



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 15, No. 2

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Winter 2006

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES OF THE TOWN OF NEW SCOTLAND

By Marie Hornick

This is the second part of an article featuring a look at the volunteer fire companies and ambulance companies in the Town of New Scotland. In this part, the Voorheesville Fire Department and the Auxiliary are featured. Future parts will feature the New Salem Fire Department and the Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad, and the Voorheesville Area Ambulance Company.

The information for this installment is taken from the following sources: information from Voorheesville Fire Department civil officer delegate Jim Burns and Voorheesville Fire Department Auxiliary President Barbara Stone, the Program Booklet of the 26th Annual Albany County Fireman's Association Convention (2002), and the Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post Special Section, "Salute to our Lifesaving Volunteers," June 22, 2006.

Since hosting the Albany County Fireman's Association Convention in 1994, the Voorheesville Fire Department maintained its enthusiastic service to the people of Voorheesville. The first female firefighter, Monica Burt, was sworn in to the company in 1995. In 1997, the first VFD scholarship in the amount of \$250.00 was presented to a Clayton A. Bouton High School student, and in 1998, the membership joined the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, chartered as NY 10.

Joining in the village-wide centennial celebration in 1999, the VFD was responsible for providing beverages for the celebration. Always aware of the larger community, a townwide carwash held for victims of September 11 raised \$3,772.00. Bylaws were changed in 2001 to add junior members, ages sixteen to eighteen.

Since 2002, the VFD has applied for and received several grants for firehouse improvement. These grants were used for Scott packs, turnout gear, a sprinkler system, radio equipment, a generator, and Indian tanks. These grants resulted in over \$100,000.00 in taxpayer savings. Voters also gave approval for a \$1.2 million firehouse expansion. Bids are currently being reviewed for this project.

The Voorheesville Auxiliary

Organized on April 18, 1951, the auxiliary is composed of members who are related to firefighters—parents, aunts, cousins, etc. The Auxiliary's purpose was a simply expressed statement: "To aid and support the Fire Department." Currently, charter member Ethel Smith has fifty-five years of service and Mildred McCartney has fifty years.

The organization is a member of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association, the Hudson Mohawk Volunteer Firefighters Association, The Albany County Volunteer Fire-

(Continued on page 4)



Harriet and John Hallenbeck pose with their toys, c. 1924. Come and see the Toy Exhibit at the Museum!

**Holiday Museum Opening
Saturday, December 23rd
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

Come and bring your holiday visitors!

**Museum closed December 24
and December 31**

**Reminder!
(Knox) Traditional Strings
Sunday, December 3rd
2:00 P.M.
Wyman Osterhout
Community Center**

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541
Voorheesville, NY 12186

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well, our fall programs started out with a huge success by Martha Slingerland and her history of the Slingerland family, followed by an equally enthusiastic evening led by Peter G. Ten Eyck, II, and members of the Ten Eyck Family sharing stories of Indian Ladder Farms. There are many more interesting programs planned, with three Sunday afternoons, so be sure to attend as many as you can.

The executive board has appointed a website committee and they have been hard at work and we look forward to having our own website in the not-too-distant future. Several board members recently attended a workshop at the Albany Institute of History and Art.

The museum committee is already working on next year's exhibit on WW I and WW II. They have also prepared a special winter exhibit on Indian Ladder Farms, which opened on November 5th to correspond with the program that evening.

I don't know about you, but the recent snowfall we had up on the hill did not make me very happy, just a hint of things to come. I guess these old bones just don't appreciate winter the way they used to.

Yours in history,
Will Osterhout

Mission Statement

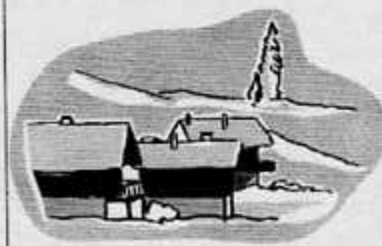
The Town of New Scotland Historical Association preserves, protects and promotes history in the Town of New Scotland through the stewardship of material culture directly related to the town. The purpose is to promote an appreciation of local history, heritage and culture through research, publications and educational programs.

Plum Fest

The NSHA Board has voted not to continue sponsoring the Plum Fest. Initially, we planned to highlight each hamlet in the town, together with a special museum exhibit about each area. This was accomplished. Now we feel it is time to turn our energies to new endeavors which will support other elements of our Mission Statement.

Looking for unique holiday gifts?

Town of New Scotland mugs, magnets with scenes of New Scotland, New Scotland Township books, old-fashioned children's toys are available at the Museum.



Inclement Weather?

In the event of stormy weather on a meeting day, please call Marie Hornick 768-2933, Martha Slingerland 768-2184 or Marion Parmenter 765-4652 to see if the meeting has been cancelled. Our phone committee will attempt to call only those who are on our call list.

Museum Report

We would like to welcome Lydia Tobler and Allison Bennett to our Museum Volunteer list! Lydia's grandparents (Myndert and Edna Crouse) owned a dairy farm on Route 85A, west of the grade school, where Lydia lives today. Allison is the former Bethlehem Town Historian, whose mother lived on Pleasant St. in Voorheesville as a child, and was later involved with the Red Cross during World War I. We would still welcome more volunteers!

The 4th Grade Program was very successful this year. All the 4th grades of the Voorheesville School visited the Museum and spent a morning doing various activities with our volunteers. The children especially enjoyed the Old Toy Exhibit. We had to take the activities to the 4th Graders in the Clarksville School, since their field trips were cancelled. Thanks to Martha Slingerland, Marie Hornick, Andrea Gleason and Bob and Marion Parmenter for devoting 6 entire mornings in October to this worthwhile project. Thanks also to Hannaford for supplying us with paper bags for the Anti-Rent War Activity.

We had many, many visitors to the exhibit on Election Day, also.

We are currently working on the next exhibit, "**From the Home Front to the Front Lines, New Scotland in World War I and II,**" which will open April 29. If you have any information or artifacts we may be able to use, please contact Marion Parmenter, 765-4652 or Martha Slingerland 768-2184.

Marion Parmenter
Chairperson

Winter Programs and Annual Raffle Drawing

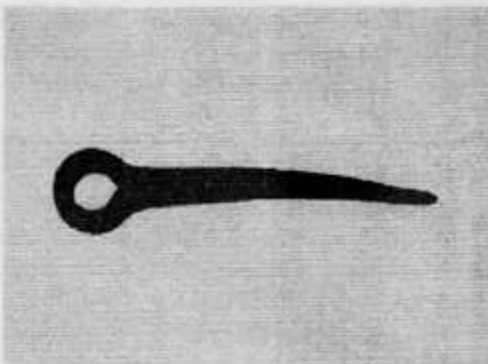
Our three winter programs will all be held on Sunday afternoons instead of the usual Tuesday evenings, and in addition, the December 3 meeting will be the day on which our annual raffle drawing will be held. Tickets are on sale from Association members and before programs, including the one on December 3. The drawing will take place after the program; all three programs begin at 2:00 P.M. at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem.

The museum will open at 1:30 on these Sundays.

Sunday, December 3, 2006 "Traditional Strings" (formerly "Knox Traditional Strings")
followed by raffle drawing.

Sunday, February 4, 2007 "From Stephen Foster to Bob Dylan: 100 Years of Music in America"
Margaret Dorgan and guest musicians

Sunday, March 4, 2007 "American Quilts and American History" - Bonnie Turner



What is it???

This object was commonly found in homes and barns in the past.

Can you identify it?

(Continued from page 1)

fighters Association Ladies Auxiliary, and the Ladies Auxiliary Fireman's Association of the State of New York.

The Auxiliary has hosted the Albany County Volunteer Firefighters Association Ladies' Auxiliary annual meeting, marched in Memorial Day parades, held car washes, bake sales, and breakfasts as fund raisers. The Election Day Bake Sale proceeds go to the Albany County Burn Fund. In addition, the Auxiliary gives donations to area organizations such as the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Salvation Army, Cancer Society, and area food pantries.

The Voorheesville Fire Department and the Auxiliary conduct several fund-raising events, including an annual calendar drive, car washes, a dance, a bake sale and a Breakfast with Santa. Proceeds are used to assist organizations like the high school yearbook and drama club, the Hilltowns' Children's Christmas drive, the Voorheesville Area Ambulance, American Legion Post 1493, and the New Scotland Food Pantry. Some funds benefit the Fireman's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) Fireman's Home in Hudson, NY.

Voorheesville Fire Department and Auxiliary members are very involved with community service projects, including the Adopt-a-Highway program, open houses and fire safety education for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. There is in place a Junior Firefighter program that meets criteria for community service programs undertaken by high school seniors as a part of their Participation in Government class. The VFD contributes annually to the Albany County Burn Fund and to local fire victims.

Of the currently active 53 members, eight started as Junior members. New firefighters must attend and participate in twenty-four firematic drills during their first year, then twelve drills in succeeding years. In addition to the New York State required eight hours of OSHA-approved training annually, many members have taken state approved fire-fighting courses.

The longest serving member, John Scherer (forty-eight years of service), is currently serving as Captain of the Fire Police. Youngest member Sean Hognestad is in his first year of service and is a high school senior. Many members come from a family of volunteers spanning several generations. On the VFD roster, a total of approximately 885 hours of service experience reflects the commitment of those who adhere to the goal of the company: to serve and protect the lives and property of the Voorheesville community.



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Legion Hall Recollections

Tim Moran, a Life Member of NSHA and 1960 Voorheesville graduate frequently sends articles of interest from the *Altamont Enterprise* out to fellow classmates. He forwarded the recent article about the financial problems of the Voorheesville American Legion Post. Here are some of the responses from the class of 1960 that he received.

"I used to rehearse in the cellar in a high school band with Ed LeGere and Billy Batchelder. The band was called "The Village Voices." (Rich Platz)

"I also have some memories of the Legion Hall. One being the fun we would have at the movies. In the front row making a racket and no doubt annoying all the adults. I don't recall if I (we) were ever thrown out. Also recall getting Hersey Bars Election Day as the polling was held there. Of course the candy was for the voters but somehow we would get some. I didn't get anything at this year's election in Florida. (Fritz Hammann)

"I don't remember the price of the shows, or what we saw, but I do remember picking up a cushion to sit on when we paid for our tickets! And a friend of mine from Kendall, NY attended a friends wedding there a few years ago." (Janet Ozard Root)

"I remember the minstrel shows and movies ("War of the Worlds" was impressive). A great time. The wonderful spaghetti and meatball dinners in the basement." (Tim Moran)

"I remember going to see Santa at the Legion Hall. We all got a box of candy, with a string handle. An Animal Cracker size box. It had hard candy and a couple chocolate covered cream drops. Joyce Severson O'Day mentioned this a few years ago when we did the Voorheesville Exhibit at the museum also!" (Marion Parmenter)

AS I REMEMBER

Now that I am approaching my 50th Voorheesville Class Reunion, I thought it would be fun to recall some of my high school memories.



Traffic squad 1957.

Starting 7th Grade and getting my own locker with a combination lock. Walking across the road to John White's store to buy a candy at lunch time. In later years the senior class ran the candy store in the little closet at the bottom of the stairs, to make money towards their senior trip. How many of you remember spending time in Mr. Brayden's office up on the third floor? I spent so much time there, I think he had a chair just for me! Do you recall the traffic squad, which controlled the students movements in the halls between classes? Today the schools need policemen to do the same job; how times change. The senior prom was in the gym and the students did all the decorating depending on the theme they chose. Whenever there was an assembly, helping the janitors set up the chairs that were pulled out from under the stage and

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then put back again: no separate gym and auditorium back then. During gym class, we would throw basketballs up on the balcony for Mike Pafunda, one of the janitors, so he could shoot baskets from there and make them. Both balconies would be filled with spectators at a home basketball game. Playing football when each team only used 6 men and the coach was Ken George. Going to class dances in the gym and trying to waltz, fox trot, jitterbug and others with Mrs. Stage as my instructor, what a trial that was. Last, but not least, was the way we dressed; girls wore skirts and blouses and boys wore slacks and a sport shirt, a lot different than the outfits today. Oh, well, times change.

Well there you have some of the things that come to mind; I am sure there are many more, but my mind doesn't work like it used to! I am sure I put a smile on your face and brought back some memories of your own. Those were some of the best days of our lives and we didn't even realize it at the time.

I'm still smiling,
Will



Edie Hotaling Zeh poses while working at the school store in 1957.



*Happy
Holidays!*

Helen Secor Tognetti's Memories

I attended Stony Hill School, District #6, from 1937—1943. It was one large room with a smaller room in the front for our coats and wood or coal, whichever fuel was being burned at the time. My arrival each morning involved going to my desk to see what message the Phantom had left me. The "Phantom" was Igmur Holmberg who arrived early to stoke up the fire. It was a fine way to start the day. Mrs. Frances Long was our teacher. I often admired her knit outfits. I liked her very much, but not all shared my fondness as I can remember some major battles between her and an older girl named Rita.

Generally we were a very peaceful crew consisting of Groesbecks, Flansburgs, Shultes, Soules, Zukowskis, and Chases. My fondness for history developed listening to Mrs. Long and the older kids covering their history lessons. Exposure to art came from the copies of Van Goghs, Rembrandts, Renoirs, etc. that hung around the room. Tears used to pour down my face when Mrs. Long played patriotic songs on the old record player. This was especially true when we were at war. We faithfully brought in our dimes for the stamps that we accumulated to buy war bonds.

Our games were simple. The playground was surrounded on three sides with barbed wire. I was a heroine in school when I missed a fly ball, ran into the fence and received a big tear in my knee which required several stitches. Fortunately my Mom had the car that day to do the grocery shopping so she could take me down to Dr. Holmes in Delmar. Winter was best because we had snow. We would track a big circle in the snow which we then divided into quarters. Then you played tag, but you had to stay in the tracks. I don't remember what the game was called. Better yet were the great snow tunnels we dug into the snow drifts surrounding the school. One of the many lessons I learned at school was that you really would see stars if you were inside the fort and someone's big winter boot hit you on the head when he tried to walk across the top of the tunnel.

Billy Soule was the center of attention for awhile because he survived polio. Some days he could not stop his leg from shaking and the whole school vibrated but no one complained. I remember hating it when we couldn't go swimming because of polio.

We all walked to school and I was lucky to live close to the school, which no longer exists. Dunns built a house where the school used to be. In seventh grade I rode the bus to the big Bethlehem Central High School on Kenwood Ave., but that is another story.



This photo from March 11, 1941, shows Stony Hill students knitting a large afghan that will be sent to the Red Cross in England during WW II.

Willowbrook Farm

231 Helderberg Parkway

By

Richard Frohlich

Go back in time about one hundred years and picture yourself sitting in a porch rocker on an August Sunday afternoon, sipping iced tea and listening to the Vly Creek sing its soothing song. The front porch is fully screened so the insects will not bother you. The elm-lined dirt road separating you from the Vly and the fields beyond is called the Voorheesville-New Salem Road and has virtually no traffic. Automobiles are a noisy rarity, and the few people on horseback, in buggies and wagons are people you know who may stop and visit and water their horses. Being strict Methodists, Sunday is the Sabbath, a day of rest, which means worshiping at the church in Voorheesville and doing no work (except daily farm chores). Such would have been a typical Sunday afternoon in 1909 for my grandparents, Everett Kingsley Hallenbeck and his wife Mabel (O'Brien) Hallenbeck after they moved to Willowbrook Farm on what is now known in Voorheesville as Helderberg Parkway. The earliest mention of this property is an indenture dated June 25, 1838, between Alexander McMillen and Stephen Van Rensselaer, proprietor of the manor of Rensselaerwyck. On April 6, 1855, Alexander sold the property to William and Elizabeth McMillen, who later sold the property to Anthony and Mary Fuller on May 17, 1861. Alanson Van Auken, shown on a 1854 farm map as owning a neighboring farm on Crowridge Road, was the next owner, during these land transfers, the patroon was still paid his rent until 1872 when Andrew McMillen, Alanson Van Auken and Alexander McMillen were released from their rents by Eugene Van Rensselaer et al., executors of Stephen Van Rensselaer's estate. Alanson Van Auken sold the property on May 18, 1906, to his daughter, Jesse VanAuken Tyndall and her husband Reverend Charles H. Tyndall of Mt. Vernon, New York who were said to use the farm house as a summer home.

This brings us back to my grandparents, Everett, (known as E.K.) and Mabel Hallenbeck, who bought the farm from the Tyndalls on March 18, 1909. E.K. worked for the Delaware and Hudson Rail Road in the D&H building in Albany. Family lore says that after crashing the family car through the barn, E.K. swore never to drive a car again, so would walk the

mile to the Voorheesville train station to ride the train to work. E.K. and Mabel raised two children at Willowbrook Farm: Harriet Ida (my mother) born August 23, 1912, and John Everett born March 26, 1918. Harriet graduated from Albany High School (Voorheesville school education ended at grade 6 then) and attended Albany Teachers College (SUNYA) where she met my father Michael Frohlich.



E.K. with the family car in 1924.

They were married at Willowbrook Farm on September 7, 1935; family photos show the wedding cake being cut on the front porch. Teaching jobs were hard to find, so my father worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.), one of F.D.R.'s New Deal programs, at several places in upstate New York. My sister Mary Elisabeth was born April 27, 1940 in Glens Falls Hospital, the closest hospital to the C.C.C. camp in Harrisville, New York. During that same time (1938-1942), my Uncle John Hallenbeck and his wife Florence lived in the west side of the house with E.K. and Mabel living on the east side. John and Florence were married in Voorheesville in 1938 and raised two daughters here: Carol Julia and Janet Lee. Needing more room for the birth of their third child, James Everett, John and Florence moved in 1942 to an apartment above Crear's Store in New Scotland.

During the 1940s my father ran U.S.O. facilities including one in Norfolk, Va. where I was born. In 1950, the Frohlich family moved back to Voorheesville to purchase the gas station/garage at 42 South Main Street, the current site of the Voorheesville Stewarts. We moved into the farm house with my grandparents where all three generations lived until 1958. E.K. and Mabel bought a house in Saint Cloud, Florida and sold the farm to my parents on

September 5, 1958. My sister and I grew up in Voorheesville, graduated from Voorheesville H.S. and left the Capital District to attend college. After my father died in 1974, I returned to help run the gas station/garage. After my mother died in 1977, my wife Susan (Schultz) and I moved into Willowbrook Farm where we raised our daughter Kyla Marie, born Feb. 21, 1979. The final property transfer was April 23, 1983, when my sister Mary Beth sold her interest in the farm to Susan and me.

The house is built in the Greek Revival style with a center hall with stairs leading to the second floor. Although we don't have the exact build date, the oldest part (to the west) was probably built in the 1830s. Built on logs laid on stones directly on the ground, this cabin was constructed quickly to provide shelter and then further construction could have happened in a planned, less hurried manner. Two anomalies in this room, probably recycled from other structures, were 12 over 12 windows and built-in cabinets with upper sliding doors and hinged lower doors. The center section of the house has a downstairs living room and two bedrooms upstairs. The living room features a cobblestone fireplace supposedly built by Rev. Tyndall from stone from the back field. This room also features hardwood floor laid over pine floor, a wedding present to John and Florence from Florence's father LeRoy. The eastern section of the house features a kitchen, another living room and a dining room in which my wife and I were married. A February, 1862, date written on a board under the roof rafters is the only specific date in the house. Upstairs are two more bedrooms with paint grained woodwork and doors, a style popular in the late 1800s.



John Hallenbeck on his mother Mabel's lap, Harriet on father E.K.'s lap. Girls in back unidentified.

The English style barn, again with no specific build date, was probably erected in the 1840's or '50s. Originally a grain barn (with "tallies" written in white chalk), the barn was later used as a hay barn. The original hay fork, with its ropes and pulleys, still resides over the hay mow. Written in black ink on a high beam are the names of farm workers: F. Wagner April 29, 1885, and WM Bradt December 22, 1906. This barn and the two neighboring barns are "sister barns" probably built by the McMillen families who owned these properties in the mid 1800s.

We don't use the front porch much anymore. My parents' wedding reception, the Sunday socializing, and my sister's slumber parties are ancient history. The steady stream of cars, trucks and SUVs blot out the sound of the Vly flowing to the Normanskill. But sometimes when the wind is blowing just right out of the north, the two remaining porch rockers will eerily rock back and forth by themselves, and I wonder if I was born a hundred years too late.

Thanks to Florence Hallenbeck, John and Sarita Winchell, Earl and Beverley MacMillen, Mary Beth Gorke-Felice, and Dennis Sullivan for contributions to this article.



This photograph taken by John E. Hallenbeck in July 1937 and enlarged by Donald Spore in August 1937 shows the rear of Willowbrook Farm looking toward the house and barn. The Vly Creek lies directly across the road in front of the house and barn and runs through the trees shown in the background.



Thanks to Indian Ladder Farms for providing the cider at the Fall programs.

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Stanton's Feura Farm
Stewart's Shops

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

Parking

For our overflow parking, we have permission to park at S & L Siding (former Saab Garage) just below the Museum. This is especially nice for the three Sunday afternoon meetings!
Many thanks to S & L Siding!

NSHA Membership Form

_____ \$10 Individual
_____ \$15 Family
_____ \$25 Sustaining
_____ \$100 Life (per person)

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send dues to: Robert Parmenter
Membership Chair
82 Badgley Lane
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Museum Hours

The museum is
open year-round
on Sunday
from
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Handicap Accessible

THE SENTINEL

New Scotland Historical Association
P. O. Box 541
Voorheesville, New York 12186