



THE SENTINEL

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The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Winter 2022

A HISTORY OF 158 SWIFT ROAD

By Richard Bader

*New Scotland's a town of but modest renown,
And Wands is a name elsewhere rare;
But from what I've been told by my relatives old
There were plenty of Wandses once there.*

(from **The Ballad of Big Wandses**, by Mary Lavinia Wands Campbell)

The Ballad of the Big Wandses was inspired by an incident memorialized in a story told by William Swift, the father of Janet "Jane" Swift Wands, wife of Thomas Holliday Wands, who was a son of Robert Wands, the first owner of 158 Swift Road:

Sometime before 1830, Thomas Holliday Wands' future father-in-law, Mr. Swift, 'was waiting somewhere, when a wagon load of young men passed by on the high road. "Well", he asked them, "where are you going", and they said, "we're going to beat up New Scotland". Apparently in those days when young men of spirit had time on their hands, they visited nearby villages to see what they could start. Some time passed, and towards day's end, Mr. Swift encountered the same group, headed back in their wagon. They were a mess. "Well, did you beat up New Scotland?" "No", they replied, "too many of them big Wandses."

As I was asked to write this history and reflected upon the "plenty of Wandses" I wondered why, as early settlers of the area and founding members of the Town, there isn't even a road named after them.

John Wands (b.1736; d. 1824) and his brother, Ebenezer (b. 1738), sons of James Wands and Janet Laidlie, were Scotch Highlanders and weavers by trade, born somewhere between the Pentland Hills and Edinburgh. Depending on which version of the 'plenty of Wandses' you favor, they either enlisted or were pressed into service for the British, to go to Canada to serve in the

French and Indian War. The most intriguing version tells how the brothers were riding on horseback taking a load of grain to the mill when they were captured by a British press gang and pressed into service to fight for the British in the French and Indian War. The less intriguing, though equally romantic and probably more likely version is that the Wands boys volunteered to serve in one of the Highlander regiments. The 77th (Montgomery's Highlanders) and 78th (Fraser's Highlanders) Regiments were both raised in 1757 and disbanded in 1763. After the termination of fighting in 1763, the officers and men of the 77th, being in New York, were given a choice of either staying in America and receiving a land grant in proportion to their rank or returning to Scotland. The same occurred for the 78th, which was in Canada, at the end of the war. Ebenezer and John worked their way down from Canada and John settled in the area (which would later become New Scotland) in 1762. John Wands has been described as a pioneer and has been noted as a credit to the colonies in his service in the Revolutionary War. Ebenezer later served as a private in the 3rd Regiment of the Albany County Militia and was discharged on April 26, 1782.

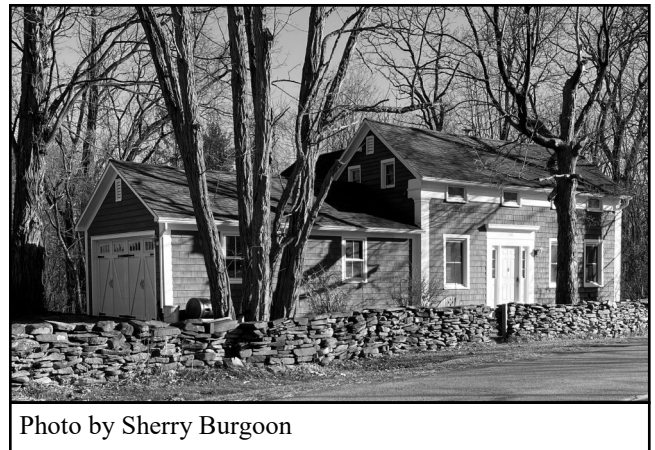


Photo by Sherry Burgoon

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends:

Whether the physical museum is open or closed, the Trustees, Officers and committee chairs continue to work on furthering NSHA's mission. The publication of the Sentinel and the offering of public programs are the main components for generating "an appreciation of local history, heritage and culture". Taking care of "material culture" i.e. our physical inventory of artifacts is cared for by the collection committee which is headed by Lea Foster. Lea has an MA in museum studies from George Washington University with a focus on Collection Management. Her museum background has helped NSHA understand better the proper storage of the collection, and has modernized how we access collection items, and background information, so things are easy to find. When NSHA accepts items into its collection the donor can feel assured that accepted items receive proper care. Thank you, Lea, for your dedication to NSHA.

Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 2 p.m., NSHA will sponsor the program "Civil War in the Mohawk Valley: The Battle of Oriskany," with historian Terry McMaster as presenter. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War. Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 2 p.m. will be the program "Where a Kill is not a Kill and a Fly not a Fly" being presented by Dr. Charles Gehring, Dutch language scholar, Director of New Netherland Research Center and a New Scotland resident. He will discuss the origin and meaning of Dutch family and place names prominent in the region. The museum will be open a half hour before and after the programs if you would like to see some of the collection.

On Sundays in January, February and March, when there is not a program scheduled, the museum will be closed due to past very low visitor numbers during those months. If someone needs to do some research or visit during those months you can call me directly at 518-765-2133 to set up a date and time, and I will arrange for someone to meet you at the museum.

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

IN MEMORIAM

The New Scotland Historical Association was saddened to learn of the passing of A. Lee Flanders, August 17. Lee was president of the association from 1986-1988. Under his leadership, he supported the building committee to consider track lighting being installed in the museum at the suggestion of the NYS Museum, an important addition for viewing. He also offered to share his knowledge or restoring old photographs. Lee was also a very active member of the Voorheesville United Methodist Church, and contributed an article in the Sentinel tracing its rich history.

(continued from page 1)

The current residence at 158 Swift Road was built in 1832 by Robert Wands (b.1780; d.1852), the son of John Wands. In April 1833, Robert Wands was elected a Town Assessor at the first meeting of the Town of New Scotland. Robert Wands “reared a large family” of six children and ran a “prosperous” farm on the property which included 88 acres of land. The property was referred to in records of Dutch Reformed Church of New Salem as having been contained in an original lease from Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq. Robert Wands was married to Jenny Jackson, daughter of John Jackson, on May 12, 1802.

Upon Robert's death in 1852, the house and farm transferred to his son Ebenezer E. Wands (b.1811, d. 1885). However, Robert Wands reserved a home for his sister, Elizabeth W. Boom, on the land for “her natural life or non marriage in the family of [Ebenezer Wands]” as part of the consideration of the conveyance. Elizabeth Boom, nee Wands, (also known as. “Auntie Boom”) was born in 1793, married Nicholas Boom, and died in 1888.

Ebenezer Wands was married twice: first to Nancy McBride. Their nine children were: Robert, Sarah, Alex, Ralph, James M., Albert and Alfred (twins), Jennie and Emma. Of these, five of the sons were soldiers in the Civil War. Nancy Wands (nee McBride) died in 1854. Ebenezer subsequently married Harriet Walley, daughter of Everett Walley of New Scotland. They had five children together: Solomon, Burnside, Rufus P., William, and Kate L.

On December 26, 1885, Ebenezer sold and transferred the home and farm to his son, James M. Wands (b.1844; d. ???). James M. went to Voorheesville when he was eight years old to live with his uncle, James McElroy, a nursery man. In 1862, at age eighteen, James M. Wands enlisted as a volunteer in Company D, 113th N.Y. Infantry, commanded by Captain McCullough; the regiment was subsequently changed to the 7th Heavy Artillery. He served until the end of the Civil War. During his first year of service he was stationed near Washington, D.C. in defense of the Capital city. His regiment fought in the battles of Spottsylvania, Wilderness and Seven Days before Richmond. He also fought in the Battle of Appomattox. In the spring of 1864 he was promoted from a non-commissioned officer to second lieutenant. He returned to Albany on July 4, 1865 and worked for ten years as a foreman for Col. James Hendrick on his farm. In 1867, he married Martha Decker of Columbia County, daughter of Francis and Lucinda Decker. Late in 1885, he purchased the homestead and farmed the eighty-eight acres. He was known for his attention to fruit culture and breeding “high class” stock.

Sometime thereafter the property was transferred to Lois E. Wands, the wife of William James Wands, a nephew of James M. Wands. Presumably, James M. transferred the property to William James and Lois E. survived him.

In April 1948, after being in the Wands family for 116 years, Lois E. Wands sold the Wands homestead to Raymond A. Carson and Ruth E. Carson of Voorheesville. In 1966, it appears the vast majority of the parcel which comprised the former farm was transferred to the Glenmont Development Corporation and now makes up the majority of the property contained in the Stephen P. Wallace Town Park.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Due to technical boundaries and computer software compatibility, Mr. Bader’s footnote numbers, associated with the sources below, do not appear in this copy. If you would like a copy of the article with the source documentation throughout, please email Sherry Burgoon at SherryTBurgoon@gmail.com.*

Sources

As recorded by Angela Candela, 700 Mississippi Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Undated Letter Angela Candela’s uncle Harrison Campbell. See also, https://www.myheritage.com/names/thomas_wands; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63933082/janet-wands>; https://www.myheritage.com/names/jane_wands

Undated Letter Angela Candela’s uncle Harrison Campbell with handwritten note (from Larry House ?)

Three Rivers: Hudson–Mohawk–Schoharie, History From America's Most Famous Valleys.

Wands-Origins, Legends, Etc., Compiled and Contributed By Larry House of Wynantskill, NY

(sources continued on page 5)

“IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS” -1922

Compiled by Judy Kimes

Want to step back in time to the Christmas of 1922? Thanks to the marvelous longevity of *The Altamont Enterprise*, now published as *The Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post*, time travelling to that era is amazingly possible by bringing up *The Altamont Enterprise* issues of December 1922 provided by the “NYS Historic Newspapers” site via images provided by Guilderland Public Library. Let’s take a trip back in time.

Radios were a big thing! An advertisement for “SAM” (call letters) Kallenbaugh: “More radios will be given this year than any other gift. No home is complete without one.” Price: \$7.25-\$500.

“Guaranteed to receive WGY (Schenectady).”

Indeed, reported in its December 8th issue, “The Enterprise added a radio to their equipment. This will enable us to give the latest news and other important information in the future, and to receive the Santa Claus talks which will be broadcast by WGY, Schenectady, beginning Dec. 18. Sam Kallenbaugh installed the apparatus.”

THE WALLAGE STORE IS Christmas Ready

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON is in full swing here at Wallace and the store is busily getting ready for the busy holiday season.

EVERY CHRISTMAS season opened so auspiciously, for Holiday stocks are wider, lovelier, finer than ever. Now that the time for Christmas shopping has come, our suggestion is - not to sit at home and think out your Christmas shopping problems - but to come to Wallace's where gift suggestions surround you on every side, every aisle, every floor - and your gift problems are solved - They just vanish one by one.

Offering: "Carfare concession to people shopping from out of town - free delivery - and a Store with metropolitan convenience to make shopping pleasant - Rest Room - Beauty Parlor - Restaurant"

Make This Great Xmas Store Your Headquarters

Every end of this season - buying, receiving, sending, delivery - is kept in our department to give to you with ease.

Apparel	White Ivory	Cut Glass	Handkerchiefs
Gloves	Perfumes	Gift Furniture	Men's Furnishings
Neckwear	China	Cedar Chests	Books
Ribbons	Furs	Umbrellas	Stationery

It is our hope to make our customers' Christmas shopping as comfortable as possible. We have a complete department of electrical appliances, refrigerated goods and home plans for your own use.

For people shopping from out of town - free delivery - and a Store with metropolitan convenience to make shopping pleasant - Rest Room - Beauty Parlor - Restaurant

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

Another gift suggestion: “A Christmas gift of any of the QUEEN Washers or Wringers would make glad the heart of any friend or relative. They have proved their superiority over all others yet on the market. A good stock on hand for the holidays. Come early.” S. Sitterly, Guilderland Center.

The Enterprise’s Christmas Issue, December 15, 1922, is double in size and filled with store ads and local events. What could be purchased and where?

The big stores ran big ads.

Barney’s (“Where Everybody Shops – Schenectady’s Greatest Store”) offered cameras priced \$5.50 - \$13.00, and reported, “Santa’s Pack is Overflowing with the most wonderful toys that ever were made. Santa and his workers certainly have surpassed themselves this year in making toys for you children. Dolls that have learned to walk and talk – houses for them to live in – wagons and engines and machinery – wooly bears – automobiles – in fact, so many toys that we could never hope to name all of them. But they are all here in our basement, just waiting for you to come and look at them. Saturday’s a good day as there is no school and you have plenty of time. Be sure to come in sometime Saturday.”

The Carl Co. (Schenectady) – “You Pay Less Here”

“Services offered: Bus fare allowance for any Altamont customers making purchases that total \$20 or more. FREE: Use of the rest Room and Writing Desks with Stationery on the Balcony. Lunches are served all day at very moderate prices.”

Wallace Co. (Schenectady) “The Wallace Store is Christmas Ready – Never a Christmas season opened so auspiciously, for Holiday stocks are wider, lovelier, finer than ever....So now that the time for Christmas shopping has come, our suggestion is - not to sit at home and think out your Christmas shopping problems – but to come to Wallace’s where gift suggestions surround you on every side, every aisle, every floor – and your gift problems are solved – They just vanish one by one.”

Offering: “Carfare concession to people shopping from out of town – free delivery – and a Store with metropolitan convenience to make shopping pleasant – Rest Room – Beauty Parlor – Restaurant”

(Continued on page 5)

Babbitt & Co. (Albany) “Fur Sale –

You can imagine how many people are coming to buy for Christmas after reading the news:
Men’s Dog Coats \$39.50 - \$49.50, Men’s Muskrat Lined Coats \$145, Ladies’ Hudson Seal Coats \$335 - \$365, Ladies’ Raccoon Coats \$265, Ladies’ Wolf Coats \$95”

Strand Temple of Music for Victrolas (Albany):

Price \$100. “Can be purchased on terms as low as \$1.50 a week.”

Helderberg Motor Company (Altamont):

“A Merry X-mas – Why not make your wife a real present this Christmas? Let her do her shopping and make her calls in comfort. Buy her a Ford Sedan or Coupe from Helderberg Motor Company.”

Of course, Christmas 1922 was much more than big stores and big purchases. Almost every church and school presented Christmas pageants and celebrations that were well-attended and appreciated. For example, in the December 29th *Enterprise*, the Feura Bush, South End correspondent reported, “On Saturday evening the Reformed Church Sunday School gave a musical Christmas entertainment followed by a supper for all those present. Gifts for all members of the Sunday School and little guests were distributed. A pleasant occasion for old and young, and we hope there will be more such gatherings. We should uphold the hands of the workers and encourage the attendance of all children at Sunday services. Youth is an impressionable age.”

Also in the December 29th issue, the Reidsville (a small community near Clarksville) correspondent reported, “Harold Conger received a Christmas present of a cow from his father.” No doubt making Master Harold a very happy young man.

But now, back to Christmas 2022. May there be Peace and Joy for all!

With thanks to Melissa Hale-Spencer, Editor of *The Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post* for giving us permission to use their century-old ads.

(sources continued from page 3)

August 2000/Revised April 2001/August 2001, <http://threerivershms.com/wandsrev.htm> on 11/30/22.

Wands, Origins, Legends, Etc., (excerpted from Amasa J. Parker (ed), *Landmarks of Albany County*, New York, D. Mason and Co., Publishers, Syracuse, N.Y. 1897 (Part 3), p. 100) most substantial being the construction of an attached two car garage and addition of a room on the south rear of the building, sometime around 1970. Apparently, around that same time, a barn which was on the northern part of the parcel, burned down.

Citation needed

Wands, Origins, Legends, Etc. Also see, ***Unidentified book accessed in Guilderland Public Library, p. 100 (photocopied 2003); Family sketches from *Landmarks of Albany County*, New York, edited by Amasa J. Parker of Albany, N. Y., Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Mason & Co. Publishers, 1897 accessed at <https://albany.nygenweb.net/sketch-w.htm>

Records of Dutch Reformed Church of New Salem

Albany County DEEDS Liber 115 Page 97-98. See note (undated) from Larry House, 10 Cook Street, Wynantskill, NY 12198.

Family sketches from *Landmarks of Albany County*, New York, edited by Amasa J. Parker of Albany, N. Y., Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Mason & Co. Publishers, 1897 accessed at <https://albany.nygenweb.net/sketch-w.htm>

See note (undated) from Larry House, 10 Cook Street, Wynantskill, NY 12198.

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***Unidentified book accessed in Guilderland Public Library, p. 101 (photocopied 2003)

Albany County DEEDS Liber 1115 Page 137

Albany County DEEDS Liber 1115 Page 137

See “Survey of Portion of Lands of Clifford A. & Stella B. Severson and Portions of Lands of Raymond A. Carson to be conveyed to Glenmont Development Corp.”, prepared by C.T. Male Associates, dated October 28, 1965. On April 18, 1975, Raymond A. Carson and Ruth E. Carson transferred the parcel as it presently exists (approximately .75 acres) to Robert G. Panthen and Sue F. Panthen of Voorheesville.

NEW HISTORICAL MARKERS UNVEILED AND DEDICATED

By Judy Kimes

Editor's Note: The following is a condensed version of Judy's press release.

On Saturday, September 24, NSHA unveiled and dedicated two new historical markers. The first marks the location of the laboratory and home of Robert E. Horton, located on Krumkill Road. As described by the Encyclopedia Britannica, Horton was "an American hydrologist who established a quantitative basis for the analysis of the drainage of networks of streams. The empirical rules he discovered and set forth are generally referred to as Horton's Laws." In 1926, Horton submitted a report which was the basis for the development of the City of Albany's water supply which includes the Alcove Reservoir and the Basic Creek Reservoir. The building at this site was his laboratory and was at one time a grist mill.



Robert E. Horton Historical Marker:
Left to right: John and Marjorie Waldman, current owners of the site; Doug LaGrange, New Scotland town Supervisor; Chris Albright, Historical Sites Chair; Sarita Winchell, NSHA President



Tory Robbery (Jacob Cooper Farm Site)
Left to right: Rich Frolich, NSHA Trustee; Alan Kowolowitz, NSHA Recording Secretary; Dan Leinung, NSHA Trustee and member of New Scotland Town Board; Sarita Winchell, NSHA President; Chris Albright, Historical Sites Chair; David Wallingford, Helderberg Workshop Board member; Vince Perry, NSHA Trustee

The second marker identifies the site of Tory Robbery. Quoting the June 20, 1779 Minutes of the Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies, Arthur R. Gregg in his book, *Old Hellebergh*, published in 1936 by *The Altamont Enterprise*, wrote, "John Wheeler appeared before the Board and informed us that a party of Robbers had last night been at the house of his father-in-law, Jacob Cooper, at the Hellebergh, an in their attempting to break in the House, the said Jacob Cooper had shot and killed one of them and requesting us to send a scout to that Quarter to go in Search of Said Robbers.....On June 21, 1719, the Board did meet at the home of Jacob Cooper, the one and only time "the Commissioners" ever left Albany to convene."

The Historical Marker is located on the property of the Heldeberg Workshop on Picard Road.

Committee Chair of Historic Sites, Chris Albright, reported that NSHA was able to repaint three historic markers this year: Indian Ladder Farm, Clark House (Clarksville), and the DeLong Vanderbilt House.

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE OF NEW SALEM

By Christopher Albright

While reviewing a *“Map of the Vicinity of Albany and Troy”* by J. C. Sidney published 1851, it was noticed that a structure in New Salem was labeled *“Q.M. House”*. Further research found that this was in fact a Quaker Meeting House. On April 12th, 1847, Peter Bogardus sold 1/3 acre of land to *“David Bradt, Abner Moore, and Arnold Wood, Trustees of the Friends Meeting House”* (Quakers are also known as the Religious Society of Friends). The lot is described as *“lying in the village of New Salem”* and *“along the beaverdam Road”*. Deeds of adjacent parcels describe it as the *“Quaker Church lot”*.

The Quakers or Religious Society of Friends in New Scotland had been established by at least 1836. Early meetings were probably held at a member’s house. The minutes of the *“New Scotland Preparative Meeting”* dated 25 November 1846 states that *“Thomas D Bennett, David Bradt, Titus Rushmore, Arnold Wood and William Bennett are appointed to take into consideration the propriety of building a meeting house if a suitable place offers.....”*. The group subsequently reported on 27 January 1847 *“that they can have a lot for \$100 and propose building a house 36 feet by 26”* with 13 foot posts and also a shed 21 by 45 feet with 9 foot posts. The cost of the lot, house and shed would be \$700. The meeting house and shed were probably completed by the end of 1847 as an effort to *“raise \$20 for wood and fixtures about the meeting house and shed...”* were made.

The Quaker Meeting House of New Salem lasted only for about 12 years because on October 29th, 1859, Arnold Wood and his wife Mary B. Wood, and Titus Rushmore and his wife, Anna W. Rushmore sold the lot to Abram B. Van Dusen.

Who were the Quakers of New Salem? Some of the names listed on the deeds and meeting minutes include: Thomas D Bennett, William Bennett, David Bradt, Abner Moore, Titus Rushmore, Anna W. Rushmore, Arnold Wood, Edwin Wood, Gideon Wood, Mary B. Wood, and Uriah Wood.

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