



STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oct - 2025

Celebrating The 250th

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, the Stephentown Historical Society honored one of our town's burial sites, where Revolutionary War soldiers are laid to rest. The Carpenter Cemetery holds the resting place of Lieutenant Joseph Carpenter (1736-1796), a member of the 2nd Company, South Kingstown RI Militia.



The cemetery recently underwent a remarkable restoration and rehabilitation effort led by members of the Stephentown Historical Society, (See Cemetery Committee Update on page 3.) A Pomeroy Roadside Marker for this cemetery was recently applied for, received, and posted. The unveiling of this sign was an integral part of the commemorative ceremonies.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Color Guard of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, for their exceptional participation in this event. Additionally, Riley and Taylor Robertson joined us in singing the National Anthem, while speakers Rensselaer County Historian Kathy Sheehan, Stephentown Veterans President John DeFrest, Town Supervisor PJ Roder, and Duane Booth, Past President Empire State Society SAR, shared their insights and contributions.



Following the unveiling of the Roadside Marker, Liz Goodermote, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, delivered her remarks and led the group in a prayer. Both she and Duane Booth laid wreaths at the restored gravestone of Joseph Carpenter, paying their respects to this

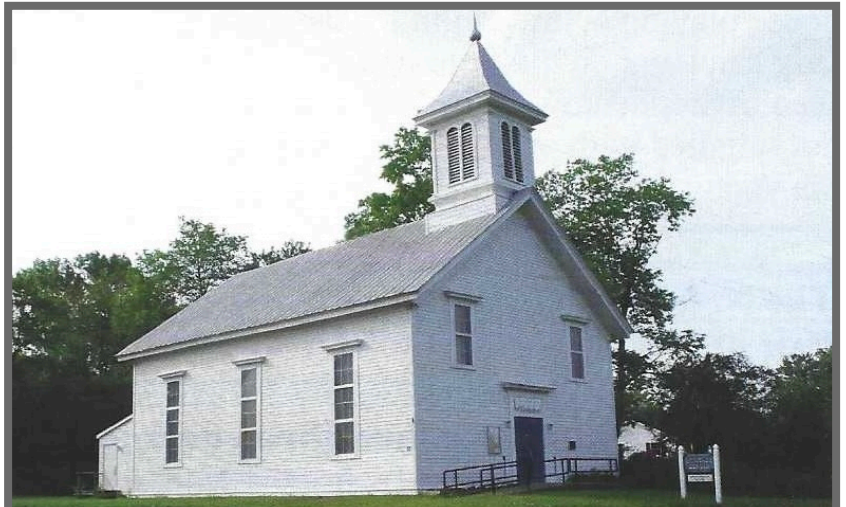


Stephentown veteran. Former Town Supervisor Larry Eckhardt concluded the program, leading the gathering in singing *God Bless America*.

Alan Stuart unveils the marker observed by Kim Ellis McKay, Michael Ellis and Carole Stuart, all direct descendants of Lt Joseph Carpenter

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43d Annual Strawberry Festival

One of our favorite visitors to the Strawberry Festival was Grampy Green. Grampy Green LOVED strawberries so he would come to the annual Festival as long as someone would drive him from East Greenbush, since he was in his 90s. He came for a number of years until he died in 2015. Then, in order to keep the tradition going, his daughters would come, Sharon from Wyantskill and Linda from Cropseyville. This year we finally captured that tradition with the photo of his daughter, Linda. Thank you to the Green family for supporting the Stepentown Historical Society all these years!

Another story surrounding the Strawberry Festival is that there is a family from Averill Park who come every year with their own ceramic bowls — and they always come back for seconds!

Thanks to everyone who support our efforts to keep the society going!



Linda Green



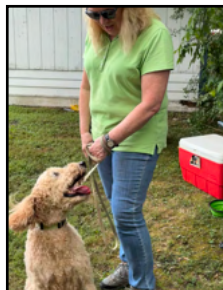
New Building Update



Thank you for all the donations we have received so far! We cannot accomplish our goal without your help! We have raised \$5,700 of our \$20,000 goal for Phase 1. Estimates from local contractors are still being pursued to bring that cost down as well as looking into grants for our 501(c)(3). By the end of year, we will secure a building permit from the town to move forward on our building project. Also, dependent on weather and volunteer schedules, we hope to start soon clearing brush at the Heritage Center in anticipation of pouring the foundation in the Spring.

July Picnic

A beautiful sunny day in July was the setting for our annual picnic. This year, fried chicken provided by Dave's Market was the headline alongside the many delicious sides contributed by members and friends. Thank you to Chris Hoffman for not only wearing his flag t-shirt for our Pledge of Alegeince, but he also rocked our 50/50 ticket sale! A good time was had by all.



Gift Shoppe News



The Gift Shoppe is pleased to announce the addition of a new sweatshirt to its apparel collection. Alongside our selection of hats and T-shirts, the sweatshirt is now available in Navy Blue and comes in sizes Small through 3XL. Pricing for sweatshirts is \$45 for sizes Small to XL, and \$50 for 2XL and 3XL. Hats are offered at \$15 each, while T-shirts are priced at \$20 for Small to XL and \$25 for 2XL and 3XL. These items make excellent holiday gifts! Additionally, our history albums remain available for purchase both at the Gift Shoppe and through our online store. To make purchases online, please visit our website (www.stephentown-historical.org). Navigate to the "More" tab and select "Books and Gifts" to access our online store. *Or you may scan the QR code below.*

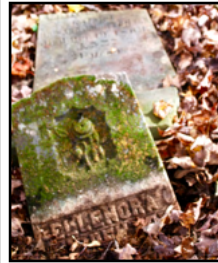


Joseph Carpenter Gravestone Before & After Restoration



Cemetery Committee Update

The Cemetery Committee conducted restoration efforts at the Carpenter Cemetery throughout the year. Work began in May 2024 with the removal of 30 large trees and included ongoing weed



Ellenora Carpenter gravestone (before and, at right, being restored)



removal. Approximately half of the gravestones have been cleaned, repaired, and straightened, including that of Joseph Carpenter, a Revolutionary

War soldier. Some gravestones continue to be discovered buried under soil. Restoration is scheduled to resume next spring due to colder



Moses King gravestone (before and, at right, restored)



weather and material constraints.

Co-Chair Carole Stuart worked with Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters at the Cyprus Hill section

of the Cemetery of the Evergreens on October 17th

and 18th, in addition to her efforts at the Carpenter Cemetery. Together, they restored 12 stones, while a number of others still require additional work.

If you have a stone at a local cemetery that you would like cleaned or repaired contact Carole Stuart @ 413-212-8767 or cstuart259@gmail.com.



Stephentown Historical Society

4 Staples Road—PO Box 11
Stephentown, NY 12168

Email: info@stephentown-historical.org

Website: www.stephentown-historical.org

Facebook: Stephentown Historical Society

Phone: 518-733-6070

Fridays 1pm—4 pm

Board of Directors

President

Carolyn Hourihan
president@stephentown-historical.org

518-729-9334

Vice President

Elly Lanier
vicepresident@stephentown-historical.org

518-495-8745

Treasurer

Alan Stuart
treasurer@stephentown-historical.org

518-733-5714

Recording Secretary

Ellen Jennings
recordingsecretary@stephentown-historical.org

518-733-5923

Corresponding Secretary

Carole Stuart
correspondingsecretary@stephentown-historical.org

413-442-5054

Administrator

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Town Historian—Pat Flint

Curator—Bev McClave

Genealogist—Bill Zimmerman

TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Pat Flint

The following story was submitted by Alan Stuart, a direct descendant of Revolutionary War soldier Joseph Carpenter who is buried in the Carpenter Cemetery.

Susannah Carpenter

Susannah Carpenter was the youngest daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Greenman) Carpenter, born on January 23, 1770—most likely in Stephentown, New York. Their story begins a few years earlier, in the mid-1760s, when Joseph and Sarah made the arduous journey from South Kingston, Rhode

Island, to settle in the frontier lands of Stephentown. What would be a brief three-hour drive today was, in their time, a daunting trek spanning 150 miles and requiring four to five days over rough terrain and through unfamiliar wilderness.

After settling in Stephentown, Joseph and Sarah brought with them their faith as devout members of the Seventh-Day Baptist church of Newport, Rhode Island.

Joining others with shared beliefs, they helped establish a church in their new community—a central hub for worship, fellowship, and support. For settlers during the 1770's, daily life

was shaped by both the challenges and rewards of building a homestead. The Carpenters established their farm along the south bank of Kinderhook Creek, raising their family of ten children amid the rhythms of frontier existence. The church not only provided spiritual guidance but also fostered strong community connections, offering solace during difficult times and celebrating moments of joy.

Years later, tragedy struck the Carpenter family. On April 26, 1776, Susannah passed away at the tender age of six years, three months, and three days. Her death occurred just three months before



Susannah's headstone repaired and in process of restoration by SHS Cemetery Committee volunteers

the signing of the Declaration of Independence—a momentous event that marked the beginning of a new era in American history. For the Carpenters, the promise of liberty unfolding across the young nation was bittersweet, shadowed by personal loss.

In memory of Susannah, Joseph established a cemetery in the field behind their home—a gesture that would become a lasting tribute to generations of the family. The original house stood for many years before being lost to fire in the early to mid-1940s; it was eventually rebuilt by Charles Ellis, the husband of Lula Carpenter, herself a descendant of Joseph. Over time, many relatives found their final resting place in the family cemetery, which remains a tangible link to the past.

The legacy of Susannah and her family endure. The Stepentown Historical Society's Cemetery Committee is currently dedicated to restoring this historic site, an effort made possible by the generous contributions of Joseph and Sarah's descendants. Personal stories abound, such as Lula Carpenter's deep devotion to the family's heritage and Charles Ellis' commitment to rebuilding the homestead. Through these acts of remembrance and stewardship, the emotional resonance of Susannah's short life, and the continuity of the Carpenter family is palpable—drawing new generations together to honor their shared history and preserve the memory of those who came before.

Lifetime Members

Please Welcome our newest Lifetime Members:



Jennifer Cornman
Cathy Schell

50/50 winners

Remember the old saying, “you can't win if you don't play”? Our winners are:

Strawberry Festival: Marge Feathers
Annual Picnic: Susan Rockefeller
Car Wash: Tom Elardo

Thank you all for supporting our events and participating in our drawings!

Acquisitions



A Hough Security Cash Recorder used in the Newton Store; donated, along with tax records, photographs and Newton genealogy, by Cathryn Hough, owner of the Helen Lapp house.



1919-20 Register of Attendance from Stepentown School #9, donated by Colleen Provost-Nixon along with other school records and several photo albums.



Millie Smith donated this wedding hat that belonged to Blanche Nelson.

The Annual Car Wash



It finally took a dry August day as well as our supportive community to pull off a successful event! Bob Adler and Anita Henry of the SVFD were able to join us to assist residents with their free 9-1-1 signs. Everyone was grateful for the excellent

cleaning and drying job done by our volunteers and members.

Miss A Program?

If you are unable to attend in person, you can still enjoy our programs. You can access the site from our webpage at www.stephentown-historical.org and go to the drop-down menu on the upper left side and click on Youtube videos.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Programs are on the first Sunday of the month at 2 PM. Admission is free and refreshments are served.

Sunday, November 2
 Friday, November 28
 Sunday, December 7

The History of Anesthesiology by Dr Richard Gillerman
 Holiday Bazaar at the Stephentown Memorial Library
 Holiday Potluck - Including a Sing-A-Long with Scott Connors

IN MEMORIAM



Gerry Robinson, 86, passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2025. A public health professional, he held leadership roles in government and the private sector. Gerry was known for his love of debate, problem-solving, and community involvement. He enjoyed friendly debates, problem-solving, and games like dominoes and cribbage. He also actively participated in the Stephentown community, serving on the Town Council and volunteering at local events. He was an active member of the Stephentown Historical Society and presented a most interesting program in 2016 about the Buffalo Soldiers. Gerry is survived by his wife Paula, daughters, grandchildren, siblings, nephew, former wife, and a large extended family.



Patrick W. Curtin - 1936-2025 – Pat was born and raised in Troy, NY and was married to his wife Joan Fiske-Curtin for 55 years. He worked in construction and for Pepsi for a number of years and, once retired, was a Bus Aide for the Berlin School District and also assisted in the family lumber/sawmill business. He was a member of the Stephentown Veterans, having served in the Air Force, and also a member of the SVFD. He enjoyed the outdoors and also NASCAR. He was the proud father of William and Michael. Pat had a kind word for everyone he met and an infectious smile. He will be missed.

Gene D. Sawin - 1930-2025 – Gene raised his family on West Street and was employed at Ceramaseal as an electrical engineer before retiring to Groveland, FL. He often returned to his hometown of Stephentown as it was one of his favorite places. He was predeceased by his wife, Jayne. Together they raised five children of whom they were immensely proud, Dwight, Gina, Sandi Sue, Darryl and Coralie. Rest in peace Gene.

Witches In Pownal?



For Halloween month, Historian Joyce Held regaled us with the tale of Margaret Krieger, a widow from Pownal, Vermont, who faced a trial for witchcraft in 1785. This was the sole documented case of witchcraft in Vermont history, occurring during the state’s time as an independent Republic, long after the infamous Salem witch trials. Krieger’s trial was a water test, with the outcome determining her innocence. If she sank in the icy Hoosick River, she was deemed innocent. Conversely, if she floated, it was believed



to be the devil performing the rescue. Held shared her knowledge about this remarkable woman and her family. She also revealed the trial’s outcome - Krieger did sink to the bottom of the river, whereupon judging her innocent, they pulled her out of the water and she survived the trial.

Donating Items Through Meissner's

A Reminder that our arrangement with Meissner's Auction Service & Antique Center is an important revenue source for us. We have a consignment account there and any items accepted will bring 80% of the sale price to the Stepentown Historical Society. So check your basement, clean out the attic, scrounge the garage and see what you have that is in good saleable condition that you no longer need or want. An appointment is necessary. Call Meissner 's directly at 518-766-5002. Ask for Dolores. They take in consignments Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Our account number is 5821.

12 Years A Slave



On Sunday, August 3 we spent an **Afternoon with Solomon Northup**, portrayed by historical reenactor Clifford Oliver Mealy. Northup was the author of the book *Twelve Years A Slave*, a biography that told of himself, a a freeborn Black living in Saratoga

Springs, kidnapped by a ruse and sold into slavery in the South. He remained enslaved for twelve years, until he was finally able to get word to his wife Anne of his fate. Mealy gave an excellent rendition of the tale, giving the impression we were visited by Solomon Northup himself.

Please Support Our 2025 Sponsors!

- Adler's Antique Autos, Inc.
- Atlantis Equipment Corporation
- Berkshire Mountain House
- Averill Park Septic
- Four Fat Fowl
- Frederick J. Haley Land Surveying
- Haley X Tech
- Hudson Taconic Lands, Inc
- Ioka Valley Farm
- Kinderhook Creek Farm
- MK Electric, Inc.
- SVFD
- Troy Sand & Gravel
- Zema's Nursery, Inc.

Just Makes Sense

Bottle & can collection. SHS has a collection site at the Stepentown transfer station for bottles and cans. Looking to get rid of yours and donate to a good cause? Consider dropping yours off today!

Thank you to our volunteers that help us pull together our events and programs!

Check out our seasonal displays at the Stepentown Post Office. Created by our Vice-President Elly Lainer and Curator Bev McClave.



Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR Color Guard

Stephentown Historical Society Membership

(If you are a current member, a renewal notice will be sent to you in January.)

[Note: Memberships renewed or paid in November/December 2025 will cover 2025 and 2026 dues.]

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 — \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member — \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership — \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (Individual) — \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (2 Person) — \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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** []

