



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 22, No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2013

The Highwayman The Blizzard of October 1987

I am sure most of you recall the Blizzard of 1987. It was particularly damaging because the leaves were still on the trees and they held more snow which created so much weight that many trees just toppled to the ground.

My day started when my boss called in the late morning and said we were going out to work. I drove a 4 wheel drive pickup with a plow at that time, which enabled me to get to work. I can recall driving around trees which were in the road as I proceeded through Thacher Park on my way to New Salem, which gave me some idea of just what conditions were going to be like.

Arriving at work, I learned that the boss could only reach 6 employees which meant we would have 3 crews of 2 men each. My partner for the day would be the "Fonz" and I would be driving the big Walters with the V plow. We put 2 chain saws with gas and oil in the cab and started out—we were doing the mountain route. As we went around the sharp turn at the bottom of Indian Ledge Rd. and looked ahead up the hill toward Swack and Ryder Lanes, we saw dozens of large trees across the road with their root systems still attached. As we observed the scene, we realized that we would never be able to work our way thru, and turned around and headed to Wolf Hill Rd. on the other end. We were able to work our way up Wolf Hill until we got to the Salisbury homes. Now ahead of us was about 200 yards of smaller locust trees bent over with their tops in the road, but unbroken, resembling a taunt bow string. We stopped the plow and got out, each of us with a chainsaw, and climbed the bank on either side of the road. There was such force in those trees that were bent over, that when we touched the back side with the chainsaw, it sounded like a gunshot going off. After releasing the pressure, we were able to cut the tree loose and proceed along to the next one. When we had them all cut, we returned to the plow and

continued up the hill, plowing trees off the road as we went.

We were told to concentrate on the main roads as much as we could. I know that many of the smaller side roads were closed for up to a week. Many times we would have a road open and shortly after we left a few more trees would fall and close the road again. As we continued working through the day, we just hoped no trees would fall on us! On Monday we had a full work crew and went about getting the roads opened. Many times, this meant cutting a large tree into sections and pushing it off the road with the front end loader. There were many times when a crew would spend a whole day on a section of road and still not have it open and would return for another day or two to finish. It was a long, exhausting couple of weeks before the roads were back to normal. It certainly was a storm I will never forget. There were several other funny occurrences during that storm, but I will leave those for part two of "The Blizzard of 1987."

Until the next adventure
Will



Parmenter door yard after the storm. Trees and branches down all over. Power out for several days.. I remember I brought ice home from Richmondville after work as you couldn't get it in the local area! Not much snow (3-4 inches here) caused a lot of mess. (MP)

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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President's Letter

NSHA will begin this fall on a very positive note. We will begin our program season on October 1, with a program on the fascinating story of the **The Cherry Hill Murder** presented by Barbara Baciewicz and Sharon Kielty, both members of the Cherry Hill Board. On Sunday afternoon, November 2, we will host a program geared for school age children on **Coping With Life's "Necessaries:" Cleanliness and Sanitation in the 18th Century** presented by staff from the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site. This is the first time in many years that NSHA is hosting a program aimed at children. However, the program should also be of interest to their parents and grandparents. We hope our members can help get the word out to parents and teachers on what should be a fascinating and educational program. On December 3, we will present our popular **Old Fashioned Christmas Program** organized by Peg Dorgan and Sandy Slingerland.

This year NSHA is looking into rehabilitating a number of the historical markers in the town that have sustained damage and cannot be read. The Association has not erected new markers during the last few years and the Board has decided that it makes sense to use the funds allocated for markers to repair and rehabilitate the ones we already have.

I also want to report that Melanie Ernst has moved away from the area and consequently has resigned from the NSHA Board. Melanie has been an outstanding Membership Chair and Board member. She will be missed. This also means that we have a vacant Board position that we will need to fill as well as vacancies in historic sites and museum collection management committees. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact me.

Alan Kowlowitz

Historical Trivia

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it was deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

Many Thanks!

The New Scotland Historical Association wishes to thank **Olsen's Nursery** for the chrysanthemums that they donated for the garden behind the Community Center. The assortment adds greatly to the landscape.

Table History!

Marion Parmenter

Last winter I spent many, many hours creating large family albums for our son and daughter, my late sister's husband, and ourselves. I compiled these albums from old albums that had been my aunts, grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great grandparents with many duplicates of pictures—all on my dad's side of the family—both the Badgley and L'Amoreaux families of Schoharie.

While doing this, a picture of our kitchen table jumped out at me. I knew the table originated in the Schoharie area, but now I knew it was my grandmother Badgley's parents' table. It is pictured in the L'Amoreaux home, with my then unmarried grandparents sitting at it! The picture was probably taken around 1905. The heavy table was round, 45 inches in diameter, with 5 large fluted legs—including one on the center. It also had 4 additional table leaves, making the table 94 inches long in all.

The L'Amoreaux family, originally farmers, moved to Schenectady in later years, according to an obituary I found, and lived there for 27 years. I have a picture of my Great-Grandpa L'Amoreaux working on our farm cutting hay and loading it on a wagon in the late 1930's. He is the same man who fell off the porch roof here at the camp when he was replacing the roof on it in 1925! Fortunately, only a sore shoulder resulted, according to my Dad.

Getting back to the table. Sometime after my great-grandparents moved to Schenectady and after my grandfather bought our camp in 1924, the table was donated to our family camp. It was painted that light green color, which I call "Adirondack Green," while it resided here. Many pieces of furniture at camp were the same color! The table had one problem—those huge pedestal legs. I remember the table wiggling a lot when I was a child. Someone would sit down and bump into a table leg and away went the milk, coffee and any other liquid.

In the late 1950s, my Dad finally found another old table for camp—just as large, but a pedestal table. He was delighted. At that time the old table was stored overhead in the camp "garage" for about 12 years. When my sister and her husband were married they needed a table. The old table was dusted off, and trucked to Voorheesville and resided in their apartment on Main St., 2 doors down from the old Library, for a couple of years.

In 1973 my sister and brother-in-law moved to Arizona and gave us the table for our kitchen. I refinished the table—a beautiful oak, under all that "Adirondack Green!" We also discovered that if we wedged playing cards between the top of each leg and the table top, it was much more rigid! Of course

our children discovered the cards while playing under the table, and took great delight in pulling them out!

Now, after 40 years in our kitchen, the table top needs refinishing again before it is moved to its new home in our new dining room a half a mile north of our present home!

It is amazing to think of all the folks who have eaten at that table, and sat around drinking coffee and visiting, over all those years (approx. 107 years!)—in Schoharie County, Saratoga County and New Scotland. Including many NSHA members! Yes, our grandchildren have pulled the playing card wedges from the tops of the legs, like their parents!

If we are desperate for articles next time, I'll write about our dining room table! Our daughter just looked at me and asked if we ever had any new furniture when I told her that story!



Pictured: My grandparents on the right: Jerry B. Badgley and Mary L'Amoreaux at her family home in Schoharie area, c.1905. Below: The same table in our kitchen today. Be sure to share the history of your special furniture and other heirlooms with your family—you are probably the only folks who can! Before it is too late! Marion Parmenter



Sentinel Feedback!

In response to “The Highwayman” article “Little Old Lady”, Spring 2013

Boy, you are lucky you made a hasty retreat for I knew this “Lady” very well. Let me step back in time a bit and fill in some factual history. My father, Norman C. Kidder, was the Albany County Agricultural Agent for 25 years. He dealt with farmers of all kinds within Albany Co. The “Lady” and her husband were part time farmers. He worked in an office during the week and he passed away in the early 1950s. When dad met them they were dairy farmers also. When dad came to Albany County in 1947, he went around to each and every farm and introduced himself and offered up any assistance or information the farmers were in need of. He would always come home from the “Lady’s” farm and say to my mother, “She can come out of the barn with her boots covered in cow manure and still is a Lady.” She lived alone on the land and ran the property and home by herself for about 60 years after her husband’s passing. I would guess she had to toughen up.

In the years to come, she was part of my mother’s bridge club, always speaking her mind. Sometimes heated conversations could be heard from the living room. The Lady never backed down in her opinions.

In the early 60s, she offered a class in her home to take conversational French. To this day, I can recite what she taught us. The class was free to those who wished to attend. We were required to “dress and behave” and we did.

In the late 80s when I was putting myself through college, she hired me to paint the trim on her home and paint several rooms inside. She also hired me to baby sit her black lab named “Liza” who, at the time was “Liza the 6th” for every dog she ever had was named “Liza.” For years, I baby sat for “Liza 5 & Liza 6” while she traveled in Europe every summer. She was particularly fond of France and spoke the language like a native. She was a French teacher in a local school, which was the reason she traveled in the summers and I bet her students learned “or else.”

In 1993, my mother started having medical problems and I stayed at home caring for her. As life would have it, her activities started slipping away as did her contact with old friends but not with the “Lady” who was several years my mother’s senior. About once a month, an old blue car would park out front of the house and a 90+ year-old-friend would get out and walk up the porch steps. In the spring and summer, the “Lady” would be carrying a bouquet of flowers she had picked from her garden. In the winter, it was cookies or other sweets. The old girls would sit and talk over a cup of tea, about insignificant and incidental things. I realized for a bristling, controlling, tough and demanding Yankee pioneer woman, the “Lady” had a heart as big as all outdoors. I graduated with a landscaping degree in 1986 from SUNY. The “Lady” hired me that June to come and plant several trees and shrubs around her beautiful old home. She was in her 80s at that time. I told her it would take 15 or 20 years before some of what she had me plant would mature and be showing off their glory. She just said “I am not doing this for me, I am doing it for those who come after me and I hope they love this place as I have all these years.”

So don’t hesitate to call her a “Lady” for she most definitely was.

Susan Kidder

Historical Trivia

In George Washington’s days, there were no cameras. One’s image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms.. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs were ‘limbs,’ therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, ‘Okay but it’ll cost you an arm and a leg.’ (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

Unionville School - More Feedback

We have feedback to Irving Mosher's article in the *Sentinel* in the June issue. NSHA member Tom Spohr did not attend the Unionville School, because he was too young at the time, but his brother Dick and 2 of his sisters attended it about the same time period as Irving did. Tom sent Irving's article to his 2 sisters. The Spohr family lived at what we now know as the Five Rivers Environmental Center in the old farm house at the time.

His sister Jane (Spohr) Huber replied: Thanks so much for sending the clipping.....going back a number of years. I recall a boy named Irving Mosher and he had a sister. We were all in the same boat....POOR. I didn't see any names of teachers that were familiar. Our teacher, Miss Darfler married and became Mrs. Warner. She was the one who insisted I eat a hash sandwich when I was in the midst of an appendix attack and I deposited it later on the school steps....her clean up job. I think we must have been in Unionville School around 1935—37.

Tom's sister Nan (Spohr) Armond called him and had other memories. She remembers Irving Mosher and his sister. She also said the teacher had a rubber hose in her desk—if you got less than a 75% on a test you got the hose (boys mostly). She also remembers staying in Delmar with Mrs. Warner so she could take exams to go to Bethlehem High School. Nan had no transportation so Mrs. Warner took her to stay at her house.



Board Champs—June 23rd
June Alberts— “Oldest Game Board Champ”
Judy Kimes— “Grand Champion at Game Boards”



Youngest Board Game Champion
Miya Pearson



Rowdy Crew

Card Party —2013

Civil War Letter #10



May 10th 1863

Finley Hospital Washington D C

Dear Wife

I now take my pencil in hand to let you know that I am well with the exception of *pain in my foot* ? it is very lame yet I have been moved here to this hospital at Washington yesterday and its the prettiest place that I ever was in it is a perfect Eden it is about half a mile out of the city but gives a view of the whole city and what makes it more pleasant is that everything is in bloom the orchards are as white as a sheet with blossom there is about 80 in the ward that I am in and not one that is sick they are all wounded men some in the legs and some in the arms and some in the head there is one that the ball went through his left eye down through his mouth and came out on the right side of his neck and went through his right shoulder and still lives

it tore the whole roof of his mouth out it was a horrible sight when they began to bring the wounded in Hooker is not a going to give it up so he is a going at it again if he is not already there has been a great many killed in this battle but I cant tell how many I should like to hear from you again I have not had a letter in four weeks

when you write you must direct (John L Houck Finley Hospital Washington D. C. Ward three) you must not put the Comp or Regt on for then it will go to the Regt and I will not get it I do not think that we will stay here long we will be taken further north perhaps to Albany I am a going to try to get there any way that is if I can this hospital is a going to be cleared out that is them that is able to travel and to put others in that is wounded so bad that they cant travel Charley Kardnard of the 44 is with me he was shot in the foot in the last battle the wounded are all a doing well well it cant be otherwise for they have the best of care taken of John Bradt is in the hospital but not in this one he is in the one that I left he had his foot scalded with hot tea old Charley Atkinson spilt a whole cup of tea on his foot and it is very sore you need not send any stamps for I can get plenty here I have just come in from church we have a very smart minister here and they have prayer meeting every evening you must write as soon as you get this

no more at present
I remain Yours forever

John L Houck

Museum Hours
Sundays
2:00—4:00 P M

In Memoriam

NSHA was saddened with the passing of 3 long-time members: **Life Member Charlie Clarke of New Scotland, Helen Bailey of Voorheesville, and Stephen Walley of Feura Bush.**

NSHA Program Schedule for 2013-2014

- Oct 1, 2013 The 1827 Cherry Hill Murder:** Barbara Baciewicz and Sharon Kielty, members of the Cherry Hill Board of Trustees, present the fascinating story of an 1827 murder that occurred at the Cherry Hill farm, home of the Van Rensselaer family. The crime aroused tremendous public interest and culminated in the last public hanging in Albany.
- Nov 3, 2013 Coping With Life's "Necessaries:" Cleanliness and Sanitation in the 18th Century:** Schuyler Mansion Staff will present an interactive program geared for school age children on the challenges of daily life face by our colonial ancestors. How did people go to the bathroom, take a bath, wash dishes, or dispose of their garbage before there were municipal water systems, indoor plumbing and garbage collection? Children and adults alike will find out the answers to these questions and others at this program. **Please note: This program will be held from 2:00-4:00 pm on a Sunday.)**
- Dec 3, 2013 An Old Fashioned Christmas Party:** NSHA will once again host its popular Old Fashioned Christmas Party with seasonal treats and music from the past.
- Feb 4, 2014 Five Rivers: History of a Special Place:** Local author and educator RoseAnn Fogarty provides a glimpse of the natural and human history of Five Rivers from the exposed ancient rock along the Vlomankill trail, to the remains of a Civilian Conservation Corps encampment, to a new state-of-the-art green building.
- March 4, 2014 Wicked Albany: Lawlessness and Liquor in the Prohibition Era:** Criminal Justice Professor and author Dr. Frankie Bailey will paint a vivid picture of crime, violence, and law enforcement in Albany during the Prohibition-era (1919-1932), placing it in a national context of changes during that turbulent period.
- April 1, 2014 Hop Growing in the Schoharie Valley:** Paul Turner, a local historian and a descendant of hop farmers, discusses his research into the history of hop growing in the Schoharie Valley. An essential ingredient for beer, hops was once an important New York State and New Scotland crop, and may soon be again with the re-emergence of craft and farmhouse brewing in New York.
- May 6, 2014 "Of Dartmoor Prison I'll Tell All I Can": The Prison Songs of Thomas Mott in the War of 1812** In this musical program, Paul Mercer tells the little known story of the American prisoners of war held in the notorious Dartmoor Prison during the War of 1812 through the songs of Thomas Mott, a 17 year-old seaman from New York who was captured in 1813 off the coast of Newfoundland. Paul is a professional musician, manuscript librarian, and folklorist originally from Newfoundland

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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.

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 _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to NSHA.

Please send dues to: NSHA

Sarita Winchell, Membership Chair

P.O. Box 541

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

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