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. Names Chuck Hering has given are listed on page 5; positions are still being confirmed and are not marked here.

This working 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 — a Derby local-history binder (source to be confirmed), and later public records of Stephen J. Chachula's death and of a 1994 fire. 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. That Steve's stood in the *same building* as the earlier Benjamin store is a FAMILY ACCOUNT.

> **About 1900.** A typed "Derby Post Office" page in the binder says Francis A. Benjamin built the store about 1900 on Sturgeon Point Road.
>
> **Early 1900s–1929.** It was Earl L. Benjamin's general store, and the Derby post office was here from 1907 to 1929. Earl ran a large country store from 1900 to 1929. In 1929 he sold the store to his brother Frank Benjamin.
>
> **1929 onward.** Frank Benjamin kept the store. How long he ran it is not stated on the binder pages that were read.
>
> **Later, years unknown.** Arthur S. and Virginia P. Hall ran it as Hall's Red & White Store, Derby, N.Y.
>
> **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.

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 (the newspaper is not named) 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.

Sources for this page: Derby local-history binder (source to be confirmed); Hall's Red & White statement, November 8, 1946, as transcribed; identifications and family accounts from Chuck Hering, November 24, 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 as the original paper was read. A scan will be inserted when the file is in hand. 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.

An earlier family note also mentioned a separate interior store photograph of Uncle Charlie with a partially visible woman. That picture has not yet been matched to the new outdoor Texaco photograph, and is still treated as a pending record.

Family photographs (originals to be inserted)

These pictures were described from the originals. Until the files are in hand, the captions stand in for the images. Originals will be reproduced unaltered.

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. See page 5 for the names Chuck has given and for the open question of who is standing where.

File names reserved for the scans: 01-grandfather-counter.jpg, 02-back-lot.jpg, 03-texaco-pump.jpg, 04-coca-cola-wall.jpg, 05-april-1956-kids.jpg, 06-1946-receipt.jpg.

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 named people in the picture, including his mother. He gave **six names** for a group of **about five** children and young people. The names are listed here exactly as given. They are **not** assigned to places in the picture, because those positions are still being confirmed.

- Elaine Hering (Chuck's mom)
- Steve Chachula
- "Ant" (this name is unclear; it may be a nickname, and has not been confirmed)
- 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 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. What "Ant" refers to is still an open question. If you can match a name to a person in the picture, please share that with the family or the Historical Society.

From the Derby local-history binder

Credit: **Derby local-history binder (source to be confirmed)**. A few facts as those pages were read:

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) was Derby postmaster from 1907 to 1942. After selling the store in 1929 he had Gary Dingman build a post office beside his home on Easy Street; Mrs. Catalano rented it from 1942 to April 15, 1950, then moved the post office to her home on Route 5. A 1909 map 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. Earl's motto, as typed: "Dealer in Everything, What we haven't got we get." 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.

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. Which named person is standing where in the April 1956 print, and what "Ant" refers to.
5. A newspaper account of the January 19, 1994 fire (family remembers it as the 1980s), and the year the grocery closed (evidently before 1994).
6. Unidentified people in the back-lot photograph, and the provenance of the Derby local-history binder.

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 been sent to the Society pending family approval.

Family compiler

Charles "Chuck" Hering
Phone: [to be added]
Email: [to be added]

Replace the bracketed contacts before printing or emailing this pamphlet.