



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oct - 2024

Hoosick Heritage Fair

SHS attended the 2nd annual Hoosick History and Heritage Fair on May 18 at the Hoosick Falls Armory along with other local historical societies. Many ideas were gleaned from programs and presenters that attended, including Paul Stewart, The Underground Railroad Museum and Paul Cole from the Kate Mullany National Historic Site. Trolley rides to the Bennington Battlefield, Armed Forces Day Ceremony at Maple Grove Cemetery and a Chicken BBQ were just a few of the activities that day!



We are pleased to announce that we are offering three Pies for the upcoming Holiday season. We have Apple, Pumpkin and Strawberry Rhubarb available. All pies are frozen, the Apple and Strawberry Rhubarb are ready to bake (RTB) and the Pumpkin is pre-baked. All pies are \$18 each and we will contact you to arrange pickup before Thanksgiving.

You may order by going to the Stephentown Historical Society website or scan the QR Code:



Car Wash



This year, we held the car wash in the Spring instead of the Fall and the weather certainly cooperated! We teamed up with the Stephentown Federated Church, who provided many delicious baked goods, plants and books. We had a great turnout and we appreciate everyone who stopped by to get their car washed! Cleanest my car has ever been! A big thank you to Alan Stuart for hosting this event at the New Scrub Board Laundromat & Car Wash donating supplies and feeding the many volunteers!

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Furnace Replacement



The saga of the furnace began last fall when it was time for heat. While the furnace would run there was no fire to produce heat. After several service calls and a second opinion, it was determined that the supply line was picking up sludge from the tank. Being that the oil tank was buried in a concrete vault (which was full of water) there was no easy way of replacing the line without digging everything up. Scott Larabee (of Larabee Oil now Valley Energy), before his passing, generously sent a 275 gallon above ground tank so that we could get through the fast-approaching winter season. The usable oil from the in-ground tank was transferred to the above ground tank so as not to lose the use of the already purchased oil.

Several long-time members suggested the board investigate replacing the oil furnace with a propane gas furnace. The board obtained bids for a new propane furnace and at the March board meeting accepted the bid from Legenbauer Gas & Oil. David Goodermote removed the in-ground oil tank and filled in the vault with dirt. On April 23 two excellent technicians arrived at the Heritage Center and began the process of removing the old furnace

and installing the new gas furnace, completing the process on the morning of April 24. Also, a new Ecobee smart thermostat was installed so that we can better manage and monitor the heating system.



42nd Annual Strawberry Festival



Even with the threat of inclement weather, nothing was going to stop the festival from being a great success! Between home-made and frozen pies, home-made biscuits and strawberry rhubarb crisp, everyone was able to enjoy the strawberry shortcake and take home a delicious treat! Thank you to our Friday hullers and event volunteers. It certainly takes a village to make this all come together, and we could not have done it without you! We appreciate all of you but especially everyone who came out and supported our efforts! A big thank you to the Gardner family for allowing us use of their property. A great location brought in passers-by who were "checking out the festivities" and look forward to coming back next year. Thank you also to the generous donations from our sponsors this year. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was a fellow SHS member, Anthony Montforte, who graciously donated his winnings. Thank you Anthony!

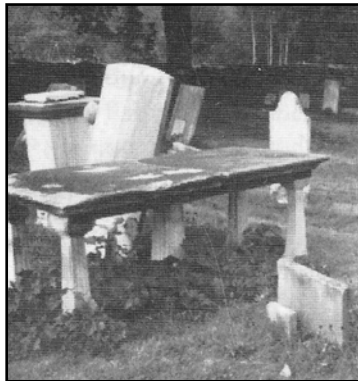
Welcome to Stephentown

The Stephentown Memorial Library again hosted this event on July 21 to welcome newcomers to town. SHS participated and we enjoyed meeting several new residents to whom we gifted welcome bags to give them a glimpse of what our organization is all about!

PHOTOS FROM *EPITAPHS IN THE ONLY STEPHENTOWN ON EARTH*

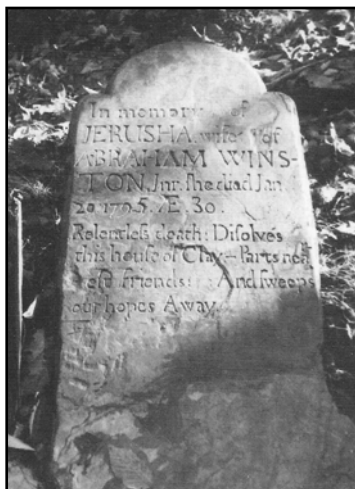
Our featured Album this month, *EPITAPHS IN THE ONLY STEPHENTOWN ON EARTH*, compiled in 1989 by Elizabeth W. McClave, and edited by William B. Zimmerman is a treasure of Stephentown history. As Betty McClave puts it in her Foreword, "A cemetery is a reflection of the culture of the times." The book begins with a map showing the location of the 79 known burial grounds at the time, followed by a listing of each with the number of known graves and precise written locations. There follows an amazing collection of some 650 epitaphs in alphabetical order from the Stephentown cemeteries, some that "may seem drear, some humorous," as Betty expresses it, but "All were expressions of love and devotion."

Asa & Rebeckah Douglas
1715-1792 1718-1809

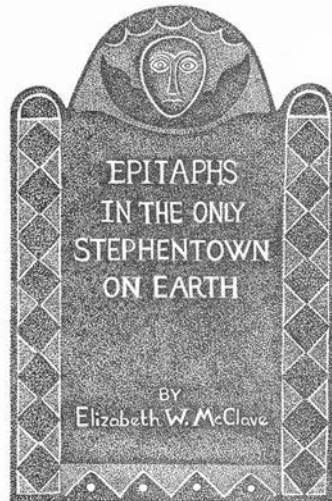


*Friends and physicians could not save
Our mortal bodies from the grave
Nor in the grave confine them here
When Jesus calls they must appear
In honor of my Parents dear
This monument I have placed here
William Douglas*

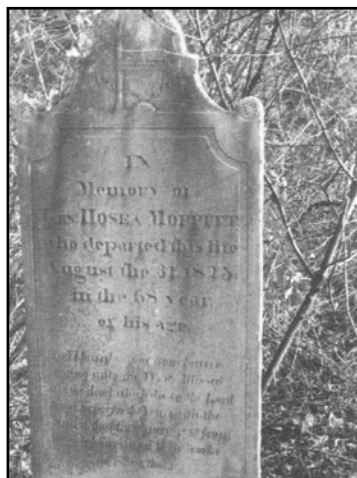
Jerusha Winston
1765-1795



*Relentless death dissolves
this house of clay
Parts nearest friends
and sweeps our hopes away*



General Hosea Moffitt
1757-1825



*And I heard a voice from Heaven
Saying unto me Write Blessed
are the dead which die in the Lord
from henceforth yea saith the
Spirit that they may rest from
their Labours and their works
do follow them*

Benjamin Greenman
1757-1841



*Here rests the body of him who
Was fill'd with pain & trouble too
He loved his Jesus & his God
Who chastised with his rod.
Now while my body here doth rot
Trust my soul will be so blest
The soul & body will unite
The ark will bear me safely home
The dove returns lo here she comes
An olive branch she brings in store
Shewes that my troubles are no more
Written by the dec'd Feb'y 9th 1818*

Horatio Bardwell
1782-1782



*Sleep on my babe
And take your rest
God called you home
He saw it best*

Stephentown Historical Society

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Email: info@stephentown-historical.org

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Facebook: Stepentown Historical Society

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Fridays 1pm—4 pm

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Town Historian—Pat Flint

Curator—Bev McClave

Genealogist—Bill Zimmerman

TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Pat Flint

TAPS

The origins of "Taps," the distinctive bugle melody played at U.S. military funerals and memorials and as a lights-out signal to soldiers at night, date back to the



American Civil War. The name may have derived from the Dutch word Tap-toe or Tattoo.

It is a 24 note melancholy bugle call, sounded to signal "lights out" at the end of a military day, and

during patriotic memorial ceremonies and military funerals conducted by the United States Armed Forces. And it accompanies the lowering of the American flag.

"Taps" started out as a military signal for soldiers to turn out the lights and go to bed.

The tune is a variation of an earlier bugle call known as the "Scott Tattoo", which was used in the U.S. from 1835 until 1860. It was arranged in its present form by Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield, Medal of Honor Recipient who commanded the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps. He wrote the version to replace the previous customary firing of three volleys at the end of burials in 1862.



Maj. General Daniel Butterfield

The Bugle signal was also known as "Butterfield's Lullaby". The words were simply:

Put out the lights,
Go to sleep, Go to sleep,
Go to sleep, Go to sleep,
Put out the lights,
Go to sleep, Go to Sleep.

The U.S. Army still called it *Extinguish Lights* until it was officially changed to Taps in 1891.

Taps is also used for non-military events. In Scouting some Girl Scouts and Guiding groups sing the first verse of "Taps" ("Day is Done") at the close of a camp

(Continued on Page 5)

Email: Do we have your correct email address? We send out program information, reminders and newsletters via email. Please reach out to Carolyn @ Info@stephentown-historical.org to update our contact list so you don't miss out!

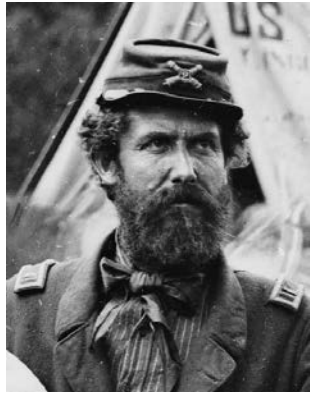
or campfire to signify that the days activities have concluded and that silence is expected in the camp.

One legend about Taps is that of one Lieutenant William Waid who allegedly paid saloon-keepers to shut off the taps to the

kegs when the song was played in a neighboring army camp. Lt.

Waid's name has not been found in Union or Confederate records.

Another, perhaps more historically verifiable, account of "Taps" first being used in the context of a military funeral involves John Caldwell Tidball, a Union artillery captain who during a break in fighting ordered the tune sounded for a deceased soldier in lieu of the more traditional—and much less discreet—three volley tribute.



Cpt John Caldwell Tidball

There appears to be no official version of the Taps song, but some of the more popular verses are:

Day is done, Gone the sun,
From the lake, From the hill,
From the sky.
All is well, Safely rest,
God is nigh.

Thanks and praise, For our days,
Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh.

Fades the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; Day has gone,
Night is on.

Go to sleep, Peaceful sleep,
May the Soldier or Sailor,
God keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.

Congress designated "Taps" as the nation's official "Song of Remembrance" in the 2013 Defense Authorization Act. Today, the 24 mournful notes comprising "Taps" are played to commemorate the memory of members of all five branches of the armed forces: the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and the Coast Guard.

SHS PICNIC 2024

On a gorgeous Sunday afternoon, around 40 people gathered under the tent behind the Heritage Center for the SHS annual picnic. Grill master



Chris Hoffman masterfully grilled hamburgers and hot dogs to go along with the many salads and other dishes brought by the attendees. This included the famous baked

beans of the late Wes Edwards prepared by his daughter and our VP, Carolyn Hourihan. For dessert, Strawberry shortcake and other goodies were served. Tim Sime won the Picnic 50/50 raffle. Congratulations Tim!

Please Support Our Sponsors!

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MK Electric
Zema's Nursery, Inc.
Morse Fuels
Senter Farm
Kinderhook Farms
Valley Energy (formerly Larabee Fuel)

In Memoriam

ALVIN F. BERRY



In April of this year, we lost one of our lifetime members, Alvin F. Berry. He graduated from Berlin High School, and as a senior, he threw the first no hitter game in school history. Alvin and Gayle resided in Stephentown before moving back to Berlin, where they raised their children, David, Kevin, Glenn, and Brenda. They were very active in the Stephentown Baptist Church. After Gayle's passing, he met and married Maureen Panagos. They lived in Stephentown and later relocated to Leesburg, Florida for the warm weather that Al enjoyed so much. Rest in peace, Al.

WILLIAM "JOE" LASCH



Joe loved his Chevy cars and there was no other car model ever in the driveway. Joe traded in his favorite 57 Chevy to put a down payment on their first mobile home on Firetower Road in Stephentown. He and his wife Norma raised three daughters, Linda Louise and twins, Mary Ellen and Donna Jean. He loved God, his church, family and friends. He was always lending a helping hand to those in need and served as a trustee in the local church and helped with special projects. Joe was loyal, dedicated, dependable, protective and a good provider as well as likeable, easy going, unselfish, faithful and kind. Rest in peace, Joe.



Rik McClave (at far left) spoke at the Historical Society's **October 6 meeting** about the **history of the Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department**. Among the large crowd that attended was this group of Firefighters and EMTs pictured with the Department's original fire truck, a 1939 Chevy.

McClave has volunteered for the SVFD for 61 years, 47 as an Emergency Medical Technician Firefighter. He is a past Chief and over the years has held every possible office in the organization except Treasurer.



Barbara Peterson Art Work

A recent donation was made to the Stephentown Historical Society of one of Barbara Peterson's rug hooking works of art entitled 'Two Doves'. Barbara was a nationally known artisan and teacher of rug hooking. This elegantly framed artwork is being offered as a prize in a raffle to be drawn at the Annual Holiday Party on December 1st. This beautiful piece of craft work by a well-known local artisan would be a prized possession in any home. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.



Joan Curtin Carving

We also have a raffle, to be drawn on December 1st, for a horse head carving from Joan Curtin of Woodcrafts, Etc, a new SHS sponsor. You can visit her shop at 924 Route 43 - Fiske Lumber. Tickets for this item are \$1.

Tickets for either of these raffles can be purchased on our website, at any program or Special Event, or at SHS on Fridays 1-4 pm. Cash, check or charge can be accepted.

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.

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:

- Individual Member — \$15.00 Supporting Member — \$50.00
 Family Membership — \$25.00 Life Member (Individual) — \$200.00
 Life Member (2 Person) — \$300 Business/Corporate — \$75.00

(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** _____

