



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July—2020



Return of the Cows

Contributed by B.H. Holliday

Last summer cows returned to the farm at the corner of Sprague and Wemple roads in Stephentown for the first time in 44 years. Fourteen Highland cattle from the Wyomanock Farm run by Thom Pecorino grazed there from late May to mid-August, including a calf born in July.

Before this the last cattle on the Wemple road farm was a dairy cow, Bessie, who was culled in June 1975, according to Joe Von Schinzel-Reynolds, an Albany music promoter who at that time was staying with his grandparents, Arthur and Edyth Schinzel, the owners of the farm.

The farm came into the Schinzel family in 1922, when it was purchased by Karl and Anna Schinzel. Karl was a baker in the Bronx and Anna was an immigrant from Austria. They sold the farm in 1923 but ended up repossessing it ten years later and moving there from New York City. Karl got a job at



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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

Return of the Cows (from page 1)

Pittsfield Rye, which today bakes store brand breads for Big Y and others.

Anna, who became a US citizen many years later, in 1953, raised two sons at the farm. When son Arthur grew up and married Edyth, those two took over the farm, at one point enlarging it to about two dozen cows and selling milk to Glendale Dairy, Albany. After a while though, Arthur ended up working full time in Pittsfield like his father did.

Over the years 1948—1950, Anna, Karl and their other son Rudolph — who was wounded in WWII and seemed affected by that his whole life — moved out after creating a new farm nearby and building a house there. When Rudy no longer farmed it was sold and that house and farm became—the Wyomanock Farm/Wyomanock Center for Sustainable Living! So the two places have been linked before. Marcia (Schinzel) Smaldone, a daughter of Arthur and Edyth, remembers she and her sister Carolyn shushing cows that were no longer productive and were being walked the 3.5 miles to Uncle Rudy's. Last summer the cattle made the same trip by trailer.

"It was nice having the cows", comments Billy Holliday, one of the owners of the Wemple Road place, "The few times they got out the neighbors were great". Highland cattle are the ones with long hair on their face and bodies. "They're so pretty, it's so calming to watch them graze", said Holliday, "and they taste good too."

Did you know.....??? **Dr. Antoinette Russell**

Submitted by Bev McClave from information supplied by the Stephentown Town Historian, Patricia Flint and Dave Flint's article in the Eastwick Press

By the end of the 19th century, female physicians constituted 5% of American physicians and incredibly one of them was from Stephentown. Dr. Antoinette Russell was born and raised in a house on West Street at the junction with Wyomanock (the former Robbins/O'Brien House which burned around 20 years ago). She graduated from the State Normal School, now SUNY Albany and taught for a period of time before moving on to New York Medical College for Women, graduating in 1891. She worked for many years at the Medical, Surgical and Maternity Hospitals of the Women's Homeopathic Association in Philadelphia where she became Superintending Physician and Surgeon. In 1919 Dr. Russell traveled to Serbia to do post-war volunteer work sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers). She opened a dispensary in Serbia and later became Administrator for a hospital in Kosovo. She later opened an office in Stephentown and delivered many babies in town. Dr. Russell died in 1928 and is buried in the cemetery on Presbyterian Hill Road. Who would have thought that with recent events in Serbia and Kosovo that a connection could be made with Stephentown all these years later?

MEMBERSHIP

As you are probably aware, the Historical Society is a non-profit entity, completely dependent on its wonderful group of volunteers and supporters. We rely almost entirely on membership dues and donations to "keep the lights on", pay our bills and continue with our monthly informative programs and events. Is your membership current?

Watch for the renewal letter! Or—Not a member? — why not consider joining?

Thank you for your support!!

AMAZON SMILE

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TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Patricia Flint

YEAR 2020 – Not the first time TP was in shortage....



Joseph Gayetty - Born in Massachusetts, worked in NY. came up with his idea to be marketed as a Medical accessory. It was sold in a package of 500 papers flat sheets (scented and contained medicinal oils, watermarked with manufacturers name) and was advertised as a help for people who had troubles with hemorrhoids. It was a commercial disaster, although being used until late 1920's.



The Greatest Necessity of the Age!

GAYETTY'S
Medicated Paper,
FOR THE WATER-CLOSET.

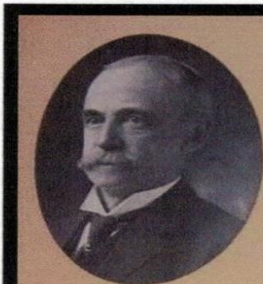
Read and Learn What is Ordinary Paper.

Most people have used their own destruction, physical and mental, by using, in their closets, ordinary paper. This paper, when used, is so irritating to the delicate membrane of the rectum, that it causes a great deal of suffering, which, if used in any season, will necessitate a physician's visit. Gayetty's Medicated Paper, which is made of the finest quality of paper, and is watermarked with the name of the manufacturer, is a great relief to the sufferer. It is made of the finest quality of paper, and is watermarked with the name of the manufacturer. It is made of the finest quality of paper, and is watermarked with the name of the manufacturer.

J. RUSSELL SPALDING,
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Look for the inventor's name water-marked in each sheet of the product, thus:

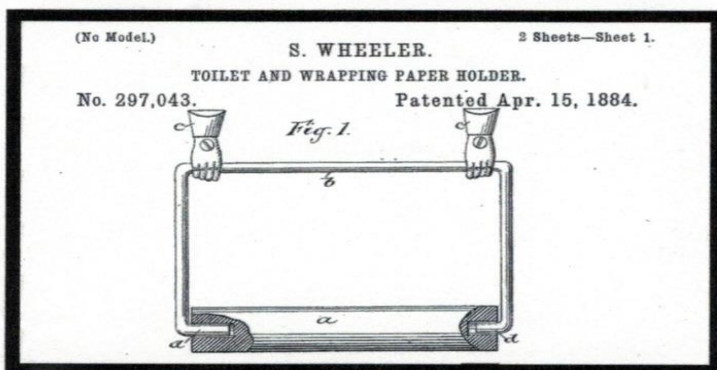
J C GAYETTY
N Y



SETH WHEELER

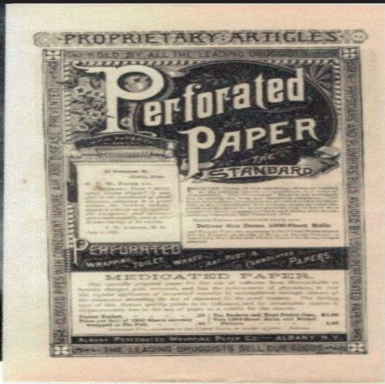
Organizer and president of the Albany Perforated Wrapping Paper Company, was born at Chatham, Columbia county, N. Y., May 18, 1838, son of Alonzo and Harriet (Bishop) Wheeler. Educated at the Albany Academy, he entered business as mechanical superintendent for Wheeler, Melick & Company, of Albany, manufacturers of agricultural implements, of which firm his father was a member. After his father's death the firm was incorporated, with Mr. Wheeler as a stockholder, under the name of the Wheeler & Melick Company. In 1877 he organized the A. P. W. Paper Company, of which he was chosen president. This concern is engaged in the manufacture of all kinds of perforated and rolled paper, and has branch offices at New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, London, Paris, Berlin and Cologne. Mr. Wheeler is a director of the Albany County Bank, is president of the Wheeler Rent and Power Company and a member of Temple Lodge, F. and A. M. On April 3, 1860, he married Miss Elizabeth Boyd. Their three sons are interested in the business of the A. P. W. Paper Company, Edgar being the secretary, William A. treasurer, and Seth, Jr., superintendent. Their daughters are Harriet Elizabeth, now Mrs. Howard Martin, of Albany, and Sarah Boyd, wife of Joseph S. House, of New York city. Mr. Wheeler's address is Albany, N. Y.

In 1871 Seth Wheeler Sr. developed the first roll of TP. 20 years later he developed perforated TP. Born in Chatham, NY on May 18, 1838 and died May 22, 1925 in Albany, NY He was cremated and interred with his father Alonzo Wheeler in Albany Rural Cemetery. He died at the age of 87 & 4 days.



(Continued on Next Page)

YEAR 2020 — Not the first time TP was in shortage..... (From Page 3)



Englishman Walter Alcock packaged his toilet paper in rolls instead of flat sheets, this also failed.

Thomas Seymour, Edward Irvin and Clarence Wood Scott began selling some kind of toilet paper in Philadelphia in 1867. In 1879, Scott brothers founded the Scott Paper Company. The Scott Paper Company's toilet paper was the first toilet paper sold in rolls. In 1890 the Scott Paper Company made its Waldorf brand toilet paper in rolls.

SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT TP!

- In 1880 the British Perforated Paper Company began selling toilet paper. That toilet paper was sold in boxes of individual squares.
- In 1885 Oliver Hewlett Hicks patented packages of toilet paper and the manufacturing process.
- In 1896, Irvin's son Arthur Scott joined the Scott Paper Company. In 1921 Waldorf brand represented 64% of Scott's total case sales. The company became the leading toilet paper company in the world.
- In 1928, German Hans Klenk became the first toilet paper roll seller in Europe.
- In 1942 toilet paper becomes softer, St. Andrew's Paper Mill in England began selling the first two-ply toilet paper. Today two-ply toilet paper is the standard in many countries.
- In 1935 Northern Tissue invented splinter free toilet paper.
- In 1973, America experienced its first toilet paper shortage. It happened in December of 1973 after one of Carson's jokes (Johnny Carson, one of America's most loved comedians) scared consumers into stockpiling supplies.
- At the time, people did not speak of toilet paper frequently. In the conservative era it was "unmentionable" to talk about this product. However, people had a desire for better hygiene and toilet paper slowly fit into the consumer market. Today the manufacture of toilet paper is a large industry. Modern toilet paper has definitely made life much easier and more hygienic for us all!

2020 Monthly Programs

Due to COVID19 we do not have any programs scheduled at this time.

WELCOME PACKAGES— Update! — Letters went out to local businesses and Stephentown groups such as the Fire Department, Library, Boy & Girl Scouts, and Veterans, asking for informational handouts, flyers, coupons, etc. to comprise a "Welcome to Stephentown" package for people new to our town. New folks need to know where to send their kids to school, or where to find someone to fix their plumbing or electrical, or drill a well. Or maybe they want to get involved and meet people—we'll include all the groups listed above, as well as local churches and groups such as the Heavenly Quilters in town. We want to offer menus from local restaurants too, maybe with coupons or discounts for new residents. We will add information on the Town Hall and our board members and their meetings too. It's been a formidable task and we've tried hard to include everyone. If you or someone you know is from Stephentown and has a business or group, and would like to contribute something to the package, please contact Arlene Longo at shs@fairpoint.net or call us at 518-733-6070 and leave a message. Be sure to say who you are and what you have to offer, and leave your contact information so we can get back to you. Thank You!

COMING SOON !

One of our Trustees, Alan Stuart, has graciously offered us the use of his car wash—The Scrub Board on Route 22 — for one or two days to raise money for SHS! The date is still to be determined, hopefully late summer or early fall, but it should be a lot of fun and profitable to boot! We'll be looking for volunteers to help, so let us know if you're available!

A Tale of Buried Silver

William Henry Carr, who has "given" 20 acres of his Stephentown land to a family of beavers, flooding it with their dams, has wealth of a sort other than his wide expanse of real estate.

It is a wealth of countryside legend

He tells a tale brought down to him by his father from his grandfather, about a band of counterfeiters who plied their industry on a wooded knoll in what is now the vale of the beavers.

Operating in pre-Revolutionary days the counterfeiters made spurious coins out of an alloy of silver which they were supposed to have mined in the area.

Eventually one was caught by the authorities of the Crown and duly hanged, while the others fled. Searching the illicit mint, the red-coated raiders found no great stock of false money.

"The idea got around," says William Henry, "that those fellows must have buried their silver pieces under that knoll. Men living hereabouts did a lot of digging for the treasure.

"There was a witch in Troy in those times and they went to her to get advice about the digging. She'd tell them about where to dig and how, and she'd always caution 'em not to talk or make a sound while digging, else the treasure would move.

"Course, they paid her for their directions, and when they'd go back to her complaining that they'd found no treasure, she'd shrug and say to 'em: "You must have talked."

"And there was nary a one of 'em who didn't allow he might have let slip a few words."

The legend has it that one party of diggers came upon pieces of hickory wood buried six feet under the knoll and the discovery was taken as proof that the counterfeiters of old had secreted something there.

"But I never dug for the treasure myself" says William Henry . "From the amount of digging that went on half a hundred years 'fore I was born, I judge if anything was there it'd been found long since."

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