Vol. 18, No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Spring 2010

CCC Camp S 72

The camp was located on the grounds near the present day Visitors Center and most Corp work was carried out on the grounds of the old Game Farm. It consisted of numerous buildings such as 5 barracks with 40 single beds and 3 pot bellied stoves in each. It also contained an officers quarters, PX (Post Exch.), a recreation bldg., an infirmary with 6 beds, a mess hall, a blacksmith bldg., a large latrine (about 25 holer) with a canvas top and open along sides near the top, a mechanical shop building and a woodshop building.

The camp was run by regular Army officers—captains, lieutenants and sergeants. There were about 200 laborers, college grads, high school grads, school dropouts, ex convicts and derelicts.

We were paid \$30 per month, of which we received \$5 & \$25 was mailed to our homes. Besides the pay we were sup-

plied with food, clothing, lodging and medical care. There were also some men of experience to instruct us in various skills (carpenters, masons, electricians, blacksmiths etc.) Some laborers that were thought to possess leadership capabilities were picked to be gang bosses.

Each gang boss was assigned 10 to 25 men & each gang was assigned to one of the experienced tradesmen who would oversee their work.

The work consisted of building two large dams on the Vlomanskill Creek.

creating two ponds, one 10 acres and the second 15-20 acres in size, building roads, guard rails and storm water gutters, installing a water & sewer system connecting all the buildings on the Game Farm. There were also gangs that planted trees & did a lot of wildlife man. (management) work on the Partridge Run Game Man. (Management) Area.

There was a gang that worked at the old Barge Canal at Vischers Ferry, clearing water chestnuts & bringing large quarried stones 1-1 1/2 tons each from the old canal lock, down to the Game Farm. They also dug up aquatic plants that were placed in the 2 newly made ponds to establish food and cover for the waterfowl that would inhabit the ponds. One gang worked at a nearby shale pit, blasting shale & loading it in trucks for building the Game Farm roads.

Some of the men were kept in camp for K.P., lawn mowing and building & grounds maint.

Camp Routine

We were awakened about 6:30 or 7:00 AM by a bugler, we got dressed & made our beds, washed and shaved & went for our breakfast, after which we went to our barracks to wait for

the call for assembly. We lined up outside for flag raising and our work assignments.

Those who worked nearby went to the mess hall for lunch. A chow wagon was sent out to the gangs that worked farther away. We stopped work at 6:30, went back to camp and got cleaned up for supper (about 6-6:30 PM). We then assembled for taps (flag lowering). The rest of the day was ours to go to town or home, But we had to be in camp the next morning for roll call & work assignments or we were considered AWOL & were fined or punished by extra duty.

I joined the CCC about a year after it opened (1932) & was assigned to barracks #5 Most of the men got along very well, as mentioned before, there were college & high school grads, men from rich families, men from skid row & ex-convicts.

I mentioned before that one fellow from each barracks was assigned to stay in camp & see that their barracks was clean & spotless. (The officer of the day, a lieutenant) would inspect each barracks and the cleanest would be announced at mealtime.

To keep down dust (under floors) they would put a cup of gasoline in the mop water & when finished they would dump the rest of the water in the latrine. They had a large iron wheel from a locomotive hanging in the yard for a fire alarm that was hit with a large hammer to summon the men. Well, one day we were working on the lower dam when the fire alarm sounded. Every one dropped their shovels & ran for the camp. When we got there the latrine was on fire. It seems there were 3 men sitting on the latrine, contemplating life, when a fourth man came and sat down and lit a cigarette & threw the match down the next hole. When [we] got there, there were 4 men blown halfway through the canvass top and only their legs & bare behinds were below, getting scorched. We got the fire out & took the men to the infirmary where Doc Brown kept them for a week or so. The building was damaged very little, except for the canvas roof. This was the only fire we had during the CCC period. (One barracks did burn down at a later date.)

When winter weather came we burned soft coal in the 3 pot bellied stoves in each barracks. Lights out was 9 PM & about 9:30 the Off. (Officer) of the day would go through the barracks, checking the stoves. If he found one with a red glow on

Cont. on page 4

Mark Your Calendar!

Next Program

Sunday, March 7, at 2:00 P.M.

Thomas Keefe presents:

"A History of American Political Campaign Material"

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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Web Page

www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org Email: newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

The New Scotland Historical Board would like to thank all of the members, friends and neighbors who have signed the petition or written letters to support the preservation of at least one of the CCC buildings at Five Rivers. Last month I wrote about the historical sign that we had placed at Five Rivers to explain the history of the farms. Now we are doing our best to keep their buildings intact and perhaps, at some point, place a self-teaching display in one of them to show the work of the Civilian Conservation Corp in this area

Neighboring Historic Groups, Our New Scotland Town Board, and local, county and state politicians have all been contacted and many have been in contact with the Department of Environmental Conservation to please consider preserving at least one of the buildings and keep the history of the CCC days of the 1930s alive. A new education center is planned for Five Rivers and we are very supportive of this project, but we hope that they will preserve this bit of history at the same time.

On a personal matter----Our ten-year old grandson spent the night with us recently and when I came down in the morning, he was watching a show on John Quincy Adams and Thomas Jefferson on the History Channel. He told me how much he enjoys Social Studies in school. You can imagine how pleased I was to see this fascination with history. It did remind me of the wonderful programs we presented to fourth graders in the past. Students from Voorheesville and Clarksville came each year to see the Museum and participate in many historical activities. School budget cuts have made these trips only a memory. Knowing the state of our economy, these trips are not likely to be reinstated soon. It places more responsibility on parents and grandparents to encourage our children to read, watch historical shows and visit special sites. Keep your family history alive too. Tell them the stories!!

Peg Dorgan

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy, we note the passing of NSHA members Barbara Cureau and Eleanor Turner.

What

Is

It?

(Answer on page 8)

Collections Committee Report — Marion Parmenter

Our collection continues to grow, with over 60 items accessioned so far in 2010.

In addition, our files are being rearranged to make them more user-friendly. It is luxury to have a little extra space in the file drawers—for now.

Martha Slingerland, Vicki Seymour, Janet Klopp and Marion Parmenter visited the Brunswick Historical Society recently, to see how they deal with newspaper items. We have files full of clippings and wondered how to deal with them.

To cover each year, they actually have a binder that includes Vital Statistics, Town Government, Local News, Education, Religion, Organizations, and Businesses-new and closed in the Town of Brunswick. Each article is dated, copied on archival paper and entered in the appropriate part of the binder for the year. This creates a wealth of information about the Town. Obviously, it is very labor intensive, as folks have to clip, date, gather and organize all the articles, copy them and put them in the binder in an organized fashion. We are thinking about it! We did decide we could do a binder with military information gathered during our recent exhibit.

We wonder if there are any folks interested in working on such a clipping project?

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.

Electrical Project

The Board is happy to announce that our hoped for electrical project will take place in March. Many new outlets will be installed in the older portion of the museum, allowing us to do away with extension cords to light up exhibits. More importantly, it will be much safer. Outlets and lights will be installed in the barn at the same time.

Many thanks to all of you who purchased raffle tickets and made special donations to make this possible. While we did not have quite enough, the Board voted to take some out of the treasury to make up the difference.

Exhibit Committee—Sandy Slingerland

The Exhibit Committee is creating two exhibits, both of which will open on Saturday, May 1st, at 2:00 P.M. One exhibit will feature the Civilian Conservation Corps. Central in this will be New Scotland's own CCC camp which was located at what is now the Five Rivers Environmental Center. The second exhibit will feature barber shops in the town of New Scotland, with a recreated one.

Chairman Sandy Slingerlands is requesting the loan of any CCC Camp memorabilia and barbershop items, if anyone has any the committee can borrow. Also, does anyone have a Barbershop pole we could borrow? Please contact Sandy at 768-2462 and leave a message. Thank you.

Senior Award

The NSHA is again offering an award to a high school senior residing in the Town of New Scotland and planning to further his or her education in some field related to history or museum work. The students competing for the award would be required to submit transcripts and references and write a 250-word response to a given task. Any student who will complete high school studies in June of 2010 is eligible to enter the competition, whether he/she attends a public school, parochial school, private school or is homeschooled

The award is provided through the generosity of the Don and Ann Eberle Fund, established by Todd Slingerland, principal managing partner for Capital Financial Planning, from which Don retired in October, 2006. The Fund was established to honor Don's thirty-five years as a financial advisor, and, in addition, to further honor the years of volunteering both Don and Ann have given to the New Scotland Historical Association. It is the wish of the Eberles that the funds be used for the Historical Association's missions of preservation and education.

Applications are available in local school Guidance Offices, the Bethlehem and Voorheesville Libraries, New Scotland Town Hall, and the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem. Additional applications may be obtained by calling Peg Neri at 765-3125, and leaving your name, address, and phone number. All completed applications must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

2 men took a shovel & bucket and cleaned all the coals in the stove out, & took them outside and doused them with water. Then he let all the men go back to bed. Of course we were cold all nite & had to build a new fire the next day. I slept 3 beds away from one stove, when I awoke in the morning I would take my clothes from the hook by my bed & sometimes had to shake off snow, after which I slid them under the covers to warm them.

Payday in camp was at the end of the month. The Off. of the day would go to the bank in Delmar & pick up the payroll for the men (\$5.00 each). When he got back to camp he had his weapon drawn before he carried the money (all silver dollars) to the mess hall, where the men were paid.

One day he forgot his weapon but he had to have a weapon so he picked up a brick and called it his weapon.

As I said we got along well considering the different backgrounds & personalities. One nite a gang boss in our barracks (good man, well liked) came back to camp drunk & was ranting & raving. He said no one was going to call him a S.O.B. & he punched a hole in the front door (solid wood). The next day the officer of the day assembled everyone in our barracks & asked who did it. No one would answer so he confined us all to barracks until the door was replaced (during our free time). We all chipped in 25c & got a new one.

All in all it was a good experience, we learned a lot, were well fed & kept healthy.

This article was taken from the handwritten remembrances of former CCCer Tarzan Baker. They were written down by his son, George Baker. Tarzan, who was known as Lewellyn (sp?) Earl, while in the camp, passed away in 2008. Sandy Slingerland received the article from Craig Thompson at Five Rivers.

Autograph Book

The following poem was found in an autograph book belonging to Mabel Jacobson (Frisbee), a member of the First Graduating Class of Voorheesville. It was written by Beatrice "Bette" Crounse of Altamont on Sept. 30, 1941. Enjoy!

They walked the lane together
The sky was studded with stars;
He walked up to the gate with her
For her let down the bars,
She turned her dark eyes towards him,
There's nothing between them now;
For he was but the hired man,
And she the Jersey Cow.







Town History Test!

This issue we are concentrating on the New Scotland area. Good luck! Answers are on page 7.

- 1. Where was the **Coffee Cup**?
- 2. Where was McQuade's Driving Range?
- 3. Where was the **Checkered** Flag?
- 4. Did you ever go to the **Mayfair Drive-In**?
- 5. Where was the first Town Meeting held?
- 6. Name the oldest church in the Town of New Scotland.
- 7. When was **Tastee Treat** built?



Raffle Winners

Raffle winners were drawn at the December program.

First prize—Mike Dorgan Second Prize—Harold Dinyer (Albany) Third Prize—Robert Felter

We want to thank all those who participated in the raffle.

Our electrical project will soon be under way.

Museum Closed Easter and Mother's Day

If you would like an appointment the day before either holiday—or anytime, please contact Marion Parmenter at 765-4652 and arrangements can be made.

Tell Us Your Stories of New Scotland

The New Scotland Historical Association is producing a book of memories of growing up in the Town. We are looking for stories that people remember of incidents occurring before the 1970s. Pictures are also welcome. Please be sure that your name is on your stories and your pictures. Pictures will be scanned and returned, or you may send scanned pictures.

There are no length requirements—some memories that we have received are only two or three paragraphs, while others are a page or more. Some people have sent several memories on one or two pages, just separating each with words and space. Some memories are pictures with captions.

To give you an idea, here are a few sentences from Sharon (Stott) Roberts' "Clarksville Memories"

"We did go to my grandfather's farm (Lansing Appleby) and I remember the horses that pulled the wagon. I also remember picking berries, currants mostly and I think we were paid but I don't remember how much. We also played in the hayloft...I also remember the bookmobile coming to our house. It was like a bus and we used to go inside and select library books."

Stories may be sent by email to newscotlandhistorica-lassoc@gmail.com or to The New Scotland Historical Association, P. O. Box 541, Voorheesville, NY 12186 or brought to the Museum any Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Please mark them "New Scotland Memories."

Sentinel Feedback—Memoirs!

NSHA member Tim Moran sent us the following memories triggered by Will's last article, **School Daze.**

It was quite an article Willard (that's what I remember everyone called him in those days) wrote. I do remember Charley Hines jumping off the balcony on a disputed ref call at a basketball game. He was out of school at the time if I remember right. We used to get Mrs. Salvatore mad as a hornet by getting the wooden (library) floor vibrating with everyone getting their leg going up and down in synchronization. Mike Pafunda (custodian) used to shoot baskets from the balcony facing the rim and even with his back to the rim throwing the ball over his head. He hit a high percentage of his shots. I read somewhere that he was an outstanding athlete in his day. Maggie McGarr....my knuckles are still red from the ruler and my one ear lobe is longer than the other where she pulled the heck out of it! But I still type using both hands as she taught me!

Memories from Down Under

11 January 2010

Hi Robert and staff.

Many thanks for the winter *Sentinel* via email here in Australia.

I shared a chuckle with Wil Osterhout as he took me with him on his journey through school.

My Dad, Fred Hammann, used to tell us he was contracted to paint New Salem School around 1947 when our family first moved to Voorheesville.

Even though I was 10 years behind Wil, many of the teachers' names were contemporaries of my older brothers, Fritz and Jon, and my memories of their adventures and characters gelled with some of Wil's. For me, even at the tender age of 5, Edie Hotaling's charming smile from the top half of the candy shop door stirred my own young masculine heart. Looking at the photo of Edie, I still have some difficulty convincing myself that my little legs really made the journey down the basement stairs just for the 5c Babe Ruths. Edie and her family lived just a few doors away from us on Pleasant Street.

My brothers had their own adventures in sport and on the social scene at Voorheesville High. Tim Moran, in the class photo on the first page, was a great companion to my older brothers, particularly with Boy Scouts, hunting wildlife, and probably cruising Main Street together in some '40s jalopy to impress the girls. Tim Moran and Jon and their wives still stay in regular contact with each other.

I don't believe New Salem and Voorheesville Schools seemed special to us just because they were precious school days like anyone's in any school. Whether they produced more somewhat risky, exciting memories like Wil's and my brothers', or just warm fuzzy (and the odd uncomfortable) ones like mine, I like to quietly believe they are mostly due to the fact that New Salem and Voorheesville were and probably still are uniquely valuable communities in which to be nurtured.

I appreciate the research and contributions that provide articles like Wil's, that bring back part of the Town of New Scotland to a special place in my mind, many miles (and years) away here in our home Down Under.

Keep up the great work! Warm regards.

Matt Hammann

Class of '69—married to Cathy (LeVie) Hammann—Class of '70

Matt and Cathy moved to Australia in 1975 to teach in the public schools. They remained there, raised a family and are now retired and live in Gympie, Queensland. They both visited the NSHA museum with her mom, Shirley LeVie two years ago, while on a visit "home."

The Year There Was No Summer

Peter Bowden

We've finally wrapped up one of the gloomiest summers most of us can remember. I've talked to some experienced gardeners who've been gardening for over fifty years and even they agree that there hasn't been a growing season worse than this. Well there WAS a worse year nearly two hundred years ago; 1816, also known as the "The Year There Was No Summer" and "Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death."

It seems that a volcano called Tamora explosively erupted in Indonesia in April of 1815. This eruption is regarded by many as the largest eruption in recorded history. On the Indonesian archipelago the impact was, of course, devastating with thousands of deaths. The size and violence of this eruption forced an estimated 100 CU-BIC MILES of dust, ash and sulfuric acid into the stratosphere. Many scientists feel that this dust and ash was responsible for "The Year There Was No Summer." The tribulations of the summer of 1816 are legend and had a hand in the migration of many New Englanders and New Yorkers out of those areas, and a wave of migration out of Europe and England to the United States.

The winter of 1815—1816 was a cold one that started early and lingered late. This was not uncommon and these northern farmers had endured many long winters and late spring cold. April and May were cold but most managed to get their crops in. By early June, the leaves were out on the trees, the corn was up and vegetable gardens were in and growing. It looked like the long winter was over at last. Then things began to go terribly wrong. On June 5th in Williamstown, Mass., the temperature was a balmy 83 degrees, warm for that early in the season. By the next morning, the temperature was 45 degrees and still falling. This cold arctic air wasn't isolated to Williamstown. From Canada to Virginia cold arctic air caused killing frosts to occur June 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. Thousands of birds that had recently migrated into the area from the south froze to death. Sheep, recently shorn, froze to death even though they were brought inside. Farmers built bonfires around their fields to try to save the crops but all to no avail. The important corn crop was virtually wiped out along with most other crops. Even the leaves on all the trees froze, blackened and fell to the ground. There was light snow on June 6th in New York and New England and on the 7th and 8,th more snow was reported as far south as the Catskills. In Danville, Vermont, the newspaper reports: "On the night of the 7th and morning of the 8th a kind of sleet or exceedingly cold snow fell, attended by high wind, and measured in places where it drifted 18 to 20 inches in depth. Saturday morning (8th of June) the weather was more severe than it generally is in the winter." Standing water froze as far south as Philadelphia and in northern Vermont the ice was an inch thick. Even the ground started to freeze!

Remember that this is 1816. No one knew about a huge volcano. Even if they did they had no reason to believe that it should have any effect on them. All they knew was that their crops were dead and if they couldn't get more in right away, starvation the following winter was a real possibility. Talk of famine and the wrath of God were widespread.

By the 12th of June, the outbreak of cold ended. The hard work of planting was repeated. Farmers knew that, in spite of the late start, they still had enough time to get a decent crop of corn and beans and such.....if the weather cooperated for the rest of the season. For four weeks the weather held. The second planting sprouted and was growing well. Folks felt a bit foolish about their earlier fears and chalked it up to their renowned New England weather. Their good cheer was not to last.

At the end of the first week in July another, although less severe, outbreak of arctic air spilled over New England and eastern New York. All the crops in the valleys (where most of the farms were) were again killed or badly damaged. There was no snow in July of 1816 but most felt that a widespread famine was inevitable. Those who could procure seed again replanted and everyone prayed. It seemed that God himself had turned against them. Many wondered what they had done to incur His wrath.

After the first week of July, things returned to normal for a few more weeks. In addition to the cold in 1816, it was a dry year as well. In spite of their earlier failures, the farmers (which, at that time, was just about everybody) were optimistic that, if they got a break in September, things would be all right. You've got to remember that the only food they'd have the following winter would be what they could grow that summer.

Alas, another killing frost on August 20th visited much of New England and New York as far south as East Windsor, Conn. From Albany to Boston most of the crops again succumbed. Whatever survived that frost was finished off by an even colder spell during the last week of the month. As if that weren't enough, temperatures dipped below freezing again September 11th and 12th. A more widespread frost at the end of September dashed any hope for crops that had managed to escape until then.

The winter of 1816-1817 was indeed a winter of despair; especially for the poor subsistence farmers who were isolated and depended on their crops to survive. Many tried to survive on milk and bread but bread was in short supply. It was a blessing that the ocean off New England's coast was so bountiful. The task of feeding New England fell to the fisherman. Many landlubbers who had never eaten fish became very familiar with the taste of mackerel during 1817.

(Cont. on page 7)

(cont. from page 6)

Beginning in 1817, there was a mass migration out of New England to the newly tamed (Indians finally killed or driven out) Ohio valley. The temptations of level ground and an easier climate were too much for many who managed to survive that terrible summer of '16 and winter of '17.

"The Year There Was No Summer" wasn't strictly a Northeastern North American event. England, France, Germany, and most of Eastern Europe endured a similarly disastrous season. It wasn't as cold as New England in Europe but they had flooding and wet weather that resulted in crop failures of similar proportion. Food riots erupted in England, France, Switzerland, and Scotland. For many of these starving Europeans, the lure of the bountiful life in the United States was irresistible. Unaware that conditions were the same on the western side of the Atlantic, they arrived in the New World only to suffer more privations. Many continued their exodus into the interior to begin settling the mid-west alongside recently displaced New Englanders.

Our modern transportation system would prevent famine if another "Year There Was No Summer occurred now. When the rain and the cold get you down remember, it could be a lot worse. It's disappointing and frustrating trying to get a ripe tomato in 2009 but it is nothing when compared to the trials the weather of 1816 put our forefathers through.

This article was printed with permission of the author, Peter Bowden, Advertising Manager for Hewitt's Garden Shoppe. It was originally printed in the **Moneysaver**, Nov. 12, 2009. The **Sentinel** committee wants to thank Peg Dorgan for bringing this article to our attention and getting the necessary permission from the author for us to print it.

With our current "upside-down" winter as the **Times Union** reported last week, with snow in every state but Hawaii, one can only wonder what our summer will be like. Let us hope the tomatoes grow with no blight and that we have a SUMMER!

Answers to history test.: (all places are located on New Scotland Rd.)

- 1. The **Coffee Cup-**a coffee shop located at the corner of Crow Ridge Rd. and Route 85, from the late '50s through the '60s.
- 2. McQuade's Driving Range was located where Olsen's is today.
- 3. The **Checkered Flag** was located where Pet Styles is currently located, to the east of Olsen's. It was operated by Cookie Osterhout from 1963 until it burned in 1969.
- 4. The **Mayfair Drive-In** was located where the medical offices are today. It was known to show rather risqué movies for the time period. Will remembers one movie, "God Created Women," with Bridgett Bardot (We don't know if he went to it!).
- 5. The first Town Meeting was held in the Raynsford home, on the corner of Route 85 and 85A on April 9th, 1833. Built in the early 1800's, it burned in the late 1880's. It was replaced by what we now know as the former King home.
- 6. The oldest church in the Town is the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, which was organized in 1787, and they built their first building in 1791.
- 7. **Tastee Treat** was built in 1959 by Earl and Wilkins MacMillen. They operated it until 1969, when they began leasing it to others. Now the Hormovitis family owns and operates it..

	Spring Programs
Sunday, March 7, 2010 2:00 P.M.	Thomas Keefe, "A History of American Political Campaign Material" A variety of material produced for American Political Campaigns, from 18000 to the current time, will be presented.
Tuesday, April 6, 2010 2:00 P.M.	Marion Parmenter, "A Wild Ensemble of Artifacts and Their Stories" Some of NSHA's artifacts will be shown, along with the story of how they came to be part of the collection.
Tuesday, May 4, 2010 2:00 P.M.	Bob & Marie Shaw, "Raffin Street Organ Music" Street organ music used to be popular in the cities, where some people earned a living playing music for the crowds as they traveled along on foot.

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

Answer to "What Is It"

The item in the picture from page two is called a Boot jack.

If you would like to become a mem please fill out the form and mail	
\$10 Individual	
\$15 Family	
\$25 Sustaining	
\$100 Life (per person)	
Name	
Street	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Make checks payable to NSHA .	
Please send dues to: Melanie Ernst	
Membership Chair	
P.O. Box 250	
Clarksville, NY 1204	41

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