



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 23, No. 2

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Winter 2014

Mark your Calendar!!!

**Chilly Willy Winter's Eve
December 2, 2014**

NSHA is pleased to host on December 2, 2014 at 7:30 pm at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center a program by Shelby Mattice, curator at the Bronck Museum, entitled *Chilly Willy Winter's Eve: Winter Life on a Hudson Valley Dutch Farmstead in the 1600s*. The program will describe how early Dutch settlers dealt with the harsh realities of the late fall and early winter season, a time of inescapable cold, low light and fears of starvation. It will also discuss how they celebrated the holidays between Martinmas on November 11 through Twelfth Night in early January. This cycle of celebrations that included Christmas were a welcome diversion for early settlers in the Hudson Valley and helped people survive the harsh early winter through a mixture of pagan and Christian rituals that often included drinking and feasting as well as religious celebrations. Ms. Mattice, who has presented numerous programs on early Dutch life in the rural Hudson Valley, has an anthropologist's eye for detail and has the ability to make the life of ordinary people of the Colonial Period come to life.



New Year's Party

“The Hilton Barn”

By Cathy Le Vie Hammann

Continued from the Fall Issue of *The Sentinel*

In 1952 my parents Alfred E. Le Vie (son of James Jr. and Henrietta and nicknamed Bud) and Shirley Herzog married and they moved to this property owned by my grandparents. They began the roadside market which was later to be known as Le Vie's Farm Market. Dad converted an old barn on the property to our family home. It had grey cedar shingles, later painted dark green and then painted white with green shutters, which it is today. I had heard this barn was about a



Barn converted into the Le Vie home in 1952

hundred years old—I remember as a child it had stone walls in the basement and my sister and I used to poke little glass beads in between the stones. The basement walls have since been lined, but the beads are still there! I remember long walks in the spring over the property watching birds and picking pussy willows. I also remember my Dad digging up two small birch trees from back in the woods which he replanted behind the farm stand—one for me and one for my sister. The Cathy and Judy birch trees were still standing when I last visited in 2012. In the winter we went tobogganing on the hills which are now the Country Club and ice skating on our pond. We were never allowed down at the pond by ourselves and Dad always checked the ice before we skated to make sure it was safe. Kind of funny though, because my Dad couldn't swim! Just as well the winter froze the ice hard. The farm holds a



Le Vie house in 1990

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NEW
SCOTLAND
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

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President's Letter

Winter is upon us and Christmas is not far away. As with the seasons, organizations also change. In the last edition of the *Sentinel*, I reported that all NSHA leadership positions were filled for the first time in at least two years. However, by next spring, we will have some very critical positions to fill.

Last spring, Bob and Marion Parmenter informed the NSHA Board that they would co-edit the *Sentinel* for one additional year before stepping down. More recently, Sandy Slingerland informed me that she would like to step down from chairing the Exhibits Committee. Marion, Bob and Sandy have literally given decades to our Association in various capacities. These dedicated folks will continue to be extremely active in NSHA but no volunteer-based organizations can expect people to fill the same position indefinitely. In fact, bringing new people, with fresh perspectives and diverse skills, into leadership positions is healthy for any organization. However, change is scary, especially when it might affect NSHA's ability to publish the *Sentinel* and present new interesting exhibits at our museum. If you appreciate the *Sentinel* and enjoy our changing exhibits, I would urge you to consider volunteering for the *Sentinel* Committee and Exhibits Committee. If you join these committees now, you can work with our veteran Committee Chairs and find out if you would like to lead these Committees in the future. Please feel free to contact me or any Board member if you are interested in volunteering for NSHA in any capacity.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season and that you are able to join us for our winter programs.

Alan Kowlowitz

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.

Corporate Appeal

It is through donations that the New Scotland Historical Association can fund the programs it provides to the community. Many thanks to local businesses that support our mission through our "Corporate Sponsors" program. In December we will be contacting local businesses for new "Corporate Sponsor" memberships and renewals. If you do not hear from us and want to be part of the program, please contact Sarita Winchell, 279 Helderberg Parkway, Voorheesville, NY 12186 for information.

Voorheesville Gymnasium/Auditorium

Will Osterhout

Remember the large wooden doors we went through to enter school? The stairs to the right went up to the second floor and the shorter stairs to the left went down to the first floor. At the bottom of the stairs you would face one of the entrances to the Gym/Auditorium. I would like to share with you some of the things I remember about this particular location.

Whenever there was an assembly, all those platforms on wheels, which were stored under the stage, had to be brought out and all the folding wooden chairs stored on them had to be set up. After the assembly the process was reversed by the students.

We had gym demonstrations when all our parents could come and see us perform. I am sure all you girls remember those cute little blue gym suits! There would be tumbling and other sorts of activities and one year I was forced to do the "Can Can" in my little short skirt along with several other boys. I think this may have been Coach Mead's way of getting back at us for goofing off in gym. I recall during one of our gym demonstrations we were to enter the gym through a large paper sheet covering the door with the Statue of Liberty painted on it. Robert Smith was to lead the charge but he had an unfortunate accident--- he stumbled as he went through and landed flat on his face on the gym floor. To this day he still says I tripped him. That's the story he tells, so I guess I'm stuck with it.

Basketball games were also a time when the gym would be filled with spectators both downstairs and up in the balcony's on either side. Who can forget the night Charlie Hines was upset over a referee's call so he dropped down from the balcony to confront him. Anyone who played on that old wooden floor knew there were some dead spots where a basketball would not bounce, but lie dead on the floor. We all knew about them but it sure caused problems for visiting teams.

After lunch if we had time we could go in the gym and shoot baskets. How many remember janitor Mike Pafunda standing up in the balcony waiting for us to throw him a ball. He could make a basket from there and sometimes he would put his back to the basket and make them that way by throwing the ball over his head, but not as frequently.

Today when the kids have a prom they get picked up by a limo and taken to a fancy restaurant for dinner and dancing. We had a much cheaper solution, we decorated the gym. All the decorations were made by the students and the art department after a theme was chosen. There was always a receiving line of school board members and others. When it came time to crown the King and Queen and their court, a stairs was placed against the stage for access. The court would be announced over the PA system and then the King and Queen would be announced next. All would ascend to the stage where the coronation would be carried out by the previous year's King and Queen. Music and dancing would fill the rest of the evening.

I know that most of you will recall Mrs. Stage. I found her to be a very stern and no nonsense type of teacher who could really instill fear in the mind of a student. At one point in time, learning ball room dancing was part of our gym curriculum. I remember going into the gym and seeing Mrs. Stage there and learning she was going to be my instructor. I became paralyzed with fear, I knew how she was if you didn't do things right. My fears were groundless and I experienced a completely different side to her personality and even with two left feet I believed I learned something.

How many of you took typing with Mrs. McGarr? Remember how angry she would get if you returned the carriage too hard and rang the bell and you knew either your ear or your nose was going to get pulled! She was always having some sort of problem with her under garments and was constantly adjusting them in front of the class.

Well, I hope that these recollection have brought a smile to your face and caused you to recall some special memories of your own.

Recalling the old days
Will

(cont. from page 1)

lot of special memories for me, even though I married in 1974 and moved to Australia the following year.

In 1954, my great uncle Elmer Levie and his wife Anna sold a parcel of their land to William and Ruth Streets who built a brick house with a terracotta tile roof on Maple Road. I don't believe there were many homes with a terracotta tile roof in the area. [This roof remains today]. When I started school, Mrs. Streets was my kindergarten teacher!

By this time, all four Levie brothers had gradually changed the spelling of their names to Le Vie. Whoever advised them to do that obviously had no knowledge of French grammar, because the spelling should have been La Vie, an idiosyncrasy which has plagued our family for all these years. In my ancestry research I have seen the spelling Levie, Levey, Le Vie and just about every other combination you could imagine.



The original farm stand built in 1952, replaced c. 1981.

It doesn't make it easy to find my family ancestors—and in fact I still haven't found any clear leads to my great-grandfather's family because of this. All I know is that he came from Mariaville or Duaneburgh. If anyone knows anything about James Alexander Levie, I would dearly love to hear about him. I can only remember sitting on his knee in a rocking chair as a little girl and he was wearing a cap, hence his nickname "Cap." He died when I was 5 years old.

All four Le Vie brothers as well as their father were involved in fruit and vegetables in the Albany area as growers, peddlers, and produce sellers at the Menands Market. The Le Vie name continued in the retail vegetable business with my parents Al and Shirley Le Vie trading as Le Vie's Farm Market from 1952 until 1997.

In January of 1963, the Colonie Country Club bought into this area for their new golf course. Though I was quite young at the time, I remember there being a lot of extended family discussions about this proposal and I believe it was quite some time before the Country Club gained agreement from all parties. The Club bought the remainder of the Hilton Farm from Frank R. and Marie M. Hilton of New Jersey, Phoebe Hilton Cain of New Jersey, and Catharine Hilton Wands of Altamont. Frank was one of the Hilton sons listed in the 1880 census and Phoebe and Catharine were daughters of two of his siblings. The property bought by the Club included the Hilton barn and the Hilton house next to it, as well as a chicken coop behind the house that I used as a cubby house when I was a kid, unbeknown to my parents! I remember the area was very over-



Al and Shirley Le Vie at work in the stand!

grown—but I also remember going into the Hilton house with my mother and Phoebe Kain when I was a child and seeing the old fireplaces and staircase. I thought the house was wonderful, but it was probably not in good condition because it was taken down shortly after I saw it. I remember my Dad being concerned that lightning would hit the big barn and catch on fire and burn our house down, probably because the area was so overgrown.

Following the sale of the Hilton Farm to the Country Club, there were a number of other parcels of land sold to them—no sure in what order, but all the deeds are dated the same day in January of 1963. Unc's second wife Elizabeth, Elmer and Anna, Edward Le Vie (the fourth brother who inherited a parcel when Unc died) and my grandparents all sold parts of their land to the Club. There was an exchange of part of my grand-



New stand replaced old c. 1981. About 1990, they changed to self-service, as the lines were too long!

parent's land for part of the Hilton land, in order to facilitate the golf course, so that is why part of our farm nestled in behind the Hilton barn. An agreement for a right of way was also established through our farm so that the maintenance of the golf course could happen from the Hilton barn as it was now cut off from the Club by our farm, and a portion of land containing a spring was added to our land so that my father could dig a new

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pond for irrigation. Again there were agreements for a right of way which had to be sorted out there too. In October of 1963, my parents obtained the deed to the remainder of their farm from my grandparents. My grandfather James Le Vie died in 1979 and my parents eventually owned the rest of his property up the road, though my grandfather still lived there for a number of years after that. Following the death of my father, the remainder of my grandmother's property was sold in two stages, and I noticed her house is now being renovated.

My mother Shirley Le Vie died in 2008. In 2009, Colonie Country Club exercised their right to an option to buy our farm which had been negotiated back in 1963 with my grandparents, unbeknown to me until that time.

I have followed as much of the story of the property and the discussions about the barn as I have been able to do from Australia. In answer to your question though, the Le Vie barn is really the 'old Hilton Barn' and was never owned by the Le Vie family. I am sure it is being called that because it is situated next door to Le Vie's Farm Market, which even though it has not been trading since Dad's death in 1997, it is still a well known landmark in the area. As there is now no one left with the Le Vie name, I am diligently trying to record my family's history in the area before all memory of them is gone. I want to be able to pass this history on to my children and grandchildren so they know something of their heritage.

*The **Sentinel** committee would like to encourage other folks to share their family histories with us—and especially with their own families! Bob and Marion Parmenter*

Calling All Bakers!

First, a big "Thank You" from the hospitality committee to all the willing bakers who keep our refreshment table supplied at every meeting. What would we do without you?

As I look ahead to the New Year, I see that there are a number of opportunities to "wow" our program attendees with that "new" cookie recipe you have, or, bring us an old favorite that you and your family "just love!" If you would be willing to help by baking several dozen cookies, call me, Lorraine, at 767-9129 evenings, or email me at:

jelly108@earthlink.net.

Better yet, see me at that December program, "*Chilly Willy Winter's Eve: Winter Life on a Hudson Valley Dutch Farmstead in the 1600s.*"

Again, "Thank You" so much for baking!

Lorraine & Bob Felter

Hospitality Committee

Winter Program Schedule

Dec. 2, 2014 (7:30 pm) Chilly Willy Winter's Eve

Shelby Mattice, Curator at the Bronck Museum, will explore the challenges of winter life on a Hudson Valley Dutch farmstead in the 1600s, as well as the late fall and early winter holidays typically celebrated by Dutch families.

Feb. 3, 2015 (7:30 pm) Dairying in New Scotland—Doug LaGrange

New Scotland's own Doug LaGrange, dairy farmer and Town Councilman, will talk about the past, present and future of dairying in New Scotland.

Mar. 3, 2015 (7:30 pm) Kate Mullany National Historic Site: National significance of a Laundry Workers' Strike

Dr. P. Thomas Carroll, Senior Scholar of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, will discuss the Capital District's famed labor pioneer, Irish immigrant Kate Mullany and her struggle to organize the Troy women collar laundry workers in 1864.

All programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, beginning at 7:30 pm. The museum will be open at 7:00pm

Nipper!

Most of us would recognize this well-known pooch named Nipper. Did you know it was built in 1954? It was placed on top of the RTA Warehouse, an RCA Victor electronics distributor on Broadway in Albany. It is 24 feet tall and consists of four tons of steel and composite! The dog has remained on top of the building through many different ownerships. An “earring” was added to protect it from low flying planes.

In 1997, Michael Arnoff, owner of Arnoff Moving and Storage, announced he was doing a building renovation, including the needed repairs on Nipper. Cost of the building and Nipper’s renovations came to \$1 million! Total cost to taxpayers—nothing!

Since the day Nipper was erected in 1954 he has been the most recognizable landmark in North Albany.

My sister and I always knew we were nearing our destination—Montgomery Wards in Menands—when we spotted Nipper! My parents called it a trip in those days!

(Thanks to Willard Osterhout for the picture and info. M.Parmenter)



Happy Holidays from Nipper!

In Memoriam

We were saddened with the passing of Life Member Allison Bennett and longtime member Bob Pennock. Both were dedicated Museum Volunteers for many years.

Inclement Weather?

In the event of stormy weather on a meeting night, if you are unsure whether the meeting has been cancelled, please call Alan Kowlowitz, 765-4212, or Peg Dorgan, 768-2852. Emails will be sent to those on the email list.

Museum Hours
Sundays: 2:00-4:00 P.M.
Closed Dec. 28, 2014

If you would like to become a member, please do so!

NSHA Membership Form

___ \$10 Individual
___ \$15 Family
___ \$25 Sustaining
___ \$100.00 Life (per person)

Name _____

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Make checks payable to NSHA.

Please send dues to:

Sarita Winchell
NSHA Membership Chair
279 Helderberg Pkwy
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Sentinel –The past! The future!

Bob and Marion Parmenter

The Sentinel was introduced with the Feb. 1993 edition, inspired by Dennis Sullivan, with the assistance of Tim Albright and Mark King. This trio went on and produced 3 more issues. The Autumn of 1994 issue was produced by Dennis, Mark and Christine Shields. Martha Slingerland joined this group for the Winter 1995 issue. The next issues were Autumn 1997 and Spring 1998 produced by Chris Albright and Peg Dorgan. Fall of 1998 and Spring of 1999 were produced by Chris Albright and Andrea Gleason, followed by Chris doing the Spring 2000 issue.

A friend of ours volunteered to do the “publishing” portion and convinced us that we 3 could produce the *Sentinel*, together with volunteer help from NSHA. Volume #9, No. 1 was in the mail in the Fall of 2000. Joe Hogan, Will Osterhout and Mike Dorgan joined us for the Winter 2000 issue, and continued for many years. Marie Hornick joined us for the April 2001 issue and has been our faithful proofreader ever since. Since the Spring 2006 issue, the committee has consisted of Marie and Willard and ourselves. In addition, Jerri Osterhout and Janet Klopp have regularly pitched in and helped prepare the newsletter for mailing, with even more volunteers joining for the “matching up the membership cards and newsletter game.” We’ve had many folks contribute over the years, as you readers all know. It is wonderful when someone says “Can you use this? I found it....”

Our friend Jim in Saratoga, who convinced us to take on the task originally--with his expert computer help--passed away suddenly in 2009, and we had a problem! More than one! We skipped the Summer issue, but over the summer Bob learned how to do the publishing program—he’d watched Jim for years—and the Fall issue was in the mail! Doing all that is an added dimension to the job as far as we’re concerned!

Last year we decided this would be our last year—makes 15 years, 4 issues a year, minus one issue in 2009. We told the NSHA Board in May.

The next project is for NSHA to find new folks to take over. Our committee will be meeting on January 7, 2015, at 9:30 AM in the Community Center/Museum to make plans for the next issue. (Snow date is January 12!) We are hoping some interested folks would like to join us for this meeting to just see how we have been going about it. We are sure new folks will have new ideas—but this way they can start thinking about it. They don’t have to talk, just listen and think. They can wear masks if they want to, so as not to be identified at this point as being possibly interested! Any questions, please call Will Osterhout 872-1606, Marie Hornick 768-2933, or Sherry Burgoon 765-4387.

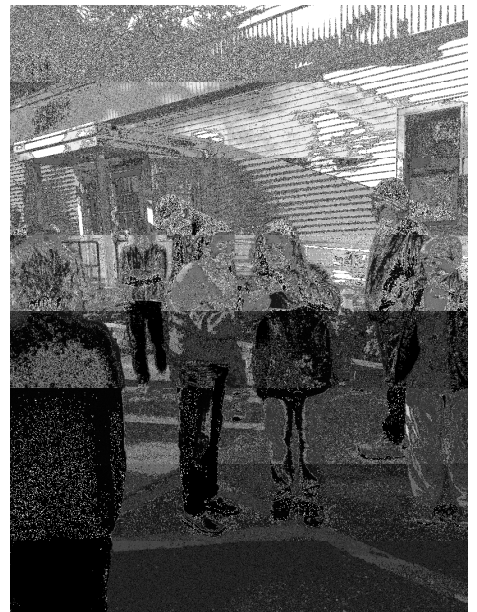
There is a binder in the museum which has all of the issues that have ever been published if you want to see them. It is interesting to see how this paper has changed over the years it has been in existence. The binder is on the shelf where the picture albums are.



Geo-caching!

Chet Boehlke taught the children and adults how to Geo-cache at the museum on Sunday, Nov. 2.

These children on the left have found the geo-cache hidden in the Thacher Park booth.



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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
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