



# THE SENTINEL

Vol. 21, No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Spring 2013

## FAREWELL HUCK SPAULDING

By Dennis Sullivan

Huck Spaulding, long-time resident of the Town of New Scotland and friend of the New Scotland Historical Association, died on February 1 of this year at the age of 84.

Though Huck was the largest manufacturer of tattoo equipment in the world and a big game hunter that brought him to safari lands all over the world, he was a deeply private and simple person dedicated to his family.

Members of the Town of New Scotland Historical Association know him as the man who made possible the creation of our current beautiful museum in New Salem. Over the door to the entrance of the museum hangs a sign, **The Spaulding Room**, insuring that he will not be forgotten.

When told of the need for a new museum in the early 1990s Huck responded immediately and without waiver. He was a person who liked to get done what needed doing and, when plans for the project were revealed, he wanted to see it done creatively and with dispatch.

During Voorheesville's centennial year in 1999 Huck and his wife of 63 years, Josie, made it possible for the Village to buy and erect the beautiful clock that stands in the village green on Voorheesville Avenue. He is forever part of Village history.

His continuing generosity was also manifested in his provision of uniforms and equipment for players in the New Scotland Babe Ruth Little League far beyond the measure of most people's generosity.

If you go to the Internet you will find tributes to him by many people in the tattoo industry around the world who recall the help he gave them personally and in their business ventures.

In 1988 I wrote a feature story about Huck for *The Altamont Enterprise*. In my many chats with him in preparation for the article I came to see a highly inventive person, a man of great vision. When he came upon something that he thought of value, he adopted it, and then through an uncanny genius transformed it into something better and unique.

I said at the time that he "had the knack for taking something from the older generation, trying it out, going a step further with it and then becoming a master himself." The examples are multitude. He said that to be successful in life a person had to meet life head on and in that meeting create something of value.

In the early 1980s he developed and patented a tattoo machine he called the "Revolution" which plastic surgeons around the world use in breast reconstruction surgery. Wildlife researchers use his machines to mark animals for tracking purposes. Over the years he has had several patents pending for his inventions.

During this era he also wrote and published a seminal how-to book on tattooing *Tattooing A to Z: A Guide to Successful Tattooing* which sold out shortly after it was issued. The book is now in its second edition and is a 'vade mecum' for tattoo artists everywhere.

Several months after his profile appeared in *The Enterprise* I visited Huck in his office at Spaulding and



**Huck cutting the ribbon at the Museum Opening on May 4, 1997.**

(Continued on page 3)

# NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

## OFFICERS 2012-2013

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Alan Kowlowitz 765-4212

### Vice President

Position Open

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Peg Dorgan 768-2852

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Sandy Slingerland 768-2462

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Robert and Marion Parmenter,  
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Marie Hornick

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#### Web Page

[www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org](http://www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org)  
Email: [newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com](mailto:newscotlandhistoricalassoc@gmail.com)

## President's Letter

This spring will bring the sounds of music to the New Scotland Historical Association. On Sunday April 14 from 1:15 to 2:45 we will have live music for dancing and listening provided by the **Fire Flies** as part of the grand opening of our new Exhibit *Entertainment before 1950 and TV*. For our May program we will have an opportunity to celebrate New Scotland's Scottish heritage with a multimedia program of music and photographs by nationally renown bagpiper Donald Lindsey. NSHA will also present a musical program on June 11 to help us celebrate our Dutch heritage featuring **Kapriol'!**, a lively Dutch folk music group that is being hosted in the Capital District by Old Songs Inc. of Voorheesville.

Along with the musical programs, our spring schedule includes a March 5 program by award winning journalist and author Paul Grondahl on the life and career of Albany's iconic Mayor, Erastus Corning III. Our April program will feature Timothy J. Albright, former NSHA President and local historian, presenting in words and photographs the story of how a wilderness became John Boyd Thacher State Park. Please check out our program schedule in the *Sentinel* and on the NSHA website for dates and time of all our events.

On the organizational side of things, I am glad to report we have a number of new volunteers helping to staff our Museum on Sunday afternoons. However, our annual elections will be coming up and we still need volunteers for committees and officer positions. We will be circulating a signup sheet for volunteers at our spring programs. Please consider signing up for one of our committees.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who generously contributed to our Annual Appeal. We have already purchased an Epsom projector that we can use for our programs and are completing the research needed to upgrade our dated computer equipment and software.

Alan Kowlowitz

## Exhibit Report

On the morning of March 13<sup>th</sup> the Exhibits Committee will start to dismantle the Civil War and War of 1812 exhibits. All the loaned items will be sorted by Friday morning, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Special arrangements will be made for pickups if you can't come at this time. If you have questions, please call Sandy Slingerland at 768-2462

Our new Exhibit "Entertainment before 1950 and TV" will have its grand opening on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will have live music entertainment for dancing and your listening enjoyment from 1:15 to 2:45. The musicians are the "Fire Flies."

Free admission & refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

For display items, we are looking for Team labeled baseball uniforms, dollhouse (furnished), vintage radio, & old toys.

For use we'd need game boards complete with parts to use for play, and card tables that you won't miss for 10 or so months.

All games are by the RULES ACCORDING TO HOYLE, unless you agree to your own before playing.

All games and movies are available every Sunday the Museum is open for your use. Enjoy!

(cont. from page 1)

Rogers Manufacturing on Rt. 85 in Clarksville. He took me in his golf cart across the highway to look at the large cultivated garden he had created around his home pointing out with childlike enthusiasm the different varieties of daylilies and other flora.

While we rode along he thanked me for the article I had written. He said so many people who had interviewed him in the past about the profession of tattooing used to ask questions about how many beers people drank before getting a tattoo. He said, Dennis, you saw me, you saw from where I came and how I got here.

I turned it around and thanked him for sharing his rich life-story in such an open and vulnerable way. In spirit he was much like the famed Huck he was named after.

When the great Irish poet Paddy Kavanagh met new people he was always harping about whether a particular person had "merit," was the "real deal." Huck Spaulding would pass muster on those criteria in anybody's book. He was a person of merit and the real deal.

We, the members of the New Scotland Historical Association, continue to reap the benefits of his generosity as do the residents of Voorheesville, as do visitors to the International Wildlife Museum in Tuscon, Arizona which he helped fund and establish in 1988.

While many people who live in and visit these places have never met Huck in person, they remain beneficiaries of his and Josie's generosity. I feel grateful that I had come to know him as a friend.

The members of the New Scotland Historical Association offer our deepest sympathy to Josie, the Spaulding children Rita, Bobbie, Jay and Tommy, their children and their children's children.

We thank you and salute you, Huck Spaulding. May you rest in peace. To us you will remain timeless forever.

### Museum Hours

Sundays

2:00—4:00 P.M.

**The museum will be closed  
March 17 through April 7th  
New Exhibit Opens April 14th**

Closed

**Mother's Day & Memorial Day**

## Interested in Genealogy?

The Town of New Scotland Historical Association is looking for a few good people to serve as their Genealogy Committee. It would involve getting acquainted with the Association's files, and a willingness to take some time searching old (often very interesting) records. Some skill in computer research is helpful, too. Remuneration comes in the form of things like emails starting with comments such as "I can't thank you enough! Your email made for an awesome day." It really does give you a good feeling to be able to supply some missing nugget of information to a fellow researcher. Of course occasionally we have to send regrets, but at least we try!

To anyone out there who enjoys helping put families together, I'd like to meet you. I can be reached at (518) 768-2184, or at [marthas@nycap.rr.com](mailto:marthas@nycap.rr.com)

Martha Slingerland, Genealogy Chair for NSHA

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1500 Alamo Avenue  
(near Curry Road)  
**SCHENECTADY-NISKAYUNA**  
1700 Union Street, Schenectady  
(corner of Dean)

Taken from *Spotlight* September 13, 1979  
**Remember these rates? They are ancient history!**

## A Holiday Tradition

Martha Slingerland

A long-honored part of the holiday season in the Slingerland family is the making of “New Years Cake’s” in the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day. Actually the “cakes” are large cookies (a special recipe) that are rolled out on wooden molds and then decorated with colored sugar and small candies before baking. They are given to special friends, teachers, neighbors, and enjoyed by the family as well. It takes a lot of cookie dough.

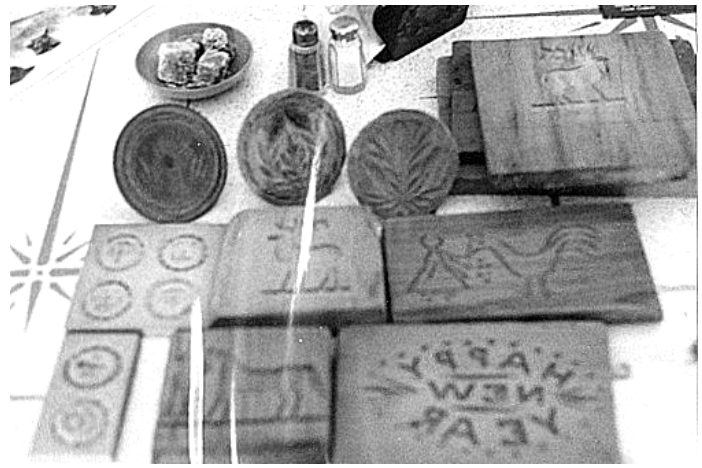
The molds are wonderful examples of folk art. You may remember seeing some of them in our museum a few years ago. Sometime in the dark past, an ancestor must have sat and carefully carved the scenes on pieces of scrap wood. I’d give a cookie to know when and by whom they were made. There is a man standing in front of a horse, a woman feeding a flock of oversized chickens, a reindeer, a squirrel, and a church.

However, the mold that fills me with awe is a beautifully decorated one that simply says “HAPPY NEW YEAR.” Of course it had to be carved in a mirror image, and the letters and decorations had to be just the right depth so the message was readable after baking.

I know there were cookie molds in at least three branches of our family. One set was lost when our house burned in 1947. See our *Memories* book for that story. There was another set, that had belonged to my husband’s great grandmother Catherine Slingerland Vanderpoel (1827-1898) stored in our tenant house; the descendants of Catherine’s older sister, Hester, also had a set.

Our most recent baking session was on December 28, 2012. At that time, Catherine’s fourth generation granddaughter, Zara Robinson, born Feb. 2, 2010, was an enthusiastic participant.

I’d like to give that long ago artist a hug. He left us a wonderful legacy. According to my calculations, at least seven generations of the Slingerland family have enjoyed each other’s company while turning out these tasty treats! May it continue for many generations to come.



A few of these are commercial butter presses, but they work fine on our “cakes,” too.



Four generations: L to R Bethany Slingerland, Zara Robinson, Jacalyn Slingerland and Martha Slingerland carry on the family tradition. Notice who is doing all the work!



New Year’s Cakes almost ready to enjoy

## Civil War Letter #8

The Civil War letter is a continuation of a series of letters from John Lewis Houck to his wife Sophia Houck in Clarksville, NY. He enlisted September 12, 1862 for 3 years as a musician and played the fife. He is described as having “gray eyes, light hair, light complexion,” and being 5’6” tall.

*Dr. Samuel Ingraham is mentioned in this letter. Martha Slingerland had an article about this doctor, which told about his Civil War involvement in the Spring 2012 issue of the Sentinel.*

March 26th 1863

Camp near Falmouth Va

Dear Wife

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at the present hoping this will find you all the same I received your letter and stamps and was glad to hear from you the boys are all gone out on picket again and they will have a bad time for it is snowing as fast as it can all day they have had just such weather every time that they have been out this winter Dave Devoe and Case Houghtaling was over to see me yesterday they are well and they have only two months to stay yet I have been to see Doctor Ingraham he is in the 14th N Y I did hardly know him he is so fleshy he says he will never go north to live again he likes it so well here our Col is a Cousin to John D Johnson they tell me so you can let him know and he is a very severe man I have forgot to tell you that John G Vanderzee is in our Regt he is Lieut of one of the companies and is one of the finest officers in the Regt I will send Emma and Lena each a little book in this letter and the next thing I send will be to Lansing I want you to send me about half dozen threads of good linen in the next letter so that I can fix my clothes there was a fight last Tuesday about 8 miles from us on the Rappahannock the rebs undertook to cross the river about fifteen thousand strong and our batteries drove them back we could hear the cannonading very plain there was some of our cavalry wounded but none were killed the loss on the rebs side we have not heard but they say it was considerable I want you to let me know what they think about the draft and if they mean to resist it or not I want you to write just as soon as you get this and let me know all the particulars I wish that I was home to eat some good apples and drink some cider but that is out of the question so you must drink and eat them for me tell Lanny that he must drink some cider for me and when I come home again I will let him ride on a load of hay with me and so now it is getting late I shall have to close by saying good bye

Remain

Yours

Forever

John L Houck

### Memoriam

With deep sympathy, we note the passing of Life Members Florence Hallenbeck, and our Benefactor and NSHA Pound Award Recipient Huck Spaulding.

# The Highwayman

## Little Old Lady

One of the many jobs that were done by the town employees was the trimming and chipping of brush. This was particularly difficult in the winter when you had the snow banks to contend with. The incident I am going to refer to happened during fall before the snow came.

We had received a complaint from a Voorheesville school bus driver about some brush on Clipp Rd. that was obstructing the view when going around a corner. Highway Superintendent Peter VanZetten sent two dump trucks, one pulling the chipper and six men with a couple of chain saws to take care of the problem. We were working just past one of the old stone houses on Clipp Rd. that was owned by someone known to us as "Old Lady B\_\_\_\_\_T a woman who had to be in her 80s. We worked until noon and then went back to the building for lunch.

Returning from lunch, I noticed the other truck driver talking to the little, old, gray-haired lady as I drove up. The other driver drove away and I was left with the little old lady with her gray hair all askew walking towards my truck waving her walking stick wildly about in the air. Upon her reaching my truck, I locked the door. She informed me she knew I was in charge. Talk about being thrown under the bus, the other driver gave her that information which was not true. She then proceeded to beat on my door and threatened me with bodily harm if I did not leave immediately. I rolled the window down just a smidge to talk to her and she tried to get me through that opening. I decided discretion was the better part of valor and beat a hasty retreat from the scene trying not to run the little old lady down in the process. Fortunately I didn't get out of the truck or she would have taken that stick to me and I might still be lying there in the road.

Upon our return, I reported the whole incident to Mr. VanZetten and he said he would take care of it. We never did return to that job and it's probably the first time in the history of the highway department that one little 80 year old lady, and I hesitate to call her that, with a walking stick drove off six healthy adult males from their appointed duty.

Until next time  
Will

### **Fun and Games on Sunday Afternoons at the Museum!**

#### **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 CARD PARTY:**

Games will include Canasta, Pinochle, Gin-Rummy, Cribbage, Whist, Blink (a new game) and others if you want.

Awards will be given out to the youngest winner, oldest winner and winner of the most different games played.

"CARD SHARK OF THE YEAR" award and other prizes will be awarded.

#### **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 BOARD GAME CHALLENGE**

Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Chinese Checkers, Parcheesi, Dominoes, Muggins (another form of Dominoes), Candy Land, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, Pay Day, and Pokeno.

Awards will be given to the youngest and the oldest winner of each board game and a winning prize to the person winning the most different board games.

Better start practicing!

#### **July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 OLD MOVIE DAY**

Movie "Shorts" from the silent and not so silent days will be shown at this time. They include Buster Keaton starring in "Sherlock Jr.," Charlie Chaplin in "Modern Times" and the all time favorite "All-Barkie" Dogville Comedies. These are very talented, costumed tail-waggers, including a variety of breeds of talking dogs with numerous tales to tell!

#### **September (middle of) ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW**

Details to follow in the next issue.

Questions? Please contact Sandy Slingerland at 768-2462

## **\$1,000 Award to High School Junior!**

High school juniors who live in the Town of New Scotland have the opportunity to win a \$1,000.00 award. The award, which will be given through the Eberle Foundation by the Town of New Scotland Historical Association, will be announced at the academic honors program which most schools have in early spring.

Once a winner is chosen, the person has several options: to bank the money toward college expenses; to use the money to visit colleges during senior year of high school to help choose their college; to purchase textbooks; to purchase clothing needed for school—in short, to use the money as the winner and family judge it to be the best use of the award.

The award is offered to encourage the study and enjoyment of history in any of its aspects. Applicants should be serious students planning to further their education at the college level, and who have a strong interest in some area of history or museum studies or the field of education.

Each applicant will be required to submit a completed application form, along with a copy of his/her resume and high school transcript, and a 250-word essay on a given topic.

All New Scotland Juniors are invited to compete for the award, whether they are public high school, private school, parochial school or home-schooled students.

Application forms are available at local public schools attended by New Scotland students, also at New Scotland Community Center in New Salem, the New Scotland Town Hall, the Voorheesville Public Library, the Bethlehem Public Library, the Feura Bush Library.

**All completed applications must be post-marked no later than Friday, March 15, 2013.**

If there are questions, please contact Marie Hornick, 518 768-2933, and provide your name, address, phone number and email address.

## **NSHA Spring Programs**

### **March 5, 2013 Mayor Corning: Albany Icon, Albany Enigma**

Award-winning journalist and author Paul Gron-dahl will discuss aspects of the life and career of Albany's iconic Mayor, Erastus Corning III based on in-depth research into the Mayor's own records and other primary sources. Mayor of Albany for 42 years, Corning's life is intertwined with Albany life and politics spanning more than four decades.

### **April 2, 2013 Thacher Park –A Gift to the People for 99 Years!**

Timothy J. Albright, former NSHA President and local historian, will present the story of how a wilderness become John Boyd Thacher State Park using early photographs drawn from the collections of local families and institutions including NSHA's own collections.

### **May 7, 2013 The Pipe Music and Scenery of Scotland**

Donald F. Lindsay, professional piper, respected bagpipe educator and authority on the classical music of the Highland bagpipe, will present in words, photographs, and pipe music how the Highland Bagpipe is closely linked to the language, culture, history and beauty of the Scottish landscape.

### **June 11, 2013 An Evening of Dutch Folk Music**

A special musical program by Kapriol!, a lively Dutch folk music group, who will present interpretations of ancient Dutch songs and dance tunes, combined with their own compositions. Kapriol! has been invited to the Capital District by Old Songs Inc. of Voorheesville.

All programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center, 7:30 P.M., 7 Old New Salem Road, New Salem, off Route 85. Programs are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The Museum is open a half hour before the program begins.

## **Good Reads for Cool Rainy Days in Spring?**

**Times of Our Lives—New Scotland Memories**

**Voorheesville, New York: a Sketch of the Beginnings of a Nineteenth Century Railroad Town,**

by Dennis Sullivan

**New Scotland Township—NSHA**

All available at the NSHA Museum, New Scotland Town Hall and Voorheesville Public Library. Voorheesville book available at Voorheesville Village Hall also. Can't find the books? Call Peg Dorgan at 768-2852.

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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

Melanie Ernst, 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

Voorheesville, New York 12186