



THE SENTINEL

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The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2021

2021: 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR NSHA!

By Judy (Slingerland) Kimes

The first meeting to consider the formation of an organization of a historical association was held on March 24, 1971. In her diary on that date, Martha Slingerland wrote: "I went to a meeting at the Town Hall about organizing a historical society and eventually a museum for the Town of New Scotland."

As is most often the case, before this meeting occurred, much work had already been going on by early enthusiasts of the idea. Prior to the first meeting, Jane Blessing and Elizabeth Ingraham had been working for several months to gain support for the formation of the group. In her article, "NSHA History – the First Ten Years," *The Sentinel*, Winter 2010, Marion Parmenter, quoted a speech given by Dave Thurheimer, to Kiwanis in the fall of 1972 "The 'Spark Plugs' for the formation of NSHA were Jane Blessing, who became the first president and was the prime mover and organizer, and Elizabeth Ingraham, who gave more than her share of time and energy in putting together a very successful series of programs and events during the first year." Mr. Thurheimer was with the Office of State History and was a consultant to museums and local historical agencies. At NSHA's first annual meeting held on May 19, 1971, he served as acting chair.



Here is a photo from one of those early events – a luncheon and fashion show held on October 9, 1971, at the Voorheesville Fire Hall. Left to right are pictured Mrs. Floyd Curtis, Miss Marguerite Joslin, Mrs. Harold Slingerland, and Miss Lucinda Wright. In her diary, Martha Slingerland noted, "I modeled a black lace dress from 1880 – with Leona LaGrange's hat and cape." Tickets were \$2.50.

Now that forming an historical society had been supported, a meeting was held on April 19, 1971, to organize a slate of officers and to develop a constitution. It was at this meeting that the name "New Scotland Historical Association" was put forth. In her diary entry for April 19th, Martha Slingerland wrote, "I went to a meeting of the New Scotland Historical Association at New Scotland Presbyterian Church." A brief comment, but the first use of the organization's name to appear in her writings.

On May 19, 1971, the first annual meeting was held, led by Mr. Thurheimer. Quoting from Marion Parmenter's article, "Officers were elected, the constitution and by-laws were accepted, and a philosophy of town-wide service and involvement adopted. Jane Blessing was elected President and Martha Slingerland became Vice-President." Secretary-Treasurer was Jane Rezza.

Constitutions, by-laws, and philosophies seem so dry and laborious to develop, but they are necessary for keeping an organization focused and on track. And, indeed, they were essential for the next step taken by NSHA. On December 1, 1971, the Association petitioned the Regents of the University of New York for a provisional charter "desiring to form a corporation under the Education Law." The petition stated the Association's purposes and organizational information as developed at the earlier meeting. This was signed by the first six trustees to serve the NSHA: James Ryan, Eunice Flansburg, Claude Bradt, Jane Salvatore, and Richard Larkin. The petition stated that the organization would have six trustees.

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NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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Vice President

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Laurie Lysenko 518-765-2029

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Alan Kowlowitz 518-765-4212

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Jim Fritz 518-768-2251

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Dan Leinung '24 518-369-0331

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Chris Albright 518-265-5727

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Town Historian

Robert Parmenter 518-765-4652

Voorheesville Historian

Dennis Sullivan 518-765-2468

Museum Coordinator

Dan Flynn 518-256-2802

Sentinel Committee

Sherry Burgoon 518-225-0797

Judy Kimes 518-768-2607

Mary Beth (Frohlich) Felice

Web Page

www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org

Email: newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

The year 2021 marks 50 years since the beginning of the New Scotland Historical Association. It started with a few people who identified a need. This issue of The Sentinel is dedicated to the people who saw the need to capture the history of the Town of New Scotland, took action, and laid the groundwork for the organization NSHA is today. The mission of NSHA is "to promote an appreciation of local history, heritage and culture through research, publications and educational programs." Thanks to the initial dedication of these individuals those words are a reality today.

Over the last 50 years there are many people who stepped up and contributed time, talent, and funds to support NSHA's mission, and we salute every one of them. There is always a place for volunteers within NSHA, and anyone with an interest in local history is welcomed. The enclosed article on Sam Youmans, who just celebrated his 100th birthday and is the last living charter member of NSHA, illustrates how one person can contribute much to an organization. When I see Sam he always asks when will our programs begin again. Even at 100 years he is still interested in the organization and its success.

We anticipate having the first program on Tuesday, October 5th, 7:30 p.m., at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center. See the article in this issue for the program's details, and subjects and schedules for further programs. Program information can also be found on NSHA's website www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org.

October 5th will also be the official opening of this year's exhibit in the museum. This exhibit was originally designed as a commemoration of the 75th year anniversary of the end of World War II (2020). Although a year off, NSHA still wanted items of local interest from its World War II collection available for viewing. We hope you will take time to visit the exhibit.

On Sunday, September 12, 2p.m. - 4 p.m., the museum will be reopening to members and friends, and thereafter Sundays, same time, September through December. The museum will be closed January - March and will reopen again on Sundays beginning in April. Although the museum has these limited hours, if there is a particular item you wish to see, or subject you wish to research, arrangements can be made for a private session. Email newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com or contact one of the officers to make these arrangements.

The NSHA Officers, Trustees and Committee Chairs look forward to seeing our members and friends again. Stay safe, be well, and thank you for your support.

- Sarita Winchell, President

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CHARTER MEMBERS

Jane Blessing

Marta Slingerland

Jane Rezza

Jane Salvatore

Eunice Flansburg

Dorothy Campbell

Claude Bradt

Richard Larkin

James Ryan

Evelyn Berger

Elizabeth Ingraham

Lillian DuBois (Kirchner)

Clara Marsh

Kay Youmans

Sam Youmans

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In March of 1972, the Senior Historian at the Office of State History advised that, to be recommended for a state charter, a questionnaire would need to be completed and returned in a timely manner. This was done and on May 26, 1972, the Board of Regents formally voted to grant a provisional charter to the Town of New Scotland Historical Association. This was valid for three years.

Three years later, on May 23, 1975, NSHA was again petitioning the Board of Regents, this time for its permanent charter. Again, its purposes and organizational information were stated, and a questionnaire completed. These are on file in NSHA's office. The questionnaire was completed by Marion Parmenter, NSHA's President at that time. Her answers to the questions give a clear snapshot of NSHA's beginnings and purposes. In answer to "Briefly Describe the Organization's History:" Marion Parmenter wrote:

In 1970 a group of people began discussing the possibility of a Town Museum. In April of 1971 an organizational meeting was held. After, it was decided it was best to form a Historical Association first. Meetings were held in various churches, schools, etc. until 1972, when the Town Board made half of the Old New Salem School available to us for meetings and museum.

New to this writer is the fact that the desire to have a museum came first but, wisely, was temporarily put on hold until an organizational foundation could be laid.

The response to, "Briefly outline the Purposes and Goals of the Organization:"

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, speakers, marking historical sites.

Awaken public interest.

It is gratifying to note that NSHA has certainly accomplished all of that and more in its fifty-year history and is still faithfully applying itself to these goals.

NSHA showed remarkable growth from 1972 to 1975. From the original 15 charter members, the total membership had increased to 70. Five active committees had been formed: Library, Museum, Publications and Publicity, Historic Sites, and Programs. Regular programs and events were being held, and collections were being acquired following the policy stated in its constitution.

On December 2, 1975, the Board of Regents notified NSHA that at its meeting on August 1, 1975, an Absolute Charter had been granted to the New Scotland Historical Association. That Charter is pictured here and is proudly displayed at our museum.



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SAM YOUMANS NSHA CHARTER MEMBER TURNS 100!

By Judy (Slingerland) Kimes

A very happy birthday to Samuel A. Youmans, NSHA Charter Member, who turned 100 on July 8, 2021! Here is a wonderful photo of Sam Youmans and NSHA President, Sarita Winchell, enjoying the happy celebration held at the New Scotland Presbyterian Church.

Samuel Youmans has been a dedicated and hard-working member of NSHA since its founding in 1971. By going through past Sentinels, one can gain a mere glimpse of the effort and support he has provided for the organization:

In 1973, it was decided that NSHA's Board would serve as its museum committee. Sam Youmans was put in charge of maintenance.

In 1977, there was a break-in at the museum. Sam Youmans was able to remove the painted words scrawled on the floors by these vandals.

In 1983, the first historical marker sponsored by NSHA was placed at New Scotland Town Hall in honor of the Town's 150th Anniversary. Made of cast iron, it cost \$150 plus \$25 shipping. Marion Parmenter did the paperwork for the state. Sam Youmans painted it. (By the way, Town Hall was previously the school Sam Youmans attended, 1927-1935.)

In 1986, NSHA had a floor company come in to give advice about the floors which the Association wanted cleaned, sanded, and finished. We were informed the floor was too thin in spots to sand. The Association minutes of May 1986 noted its thanks to Sam Youmans who had cleaned the floor and had given the floor a coat of Zar which greatly improved its finish.

In 1987, NSHA decided to try to replace the curtains between the room and the old coatroom with real doors. The next month, Sam Youmans was thanked for hanging doors to the coatroom.

In 1989, Sam Youmans served as Treasurer to the Association.

In 1993, Sam Youmans became the second recipient of NSHA's Pound Award. This award was established in 1991 "to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the understanding and preservation of the town's history." Quoting from *The Sentinel*, Fall 1993, "Since he helped establish the association in 1971, Sam Youmans has been a veritable jack-of-all trades in helping to maintain the museum. For years he served as chairman of the museum committee. He has written a series of personal history stories in which he described life in New Scotland during the middle of this century."

Two of Sam Youmans' written memories appear in NSHA's book, **Times of Our Lives: New Scotland Memories**; April, 2011. This writer heartily recommends reading them. In one, "School Days- My Recollections of the New Scotland Schoolhouse 1927-1935," Sam Youmans tells of his early school experiences. In his selfless fashion, he writes of one of his favorite teachers, Mrs. Jane Blessing, who came here in 1932, and who taught at the New Scotland school until its closing in 1953, then went on to teach at Voorheesville Elementary until she retired. Even in retirement, Jane Blessing stayed on as a volunteer teacher's aide until 1991. Mrs. Blessing died in 1996. Sam Youmans shines attention on her being "co-founder and first president of the New Scotland Historical Association." Indeed, Jane Blessing was one of the "spark plugs" who got NSHA up and running.

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(continued from page 3– 50th Anniversary)

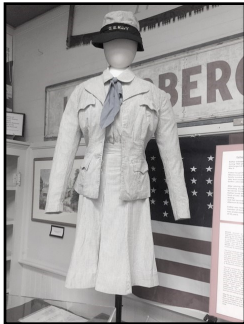
Also proudly displayed at the museum is the list of the 15 charter members of the New Scotland Historical Association.

I am reminded of a quote printed in the front of a basal reader I used when teaching second grade in the 1970s. The textbook's title was *Shoulder High* and the quote, by Isaac Newton, was, "If I have seen farther than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

I am pretty sure that none of these charter members would have called themselves giants. Yet lead by their tireless efforts and enthusiasm, NSHA has been a flourishing and valuable organization for fifty years. What a debt of gratitude we owe to them, and to all the hardworking volunteers who have followed!

In future Sentinel articles we will continue to reminisce about some of the amazing programs, events, and milestones in NSHA's history.

With thanks to Marion Parmenter for her writings covering the first 40 years of NSHA, and to Donald Slingerland for his valuable help with the photos!



MUSEUM RE-OPENED

We are very excited to announce that we have re-opened the museum!

Sunday's 2pm-4pm



(continued from page 4- Sam Youmans)

In July of 1982 when NSHA was awarded first prize for its float in the Sesquicentennial Parade, Sam Youmans made sure that Madelon Pound was given credit in NSHA's minutes for providing much of the inspiration and work that went into making the float.

Sam Youmans is an encourager. He attends and relishes NSHA's programs and events. He makes certain that those who put forth effort know that their work is appreciated.

In googling, "Sam Youmans' 100th Birthday Celebration," what immediately comes up is "Senate Resolution No. 155 by Senator Michelle Hinchey Congratulating Samuel A. Youmans upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday on July 8, 2021." One of the "Whereases" states:

WHEREAS, With his zest for life, this exceptional centenarian has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; he has truly enriched the lives of those around him through his joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years...

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Samuel A. Youmans upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday.

To this "WHERAS," NSHA can say, "Amen!" and add a heartfelt, "Thank you, Sam Youmans!"

With thanks to Marion Parmenter for her dedication to getting these NSHA facts down in writing.

WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT

Official Opening October 5, 2021

AnnMarie Hess, NSHA's exhibit coordinator, has curated a wonderful collection of World War II items for display in the museum. Originally planned for 2020, the exhibit is a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War II. The items are owned by the museum, and come from the Town of New Scotland community. They represent the service and sacrifice of the soldiers, and those affected on the home front. Here are some of the major items on display.

The museum owns four military uniforms. The Navy uniform belonged to Steve Walley, who joined the Navy September 1942, and served overseas from April 1944 to December 1944. Wally won numerous awards for his military service including the Air Medal; the Air Crewman's Wing with three Battle Stars; the Asia Pacific Medal, with two Battle Stars; and the Presidential Unit Citation from both the United States and the Philippines.

The Army uniform on display belonged to Charles B. Clarke of Unionville. He was a member of the 35th Field Artillery, which was an Army unit that had five batteries of four guns each. Sergeant Clarke was part of the training cadre with the title of "Chief of Section".



The Air Force uniform belonged to John S. Loucks, Jr. of Feura Bush. He served in World War II from June 1941 through September 1945 as an aircraft refueling chief with the 64th Squadron of the 57th Fighter Group. He served in Africa, Malta, Italy, and southern France. He was called back to duty for 12 months in 1950 for the Korean War serving at Otis Air Base and Presque Isle Air Base in Maine as refueling chief. He was again called back to active duty in 1968 for 18 months of duty at Stewart Air Base in Newburgh, NY, and Tague Air Base in Tague, Korea, serving as Transportation Supervisor. He received many awards including a Bronze Star; Presidential Unit Citation; European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign with 9 Battle Stars; French Croix de Guerre with Palm; Air Force Longevity award and New York State Distinguished Service Cross.

The Navy WAVES uniform belonged to Esther Crouse Schultz of Voorheesville. She enlisted in the WAVES in 1944 after her husband, Otto Schultz, enlisted. Esther kept a wonderful scrapbook of her service in World War II which is also on display. Prior to enlistment, Esther was part of the Aircraft Warning Service, U.S. Army. There is a Knickerbocker News article on display citing her service, along with her copies of publications about the WAVES. Although there is no uniform to display, another service woman celebrated is Belva Gardiner. She wrote "The Life and Times of an Army Nurse 1942-1946," recounting many of the events during her service. She served in the European theater during the Allied Invasion.

Stanley P. Appleby was a Tech 4 in the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his service on D-Day. On display is this Service Cross and the full citation. Part of the citation reads: "extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Medical Aidman with the 1th Infantry...in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944, in France...With complete disregard for his own safety, he on numerous occasions waded into the surf to lead them ashore and immediately administered first aid...to the wounded on the beach."

Included in the exhibit is information about Elizabeth "Lil" Smith of Voorheesville who was known as the "mother" of the boys in service. She was a prolific pen pal writer to G.I.'s deployed overseas, writing five to seven letters per day. She told of village news and happenings, passed on to the G.I.'s the locations of Voorheesville soldiers, and arranged overseas meeting between friends. One of her newsletters is on display along with a picture and biography. The Public Library has a collection of nearly 1,000 letters she received back from the troops, and NSHA also has an index of those letters.

In addition to the exhibit, the museum has microfilm reprints of *Altamont Enterprise* articles on World War II from April 11, 1941 to September 7, 1945. On permanent display in the museum is a gallery of photographs of men and women from the Town of New Scotland that served the country during World War II.

New Scotland Historical Association's Draft Program Schedule 2020-2021
(Titles are tentative and subject to change)

Oct. 5, 2021 (7:30pm) African American in the Late 19th Century Capital District – Educator and actor Donald Hyman will present a multi-media program on the history of the African American community in the Capital District in late 19th century. The program will include an overview of the community and its history as well as portrayals of three African Americans who helped weave the fabric of Capital Region history: Adam Blake jr., hotelier, entrepreneur, and community leader; Judge James Matthews, Albany Law School's first African American graduate and the first African American judge in New York state; James Dickson, New Scotland native and general manager for the Slingerland family.

Nov. 7, 2021 (2:00pm) "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 large residences that followed the model of English "country seats." Architectural historian Walter Wheeler will examine construction practices, materials acquisition, and labor sources used to construct these buildings.

Dec. 7, 2021 (7:30pm) Suffrage and Its Limits: Why the suffrage centennial still matters – The Women's Suffrage Centennial (2017 in New York and 2020 nationally) put a brief spotlight on the long struggle for women's right to vote. However, the suffrage victory proved to be a limited step on the road to women's full political and legal equality. Dr. Susan Lewis will review what we have learned from the suffrage centennial, discuss the evolution of the suffrage movement into the League of Women Voters and the (failed) push for an Equal Rights Amendment, and consider the efforts from 1920 to the present to have women and women's issues more completely represented in American politics.

Feb. 6, 2022 (2:00pm) Colonial to Craft Brew: The Local Story of Beer Michael Diana of the Schenectady Historical Society will relate the fascinating and colorful story of brewing in the Capital District, tracing its history from its colonial beginnings to the recent resurgence of crafting brewing in our region.

March 6, 2022 (2:00pm) Native Voices: Including Native American Presence and Perspectives in the History of the Ten Broeck Mansion Kathryn Kosto, Executive Director of the Albany County Historical Association (ACHA), will explore how including Native American's presence in Ten Broeck Mansion's programming has yielded a richer visitor experience, and more accurate, fuller history of the site. She will also discuss new research on the role of Abraham Ten Broeck's father as a Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and work by the ACHA to develop indigenous plantings at its 4-acre site.

April 5, 2022 (7:30pm) An Old Fashion Musical Evening with Tamarack - Join us for an evening of traditional Celtic, early American, Old-Time, French-Canadian, and international tunes — melodies handed down through the years with the local musicians including Patricia Kernan, Jim Mead, and Sue Mead, a New Scotland native.

May 3, 2022 (7:30pm) Voorheesville: An Italian Perspective - Life-long Voorheesville resident and educator Dennis Ulion will discuss Italian immigration to the Voorheesville area in the early 1900s from a personal perspective of his family (The Iuliano's and Ricci's) and other local families of Italian descent.

All Programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center

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