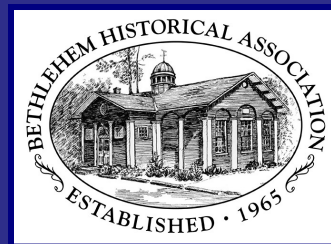


- **BHA Celebrates 50 Years**
- **Antique Appraisal Day**
- **Blacksmith Shop and St. Stephens Church**
- **Rock Ledge**
- **Quilt Raffle**

Live for Today

Dream for Tomorrow

Learn from Yesterday



Antique Appraisal Day

Bring those items that you think might be valuable to the Bethlehem Historical Association's second annual Antiques Appraisal Day to be held at Bethlehem Town Hall on **Saturday, April 18 between 10 AM and 2 PM.**

This year our professional appraisers are Russell Carlsen, Deirdre O'Callaghan and Lynne Phelps.

Russell Carlsen is the proprietor auctioneer of Carlsen Gallery Inc. Antiques in Greenville. Carlsen has been conducting auctions of estate merchandise and antiques in the upper Hudson Valley and Albany area since 1984. The gallery is one of the oldest established auction services in this area and specializes in 18th and 19th century American furniture and accessories including oil paintings, furniture, porcelain, and Oriental rugs.

Deirdre O'Callaghan is the owner of Partridge Hill Antiques which has two locations in Ballston Spa – Stone Soup Antiques and the new Doubleday House Antiques. She is the third generation of women antiques purveyors, following her grandmother and mother. O'Callaghan has particular interest in the areas of American and European silver, pottery, furniture and small items.

Lynn Phelps, a Bethlehem resident, has been a specialist in antiques and costume jewelry for 30 years.

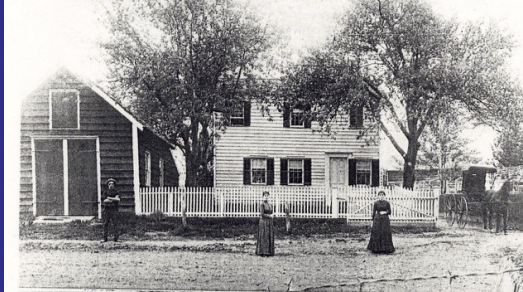
Each item will be appraised for \$6 each or three items for \$15. All proceeds will benefit the Bethlehem Historical Association and especially its efforts to preserve artifacts relating to the Town of Bethlehem.

Members of BHA with long-held expertise in a variety of areas will also be on hand to advise attendees. Galen Ritchie has an encyclopedic knowledge of coins and stamps. He is a long time member of the American Philatelic Society, the American Numismatic Association and the American Numismatic Society. Arthur Young is also highly qualified to evaluate stamps and first day envelopes, as well as provide assistance with genealogy questions. Ann Vandervort is well-known as a specialist in general 18th and 19th century items, particularly dolls. Rob Halley, another long-time collector and dealer, will again be on hand to display and explain fascinating antiques from the Hudson Valley region. In addition, there will be an opportunity to purchase quilt raffle tickets.



The Kunz Family, Saint Stephen's Church and a Blacksmith Shop

By Karen Beck



The Kunz Family

Charles Jacob Kunz and his wife, Caroline Fruehauf, were born about 1820 in Birkenfeld, Rhineland-Palatinate. They and their two small daughters, Katherine and Louisa, came to America about 1850 and settled in this area. Three more children were born: Charles, Jr., Henrietta and George.

Sometime between 1860 and 1865 the Kunz family came to Bethlehem. They and their five children settled on what is now Delaware Avenue, in the current location of the Veterans Park, across from Oakwood Place. Charles was a blacksmith. He established his business next door to the house (current location of Stewarts). The family joined the Delmar Reformed Church and settled into the growing community.

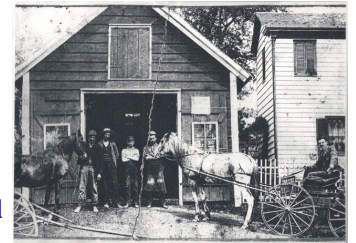
By 1881 both Charles and Caroline had died. The old blacksmith shop closed. Briefly it was used as a grocery store before it was again left unused and vacant. Katherine and Henrietta continued to live in the family home next door.

St. Stephens

As Albany's population spread to rural areas in the early twentieth century, new residents lacked home churches. Wishing to worship together, small groups gathered in homes where lay readers would conduct services. As the demand grew, the home churches in the city began to establish "missions" to serve the fledgling communities.

Such was the case in the early days of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Delmar. Its very first service was held in the home of David S. Douglas on Delaware Avenue where our post office is now located.

In 1908, after several meetings with representatives of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew of All Saints Cathedral, it was decided to establish the mission.



A Blacksmith Shop

Needing a temporary home but having little in the way of resources, church members decided to rent the vacant blacksmith shop from the Kunz sisters. The building was described as small and rather rickety. But the fledgling congregation was not deterred. Expecting to very soon build a suitable church building, they agreed to a five dollar a month rental fee and set to work doing basic improvements. The old shop got a foundation and a new roof. Light was provided by three lamps that hung from a center rafter. A coal stove provided some heat. Weekly services began.

About a year later, eager for a proper church building of its own, the congregation began construction on a parcel of land donated by Dr. John Washburn. The location was on the south-east corner of what is now Adams Place and Delmar Place. A foundation was dug and materials were purchased, but the project had to be abandoned when the small congregation could not meet the expenses.

Resigned to the fact that they were going to be in the blacksmith shop for an extended period of time, more improvements were made, particularly on the interior, making it more "church-like". They got a wheezy organ and paid a woman fifty cents weekly to play it.

Despite the difficulties, the Women's Guild put on suppers, strawberry festivals and pre-lenten sales. The women carried all the food, dishes, and other supplies back and forth in baskets.



*"Years went by.
World War I
intervened.
The congregation
did not waver."*

News from BHA President Kathy Newkirk:

50 YEARS OF BETHLEHEM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

This is our Anniversary year and everyone should be proud of our Association and Museum. There were 153 Charter Members in 1965 at the time of the establishment of the Association. In 1968-69 there were 154 Members. Programs were held with social events throughout the years. Some examples are a 1978 box lunch social held at Jim VanDervort's house; early 1970s tailgate sale with pony rides; in 1993 a Drive Yourself Tour of Houses and Sites formulated by Lois Dillon and Charles Crangle; in 1990 the 25th Anniversary dinner was held at the Elks Club. Our home from the beginning has been the historic Cedar Hill Schoolhouse.

Please join us at our regular meeting on April 16, 7 PM, where we'll reminisce with charter member Norma June. We'll continue celebrating at our Annual Meeting on May 21 which will begin with a dinner at the Mansion at Cedar Hill. Invitations with reservation information will be mailed soon.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as President of our Association for the last 2 years. I wish continued success to everyone and our Museum.

Call for 1960s Era Photos

As part of our golden anniversary celebration, BHA is creating a photo display of 1960s era Bethlehem. And we need your help. Do you have snapshots taken in Bethlehem from the 1960s? We're looking for pictures from all over town including Delmar, Slingerlands, Elsmere, South Bethlehem, Glenmont, and Selkirk. Please visit our website, BethlehemHistorical.org, or call Susan Leath at 439-7470 for details.

Historic Sites Report by Lois Dillon

Down at Van Wie's point along the road you pass the historic sign reading "Home of Hendrick Van Wie". Going along the road heading north, you come to a house on a hill which faces the Hudson River. This is the back of the house that was built by a man by the name of Mellious – Engineer for the City of Albany - in 1904 as a summer house. Here there was a view of the Hudson River and its activities. It was one of several summer houses with access to boat landings.

This house was later sold to Chauncy Hakes, a successful car dealer and aviator. It was he who brought his friend the famous aviator Charles Lindberg and his plane Lindy to appear before a large crowd in Albany's Lincoln Park in 1928.

The owners of this house were always happy living there. One of them who left was heard to say "I dream about it every night".

NOTE: Rockledge, the home described above, is the 2015 Vanguard Showhouse. This is the 35th annual designer showcase that benefits Albany Symphony Orchestra. Dates are April 28-May 17. Visit www.vanguard-aso.org for details.

Blacksmith Shop Continued

Because there was no running water or stove to make coffee, they depended on the kindness of the Kunz sisters in the house next door.

Years went by. World War I intervened. The congregation did not waver. Finally, in 1922, the mission became officially St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Elsmere. This new status, plus another generous gift of land by Dr. Washburn, finally enabled the congregation to fulfill its dream. On November 1, 1926, the cornerstone of the church was laid at the corner of Elsmere Avenue and Poplar Drive. The architect was W. P. R. Pember, a member of the church, and the same architect who later designed our original town library building at the intersection of Adams and Hawthorne. This long awaited, charming structure is still an integral part of the present day building.

(Photos Courtesy of Cynthia Kunz and St. Stephen's Church.)



Bethlehem Historical Association

Cedar Hill School House
P.O. Box 263
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Quilt Raffle

\$1 a chance
or 6 chances for \$5

This beautiful all cotton 64 X 88" (twin) quilt was made and generously donated by Q.U.I.L.T., Inc. The drawing will be held at the Ice Cream Social on June 14. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets may be purchased at our regular meetings or you can contact Susan Gutman at gutmansusan@yahoo.com or Wendy Brandow, 767-0716.

E-MAIL

We recently started the practice of using e-mail and are sending brief, occasional messages to all those who have given us their address. If you are not receiving these messages but would like to be included, please let us know. Our address is bethhist1965@gmail.com.

Coming Events

At the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse unless noted differently.

Saturday April 18, 2015 10 AM—2 PM

Antique Appraisal Day

NOTE: To be held at Bethlehem Town Hall.

Thursday, April 16, 2015 7:00 PM

"Members Remember – 50 Years of BHA"

Norma June and Others

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 PM

Genealogy Workshop co-sponsored with the Bethlehem Public Library. To be held at the library.

Thursday, May 21, 2015 7:00 PM

*Annual Meeting preceded by
50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner*

to be held at the Mansion at Cedar Hill

Sunday, June 14, 2015 1-4 PM

First Day of Museum Opening and Ice Cream Social
(Museum open Sundays 2-4 throughout the summer.)

HISTORY HIKES begin April 18 and continue on the second Saturday of the month through November. Click on the History Hike tab on our webpage for complete details. **BethlehemHistorical.org**