

September 10, 2020

## **Elizabeth (Betsy) Strauss**

Betsy developed an interest in local history as she became curious about the early settlers of her neighborhood, which is north of Amenia. She was especially interested in the Guernsey family, who settled there in 1759 and lived on their farm for seven generations. Strauss has continued her work to research hundreds of the early families of Amenia and North East.

Betsy Strauss is presently serving on both the Amenia and North East Historical Societies boards of trustees. She enjoys doing genealogical and historical research on behalf of these societies. Since 2006, she has developed programs and made several presentations for both Amenia and North East historical societies.

Betsy's research and programs have included:

- Lawrence Van Alstyne's Civil War Diary in the 128<sup>th</sup> NY, Co. B., and the 90<sup>th</sup> US Colored Infantry;
- The Clarks of Nagaland, India;
- The Story of Susan Nye Hutchison, ante-bellum teacher and abolitionist in the South;
- The Story of Hat Maker, Amariah Winchester, & His Descendants;
- The Irish in Amenia;
- The History of the Russian Jewish Families of Amenia;
- The History of the Steel Works;
- The Remarkable Winchells of North East; and
- Amenia during WWI.

Betsy is also a board member of the Dutchess County Historical Society. In 2018, she was awarded the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award for in depth historical research. In 2019, she submitted for publication in the DCHS Yearbook a story about Rev. & Mrs. Clark, Missionaries to Nagaland, India, 1868 - 1910.