

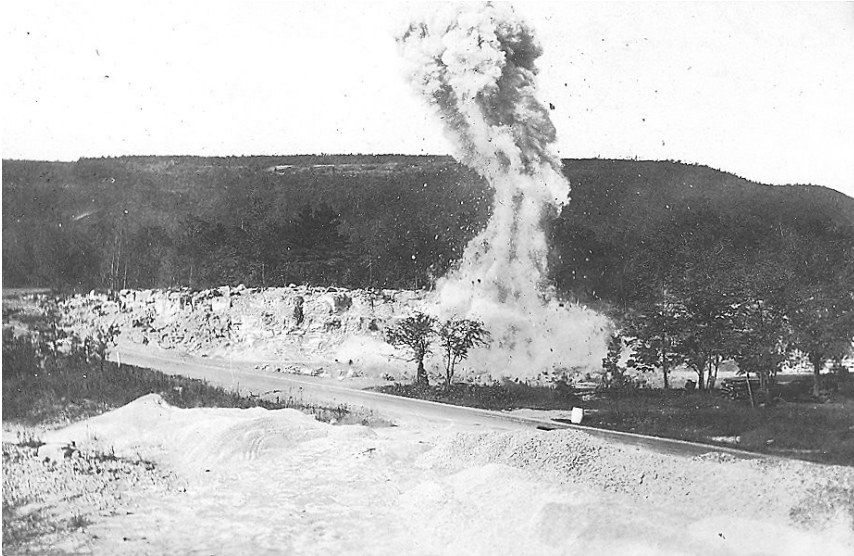


THE SENTINEL

Vol. 19, No. 4

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Summer 2011



Quarry Photos

We recently received these pictures from Margaret Westervelt. One is labeled: "a blast in a quarry near Clarksville, NY. Photo taken by Ezra Crabill, New Salem, NY."

The second one is labeled "Crusher gang at the New Scotland town quarry after a blast."

Crusher gang includes: Jim Williman, Sile Applebee, Charlie Hotaling, Ervin Ward, Curtis Broure, Jim Livingston, Charlie Whitbeck, Tunis Hotaling, George Wagner, John Gillis, Elmer White, Ed Relyea

We have since found out that this quarry was on the right side of Rte. 85, as you approach Rte. 443, on what is now the Huck Spaulding property.



A Real Treasure.....

Memories from those who lived and loved life in the Town of New Scotland before 1970...

The Times of Our Lives: New Scotland Memories!!!!!!

Those memories have been published and are now available for purchase. Many current and former residents of the Town share experiences by writing articles that have been included in this book. One reader described the book as "a real treasure for the Town of New Scotland."

Thanks to our local artist, Diane Wozniak, a beautiful colored picture on the cover presents a different view of the Helderbergs---a view from the Lower Letter S before much of the farmland had grown up with trees.

Books are being sold for \$20.00 at the following locations: Feura Bush Library, Voorheesville Library, New Scotland Town Hall, the NSHA Museum, or by calling Marie Hornick (768-2933) or Peg Dorgan (768-2852.) If needed, books can be shipped for an extra \$5.00. Checks should be made payable to the New Scotland Historical Association.

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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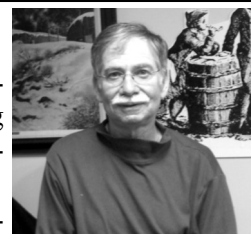
Web Page

www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org
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President's Letter

I have been a member of the New Scotland Historical Association (NSHA) for 20 years but it wasn't until I began serving on the NSHA board that I realized how much our small Association is able to accomplish. Within just the last year we:

- Launched exhibits on barbershops, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and our Association's 40th Anniversary
- Conducted New Scotland's first "Antiques Road Show"
- Published a revised and wonderfully illustrated Driving Tour of New Scotland
- Published *Times of Our Lives: New Scotland Memories* containing the reminiscences of town residents and featuring a beautiful cover created by local artist Diane Wozniak



All this and running a museum, presenting fascinating monthly programs, preserving artifacts and documents relating to New Scotland's history - all with limited resources and volunteer labor! Every one of you who helped out or participated in these projects deserves credit for these accomplishments. However, a special thanks should go to Peg Dorgan, who provided the leadership for the Association these past four years.

The publication of *Times of Our Lives: New Scotland Memories* underscores two points worth pondering. First, as beautiful as its natural environment is and as interesting as its historic homes and other structures are, the history of New Scotland is first and foremost about its people, that is, all of us in our everyday lives. Secondly, history is a continuing process. It didn't end 100 or 50 years ago and the history that we or our parents or our neighbors lived can be just as interesting, exciting, entertaining and informative as the story of famous events that happened 100 or 200 years ago.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and if you have the opportunity get the word out about the NSHA to neighbors and friends who may not know about us or who have never visited our museum.

Alan Kowlowitz

More Bus Tours in October

About 40 folks took part in our Senior Drive Around bus tours arranged by Susan Kidder, Senior Outreach person at Town Hall. Each tour included a visit and short talk at the Onesquethaw Reformed Church, which everyone enjoyed.

More Bus Tours have been scheduled on October 18, 25, and 26. We plan to have a few other churches open at that time. Contact Susan Kidder for these tours, 439-9038.

Our **Drive Around Tour Books** have been very well received. There are maps and directions, pictures and descriptions for those who would rather do the tour themselves. You may wish to do one portion of the town one day and another at another time. These are available at the Museum on Sundays 2—4 P.M. or dial 768-2184, or 765-4652, to make arrangements to purchase one. These have been very popular—we are in our third printing currently. It is a bargain for \$2.00!

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy we note the passing of NSHA member Bill Hotaling.

Collection Committee Report

Bob Parmenter has been busy transferring our videos of programs to DVD's, as we all know videos tend to degrade over time. To date he has transferred 38 programs—all in real time! These are kept on the TV cart and may be borrowed by NSHA members.

Also, we have several other DVDs and CDs you may be interested in seeing. There is a separate list of these, under **Miscellaneous**. Ask a volunteer to show them to you. These are:

1. Candid Camera, Shanks Garage in New Salem DVD
2. Clayton Bouton, "This is Your Life", and the "Jr-Sr High School Dedication 1958" CD
3. Famous Hits of WW II CD
4. New Salem Reformed Church Last Service 1999 DVD
5. Helderberg Castle pictures CD
- 6 & 7. Camp Pinnacle Albums pictures CDs
8. New Netherland Project, Uncovering America's Forgotten Colony DVD
9. 2002 Plum Fest DVD

Marion Parmenter

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 Churches Celebrate their History!

Mark your calendars and help them celebrate.

Bob Felter

NSHA asked the various churches in the town if they would like to share their history as part of NSHA's 40th Anniversary Celebration. The following is the schedule we have to date.

Sunday, June 5th at 2:00 P.M.

Voorheesville First United Methodist Church will host a talk titled "Stories from the Stained Glass Windows" which are found in the Sanctuary. The windows were installed in 1920 and many of them have the names of local church members who lived mostly in the 19th Century. There will also be a small exhibit to view.

Saturday, August 6th

Clarksville Historical Society as part of their Heritage Days will feature an exhibit of the two churches, Methodist and Reformed, which merged to form the present Community Church. There will also be an exhibit of the Woodside School, which will become CHS's new home.

Saturday, September 17th

The Unionville Reformed Church will host an exhibit about the church and also a luncheon.

Saturday, October 8th

Onesquethaw Reformed Church will present "This and That from the Past." Quilts, articles from the home, workshop, crockery, canning and more will be on display. There will also be an old fashioned Bake Sale.

NSHA's 40th Birthday Event

May 3rd found us conducting our Annual Meeting with the election of officers, and approval of the budget for the coming year. Alan Kowlowitz was elected President, Ed Clark was elected a Trustee to fill out Alan's term, Peg Dorgan was elected Corresponding Secretary. We welcome Ed to the Board and thank the nominating committee for coming up with a slate of officers! The other Officers and the Committee Chairs were all re-elected to second terms.

Our Charter Members, Martha Slingerland and Sam Youmans, were introduced and thanked for all they had done for NSHA over all 40 years.

Following the program, the new NSHA "memory book," **Times of Our Lives: New Scotland Memories**, was available for sale! An instant success!

The hospitality folks offered a wonderful array of goodies including a delicious cake with the Town Seal on it served on a beautifully decorated table! Thank you, Lorraine and Bob, as always.



NSHA's first **Mini-Antique Road Show** was a huge success. In the photo Appraiser Carolyn French, from New Hampshire, is examining an item for Martha Slingerland and Judy Kimes.

The **new exhibit** featuring the history of NSHA opened the same day. Many of our most recent acquisitions are on display. Come and see the stylish bathing suits. Possibly this summer wool suits would keep us warm? The items NSHA has had restored over the years are highlighted with a yellow bow.

Church Exhibit Closes

July 31st will be the Last Chance to view the New Salem Reformed Church Exhibit. This was created with the help of a former church member, as part of NSHA's 40th Anniversary. This church, which closed in January 1999, was the center of the community for many, many years. Records show the first church was built in 1783, nearer to the four corners. Many of the items on display are part of the NSHA collection.

Museum will be closed:

Father's Day

July 4th Week-end

Labor Day Week-end

If you wish to make special arrangements to visit, please call 768-2184, 765-4652

Enjoy a safe, healthy summer!



**NSHA honors our
Charter Members**

**Martha Slingerland
&
Sam Youmans**

NSHA History—the third ten years (1991—2001)

Marion Parmenter

During the early 1990s, NSHA discussed plans for a new refurbished museum. The first collection management policy was written at this time. Moisture and mold were big issues. As plans were being discussed for the renovation, NSHA still had only one room for museum purposes.

Huck Spaulding, President of Huck Spaulding Enterprises, Inc. grew up in South Westerlo. He was considered the largest manufacturer of tattoo equipment in the world. In 1994, he donated \$10,000 to support the refurbishing project. NSHA President, Ann Eberle, and NSHA member Dennis Sullivan, were present at Mr. Spaulding's office to receive the gift.

In the fall of 1995, the Town agreed to turn over the former meeting room to NSHA. The walls and ceiling in this room were soon painted, carpet installed, and three cabinets were built.

In September 1996, Huck Spaulding met with Dennis Sullivan and gave him \$25,000 to further support the refurbishing. The officers and trustees voted to name the entire museum space the **Spaulding Room**. With this additional gift, it was assured that the Spaulding Room renovation would be complete for the Grand Opening May 4, 1997.

Many folks worked on this renovation. Museum Director Ann Eberle, and her brother, David Austin, of Concept Interpretations, Mendon, NY, spent a tremendous amount of time and energy seeing that the project was completed on schedule. David received the committees final input of what they wanted the exhibit to show in 1995 and he went to work. David's designs are on display in our current exhibit.

The new exhibits covered the geological development of the Helderbergs, the Native Americans, arrival and settlement of the Dutch, the town's formation, early schools, industry and the railroads.

In addition, an office space was created for NSHA by the town where the large open coatroom/closet had been.

Besides all the renovations, many other activities were also going on in this decade. In 1993 the first *Sentinel* was published. Mark King finally succeeded in procuring NSHA's not for profit (501c3) status with the IRS, in 1998. Not an easy task! Pound Awards were presented to: Sam Youmans, Martha Slingerland, Bryce Butler, Huck Spaulding, David Austin, Bob Shedd, Ann Eberle and Ann Richards.

In 1998, the museum committee began a series of yearly exhibits featuring each hamlet in the town: New Scotland, Clarksville, New Salem, Unionville and Onesquethaw & Feura Bush combined, and the village of Voorheesville.

In 1999, **The Plum(b) Fest**, the brainchild of Ann Eberle, was begun to coincide with each hamlet's exhibit, beginning with Clarksville. It was a wonderful opportunity for each area of the town to highlight itself to the rest of the

town. Most often asked question—"why is it called the Plum Fest?" Because the Town of New Scotland is located **plumb** in the middle of Albany County!

There were two Old Photo Days during this time period. Folks brought in old photographs to be photographed by NSHA member Deiter Gehring. This provided a tremendous boost to our photo collection.

Arcadia Books agreed to publish our book **New Scotland Township** in early 1999, and work began in earnest by the committee to gather the photos and write captions. The committee consisted of Martha Slingerland, Norma Walley, Joe Hogan, Peg Dorgan, Bob and Marion Parmenter. The book arrived and sales began in May, 2000.

There is so much more—4th grade visits; regular museum hours—first on Thursday mornings, then Sundays in 1997 during spring, summer and fall; restoration projects, some trips; Historic Markers placed; and Joslin Essay contests for students to mention a few. **ALL** of this was done by **DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!**



Christine Shields and Herb Reilly observe Huck Spaulding cutting ribbon to newly refurbished museum, May 17, 1997.

Water Superintendent

By Margaret Hotaling Westervelt

Claude Hotaling, known to many as Water Superintendent for Water District No. 1, Town of Bethlehem, was born in Clarksville in 1895. He was told that the snow was so deep the men could not go into the woods to cut wood—the date was March 28.

In those days, boys wore clothes that looked more like girls' outfits when they were young, and they had long hair. His was curly; and my grandmother said he insisted the curls be cut and he be dressed as a boy at an early age. Besides that, he somehow managed to have a woodpile fall on him, crushing his head. Fortunately, it was not



Clarksville School , 1900. Claude is standing in the first row on the far right.

fatal, and the doctor was able to manipulate his head so that the only result was a ridge on the left side. As a result, he always wore a hat cocked jauntily on one side, giving him a distinctive appearance.

Claude went to school in Clarksville, and again got into mischief. On one occasion, during lunch hour, the sledding on Clarksville Hill was so good that the ringing of the school bell for afternoon classes was ignored. Of course, the teacher kept the late students when dismissal time came. Needless to say, Claude got the proper treatment when his father heard the news.

After finishing eighth grade, Claude worked on farms in the area, sometimes living in. He was very social, and went to dances and other activities as any young man did. Apparently, there were dances regularly at Indian Fields, now covered with Albany water, as I have heard him say he often got home in time to change and go down and start milking when he lived on a certain farm. He also worked in Dunbar Hollow, which was farmland in those days. He took barrels of apples by team to the Hudson River at Ravena for shipment to New York.

Hunting and trapping were important activities in the Hotaling family, and Claude joined his grandfather, Kelly Hotaling, and his father, George, in both activities. Much of the trapping, of course, was done in winter, and snowshoes were necessary gear for getting around over Copeland Hill and the areas where the foxes, skunks, muskrat, and mink were plentiful. Fur sold at a price that made trapping an important source of income. Also, ginseng root was much in demand, for a Chinese market, so gathering and drying it was also a family project.

Eventually, Claude worked at the foundry in Voorheesville, and was there when World War I started. He enlisted, and was assigned to the Medical Corps at Langley Field, Virginia, the nation's first Army Air Base, long before the Air Corps was thought of. Claude served there, picking up the pieces which apparently were many, as he refused to fly until well along in his 70s. He was there when the famous Flu epidemic took the country by



Claude Hotaling, World War I Medic. Photo taken June 8, 1918 at Newport News, VA.

storm in 1918. I have heard him say that for a period of time he never got much sleep, changing from one dirty uniform to another because of the large number of patients.

As always, the local people made it their business to provide entertainment for the soldiers. On one occasion, Claude's usual date was involved with a presentation, so one of her friends, Mable Llewellyn, became his date. Mable really attracted his attention, and he pursued her, to the dismay of her family. (Marrying a damn Yankee and a soldier was not approved in 1919). Even so, on May 1, 1919 he became a married man. He expected to live in the Newport News/ Hampton area, but his health problems led to his returning with his family, which included me, to Clarksville where they lived with his parents for a time. Again he got involved with hunting and trapping, snowshoeing over the area he had covered as a younger man.

Following the births of Gwendolyn and William, the family moved to the George Ward apartment, which had once been the John T. Smith Hotel (originally the Clark

Hotel). Claude went to work for the Town of New Scotland Highway Department. In fact, one winter he drove the snowplow in a blizzard when it took 24 hours to go from Clarksville around through New Salem and back to Clarksville.

Eventually, the Slingerlands Water Company in the Town of Bethlehem became Water District No. 1, Town of Bethlehem. As a result, water lines were extended through Delmar and Elsmere and a pumping station was formally established on the Martin Farm in New Salem. P.J. Shay was the contractor, and advertised for workmen in the winter of 1928. Claude and Andrew Udell applied, enduring the hard work which was involved in those days before today's sophisticated machinery. Eventually, in May, 1927, Claude's family moved into the Superintendent's house. The site had been the Martin Spring, a lover's lane destination for many years. In fact, it became necessary to cover the spring when the pumping station was fully engaged.

The story of the Water district and its expansion is a story in itself; but it is only necessary to say here that both Claude and Andrew Udell remained on the payroll until each retired.

As a citizen of New Salem, Claude became an elder in the New Salem Reformed Church, a member of the Redman, participated in the community activities, and continued to hunt and fish. By this time trapping had become a thing of the past. He was especially active during World War II when the Punkintown Fair was started to raise funds for the gifts to those in the service from the area. I can still see him at the first one, held in the corner lot at Rte. 85 and 85A, carrying a chicken under his arm, and shouting himself hoarse, selling chances.

Although a man of little schooling, Claude educated himself. He was somewhat ahead of his time, becoming concerned about the need to expand the source of water to serve the Bethlehem area. His concern has proven wise as we review what has happened in the area.

Membership Dues are Due!

Membership renewal letters will be in the mail soon. If you don't receive a letter by mid-June, please contact Melanie Ernst, NSHA Membership, 518-428-7444 or via email: mernst1@nycap.rr.com. Membership forms are also always available online at: www.newscotlandhistoricalassociation.org. A NSHA membership always makes a great gift for birthday, anniversary etc. Please note that all memberships should be mailed to: NSHA, Attn: Membership, PO Box 541, Voorheesville, NY 12186

Tales of a Highwayman Changing Steeds

As time went on, we were able to replace the old Dodge power wagon with a front end loader to do the plowing in Salem Hills. Wild Bill had a hydraulic coupler system installed in the arms of the loader so we could drop the basket and attach a one way plow.

This setup had some advantages and some disadvantages. The advantages were that I was now 8 foot off the ground and those savages couldn't get to me and I could make the swing through the courts without backing up, thus saving my neck from more years of pain. The main disadvantage was that this was a solid mount without springs, so it would not trip if you hit anything.

When I was plowing the courts, I tried to keep the plow as close to the pavement as possible so you scraped them clean. This would present a problem if anything stuck up above pavement level. During one particular storm at night, I found a manhole cover that must have been raised a little from the frost. Well, I hit that cover and popped it out of the ground like a Tiddley Wink and watched it sail through the night sky like a cast iron Frisbee and disappear under the snow on someone's lawn never to be seen again until spring. Now I had a big problem, a hole in the middle of the street. I proceeded to pile snow up around the hole so no one would drive into it and then left to go down to the supply shed on Voorheesville Ave. to get another cover. This meant dropping the plow, and picking up the cover and rolling a cast iron manhole cover, (about 100#), into the bucket and returning to the court to replace the one I sent sailing into never-never land!

During another storm, a woman stopped me and in very unflattering terms informed me that the snow I was leaving in her driveway was not her snow. She was certain it was snow I had brought from farther down the court. I guess I didn't realize we all had our very own snow; go figure.

Some of you remember that when Salem Hills was first built, they placed blacktop curbs around all the lawns. These curbs were not fastened to the ground in any way and very easy to dislodge. This may have been a wonderful design feature in Florida, but completely idiotic in the great northeast where one had to plow snow. You can imagine what happened when that loader hooked a curb. I wouldn't know it until I saw pieces of curbing popping up out of the snow 50 feet ahead of me. Well, for many years we tried putting the pieces back where they belonged, only to be removed once again when the next storm hit. I believe at the present time there are no remaining curbs left in the development, although I have not been back personally to verify that. Some people have very long memories and I don't want to take the chance of suffering any bodily harm by venturing back into that den of savages!

Will Osterhout

Correction

Dede Shanks donated the video of the Candid Camera show with her in-laws' garage in New Salem. Jean Jacobson Brown would have been the Shank's granddaughter. She loaned us several photos of her grandparents, to copy some time ago, for the Summer 2010 *Sentinel* issue.

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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

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