



THE SENTINEL

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THE NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM: A DREAM COME TRUE— 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Judy Kimes

As recounted in the last issue of the Sentinel, a definitive goal of the founding members of our New Scotland Historical Association was to have a museum. A discussion started in 1970 led to the decision in March of 1971 to hold an organizational meeting leading to the founding of NSHA, with the establishment of a museum as one of its primary goals. In petitioning the NYS Board of Regents for its charter, a required questionnaire was completed. In answer to the question, "Briefly outline the purposes and goals of the organization," then President, Marion Parmenter, listed as the first two, "Preservation of historic artifacts of the Town on New Scotland," and "Collecting printed materials, pictures, and artifacts." The horse was now placed effectively in front of the cart, and NSHA and its dream of a museum were on their way!

At first, NSHA was without a home, meeting in various locations throughout the town, making a museum impossible. But then in March of 1973, the Town acquired the New Salem schoolhouse. It was refurbished for use by NSHA and the Senior Citizens. In May of that year work began on the museum.



A photo from 1997 on the opening of the refurbished museum with Museum Director, Ann Eberle, that appeared in *The Times Union*

Besides the need for a physical space, procedures needed to be developed so that archival materials could be acquired in an organized way. Then, as now, space was a concern. Fortunately, those with expertise in the field stepped forward to help. One such person was David Thurheimer, a town resident from the Office of State History. As reported in her President's Letter in the Fall 1999 Sentinel, Marion Parmenter wrote, "(He) was instrumental in helping the Association get organized and to set up the original museum. He helped us organize our museum records and begin our Accession Book. These were required when we received the Charter. He also advised us to always think in terms of change for the museum!" And wisely so, for changes came often!

In 1981, vintage farm implements were hung in the museum. In 1982 a glass covered display case was built by Jerry Condon. Members took turns doing displays of their own collections. In April of 1982, an Open House was held at the museum to kick off NSHA's activities in honor of the town's Sesquicentennial. Over 225 people visited the museum that day! In September 1988 NSHA received a letter from the town announcing that the building was to be enlarged. Construction began in October and during that time the museum was closed and NSHA had to meet at the town hall. Work was completed in 1989 and a dedication ceremony was held on June 4, 1989. The building was officially named the Wyman Osterhout Community Center.

(continued on page 3)

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

The museum has been open since September 12th. We were pleased to see that visitors were once again coming in to view our collection, and in particular, the exhibit for World War II. Due to past low number of visitors in January, February and March, the museum will again be closed on Sunday afternoon for those months. Arrangements can still be made during those months for a private appointment for specific research by contacting NSHA at newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com.

Unfortunately the program that was scheduled for December 7th was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict for use of the Community Center. NSHA's next program will be on February 6, 2022 at 2 p.m. with the presentation "Colonial to Craft Beer: The Local Story of Beer," to be given by Michael Diana of the Schenectady Historical Association. March's program will be "Native Voices: Including Native American Presence and Perspective in the History of the Ten Broeck Mansion" and is scheduled for Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 2 p.m. The presenter will be Kathryn Kosto, Executive Director of the Albany County Historical Association. We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable people as presenters. On those Sundays the museum will be open a half hour before and after the programs if you would like to view the exhibit then.

The NSHA Officers, Trustees and Committee Chairs all send best wishes for a happy holiday season, and many thanks for your support.

- Sarita Winchell, President

AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS GIFT

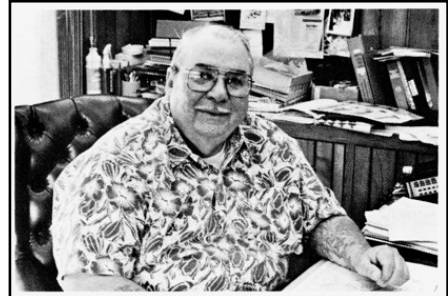
Shared by Judy Kimes

While talking to my sister-in-law, Sandy Slingerland, about my writing another article about our family's activities at butchering time each December, she said she and my brother, Don, had an article our mother, Martha Slingerland, had written about this topic. Sure enough, they found it. Though my other brother, Jim, remembers reading it before, I had never seen it! For me, this was like an unexpected Christmas gift from Mom. This December event was not unusual but is reminiscent of an activity playing out on many other small New Scotland farms in days gone by. The photos, from Don's collection, show the line-up of our meat supply circa 1945. Finally, there is a photo of our dad leading the way to saw down our Christmas tree now that the labors of butchering were finally over.

You might enjoy reading Mom's article, too. As we think back on the 50 years since the founding of the New Scotland Historical Association. Martha Slingerland was one of its 15 charter members and served as its genealogy chair for many years. She so loved and enjoyed the people she worked with in the NSHA. *Keep reading and find on page 5, Martha's article for you.*

(continued from page 1)

The 1990s brought about a period of dramatic change for the museum. NSHA began discussing plans for refurbishing the museum. Mold and moisture were big issues, and, despite the new construction, the museum still had only one room. In 1994 Huck Spaulding, President of Huck Spaulding Enterprises, Inc. in Clarksville, donated \$10,000 to support the refurbishing project. In the fall of 1995, the Town agreed to give NSHA an additional room at the Community Center for its use. In September 1996, Huck Spaulding presented Dennis Sullivan with another gift of \$25,000 to further enable the refurbishing. The museum space was then named the “Spaulding Room.”



Mr. Huck Spaulding in his Clarksville office in 1994.

Many talented people worked on the renovation. Museum Director Ann Eberle worked tirelessly on the project. According to an article published in the *Times Union* in May of 1997, “Eberle enlisted the assistance of her two brothers, David Austin, a Rochester-based exhibit designer, and James Austin, a high school teacher in Cooperstown. More than 100 historical society members also pitched in.” The headline for this article reads, “Museum Spans 200 Million Years.” This is because the new exhibits featured the geological development of the Helderbergs through to the Industrial era.

As we entered a new century, NSHA’s Museum continued to provide exciting and informative exhibits featuring topics such as the World Wars and the Korean Conflict, the General Store, and Old Toys. Each hamlet in the town was featured in its series of Plum(b) Fest exhibits. Also during this time, several of the museum’s artifacts were restored to ensure their survival for future generations.

In April of 2012 an extensive exhibit featuring the Civil War and its effects on the Town opened. This was followed by exhibits such as pre-1950 forms of entertainment and a commemoration of the 100th birthday of Thacher Park. In 2015 the replica of the historic Whalen home in New Salem was donated. This year also saw the exhibit celebrating 1915 in the Town of New Scotland with a special celebration of the 100th birthday of the Voorheesville Library.



Huck Spaulding receiving the Arthur Pound Award from Christine Shield in May of 1997.

As the years go by, the museum continues to fulfill its goals as written in NSHA’s Charter application. We have been truly fortunate to have such a long line of dedicated leaders and members of the Collections and the Exhibits Committees, currently headed by Lea Warden and AnnMarie Hess. Come and see the exhibits currently on display. Besides the displays, there are oral interviews on video of our veterans and of our local residents as well. There are archival albums which house our photo collections. In 2016 archival storage systems were purchased which safely store many artifacts and records. Sarita Winchell and Lynne Samuel have worked long hours to make all our collections more accessible through the search program, PastPerfect, on the museum’s computer. For a small museum, the breadth of our collections is amazing.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the scores of people who enabled the NSHA’s museum to grow from the dream of its founders 50 years ago to the ever-changing asset that it is today.

THE ARTHUR POUND AWARD

By Sherry Burgoon

Over the past 30 years, the Town of New Scotland Historical Association has presented the Arthur Pound Award to members of the community “For Outstanding Service in the Preservation of the History of the Town of New Scotland.” Although not a native to New Scotland, the time Arthur Pound spent in the town and the influence he had clearly identifies him as fitting of the honor. At each award ceremony, recipients and the attendees are reminded of his many accomplishments which appear in the award ceremony program as printed below.

When Arthur Pound moved with his wife and children from his native Michigan to the town of New Scotland, New York, in 1922, he planned to stay a summer. But the hills of the Heldebergs and their Sand Plains stretching for miles below and woodland sights of the meandering Normanskill so captivated him that he settled in their midst for nearly all his life.

And, although his work brought him often enough to faraway places, Arthur Pound’s heart remained stationed amidst the local happenings of the hamlet of New Scotland. He wrote of Jay Whitbeck as he moved his cows methodically to and from pasture and Emily Crear as she shelved items in her general store as if they were members of his family. And his concerns about changes in the postal service of the town or how the roads were being cleared for winter or the demise of the railroad, were the concerns of a dweller who viewed New Scotland as home.

But, while keenly interested in the details of his neighborhood, Arthur Pound could hardly be said to be provincial. The 18 books he wrote, his innumerable magazine pieces and his little book of poems show a man with an extraordinary range of interests. So impressed was one editor at the Atlantic with this range that he once commented, “Pound is a people.”

*Mr. Pound’s interest in New York found expression in four books on American Colonial history and biography. His **Johnson of the Mohawks** written in 1930 is still valued by historians today for its insight into the man and his times.*

His love for New York’s past was well taken note of. In 1940 he was appointed to the post of New York State Historian and director of the New York State Archives of History, a position he held until 1944,

In 1934, at a homecoming celebration in his honor in native Pontiac, his friend and colleague Stewart Beach described the writer as an “economist who has consistently seen into the future and played his part shaping economic and sociological thought; historian who has reached into the past to make the 18th century live again; novelist who has remembered the scenes of his boyhood in terms that have made a corner of Michigan’s local history a living scene.”

And New York’s as well, particularly New Scotland’s such that Arthur Pound can be considered part of its native stock, an appellation he would relish with delight.

Source: NSHA Arthur Pound Award Ceremony program binder housed in the museum

BUTCHERING WEEK ON THE SLINGERLAND FARM

By Martha Slingerland

It was an important event on the farm schedule, the time when a large part of the meat supply for the year was prepared. Since we had no cooling facilities large enough to accommodate our usual 3 hogs, it usually occurred in early December when the weather was cold enough to chill the meat, but still not so cold or snowy as to make the task unbearable to the men doing the out doors part of the work.

Butchering week was a very busy time, but also a time of excitement and socializing since several good friends and neighbors came to help. Because of this and because there tended to be a lot of grease around the house, there was a firm rule that no Christmas decorations could come out of the attic until butchering was over and everything cleaned up. This was rather frustrating for the children in the family, and particularly chafing if inappropriate weather forced a late start to the operation.



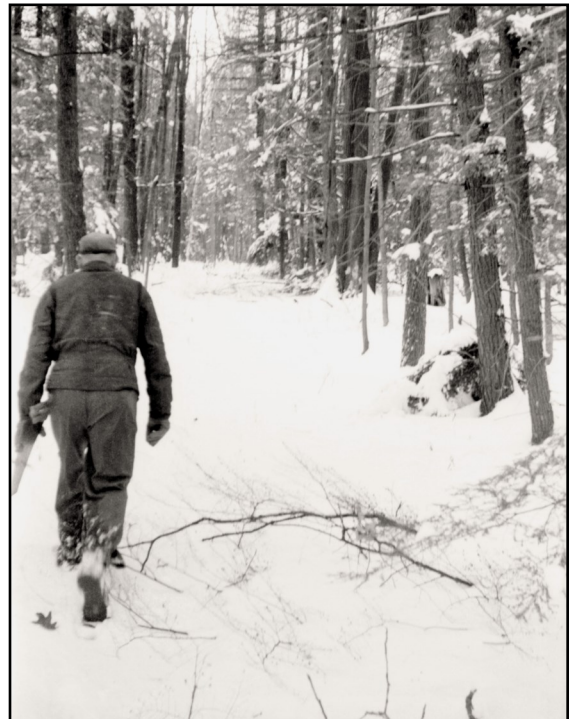
Here's the major portion of the Slingerland family's meat supply for the year, circa 1945.

Such was the case in 1951 when our children were 4, 3, and 18 months. Winter started early that year, with 6 inches of snow on Nov. 1st, followed by cold weather and more snow storms. Early December, however, brought a heat wave. It was 60 degrees on Dec. 5 & 6, too warm for processing meat. Various things interfered and it was Monday, Dec. 17 (and 4 below) when the operation finally got underway.

A typical week went something like this:

MONDAY: The hogs were dispatched as early in the morning as possible. They were scalded and scraped to remove the hairs, then hung on a pole, eviscerated and left to cool out doors for the rest of the day. The "lights" (lungs) were nailed on the end of the smoke house for the birds. Late afternoon the carcasses were drawn up to the garage and laid out on saw horses to continue cooling. Supper that night was usually tender loin.

TUESDAY: they were cut up into the various standard cuts by the men. Scraps and trimmings were sent to the house where they were cut up, seasoned and by evening, ground into sausage. There were 78 pounds of it in 1951. It was packed into large pans. Some if it was sold to extended family and neighbors, but we used a lot ourselves.



Harold Slingerland leading the way to find the family Christmas tree after the work of butchering was finally over. (1964)

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

WEDNESDAY: We “worked on the butchering”. We canned tenderloin and sausage, made head-cheese, etc. We had a neighbor who always asked for the ears and feet. We didn’t use those, but we did cook up the “hockies”, a little further up the leg.

THURSDAY: This was always the day we went on the egg route to Albany. No matter what the big job at hand, the other farm chores went on, of course. This included cleaning, weighing and candling 100 dozen eggs or more for the customers. Harold and his mother usually went on the route. They tried to be home by noon. Then more meat preparation was done.

FRIDAY: By the 1950’s the shoulders, hams and bacon were taken to Albany to be cured. Earlier, however it was all done at home. In the forties Bertha writes in her diary about boiling the brine. She kept adding salt to boiling water until the solution would float an egg. Then the men would help pack the meat in large crocks down cellar, the cooled brine was poured over it and a weight was placed on top to be sure the meat was all covered. It was left there until late January or early February, when it was hung in the smoke house to finish the process. This produced hams with much heavier salt content than our modern day, mild cured hams, and they really needed to be “freshened” a bit before cooking. However, they could just be hung in the attic (after being rubbed with baking soda and wrapped in cloth and brown paper to keep the flies off) for the whole year. It was the rule to “save the best for last”, so the shoulders were used before the hams. This proved to be a mistake in 1947 when our house burned in July (another story). We had just used the last of the shoulders and we lost all the hams.

SATURDAY: Meanwhile we had been working on cutting up the leaf lard and the other fat trimmings. They were “tried out” (cooked on the stove) and the lard was strained off, leaving the “cracklings”. In 1951 we had 22 gallons of lard. We used lard in all our cooking and baking (no Crisco in our house back then). Sometimes sausage balls were fried, packed in crocks and covered with hot lard. Then they could be stored for several weeks in a cold room. Some lard was sold. Years later a neighbor told me that she had not been able to make a really good pie crust ever since we stopped butchering.

Hopefully Saturday house cleaning brought life back to normal.

SUNDAY: Ready for our day of rest, we went off to church with thankful hearts. After “chores”, of course.

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MARIE HORNICK

By Sherry Burgoon

Marie Hornick, an integral member of NSHA since the 1990s, passed away on October 27, 2021.

Marie was born in Glens Falls, New York, where she was raised and graduated high school before entering the College of Saint Rose in Albany. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree, she attended the University of Minnesota where she received a Masters of Arts Degree in English. This led Marie to become a certified English teacher in New York state. Students who attended Clayton A. Bouton High School in the late 1960s and early 1970s, were fortunate to have Mrs. Hornick as their “Humanities” (senior English) teacher.

Marie spent four and a half years at Voorheesville before leaving to raise her sons David and Dan from 1974 to 1982. She returned to teach at Schalmont for eighteen years before retiring in 2000. “We joined the New Scotland Society sometime in the ‘90s,” shared her husband Bill. “Marie served as Program Director for NSHA for eight years and served on the Education committee for even more years. I joined her on the Education committee after I retired in 2008.” She also contributed articles to the *Sentinel*. Most recently, Marie graciously offered to edit the *Sentinel* for Debbie Mahan and me when Bob and Marion Parmenter chose to “retire” from their many years as editors.

Bill was very proud to add that during her teaching career Marie received awards from the Golub Foundation, Union College and Syracuse University. Her sons received her gift as an educator; Daniel teaches social studies at Ballston Spa and Adam teaches at the NY State Police Academy and Columbia-Green Community College in addition to being Bethlehem’s Police Commander.

I will fondly remember how Marie impacted my life’s journey to be an educator and how our connection came full-circle when I was invited to join NSHA.



REMEMBERING ETHIE MOAK

Peg Dorgan

Long time NSHA member, Ethie Jordan Moak, passed away recently from cancer.

Ethie grew up in Onesquethaw where she attended a one room school for first grade. That year was followed by time at Clarksville Elementary and Bethlehem High School. She went on to secretarial school and shared these talents with NSHA and other organizations. Ethie helped to edit our book of memories, “Times of Our Lives,” and did publicity for NSHA programs. Ethie was on the committee that would oversee the Onesquethaw Cemetery. She was a long-time faithful member of the Onesquethaw Reformed Church where she volunteered in many capacities.

Spending most of her life in Onesquethaw, she was an important “go to” when NSHA needed information about history in the southern part of New Scotland.

Ethie will be greatly missed by her family, her church community and many local organizations.

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