



THE SENTINEL

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The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Summer 2019



Celebrating 100 Years of Serving our Veterans By Sherry Burgoon

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. In 1919 at the end of World War I, American soldiers who had not even returned from war-torn Europe, felt a need to provide a plan to improve the morale of the soldiers and renew the hope of the nation when they returned home. Veterans of other wars experienced little assistance from the government for their injuries and mental health. Financial security was difficult to obtain as well. Meeting in Paris, France, several members of the American Expeditionary Forces, including Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Eric Fisher Wood along with General John Pershing, formed the American Legion.

Although other local legions were formed after World War I, it wasn't until May 10, 1946, that Voorheesville American Legion Post 1493 received its national charter. While only twenty-three local veterans signed the charter, twice as many had attended a meeting to form the post. A slate of officers was quickly formed. Charles Crow was elected as the first commander, an Albany resident who was an integral force in establishing the organization. Local resident Michael Ulion served as the first county delegate. In true Voorheesville style, an auxiliary was immediately formed under the presidency of Lucy Akelewicz (Lucy Roche) and assisted by Jane Schultz (Jane Gangai).

For a few years Post 1493 struggled to find a permanent home until Hazel Maybie sold a former restaurant building in 1950 for \$2800. Subsequently, the Odd Fellow Temple (the post's current home) came up for sale the following year. A down payment of \$3000 was raised by the members as a down payment, allowing them to apply for a loan from the Voorheesville Savings and Loan.

Since its inception, the Voorheesville American Legion has a rich history of carrying out the four pillars of the national organization: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Nation Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. American Legion Baseball had a long presence in Voorheesville under Commander Crow's leadership, who was also an official on the American Legion Baseball committee.



The Voorheesville team was made up of local residents as well as players from neighboring communities such as Guilderland and Bethlehem. A drum and bugle corps was established to support the national organization's flag resolution "to display Old Glory in all school and classes in New York." Although the corps did not survive, its instruments were donated to the school district. To this day, flags are distributed to young parade watchers at the annual Memorial Day parade.

The 1953 Junior Legion Champions sponsored by Voorheesville Post 1493

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**NEW
SCOTLAND
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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President's Letter

Since we do not have space in the *Sentinel* to print my entire 2018-19 President's Report, I want to share with the entire NSHA membership the Report's highlights.

Membership: Our full membership includes 197 individual and 7 corporate memberships. Since many families are included in the various membership categories, we actually have more than 197 individuals supporting our Association.

Museum: This year's new exhibit opened on October 2, 2018 entitled "History Lost, History Preserved." It highlights the following four themes.

- Old hotels that once operated in New Scotland
- A charming collection of postcards, the "tweets" of the past
- Memorabilia from the Helderberg Ski Club, which originally operated in the Helderbergs starting in 1934
- A collection of milk bottles and ephemera from New Scotland farms that bottled their own milk and sold it under their own names

NSHA has closed the Museum in the past during the late spring for reordering space and installing new exhibits. The Board has voted to close during winter months for these purposes when attendance has been very low.

(Continued on page 3)

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

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.

(President's Letter continued from page 2)

Collections and Preservation: NSHA completed the transfer of collection items to new archival cabinets. The new space allows objects to be stored in such a way that makes them visible and reduces handling. The museum space now has a research and collection management area. The Association continues to collect artifacts related to the history of the town. Some of the new accessions include the following:

Hilton and Wood Family Papers including historical photographs, legislative documents, ledgers, journals, letters, and paper and silk prize ribbons.

One cotton, children's dress, formerly owned by William J. Frederick (1869-1962)

1960's military material including pictorial representation of naval training, photographs, cloth arm badge, ID cards.

NSHA has been entering descriptions and locations for items in its collections into Past Perfect, a collections management software package. When completed, this project will allow greater and automated access and control of the historic materials preserved by the Association.

Programs: NSHA had a full and diverse schedule of seven programs in 2018-19 that covered a diverse range of topics from "DNA and Genealogy: Powerful Tools to Discover Your Family History" to "Early Dutch Houses from the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys." The programs drew an estimated 350 attendees.

Historic Sites: The following historic markers were repainted or repaired: New Scotland Presbyterian Church, Van Huysen house, Unionville Church, Presbyterian Church at Helderhill Road and Van Dyck house. NSHA successfully secured funding from the Pomeroy Foundation to replace the historic marker at the Crouse House on Picard Road that was destroyed by a vehicle last year.

Meeting Challenges: NSHA has developed with the help of an expanded Historic Commission Committee of diverse community members a proposed joint Town of New Scotland and Village of Voorheesville Historic Preservation Law. Both the Town and Village boards are considering the law.

Alan Kowlowitz, NSHA President

Attention Lifetime Members

SENTINEL UPDATE INFORMATION

During the past year, the cost of printing and mailing *The Sentinel* has risen. Some members suggested that we offer an e-mail copy rather than the print copy sent by mail. If you would like to receive future copies of *The Sentinel* via e-mail beginning in September, 2019, please e-mail:

newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com

Thank-you for considering this option which will defray our mailing costs.
(If you pay annually, you should select the e-mail preference on your renewal)

Sherry Burgoon, Editor

(Continued from Page 1)

Boys State, a one-week intensive program dealing with the election process, has continued at Clayton A. Bouton High School since the legion's first year. Each year an eleventh grade boy is selected to attend the state level program. American Legions across the country have been long standing sponsors of the Boy Scouts. Troop 73 is no exception. It continues to thrive in Voorheesville with several local scouts achieving Eagle Scout status throughout the years.

Obtaining the financial resources to support its goals, fundraising has been accomplished in many creative ways. Showing movies with two projectors purchased from the Odd Fellows, became a popular revenue producer before the television era. Many of us remember watching classic black and white movies, such as "The Last Days of Pompeii," on the big screen above the stage while we sat on stackable wooden folding chairs. A loft at the back of the hall would house the bright light of the large whirring projector. Minstrel shows brought entertainment to the community and the needed income to support programs. Of course, bingo was a weekly event on Wednesday nights at the post. Regulars could expect to see the dedicated team of legionnaires who called out winning numbers each week.



The Bandanna Minstrels entertained in 1952

As a youngster, it was a special event to accompany a parent on a school night, hoping to call out BINGO at least once. Since its beginning, many breakfasts and dinners prepared by legionnaires and the supporting organizations, have funded memorable events such as a visit from Santa Claus who gave out a small box of hard candy and an orange to mesmerized children from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Voorheesville Post 1493 has held the Memorial Day Parade since 1946, a day celebrated by the entire community. Young and old, marchers or viewers line the parade route remembering the fallen and honoring all the veterans who keep our country safe and free. Floats, bands, youth organizations, fire departments and civic leaders march together demonstrating their patriotism and love for our country. Not only is the day a time of remembrance but it is also a time to gather with loved ones and friends to celebrate our collected history. The Memorial Day celebration culminates with a block party followed by the traditional fire works display funded by the Jim Nichols Foundation.



Photo of the first Voorheesville Memorial Day Parade in 1946

Clearly, Post 1493 continues its strong presence and service to the Voorheesville community. Post Commander Mark Switzer, a 19-year member and veteran of Vietnam, presented a thorough history of both the national and local American Legion at the annual New Scotland Historical Association meeting on May 7. Tables lined with copies of the Post’s original charter, photos and scrapbooks along with memorabilia from his dad’s World War II service, provided a visual reminder of the American Legion’s role in our lives. Mr. Switzer recognized past commanders present that evening as well as Jack Livingston who was the 2019 parade grand marshal. Dave Schultz, president of Sons of the American Legion, shared the many ways that the Sons support the goals of serving. Established in 1932 at the national level, Voorheesville Post 1493 added the Sons as part of “the legion family” in 1982. Presently, 116 members support the legion’s activities throughout the year.

Cindy Schultz, president of the Voorheesville Auxiliary, provided a history of the organization’s beginning. Immediately after the American Legion was formed, many women’s groups wanted to be a part of its mission. In September, 1920, the auxiliary was sanctioned. Currently, Post 1493 has seventy members. The Poppy Program continues to be a major fund raising effort dedicated to helping veterans and those hospitalized. The most recent addition to the “legion family” is the American Legion Riders, established in Michigan by Chuck Dare and Bill Kaledas of Garden City, Michigan, in September, 1993. Mike Marshall, a charter member of the local riders, recognized Rich Perras in attendance, who brought the Altamont-Voorheesville Legion Riders into existence in July, 2012. The current 64 members join other motorcyclists across the country through the Poker Run, raising millions of dollars supporting scholarships, children’s hospitals, as well as veterans’ services such as the Wounded Warrior Project. Riders have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas along with several other escort services.



Pictured above (l-r) are: Dave Schultz, Sons Adjutant, Cindy Schultz, Auxiliary President, Mark Switzer, Commander and Mike Marsh, Legion Riders (Charter Member)

While many of us thank the veterans for their service to our country, let us not forget the members of the American Legion, the women’s auxiliary, the sons, and the legion riders who give their volunteer time each year supporting the hundreds of events and organizations which provide care and support to the veterans and their families who have kept our country safe. They, too serve.

Resources: Mazzara, Sal. “Marching Into History.” *The Altamont Enterprise*: Thursday, May 23, 1996.
<https://centennial.legion.org/>
<https://www.legion.org>

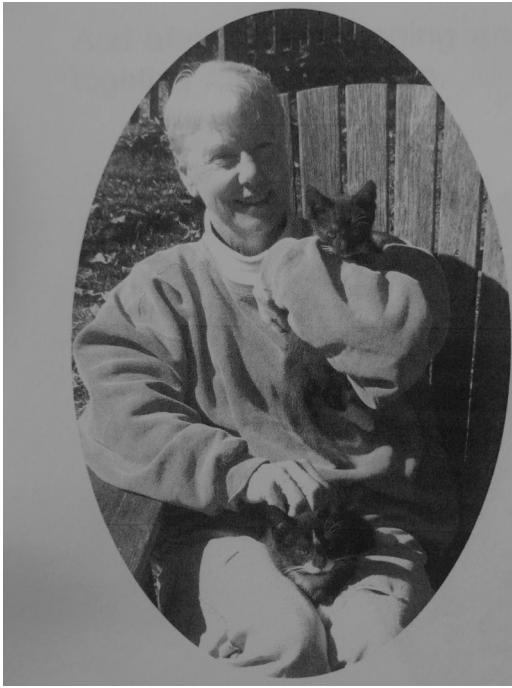


Photos of the American Legion Post 1493 Float in the Voorheesville Memorial Day Parade, May 25, 2019

Sunshine's Corner

Mary Beth (Frohlich) Felice

The Life of a Farm Kitten



The author with kittens Tom and Jerry

Tom and Jerry came to live with us, apparently dropped by some unknown strangers, not cartoon characters but two little black kitten brothers. They have their own little apartment in the barn. There are warm blankets for a bed, food and water bowls and a very fancy kitten bathroom! And of course, there are bales of hay, string, saddles and saddle pads, bridles and all manner of things to play with. It is truly a kitten paradise.

They are very brave around the horses who share the barn. Either that or they are very silly. In the morning the horses come out of the stalls to have some breakfast. Their grain is placed in two large tubs on the ground. They LOVE their grain. It must taste like candy to them.

One morning Jerry noticed the horse had his face down in the black feeding tub. He figured out the horse must have something yummy in there and he thought he might like a taste. Over to the bucket he crept, reached up and put both his paws on the edge of the tub. Now the horse's head is bigger than the WHOLE kitty, but Jerry just had to know what was in the black container. He raised up on his back feet and peered down into the tub.

The horse, Mr. Duke, was not about to share. He gave a great big SNORT and blew the kitty right off the edge of the tub!

"No one's getting my breakfast," he must have thought.

Meanwhile the other horse, Dancer, was nibbling the morning hay. It was hanging in a hay bag at the side of the barn. Each time she grabbed a whisp of hay and pulled it from the bag, the bag would swing to and fro and tufts of hay would fall to the ground. Tom thought this looked like the possibility for an exciting game. He climbed up on the rail just below the hay bag and each time Dancer pulled out a strand of hay, Tom would swipe at the swinging hay bag. It looked like this; pull, swing, bat; pull, swing, bat. What a silly kitten!

They play with anything, a piece of twine, a blowing leaf, a brother's tail. Why they even play a kind of kitty soccer with the little manure balls. How gross!

And after all the running and playing and other adventures, they curl up together for a lovely nap.



Below is a proposed amendment to the NSHA Constitution with tracked changes so you can see the proposed changes in context.

The proposal relates to membership classes. Our Constitution presently specifies six membership classes. The amendment would allow the Board to change the membership class structure to meet the changing needs of our Association. Our constitution requires the Board to provide the member at least a month before they vote. These changes were presented at the May 7, 2019 Membership meeting as well as in this issue of *The Sentinel*.

**A full Membership meeting to vote on the amendment
will proceed our October 1, 2019 program.**

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in the history of the Town of New Scotland.

A. Membership (consists of 6) classes will be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees as confirmed by a vote of the membership at a general membership meeting. At a minimum, membership classes shall include at least four levels, one of which shall be a Life membership and one a Corporate/Business membership.

1. Student
2. Individual
3. Family
4. Sustaining
5. Life
6. Corporate/Business

ARTICLE IV FISCAL POLICIES

C. Dues

1. Annual dues shall be determined by the Membership Committee and Finance Committee and Approved by the Board of Trustees, with the (above) classes of membership, amount and payment schedule to be reviewed yearly. Record of this review shall be recorded in the minutes

DIARY OF HATTIE FLANSBURG O'BRIEN

Monday, January 4, 1892

Weather cold and bright We have washed and ironed this afternoon. I have made some calls.....went to ma's first, then to Emeline's, then to Goulds. And this eve to Goodrich's. (Busy!) Ma and Mrs. Oliver have been here a while this eve. Smith (O'Brien) went to Albany so I will sleep upstairs with the children and Mrs. Smith. Uncle Gardner White's funeral to New Salem.

Sunday, February 26, 1893

Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh be swift to love, make haste to be kind. Ma seems very feeble today. I will have to give her morphine.

Monday, March 14, 1898

Smith went to town. Mabel went with him. I've done our washing and in evening went to Aunt Sophia's.

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

Steven Lysenko, DMD, PLLC
518-765-4616

Corner Gateway
www.cornergateway.com
518-512-5454

Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club
518-765-9395
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**

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New Scotland Historical Association
P. O. Box 541