



# THE SENTINEL

Vol. 28, No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2019

## MARTHA SLINGERLAND



The New Scotland Historical Association is mourning the loss of founding member Martha Slingerland who passed away in July. Martha devoted a significant part of her life to preserving the recorded history of the Town of New Scotland.

In addition to serving as the chair of the association's genealogy committee for many years, she was a major force in the completion of the Moak family genealogy. She also spent many hours transcribing many of the diaries left by former residents of the town, some of which she prepared for publication.

Martha attended conferences on genealogy in an effort to keep the association in touch with the latest in the field. To preserve the records of days gone by, she worked on two state-funded projects whose purpose was to help preserve the records of the Town of New Scotland and the Village of Voorheesville.

The Officers and Board of Trustees presented The Arthur Pound Award to Martha in 1994. The honor is only presented when the association deems a person is worthy of "outstanding service in the promotion and preservation of the history of the Town of New Scotland."

Sherry Burgoon, *Sentinel* Editor



Martha being recognized for 40 years as NSHA member.



NSHA Fashion show. Martha is second from the right. 1971



Martha receiving the Pound Award. 1994

Photos courtesy of Don Slingerland

# NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

## OFFICERS 2019-2020

### President

Alan Kowlowitz 518-765-4212

### Vice President

Sarita Winchell 518-765-2133

### Corresponding Secretary

Peg Dorgan 518-768-2852

### Recording Secretary

Laurie Lysenko 518-765-2029

### Treasurer (Interim)

Jim Fritz 518-768-2251

### TRUSTEES:

AnnMarie Hess '20 518-229-4750

Chris Albright '22 518-765-2018

Robert Parmenter '21 518-765-4652

Sherry Burgoon '22 518-225-0797

Richard Frohlich '20 518-765-2243

Lynne Samuel '21 518-765-4550

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

#### Membership

Amy Heebner 518-768-2272

#### Programs

Alan Kowlowitz 518-765-4212

#### Publicity

Judy Kimes 518-768-2607

#### Hospitality

**VACANT**

#### Collections

Lea Warden 518-588-8602

#### Exhibits

AnnMarie Hess 518-229-4750

#### Genealogy

Chris Albright 518-765-2018

#### Finance

**VACANT**

#### Historic Sites

Chris Albright 518-765-2018

#### Electronic Communications

Alan Kowlowitz 518-765-4212

#### Town Historian

Robert Parmenter 518-765-4652

#### Voorheesville Historian

Dennis Sullivan 518-765-2468

#### Sentinel Committee

Sherry Burgoon 518-225-0797

Judy Kimes 518-768-2607

Mary Beth (Frohlich) Felice

#### Web Page

[www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org](http://www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org)

Email: [newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com](mailto:newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com)

## President's Letter

I hope everyone had a great summer.

It has been a pretty busy one for NSHA. First let me welcome our new Treasurer Jim Fritz. This fall Jim will assume Treasurer duties from Lisa Boehlke who kindly served as interim Treasurer after her term expired in May. We thank Lisa for her years of service on the Board, as Hospitality Chair and Treasurer. Lisa will be missed. We are very happy and grateful to have Jim accept the Treasurer position. He has served in this capacity for the New Scotland Beagle Club for decades. He is a long-term New Scotland resident and a friend and neighbor to many of us.

I must also mention that we still do not have a Hospitality Chair, so if any of you are interested in that position, please contact me or any of our other Board members.

In other news, the proposed law to establish a joint Historical Preservation Commission for the Village of Voorheesville and Town of New Scotland has been moving forward. At this writing, the Village has reviewed the law and sent it on for review by the Albany Planning Board. The Town Board is in the process of considering the law and will be discussing it at its September 11 meeting. Please watch the Village and Town Board calendars for the public hearings on the law and consider attending to show your support.

Within the *Sentinel* you will also find our program schedule for the 2019-2020. This year we offer programs ranging from genealogical sources at the State Archives to restoring a historic home, to a musical program telling the story of the lead up to Prohibition.

During the summer, our Collections Committee has continued to work diligently on automating access to our Association's collections. This has been a herculean task and will be a major accomplishment. When it is completed by the end of this or early next year, it will greatly open up access to our collections to our members and the interested public.

I have to end my letter with a sad note, this summer Martha Slingerland passed away. Martha was an amazing person, a charter NSHA member, and great friend to New Scotland's historical heritage. We have included a retrospective on Martha's career in this issue of *The Sentinel*. The Association also plans to dedicate annually one of our programs to Martha's memory.

Alan Kowlowitz, President

### 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.

## A Friend Remembered:

Martha Slingerland—Where do we start?? We joined NSHA in the early 1970's, not long after Bob was asked to be Town Historian.

At the first NSHA meeting we attended, Martha took us under her wing and led the way. History was her “thing,” that was for sure—as it was ours. She showed us around the museum room and explained some of the projects underway.

Soon after that, she and her husband Harold invited us to their home just outside of Clarksville to visit. They proceeded to ask us about our home! We told them what we knew—that my grandfather purchased it in 1937. It was in terrible condition and had to be rebuilt. The farm buildings also needed much work. Turned out our home and property had originally been owned by her husband's family many years before! They showed us some papers they had—including original Indentures, etc. Before we left to go home, they put them all in a shoebox and told us they wanted us to have them!! We were astounded!

Martha's sense of humor was wonderful and witty. Little did we realize-- she and her husband had “caught us” and we've been involved in Town History one way or another ever since.

Over the years we worked with Martha on many museum exhibits, the school program for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, and Drive Around Tours. She wrote many articles for the *Sentinel*, and was a recipient of the Pound Award—to recognize her for all the work she did for NSHA.

We remember the countless phone calls back and forth to Martha, when NSHA was creating the **New Scotland Township Book**. She was a walking, talking encyclopedia of local history, **ALWAYS** very patient when she answered the phone, and she'd call back in no time if she had to look something up. She kept wonderful records.

For many, many years she was the official Genealogist for NSHA.

There are some great pictures of her in the NSHA albums in the museum. Bob always gets a kick out of the picture of her carrying a big musket into the museum one day. She was a delight and an inspiration to work with. Those who knew her will never forget her, her delightful smile, and all her accomplishments over the years.

Bob and Marion Parmenter



Photo Upper Left: Martha enjoying the celebration for Thacher Park in 2014.

Middle Photo: Martha with son and daughter-in-law, Don and Sandy Slingerland at the NSHA Museum 's Thacher Park Exhibit. 2014

Photo Upper Right: Martha presenting the Pound Award to Peg Dorgan in 2010

Photo Bottom : Martha with two WWII soldiers who visited the NSHA Museum's WWII exhibit.

The following was written by Martha Slingerland for the Winter, 2009 issue of **The Sentinel**

**Vanderzee LaGrange Diaries**  
Martha G. Slingerland October 10, 1985.

These excerpts from the diaries of Vanderzee LaGrange were made possible through the kindness of his grandson, J. Earle LaGrange who made this priceless series of journals available to me. "Van," as he was known in the community, was not one to waste words but his diaries give a picture of farm and community life from 1865, when he was 19 years old until his death on March 17, 1927 at the age of 81. I hereby dedicate these writings to the memory of his grandson, J. Earle LaGrange who died very suddenly on July 18, 1982. He was a dear friend to all of us and especially to his church family here in Unionville. He provided me with a wealth of information, both written and oral and was largely responsible for developing my budding interest in family, church, and community history. (*See photo of James Earle LaGrange on page 5*)

Vanderzee LaGrange was born near Guilderland Center on Sept. 8, 1845 to Myndert and Julia LaGrange. He was the fifth of their sixteen children. His journals start January 1, 1865 and he records that on April 26 that year he went to Albany to attend the president's funeral. This would have been Pres. Abraham Lincoln. The following month, on May 6, he signed on as a crew member of the "Kate" at the Port of Albany, Captain Benjamin in charge. They loaded slate at Schenectady and took it to Buffalo. Then they loaded wheat and took that to New York City. They unloaded the wheat at Pier 2. There Van left the "Kate" and took the "America," apparently a night boat, back to Albany, arriving at 8 O'clock on June 28th. And so back to farming. On Nov. 5, 1868 he married Agnes Maria Slingerland, daughter of "Gen." James Slingerland and Hester, his wife. His first land purchase, in 1874, was the Peter Bartlett farm which was on the south side of Delaware Turnpike on top of Unionville Hill, approximately where Chet and Sharon Boehlke now live. In 1880 he bought the J. Scutt house "Across the road" and moved into the house now occupied by the Brian Burkins family. In 1889 they moved again having purchased the Fisher place on Unionville Feura Bush Road, now owned by Roger Contento. They called this place Crystal Spring Farm and raised fruit and berries extensively. They also did extensive improvements on the property including a fountain on the front lawn. In 1913 they sold this place to Herbert Attwood of Flat Bush, Long Island and moved back to the old Slingerland farm where Agnes had lived as a child. Thus the old Slingerland place became the LaGrange farm. Vanderzee LaGrange and his wife joined Union Church by letter from Jerusalem March 1, 1879. He was elected deacon Dec. 24, 1879 and became an elder April 14, 1889. He also served as Sunday School superintendent and taught the adult Bible class for about 25 years up to his death.

- 23 Nov. 1893: at night to Union Church. Organized Christian Endeavor
- 12 May 1902: to parsonage taking down barn
- 21 Feb. 1906: to Voorheesville after lumber for new Lecture Room. The congregation drew 18 loads
- 3 May 1906: Brought lime out (from Albany) for Church
- 4 & 5 May 1906: helping lay foundation wall at church for Lecture Room
- 14 May 1906: to Feura Bush after Lumber for church
- 23 May 1906: to Voorheesville after window frames for Church Hall
- 1 June 1906: to church laying foundation of Lecture Room
- 4 June 1906: Raising church Lecture Room
- 11 June 1906: to stone house after poles for church scaffold (This was the farm with stone house on what is now Rock City Rd.
- 6 Aug. 1906: to Albany. Brought back Brick for Church Hall
- 19 Sept. 1906: Brought floor plank home for church hall
- 21 Sept. 1906: Helping on new church hall (Also Sept. 22 & 24)
- 25 Sept. 1906: Classes of Albany met in Church. Took dinner in new Church Hall.
- 29 Sept. 1906: to Albany after stairs for Church Hall.
- 12 Oct. 1906: working on Church Hall
- 10 Nov. 1906: Went to Troy. Bought Stove for lecture Room
- 12 Nov. 1906: Brought stove home from Troy for Lecture Room
- 29 Nov. 1906: Working in New church Hall A.M. Night to Chicken Supper
- 17 Dec.. 1906: to Feura Bush after ceiling for Hall
- 24 Dec. 1906: to see Ginder at South Bethlehem about school house mason work
- 2 Mar. 1907: to Delmar to make contract with Schoonmaker for New School House
- 4 Apr. 1907: to stake out New School House
- 2 July 1907: Sold Old School House at Auction to Lewis Edinger for \$32.50
- 29 Aug. 1907: to Lehman's mills after lumber for school house
- 2 Sept. 1907: Drawing gravel for school house
- 7 Sept. 1907: Moving seats from old school to new
- 12 Sept.1907: to Slingerlands to see Miss Barton about school
- 14 Sept. 1907: Working at new school house
- 16 Nov 1907: to Delmar after man to put seats in school house (In the back of the book is a list of expenses incurred in building the school. It includes \$3.00 for moving seats, \$132 for new seats and incidental expenses on privies \$39.19.)

**(Continued on Page 5)**

## Vanderzee LaGrange Diaries (Continued from Page 4)

9 Mar. 1908: to church hall afternoon putting steel ceiling on  
4 Sept. 1915: Helping put new seats in the church  
9 Sept. 1915: to anniversary of our church afternoon and evening  
22 Dec. 1916: to church helping paper  
2 June 1917: to Union Church with plank to fix sheds  
15 May 1923: to Church to see about new windows in church  
27 July 1925: at night to church about Electric light  
30 July 1925: to buy poles for Electric wire for church  
14 Aug. 1925: Notify Ladies Aid to go to Albany to select fixtures for church electric  
15 Aug. 1925: to Albany with Grace Oliver, Ida Slingerland, Eliza Oliver, Flora Morehouse to order electric fixtures for church  
2 Sept. 1925: to Delmar RR station after electric light fixtures for church  
11 Oct. 1925: to Union Church. Van Ess preached Anniversary Sermon. Came here to supper  
18 Oct. 1925: Rev. McCord, Rev. T.A. Beekman preached, Rev. Ballard offered prayer  
19 Oct. 1925: to Albany with Dodge car. Grace and Tine Oliver with me to get flowers for church Classis meeting at night for 100th anniversary  
20 Oct. 1925: to Albany Classis in Church. Supper at night and meeting for 100 year Anniversary  
21 Oct. 1925: to Church Anniversary P.M. and at night. 4 ministers spoke after supper  
13 July 1926: Consistory met with RR men at Parsonage about underground crossing  
5 Aug. 1926: at night to church. Consistory sold parsonage to RR  
8 Jan. 1927: Kenneth Creble was here. I signed deed to sell Parsonage to RR.

By this time, Van was in his 82nd year. He died March 17, 1927. A lot of changes took place within his life span and he seemed to accept them all with good grace, even enthusiasm.

He took his first automobile ride June 5, 1909 when he was in Rochester as a delegate to General Synod. The following April he bought his first Buick, 30 horse, \$1,500.

In June, he was "building house for auto". He never lost his love for horses or enjoyment of a good horse trade though.

Small wonder since it was sometimes necessary for the horses to rescue the auto from snow and mud.

Our church has served and been served by six generations of his family up to this time.

Martha Slingerland October 10, 1985

## DIARY OF HATTIE (FLANSBURG) O'BRIEN

1. Sunday, May 1, 1892...weather rainy  
Attended church. Our new minister, A. O. Miller, preached. His wife was at church. First I had seen her. She looks young. Smith home all day. David called, he came to ask Smith to help him to get a pavilion.
2. Thursday, July 6, 1893.....weather nice  
Hattie has been here again today.  
Emeline came and mended stockings for me after work. Smith went to Chesterville and back. I attended prayer meeting.
3. Monday, August 21, 1893...weather nice  
Picked rest of early peaches set them in wagon house. Smith has sold them to Winston for his Sunday school picnic. I do not feel well today so I have not washed. Grace is not well either.
4. Wednesday, September 28, 1898  
Ida and Katie Young came out on their bicycles. Took dinner and visitors until 3:30, then started back

NOTE: These are copied directly from (my great-grandmother) Hattie's diary, so grammar and punctuation are hers.

Submitted by Mary Beth (Frohlich) Felice



Photo of Mr. and Mrs. James Slingerland La-Grange (seated) with James Earle LaGrange (their son) and Marvin C. LaGrange (grandson).

## Sunshine's Corner

Written by MaryBeth (Frohlich) Felice

Growing up in Voorheesville in the 50's was an interesting time.

At that time our homestead, Willow Brook Farm (on 85A), was not even in the village limits.

Grades K-12 were housed in one building, which is now the Voorheesville Elementary School. My graduating class of 1958 was considered large in those days with 33 members.

Activities then centered around school, athletic activities or church. And of course, that new-fangled thing called television.

When TV came to my house, I was excited. One of my favorite shows was American Bandstand. The show featured high school kids in Philadelphia dancing "the latest" dances to the latest music. How dreamy!

I believe it was the show's popularity that caused our local TV channel to start its own dance show. High schools in the Capital Region were invited to come in to Albany to dance in a competition which was TELEVISED! A group of us from Voorheesville actually went and entered the competition. Guess what—my partner, Dave Picard, and I entered the competition and WON, three times running! I even got the trophy to prove it. Let's face it. That was a mighty big deal in the 50's.



Photo from the television show "American Bandstand" with Dick Clark

## New Scotland Historical Association's Draft Program Schedule 2019-2020

(Titles are tentative and subject to change)

**Oct. 1, 2019 (7:30pm-9:30pm) This Old Historic House: How to Restore a Period Home** - Architect John Mesick will talk about how one should go about restoring an old period house. A retired architect, John's former firm worked for nearly forty years in restoring interiors of the NYS Capitol as well as on restoration projects at Jefferson's two homes, Monticello and Poplar Forest, and several of his buildings at the University of Virginia.

**Nov. 3, 2019 (2:00pm) - Albany's Lost 98 Acres** - In 1962, the New York State seized 40 blocks in the core of downtown Albany for construction of Empire State Plaza. During the next two-and-a-half years, the State tore down 1,150 buildings, displacing roughly 400 small businesses, 3,300 households, and 7,000 people—over 5% of the city's population. Historian Dr. David Hochfelder will tell some of the stories of these people and their communities.

**Dec. 3, 2019 (7:30pm) Demon Rum! Songs of Temperance and Prohibition** - Take something away, you only make it more attractive. Songs of temperance and prohibition come from both sides of the bar, with some trying to quell the flow of demon rum and others hurrying to drink it up. As ever, Lost Radio Rounders finds the history, the humor and the pathos in the great American battle over the bottle.

**Feb. 2, 2020 (2:00pm) Bob and Ray Eberle, the pride of Hoosick Falls** - Hoosick Falls natives, Bob and his brother, Ray Eberle were both singing stars of the Big Band era. They were extremely popular, singing with the likes of Jimmy Dorsey, and Glen Miller, and in popularity polls were consistently ranked with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. NSHA member and musician Bob Suss will describe the brother's careers with pictures, and audio clips.

**March 1, 2020 (2:00pm) Genealogy Research at the NY State Archives** - John Diefenderfer, of the New York State Archives, will provide an overview of the records at the State Archives that are rich genealogical sources including real property records, military service records, census records, naturalization records and wills and probate records. He will also demonstrate the online access tools available to researchers to locate information at the Archives.

**April 7, 2020 (7:30pm) "Getting the Job Done: Construction, Builders, and Building Materials in the Upper Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, 1755-1765."** - The French and Indian War transformed Albany and its surrounding area. The growth in the region included the construction of a number of large residences that followed the model of English "country seats." Archeologist Walter Wheeler will examine construction practices, materials acquisition, and labor sources used to construct these buildings.

**May 5, 2020 (7:30pm) The Ten Broeck Family and its Mansion 1798-1947** - Ten Broeck Mansion staff will present a virtual tour of the Mansion and discuss the members of this prominent Albany family who lived there.

**All Programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center**

### NSHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Basic

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Patron

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Sustaining

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Life (per person)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you would prefer to receive *The Sentinel*  
via e-mail

Mail checks Payable to: New Scotland Historical Association

Amy Heebner  
NSHA Membership Chair  
1403 Delaware Turnpike  
Delmar, NY 12054

# Please Support our Corporate Sponsors!

**Advanced Auto Repair**  
518-765-2078  
**Advanced Car Wash**  
48 Voorheesville Avenue  
518-765-3278

**Helderberg Oil**  
518-768-8300

**Atlantis Security Group Inc.**  
[asg01@nycap.rr.com](mailto:asg01@nycap.rr.com)

**Steven Lysenko, DMD, PLLC**  
518-765-4616

**Corner Gateway**  
[www.cornergateway.com](http://www.cornergateway.com)  
518-512-5454

**Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club**  
518-765-9395  
[www.vrgclub.com](http://www.vrgclub.com)

**Dunston Brothers, Inc.**  
518-768-2205

## **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