



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2022

Stephentown Historical Society's Bicentennial Album 1784 — 1984



Mill off Newton Rd., taken 1910-15.

Volume III

ALBUMS

We have quite a collection of historic albums available for sale. They have all been painstakingly researched by volunteers and townsfolks. They contain photos from our own collections as well as those of private individuals who either loaned or gifted them to the Heritage Center. The albums detail life and lives in Stephentown through the ages, as seen through the eyes of those who lived it, as well as records, archives, diaries and narratives of the time. We will feature an album in each newsletter, and hopefully we'll rouse your curiosity and you'll come in to take a better look!

This issue features the Bicentennial Album (cover at left). It is very comprehensive, giving an overview of so many subjects as they evolved through the years: early settlers (including Indians), the Military; Town Government, the Postal Service, town organizations such as the Friendship Masonic Lodge, the Library and the Temperance Society, and so much more. Did you know we had an orchestra at one time? And a Stagecoach Company? Check it out!

(See more photos on page 4)

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TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER*Patricia Flint***SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST—News From Long Ago!****Baltimore Daily Commercial (Baltimore, Maryland) On June 3, 1846—Page 1 reported:
Terrible Accident**

The Troy Whig relates an awful death in the Cotton Factory of G. W. Glass at Stephentown, NY. A boy 14 years old by the name of Green while tending the picker in a room by himself, went to the room below to extract the belt which had slipped off and was wound around the shaft. While unwinding it he was caught by the belt and was carried over the shaft, upon which he was whirled around for seven hours before he was discovered! The accident occurred between 6 and 7 o'clock PM, at which time the other hands left the factory, with the exception of one man employed at night work. The wheel was stopped about 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and during all this time the poor victim was whirling on the shaft. Every vestige of clothing, including his boots, was whipped from his body in the countless revolutions. His neck was broken and his limbs and whole frame dreadfully crushed and lacerated. His absence had occasioned no uneasiness as he was supposed to have gone on a fishing excursion; nor was anything known of the accident until 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, when the door of the room was opened by the boy's father, and the first object that met his gaze was the mangled body of his child lying on the floor, where it had dropped when the wheel stopped.

[Editor's note: George W. Glass (Town Supervisor 1848-1849, Justice of the Peace in 1852) owned and operated a woolen Mill in the East part of Town, the "Flats" in Garfield near the Kinderhook Creek. He manufactured Flannel and the mill was known as the Cotton Factory. On May 26, 1846 Aaron B. Green Jr. (age 14) while working there on his own, discovered that there was a problem with a belt that slipped from the shaft in what was called the "Picker Room". He decided to try to fix it and became tangled in it while doing so which caused his dreadful death. He is buried in Garfield Cemetery with his parents.

The St. Albans Daily Messenger (Saint Albans, VT)**An Ancient "Hoppist"**

We have heard of Cardiff Gants, of eggs, of little Tom Thumbs, of smart young men, of smart old men and women but truth is stranger than fiction. An old lady of 95 years by the name of Abigail Bennett, living in Stephentown, NY, has surpassing intellect and good memory. She goes out of doors every day for a walk and a few days ago, while the writer of this was at her house playing on the violin for the amusement of some young people who were there, this old lady came out on the floor and danced money-musk. It was the most amusing of anything ever seen in Stephentown. She kept the beat of time and enjoyed it as well as the lookers on. She was not satisfied with once dancing, but came out three times and danced. The next day she showed the young people how they used to dance in her day, which was more pleasing still....

The New York Herald (New York, NY)**Pair of Horses Killed and Driver Fatally Injured—Albany, NY Feb. 8, 1871**

Isaac Watt, of Stephentown, Rensselaer County, while on his way to this city with a load of charcoal, in crossing the railroad track across the river was run against by a train of cars and fatally injured. His horses were instantly killed.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Beverley McClave

The Board of Directors for the year 2021 were as follows:

President—Beverley McClave

Recording Secretary—Ellen Jennings

Vice President—Arlene Longo

Corresponding Secretary—Laurenne Teachout

Treasurer—Bill Zimmerman

Trustees:

Kat Deen

Alex Haley

Alan Stuart

Isabel Krebs

Susan Demick

Jean Bolen

Although the terms of office for the President, Treasurer and two board members were up, we were not able to fill all those positions as determined by the Nominating Committee late last fall. At the Board of Directors meeting in November of 2020 it was decided that the current slate of officers would remain in place until new candidates could be found. In June, our board member, Alan Stuart agreed to step up and become the treasurer, Kat Deen would be Vice President, Sara Demick Ewen and Josie Madison for board seats. Finally, the slots were filled, except for President, but according to by-laws the slate had to be presented at a general meeting with fuller membership in attendance which was done in November. By that time our current Vice President Arlene Longo agreed to take on the presidency. COVID presented itself as a growing threat again, so we decided to shut down. There was no December meeting and therefore no election. The board, via electronic communication, decided to have the election via email which was sent to every member having an email address. The membership approved the slate so we finally had our new officers and board members. What a complicated situation this was, but I feel the board, following what protocols we had in the by-laws, did the best that they could in this unprecedented occurrence.

COVID seemed to be somewhat better controlled but the Board of Directors deemed it more responsible to cancel the general meetings until the time when it was safer. So, in June when we could assemble outside, we held our annual Strawberry Festival at Gardner's. People were elated to congregate again and enjoyed the day under the tent. In July we gathered again for the annual picnic which was enjoyed by 21 people. The annual Car Wash was held, again because it took place outside. Because of circumstances the Program Committee was not able to procure a speaker until September when Henry Meudt, a local Hancock resident, presented "History of the Bicycle". Thereafter we heard our own Isabel Krebs relate her time as a prisoner of war during WWII and then our Town Historian Pat Flint informed us about the history of the Vanderbilt House and other Stephentown buildings.

On a much more positive note, a project of honoring Civil War soldiers was instituted by the historical society by purchasing a veteran banner when the family is unknown. This year I. Dewitt Clinton was so honored, and the family of Albert Doty honored him as well.

Another positive accomplishment was the partnering with the Stephentown Memorial Library to provide "Live at the Library", musical entertainment Fridays nights during the warm summer months. Two Stephentown residents who regaled the audience, along with many other local performers, are Martin Eckhardt and Billy Gilbert.

Capital improvement included painting the kitchen and hall areas and replacing the second-hand rusted refrigerator. We hope to continue upgrading and maintaining our 1870 building to the best of our ability.

Hoping for a healthier and more progressive new year in 2022.

SEE ANYONE YOU KNOW? PHOTOS ARE FROM THE BICENTENNIAL ALBUM



Employees of Sykes Store in 1944



Front Row: left to right — Jarrod Brazie, Linda Mefford, Lynn Wheeler, Megan McClave, Rebecca Gutermuth, Gregory Tallet, April Geerholt, Arthur Griswold. Center Row: Stacy Van Sluyters, Holly Adams, Israel Dupee, Allison Halleck, Kerry Fairs, Dena Brown, Jessica Chittenden. Back Row: Anita Burdick, Kristan Cummings, Maria Donato, Brent Moshimer, Michael Meyette, Jason Macauley, Michael Williams. Teacher: Victor Lewin.

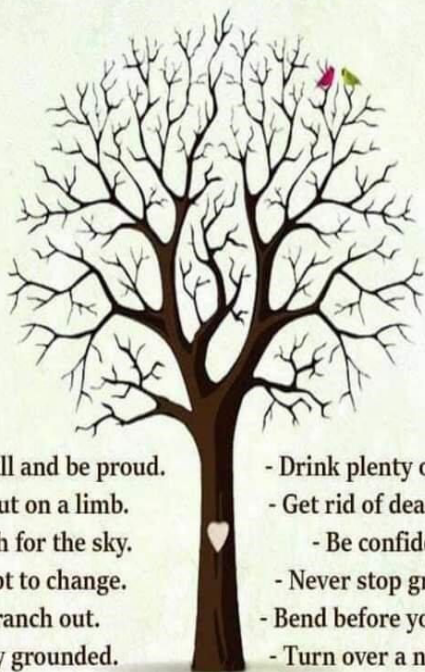


Other Albums Available



The Kinderhook Creek at Garfield, N.Y.

Advice From A Tree



- Stand tall and be proud.
- Go out on a limb.
- Reach for the sky.
- Adapt to change.
- Branch out.
- Stay grounded.
- Remember your roots.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Get rid of dead wood.
- Be confident.
- Never stop growing.
- Bend before you break.
- Turn over a new leaf.
- Enjoy the view.

A special shout-out to Darcy Construction, our sponsor for the August 2021 Car Wash at the New Scrub Board and Laundromat! Thank you for your support!



APRIL TO SEPTEMBER—2022

**All Meetings Begin at 2 PM and are held at the Heritage Center
(Please Note: Programs are Subject to Change or Cancellation Due to Covid 19)**

Sunday, April 3, 2022	Love, Marriage, and Divorce Callie Raspuzzi (Bennington Museum)
Sunday, May 1, 2022	Vintage Typewriters in the Digital Age Presented by Scott Connors
Sunday, June 5, 2022	To Be Announced
Sunday, July 10, 2022 @ 6 PM (Please bring a dish to share. Hotdogs, Hamburgers & Drinks Provided)	Annual Picnic at the Fireman's Pavillion
Sunday, August 7, 2022	Hoosac Tunnel Presented by Charles Cahoon
Sunday, September 11, 2022	Berkshire Farm School Presented by Dodie Gearing

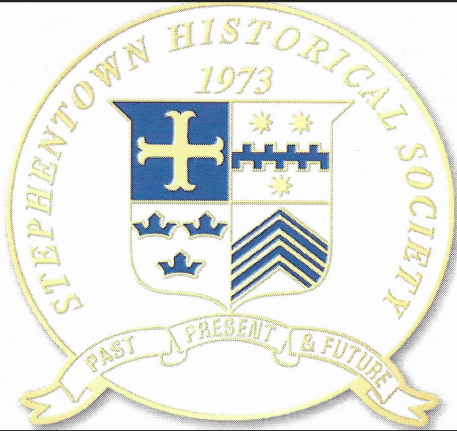
**IN MEMORIAM
JANET EDWARDS**

Sadly, earlier this year we had to say goodbye to good friend and member of the Stephentown Historical Society, Janet Edwards. Janet was a lifelong resident of Stephentown and a graduate of New Lebanon High School. Janet was also a Lifetime member of the society, as well as a member of the board several times. She was an active supporter, always willing to pitch in and lend a hand at annual Strawberry Festivals, Tag Sales and other community events, serving on several committees as well over the years. Her bright smile, contagious laugh, and seemingly never-ending supply of stories will surely be missed. Rest in peace Janet.



**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!



COMING SOON — APPRECIATION PINS
 Recently our Town Historian, Pat Flint, approached the Board, asking if it would be possible to design and purchase pins depicting the Heritage Center (see image at left). Pat's vision was to gift these pins as a small token of our appreciation to those folks who have done so much to help preserve the history of our little town. We thought it was a great idea. A committee has been formed to decide criteria for bestowing these pins. More to follow. Thank you Pat!

WELCOME TO STEPHENTOWN!!

Are you new to Stephentown or know someone who is? If the answer to either of those questions is “yes”, then we may have just what you need. Late in 2020 we advertised in the Eastwick, and attempted to reach every business and organization in town. We asked for information on their group or company—a flyer, sample, or sell sheet or anything they could provide us with that would describe what they have to offer and how they can be reached. The response was good and we were able to put together a “Welcome Package”. Our intent was to provide information to folks new to town—who do I call to fix a leaky pipe?; who do I call for construction needs?; where are the schools? Or—what is there to DO around here? What organizations can I attend or even join? Please see the photos below which show just a small part of what is included. Please contact us at 518-733-6070 or shs@fairpoint.net if interested.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

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

- *HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER *STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL *CAR WASH
- *ANTIQUES APPRAISAL *POST OFFICE DISPLAYS *JULY PICNIC
- *NEW DISPLAYS @ SHS *CONCERTS—LIVE AT THE LIBRARY

Stephentown Historical Society

4 Staples Road—PO Box 11

Stephentown, NY 12168

Email: shs@fairpoint.net

Website: 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

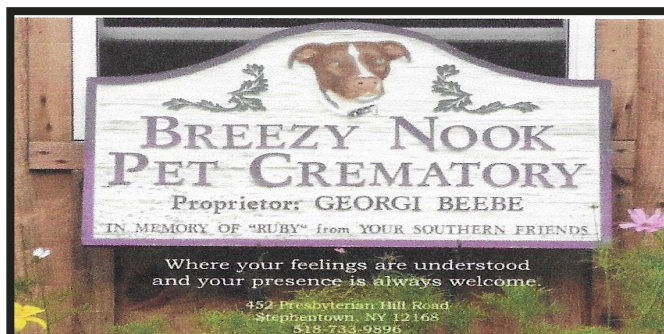
Josie Madison

Town Historian

Pat Flint

Curator—Bev McClave

Genealogist—Bill Zimmerman



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Mike Killeen

Wiring the Capital District, Berkshires, Columbia & Rensselaer Counties
Since 1984

Genealogy buff?

If so, check out

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

Did you know that we're on Facebook? If you haven't already, why not check us out? It's a good place to see what's new at the Heritage Center, as well find out the latest on meetings, programs, and other happenings. Also, we like to post old pictures—people, homes, and places—and sometimes we need your help identifying those folks or places. If you have any old photos or interesting stories that you would like to share, give us a call at 518-733-6070 or email us at shs@fairpoint.net. Be sure to give us a "like", and we definitely 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** _____

