



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 16, No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Spring 2008

KOREAN WAR VETS NSHA NEEDS YOU!

With no real records that we can find and no Honor Rolls to start with, we are doing a telephone search for Korean War Veterans—calling everyone we can think of who is about the right age to have served or who may know someone who was a vet. Slowly we are getting names! We really need the help of all NSHA members in this endeavor. This can be done from your kitchen table. (Even during ice storms!)

Contact Martha Slingerland, 768-2184; Vicki Seymour, 439-5309; Willard Osterhout, 872-1606; Bob or Marion Parmenter, 765-4652, with any information or, suggestions you can think of!

Where was it?

Just 50 years ago in February was the famed Blizzard of '58. Possibly ice is better? Where was this photo taken? Answer on P. 4



New Trustee Appointed

NSHA President Peg Dorgan announced the appointment of Herbert Reilly of Voorheesville to finish the term of Trustee Robert Marriott, who had resigned.



Herb is well-known to local residents, through his Reilly & Son Funeral Home in Colonie and Voorheesville, and his having served as New Scotland Town Councilman for ten years and Town Supervisor for twelve. He is currently serving

his second term as an Albany County legislator, representing the 33rd district.

High School Senior Award. See p. 2

New books added to NSHA collection. See p. 3

How good is your memory? See p. 4

Do you know how to use the phone? See p. 7

Mark Your Calendar!

Military Heritage Day

Exhibit Opens

**“The Korean War: The Forgotten War
Remembered in New Scotland”**

Watch the papers for schedule and activities

Saturday, April 12

10:00 A.M.---4:00 PM

**Wyman Osterhout Community Center
New Salem**

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541
Voorheesville, NY 12186

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this letter, I've just cancelled a NSHA Board meeting for the 2nd time this season. The weather has certainly created havoc for many activities this year, but this time it was a problem in reverse. We probably should have held the meeting, but the weathermen (with all of their Advanced Technology) issued a "warning" in the am. That sounded like we would be in for a stormy evening. I wish my Uncle Lauerence was still around to read the clouds and smell the air. I think I would have leaned on him for direction. At least his predictions seemed equally as accurate as the Radar and computers---or he was just lucky a large percentage of the time.

Speaking of looking into the future-----There are occasions when some of us wonder what we might do with portions of our estate WHEN and IF there is money still available after our demise and all the bills have been paid. Most people remember their families first and then their favorite charities. I don't know if the New Scotland Historical Association has ever crossed your mind as one of those organizations, but if it should, we would be most appreciative. Any funds would be put to very good use to carry out our mission of preserving, protecting and promoting the wonderful history of the Town of New Scotland. It's just a thought that you might consider.

Peg Dorgan, President

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AWARD

The Town of New Scotland Historical Association plans to offer a \$500.00 award to encourage the study and enjoyment of history in any of its aspects (ex. political science, anthropology, American History, historical literature, historical preservation, museum careers, etc.).

This award is intended for a Town of New Scotland resident who will complete high school studies in June of 2008, and who is a serious student planning to further his or her education on a college level with specialization or concentration in some area of history. Each applicant will be required to submit a completed application form, along with a copy of the student's resume and high school transcript, and a 250-word essay on a given topic. All graduating seniors are invited to compete for the award, whether they are public high school, private school, parochial school or home-schooled students in the Town of New Scotland.

Applications are available at Town Hall, in local high schools attended by New Scotland residents, at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem, and at the Voorheesville and Bethlehem Libraries. In addition, an application can be obtained by calling Marie Hornick, 768-2933, and leaving your name, address and phone number. **All completed applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 11, 2008.**

From the Sentinel Committee

As you can see while reading this newsletter, it has been printed on white paper instead of the familiar cream color and larger type. This is not a mistake. We are giving this a trial run to see what people prefer. Let us know your opinion at the March program.

Museum Report

In the past few weeks many photos which were recently given to us have been added to the various hamlet albums—especially the Voorheesville and New Salem albums. Many of them we have never seen before. When you have an opportunity, come in and view them.

Several books have been added to our book collection. A list of the most recent ones can be found elsewhere in this issue.

There will be no Last Chance Day this spring, as the current exhibit “**From the Home Front to the Front Lines: New Scotland in World Wars I & II**” is being held over for another year. Too many folks have commented to us that it is a shame to take it down so soon, and we agreed!

Instead we plan to add an exhibit entitled “**The Korean War: The Forgotten War Remembered in New Scotland.**” We are currently looking for Korean War Veterans living in New Scotland or who have lived in New Scotland! We are hoping they will have items they can loan to us for the new exhibit. A new section will be added to our Honor Roll.

We are asking folks to bring items to the museum Sunday, March 2, 1:00-4:00P.M., or Sunday, March 9, 2:00-4:00 P.M. If these times aren’t convenient, please contact me at 765-4652 to make other arrangements.

The new exhibit will open on Saturday, April 12 on **Military Heritage Day** at the museum, 10:00-4:00 P.M. Many events are being planned.

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.

The following books have recently been added to our book collection. Stop in and browse!

Wild Flowers of New York Part I & II, by Homer D. House, State University of New York, 1918.

America’s Women, by Gail Collins, Harper Collins Publisher, 2003 (400 years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, & Heroines).

Welcome to Molly’s World, American Girl Series, Pleasant Co., Pub., 1999 (Growing up in WW II America).

Timeless Toys, by Tim Walsh, Andrews McMeel Pub., 2005 (Classic Toys and the Playmakers who created them. 1900-1990).

A History of New York, by David M. Ellis, et al, Cornell University Press, 1967.

Life Along the Way, Warner’s Lake Improvement Association, Willard Osterhout, East Berne, 2006 (A wonderful collection of photo’s and other memorabilia from the Warner’s Lake, Berne area).

The Journey Continues—Life Along the Way, Warner’s Lake Improvement Association, Willard Osterhout, East Berne, 2007. (Another volume of more pictures, etc!).

Please ask the volunteers to see the following books:

The Book of Daniel Drew, by Bouck White, George H. Doran Co., 1910.

Indian Ladder, A Lyric Journey, Albany Institute of History and Art, 2007.

Recollections

Recently my wife and I were discussing some of the old advertising slogans that we could remember. That got me to thinking and I did some research and I have compiled a list of some I found. See how many you can remember! I have numbered them so that I can give you the correct answers in the next *Sentinel*. Have some fun with this and see how well your memory works.

1. Plop! Plop! Fizz! Fizz! Oh, what a relief it is!
2. You can have a body like mine.
3. Feel the velvet.
4. So creamy, it's almost fattening.
5. M'm M'm Good!
6. Now they whisper to her, not about her.
7. Does she, or doesn't she?
8. Put a tiger in your tank.
9. The best a man can get.
10. Many happy returns!
11. Clotheslines are for the birds!
12. The best seat in the house!
13. The best to you each morning.
14. Gee, I wish I had a nickel.
15. Body odor.
16. Even your best friend won't tell you.
17. Good to the last drop!
18. Not a cough in a car load!
19. You'll wonder where the yellow went...
20. The cereal that's shot from guns.
21. How do you spell relief?
22. You can trust your car to the man who wears a star.
23. Some of our best men are women.
24. When it rains, it pours.
25. Kid-tested, mother-approved.
26. Eye It, Try It, Buy It!
27. A little dab will do ya!
28. Ring around the collar!

Some of these are very easy and can be recalled right away, others will require a good deal of thought and many of the answers are very amusing. I know that you will recall them all when I supply you with the product names next time.

Have a good time with this
Will

Answer to Where was it? Photo taken on Maple Avenue in Voorheesville near the Methodist Church.



Empire Cider & Vinegar Co, circa 1915



Same site as it appears today.

Answer to Winter issue "What is it?"

Ration Book #1: This book was for sugar. Each member of the family received a ration book. The family unit applying for sugar may have on hand at the time of application two pounds of sugar for each family member of the family unit. Registration for sugar quotas took place in March, 1942. (*Altamont Enterprise* March 6, 1942)

More from Lt. Belva Gardiner's memoirs By Martha Slingerland

[In the last issue, we left our army nurse on Christmas Eve, wondering what was going on at home. Our mother was writing to her that same Christmas Eve in 1944.]

“Christmas will soon be over and I wish it were passing as quietly in Europe. [The Battle of the Bulge was raging.] Our young people [Ralph, Martha and Lois] plus the Stanton boys [Doug and Bernie] and Dick [VanInderstyne, who had been wounded in Italy and had a medical discharge] are out caroling tonight and I expect them to wind up here. I have been thinking of you and wonder if there was time for any caroling. I pray that there might have been.

“Here are our carolers! They stopped on the porch long enough to sing “Silent Night” and it sounded fine. The weather was pretty chilly, so they came into the house and we opened up the sitting room stove, so everyone was comfy. Dick’s leg was hurting. Seems it can’t stand much cold. They had to change a flat tire, too, (Dick’s car) which was a chilling job.”

[Now back to 1st General Hospital just outside Paris]

3 Jan. 1945: Another year has arrived...I mean it is really cold here...I don’t know how cold, but everything is frozen solid outside. Inside it does not seem much warmer...I’m wearing long sleeved winter underwear [ending at the knees]. We are wearing dresses, not battle clothes...It is hard to take care of patients when it is so cold...It should be better when they get the windows replaced. [Many windows had only blankets over them.] These buildings were not built as tight as we do at home...The French are great for windows---windows, where walls should be....

We have quite a number of prisoners working on the post as litter bearers and one thing or another. They have been quite polite, great at clicking their heels and saluting but it is hard to be nice to them... This is a great war—shoot our boys up and kill them, then the next thing you know they are caring for them. Christmas Eve in their pen, they were singing and darn it, it sounded good! [They lived in tents in this cold weather in the prisoner’s compound on our post. These were not the more radical troops.]

21 Jan. 1945: In bed again to keep warm. There will be no undue loitering in the halls tonight. The sky is clear as a bell with stars that look as if they

will sparkle right out of the sky. It will be COLD... My hands are more chapped than they have ever been...It must be the cold air. I have cold cream, but I can’t be putting it on every time I wash my hands. That would be a hundred times. I worked alone today with two corpsmen 7:00 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. There was plenty to do yet when I came off but the night nurse was there. My ward has 56 patients and that is capacity. The Bellevue Unit is going full capacity all the time.

4 Feb. 1945: The weather is mild now and it is raining instead of snowing. Instead of the prisoners shoveling cinders on the icy roads and paths they are washing them with river water. The ground is bare and even quite green. It is now possible to walk through the halls without being tied up in knots... These French windows are far from tight. The glass has been replaced now and the dark blue paint removed from the unbroken ones. Latrines and sinks are finally being installed in all wards. In some we were a block from a water tap.

Some day these grounds will be pretty. At present they are cluttered with cabbage patches and zig-zagged with slit trenches (put there by the Germans)

...

13 Feb. 1945: What experiences one has! I had always figured I was immune to some things. But I wasn’t. [Imagine] how I felt when I discovered a louse crawling on my comb a week ago. I felt so degraded. And when I get them they couldn’t even be an American variety but some questionable European breed, maybe even “heinie”...Well, I guess my head got a raking over! Luckily Fazio (my roommate) has a fine tooth comb and from now on I believe that will be one of the necessities I must have. So maybe you will see one someplace and slip it in a letter to me...SOS for a fine tooth comb! [But they were scarce. I never got one.] I cleaned and washed everything and doused my blanket, pillow and cap with army louse powder. [This was DDT which was banned after the war.] I am sure they are bested now...

Coming up the stairs the other day two steps at a time, rounding a corner, I ran into a German prisoner. He looked so much like any ordinary attractive human being that this bloody mess just doesn’t make sense...[He] looked like what any country would be proud to own now that some of the strut and cockiness is squeezed out of him. Tall, well built, a young man of about 25...I have to keep reminding myself

that they are still our enemies. They live behind barbed wire in tents but they work with us (and well too). Every patient who cannot walk has to be carried up or down one or two flights of stairs, going to X-ray and operating room, so you can understand some of what the prisoners do. Our patient number here has passed the ten thousand mark. Our boys returning as patients hardly know how to take it at first. First (the Germans) shoot them up and then at the hospital they help care for them. Our prisoners can really handle the wounded, sometimes better than our own boys as much as I hate to admit that. A lot of them have been German medics. They have an excellent tailor among them.

4 March 1945: There has been a transformation in our campus. They have bulldozed it and the prisoners have knocked out the concrete bunkers. The flag pole is up and old glory waves from it.

[After VE Day, First General expected to be sent to the Pacific, but thanks to the A Bomb that was not necessary. Later, Belva used her GI Bill funds to get her degrees and taught, first at Bellevue School of Nursing, then at Columbia University, and finally she served as second in command at Albany Medical School of Nursing. After retirement, besides writing her memoirs, she researched and wrote several books on family history and genealogy. She died January 26, 2000.]



Signs in the West

While on a cross country trip in 1984 we were amazed at some of the unusual road signs. Finally, in Colorado, we started to make a list of them as we encountered them. I came across our list recently and thought it would be fun to share!

Marion Parmenter

Subway Crossing (out on the plains!)
 Abrupt edge
 Rocks
 Watch for Rocks
 Prescribed Burn Area
 In case of Flood Climb to Higher Elevation
 Congestion
 Slides
 Scaling Station
 Abrupt Lane Change
 Motorcycles Do Not Change Lanes
 Chain-up Lane—1000 feet
 Entering Limited Access Area
 Danger—Flying Rocks
 Exhaust Brakes Prohibited in Waitsburg
 Rough Break
 Dipping Vat
 Watch for Snakes (along path to a restroom!)
 Advanced Green When Flashing
 Warning to Tourists—Do Not Laugh at Natives
 Watch for Stock
 Open Range—Loose Stock
 Live Stock at Large
 CREW (We never did figure that one out!)

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS AND TIMES

2008

March 2, Sunday For our final Sunday afternoon program for this season, Geoffrey Stein will present information about the “Day Peckinpaugh,” a commercial boat on the Barge Canal. The program begins at 2:00 P.M., with the Museum opening at 1:30 P.M.

April 1, Tuesday Presenter Stuart Lehman will be our guide for a Civil War Tour of the New York State Capitol Building. The program begins at 7:30 P.M., with the Museum opening at 7:00 P.M.

May 6, Tuesday Our last program of the season will feature Tom Lindsay and Michael Eck, presenting “The Gospel Train,” American spiritual and religious songs from the Civil War to Civil Rights.

The program begins at 7:30 P.M., with the Museum opening at 7:00 P.M.

All programs are at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on Route 85 in New Salem, and are presented with the support of the Voorheesville Public Library; programs are free and open to the public.



Directions for the Telephone
Reprinted from the *Albany Telephone Directory*
1941—1942

HOW TO USE THE DIAL TELEPHONE
VOORHEESVILLE CALLS

1. Obtain the number from the directory. For example 7984.
2. Remove the receiver and listen for dial tone—a steady humming sound. Be sure to leave the receiver off while dialing.
3. Then place your finger in the hole over the figure “7” and turn the dial around until your finger strikes the stop.
4. Raise your finger and without touching the dial allow it to return to its original position.
5. Then dial the figures “9,” “8” and “4.” Listen for the **RINGING SIGNAL**, an intermittent bur-r-ring sound indicating the called telephone is being rung. If the called telephone is busy, you will hear instead the **BUSY SIGNAL**, a rapid buzz-buzz-buzz quicker and louder than the ringing signal.

If the party you are calling does not answer after several attempts, dial “Operator” and ask whether the number has been changed or disconnected.

For **ASSISTANCE** on local calls dial “Operator.”

OUT-OF-TOWN CALLS

CALLS TO CLARKSVILLE—Dial “9” and then the Clarksville Number.

ALL OTHER OUT-OF-TOWN CALLS—Dial “Operator” and give the details of the call to the operator who answers.

EMERGENCY AND SERVICE CALLS

On all **EMERGENCY** (fire, police or state trooper) calls, dial “Operator” and be sure to give exact location of the emergency.

On all **INFORMATION** and **REPAIR SERVICE** calls, dial “Operator.”

CALLS TO OTHER PARTIES ON YOUR LINE

Always listen before starting to dial to be sure that the line is not in use.

All parties whose telephone numbers have the same first three figures are on the same line. For example, 7982 and 7987 are on the same line.

To call another party on your line, dial the telephone number. Although you will hear the “busy signal” after dialing the third figure, continue by dialing the fourth (last) figure and then replace your receiver. Your telephone bell, as well as that of the called party, will then ring. When the called party answers, your bell will stop ringing. Then remove your receiver and talk. To stop your bell ringing in case the called party does not answer, remove your receiver for a short period and then replace it.

How many of you remember this old phone system? I remember that my family’s phone number was 2085 and we were on a ten-party line, which was frequently busy. When the phone rang we had to listen to the ring. If it was two long rings and one short ring we could answer it—the call was for us!

The Altamont Enterprise Oct. 17, 1941 edition states that within the next day or so when you receive your telephone bill, there will be an added 6% tax on the monthly local service bill. Thus, your residence service bill of \$2.50 will increase by another 15 cents for the tax—another reminder that the country is going all out for defense! Does anyone remember a \$2.65 phone bill?

Marion Parmenter

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

Don't forget!
Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00 P.M.
Geoffrey Stein's
Presentation
"Day Peckinpaugh"

**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