



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 16, No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2007

**The NSHA Museum
Will be open on Saturday,
November 10th
10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.
In honor of New Scotland
Veterans.**

*Museum will be open Sunday, November
11th
2:00—4:00 P.M. as usual.*

Recollections of World War II on the New Scotland Home Front

By Sam Youmans

Patch it up, make it do or do without. This was the way of life for many rural people in the Depression years of the 1930s. Shortages and rationing during World War II, 1941—1945, made it mandatory for all citizens.

Some food items, such as red meat, sugar, butter and coffee required ration stamps to buy. Other things would often be in short supply. People were encouraged to grow vegetables in Victory Gardens. We farmers furnished tilled ground for anyone to use, with free manure. Canning vegetables and fruits in season was also encouraged.

Footwear was rationed, and you didn't even get the shoe box. Farmers could get by with two pairs of shoes, but needed rubbers, galoshes, and rubber boots. Horseshoes were exempt. Tin cans had to be flattened and recycled, as well as paper and cardboard. Even cooking grease was saved and taken to the grocery stores. All worn out and unusable farm machinery and metal items were added to the scrap metal collection. This greatly reduced the farm junk piles.

Gasoline was strictly regulated. 2-3 gallons per week was the base allowance for vehicles for personal use. More could be applied for if needed for a person's occupation. Farm operations were allotted enough for production and delivery of food and fiber. We had our own tank and pump, but had to record on a chart every gallon that was used for the tractors, trucks and cars. New tires were scarce, so some were recapped to extend their life. Each vehicle was allowed one spare. All tires over that limit had to be turned in for salvage. I took about 40 junk tires to the Voorheesville freight depot.

As factories converted to making military equipment, no new cars, trucks, farm machinery, or home appliances were avail-

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200 Acre Area in New Scotland Swept by Fire April 18, 1941

**Firemen, CCC Boys, and Fire Wardens Battle Blaze for
Four Hours**

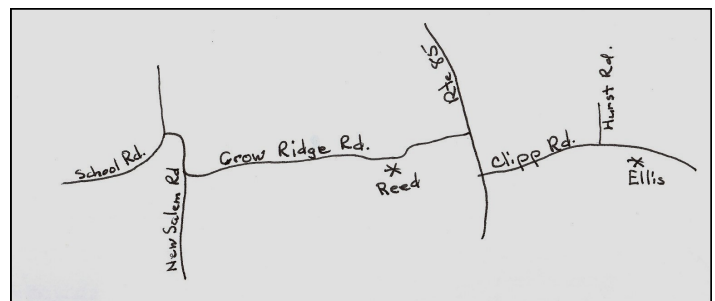
A 200-acre area in the Town of New Scotland was burned over Tuesday afternoon in a blaze that took firemen, CCC boys and fire wardens more than four hours to bring under control, and then not until several farm buildings had been threatened and backfires had been started. For hours, a wide area in the foothills of the Helderbergs was shrouded in smoke, carried along by a high wind.

The area over which the fire burned is between the Crow Ridge, Schoolhouse and Voorheesville-New Salem roads. Destroyed in the blaze was a barn containing farm implements and other supplies in the Robert Ellis Farm, Clipp Road. *(Currently Mark King Property)*

Voorheesville and Slingerlands firemen answered the first call to the scene. When the wind increased and the fire raced away from them, a call for help was sent to the CCC camp at Thacher Park. Camp Commander H. H. McMore set out with 75 men equipped with portable fire fighting tanks, shovels and brooms.

Lack of water hampered the firemen for some time. Finally, under the warden's direction, backfires were started in the brush from Schoolhouse and Voorheesville-New Salem Roads. In this manner, the fire finally was stopped. Saved by the fighters were the home and farm buildings of Porter Reed, (currently Lysenko property) on Crow Ridge Road.

Courtesy of the Altamont Enterprise



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

1st Program of the Season

Tuesday, October 2nd

7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Willard Osterhout

Osterhouts' "Indian Ladder Lodge"

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541
Voorheesville, NY 12186

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www.townofnewscotland.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

These are exciting times! One normally thinks of historical groups and museums centering on the "past." In many ways this is true. However, the New Scotland Historical Association is operating very much in the present and the future.

The new web site is certainly going to be an interesting way to keep the public informed of all the programs that NSHA presents each year...It will welcome new friends to the museum and all it has to offer. It will continually be brought up to date with announcements and projects within the association. How easy it will be to "stay in touch."

The making of the DVDs to record memories of our Senior Citizens is another project that is about to start. We are very appreciative of the help of the younger set, who manipulate this technology easily.

As a new year is about to begin, place our program dates (included in this publication) on your refrigerator. Bring a friend to the museum or to our meetings. Share the history of our wonderful Town.

Peg Dorgan
President

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS 2007-2008

Oct. 2, Tuesday Willard Osterhout: Osterhouts' "Indian Ladder Lodge"

Nov. 5, Monday* Robert Humes: "Little Known Stories, Events, Trivia and Facts of World War II"

Dec. 2, Sunday Cindy Pollard: History of the Home Front Café

Feb. 3, Sunday Don Rittner: The "Onrust," A Dutch Ship Under Construction

Mar. 2, Sunday Geoff Stein: The "Day Peckinpaugh," A Commercial Boat on the Barge Canal

Apr. 1, Tuesday Stuart Lehman: A Civil War Tour of the New York State Capitol Building

May 6, Tuesday Tom Lindsay and Michael Eck: "The Gospel Train," American spiritual and religious songs from the Civil War to Civil Rights

***Monday before Election Day (7:30 P.M.)**

All Tuesday meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 P.M.

Museum will be open one-half hour before programs

Location: Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem

New Website to Explore New Scotland History

The New Scotland Historical Association will soon have a new website. This will help more people to find out about the history of New Scotland, and provide timely information about NSHA programs and events.

The NSHA website committee has been working with designer Katherine Johnson to develop an effective website. The website will include many features. A calendar will list NSHA events, programs and exhibits. Museum visitors can find directions and hours. Potential new members can find out how to join and discover volunteer opportunities too. Researchers and Genealogists will be able to see what resources are available at the Museum. A slide show will take website visitors on a virtual tour of old New Scotland. In the future more features will be added.

The website is expected to be up and running this Fall, just in time for the new season of programs. Training for maintaining and updating the website will be conducted this fall. If you are interested in volunteering with this exciting project, please contact Marie Hornick at 768-2933.

Museum Report

A steady stream of folks have come to view our current exhibit “**From the Home Front to the Front Lines: New Scotland in World Wars I & II,**” since it opened four months ago. A few more artifacts have been added to the exhibit and many, many more photos have been added to our Honor Roll. If you have a photo of a service man or woman living in New Scotland who served in either war, please loan them to us so that we may scan them and add them to the Honor Roll.

We will have a special opening on November 10th to celebrate Veterans Day. The museum will be open from 10 until 4 that Saturday. Watch the papers for more details.

As summer draws to a close, the Museum Committee will be getting back to work planning the next large exhibit in addition to a smaller one this winter. If you have any ideas for future exhibits, please don't hesitate to make suggestions.

The committee also has some collection care projects: accessioning the new items we have received, displaying or storing them temporarily, adding the items to our Past Perfect Museum Program on the computer, sorting the files. General housekeeping! If anyone wants to join us, let us know!!!

Our museum volunteers have done a wonderful job this summer staffing the museum. This job has become more of a challenge, what with our new security system in addition to new building keys. If they can manage to get into the building, the rest is easy! If anyone would like to become a volunteer, please let me know. Thanks to Andrea Gleason for arranging the volunteer schedule during the summer months.

Clarksville 4th Graders will be visiting the museum in October. The Voorheesville 4th Graders are planning to come in early March.

Marion Parmenter
Museum Chairman

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.

Thank You!

We'd like to thank everyone who helped last year during program nights by either setting up chairs for a presentation or taking them down after one. We deeply appreciated audience members coming early for setup and/or staying late to finish the task. These special thanks are also directed to two students from C. A. Bouton High School, juniors John Neri and Mark Pelersi, who were there an hour early for most programs, willingly carrying the podium into the community room and setting up dozens of chairs throughout the season. These two young men have volunteered to continue with setting things up; if you can volunteer to help put chairs back in place after one program, please let Marie Hornick know on Tuesday, October 2 or call her at 768-2933.

We get letters.....

I really enjoyed the recent “**The Sentinel**.” I especially liked your articles about the war years and Will Osterhout's on peddlers.

Will's brought back memories. On Sunday mornings about once every couple of months a Frenchman, (he had quite an accent) would stop by our house and cut our hair. When I look at old pictures it looks like a bowl was put on my head and trimmed around but that was the little girl fashion of the time. He stayed for Sunday morning breakfast which included not only home cured bacon or sausage and eggs but pancakes, a real treat.

How could I ever forget Mr. Windsor, our Freihofer bread delivery man? He was so kind and always gently teased me. He ate lunch with my grandmother Secor. I still remember his black and red truck with the gold lettering, Freihofers. Freihofer gave Mom her wedding cake as they bought much of their fruit from my grandfather Jones.

I never saw the milkman but I know it was VanWie's dairy that delivered the milk. On crisp winter mornings I was always astounded by how high up the frozen milk could push the paper caps that came on the old milk bottles.

You know it makes me realize we did have conveniences then that we do not have today. We needed these “delivery men” as there was usually only one car in the family and the father took it to work. One day a week my Mom took Dad to work and kept the car to do the grocery and other shopping. She really had to plan. When she went to pick him up it was always a big treat to ride along. Albany seemed like such a huge, strange place!

Imagine!

Helen Tognetti

(NSHA member Helen Secor Tognetti grew up in the Unionville area, living near the Stony Hill School.)

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Youmans' farm just prior to WW II

able. Fortunately, we had bought two new tractors and some other equipment previous to this. Repair parts could still be obtained. Kissel's Garage kept the trucks and cars running for the duration.

The feeding and care of the 140 cows, calves, and heifers, 5 horses, and about 1500 chickens required four or five men working 11 hours per day. Cows were pastured in the summer, but a winter's feed supply means filling two barns with hay, and growing enough corn to fill three silos.

Without a hay baler or field chopper, these were labor intensive operations. Hay was loaded on trucks or wagons by an attached hay loader and taken to the barn for storage. A faster way to do this was by the use of a buck rake. This was built with plans and assistance of a county farm agent by my brother Lester. This contraption was mounted on a stripped down car chassis, in this case, Charles Bender's old Buick. A wooden framework attached to the back end would scoop up the hay from the windrow. When full, it was raised with a series of pulleys and cables powered by the engine. As this method proved to save time and labor, another buck rake was built the next year. However, they did not work well on hills and could only be driven on farm roads. We kept the hay loader.



Buck rake similar to the type used on the Youmans' farm.

Horses were still useful for a lot of farm work and were fueled with hay and water. They could get through deep snow and mud where trucks and tractors got stuck.

A better and more practical way to save gas and wear of tires and trucks

came about by changing milk delivery from every day to every other day for customers. This became mandatory for all retail dairies. For us it relieved one truck and driver.

There were some cases of hoarding and black market dealing during the war. Mostly though, people on the home front complied with restrictions and conservation. Many volunteered their time wherever needed, for air raid drills, scrap collections, and USO services.

Recollections

Living and growing up in a restaurant and nightclub (Osterhouts, corner of Route 85 and Thacher Park Rd.) during the 40s and 50s was certainly a much different lifestyle than one experienced by most of my friends around the New Salem area. That sort of lifestyle provided me with many memories that remain with me today. One of the strongest of those memories is

music! I remember we always had a jukebox located in the bar room. That jukebox played 78 and then 45 records all afternoon and into the evening hours. The jukebox was owned by Clyde Lower, who made sure that all

the latest hit songs were there to be played. I believe back then, you got five selections for a quarter. The owner was also supplied with a number of marked quarters to use to provide music if the patrons were a little slow in giving up their own quarters. Today whenever I hear a song from that era on the radio, it instantly transports me back to those days of my youth.



Weekends, of course, were a different matter. Friday and Saturday nights, the orchestra played in the dance hall, which was known as the "Blue Room." So many times as a young child I went to sleep listening to the big band sound. As I grew older and could stay up later, quite often I would look to see all the couple on the dance floor. What a sight to see: as the band would start to play, the lights would dim and the dance floor would take on a blue glow from the neon lights above it. I was fascinated by the way all those people

moved around the floor to the different rhythms played by the band.

All these memories have got me thinking. What dances were popular back then? I decided to do a little research and share my findings with you. I am sure many of you will remember doing the following dances: the Charleston, Tango, Mambo, Samba, Waltz, Quickstep, Foxtrot, Cha-Cha, Rumba, Bolero, Lindy Hop, Jitterbug, and Polka. I am sure I have overlooked some and others from the '20s and '30s I have only heard of and did not experience them personally, although there are some

who may think I am that old!

Memories are a wonderful treasure to be shared with our friends. I hope you have enjoyed this little trip with me into the past.

Will Osterhout



200 Years of Vanderbilts
1807 ~ 2007 DeLong-Vanderbilt House
a.k.a. Lake Creek Farm and Niskithaw Acres

By Mary Ellen Vanderbilt-Domblewski

For as long as I can remember, I was drawn to my grandparents' stone farmhouse. From the time when I was a little girl, a combination of my grandparent's unconditional love, love of farm animals and farm life, a strong sense of family heritage instilled by my parents, grandparents, and great-aunts, and a sense of connection to my ancestors long since departed, nurtured that connection within me. Growing up in the little stone house across the street, I had unlimited access to my grandparents, and to the farm. God's providence would have me living my adult years there, raising my own family in the stone farmhouse to have that same unconditional love from their grandparents, love of the farm, and a strong sense of family heritage.



DeLong-Vanderbilt House, late 1800s.

I struggle to write this because I want to tell you of the childhood memories I have of the house and the events that took place here. I would like to tell you of the history of the house by telling you of the people who loved and lived here. Of course, I have fairly accurate knowledge of those who lived in the stone house in the last 110 years, for my grandfather was born here in 1894, and died here in 1995 at the age of 100 years. I will save the tales of childhood for another time, and focus on the details of the house and a brief history of who lived here.

The Stone Farmhouse

There is a stone marker between the 2nd and 3rd window (left to right) on the 2nd floor of the stone farmhouse that reads:

D. DeLong ♥ P. DeLong
June the 5th, 1807

David DeLong built the house for his wife, Prudence. The stones were quarried locally to build the Erie Canal, but were rejected for the canal, most likely because they were too small. Each floor is approximately 1,000 square feet, with the front of the house facing east. There are four east-facing windows, 6 over 6, on the first floor with the front entry in the center. Upstairs the windows are slightly smaller with five windows, 2 over 2, across the top floor. Above each window is a row of red bricks standing on end in a flat arch. Originally, there were four windows facing west, two on the first floor and two on the second floor. An addition put on the west side of the house in 2004 converted a first floor window into a doorway and removed a second floor window. The attic has a window at either end, facing north and south respectively.

The cellar was used for a summer kitchen, and had a Dutch oven at the south end. Over the years the Dutch oven has crumbled, and the addition of an oil furnace in the 1940s destroyed what was left of it. In 1996 the dirt cellar floor was dug out and a concrete cellar floor was poured.

The first floor of the house has a center hall that runs east to west. The ceiling is bead board, and the original wide plank floors were covered many years ago with oak. A wide staircase graces the left side of the center hall, turning to the right after 10 steps, and continuing up another five steps to the second floor. Downstairs there is a large room on either side of the center hall.

The north side includes the kitchen complete with stone fireplace and original mantle. This room also has bead board ceilings and a built in bead board cupboard with double doors. There are two east-facing windows with the original deep window sills. The wide plank floors here were also covered many years ago with oak flooring.

The room on the south side of the center hall is the living room. This room also boasts a fireplace with mantle to match the one in the kitchen, though the fireplace itself is of red brick. The rough, hand-hewn ceiling beams have been exposed, and the original wide plank floors here have also been covered with oak flooring. There are two wide sill windows facing east, and one wide sill window facing west in the living room.

Upstairs there were originally five rooms. A room in the northwest corner was split in two in the 1940s to add a bathroom. Access to the bathroom is straight ahead at the top of the stairs. In the northeast corner is the master bedroom which includes a fireplace and original mantle, exposed ceiling beams, and original wide plank flooring which has been refinished. The wood ceiling has the original blue milk paint. A wall between the master bedroom and a small northwest room has been removed, and a window filled in to allow space for a clothes closet in the master bedroom. The house originally had no closets. The master bedroom closet was added in 2004. The master bedroom is sunny and bright with two windows facing east, and two windows facing north.

The center bedroom faces east and also has the original wide plank floors. The ceiling beams have been sanded to remove the pink milk paint. This bedroom has one window with wide sill that is set directly above the front door.

The bedroom in the southeast corner also has exposed ceiling beams with their original deep, rich luster. The wide plank floor has been covered with parquet flooring. The two deep sill windows in this bedroom face the east. On the west side of this room is a door that leads to another room. Early on, this room was used for storage of grains, and later as a storage closet. It was never finished. The interior walls were studded, but never plastered. The window and door were trimmed, but the trim never painted. The wide plank floor was sanded smooth, but never stained or finished. Electricity was not run other than a bare light bulb hanging from

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(Continued from page 5)

the ceiling. Around 2003, the outside plaster walls were patched, the interior walls were sheetrocked, woodwork was painted, and the floor was stained and sealed. The room is now used as a guest room.

The upstairs center hall ceiling and beams are the original dark, rich finish. There is a 3rd floor “garret” leading to the attic stairs. The attic ceiling is unfinished, with roofing nails sticking through. The floor is of wide plank. Despite the rustic appearance, the attic holds the history and mystery of the lives that have been born and lived in the old stone farmhouse.

The Family

David and Prudence DeLong had two sons, Jeremiah and Anthony, and three daughters, Hannah (McCulloch), Caty (Slingerland), and Abiah (Vanderbilt). In his Last Will and Testament, David bequeathed land to each of his sons; \$350.00 to each of his daughters, Hannah and Caty; \$300.00 to his daughter Abiah, along with the land known as the Lake Creek Farm which included the stone farmhouse. Abiah was married to Garrett Vanderbilt who came from Rockland County and was a shoemaker by trade. Garrett and Abiah had nine children in the stone farmhouse.

On May 1, 1869, Garrett and Abiah’s eldest son, Richard, and his wife Catherine (Oliver) bought the small stone house across the street where my parents, Elwood and Doris (Pedersen) now live. Catherine died in 1874. Their son Gulian and his wife Alice (Brougham) lived in the small stone house with Richard when their first son, Niles, was born in 1877.

The stone farmhouse was left to Garrett and Abiah’s son, John Vanderbilt. Around 1880, John’s brother Richard, along with his son, Gulian and his wife Alice and infant son Niles, moved from the small stone house to the stone farmhouse. Gulian and Alice’s son Samuel was born shortly thereafter on November 12, 1880. On February 4, 1883, their eldest son, Niles then 5 years, died of scarlet fever. Nine days later, 2 year old son Samuel was taken by scarlet fever as well. Gulian and Alice went on to have four more children, Bertha Jane (1884), Mary Elsie (1890), LeRoy (1894), and Bennie (1899). On April 24, 1897, John Vanderbilt’s Will left the farm and stone farmhouse to Gulian.



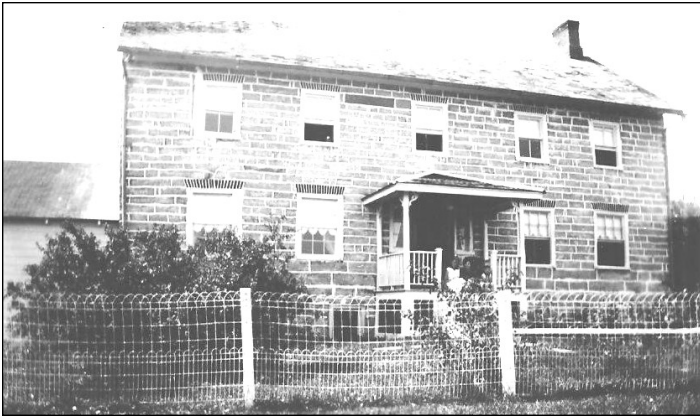
Gulian Vanderbilt’s Will left the stone farmhouse to their four surviving children: Bertha (Bennett) Beck, M. Elsie (Carey) Stott, Leroy, and Bennie. In 1933, Leroy and Bennie bought out Bertha and Elsie, and provided a home for their mother, Alice, for the remainder of her life. They owned and operated the farm as partners, both residing in the stone farmhouse. Bennie never married, and died in 1960 at the age of 61. Leroy married Mabel (Loucks) and had two children – Esther (Tooley) and Elwood Vanderbilt (1927). After Mabel’s death, LeRoy married Waldine (Wood) who lovingly raised his children with him in the stone farmhouse. Elwood and his wife, Doris (Pedersen) moved to the small stone house across the road upon their marriage in 1949. There they had four children: Richard LeRoy Vanderbilt, Deborah Ann Vanderbilt, Alice Jane (Zabel), and Mary Ellen (Vanderbilt-Domblewski). Elwood and his father, LeRoy were partners in the operation of the dairy farm of registered Holsteins; the farm was then known as Niskithaw Acres.

LeRoy and Waldine remained in the stone farmhouse until LeRoy’s death in January 1995 at 100 years old. After LeRoy’s death, Waldine lived alone in the farmhouse for about one year until she had knee replacement surgery and was not able to manage the house and stairs alone. At that time she moved to the small stone house with Elwood and Doris, and remained with them until her death in 2005. In 1996, Waldine and Elwood sold the stone farmhouse and 5+ acres of surrounding

acreage to Elwood’s daughter, Mary Ellen, and her husband, David Domblewski.

Over the years, very little structural work was done on the stone farmhouse other than paint and wallpaper. Uncle Peter (b. 1833) put in the bead board ceilings in the center hall and kitchen/dining area, as well as the bead board cupboards – probably around the 1860s. In the 1940’s, indoor plumbing and electricity were added (one light fixture and one outlet per room), and the kerosene lamps were removed. Over the years, water seeped into the cracks in the mortar on the southeast corner of the house, causing the stones to shift and heave when the water froze. In February 1996, Mary Ellen and David began removing layers of old wallpaper and paint, David removed two ceilings from the living room (1 plaster, 1 lathe and plaster/horsehair) to expose rough hewn beams, they gutted the bathroom, and hired a reputable stone mason. In June 1996, the stone mason began work by supporting each floor of the southeast end of the house with sections of railroad ties from cellar floor to ceiling, then floor to ceiling until they reached the attic. They then removed the southeast corner of the house where it had buckled, stone by stone from the top down, beyond





House as it appeared in the 1930s.

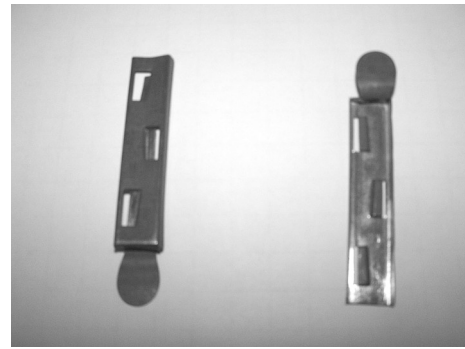
the foundation to the cellar floor. They dug out the dirt cellar floor, laid gravel and poured a concrete floor, also pinning the entire remaining foundation for added strength. Once the new cellar floor was dry and the remaining foundation was strengthened, they began rebuilding the southeast corner of the house stone by stone. David and Mary Ellen also had the stone mason remove the dried out reverse joint mortar between the stones on the rest of the house, remortar the stones, and apply a spray sealant to the entire stone exterior to prevent future water seepage into the natural stone cracks.

In October 1996, Mary Ellen and David Doblewski, and their children Garrett Vanderbilt Doblewski (b. 1991) and Megan Lee Doblewski (b. 1993) moved into the stone farmhouse to begin another 200 years of life and love in the stone farmhouse. They are continuing to lovingly restore it in an attempt to blend modern conveniences with primitive and early American charm.

While the farm is no longer an active dairy farm, Garrett (Doblewski) helps his grandfather, Elwood, with haying each summer, and he and his sister, Megan, raise chickens and goats on the farm. Another of Elwood's grandsons, Bennie Zabel, is currently raising beef cows on the farm. Hard wood harvested from the farm land provides fuel for the two woodstoves that heat the stone farmhouse. And, generations of Vanderbilts gather at the stone farmhouse each Christmas, and on special occasions, to celebrate life, faith, and our heritage together.



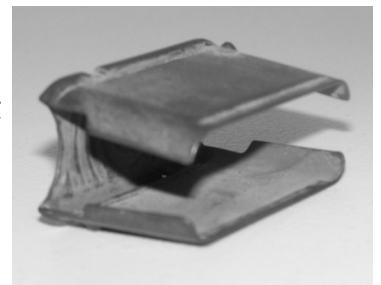
House as it appeared in the 1940s.



**“What Is It?” from the Spring 2007 Sentinel
Answer: Track joining clips for a model railroad track.**

**Historic Marker
Dedication
Saturday, September 22nd
At
1:00 P.M.
At the
DeLong-Vanderbilt House
16 Vanderbilt Drive
(located across from the
Onesquethaw Reformed
Church)
Feura Bush, NY
Everyone is welcome to attend!**

**What is it?
Come and find it
In the
WW I & II
Exhibit!**



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Thanks to all of our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support!

In Memoriam

**Paul G. Kling
WWII Veteran**

**He joined the U. S. Army Air Corps.
"He was the second man from Voorheesville
selected from the lottery for service."
(Information courtesy of the Altamont Enterprise)**

**If you would like to become a member,
please fill out the form and mail!**

\$10 Individual
 \$15 Family
 \$25 Sustaining
 \$100 Life (per person)

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

**Please send dues to: Robert Parmenter
Membership Chair
82 Badgley Lane
Voorheesville, NY 12186**

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
Voorheesville, New York 12186