LOCAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION · TOWN OF EVANS, NEW YORK

Steve's Red & White

A family grocery on Sturgeon Point Road at Depot Street, Derby, by the railroad tracks

DERBY · TOWN OF EVANS, NY · PRINT STAMPED APR 1956 · STEPHEN J. CHACHULA 1911–1953



Original archival print, stamped APR · 56, reproduced unaltered — no AI alteration of faces or details. This photograph was taken after Stephen J. Chachula's death in May 1953. Chuck has identified the five children and young people, from back to front: Elaine Hering, Steve "Uncle Charlie" Chachula, Nancy DiMartino, Patty Chachula, and Danele Wagner. Those names are also listed on page 5; they are not marked on the print.

This heritage pamphlet is for the Town of Evans Historical Society. It follows the documents now in hand — especially a November 8, 1946 statement from Hall's Red & White Store in Derby — and later public records of Stephen J. Chachula's death and of a 1994 fire. Earlier history of the building, from before Steve's, is in a separate final section titled "Before Steve's." Neighbors and family members with memories or photographs are invited to help fill in what is still unknown.

The store's story, as the documents tell it

Chuck Hering has agreed that this pamphlet should follow the written record, beginning with the November 1946 purchase.

> **November 1946.** Stephen J. Chachula bought the business and building from Arthur S. and Virginia P. Hall for $10,000, and it became Steve's Red & White. A Hall's statement dated November 8, 1946, records a $100 deposit toward that purchase, to hold the business and building until November 18, 1946, at a total price of $10,000. When the Halls took over, and how long they ran Hall's Red & White before 1946, is not yet known.

It was the local grocery store in Derby, and it sold shoes, clothes, groceries, and candy for the kids — a FAMILY ACCOUNT (Chuck Hering, November 26, 2026).

Chuck identifies Stephen J. "Steve" Chachula (1911–1953; spelling confirmed) as his grandfather. He died May 6, 1953, at age 41, and is buried at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans. A death notice posted on his Find a Grave memorial (indexed by PGSNYS as appearing in Dziennik dla Wszystkich, Buffalo's Polish daily, May 7, 1953) places the family home on Sturgeon Point Road, Derby. The April 1956 photograph on the cover was taken after his death. After he died, Chuck's grandmother Helen Chachula ran the store with help from the children — a FAMILY ACCOUNT (Chuck Hering).

> **The fire.** January 1994 (per a published fire list; newspaper article being sought; family remembers it as the 1980s). The list records that on January 19, 1994, a three-story "former Red and White store" on Sturgeon Point Road and Depot Street was destroyed. Chuck says the Evans Fire Department responded. The word "former" indicates the grocery had already closed; the closing date is not known. The list is a secondary compilation and does not name a newspaper or a fire company.

The building had a long history before Steve bought it; that earlier story is in the final section of this pamphlet, "Before Steve's."

Sources for this page: Hall's Red & White statement, November 8, 1946, as transcribed; identifications and family accounts from Chuck Hering, November 24 and November 26, 2026; Find a Grave memorials for Stephen J. and Helen Chachula; John R. Bolduc fire-history list, January 19, 1994 entry.

Hall's Red & White statement, November 8, 1946

The wording below is a transcription checked against a photograph of the original paper, now on the website Archive page. If any word on the original differs, the original governs.

STATEMENT
HALL'S RED & WHITE STORE
DERBY, N.Y.
PHONE 2934

Dated Nov. 8, 1946.

Received of Stephen J. Chachula the sum of one hundred dollars ($100.00) as deposit on our Red & White Store at Derby, N.Y. This money is to hold the business and building for the above named prospective buyer until November 18, 1946. The total price of this business and building to be $10,000.

Signed Arthur S. Hall, Virginia P. Hall.

Names in the family, as given

Stephen J. "Steve" Chachula (1911–1953) — identified by Chuck as his grandfather; he bought the business and building from Arthur S. and Virginia P. Hall in November 1946 for $10,000; identified by Chuck in a photograph behind the store counter (in a white apron, with a scale and a bottle carton marked STOCK NO. 5004). He died May 6, 1953, age 41, before the April 1956 cover photograph was taken.

"Uncle Charlie" — identified by Chuck in a photograph of a boy in a light suit by a Texaco star gas pump in front of a brick storefront, as **Steve Chachula Jr.** A 1953 death notice for Stephen J. Chachula Sr. lists his children as Joanna, Elaine, Stephen Jr., Nancy, Patricia and Danala, which matches that identification.

A later original photograph, now on the website as file 26 and described on page 4, shows Steve Chachula Jr. ("Uncle Charlie") behind the store counter. A woman's face in the lower-right corner and a person partly visible at the left are not named here.

Family photographs

These pictures are on the website. The captions below stand with the images. Originals are reproduced unaltered: cropped from family screenshots only to remove the phone interface and table around each print.

01 · GRANDFATHER AT THE COUNTER

A man in a white apron behind the store counter, with a scale and a bottle carton marked "STOCK NO. 5004 ... CASE CONTAINS ... BOTTLES." *Identified by Chuck as his grandfather, Stephen J. "Steve" Chachula.*

02 · BEHIND THE STORE

A snapshot behind the store: a person in an apron in the doorway of a brick building, a small child, other men, a 1950s car, and a barn-style door with white X bracing. *Names have not been given.*

03 · BOY BY A TEXACO PUMP

A boy in a light suit standing by a Texaco star gas pump in front of a brick storefront. *Identified by Chuck as Steve Chachula Jr., known as "Uncle Charlie."*

04 · OUTSIDE THE CLAPBOARD WALL

A man standing outside a clapboard store wall with signs reading "Pause... Drink Coca-Cola," "Dr. Swett's Root Beer," and a partial ICE sign. *Identified by Chuck as his grandfather, Stephen J. "Steve" Chachula.*

05 · INSIDE THE STORE, APRIL 1956 (ALREADY IN THIS PAMPHLET)

The cover photograph, an unaltered original print stamped APR · 56, taken after Stephen J. Chachula's death in May 1953. Identified by Chuck Hering, from back to front: Elaine Hering, Steve "Uncle Charlie" Chachula, Nancy DiMartino, Patty Chachula, and Danele Wagner. See page 5.

26 · STEVE CHACHULA ("UNCLE CHARLIE") INSIDE STEVE'S RED & WHITE

An original print, rotated upright from a sideways family photograph. A boy stands behind the store counter, with shelves of DUZ, FAB, SOS, and Super Suds, and a Williams Auction Sales clock. *Identified by Chuck as Steve Chachula Jr., known as "Uncle Charlie."* A woman's face in the lower-right corner and a person partly visible at the left are not named here.

File names on the website include 01-grandfather-counter.jpg through 06-1946-receipt.jpg and 26-inside-steves-red-and-white.jpg. Photograph 26 is an original print of Steve Chachula Jr. ("Uncle Charlie") inside the store. AI-colorized versions of some family photographs, including a wedding portrait of Stephen J. Chachula, are in a separate labeled section on the Photographs page and are not originals. Earlier photographs of the building, from before Steve's, are described in the final section of this pamphlet and are on the Before Steve's page of the website.

Who is in the April 1956 photograph?

This print is dated April 1956, after Stephen J. Chachula's death in May 1953, so it does not show him running the store. Chuck has identified the five children and young people in the picture, from back to front:

- Elaine Hering
- Steve "Uncle Charlie" Chachula
- Nancy DiMartino
- Patty Chachula
- Danele Wagner

A 1953 death notice lists Stephen Sr.'s children as Joanna, Elaine, Stephen Jr., Nancy, Patricia and Danala. Those names appear to correspond to Chuck's Elaine Hering; Steve "Uncle Charlie" Chachula (Stephen Jr.); Nancy DiMartino; Patty Chachula (Patricia); and Danele Wagner (Danala). Chuck has said that Joanna became a nun and was at the convent when this photograph was taken, so she is not in the picture.

Open questions

1. The exact street number (the intersection is now given as Sturgeon Point Road at Depot Street), and confirmation that Steve's occupied the same building as the Benjamin store (now a family account).
2. The years Arthur S. and Virginia P. Hall ran Hall's Red & White, and how long Frank Benjamin ran the store after 1929.
3. The freezer document, a separate item still to come, distinct from the 1946 Hall's statement.
4. A newspaper account of the January 19, 1994 fire (family remembers it as the 1980s), and the year the grocery closed (evidently before 1994).
5. Unidentified people in the back-lot photograph, and the provenance of the Derby local-history binder.

Before Steve's

This final section is the history of the store building and neighborhood before Steve's Red & White. That Steve's occupied the same building as the earlier Benjamin store is a FAMILY ACCOUNT (Chuck Hering). Credit for the earlier years: **Derby local-history binder (source to be confirmed)**, as those pages were read.

Francis A. Benjamin built the store about 1900 on Sturgeon Point Road, according to a typed "Derby Post Office" page. Francis A. Benjamin and his son Fred were killed on May 2, 1905, by a Nickel Plate train at Depot Street, in a covered grocery delivery wagon. Earl L. Benjamin (1879–1942) ran a large country store from 1900 to 1929, with the motto "Dealer in Everything, What we haven't got we get," and was Derby postmaster from 1907 to 1942; the post office was in the store from 1907 to 1929. In 1929 he sold the store to his brother Frank Benjamin. How long Frank ran it is not stated on the pages that were read. After the 1929 sale Earl had Gary Dingman build a post office beside his home on Easy Street (now Derby Road); a Reflections of Derby page says "he built" that building — this pamphlet keeps the more specific Dingman wording. Mrs. Catalano rented it from 1942 to April 15, 1950, then moved the post office to her home on Route 5. A postal card with the last postmark in that building, April 15, 1950, is signed by Jeannette S. Catalano, postmaster, and Helen C. Brodie and Charlotte Benjamin, clerks; the binder caption says it was mailed to Mrs. Adah Benjamin, while the card face is addressed to Mr. C. Church, the Buffalo-to-Dunkirk star route driver. Clarence Shepard was the first rural carrier, at $600 a year, on a 24.8-mile route. A Reflections page names George Carr as an earlier postmaster, before the office moved to Earl Benjamin's store. A 1909 map, with Dun & Bradstreet notes on the same page, shows Earl Benjamin's general store and post office, the Lake Shore station, the Pennsylvania and Nickel Plate station, and four tracks; the trolley was built in 1908. Other binder captions name Frank Benjamin's store; his home, later sold to Dr. A.K. Brodie; Mrs. Julia Benjamin; clerk John Getty; Harold Tucker; Allie Benjamin; and Dr. Thorn in his Ford in front of Mrs. Julia Benjamin's home. A July 4, 1923 group photograph from the same family batch is labeled Frank Boehm, Jim Doan, Eugene Brown, and James Owen; two numbers on the label are blank, and the location is not identified on the print. Later, Arthur S. and Virginia P. Hall ran Hall's Red & White (their years are not yet known) and in November 1946 sold the business and building to Stephen J. Chachula. A clearly labeled colorized version of an E.L. Benjamin's Store postcard is on the Before Steve's page of the website; it is not an original photograph.

Do you remember Steve's Red & White?

If you shopped at the store, or have photographs, papers, or stories about the Chachula, Hall, or Benjamin years, please share them so this neighborhood history can be preserved.

Town of Evans Historical Society

1857 School House Museum
8351 Erie Road, Angola, NY 14006
(716) 549-6139 · evanshistsoc@aol.com

Museum hours as previously listed: July–August, Sundays 2:00–4:00 p.m.; September–June, first Sunday of the month 2:00–4:00 p.m.; closed December–February. Please confirm before visiting. This pamphlet has not yet been sent to the Society.

Family compiler

Charles "Chuck" Hering, grandson of Stephen J. "Steve" Chachula, compiled the family photographs and accounts in this pamphlet.