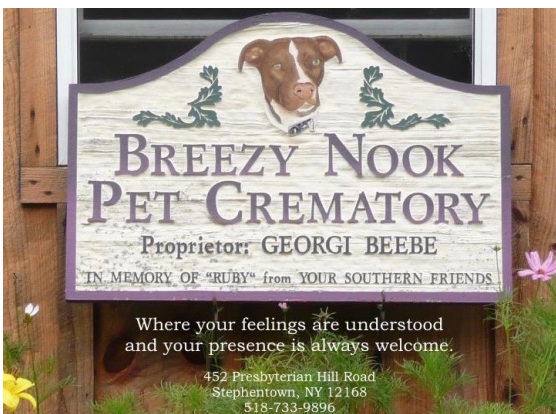
Dana said most of the parts came with the plane but a few were missing and were hard to find. The wings turned out to have some corrosion so that they would not pass inspection. Tarr finally found replacements at an "airplane junkyard" in California and had them delivered.

Dana is a qualified pilot with an Airframe & Power Plant license.

He was a U.S. Army Flight Engineer on Chinook helicopters during the Vietnam War.



### *The Completed Aircraft*



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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 cataloged artifacts from the local area. Alternate appointment times can be made with Curator Bev McClave at 733-5170.



## “TOWN HISTORIAN’S CORNER”

### TWO CONGRESSMEN FROM NEW YORK

By Patricia Flint

**HOSEA MOFFITT** b. Nov. 17, 1757..... d. Aug. 31, 1825 in Stephentown. Most people in the area have heard of Hosea Moffitt. He was a Representative from New York; born in Killingly, Windham County, Conn. During the Revolutionary War served as ensign and later as lieutenant in the Fourth (Second Rensselaerwyck Battalion) Regiment, Albany County Militia; justice of the peace in 1791; town clerk in 1791 and 1797; member of the State assembly in 1794, 1795, 1797, 1798 and 1801; appointed brigadier general of militia March 22, 1806; supervisor of the town of Stephentown 1806-1809; sheriff of Rensselaer County 1810-1811; elected as a Federalist to the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses (March 4, 1813-March 3, 1817); member of the board of managers of the Rensselaer County Bible Society in 1815; died in Stephentown, N.Y., August 31, 1825; buried in Presbyterian Hill Cemetery.

#### *But did you know??*

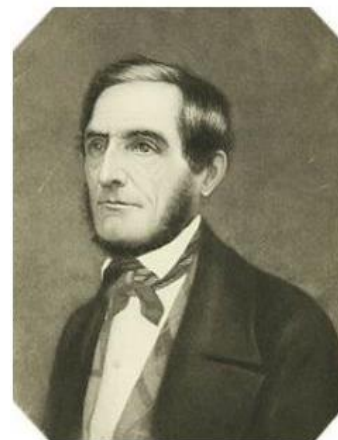
**ZADOCK PRATT** Zadock Pratt was born on October 30, 1790, in Stephentown, New York, to Hannah Pratt (née Pickett) and Zadock Pratt Sr. He was the 5th of 7 children. In 1797, Pratt moved with his father's family to Middleburg, New York. In 1802, at age 12, Pratt moved with his parents to Windham, New York, which soon became Lexington, and is current day Jewett. As a child, he received limited schooling at the public school, and instead worked much on his father's farm and in his tannery. In 1810, at age 20, Pratt became an apprentice to Luther Hayes, a saddler in Durham. Following his apprenticeship, he was a traveling saddler for a year, during which he saved \$100.

In 1812, he returned to Lexington where he continued his work as a saddler, working fourteen-hour days. In 1814, Pratt built a general store in Prattsville where he would barter with residents for goods, and would make periodic trips to New York City to trade the goods. Pratt volunteered for the War of 1812 in 1814. He was a Steward of a company stationed at Brooklyn Heights. In 1857, he would receive a warrant of 160 acres of land for his service. In 1815, after war ended, he returned to Lexington, sold his store. On May 7, 1817, he entered the tanning business with his older brother Ezra, and his younger brother Bennett. October 18, 1818, Pratt married Bida Dickerman of Hamden, Connecticut, who died of tuberculosis six months later on April 19, 1819. Pratt and his brother Ezra then bought out Bennett's share of the tanning business for \$2200. In 1821, Pratt was appointed a magistrate of Lexington. In 1823, Pratt married Esther Dickerman, sister of his first wife. Esther died less than a year later on April 22, 1824, also of tuberculosis. While recovering from

an illness, he fell down stairs and broke his thigh. He died due to the injury on April 5, 1871. He is buried in the City Cemetery in Prattsville. As a Congressman, Pratt pushed for legislation to:

- Reduce the cost of postage from \$.25 to \$.05 in 1838.
- Create the Bureau of Engraving and Patents
- Construct public buildings in Washington, DC, of marble or granite, not sandstone.
- Construct the Dry Dock in Brooklyn.
- Initiate first survey for the Transcontinental Railroad 1844.
- While in Congress he began a movement to complete the Washington Monument, and he also started a practice of hanging the Presidential Portraits in the Rotunda.

*Zadock Pratt was born in Stephentown  
Hosea Moffitt died in Stephentown*



### PROGRAMS FOR THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 2017-JULY 2017

Sunday March 5 - 2 pm - Life and Legacy of the New Netherlands - Sam Huntington

Monday April 3 - 7:30- Behold New Lebanon - Ruth Abram

Monday May 1 -7:30 - My Vietnam – A Forum of Veterans of the Stephentown Area

Monday June 5 - 7:30 - Fashion and Etiquette on the Titanic - Denise Vanaria

Monday July 10 - 6:00 pm - Annual Picnic at the Firemen's Pavilion

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BOARD

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Beverley McClave 733-5170

**Vice President**

Caroline White 733-5250

**Treasurer**

William Zimmerman 794-8430

**Recording Secretary**

Arlene Longo 733- 6177

**Corresponding Secretary**

Kelly McGivern 733-0416

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Susan Gardner 733-5351

Ellen Jennings 733-5923

Alexander Haley 518-533-8905

Isabel Krebs 733-5935

Linda Sullivan 733-5231

Dave Cummings 733-5838

## COMMITTEES

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Linda Sullivan 733-5231

Dave Cummings 733-5838

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Pat Mohos 733-5054

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Meredith Rhindress 733-5675

Marilyn Osgood 733-0010

Patricia Flint 733-5871

**Strawberry Festival**

Arlene Longo 733- 6177

**Tag Sale**

Beverley McClave 733-5170

**Newsletter**

Lorri Parisi 733-6455

David Flint 733-5871

**Technology**

Brad McClave 833-6899

Alex Haley 518-533-8905

David Flint 733-5871

Arlene Longo 733- 6177

**Webmaster**

Alex Haley 518-533-8905

**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 2017: Martin Luther King Day - January 13, Presidents' Day - February 17, Good Friday - April 14, Memorial Day - May 26, Strawberry Festival - June 23, Tag Sale - July 28, Labor Day - September 1, Columbus Day - October 6, Veteran's Day - November 10, Thanksgiving - November 24, Closed for the Month of December.

Phone: 518-733-6070  
Web:www.stephentown-historical.org  
Email:shs@fairpoint.net  
Stephentown, NY 12168  
P.O. Box 11



## **STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **OFFICERS:**

Bill Zimmerman, President (15-16, 2)  
Caroline White, Vice-President (16-17, 2)  
Beverley McClave, Recording Secretary (16-17, 2)  
David Flint, Treasurer (15-16, 2)  
Kelly McGivern, Corresponding Secretary (15-16, 1)

### **TRUSTEES:**

Isabel Krebs (15-17, 1)  
Arlene Longo (15-17, 0)  
David Cummings (16-18, 1)  
Linda Sullivan (16-18, 2)  
Janet Edwards (14-16, 2)  
Larry Holder 14-16, 1)

### **2016**

Bill Zimmerman, David Flint, and Bev McClave finished their second terms as President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary, respectively. Caroline White began her second term as Vice-President. Kelly McGivern finished her first term as Corresponding Secretary. Janet Edwards finished her second term and Larry Holder finished his first term as Trustees. Linda Sullivan began her second term and David Cummings began his first term as Trustees. Isabel Krebs continued her first term as Trustee, and Arlene Longo continued to fill Joy Gudz's term as Trustee.

Our finances were positive this year. Our Wells Fargo FundSource investment account gained almost 7% for the year. Our Fidelity investment account was flat. Our Greylock Federal Credit Union accounts in Pittsfield, like most bank accounts in this economy, continue to draw virtually no interest. Income from memberships increased slightly although actual memberships decreased. Our annual fund drive in October exceeded our \$2000 goal by over 50%, and the Town continued to support our work with their annual grant of \$6000.

The small strip of land that we thought we owned continues in question. The owner apparently continues to have some tax problems, so that issue continues on hold.

We upgraded our Windows 7 software to Windows 10. Software upgrades are occurring so often that retaining not-so-old computers like our old one with Windows XP as backups or second systems is not cost effective.

We obtained the services of Clarkson Software Engineering student Travis Riccardi, who upgraded and reworked our website software to more user-friendly software programs that should allow novices like most of us to maintain the website. The new website is currently under review and should be activated shortly. The overall appearance may not be significantly different, but the maintenance will be much simpler.

On April 9 and 10 the Heritage Center hosted a Men's Artisan Show. The show featured 11 local men with outstanding skills in various fields. Over 100 people attended this two-day exhibition. The Rails-to-Trails committee also held meetings in our facility.

The 35th annual Strawberry Festival was held June 26 at Gardner's with California berries. We had been experiencing a shortage of pickers and hullers that necessitated a change in procedure. Our product quantities were once more satisfactory, and we slightly

exceeded our projected profit. We have established an excellent reputation for our product, and we continued to maintain that reputation.

Our July potluck picnic was held at the SVFD pavilion.

On July 27 our annual trip took us to tours of Grant Cottage just north of Saratoga Springs and to the Saratoga Battlefield.

The Community Tag Sale at Gardner's field on August 6 was coordinated with a Route 22 tag sale in Berlin. Our profit was slightly over budget.

Kirk Mitchell painted the wood on the steeple in anticipation of replacement of the Heritage Center roof.

This fall Phelps Roofing of Nassau replaced the sheet metal roof on the Heritage Center with a standing seam metal roof. Also included in the project was 5/8-inch sheathing and full coverage with snow-and-ice shield. The project took longer to finish due to a slight short ordering of material. Snow stops will also be installed in the spring. The delay in completion resulted in a delay in payment until after December 31, so our financial statement looked better than anticipated for 2016.

Pat Flint and our cemetery committee continued restoration work in our local cemeteries.

Our program committee continued to provide interesting and educational programs each month. This year over 400 people attended our monthly and special programs.

The Society had come into possession of several boxes of *The Echo*, courtesy of the Lebanon Valley Historical Society. We were finally able to find homes for them with the New York State Museum.

The Society continued to create and maintain timely displays in the Post Office and our display cases at the Heritage Center.

2016 saw the passing of Don Bowman, past President of the Stephentown Historical Society.

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 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Zimmerman, President

1/8/2017

Amended 1/9/17