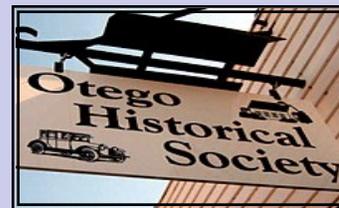


OTEGO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



April 2016



In Memory of Stephen R Butler

Stephen (Steve) was born in Delhi, NY on January 17, 1941. His parents were Howard R Butler and Esther M (Shaw) Butler. When he was in the 6th Grade, his family moved to Wheaton Creek Road in Otego.

Stephen was raised with 3 older brothers: Howard, Albert and Dave and a younger sister, Mary. The fact that Steve's dad had only 3% sight had a great impact on his growing up. Steve was very close to his father. He worked with him on the farm in Otego. He'd help his father gather sap from trees all around the farm. This was done with an ox bow and buckets that his dad carried on his shoulders. He would walk through the snow going from tree to tree emptying the sap. It would then be brought back to the house and cooked for many hours in

in order to make maple syrup. Steve loved doing this as an adult.

One story Steve told was about reading manuals for farm implements or gardening to his dad before he became a first grader. So when he got into the first grade, his reading level was far beyond his classmates because of his experience of reading at home.

Both Steve's mother and father worked at what is now known as Amphenol in Sidney, NY. His father had to take simple jobs but he tackled each job with gusto. The family did not have much money so brother Dave, sister Mary and Steve had to be independent and took care of the house and meals while their parents were at work.

At Otego Central School, Steve played football in high school. He was a member of Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Rifle Club. In his spare time he liked to fish and hunt. Stephen's memorable achievements included being elected as Vice President of his Senior Class, and winning awards for football. His favorite teacher was Mr. Jim Sears who taught Biology and Chemistry. Stephen was proud of his role in organizing the Annual School Fair as an

FFA Member.

After graduation, Steve joined the Navy in September 1960. He was a Navy and Marine Corps veteran and was trained as a Basic Hospital Corpsman. He also had Cardiopulmonary Training and Field Medical Training. He was assigned to serve in Camp Lejeune, N.C. in the 2nd Marine Division and at St. Albans, Hospital in New York City. Stephen was in military service from 1961 to 1965. His training as a respiratory therapist served him well in the years after his discharge.

Following his honorable discharge, Stephen worked at Albany Medical Center and was instrumental in setting up a school for the training of the use of respiratory equipment. Stephen then moved his family to Buffalo and began working at Green and Kellogg where he traveled throughout New York State introducing new respiratory equipment to hospitals and servicing the equipment.

Stephen was blessed with four children. He had two sons: Vern and Brian, and two daughters: Lori and Christina. Stephen was also blessed with eleven grandchildren, Jeremiah, Emily, Ben, Andrew, Brian, Chelsea, , Michael Jr., Thomas, and Jessica.

After several years in Buffalo, he and his family returned to Otego. Unable to pursue a career in the field of respiratory therapy, Stephen found a job at Amphenol as a CNC operator. Throughout his 33 years at Amphenol, Stephen received many awards for years of service. He was a diligent worker who had only the highest standards for himself.

On August 20, 2005 Stephen exchanged wedding vows with Mary Elizabeth Gillingham at the Otego United Methodist Church of Otego. Through this marriage, he gained two step-children Michael Johnson and Sheri-Nouane Duncan—ones.



and a step-grandson, Michael Schipani who he treated as his own.

Stephen had camping experiences when he was young. The plant where his mother and father worked would close down the first 2 weeks of July. So they would join many friends at a simple camp at Old Forge, NY. Later, when Stephen's children were growing up they enjoyed camping. They would often travel to Florida and Key West.

After Stephen and Mary were married, they loved camping and

using their double kayak. They would also take an annual vacation to visit his, step-daughter Sheri-Nouane and her family wherever she was working for the State Department. So over the years, they were able to travel to Laos, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa, Ethiopia and Australia...

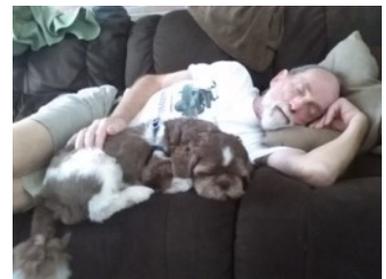


Stephen loved to fix computers using the latest technology. He enjoyed learning how to use his Ham Radio. He was a natural teacher and he enjoyed helping grandchildren fix their cars or other equipment. Two of his favorite things to do were hunting and being in the woods. He was an avid reader and had great interest in the Civil War. He loved to have the phone ring and one of the grandchildren would say, "Grandpa I have a question." His reply: "I have an answer."

In his early years as an Otego resident, Stephen served as a member of the Otego Fire Department. Throughout his later years, Stephen was an active member of the Harris Memorial Library in Otego (where he served as President of the Board of

Trustees for several years. He was also involved in Otego's Upper Susquehanna Archaeological Museum, the Otego Historical Association, and Oneonta Amateur Radio Club. He also had been very active in the American Legion Chapter #259 in Oneonta and served as Commander. He also felt a need to serve his community by being Chairperson of the Otego Town Planning Board for several years.

Stephen was a lover of animals and cherished his pets. Two of Stephen's favorites, were Mollie and Megan, his miniature French poodles. They were a very important part of his life. He got them when they were puppies and had Megan for 8 years and Mollie for 12 years. In June of 2015, Steve found "Tobias" a 3 year old shih tsu on Craig's List. Tobias was adopted and he and Steve became



the best of friends for the last few months of Steve's life.

After retirement, Stephen enjoyed his life at home in Otego. Steve loved working on his property. He cleared a lot of land and had envisioned a very small golf course in the back of the house. He fussed over his grape arbor and spent many hours creating a pond on the hill in the back of his property.

Introducing Kathy Sturgess Ouimet

The sight of him on his riding mower was heart touching, because he loved seeing more and more of his property being reclaimed for a beautiful lawn. . .

Stephen passed away on October 18, 2015 at his home in Otego surrounded by his family. Steve fought a brave but difficult battle against leukemia for several years.

All who knew him would agree that Stephen was a pillar of the community. He often quietly donated computers and/or printers to local organizations, not wanting any notoriety. It is so rewarding to know that the imprint that Stephen Roy Butler made on his community was appreciated. He touched many lives and will be missed by all who were fortunate to have known him.

Rural Times Jan. 28, 1891

What Stories It Could Tell

A sofa fell into the hands of one of our upholsterers day before yesterday for repairs. When taken apart there was found between the back and the cushion, 47 hair pins, 8 moustache combs, 1 glass eye, 19 suspender buttons, 18 needles, 8 cigarettes, 4 photographs, 217 pins, 6 pocket knives, 15 poker chips, 80 lumps of chewing gum, 59 tooth picks, 28 matches and 4 button hooks.

The sofa belongs to a man who has seven unmarried daughters.

Source, Oneonta News.



I grew up in Unadilla and married my high school sweetheart., Andre Ouimet, Jr. I attended SUNY Cortland for Physical Education; but also worked as Office Manager for several physicians over the years.

We have lived in Maryland, Oregon and California as we raised our two children, Heather and Chris, and we enjoy five grandchildren.

As retirement was approaching for Andre, we sold our Los Angeles home and moved to

Afton; though Andre will continue to work in LA for the next 3-5 years and commute to the Afton area periodically.

I am a member of DAR, DUVCW (Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War) and Colonial Dames. I am an genealogist and fully admit that my passion is cemeteries, having photographed most of Otego's and using the Find-A-Grave website to be able to preserve them for other generations.

I am currently working on a remapping of Evergreen Cemetery. This involved photographing each stone, as well as, transcribing each stone and aligning the findings with the plot maps. All the data is being put into an Excel spreadsheet that the Historical Association and Town Clerk will be able to use to quickly locate burials and assist others in locating family members.

Note: We are so pleased that Kathy has not only become a member of our Historical Association, but joins Jan Lloyd, Emily Longtin, Mary Butler and Carolee Byrnes on Wednesdays to work on her Evergreen Cemetery project.

PROGRAMS FOR 2016

- APRIL 18** **Underground Railroad in Otsego County**
 Dr. Harry Matthews, Hartwick College
- MAY 16:** **1800's Woolen Cloth Making**
 Doug & Debbie Dutcher
- JUNE 20:** **Founding of Wells Bridge**
 Joyce Shultis
- JULY 18:** **Picnic— 1800's Resident Artist—Adelia Gates,**
 Mary J. Butler
- AUGUST 15:** **Hops Production in Otego**
 Rodney Robinson
- SEPT:** **Surprise Trip and Lunch (**
- OCT. 17:** **Otego Graves & Genealogy Tips**
 Kathy Ouimet

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