



THE SENTINEL

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The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2018

How Voorheesville Celebrated Victory Day, November 11, 1918

By Debbie Mahan



One hundred years ago on November 11, 1918, the war that we know today as World War 1 came to end with the signing of the armistice by Germany. Many young men's lives had been lost, and the news that no more soldiers would be sent to Europe to fight brought feelings of joy to the citizens of the Town of New Scotland. Parades and celebrations were numerous. Below is an account of the celebration held in Voorheesville as was recorded in *The Altamont Enterprise* on November 15, 1918:

The Victory Day celebration in Voorheesville was surely one long to be remembered. The news of the signing by Germany of the armistice terms came by telephone at 3:30 o'clock Monday morning. The news flew like wildfire and immediately bells were ringing and whistles shrieking, announcing to the village that the world war was over. Even before daylight, the streets were filled with people, parading and making all the noise possible. Fires were burning, and the day was well started for the greater event of the evening. Hurried preparations were made during the day and by 7:30 in the evening people began to arrive until it was thought the largest crowd that ever came to Voorheesville was in attendance. It is estimated that there were nearly 1,000 people on the streets of the village.

The parade started at 7:30 from Odd Fellows' Hall. First in line were the village officials and the local advisory board, then the band, fife and drum corps from St. Vincent's asylum of Albany. Following them were the ladies of the Red Cross, number at least 75 who made a pretty sight in their white veils; the teachers of the school and the school children, the citizens of the village, and lastly many automobiles, one carrying an effigy of the former Kaiser of Germany. The parade marched up Main Street and then down Main and over each road a short distance out of the village, thence back to Main Street. When near Odd Fellows' Hall, they halted. On a plot of ground owned by the village president, Frank Bloomingdale, a place had been prepared to burn the Kaiser, and he was burned several times over, so that he surely must be dead.

After the celebration, the band and the ladies of the Red Cross were invited to partake of refreshments, consisting of sandwiches and coffee, at Odd Fellows' Hall, the refreshments being furnished by the men of the village. It was a great surprise to the ladies, and was greatly appreciated. A collection was taken among the men to defray the expense of the band.

The whole day was a joyous one here, as well as over all the nation, celebrating the end of the most awful war known in history. When the boys all get home once more then the celebration will be complete; as the world moves on again as in former times, may we now hope for a better people that will never make war again, a people who will have a firmer hold on God and will follow His teaching: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."

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President's Letter

I hope everyone had a great summer. This summer has not been a time of inactivity for our Association. We have had committees at work reconfiguring the space in our Museum, entering information on our collections into Past Perfect software so they will more accessible, and developing new exhibits. We have also developed a line-up of interesting programs that are listed in this issue of the *Sentinel*. (See Page 7)

NSHA has also launched a committee to develop a proposed historic preservation law and commission for the Town of New Scotland and the Village of Voorheesville based on the ones in place in the Town of Clifton Park <http://www.cliftonpark.org/committees-commissions/historic-preservation-commission.html>.

This committee includes members of the NSHA Board as well as other community members interested in preserving historic structures and sites in our communities. I invite any of who are interested in joining our committee to come to our first meeting in late September. The date and time will be posted on our website <http://www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org/>

I am also sad to say that we have not yet recovered the historical marker honoring Civil War veteran Captain Henry Crouse that stood at the Crouse house on Picard Road, just north of Helderledge Farm. Sometime between Christmas 2017 and January 6, 2018 a vehicle hit and dislodged the historical marker. At the time of the accident/incident, no police report was filed. Some small shards were subsequently found and we were hopeful that the marker was thrown into a nearby marsh and could be recovered in the summer. However, the marker has not been found to date and we believe somebody may have removed it or pieces of it. Historical markers are expensive to fabricate and we believe that if the marker is found and returned to NSHA, we could have it repaired and reinstalled. We request that you contact any NSHA Board member if you have any information about the marker or the accident that destroyed it.

Alan Kowlowitz, President

REMINDER

If you haven't done so already, please send in your membership renewal. (See membership form on page 3)

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.

In memory of Ed Clark

Town Supervisor, January 2002 -December 31, 2007

The Town of New Scotland has had a long history of attracting vibrant, civic minded people from afar who ultimately chose this area as their long-term residence. Such is the case of former Town Supervisor Ed Clark, who passed away on May 25, 2018.

Ed was born in Staten Island in 1936. His Irish family background was like others who lived in the neighborhood. His father ran a gas station and automotive shop while his wife Katherine raised their three children. Ed eventually went on to Catholic University earning a degree in economics. While working for the state's Department of Labor, he earned a promotion giving him the option of working in New York City or Albany. Choosing Albany allowed Ed to pursue a master's degree in public relations which led to a job with New York State Assembly leader, Charles Rappleyea. These opportunities prepared him for the public service he gave to the Town and the Village of Voorheesville.

Ed and his wife Katherine chose to settle on Glen Street in Voorheesville, residing there for 45 years. He began his "life of service" while serving in the Army for two years. As a village resident he was active in the American Legion for many years. The Village of Voorheesville was fortunate to have Ed's dedication: six years on the Village Planning Commission, three years as a trustee, and 17 years as mayor. This experience led him to the position of Town Supervisor.

It is Ed's personality and "apolitical" leadership style which led him to success in his personal endeavors and community involvement. Kevin Jobin-Davis, who worked with Ed in both the village and town government, described him as a "consensus decision-maker" listening to everyone regardless of party. Lauren Meacham, Voorheesville's clerk and treasurer for 16 years, said, "He was a wonderful, progressive person." She added, "He introduced our computer system. He got us out of the dark ages." Lauren's husband Don Meacham, village attorney for 27 years, identified his "ability to diffuse a situation before it got out of hand. He'd go right to the source to talk to both sides. He'd get the fire out before it ignited."

Mr. Clark worked diligently to provide funds for projects with the help of both federal and state government agencies: three bridges were replaced with FEMA funds, replacement of the village sewage treatment plant for Salem Hills, extended sidewalks and sewer lines with the help of state funds, along with a new water tank on route 85. Ed supported recreational programs in the village and town. Personally, he helped maintain the hiking trails on both the Holt Preserve and Bennett Hill.

Son Tom Clarke and friend Don Meacham echoed their views on Mr. Clark.

Tom: "He was always very interested in other people and their ideas, and not so much about his own stuff."

Don: "He had no self-interest at all. He had no personal agenda. He wanted what was good for the village."

The Town of New Scotland was fortunate to benefit from Ed Clarke's leadership and devotion to our country, the Village of Voorheesville and town.

I reached out to Tom Clark, Ed's son, via life-long friend Ben Greenberg. Tom directed me to *The Altamont Enterprise* article since it contained all the information needed for this tribute. I have condensed the information, highlighting both his personal information and governmental involvement.

The entire article can be found online at *The Altamont Enterprise Milestones*, Thursday, May 31, 2018.

By Sherry Burgoon, Editor

NSHA Membership Form

- _____ \$15 Basic
- _____ \$30 Sustaining
- _____ \$50 Patron
- _____ \$150.00 Life (per person)

Name _____

Street _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send dues to:

Make checks payable to NSHA.

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

4-H: Providing a Legacy of “Learning by Doing”

By Judy Kimes

“I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.” Those are the 4-Hs of 4-H and its pledge..

The foundation of 4-H was laid in 1902 with clubs whose focus was on practical and hands-on learning. When the Cooperative Extension Service was created in 1914, the clubs became associated with this organization. In 1924 the various clubs became organized as 4-H clubs and the clover emblem was adopted.

4-H has been an important part of our local culture ever since. Every hamlet in the Town of New Scotland had or has one or more clubs. As one who comes from a family of 4-H members and leaders, I am a witness to the many skills one can acquire through 4-H. There are cooking, sewing, animal husbandry, gardening, creative arts, and community service projects, just to name a few. As I pored over past issues of *The Altamont Enterprise* I could almost go back in time and experience what the clubs were doing. Here are a few samples:

August 16, 1940: Several girls representing the Clarksville 4-H Club have been camping at Lake Myosotis during the past week. Miss Jane Zeh was supervisor of the girls during the week.

August 18, 1950: A tea was given at the home of Mrs. S. Shufelt by the Clarksville Junior Misses 4-H Club. Our mothers were our guests.....This tea was the completion of our project, “Let’s Have a Party.”

Of course, the biggest opportunity for 4-Hers to show what they had learned was at the Altamont Fair. This was a time when members could display what they had made, raised, and learned. From *The Altamont Enterprise*:

September 30, 1932: 4-H Club Exhibit Winners: Flowers- Everett Rau, Chickens (“Rocks”)- Russell Udell, Walter Miller, Guernsey cows- Earl Waggoner, Ed Klienke, Harold Slingerland, Russell Udell, Walter Miller, Gary McBride.

Club Exhibits: New Salem Willing Workers, Basic Creek Club, Selkirk Live Wires, Parker’s Corners, Albany County 4-H Dairy Club, Hiawatha 4-H Club.

August 16, 1940: In 1939 there were 1,381,595 4-H members. Some 50 4-H Clubs of two counties (Albany and Schenectady) are fair exhibitors.

August 30, 1946: The Unionville Girls 4-H Club met at the home of the leader, Mrs. Mathias. Plans for exhibit at the Altamont Fair were discussed.

September 2, 1949: The highlight of today’s program will be a great prize stock parade on the Fairgrounds at 1 o’clock. Every living thing that can be induced to parade will be in line – if it has been given the judge’s nod of approval.

August 18, 1950: Upwards of 600 4-H members exhibiting. Some will progress to State Fair “as a stepping stone to national and, possibly, international fame.”

August 25, 1950: Unionville Girls 4-H Club meeting notes: “Exhibit at fair planned. Ten members modeled in the dress revue.”

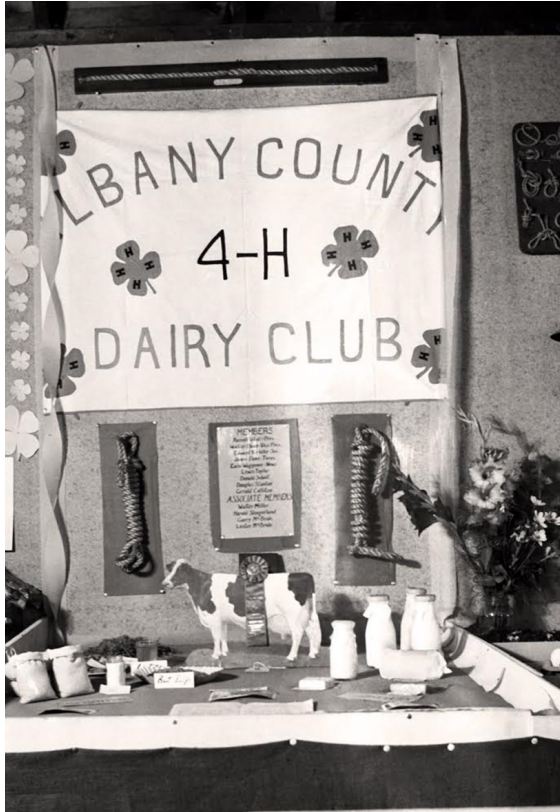
September 1, 1950: New Scotland Lassies Club exhibited, gave demonstrations on preparing various recipes, and worked the 4-H Milk Bar at the Fair.

In visiting the fair this year, I saw the Milk Bar still conducting business (and offering a bottle of water for only \$1!). And today’s clubs are still providing educational exhibits and presentations by its members so one can learn how to make something or learn how to do something more efficiently. There were displays of clothing, home improvements, arts and crafts, food items, and fruits and vegetables. Sleek, well-cared for animals were shown, and the members’ showmanship and knowledge of their livestock were demonstrated. Projects have expanded into the areas of computers, science, and technology.

Throughout its 90+year history, 4-H has kept its original focus on providing practical and hands-on learning while evolving with the times, keeping true to its slogan “Learning by Doing.”

With appreciation to the Guilderland Public Library for making the New York Historic Newspapers web site available, to *The Altamont Enterprise* for preserving our local news and for keeping it important, and to Donald Slingerland for maintaining and providing such excellent photographic records.

“Learning by Doing”

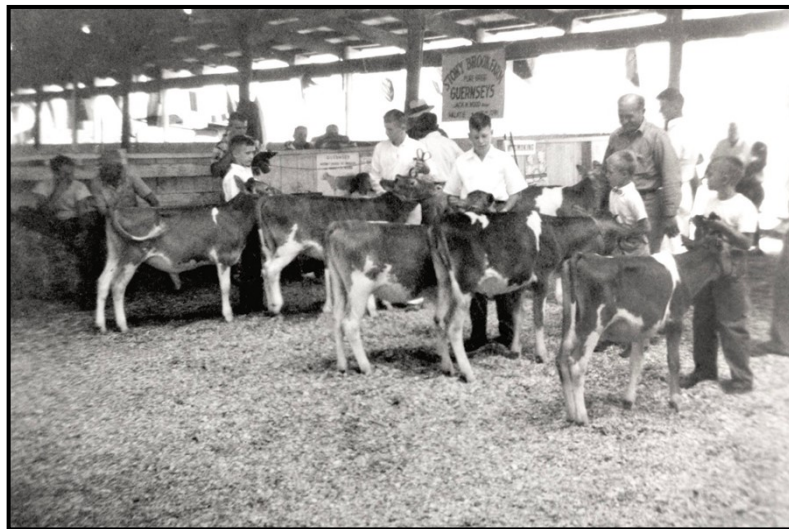
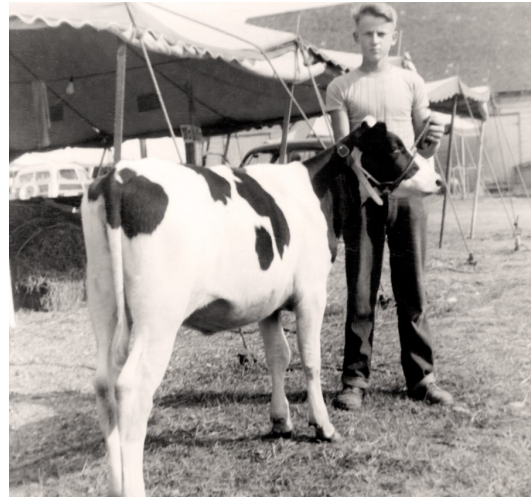


Top: Albany County 4-H Dairy Club Exhibit at the Altamont Fair circa 1940

Right: Ronald LaGrange with calf at the Altamont Fair in 1953



Albany County 4-H Dairy Club on field trip to Times Union Building in 1958.



Above: In the show ring at the Altamont Fair in 1960. Jim Slingerland showing on the left and Don Slingerland third from the left.

SUNSHINE'S CORNER
By Mary Beth (Frohlich) Felice

My favorite resident of Willow Brook Farm was my grandfather, Everett Hallenbeck. Tall and lean with a shock of silver gray hair held stiffly in place with Vitalis, he had an amazing sense of humor. I guess this was necessary as grandma was a no-nonsense, tough, strict Methodist. Where grandma was hard, grandpa was soft.

He introduced me to farm life showing me how to do the various chores. With childish delight I would reach under a hen and pull out the eggs she was hoarding, the freshest still hot from her body. There were rows of box nests, and levels of long poles on which the hens roosted, or slept at night. There were tubs of mash and grain and even oyster shell to make hard egg shells.

The hens were basically competitive. They seemed to want to lay the BEST egg. So, when they were ready to lay, they would stroll down the row of nests, check out the eggs that had already been laid, and then decide where they were to put their treasure. For this reason, often one nest would have six or eight eggs, as one he tried to outdo the other. I never could figure out who would be judging this wonderful egg contest, but I guess that was up to the chickens. At certain times of the year, the hens would become "broody." That meant they decided to have a family, and they would choose a nest full of eggs, and perch on them for days a t a time.

Grandpa had no tolerance for the broody hens. "Those fool hens can sit there forever," he remarked. "With no rooster in the house, nothing is going to hatch out anyway. We need those eggs to sell. Let's play a trick on the hen, and enlarge the flock at the same time," he chuckled.

Tricking chickens? This was going to be good. I was part of an important conspiracy! So grandpa ordered baby chicks from the farm store, newly hatched. They arrived all yellow fluff and chirpy sounds, and we kept them in the house until dark, much to grandma's consternation. Then down to the henhouse we went, armed with flashlights and a chirping box.

The outside lights were glowing, but there was no electricity to the chicken coops. We strode in stealthily and looked around. All the other hens were up on their roost, some with their head tucked under their wings, already in slumber. Old broody stubbornly remained in her boxed nest, her beady eyes regarding us suspiciously.

"All right now, just reach under her, grab the eggs, and put them in the basket," grandpa instructed.

I slipped my hand under the hen and PECK, PECK, she attacked my hand! Grandpa had to struggle not to burst out laughing.

"Hey," I yelled. "She's biting me."

"Well pull sleeve down over your hand and go at it again," he chuckled.

I was less than convinced that farming was for me, but I gave it a try. Lo and behold with my shirt sleeve pulled down over my hand, the pecks were merely an annoyance. I carefully pulled the eggs out and placed them in my basket. The hen was standing now and boy, was she mad.

That's when grandad went quickly to the nest, opened his box of fluff, and began to stick the baby chicks under the hen. They tumbled in, righted themselves, and scooted directly under her body between her corny looking legs. After all eight were in the nest, the hen fluffed out her feathers so she covered all the chicks, and then sat down. The little yellow fluff balls completely disappeared from sight.

"But grandpa, won't she smother them?" I asked.

"No child, it's just nature's way of keeping the babies warm. And now, he chortled, "she'll think she hatched those babies and she'll raise them like a good mama."

With that he directed the flashlight beam toward the door and we left. Just before I stepped over the sill of the coop, I looked back at the scene. In the remnants of light were the roosting hens, high up off the floor, and in one nest box a new mother and her hidden chicks. I swear she was smiling at me.





New Scotland Historical Association's Program Schedule 2018-19

(Titles are tentative and subject to change)

Oct. 2, 2017 (7:30-9:30pm) – “DNA and Genealogy: Powerful Tools to Discover Your Family History”

DNA tests are becoming more popular all the time. Combined with basic genealogy research, these tests have the potential to help uncover hidden family history and enrich your understanding of yourself. Join professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty and learn how you can discover more about your ancestry and yourself!

Nov. 5, 2017 (2:00-4:00pm) “It Happened in Albany?: Amazing Incidents in Capital Region History”

Local historian Matt Malette will relate several significant and unusual incidents that help make the history of our region so fascinating. These include the first Major League grand slam in baseball history and Abraham Lincoln's historic visit to Albany in 1861.

Dec. 5, 2017 (7:30-9:30pm) – Red Scare on Main Street! The Post World War I “Red Scare” had a major impact on immigrant communities and labor activist in major American cities but it also affected smaller cities and town. Dr Gerald Zahavi will discuss how the Red Scare affected smaller upstate communities.

Feb. 3, 2018 (2:00-4:00pm) – Businesswomen in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Albany We think of 19th century women as housewives and mothers. However, Mid-19th Century Albany was home to over 2,000 women running a wide variety of businesses including groceries, saloons and liquor stores, piano stores, hotels, and even a plumbing business. Dr. Susan Lewis will discuss general trends and individual businesswomen and reveal evidence of such supposedly recent phenomena as home-based employment, dual-income marriages, working mothers, single parenthood, and the juggling of domestic and professional priorities.

March 3, 2018 (2:00-4:00pm) – An Old Fashion Musical Afternoon with Tamarack Join us for an afternoon of traditional Celtic, early American, Old-Time, French-Canadian and International tunes — melodies handed down through the years with the local musicians of Tamarack.

April 10, 2018 (7:30-9:30pm) – Early Dutch Houses from the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys Historian Marilyn Sassi will guide us on a virtual tour of the exteriors and interiors of the most significant Dutch houses in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys. She will include both rural and urban examples that copied homes in the Netherlands.

May 7, 2018 (7:30-9:30pm) – History of the Local American Legion and Its Local Posts (tentative) 2019 is the American Legion's Centenary year. Representatives of our local Voorheesville Legion Post will present a history of the Legion and local veteran organizations as we celebrate this event.

All Programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center

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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

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