STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October - 2026

Please Support Our 2026 Sponsors!

Atlantis Equipment
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New Scrub Board Laundromat & Car
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Senter Farm
Troy Sand & Gravel
Zema's Nursery, Inc.

BUILDING UPDATE!

Fund raising and planning continues at the Heritage Center for the new building addition intended to house, preserve and display the significant collections owned and possessed by the Stephentown Historical Society. Thanks to the generosity of town residents, this collection continues to grow, but due to lack of space, many items are in storage and unable to be viewed and enjoyed by visitors.

The site of this proposed building will be behind the Heritage Center. Committee members — Carole Stuart (Chair), Chris Hoffman, Rik McClave, Alan Stuart, Joy Gudz, and Jeff Brokalis — met with the Stephentown's Code Enforcement Officer to secure the necessary building permits. Site clearing will begin soon. If you would like to donate to this cause, please contact any committee member, board of directors officer, or trustee (see page 3). Thank you!

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Interested in Volunteering? We'd love to have your help!
Send us a message to:
info@stephentown-historical.org
We appreciate your support!

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

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

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STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL – 2026

Sunday, June 21st was clear and bright with a light breeze and temperature in the mid-70's, an absolutely perfect day for our 44th annual Strawberry Festival. Gardner's Ice Cream and Coffee Shoppe once again provided us with the perfect venue – a spacious outdoor location to enjoy fresh air, the good company of friends and family and the tasty byproducts of early summer, otherwise known as strawberry shortcake, strawberry-rhubarb pie and ice cream! Beginning just before 11:00 am and right up till just before closing at 3:00 pm, there was pretty much always a line anticipating our strawberry delicacies, but everyone seemed to agree that it was worth the wait! Nearly 100 folks enjoyed shortcake, another 35 went for strawberries alone, and 150 went for "the works"! Add in the pies purchased, and that's nearly 300 people served!

Many thanks to everyone (too numerous to name) who helped to make this event such a huge success, and to our customers as well – we so appreciate your support. What a way to kick off the summer of 2026!

Hospitality Corner

Introducing Chris Hoffman, our new Hospitality chairperson. At each program, refreshments of cheese and crackers and dessert are provided. Would you consider volunteering for an upcoming program. A sign-up sheet is available on o information counter. Thank You!

Check out our Gift Shoppe at the Heritage Center on Fridays 1 -4 pm or after a program. It is filled with apparel, historical albums, notecards and more. Access our online store at (www.stephentown-historical.org); navigate to the "More" tab and select "Books and Gifts" or scan the QR code below.

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7TH ANNUAL CAR WASH

Our 7th annual Car Wash was held on August 16th under beautiful skies. The SonShiners group from the Stephentown Federated Church joined us once again with their Garden & Bake Sale. Bob Adler represented the Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department, offering 911 address signs as well as information for prospective fire department volunteers. We thank all volunteers and participants who helped to make this fundraising event a success. Photo depicts the winners of our 50/50 raffle!

ACQUISITIONS

An interesting recent addition to our collection is a WWI leather map case and map of the Argonne Forest in France. Also donated were two old photo albums belonging to the Carpenter family. AND kudos to the town of Hancock for the beautiful semi-quincentennial edition of **Hancock Through the Years,** which was purchased for our collection.

Summer Potluck—2026

A good time was had by all, and no one went home hungry from our Annual Summer Potluck Picnic held on July 12, 2026. The fare included hotdogs and hamburgers grilled by our own Paul Guilbeault and lots of side dishes and desserts brought by members and participants alike. Great weather, great food, what's not to like?

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HOOSICK HISTORY and HERITAGE FAIR

Each Spring, the Armory in historic Hoosick Falls NY is the site of the annual Hoosick History and Heritage Fair. The Stephentown Historical Society was again one of the many historical societies and organizations showcased at the event. The event on May 16th marked the fair's 4th year. The Armory is host to the interactive exhibits and displays from many local societies and organizations. Simultaneously, narrated trolley rides were available to shuttle fairgoers to the various other events at the Bennington Battlefield. There, attendees were able to immerse themselves in living-history experiences and demonstrations of 18th century living. A moving Armed Forces Day tribute is held at the Liberty Memorial Park located within Maple Grove Cemetery. Mark your calendar to join us next May and be prepared to be both educated and entertained!

IN MEMORIAM

Veronica Ann "Ronnie" Demick was born August 2, 1938 in Manhattan, NY. Married to Edward, she was a loving mother to Sandara, Karen, Lisa, Christopher and the late Edward Demick, Jr. Ronnie passed away peacefully on April 23, 2026. Prior to 25 years employed at the Berlin Central School, many will remember that she owned the Crossroads General Store for many years. She was an active member of many organizations: SHS, Seniors, Democratic Club to name a few. Ronnie, you will be missed.

Elizabeth A. "Libby" Kogan was born on January 31, 1944. She was the loving wife of Howard, devoted mother of Douglas and Susan, and grandmother of Bailey, Aja & Kiana. Libby was loved and cherished by many and her legacy is one of love and inspiration. She volunteered her time in many organizations, including SHS – she was a life member since 1999. Libby left this earth on March 18 of this year and will be missed by many. RIP Libby.

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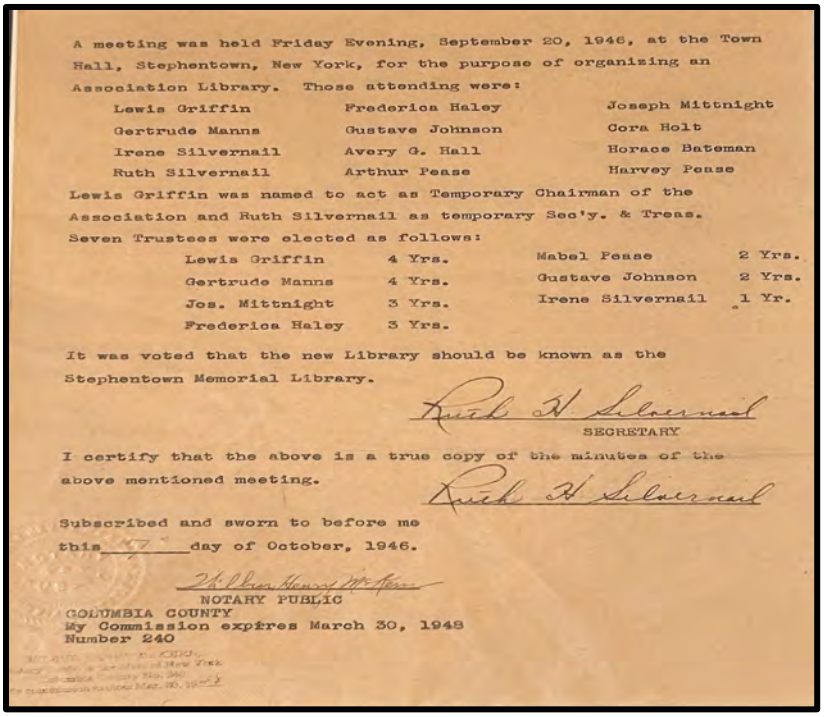
STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

In May of 1946, at a meeting of the Stephentown War Council, Lewis Griffin presented plans for the formation of a library to honor the local men and women who had served in the armed forces during the two World Wars. These plans were formalized on September 20th of that same year when twelve residents of Stephentown met at the Town Hall (now the library) to organize an association library. Seven trustees were elected. The names of the 50 men and women who served in WWI and the 104 WWII veterans to whom the library is dedicated, are shown on Plaques hanging in the library.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, patrons, staff, and other supporters who have made the library such a wonderful place in the Stephentown community for the past 80 years. Thanks also to all who came out to celebrate the library's birthday!



A meeting was held Friday Evening, September 20, 1946, at the Town Hall, Stephentown, New York, for the purpose of organizing an Association Library. Those attending were:

Lewis Griffin	Frederica Haley	Joseph Mittnight
Gertrude Manns	Gustave Johnson	Cora Holt
Irene Silvernail	Avery G. Hall	Horace Bateman
Ruth Silvernail	Arthur Pease	Harvey Pease

Lewis Griffin was named to act as Temporary Chairman of the Association and Ruth Silvernail as temporary Sec'y. & Treas.
Seven Trustees were elected as follows:

Lewis Griffin	4 Yrs.	Mabel Pease	2 Yrs.
Gertrude Manns	4 Yrs.	Gustave Johnson	2 Yrs.
Jos. Mittnight	3 Yrs.	Irene Silvernail	1 Yr.
Frederica Haley	3 Yrs.		

It was voted that the new Library should be known as the Stephentown Memorial Library.

Ruth H. Silvernail
SECRETARY

I certify that the above is a true copy of the minutes of the above mentioned meeting.

Ruth H. Silvernail

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7 day of October, 1946.

William Henry McKeon
NOTARY PUBLIC
COLUMBIA COUNTY
My Commission expires March 30, 1948
Number 240

Meet our new Lifetime Members!
David Gillespie and Patricia Arndt

Congratulations to 30-year members Leslie Adams, Rick Cranston, Elise Hailey, Albert Phelps and Georgia Simmons-Lapp

Meissner's Auction Service & Antique Center

This account is an important revenue source for us via consignment. If you have items you would like to donate that are in good saleable condition, we collect 100% on any items accepted. For more information, please contact Dolores @ Meissner's 518-766-5002. An appointment is necessary, and they take in consignments on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Our account number is 5821.

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TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Stephentown Resident Linked to Norman Rockwell by Famous Painting

John J. Toolan, resident of Cyprus Lane, Stephentown, was a longtime New England Telephone lineman (36 years, retiring in 1981), who once posed for the famous illustrator, Norman Rockwell. He was born January 10, 1919, in Lenox, MA and was married to Blanche Marie Sweener Nov. 11, 1942. He was a 1937 graduate of Lenox High School and an Army veteran of WWII. In October of 1947, Mr. Rockwell chose him from a North Adams line crew as best typifying his mental image of "the man who helps get the message through". The painting was completed in mid-1948 and appeared nationally March 14, 1949, in a Bell Telephone System advertisement in Life Magazine. More than 100,000 poster-sized color reproductions were sent out in response to a flood of requests.

Recipes from "American Cookery" (First published in Connecticut in the 1790's)

Sausage & Tomato Pie

10 sausages, 1 can tomatoes, 3 Tbsp oil, 1 egg for glazing, 1 large unbaked ready-made pie crust, 1tsp mixed herbs

Preheat oven to 350
Place tomatoes into a pan on low
Fry sausages till browned – once cooked, chop into small pieces
Add some chopped onions.
Add the mixed herbs and the tomatoes and simmer 3-5 minutes
Add to pie shell, brush with egg glaze.

Gingerbread Cookies

¾ C molasses, ¼ C heavy cream, ½ C unsalted butter, 3-1/2 C flour, 1-1/4 C sugar, 4 Tbsp ground ginger, 1 tsp nutmeg

Preheat oven to 250 (earlier ovens were very slow)

Warm molasses and cream together in saucepan over low heat till well mixed. In large bowl, rub butter into the flour and sugar until saturated and fine grained.

Add ginger, nutmeg and warmed molasses mixture. Stir until combined. Roll the stiff dough out to about ¼" thickness and cut into circles or shapes. Bake on a greased baking sheet for roughly 15-20 minutes, or until the edges are firm. ENJOY!

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Cemetery Committee Update

This summer, the Cemetery Committee met with Caryl Carpenter and her nieces, who could not attend last year's event at Carpenter Cemetery. They were impressed by the progress there and made a generous donation to clean several family gravestones at the Cemetery of the Evergreens. Caryl also donated family photographs of the Carpenter and Doty sides of her family to our collection.

We also received a request to clean several Udell family gravestones at Stephentown Cemetery. While there, we discovered a broken Douglas gravestone lying just a few feet from the entrance drive. After obtaining permission, we began repairing it.

Jim and Jennifer Summers volunteered to begin cleanup at Denison Cemetery on East Road. To volunteer or request gravestone cleaning or repair, email info@stephentown-historical.org.
A donation is requested to help cover supplies.

Stephentown Historical Society 4 Staples Road, PO Box 11, Stephentown, NY 12168
Email – info@stephentown-historical.org – website – www.stephentown-historical.org
Phone – 518-733-6070; Open Fridays 1 pm to 4 pm or by appointment

Board of Directors
President – Carolyn Hourihan Vice President – Elly Lanier Treasurer – Alan Stuart
Recording Secretary – Ellen Jennings Corresponding Secretary – Carole Stuart
Administrator – Brad McClave

Trustees
Jean Bolen Joy Gudz Chris Hoffman
Joe Hogan Paul Guilbeault Arlene Longo
Curator – Bev McClave Genealogist – Kim (Ellis) McKay Town Historian – Patricia Flint

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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:

[ ] 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** [ ]