



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 19, No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Spring 2011

New Exhibit, Drive Around Tour Mini -Antique Road Show! Sunday, April 3, 2011

NSHA is sponsoring 3 events on Sunday, April 3, at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on Old New Salem Road in New Salem. At 12 noon, festivities begin with the opening of our new exhibit, **“40 Years of Pursuing History”** which features NSHA activities over the past 40 years, since our First Annual Meeting, May 19, 1971. Come and see where we began, and how we got to the present!

As part of our 40th Celebration a new Drive Around Tour has been created. It encompasses the entire town, featuring all the hamlets and the village of Voorheesville and the areas in between. The way it is set up, you can do whatever areas you wish to do, any day. 40 plus miles is a lot to do in a day! We encourage you to visit areas you are not familiar with. It is probably best to go on week-ends or mid-day, so the roads aren't terribly busy.

In addition, Senior Citizen Coordinator Sue Kidder, is arranging for bus tours for the Seniors on various days in April. NSHA will provide a tour guide (person!) for the bus tours. Information will be coming from her office. Contact her at 439-9038 to sign up for this. Over 65, please!

Tour books will be on sale at our Opening Day, April 3rd, and there after at the museum and Town Hall.

New Scotland is a beautiful town, and there is so much to see. Plan to take a ride or two, sometime in 2011. Remember, it is much easier to see things while the leaves are off the trees!

Mini-Antique Road Show! 1—4:00 P.M.

NSHA is sponsoring a Mini-Antique Road Show as part of our 40th Anniversary Celebration. We are fortunate to have Caroline French who will be at the Community Center to appraise all kinds of items: silver: both plate and sterling, jewelry: both costume and antique estate, glass, china, pictures, prints, oil paintings, mirrors, baskets, needlework, toys, dolls, watches, lamps, etc. She (and NSHA) requests that you bring only what you can carry alone. If you have an item of furniture or other large object, please bring only a photo of it.

Caroline, a second generation antiquer, has been in the antique business for more than 40 years in New Hampshire and has conducted Mini Road Show programs for historical groups, and other organizations in both NH and Maine for years. Sandy Slingerland, our Exhibits Chair, has known her for years and persuaded her to come and do this for us. We are fortunate she will travel so far and donate her time!

The cost of each appraisal is \$5, or 3 items appraised for \$10. The limit at one time is 3, but you may go to the back of the line again if there is time. You will get a number when you arrive and there will be seating while you wait.

You can also use that time to view our museum and the new exhibit which depicts the history of NSHA—**40 Years of Pursuing History.**

Come and bring your antiques and other items and have them appraised!

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

OFFICERS 2010 - 2011

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Editors

Marie Hornick

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President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

I noticed that in the Fall of 2010 *Sentinel*, I started my message with a reference to the unusual summer heat and humidity. Well, I guess we need to remember that as we experience the cold and snow of 2011.

The 40th Anniversary Year of the New Scotland Historical Association is progressing well. The committee, chaired by Marion Parmenter, has planned such wonderful activities, particularly during the next few months. Be sure to read all about these events throughout this *Sentinel*.

I want to thank the NSHA Board for extending the honor of the "Pound Award" given to me at the December program. Obviously, I was totally surprised! I also know that it requires many generous volunteers to make things happen within this organization. We are most fortunate to have such wonderful, talented, knowledgeable people to serve this group in many capacities.

All members of this association should know that more help is always appreciated. We need creative ideas and helping hands. Perhaps you just want to write an article that can be included in this publication. All are welcome.

Peg Dorgan

Sentinel update on Memory Book

Marie Hornick

With a publication date in late April, the New Scotland Historical Association's collection of memories is entering the phase of putting together the "rough" copy; all of the articles have been proofread several times. Some of the memories had to be typed from handwritten notes, while others were turned in typed, but in all different fonts and sizes. All of those have been re-typed and standardized so that they will fit our pages. Writers sometimes included pictures with their articles; other pictures were supplied from the Association's local collection volumes found in the Museum.

Volunteer members of the "Book Committee" include Leader Peg Dorgan, Marie Hornick, Ethie Moak, Sandy Slingerland, and Judith Wing. Giving added assistance in two crucial areas were local artist Diane (Shedd) Wozniak, who created the cover, and Meghan (Dorgan) Barrow, who did the layout for the entire book.

Committee members, from their suggestions for naming the book, selected *Times of Our Lives: New Scotland Memories*. It is hoped that by meeting all deadlines ahead of us, we will have the books for sale at the May 3 meeting.

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy we note the passing of NSHA member John Hoagland.

President Peg Dorgan receives Pound Award

At the December 2010 program of the New Scotland Historical Association (NSHA), Margaret “Peg” Dorgan was presented with the Arthur Pound Award for outstanding service in the promotion and preservation of the History of the Town of New Scotland by Charter Member, Martha Slingerland

Peg is passionate about history and the NSHA and encourages its growth by urging people to attend our programs and to become involved in the Association. She began as a Trustee in 1997 and has assisted with the *Sentinel* (Newsletter published by the NSHA). She has held many positions, including Vice President, and worked on the book *New Scotland Township*, helped with the fourth grade programs, and initiated the Oral History Project.

The Arthur Pound Award is presented from time to time to recognize individuals who have helped promote and preserve the history of New Scotland in an extraordinary way.



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.

New Scotland Historical Association Spring Program Schedule 2011

March 6th Sunday 2 P.M. *The Civilian Conservation Corps*

A look at the history and operation of the CCC presented by Diane Galusha, author of Another Day, Another Dollar: The CCC in the Catskills.

April 5th Tuesday 7:30 P. M. *Sparks From the Fire*

A detailed look at the devastating fire that damaged the NYS Capitol Building one hundred years ago. Presented by local historian, educator and historical re-enactor Stuart Lehman from the NYS Office of General Services.

May 3rd Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Songs To Make A Difference*

A musical program highlighting the use of parody in song as a means of political persuasion in the 19th century. Presented by Kate Boardman, musician and historian from Cooperstown, N. Y.

All programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center, 7 Old New Salem Road, New Salem, off Route 85; they are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The museum will be open one half hour before the program begins.

NSHA History---the second ten years (1981—1991)

Marion Parmenter

(This is the second in a series of articles about the growth of the New Scotland Historical Association. This information was taken from the Board minutes since May 5, 1981, Annual Meeting.)

In the last issue I mentioned that NSHA wanted a cabinet 6 feet wide, 6 feet high and 2 feet deep. Did you see it in the museum? It was built by Jerry Condon and delivered Aug. 9, 1982. Ruth Baumbach, together with her son Mark, started creating scrapbooks for all the news items appearing in newspapers about NSHA activities. Over several years they made 3 in all—a valuable asset to our collection, which tells our own history. These will be part of the NSHA exhibit.

In late 1981, plans for the town-sponsored Sesquecentennial Celebration were well under way. This was chaired by NSHA member and New Scotland Town Clerk, Corinne Cossac. Corinne invited all the hamlets, schools, churches and organizations, etc. to take part.

Jane Blessing and Marion Parmenter assisted Don Otterness at the Voorheesville Elementary School with an oral history project involving 6th graders. These boys and girls created the questions, and conducted the interviews. In all, 44 residents of the town were taped. The interviews were transcribed and a book entitled “The Town of New Scotland Sesquecentennial—150 Years” was produced in 1982.

The minutes indicated that our April 6, 1982 program/meeting was canceled due to a 17 inch snowstorm! Let’s hope history doesn’t repeat itself!

The snow probably had melted by April 25th when



NSHA prize winning float—July 24, 1982

NSHA held an Open House to kick off Sesquecentennial Activities for the year. We exhibited both our own collection and some borrowed items. Over 225 folks visited the museum that day!

July 24, 1982 found many of us marching in the Sesquecentennial Parade, along with organizations from all over the town. Many entered wonderful floats. The parade route started in New Salem and ended at the Clayton A. Bouton Jr.-Sr. High School. At the school there were games, food, activities of all kinds, with displays inside. The NSHA float won \$50 for the most original! Sam Youmans, in the minutes, credited Madelon Pound with much of the inspiration and work that went into the float. We still have some of that Scottish plaid fabric she used at the museum!

On December 7, 1982, the Clarksville Auxiliary sponsored the Sesquecentennial Ball in Clarksville. There was a wonderful turnout and all participated in the dancing—much of it old fashioned.

March 1, 1983 was Heritage Day—the last of the Sesquecentennial Activities included a special Postal Cancellation, a slide show of old photos from around the town, the dedication of the Historic Marker in front of Town Hall to coincide with the first Town Meeting, an Annual Supper at the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, and a Costume Dance at the Clarksville Fire Hall.

It was wonderful to see so many folks from all over the Town, involved in this yearlong celebration marking the beginning of our town.

The historic marker that NSHA placed in front of Town Hall was the first one we put up. It was in the days when the script had to be approved by the State Education Department, which took several months. It was made of cast iron and cost \$150 plus \$25 shipping. I did the paper work for the State and once we received the marker, Sam Youmans painted it for us. At that time, all markers said State Education Department, rather than the group who paid for them! Nowadays the markers are cast aluminum, come all painted, cost over \$700 and we have not had good luck with the paint, which is why we have switched to our new type sign.

For the rest of this decade, NSHA dealt with building concerns of all kinds and many changes were made. Originally the kitchen was actually in the old class-



The museum, April 25, 1982—Open House

room—with the wood floor. A 6 foot wide “room” had been created by the town back in the ‘70s on the east end, to house a kitchen and the museum/meeting space had the rest of that old classroom. In October, 1983, we requested that the kitchen be moved to the center storage area—next to the girls’ restroom. We also requested a new outside door in the old coat room. We literally had piles of snow that blew in through the cracks of the door! We also wanted the entire floor cleaned, sanded and finished. By September 1984, both the new kitchen was complete, as well as the museum enlarged with the partition for the former kitchen removed.

In 1981, we decided to create a 1982 calendar to sell. We ordered 500 copies and they were gone before Christmas 1981! We continued with the calendar project and produced them each year for four years. In October 1985, we decided to stop production for two years.

In February, 1986, NSHA had a floor company come in for advice with the floor. We were told it was too thin in places to sand. The May 1986 minutes note that Sam Youmans was thanked for cleaning the floor and giving it a coat of Zarr. We could finally sweep the floor and it looked clean afterwards.

March 3, 1987, noted that we had decided to try to replace the curtains between the room and old coatroom with real doors rather than the curtains that hung there. The next month Sam was thanked for the hanging doors to the coatroom. The minutes also noted that Lorraine Felter, Onesquethaw Reformed Church historian, came to speak and Bob Felter and the Vanderbilts came as guests!

March 5, 1988, the 1st annual Arthur Gregg Historical Seminar was held at the First Methodist Church in Voorheesville. Mr. Charles Gehring spoke on Dutch History and Agriculture in the Hudson Valley. Several more of these seminars were held in 1989, ’90 and ’91. They were sponsored by the Voorheesville Library, FUMC, Guilderland Historical Society, NSHA, and the *Altamont Enterprise* at various times.

September 6, 1988: NSHA received a letter from the town saying the New Salem Schoolhouse was being



Construction began in October 1988

enlarged and improved to enhance use by Senior Citizens, NSHA and other organizations. The total size of the building would be doubled. During construction we would meet in the Town Hall. Construction began in Oct. 1988, and it was dedicated at an open house June 4, 1989. Supervisor Herb Reilly announced the name Wyman Osterhout Community Center, because Wyman was the driving force with the whole project.

With the addition, we had a museum room and the new part became a meeting room for all to use—with no doors to secure the museum. This continued to be a problem for several years.

November 7, 1989: The Arthur Pound Award was established to honor folks who contributed to NSHA, but it wasn’t until May, 1991, when the 1st recipient was named. That recipient was Madelon Paterson Pound—and deservedly so!

During this period, the Genealogy Committee led by Martha Slingerland continued to be very active. Many more artifacts were received by the museum, and several items were sent out to be restored. Almost every December, there was a Christmas program with music and many times a speaker with a holiday-related topic.

A historic marker was placed at the entrance to the old Bender Melon Farm. Dennis Sullivan wrote a 40 page pamphlet about the farm, which was published by NSHA in late 1990, entitled “Charles Bender and the Bender Melon Farm: A Local History.”

As you can see, many wonderful things happened during this ten year period as the organization grew in size and took on more projects.

Mark your Calendar!

Sunday, March 6th, 2:00P.M.

Diane Galusha will speak about the history and operation of the CCC.

Author of *Another Day, Another Dollar: The CCC in the Catskills*

Last Chance to view our CCC Exhibit!

Wyman Osterhout Community Center

Collection Committee

In the Summer, 2010, issue of the *Sentinel*, there was an article about Howard and Maude Shanks of New Salem and their visit from the **Candid Camera TV show** in 1966.

Their granddaughter, Jean Jacobson Brown, has given us a copy on DVD of this hilarious show. Stop in the museum and ask to see it—it is a riot!

Marion Parmenter



PFC. Paul A. Starker, Army Air Corps and his bride, the former Gwendolin Hotaling, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Claude Hotaling of New Salem, after their marriage in New Salem, 1945.

Times Past!

Amazing things happen at the museum sometimes. Linda Starker Wolfe came in and gave us many items from her family and her aunt, Margaret Hotaling Westervelt, who frequently writes for the *Sentinel*. As we visited, we realized we had been in school at the same time and she had known my sister. Some days later I was going through a box of pictures NSHA had received and found a newspaper clipping of Linda's mom and dad's wedding. I had it with me at the museum when Linda walked in again right after New Years with old pictures of her Grandfather Claude Hotaling. When I showed her the clipping, she was amazed. She told me that she had heard it was terribly hot on the wedding day and of course her father's Army Air Corps uniform was wool! By then I had discovered her mom, Gwenne Hotaling Starker, had received a gift membership to NSHA from her sister, Margaret. When I wrote Margaret about the picture, she was not surprised the picture had surfaced at Groesbeck's. It seems Wilber Groesbeck had been a good friend of hers.

Margaret went on to write that "the wedding had been August 29, 1945. The war in the Pacific was coming to an end as the wedding plans progressed, but not very fast. The result was that there was no time to order invitations printed, so I (*Margaret*) wrote them myself. Rationing was still in force, so it was probably the only wedding reception in the history of mankind to proceed gracefully without one bit of food. Everyone came back to our house—the water company farm (*east of the church in New Salem*) ---and had a great time visiting, and enjoying a perfectly beautiful warm day." She also wrote that the wedding dress had been made by their mother from a piece of parachute fabric Paul had sent home.

Marion

**Museum will be closed
Easter Sunday and Mother's Day**

Tales of a Highwayman The First Blizzard

Now a full fledged member of the gang, I couldn't wait for a chance to prove my worth. That opportunity arrived with the first snow of the season. Off I rode to the courts in Salem Hills. I imagined myself as some sort of super hero, like the Lone Ranger, riding in shooting silver bullets and rescuing those poor residents from the icy grip of a howling blizzard. Actually, it was more like a lamb being led to the slaughter.

As I plowed the first couple of courts I noticed people standing in their windows shaking their fists. How wonderful I thought. They were so glad to see me that they were cheering me on. It wasn't until a few courts later, when a resident was waiting for me at the end of their driveway that I realized just what was going on. The fist shaking was in anger and the insults hurled my way were unprintable in a dignified publication like the *Sentinel*.

About this time, out of the swirling drifting snow, an elderly lady appeared like a modern day "Joan of Arc." The only difference was she wasn't riding a horse and brandishing a sword, but she carried a garbage can cover in front of her like a shield! She proceeded to attack my truck, but I was too quick for her and got my doors locked before she could gain entrance. Fearing for my personal safety and deciding discretion was the better part of valor, I then beat a hasty retreat from the field of battle.

I returned to the gang headquarters to report the whole incident to "Wild Bill." He found the whole thing so ridiculous that it sent him into uncontrolled fits of laughter. Upon composing himself, he ordered me back into the fray, showing no concern for my health and well being. I survived that storm and many more after that, but each one seemed to provide me with another adventure. After 26 years of plowing snow, I still had not learned how to do it without putting snow somewhere that didn't make someone very angry and unhappy. Fortunately I retired 14 years ago. Now I sit by my window and shake my fist and shout insults at the plows going by my house and feel just a bit of revenge.

Until next time,

Will Osterhout

Thanks!

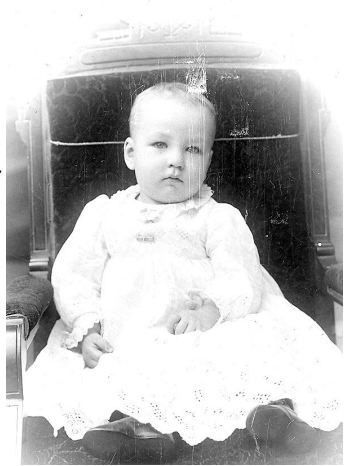
Thank you to everyone who purchased a gift membership during our holiday membership drive. NSHA gained 30 new members as a result of your generosity. NSHA plans to offer this program again at the end of this year, so keep NSHA in mind when making your gift list. Please remember that a printable membership form is always available on the NSHA website: www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org

Melanie Ernst
Chairperson

WILLIE BRINER

By Martha Slingerland

His name was William Radley Briner (pronounced with a short "i," to rhyme with "dinner"), he was born in 1893 to Augustus and Maria Radley Briner, and until the day he died, he was always called "Willie." He lived on the corner of New Scotland South and Pangburn Roads in the house now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Macomber.



William Radley Briner

Our museum has recently been given a large poster, in wonderful condition, advertising his farm sale, which took place on June 2nd, 1956. The auctioneer was Carey Stott. Many of us remember him. Not only was he the most well known auctioneer at that time, he was also a younger brother of Willie's wife, Jessie. As we went through the accessioning process, I began to think about Willie.

He was a good friend of the Slingerland family. We exchanged farm work, he was part of our church family, and sometimes, on a slow day he would just drop in for a friendly visit. He was in our dining room the day our son, Donald, as a toddler, got his head stuck in the back of a dining room chair. This incident was followed briefly by a moment of panic until we found a slightly wider spot and managed to get him free, the only injury being ears that were a little bit red.



Willie age 17

Willie had had a younger brother, Martin, who went swimming on a Sunday afternoon in August, 1917, and drowned. He was 21 years old. The late Rev. Harold Pangburn, one of his friends, told me about that day. There was a popular swimming hole in the creek near Delaware Turnpike just before the old Oliver place, now owned by Jim VanderVort. It was ruined later on when the road was filled in. That is where most of the young lads went that day ("and we never wore swim suits either"). Unfortunately, Martin decided to go instead to the swimming hole in the creek where 5 Rivers is now, I think by himself. This, of course, was before the CCC boys built the pond there. It turned out to be a tragic decision.

Tragedy seemed to stalk this family. In June, 1944, Jessie Briner's brother, Rufus Stott, drowned in Lake George. He was about 40.

AUCTION

CARY J. STOTT AUCTIONEER

WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION FOR THE SUBSCRIBER, WHO HAS SOLD HIS FARM, LOCATED ON NEW SCOTLAND SOUTH ROAD, OFF ROUTE 43, IN THE

VILLAGE OF UNIONVILLE

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

AT 11 O'CLOCK, SHARP, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

2 Antique stands Several pictures (antique) 6-pc. living room suite (antique) Antique couch and rocker Organ, 2 Radios 2 Stoves (coal or wood) Hand-painted picture Pair of antique vases Hall rack (antique) Spinning wheel hat rack Stair carpet, Antique sideboard 2 Antique mirrors, Oil lamps Antique wash stand Quilts and blankets, High chair Antique shot gun, 30-30 rifle Sewing machine, Violin 2 Guitars, Small desk 6 Maple chairs, 2 Robes 2 Antique couches Several antique straight chairs Blue and white antique spread (date 1862) Wash bowl and pitcher Scatter rugs, Wicker rocker Antique sewing rocker Some lace curtains, Hall tree Wicker rocker, Hall tree Antique sewing rocker Some lace curtains Kitchen stool, 2 Stands Antique paper rack 2 Round oak tables Phonograph and horn Desk lamp, Spotlight Set encyclopedias in case	Woolen sheets (home made) Suit cas, 2 Antique rockers Antique baskets, Gas lamp Table cover, Antique shawls Antique folding rocker Chest drawers, 3 Beds Antique picture frames Antique bureau, Ant. clocks Silex coffee maker (electric) Brass kettle, 2 Candle molds Child's antique rocker Folding cot, Baby walker Baby carriage, Boston rocker Iron kettles, Coffee grinder Carpet sweeper, Silver set Set of Haviland china Lot of antique glass dishes Set of dishes, Carpet Corner whatnot, Kitchen stove Cherry dropleaf table Baby cradle (antique) Antique blanket chest 4 Antique trunks Iron butchering kettle Spinning wheel, Grass seeder Wire flower stand 8-ft. stepladder, Cultivator Hiller, Cutter with bells Brooder stove (500 chicks) 2 Grain cradles, Lawn mower Barley forks, Platform scales Antique wooden scoop Corn planter, 3 Jack screws Bushel timothy and clover seed Corn sheller, 10 Bu. wheat	Lot of traps, Buzz saw Ford Ferguson tractor and plows, Tractor harrows Tractor mower, Tractor chains Mallet wagon, Horse rake Set of light bob sleighs 1000 ft. pine lumber and 1000 ft. hemlock plank Tractor pulley, 2 ladders (20 ft) Springtooth harrow Mowing machine Iron wheel wagon Rubber tire wagon 4 Wheels, Heavy bob sleighs Tractor pulley, Stoneboat Snow plow, Fence posts Side delivery rake, Grain drill 25 Bales wheat straw Lumber wagon and hay rig 2 Iron pig troughs Plow, Extension ladder, 20 ft. 2 Hand sleighs, Reaper Corn harvester, Forks, Shovels Tractor blocks and rope Wrenches and tools 3 Sets harness, 2 Crosscut saws Power grindstone, Iron vise Dodge sedan (1931) Log chains, 3 Hives of bees Dirt scraper, Riding cultivator Antique school desk Cupboards, Vinegar barrels Lot of jars (some antique) 25 Yearling hens And numerous other articles
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REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED BY THE LADIES OF THE UNIONVILLE CHURCH

TERMS CASH

No Property Removed Until Settled For No Visitors Allowed Until Day of Sale

By Order of WILLIAM R. BRINER

CARY J. STOTT, AUCTIONEER, CLARKSVILLE, N. Y. PHONE CLARKSVILLE POPLAR 8-2318

Auction was held on June 2, 1956

Willie and Jessie had one child, William Elroy Briner. He was struck by a car and killed while he was attempting to cross Central Avenue in Albany. This happened Nov. 9, 1950, when he was 31 years old. He was married, but he and his wife, Juanita, had no children. Thus we see the need for the farm auction. Willie, himself, died Nov. 6, 1956, Jessie lived until Jan. 6 1970.

What Is It?

This is a gavel that was made by NSHA member Charles Batchelder in February 1978 out of an old bedpost, for use at our meetings!

Please support our Corporate Sponsors

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Advanced Car Wash Systems

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475-1670

In Town Self Storage

439-5751

John Foley's Garage, Inc.

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482-4425

Reilly & Son Funeral Home

www.reillyandsonfuneralhome.com

Smith's Tavern

765-4163

Stanton's Feura Farm

768-2344

Stewart's Shops

www.stewartshops.com

Voorheesville Hannaford

www.hannaford.com

Raffle Winners!

Dec. 2010

1st Prize: Jean Hoagland

2nd Prize: Susan Albright

3rd Prize: Arthur VanPraag

Thanks to all who supported this endeavor.

**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: Melanie Ernst

Membership Chair

P.O. Box 250

Clarksville, NY 12041

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