

THE SENTINEL

Vol. 20, No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2011

The Old Jalopy

Timothy Albright

When I was a boy in the 1960s, my parents, Shirley and Joseph Albright had a 1923 FORD Model TT truck. They drove this truck in parades, at family picnics and on special occasions. We loved riding in this old truck that was so different from the cars of that time. We all knew the truck was special. Rarely did we see another truck like it. In 1968, a movie about an old truck called "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" was showing in the theaters. I felt our truck was just as special but of course it couldn't fly.

The history of the truck is local. It was owned by Charlie Livingston and Ella Albright who lived at the end

of Martin Road beneath the Helderberg escarpment. Charlie bought the truck new, to use in the farm, in 1923. The Ford Model TT was the auto maker's one-ton truck. The truck was sold for \$380.00 only as a chassis with everything except the body. Different body



styles were available including delivery van, livery hack, pick-up and more. These were sold separately. Charlie was a farmer so he built his own wood body.

The truck has an eight foot pick-up bed and was employed on the farm in many tasks. During the years Charlie had the truck, he built bench seats along the length of each side of the truck bed. Livingston brought people without transportation to and from the Voorhees-ville Methodist Church Services and also picnics. He was noted as a passionate Christian having also contributed an organ to the church's sanctuary.

The truck stayed in use until 1939, when another more modern truck took its place. Ella Albright lived from



1871-1948 and Charlie Livingston was born in 1868 and died in 1954. They had a daughter named Katherine who often played the organ at church. Katherine (Albright) Livingston passed the farm to her cousin Denton Albright and his wife

Mildred. They named the farm after Denton and their daughter Lynne calling it Linden Lane Farm. Linden trees also lined the lane approaching the house. The old farmhouse was in disrepair and was torn down to make way for a more modern ranch house built with stone. Lynne Albright became a successful artist and television set decorator whose accomplishments include the popular TV show "Cheers" about a Boston Bar. She also worked for Walt Disney.

My father became close friends with Denton Albright in the mid 1950s, always referring to him as a relative. Discovering that Denton had the old truck in his barn, Dad paid him \$100.00 for it in 1961. The truck was rough and some wooden body had to be replaced but he remained true to the original parts. The historical appearance and running condition was soon achieved. Sadly Denton died in 1963 while walking in the apple orchard at the farm. Mildred and Lynne were uncomfortable staying at the farm so it was sold and they made a new life in California. Stuart and Thelma Lehman bought the farm and kept it well.

My father continued to drive the truck at family events through the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. Susan and I used the truck as a transport to and from our wedding at the Methodist Church in 1987. In 1996, my Dad gave me the truck to care for and continue the legacy of its presence in our community. When I drive that truck, I think of how special that brand new truck must have been to Charlie and Ella in 1923. Just think, it's been driving on our town roads for 88 years. It operates and drives differently from

(Continued on page six)

NSHA's First Program for Season!

Tuesday, Oct. 4
New Perspectives on the Hudson Valley Indians
Presenter: Dr. James Folts

7:30 PM at the Community Center

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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Web Page

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President's Letter

Autumn is upon us and as the weather turns cooler our thoughts turn to history (or at least mine do!). This fall is an especially good one to focus on the Civil War given it is the 150th anniversary of that conflict. I was fortunate enough to visit Charleston, S.C. this summer and was able to see first hand Fort Sumter, where the war began, and the ruins of Middleton Plantation, destroyed by Union troops from New York State. However, you don't have to travel to the South to learn about the importance and impact of the war. In November, Bob Mulligan will be speaking on the importance of the Civil War and, beginning in this issue of the *Sentinel*, NSHA is publishing a series of fascinating letters written by John L Houck, a New Scotland resident who served in the Union Army.

NSHA is also a partner of the Voorheesville Public Library's Civil War Project. (see related *Sentinel* article). This fall, activities include a tour of Civil War era graves in Albany Rural Cemetery on Sunday October 2 at 1:30 and two book discussion sessions on Robin Oliveira's novel *My Name is Mary Sutter* on October 16 at 1:30 pm and repeated Wednesday, November 2, at 6:30 pm.

If your historical interests include more local topics, I draw your attention to our other fall programs, which include a presentation on Native Americans in the lower Hudson Valley and local artist Len Tantillo.

Autumn is also an excellent season to take the New Scotland driving tour. Besides our town's wonderful historic structures, the tour provides an opportunity to see our New Scotland's glorious physical environment, which will be enhanced by the changing colors of our leaf season. I especially recommend that my fellow Voorheesville residents tour the southern parts of New Scotland. The scenery in that part of the town is very impressive. You don't have to travel to New England to have a wonderful leaf peeping experience when you have New Scotland right outside your front door.

Alan Kowlowitz

Voorheesville Public Library's Civil War Grant and Fall Programs

Voorheesville is one of 65 libraries in the country selected by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in *Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War*, a reading and discussion series. Five discussion sessions, to be held January through May 2012, will be led by Andrea Foroughi, Associate Professor of History from Union College. Each session will focus on a different facet of the Civil War. Other programs are scheduled from October through May 2012.

A tour of Civil War era graves in Albany Rural Cemetery with local historian Mark Bodnar will take place Sunday, October 2 at 1:30.

Two book discussion sessions on the novel *My Name is Mary Sutter* by Robin Oliveira, with storyteller Kate Dudding talking about the life of Clara Barton, will be held Sunday, October 16 at 1:30 pm and repeated Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 pm.

For information about all programs, go to the library's website www.voorheesvillelibrary.org, check the program blog at http://www.civilwarprograms.blogspot.com or contact Suzanne Fisher at 765-2791 or suzanne.fisher@voorheesvillelibrary.org.

Memoriam

With deep sympathy we note the passing of NSHA Members Sharon Stein and Pauline Kendall.

Exhibit Report

Come see the new camera "mini-exhibit" by Don Slingerland on Clarksville, NY.,set up in early August. Featured are a variety of pre-1950 cameras of different styles and types. The earliest is a late 19th century (about 1898) No. 2 Kodak Bulls-Eye Camera designed to take one of Kodak's earliest roll films—style 101. The "newest" is a Miniature Speed Graphic dating from about 1945. These range from professional-grade cameras like the Century View Camera to beginners' cameras like the No. 0 Brownie Reflex Cameras.

Perhaps some of you can remember these cameras in use. Maybe you have even owned one! We would be glad to hear about them or see other old cameras you may have. Let us know if you would like to see a future exhibit featuring different old cameras. Please call me at 768-2462.

If you have a collection or hobby that you would like to display in our next mini-exhibit for January through April, please call me at 768-2462.

The 2012 Exhibit will be featuring The Civil War viewed from the Town of New Scotland. We need photos of family members who have served and any information about these brave men. These would be scanned in to our computer and returned to you. Any memorabilia such as uniforms, letters, cannon balls, flag, etc. from this war that the museum could borrow for display would be gratefully received. Also is there anyone who would like to be involved in helping to put this exhibit together? I need help!!! I would like it ready by the middle of January. Please call Sandy Slingerland, Exhibit Chairperson at 768-2462.

Mark Your Calendar Saturday Oct. 8th

Rejected—Too Small!

Saturday, October 8, 2011, from 1-3 PM the Onesquethaw Reformed Church, 11 Groesbeck Road, Feura Bush, will host a program "This and That from the Past" to celebrate the New Scotland Historical Association's 40th Anniversary.

The church was built from "rejected stones" which were "too small" for the Erie Canal. We are still going strong after 187 years. The Saturday program will feature the history of the church and community, a display of quilts, items from the home, barn-workshop and crockery, and who knows what else will be on display. The program is open to the public.

There will also be an old fashioned bake sale to benefit the senior youth groups mission trip.



Early photo of the Onesquethaw Reformed Church

Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, Sept. 17th the Unionville Church helped NSHA celebrate our 40 years of existence. Three times during the day Jeffrey Mudge gave an interesting historical tour of the church building and grounds. This was followed each time by "A Testimony of Glass," a presentation by Chuck Phillips that highlighted the symbolism and beauty found in the stained glass windows. The church was built in 1825 and the present windows were installed on the 100th anniversary. There was a display of artifacts in the dining room. Add to this, delicious "light refreshments" and you have to know that a good time was had by all. Thank you for coming!

"A Testimony in Glass" booklets were available for a donation and the money was given to the storm-ravaged Prattsville Reformed Church.

Martha Slingerland

Mission Statement

The Town of New Scotland Historical Association preserves, protects and promotes history in the Town of New Scotland through the stewardship of material culture directly related to the town. The purpose is to promote an appreciation of local history, heritage and culture through research, publications and educational programs.

Civil War Letters

"I received an email and then an envelope containing copies of Civil War letters. They were from my cousin Mandy Miller's husband Jim Miller. Jim had obtained these letters from my aunt, Jane Vonk. Jim is very interested in the Civil War and wanted these letters for his Civil War collection. He wanted to know if we were related to the Houck family. How did my aunt get her hands on these letters? This is still a mystery. We have since learned that the State Museum has 60 plus letters, from and to, John L. Houck in their collection." Sandy Slingerland

(Sandy asked me to transcribe these letters, which was a great project during those rainy days of spring! I copied all the letters exactly as they were written. The spelling was very good, capitalization ok and the punctuation was almost nonexistent. As a former First Grade teacher I was used to this! To make them easier to read, I left a space after each sentence. Bob helped me with the war terminology, as well as deciphering. We will have a letter in each of the following seven Sentinels. I hope you enjoy them as much as we did. Marion Parmenter)



Camp of Recruits near Alexandria Dec. 4, 1862

Dear wife,

I now take my pencil in hand to address a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and in good spirits we went from Albany about 7 o'clock on Friday night and hoping these few lines will find you all the same and got to Alexandria on Sunday about 4 then we marched about 1 mile to the camp where we are stationed and expect to stay about one month I am detailed to play for morning call or Guard mounting dinner-call I do not have to do any guard duty at all they want to keep me here all the time but and tattoo (drum roll) I shall move when the Company does we had a very nice and pleasant time when we went down to New York with the boat and to Washington with the cars we took dinner in Philadelphia and a very good dinner it was and I never heard such cheering in my life even the little children not more than 4 years old would catch us by the hand and say good by soldier I should like to see you all very much and I think it won't be long before I will as there is every prospect that the war will soon come to a close plenty to eat an drink good pork and beef and bread and coffee butter is worth 40 cents that we have to buy if we want it on Monday night there was a report of a musket and a ball whistled right over our heads and struck in the bank about 100 yards from us no one knows where it came from there was none of us hurt by it but it frightened some of them I have just come from Alexandria and the place looks desolate great many buildings are entirely deserted and the country around is all covered with camp tents and soldiers as far as the eve can reach I should like to have you write as soon as you get this and let me know how Lansing and Emma and Lena and your self gets along we have very pleasant weather here but way cold nights the boys are all in good spirits and lively as can be we get nothing here to drink but coffee and water a little sweet cider and ginger beer you must answer this as soon as you receive it no more at present so good bye

Direct your letter to Camp of Recruits near Alexandria Virginia

from your husband John L Houck

NSHA History—the fourth decade (or 2001—2011)

Marion Parmenter

The last decade has continued to be very busy for NSHA. To increase our visibility to the public, a large new sign was erected in front of the Community Center, complete with a light, to let the public know our location and museum hours. Signs indicating a museum were put up on Rte. 85. The museum was now open year round on Sundays from 2—4 PM rather than during the week in summer and fall. Recently, we have decided to close on holiday week-ends, because it is so difficult to find volunteers for these times. However, we will continue to open by special request.

Open banners were purchased for the corner of Rte. 85 and in front of the building. NSHA had exhibits at the Altamont Fair for several years, in addition to the Voorheesville Library. We even adopted an official NSHA shirt! Late in the decade our very own web site was created, and continues to be updated. The *Sentinel* has been published four times a year for the entire decade.

Historic Markers were erected at 17 locations during this time period. One of these was erected together with the Village of Voorheesville, and another with the Clarksville Historical Society. At the same time, some of the older markers in the town were repainted by NSHA volunteers.

Each year a new exhibit opened in the spring, with several smaller ones during the year. Every hamlet of the town was highlighted with an exhibit and a Plum Fest. Following this, we had exhibits featuring Agriculture, Old Fashioned Toys, World War I & II, and then expanded it to include the Korean Conflict. Then came the General Store Exhibit, CCC Exhibit, Barber Shop Exhibit and the current exhibit featuring the history of NSHA over the first 40 years.

We partnered with the Saratoga Military Museum to interview New Scotland Veterans. The museum also made us DVDs of all the New Scotland Veterans that have been interviewed by them over the years. Currently we have 31 interviews on DVDs in our collection. Museum visitors are welcome to view any of these. If any New Scotland Veterans out there would like to be interviewed, please contact Bob Parmenter and he will arrange it with the Military Museum. Interviews would take place here in New Scotland.

In addition NSHA continues to conduct Oral History interviews of New Scotland residents. All of the NSHA programs have been transferred to DVDs and are available for members to borrow.

During this period several items have been restored thanks to the generosity of the NSHA members: New Salem WW I Service Banner, Feather Wreath, Slingerland Mill Survey Map, Indenture for 84 Voorheesville

Ave, dated 1805, Release of Rents from Van Rensselaer to Fryer, Hilton and Woods of Voorheesville, Indenture from Stephen VanRensselaer to Stephen Lucas, 1789, and a Cotton Parasol dating to the early 20th Century which says Voorheesville IOOF (Improved Order of Odd Fellows) used for parades, etc.

Fourteen archival albums, with sleeves, were purchased to house our large photo collection. These replaced the old binders we were using. New display boards were recently purchased. Be sure to come in and see them. They are a wonderful addition to the museum.

Center track lights were added in both rooms of the museum. UV filters were installed on all the museum lights, office lights and the hall lights to protect the collection

Archival storage shelves were installed in the office. A computer, scanner and printer were purchased in addition to a copy machine. We had a Security System installed. We purchased a much needed storage barn. Recently we had power installed in the barn—lights and outlets! Previous to this, many new outlets were installed in the museum, which replaced the many leads we had been forced to use to light the displays.

The new memory book, "Times of Our Lives," a collection of memories written by folks who are now or have been residents of New Scotland, was published this spring. What a treasure trove of history about the town. If you haven't seen it yet, please do! It is available for sale at the museum, Voorheesville Library, and Town Hall

In going through all the early records I realized that I was the person who filled out the application for the Absolute Charter in 1975, as I was president at the time! We had to briefly outline the purposes and goals of the organization. The Board wrote: "Preservation of Historic Artifacts of the Town of New Scotland, collecting printed materials, pictures and artifacts, disseminate historical information and arouse interest in past as well as present, by publishing materials in papers, engaging speakers, marking historic sites, and awakening public interest." 40 years later, I would say we are still on track, and should be proud of what we have accomplished to date!

October Senior Bus Tours

Just a reminder: Susan Kidder is taking names for the Fall Bus Tours.

Tuesday, Oct. 18th & Tuesday Oct. 25th Come and see the town dressed in its fall colors!

Contact Susan Kidder 439-9038. For more information, call Parmenter's at 765-4652.

John L. Houck

Martha Slingerlands, our NSHA's Genealogist Chairperson, came up with this information about John (L) Lewis Houck. It is as follows. These records were taken from the Bible owned by Jacob L. Houck & Christiana Houck Houck. They were the parents of John Lewis Houck (the writer of the Civil War letter). Please note that the early spelling was Huyk and Huyck. It finally became Houck. The Houck family is buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, New Salem.

Jacob L. Houck was b. Sept 16, 1805, d. Jan. 5, 1870. He had 4 brothers, Peter Lewis b. Jan. 10, 1807; John b. Dec.1, 1809; James b. Dec. 15, 1818; Simon b. Mar. 7, 1823. and 2 sisters Mary Jane b. Mar. 18, 1812, and Hannah Jan. 1, 1815.

Christiana Houck b. Mar. 23, 1805 d. Dec. 31, 1893. Her father was Jacob G. Houck. She was sister to Peter G. Houck, the father of Christine Houck Kniffin. Jacob L Houck and Christiana Houck Houck was married Oct. 23, 1828.

They had 4 children.

*John Lewis Houck b. Aug. 14, 1829, d. July 19, 1910 Jacob Henry Houck 2nd b. Oct. 5, 1832, d. Aug. 3, 1834 Jacob Henry Houck 3rd. Nov. 6, 1836 d. Sept 14, 1839 Jacob Taylor Houck b. July 20, 1849, d. Jan. 31, 1855

*John Lewis Houck and Sophia Elizabeth Beller b. ? d. Dec. 14, 1904 was married Dec. 30, 1848. They had 4 children.

Emma Louise Houck, b. Nov. 6, 1849, d. Jan. 2, 1936 Mary Lena Houck b. July 24, 1854, d. Nov. 19, 1918 James Lansing Houck b. Oct. 11, 1858, d. Mar. 18, 1925 Ada Christiana Houck b. Apr. 29, 1868, d. Apr. 10, 1935

(cont. from page one)

today's vehicles. You have to learn to get it just right. The top speed is 25 mph with a tail wind. Because it was a workhorse, it was geared for a slower pace than the Model T Car.

This year the truck and I were proud to transport founding members of the New Scotland Historical Association in the 2011 Voorheesville Memorial Day Parade. They are Martha Slingerland and Sam Youmans. Others celebrated the Association's 40 Year Anniversary by riding in the truck and marching along side it.

Tales of a Highwayman The Muffin Lady

"Do you know the muffin man, the muffin man, the muffin man?

Do you know the muffin man that lives on Drury Lane?"

This is an old child's nursery rhyme that all we older folks can remember. Well, I didn't know the muffin man, but I knew the muffin lady who lived in Salem Hills.

We made it a practice never to get involved personally with a resident when it came to snow removal. We did not want to set a precedent in any way. One particular afternoon, as I was leaving Salem Hills, a woman stopped me. She was in tears and informed me that just after she had shoveled out the end of her driveway, Big John came by and filled it up again. She was distraught, as she was supposed to pick her husband up at the airport shortly and didn't think she had the strength left to shovel her driveway again. Well, you can guess what happened. In a moment of weakness I pulled into her driveway, dropped the plow and back-dragged the snow out so she could get her car out. Little did I know what future ramifications this simple act of kindness would have.

Some of you may remember when the village garage was where the village office is now. I had completely forgotten about that lady until the next spring when she would return to haunt me. One particular morning, I spotted her coming down the street towards me with a box of muffins she had made especially for me. Well, you can just imagine how Wild Bill and Big John reacted to this whole scene. She instantly became the muffin lady and would return many times with more goodies. I would see her coming and hide in the back room and ask the boys to tell her I wasn't there. Well you can imagine how well that worked. I can still hear them yelling out "Willard, you have company" and I would have to come out and face the music. This lady eventually moved to Texas, thank heavens, but still sent me postcards for a couple of years.

This is something I have never lived down and whenever I used to see the late Wild Bill, or see Norm Bailey, we laughed about my adventures with the "Muffin Lady."

Until the next adventure Will Osterhout

Sam Youmans and Tim Albright in the Old Jalopy after the Memorial Day Parade—2011



New Scotland Historical Association Program Schedule 2011 - 2012

October 4th Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *New Perspectives on the Hudson Valley Indians* Presented by historian and author Dr. James Folts, Head of Reference Services at the New York State Archives.

November 1st Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *How and Why Do We Remember the Civil War?* In Song and Story, Prose and Poetry, Americans today remember events and attitudes of the Civil War. Robert E. Mulligan, local historian and museum curator, will present a look at some aspects of this historical legacy.

<u>December 6th</u> Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Saint Nicholas, the Saint Who Became Santa* Food historian Peter G. Rose will delve into the early history of Saint Nicholas, relate how he was brought to America by the Dutch in the 17th century, and again transformed into Santa in the 19th century. This talk encompasses literature, religion, the fine arts and Dutch food.

February 7th Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Voorheesville: Ties That Bind, Forging Community in a 19th and Early 20th Century Railroad Town* Presented by local historian, poet and author Dennis Sullivan.

March 6th Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Albany Rural Cemetery in the Civil War* In this power point presentation, local Civil War historian Mark Bodnar will take us on a virtual tour of the Albany Rural Cemetery, weaving a tapestry of military interest, genealogical research and local history.

<u>April 3rd</u> Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *The Star-Spangled Banner: Songs From the Second War of Independence* A taste of history in song, with sing-along selections of American historic music – ranging from battle cries to fireside ballads –from the time surrounding the War of 1812. Presented by noted Capital Region musicians Tom Lindsay and Michael Eck.

May 1st Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Historical Painting and Its Challenges* Renowned Hudson Valley artist Len Tantillo will describe the particular artistic process involved in creating historical artwork.

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Historic Marker Update

The Historical Marker has been put on hold so the new owners of the Eberle House can get settled in. It should be finalized this fall.

Sandy Slingerland, Chairperson Historic Sites

If you	would lik	e to b	ecome	a member,
please	do so!			

NSHA Membership Form

\$10 Individual

\$15 Family

\$25 Sustaining

\$100.00 Life (per person)

Name

Street

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

Make checks payable to NSHA.

Please send dues to: NSHA

Melanie Ernst, Membership Chair

P.O. Box 541

Museum Hours

The museum is open year-round on Sunday from 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Handicap Accessible

THE SENTINEL

New Scotland Historical Association P. O. Box 541 Voorheesville, New York 12186