



Stephentown Historical Society



Heritage Center Closed for Repairs to Sagging Ceiling



A wall of temporary posts shore up the sagging ceiling above the balcony at the Heritage center.

For a while, it looked as if the sky was falling in the balcony area of the Heritage Center, but fast-acting volunteers temporarily shored up the sagging ceiling so that artifacts stored there could be removed and the area cleared so that repair work can begin.

Rik McClave, supervisor of the repair work, explained that the weight of the plaster ceiling on the drying out ceiling rafters caused the situation. Had the volunteers not acted quickly, the entire balcony ceiling could have collapsed.

Repair Work Expected to Take Three to Four Weeks

After receiving bids for the repair work, local restoration contractor Adam Squires was selected and is expected to begin work within the next few weeks. The repair work itself will take approximately three to four weeks.

Next Step: Assessment of Historical Collection

Once the repair work is complete, Collections Chair Bev McClave will cull through the collection, now housed on the first floor of the Heritage Center, to determine if any items should be deaccessioned. "It's been years since we've done a comprehensive assessment of our collection," Mc Clave stated, "but this

**Tag Sale Saturday,
August 28**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Start gathering items to donate to the Tag Sale - it all benefits the SHS.

Rain date is Sunday, August 29th.

Items must be clean and usable. No furniture, clothing or large appliances.

**For more info,
contact Libby Kogan at
733-6662.**

unfortunate situation has given us an excellent opportunity to get that task under way."

The Heritage Center will reopen once the ceiling repair and collections work is complete. Meanwhile, monthly meetings will be held at the Stephentown Fire Hall.

Payment for the repair work will come from our organization's existing funds, but members, friends and supporters are urged to send tax-deductible contributions to the SHS to replenish those funds and to keep building the fund to replace the roof.

WWW.STEPHENTOWN-HISTORICAL.ORG: REVAMPED WEBSITE CONTAINS A WEALTH OF USEFUL STEPHENTOWN INFORMATION

Take a new look at the Historical Society's website. Over recent months, Dick Rhindress and Pat Fint have been hard at work redesigning the site and adding new information.

Now you can view and complete order forms to purchase SHS albums, ornaments, and greeting cards online; read all of our past newsletters; see the monthly meeting and upcoming events schedule; make a donation; and purchase or renew your membership.

Greatly Improved Cemetery Records Available

For the past eight years, Flint has been entering information from the gravestones of Stephentown natives into a database which Rhindress was able to upload to the SHS website. More than 10,400 records are now available on the site -- some with photographs, GPS coordinates, and/or directions to their locations.

Soon you will be able to click a few buttons on the cemetery site and add a photo you've taken or information you've gathered about a specific cemetery or grave site. You'll also be able to upload historic and current photos of interest to our members.

- Work Continues and Help is Needed

With 80 cemeteries in our town, much maintenance work is needed to keep them from sliding into obscurity. Cemeteries Chair Linda Sullivan and her committee are working steadily to survey and document each site. Together with Dave Cummings, Sullivan has been photographing individual stones and obtaining their GPS coordinates. With so many locations to be documented, Sullivan needs volunteer help

to verify the accuracy of the information and to take photos and GPS coordinates where that information is missing.

To volunteer your help, call the Heritage Center at 733-6070 or Linda at 733-5231.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Generous members and friends have contributed \$325 to the SHS Roof Fund, \$765 in Memorial Donations and \$2,725 to the Annual Fund Drive. Given the need to pay for the ceiling repairs currently under way and to keep building the Roof Fund, we thank you in advance for keeping the SHS in mind when you're allocating your own charitable funds.

ANOTHER STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SUCCESS

It was a perfect weekend for the annual Strawberry Festival and 200 locals and travelers couldn't resist the strawberry shortcakes, strawberries & ice cream, strawberry pies and chocolate dipped berries.

Two hundred and ten pounds of berries were picked cleaned and hulled at The Berry Patch. Some members took several pounds home to make into pies and baked goods.

Estimated profit from the event is \$1,075. Corporate sponsors were Stewarts, Price Chopper and Big Y.

In Memorium

Laura McEwan

1915 - 2010



HERITAGE CENTER CLOSED UNTIL CEILING REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE

Although the Heritage Center is closed to the public temporarily, the business of the Historical Society continues. Call the Heritage Center and leave a message to request an appointment, volunteer your services and get information about genealogy, cemeteries, upcoming meetings and events. The phone number is 518-733-6070.

VOLUNTEERS! NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP FORTH! JOBS FOR ALL AGES, CAPABILITIES



Volunteers Samuel Johnson (center) and Caleb Johnson (r.) work with Bill Zimmerman on genealogy files last winter.

The Historical Society needs your help. We're looking for volunteers of all ages and capabilities willing to do a broad range of tasks: taking photographs, raking, calendar-keeping, interviewing, helping with events, checking items entered on the website for accuracy. There's lots of work to be done.

With nearly 80 graveyards waiting to be photographed and documented in the town of Stephentown alone, artifacts to be photographed and cataloged, cemeteries to be cleaned and restored, and genealogy records to be entered into the website and computer databases, we have a serious need for volunteers. Anyone with a few hours and a willingness to help is welcome.

All Ages Welcome

Please help us recruit volunteers of all ages. You don't have to be a member of the

Historical Society (although that would be very welcome). Boy and Girl Scout troops and other civic organizations are invited to help; bring your neighbors and devote a day or days to the effort - however much time you can afford.

Volunteering for the Historical Society is a great way for kids to get to know more about their own community in a way that also serves the community and teaches the value of volunteering first hand.

For More Information, Call the Heritage Center at 733-6070 and leave your name, phone number and a message that you would like more information about the area you're interested in (photography, cemetery cleanup, website checking, genealogy, collection preparation, etc.) and a member of our Board will get back to you.

FIELD TRIP TO OLANA & FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM SET FOR SEPTEMBER 21

Meet at the Heritage Center at 9:30 am for a great trip to the Firefighters Museum, a picnic lunch and Olana tour. The cost is \$8 per person. Contact Isabel Krebs for info: 733-5935.

FALL PROGRAMS FEATURE VARIETY

Despite the temporary closure of the Heritage Center, our organization's monthly meetings will go on as usual this summer and fall. Meetings are at the Fire Hall at 7:30 pm, except for the 6:30 pm Pot Luck in December. Program Chair Isabel Krebs and her committee offer the following for our enjoyment this fall:

August 2 - On the Trail of Henry Hudson and Our Heritage through the Municipal Seals of New York State - presented by Marvin Bubie in conjunction with the Stephentown Memorial Library.

September 13 - The Story of Mum Bett - presented by David Levinson and Emilie Piper. (Note: due to Labor Day, this program will be held on the second Monday in September.)

October 4 - The Shaker Museum and Library: The First 60 years and the Future - Presented by David Stocks.

November 1 - The Munsee and the Mahicans in the Time of Henry Hudson - Presented by Dr. Laurence Hauptman.

December 6 - Pot Luck Supper: Penny Whistles Tin Whistles - Presented by Marilee Urbanczyk.

January 3 - TBA

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Dale Riggs 733-6772

Bev McClave 733-5170

Bill Zimmerman 794-8430

Tag Sale

Bev McClave 733-5170

Libby Kogan 733-6662



A beautiful array of contemporary and historic wedding dresses greeted members attending the June SHS meeting, presented by Anne Kiely. D. Flint photo

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