

# THE SENTINEL

Vol. 27, No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Spring 2019

## Joseph Lambert and VFW Post No. 6657

Some of the older residents of this town may recall an Army tank on the side of the road (Route 157) as you were traveling to Thacher Park. The tank, an M3 Stuart tank of World War Two vintage and adjacent building was the home of the Mountain View Memorial Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) No. 6657. The post was started by a man named Joseph Lambert

Joseph Barnabus Lambert was born in Cambridge, New York on January 14, 1880. Around 1907, Lambert moved to the Thompsons Lake area and worked as a farm laborer. In 1908 he contracted "lockjaw" and nearly died. By 1915 Lambert was living in the "Houck Neighborhood" area near Clarksville as a farmer.



In August of 1917, Joe Lambert joined the New York National Guard and was assigned to the 106<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital Company, 102<sup>nd</sup> Sanitary Train. He served overseas from June 30, 1918 until March 11, 1919 and was discharged from service in April of 1919. The following was published in the Altamont Enterprise newspaper on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1919. It tells the personal experience of Lambert in France.

Above is an example of an M3 Stuart tank. This is not the tank that was at the VFW post. A photo of the original

The letters printed below are written by Private Joseph B. Lambert of Voorheesville, who is with the 106<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, 102<sup>nd</sup>

tank has not been found.

Dear Sister and Babe:

letters follow: Nov. 16, 1918

I just had supper, but haven't washed my dishes yet. My fire got low and I am waiting for it to burn up. My stove is one of German make which I have lugged over half of France. I have had several chances to sell it for 50 francs, which is \$10, but I can't see the joke. It is about the size of an oil heater, but burns wood or coal. The pipe is only three inches in diameter, and I

Sanitary Train, in France, to his family. He has also sent home three letters of commendation from Major-General O'Ryan. The

have three lengths and an elbow. When it is packed it doesn't weight 15 pounds.

It is very cold here. The ground has been frozen for two days, so that my big army wagon does not break through and the riding is not very smooth. My "chateau" is about like your cook kitchen, but not any better: and for a window I have a bag, as there are but few whole windows in this country where I have been for the past three months. If I ever see a place that is not all shot up and see people again who speak my tongue I will have a fine visit --- I will talk myself sick.

I want you to be careful and not get sick: I don't like to hear it, as we have some experience over here with the influenza. I am careful of myself: I will stay up all night rather than lie down where it is damp and cold. I have done it several times. I have answered sick call only once, and that was in S.C. for my eyes. I have sat up nights and dried my clothes rather than take a chance, so I want you to take care of yourself.

I wish you could see the food it takes to feed our division one day. You would wonder where it came from. Of course, we are with the British and eat British Food. Will you have a bit of tea and cheese?

I have sent home a helmet and a gas mask and will try to send some other stuff when I get where I can buy it. It won't be much, but it will be all that I can send if I am allowed, to do so: so far I have been stopped.

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# **NEW SCOTLAND** HISTORICAL **ASSOCIATION**

P. O. Box 541 Voorheesville, NY 12186

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Mary Beth Gorke-Felice

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# **President's Letter**

I hope everyone has survived the winter! NSHA has not been hibernating during the cold dark season. The Collections Management team has been plugging away to provide digital finding aid by entering information on our holdings into Past Perfect software. Our monthly programs, held on the first Sundays of the month in the winter, have been well attended. The Historic Preservation Commission Committee has completed its work and a proposed Historic Preservation Law has been submitted to the Town of New Scotland and Village of Voorheesville boards. You can review the proposed law in this issue of the Sentinel or download it and an information sheet from the NSHA website or Facebook page. We have also been updating our Disaster Plan.

Spring will also be busy with activities. Our program schedule will return to the evening of the first Tuesday of the month for April and May. I particularly hope our members will be able to attend our May 7 membership meeting and a program on the History of the Local American Legion and Its Local Posts in celebration of the American Legion's Centenary year. I also hope you can follow the progress of the proposed Historic Preservation Law as it moves through the legislative processes of the Town and Village. Any support you can provide will be appreciated.

Our Nominations Committee will also be active in recruiting new Board and Committee Chair. We can always use volunteers for any of our committees or to staff the Museum, so please let any of our Board members know if you are interested.

Alan Kowlowitz, President

NSHA MEMBERSHIP FOR NAME ADDRESS	M 
PHONE	e-mail
\$15 Basic	\$50 Patron
\$30 Sustaining	\$150 Life (per person)
NSH <i>A</i> 1403	cotland Historical Association: Amy Heebner A Membership Chair Delaware Turnpike Imar, NY 12054

#### **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.

# Below is a DRAFT of the Historic Preservation Law presented to the Town of New Scotland and Village of Voorheesville Boards:

## **Historic Preservation Law**

#### Section 1. Title.

This local law shall be known and may be cited as the [Village of Voorheesville/Town of New Scotland] Historic Preservation

#### Section 2. Purpose.

The [Village Board of Trustees/Town Board] finds that there exist within the [Village/Town] places, sites, structures and buildings of historic or architectural significance, antiquity, and uniqueness that should be protected and preserved to maintain the character of the [Village/ Town], to contribute to the aesthetic value of the [Village/ Town] and to promote the general good, welfare, health and safety of the [Village/Town] and its residents. This law is intended to:

- (a) foster public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation in the beauty and character of the [Village/Town] and in the accomplishments of its past;
- (b) ensure the harmonious, orderly, and efficient growth and development of the [Village/Town];
- (c) enhance the visual character of the [Village/Town] by encouraging new design and construction that complements its historic buildings;
- (d) protect and promote the economic benefits of historic preservation to the (Village/Town), its inhabitants and visitors;
- (e) protect and enhance property values in the [Village/Town];
- (f) promote and encourage continued private ownership and stewardship of historic structures;
- (g) identify as early as possible and resolve conflicts between the preservation of historic landmarks/districts and alternative land uses:
- (h) conserve valuable material and energy resources by ongoing use and maintenance of the existing built environment;
- (i) foster cooperation between the Village of Voorheesville and Town of New Scotland in achieving the shared goals detailed above.

#### **Section 3. Definitions**

As used in this local law, the following words and phrases have the following meaning:

COMMISSION — The joint Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Voorheesville and Town of New Scotland HISTORIC DISTRICT — A district that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development and has been recognized as such by federal, New York State or local government entities with the authority to designate such a district.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION — The identification, study, documentation, protection, acquisition, restoration, rehabilitation, management, maintenance and use of buildings, structures, objects, sites and historic districts, significant in the history, architecture, or culture of the Village of Voorheesville, Town of New Scotland, the State of New York or the United States.

HISTORIC PROPERTY — Any building, structure, object, site or district that is of significance in the history, architecture, archeology, or culture of the Town of New Scotland, Village of Voorheesville, the State of New York, or the United States. Listed below, but not limited to these categories, are examples of historic properties:

#### **Buildings:**

- 1. Administration Building
- Barn
- Carriage House 3.
- 4. Church
- City or Town Hall
- Courthouse
- Detached Kitchen, Barn or Privy
- 8. Dormitory
- Fort
- 10. Garage
- 11. Hotel
- 12. House
- 13. Library
- 14. Mill Building
- 15. Office Building
- 16. Post Office
- 17. School
- 18. Shed
- 19. Social Hall
- 20. Stable
- 21. Store
- 22. Theater
- 23. Train Station

#### Structures:

- Aircraft
- Apiary
- Automobile 3.
- 4. Bandstand
- 5. **Boats and Ships**
- 6. Bridge
- 7.
- Cairn
- Canalix Carousel
- 9. Corncrib
- 10. Dam
- 11. Earthwork
- 12. Fence
- 13. Gazebo
- 14. Grain Elevator
- 15. Highway
- 16. Irrigation System
- 17. Kiln
- 18. Lighthouse
- 19. Railroad Grade
- 20. Silo
- 21. Trolley Car
- 22. Tunnel
- 23. Windmill

## **Examples of Sites Include:**

- 1. Archeological Site
- 2. Battlefield
- 3. Campsite
- 4. Cemeteries (historical or information significance)
- Ceremonial Site
- 6. Designed Landscape
- 7. Habitation Site
- 8. Natural Feature (e.g. rock formation) with some cultural significance
- 9. Petroglyph
- 10. Rock Carving
- 11. Rock Shelter
- 12. Ruins of a building strucfure
- 13. Shipwreck
- 14. Trail
- 15. Village Site

#### **Objects:**

- 1. Boundary Marker
- Fountain
- 3. Milepost
- 4. Monument
- 5. Sculpture
- Statuary

#### **Examples of Districts** include:

- **Business Districts** 1.
- Canal System
- 3. College Campuses

Continued on Page 4

#### **Historic Preservation Law (Continued from Page 3)**

NATIONAL REGISTER — The National Register of Historic Places authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

PLANNING BOARD — The Town of New Scotland Planning Board

PLANNING COMMISSION – Village of Voorheesville Planning Commission

STATE REGISTER — The State Register of Historic Places established pursuant to § 14.07 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law

TOWN - Town of New Scotland

TOWN BOARD — The Town Board of New Scotland

REGISTER — The New Scotland and Voorheesville Register of Historic Places established pursuant to this law, a local honorary listing of buildings, structures, objects, sites and historic districts deemed by the Commission to be of significant historic value.

VILLAGE- Village of Voorheesville

VILLAGE BOARD – The Village Board of Trustees of Voorheesville

## **Section 4. Historic Preservation Commission.**

There is hereby created a joint Commission of the Village and Town to be known as the Historic Preservation Commission.

- (a) Membership: The commission shall consist of up to seven appointed members and the official Historians of the Village and Town who will each serve as ex officio members of the Commission.
- (b) Appointments: The Town Board shall appoint four members that are to the extent practicable representative of the various districts and communities in the Town outside of the Village of Voorheesville, and the Village Board shall appoint three members of the Commission who are residents of the Village.
- (c) Term of Office: Commission members may be appointed for one-, two-, or three-year terms as determined by the appointing Board.
- (d) Qualifications and Criteria: All Commission members shall have a known interest in historic preservation or planning within the Village and/or Town. In addition, and to the extent possible, Commission members shall have one of the following qualifications or professional backgrounds: architect, historian, licensed real estate broker, attorney, resident of an historic district, or a demonstrated significant interest in and commitment to the field of historic preservation evidenced by involvement in a local historic preservation group, employment or volunteer activity in the field of historic preservation or other serious interest in the field.
- (e) Members shall not be affiliated with the same professional office, and shall not be related by marriage or immediate family members.
- (f) Chairperson: The Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed jointly by the Town and Village Boards for a one-year term. In the absence of an appointment by the governing Boards, the Chairperson of the Commission shall be designated by an affirmative vote of the full Commission and will serve until such time as the governing Boards' appointment is made.
- (g) Conduct of Meetings: Commission meetings shall be conducted in compliance with the New York State Open Meetings Law (NYS Public Officers Law, Article 7).
- (g) Quorum: A simple majority of the Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. An affirmative majority vote of the full Commission is required to approve any resolution, motion or other matter before the Commission.
- (h) Meetings: The Commission shall meet at least bi-monthly, but meetings may be held at any time on the written request of any two Commission members or on the call of the Chairperson of the Commission or the Chairperson of the Planning Board or Planning Commission.
- (i) Committees: The Commission may establish permanent or ad hoc committees consisting of no less than three current members of the Commission for assignments assigned to it by the full Commission. Committees may invite subject area experts as needed to attend Committee meetings.
- (j) Powers, Duties and Responsibilities: The Commission shall be an advisory body to Village and Town governments unless otherwise indicated in this law. All Village and Town departments shall, upon request of the Commission, assist and furnish as far as practicable available permits, plans, reports, maps and statistical and other information that the Commission may require for its work. All documents provided to the Commission will be handled with the same level of sensitivity and confidentiality as the providing department and as required by applicable State and local laws. The Commission duties and responsibilities shall include:

- Making recommendations to the Village and Town Boards for their consideration and approval so that it may employ staff and professional consultants as necessary to aid the Commission in carrying out its duties.
- Promulgating rules as necessary for the conduct of its business. Any such rules are subject to the approval of the Town and Village Boards.
- Conducting or causing the conduct of surveys of significant historic buildings, structures, objects and districts within the Town and Village.
- Maintaining an inventory of locally-designated historic resources or districts within the Village and Town and publicizing the inventory.
- Recommending to the Town and Village Boards certain criteria for selection of historic buildings, structures, objects, sites and historic districts in the Town and Village to be placed on the Register of Historic Places (see Sec. 5), State Register, Federal Register.
- Recommending to the Village and Town Boards those areas of the Town or Village that should be designated as a Historic District.
- Increasing public awareness of the value of preserving historic buildings, structures, objects and sites by developing and participating in public education programs, conducting preservation workshops, and providing technical assistance and guidance to owners of historic properties.
- Making recommendations to the Village and Town governments concerning the utilization of state, federal or private funds to promote the preservation of historic buildings, structures, objects and sites within the Village and Town.
- Recommending actions to the Town and Village Boards that are essential to the preservation of historic buildings, structures, objects and sites by the Town and/or Village government when preservation is essential to the purposes of this law and when private preservation is not feasible. Serving in an advisory capacity to the Village and Town Boards, Planning Board and Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Building Department on all matters that affect designated Register properties or historic districts. In its capacity to advise the Village and Town Boards and the Planning Board and Planning Commission, the Commission will perform the following.
  - Offer comments to assist when new projects, developments or building additions are proposed for registered properties or for properties within a Historic District.
  - Review the agendas of the above mentioned bodies and submit recommendations (when warranted) on potential impacts to historic sites to them by their next meeting or as soon as practicable.
- Submitting within one year of its establishment, a report to the governing Boards on a proposal for establishing historic preservation easement and historic preservation zoning within the Town and Village.
- Performing other functions that the (Village/Town) Boards may designate by local law.

#### Section 5. Registry of Historic Places.

This section establishes a Village and Town Registry of Historic Places. The Registry will initially consist of all sites in the Village and Town where historical markers exist, all structures previously placed on the State or National Historic Register, and all designated Historic Districts.

- Additions to this Registry will include structures, objects, sites and historic districts deemed by the Commission to be of significant historic value.
- The Commission may recommend, for designation by the Village or Town Board, a building, structure, object, historic district or site for the Register if it:
  - Is associated with persons or events that have made a significant contribution to Town or Village history; or is identified with a historic personage; or
  - Embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
  - Has yielded or may be likely to yield, information on prehistory or history.
- Designation on the Village and Town Register of Historic Places is strictly a local honorary listing. Properties placed on the Register are given only Town and Village historic recognition. An owner of property on the Historic Register has no restriction on the use or maintenance of the property as a result of this designation.
- Each site or Historic District added to the Town and Village Register of Historic Places will be eligible to receive an historic road marker or plaque acknowledging its history and placement on the Register as determined by the appropriate historical association or society.

  (Continued on Page 7)

**April 2, 2019 (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, 2019 (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

# **Joseph Lambert (Continued from Page 1)**

Dec. 5. 1918

I am on guard til midnight. If you have any sun or any daylight to spare, send it over here. I have not seen any of either in several days. It has rained or been foggy here for two weeks. Daylight does not

come until 7 a. m. and it is dark at 4:30 p. m.—and what long nights! I get the blues, with no lights but a candle, when I sit here and think. My home is like your woodshed. I sleep on a bunch of hay in the corner, but I can sleep any place: that is one thing I have got down pat.

I received two letters tonight and when I opened them I found that they were for another Joseph B. Lambert from Mississippi, so I must send them back to his wife, as they were written in last June and have been all over. I got your letter last night with Babe's in it. I hope you are both well.

It is raining quite hard now, for a change. I just went and looked at my horses, and after I get this letter written I must feed hay to them. It is some job in the dark, as they get to kicking and when 24 of them get at it I would rather be up in the front lines as there I have only to look out for one shot at a time; but when a fellow has 48 heels to watch it is ro "bom" as the French say.

Olin won't have to go as this thing is over with, as far as any more boys coming over. We have worked hard and I think done our bit, and are willing to do it again; and I think the people back home know it; at least Bill Kaiser does. Our division is in fighting condition, and any time he wants more we will be there. I think now that we will soon get ready to make our way toward home, but how soon I don't know. An army moves slowly, as it takes time, only when we are in the front lines then we move fast, as Jerry discovered. But to straighten things out now and get ready will take a little time.

You asked if I had been promoted. I understand I have, but have not been notified officially, so will not say that I have. One is not sure of anything in the army until one gets it, as orders change in a minute. In Myra's last letter she told me I am not writing often enough. Strange; I don't see hoe it could be so, as I am a great hand to write and would rather do it than not. I never let any one else do my writing.



Wishing you both a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I will close, hoping this finds you as well as it leaves me.

#### Dec. 11, 1918

I received your letter, telling how you had dreamed of peace. Well, if you could have been in the part of France where I was when peace came, you would have thought h had broken loose.

I have lost my ponies, so I have to hike now. They were turned over to another outfit, as we are running a big hospital and need all our men; but we will soon leave here, I understand. I have just had my supper, and here is what zI had: Army beans, black coffee, bread and syrup. The syrup was the first I have had in six months. We have left the British and are by ourselves.

It has rained here for two weeks or more: every place we go it is rain, or it is so foggy and muddy that a fellow hates to move or stir. I have been busy today putting in a shower bath but it will take another day or two to finish it.

#### St. Cornellis, France, Dec. 22, 1918

I received your letter of Nov. 25. Yes, we have cold weather here. It hailed here yesterday and was quite cold, although it does not get as cold here as it did in the lines. Around the Hindenburg line it was very cold when we were in there, and up at Murritz, Bissigeny, St. Emel, St. Kuplag, and those places it was also very cold, but we are down toward Paris now.

Well, the war is over, and when I lie on my bunk and think of the things I have seen and done and gone through, I have the horrors. I have eaten and slept among the dead, and I have driven in and out to keep from running over them. I have seen all the misery and suffering I care to, but am willing to do it all over again if need be. I have smelled human blood for three weeks at a time. The whole country smelled like a slaughter house. Horses and men lay everywhere, but I never saw a tear stained eye; every man had that grave and stern look. I have seen the boys go into battle, I have seen them come out all ragged and muddy and hungry, but there was not a growl from a man.

Yes, Fred Frey is dead. He died at Rhuen, and he died for his country. The game is almost finished and we will soon be home. It may take a month or so, but we are still hard at work, as we are running a division hospital, as some of the boys have the mumps and heavy colds and we must take care of the men; but orders will come some day and we will start for home.

I did not expect to get anything for Christmas; I only sent the slip to let you know that the Red Cross, which you and Babe have worked for, it doing the fair thing by us boys. They never charge us for anything. When we were in the thick of it all, that Red Cross man with his cocoa, a few cookies, a piece of chocolate, some smokes, clean socks and towels, was there with a smile and a pleasant word. I have seen them give cocoa and cigarettes to the wounded when shot and shell were falling near them. I have had many a cup of hot cocoa and was glad to get it. I remember one night I left Hervillev to find my company, as I left them the day before and orders had changed, and I had the supply wagon and the boys must eat. I got word of the dispatch runner to meet them at Temple la Fiante. After driving nearly all night through the darkness, I missed them, as I had got into the reserve lines. I fed my horses and had cocoa, warmed some beans, and started and found my company at daylight. The Red Crossman had seen them take another road, and I was glad to get his cocoa. I have ridden more nights than days as we had to do it; but we have won, and that is enough.

Joe

#### Joseph Lambert (Continued from page 6)

After the war Joe went back to farming near Clarksville. In March of 1922 Lambert rented the "Helderburg Garage" in New Salem and was "ready to do business". The Lambert Family moved to New Salem in December 1923. Besides operating the garanteest and the salem in December 1923.

age, Joe ran a milk route carrying milk from the local dairy farms to the creameries.<sup>3</sup>





When World War Two ended Joe converted the Helderberg Garage into a gas station and grocery store. He saw a need for a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in the New Salem area. He helped establish the Mountain View Memorial Post No. 6657. Joe owned land above New Salem along Thacher Park Road that he donated a parcel to the VFW post so that a building could be erected. Beginning in 1949, the VFW post started having a annual carnival in a clearing across the road from King Krest on the corner of Indian Ledge Road to raise funds for the building project. By 1952 it appears that the building had been completed, for on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> there was "...a picnic at the new post rooms on Thacher Park Rd." Joe passed away at his home in New Salem on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1953.

The Mountain View Memorial Post No. 6657 continued to be active until the mid-1970s. The VFW post on Thacher Park road is now apartments. The Stuart tank is gone. It was reported that the tank was sold to someone in Schoharie County. <sup>5</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Altamont Enterprise, 26 Jun 1908, p.4, Altamont Enterprise, 17 Jul 1908, p.8
- <sup>2</sup> Altamont Enterprise, 24 March 1922, p.2
- <sup>3</sup> Altamont Enterprise, 15 May 1936, p.9
- <sup>4</sup> Altamont Enterprise, 10 Oct 1952, p.9
- <sup>5</sup> Altamont Enterprise, 17 April 2008, p.7

#### **Historic Preservation Law (Continued from Page 5)**

#### Section 6 Demolition of any building or structure more than 70 years old.

Prior to issuing any demolition permit on a building or structure more than 70 years old, the Village or Town Building Department shall notify the Historic Preservation Commission, by providing up to 30 days' written notice to the Chair or designee of the Commission, identifying the building or structure for which such permit is sought by address and name of owner or owners, unless, in the opinion of the Building Department, the structure poses an imminent danger to health and safety.

The Commission shall evaluate and document the building or structure for historic or architectural significance appropriately, as may be necessary, during the 30-day notice period prior to issuance of any such demolition permit.

The Commission may request an additional 14 days to evaluate and document such significant structures in cases where extensive research is required, which may be granted by the sole discretion of the Building Department.

In the event that the Building Department has received no comment from the Historic Preservation Commission within 30 days after such notification, the Building Department may issue the requested permit for demolition.

#### Section 7. Cooperation of (Village/Town Departments)

All Village and Town departments shall, upon request of the Commission, assist and furnish available permits, plans, reports, maps and statistical and other information which the Commission may require for its work

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Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club P. O. Box 233 Voorheesville, NY 12186

Morrison Engineering, PC www.morrisoneng.com

# **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