



# THE SENTINEL

Vol. 17, No. 2

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Winter 2008

## Voorheesville Army Depot—Feedback!

*We received the following from NSHA Life Member, James Hadsell who grew up in New Salem and was in the Voorheesville class of 1965. He agreed that we could share his letter about the Depot in the next **Sentinel**.*

I had to write, because your “Voorheesville Army Depot” article excited the heck out of me. I had never read any history of the Depot before. My father worked there from 1949—1964.

Dad was a “Statistician” there (civilian) and typed up reports (in triplicate, of course!), and then routed heavy equipment such as trucks, bulldozers, graders and so on—most of it non-weapons equipment.

I remember going into the administration building where my dad worked. It was pretty utilitarian—desks, filing cabinets, typewriters....and a FEW telephones. The walls were green—what else?—and the floors were creaky, bare wood.

One thing I remember was a type of rolling cradle for a telephone—so up to four people could reach one telephone! Can you even IMAGINE that today—where everyone has a phone stuck in their ear? Well, that WAS the Army.

On “Armed Forces Day” – remember those? Well, anyway on Armed Forces Day we would tour the Depot, have barbecues, ride the tanks and trucks (never happen today!) and have an all around good time. When you went through the gate, down on your left was a long grass, woods and dirt area used for maneuvers and “War Games.” They had mock battles there on Armed Forces Day. There was also a paratroop “jump tower” there that they rigged so that kids could jump from it-- (that wouldn't happen today either!) On Armed Forces Day you could see Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine personnel participating.

I remember going by the Depot at night, and seeing military personnel patrolling the Depot, shining their spotlights on the material. It gave you a sense of security, knowing our military was close by!

I believe the Depot was eventually turned over to the oversight of the quartermaster Corps. What surprises me is the reference to Shaunokin, PA. (*In the Fall 2008 **Sentinel***) I had thought the Depot was connected to the Schenectady Army Depot. My dad retired in 1964, rather than uproot our family when the Depot closed. He was offered a post at Tobyhanna, PA Depot, but loved the New Scotland area too much to leave.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Happy New Year in Voorheesville?

A portion of a photo which was given to us recently. It is believed to have been a New Year's Eve celebration in the Legion Hall. Since many husbands were not in the picture, we assume it was taken during early World War II.



**First row:** Herb Young, Doctor Don Sutherland, ? Vereh, Jesse Lasher, Ernie Johnson

**Second row:** Cliff Severson, Esther Schultz, sister-Vereh, Edna Kammerer, Catherine Hotaling

**Third row:** Roy Flansburg, Bert Halstead, Betty Sutherland, Vera Schultz, ? Secor, Rose Ricci, Mrs. Floyd Smith.

Visit the museum and see the entire photo on display. Perhaps you can help us with the missing names.

## Korean War Exhibit

Be sure to come in and visit this exhibit if you haven't already done so. Both this and the **World War I & II** exhibit will close on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. If you would like a special appointment to come in, please contact Marion Parmenter at 765-4652, or Martha Slingerland at 768-2184 to make arrangements.

**Remember! Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.**

**“People of Courage, People of Hope, Seekers of Justice:  
The Underground Railroad in the Capital Region of New York State.” Paul & Mary Liz Stewart, presenters.**

# NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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Robert and Marion Parmenter,  
Editors

Marie Hornick

Willard Osterhout

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

Not too long ago the comment was made to the New Scotland Historical Board that guests often come to the Museum or to the Community Center and they are curious about the name of our building. Who is Wyman Osterhout? Sometimes the volunteers on duty are not sure how to answer, since the building was named several years back.

It was then discussed and decided that a plaque or similar honor should be paid this generous man who gave so much of himself to the Town of New Scotland. Obviously, he was highly respected by the town fathers, as they decided to name the building after him.

The New Scotland Historical Board agreed to have his picture and appropriate description framed and placed in the Community Center for all to see. Thanks to much leg work by Willard Osterhout, you may now read about the accomplishments and giving spirit of Wyman. Included in the information are his years on the Town Board, as a member of the Voorheesville School Board, a Voorheesville Library Trustee, a member of the New Salem Fire Department, etc. In most of these organizations, he spent time as president, chief or other leading position. At the same time, Wyman Osterhout operated the Indian Ladder Lodge up on New Salem Hill with his two brothers.

Certainly he gave many years of service to his friends from the Town of New Scotland. Please stop in to see the picture and read about this fine man. Look up on the wall between the windows in the Community Room.

Peg Dorgan

## Sometimes we can Help!

Our genealogy files are limited, but occasionally we are able to fill a specific need. In September, we were contacted by a lady in California who had found us through our web-site and was looking for a document that would prove that Laurence Winne Flansburgh was a son of Matthew Flansburgh.

She already had a large amount of information about the family, but needed this one missing document to qualify for membership in the DAR.

A check of our copy of the early records of the New Salem Reformed Church revealed that in 1812, a son, Laurence Winne, was indeed baptized to Matthew Flansburgh and Margarita Winne. A copy of the record was made and sent to her.

On October 13, I received the following message: "I just want you to know that the information you sent on Lawrence Flansburgh's Baptism was perfect. As of October 4, I am a member of the DAR. Thanks again."

It is a good feeling to be able to fulfill a need. Is there anyone out there who would be interested in joining a committee to help field such requests?

Martha Slingerland, Genealogy Chair

## Inclement Weather?

If a NSHA meeting has to be cancelled because of the weather we will make every effort to notify you by phone. However, please don't hesitate to call Marie Hornick, 768-2933, Peg Dorgan 768-2852 or Marion Parmenter 765-4652 if you have a concern, before going out in bad weather!

## In Memoriam

With deep sympathy, we note the passing of NSHA member Robert Hoffman.

## **Collections Committee Report**

The Museum Collections Committee has accessioned all the items which have been donated to us recently. As always, when someone wants to donate an item, we accept it temporarily, with the understanding that our committee must approve it, followed by Board approval. Any item must have something to do with the Town of New Scotland. If it is accepted, the donor will sign a Deed of Gift form, gifting the item to the NSHA museum. Then each item must be accessioned, meaning an accession number is assigned to it, and the accession form is filled out with all the information we can get about the item from the donor and from other sources if necessary. (Donor and address, description of item, size, age of item, color, materials it is made of, manufacturer, where it was manufactured, a description of the condition of the item, a history we are told by the donor depending on what type of object it is, --in general everything we can find out about it.) Then the accession number is put on the object, the location of the object is noted on the form so that we can find it in the museum, storage, etc. Once all this is done and the accession form is copied to be stored off-site, all the information is entered into our Past Perfect Program on the computer.

Jane Salvatore, Dorothy Campbell and I were trained to do this by Dave Thurnheimer who was with the Office of State History, on April 7, 1976! (I found this in the old minutes!) I did the accessioning until October 1984 and other folks have done it over the years, but I have been back doing it since 1998. Now, happily, there are some other folks on the committee who are learning how to do it also. When we started in 1976 we had so many items already and didn't even know where many of them came from! We had accession sheets, but had little information; we did the best we could. From that point on, we tried to keep up with new acquisitions, as did those who followed us over the years. In the past ten years, once it all was caught up again, we have tried our best to keep on top of it! Now, with the forms we are using, similar to what most museums use, it is much easier, although time consuming of course. We are still learning how to best use Past Perfect.

Because NSHA is chartered by the State of New York, we must follow the requirements set down by the state. We have a responsibility to see that artifacts donated to us are properly cataloged, displayed, and stored.

We have received many wonderful new items in the past few months, which we will list in the next newsletter.

Marion Parmenter, Chairman

## **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.

## **Raffle**

There is still time to purchase some raffle tickets. The drawing for our annual raffle will take place at the January 4<sup>th</sup> program in the Community Center. You do not need to be present to win.

The prizes are as follows: First prize--\$300.00. Second prize-- \$200.00 and Third prize--\$100.00. The proceeds from this year's raffle are being used to preserve and restore early indentures given to the New Scotland Historical Association Museum by local families. Call Andrea Gleason (765-3191) or Peg Dorgan (768-2852) for additional tickets.

To those people who sent additional donations for the project supported by the raffle, the Board thanks you for your extra generosity.

## **Correction!**

Answers to *Recollections in the Fall* issue should have read as follows: 16. Trix, 17. Vitalis, 18. Lestoil.

## **2009 Calendar**

There are still Historical Calendars available for the low price of \$6.00. Calendars can be purchased at the following locations: Phillips Hardware in Voorheesville, Indian Ladder Farms, Falvo Meat Market, the New Scotland Town Hall, Persico's Market in Feura Bush and the Original Applebee's in Dormansville. Special appreciation is extended to those businesses which supported the Historical Association in this sale.

Please consider buying a calendar for yourself or for a friend or neighbor during this holiday season.



## The Country Store is here to Stay!

By Margaret Westervelt

When I was a child living in Clarksville in the late 1920s, there were two stores—Bert Van Wie’s and Myron Earl’s. Mr. Earl’s store was full of all sorts of things—cheeses (whole ones, ready to be cut to order), meat (some of it to be cut to order), pickles (some in barrels), household items—and even yard goods.

In those days, Clarksville did not have electricity, many did not have cars, the bus went through early in the morning and returned late in the afternoon. Trips to Albany were carefully planned, and were real events. The country store was extremely important.

I’m sure you are thinking that type of store is long since a thing of the past. Not so! I say. I had a recent experience which brought the subject to my mind.

I live in Boca Raton, Florida, a community where everything is apparently immediately available. However, there is an equivalent “country” area nearby made up of gated communities and condominiums where the residents are largely retirees and “snow birds.” There is not even a gas station close by.

I had occasion to visit two very new Publix stores in the area. Publix is equivalent to Albany Public Market, by the way. As I walked around looking for the actual item I wanted to buy, I was struck with an awareness of the stock. I discovered food—in abundance and variety—of course. But I also discovered I could buy almost anything I needed other than clothes, furniture, or specialty items. The pharmacy, as well as shelves stocked with all sorts of health necessities, was located near the front. There were shelves of household items ranging from all sorts of glasses—boxes of wine glasses and other types; cooking utensils—the latest in pots and pans, as well as the aluminum single-use type—hardware items in unbelievable array; cards for all occasions—you name it—it was there!

Whereas Mr. Earl’s store was dark and a bit dusty, the modern store is air-conditioned, brightly lighted and immaculate and everything is packaged, of course. Nevertheless, the feeling that it was not necessary to go anywhere else for my needs prevailed.

I often say, “The good old days are here and now.” How true!



Early photo of Myron Earl standing outside his store in Clarksville.

(Continued from page 1) *Voorheesville Army Depot*

Do you remember the bivouacs along Depot Road—where the Army tents were squeezed in between the houses? That always fascinated me!

You know, there were a lot of Depot employees living around us. Next door was Mabel Frisbee—who sadly, recently passed away, and right across New Salem road from us was Nicholas Porrecca. Both worked with my Dad. I can remember visiting at least six others on Altamont Rd. So it was kind of a loose fraternity!

Jim asked if there were any pictures of the Depot besides the ones we printed in the Fall *Sentinel*. If anyone knows of any that NSHA could borrow and scan, please contact Bob Parmenter, at 765-4652. Also, are there any other folks out there with memories of the Depot?



The A. VanWie “Spot Cash Store” was located across the street from Myron Earl’s store.

### First Meeting of Exhibits Committee

On November 7, the newly forming Exhibits Committee met for the first time. Three volunteers came, bringing ideas and questions. After a tour of the current exhibits, the members exchanged phone numbers and email addresses and began examining possibilities for exhibits. Because this process is new to all of the members, there were as many questions as there were ideas and possibilities.

It was decided to keep investigating ideas and do some “thinking on the computer” through emails, then meet again to decide on topic(s), size of exhibit, length of time the exhibit would run, etc. A second meeting is scheduled for December 5, at 10:00 A.M. in the Museum. Please come join us, especially if you find one or more of the following ideas an appealing prospect for an exhibit.

Some of the many ideas discussed included food preparation in the typical home before there were supermarkets; tools used to keep an average home in good working order; beds and bedding, including quilts; food storage over the winter months; maps and old cemeteries; places and roads that don’t exist today; the old “general store”; CCC camps.



## Farlin, What is "Farlin"??

NSHA recently was given a *Farlin News-Letter*, Volume 1, Number 12, dated May 28, 1892, a newspaper published in Voorheesville for a short while at the time the village's name was changed to Farlin. The village was renamed after a railroad man by the name of Dudley Farlin. Farlin never actually lived in Voorheesville, but did live for a short while in New Scotland.

The Voorheesville Post Office was renamed Farlin Post Office in August, 1890, but was changed back in August, 1892.

William Reid from Albany started publishing the *Farlin News-Letter* on March 12, 1892, in what was still referred to by many residents as the village of Voorheesville. The paper only lasted nine months. At that time, Reid disappeared and the *Enterprise* bought the type and office equipment he left behind.

We have this issue of the *Farlin News-Letter* on display in the museum. It is fascinating to read the news articles and advertisements.

NSHA thanks Bob and Lorraine Felter for this wonderful gift!



## What is on the mountain???

Answer on page 6

*The Voorheesville Fire Department distributed information about Blackouts during World War II to all homes in the area. It was supposed to be posted where all members of the household could refer to it. We have an actual poster on display in the exhibit, courtesy of John Ten Eyck.*

*The following outlines some of the information on the poster.*

### BLACKOUTS

#### AIR RAID WARNING

The signal for a blackout or an air raid will be a series of short blasts on fire siren for a period of 4 ½ minutes, also the blowing of factory whistles. If at night the street lights will also go out.

Air Raid Wardens will notify residents in districts where signals are not heard.

#### ALL CLEAR

The all clear signal consists of one long blast on the fire siren. If at night the street lights will go on also.

#### WHAT TO DO IN A BLACKOUT

1. All traffic must stop and pedestrians must stay off the streets and highways.....
2. After the warning has been sounded no light should be visible from the outside of your house.....
3. Leave no lights burning in your home that cannot be turned out within five minutes from the time of warning ...this means you shouldn't go out and leave lights burning...
4. Do not sit in the dark during a blackout.....darkness will increase nervousness.....
5. Do not go in and out any door through which light may be seen while a blackout is in effect.

Stay indoors and keep your pets with you during a blackout. Keep your radio turned on.

**Important:--**Do not use Telephone after Fire or Air Alarm has been sounded unless in case of emergency such as to report a fire.

Fire Department Phone 2331

CHARLES RICCI      FRANCIS H. PERSON      JOHN KAMMERER  
Fire Assistant Chief      Chief      Second Assistant Chief

Compliments Voorheesville Fire Dept.





## NSHA visit to Canal Street Station

On November 8, 2008, on a field trip organized by Will Oserthout, several members visited **Canal Street Station** on U.S. Route 20, near Duanesburg. Canal Street Station, owned by Joseph Merli, is a work in progress being developed as a small railroad village museum. The village is dedicated to educating children and adults about a way of life in the early twentieth century, preserving those things that got us where we are today.

The General Store is reconstructed with all the interior furnishings from the original Wallace Armer Hardware store once located on Erie Blvd. in Schenectady. Counters, shelves and bins date back to late 1800's when the original store was on State St. The inventory even includes stock in original packaging.

There is an original Delaware & Hudson railroad track tool shed that was originally located in Delanson, saved from destruction and moved to Canal Street Station where it was completely restored inside and out to its original condition including being equipped with the tools used at the time by railroad repair crews. This building is also currently used as a garage for Joe's 1904 Curved Dash Oldsmobile runabout and 1904 Oldsmobile "C" cab delivery truck.

The 1953 EMD E-8 passenger locomotive #4097 was a 9 year restoration project. It has been restored as a New York Central Lightning stripe engine. The interior will be finished as a 1950's malt shop soda fountain.

The group was treated to a demonstration of installing a solid rubber tire on a metal rim, a process used by carriage builders to put rubber tires on wagon wheel rims.

Future plans include the reconstruction and restoration of the Lendrum one-room school that dates to the mid-1800's and once stood just down the road at the corner of Schoharie Turnpike and Route 20.



NSHA Board Members enjoying their visit to the Canal Street Station "General Store & Merchandise, Hardware and Dry Goods Co." as guests of Joseph Merli.

What is it? While in Alaska in early September Bob and Marlon Parmenter saw a dusting of snow on top of the mountains one day. They were told it is called Termination Dust, meaning "it is the time in Alaska when summer is terminated." Little did we know then that we would see snow on the Helderbergs less than a month later! This photo was taken approaching New Salem on Route 85.

## Clarksville, Voorheesville Phone Numbers Changed

Reprinted from *Altamont Enterprise*, June 6, 1953 edition



Effective June 10th, [1953] all phone numbers in Clarksville and Voorheesville are to be changed according to an announcement of the New York Telephone Company.

When making a call from any other exchange (a toll call) to Voorheesville or Clarksville, it is important to remember two things:

1. All Clarksville phone numbers are changed to start with the designation POplar 8, followed by four digits. All Voorheesville numbers will become ROckwell 5.

2. In order to reach POplar 8 and ROckwell 5 customers, it will still be necessary to ask the operator for the number (when phoning from Albany or Delmar, dial 110 for the long distance operator)

The change to the new numbering plan is made to fit the Voorheesville-Clarksville numbering system into the national plan, which requires two letters and five digits in each number. This is necessary to permit future dialing to distant points, according to the telephone company.

*Sentinel* reader Barbara Vink emailed us after the Spring issue that she can still remember the phone number when she was a child. She stated the following: "Ours was ROckwell 5---- which is why most of us have 765---- numbers now." Similarly, Clarksville numbers are now 768---- rather than PO8----. As the article in 1953 predicted, we can now dial long distance by adding a 1 and the area code!



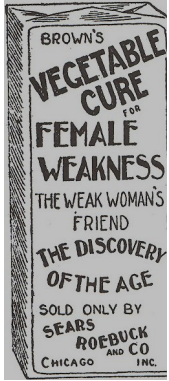
## Marker Dedicated

Members of the Slingerland and LaGrange Families pose next to the Historic Marker placed by NSHA at the Slingerland-LaGrange Farm on LaGrange Lane. The farm has been family owned for 12 generations.

Postal Rate Increase! Increased postal rates will go into effect Nov. 2, 1917--- 3 cents for a letter, 2 cents for a postcard!

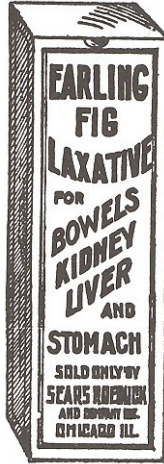
## Recollections

### Thank Heaven for Modern Medicine

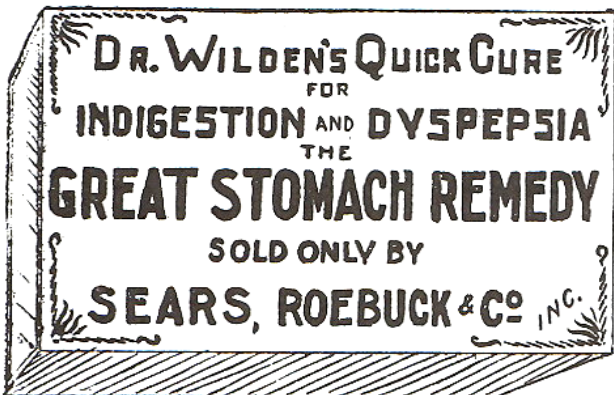


When we think about all the advances we have made in the last 150 years, medicine has to be very close to the top of the list. The 1897 Sears Roebuck & Co. listed the following remedies in their catalog. Dr. Chaise's Nerve and Brain Pill, BBB, Dr. Barkers Blood Builder, Stop Drinking German Liquor Cure, Dr. Worden's Female Pills for Weak Women, Dr. Brown's Vegetable Cure for Weak Women, Curtis Consumption Cure, Dr. Rowlands System Builder

and Lung Restorer, Reliable Worm Syrup and Cakes, Orange Wine Stomach Bitters, Wonderful Little Liver Pills, Earling Fig Laxative for Bowels, Kidney, Liver and Stomach, Dr. Ruse's French Arsenic Completion Wafers, The Great Chinese Corn and Bunion Cure, Camphor Cold Crème, Indian Corn Syrup, Cod Liver Oil, Speedy Cure Pile Remedy, Paregoric, Mexican Headache Cure, Dr. Hammond's Sarsaparilla for Skin and Blood, Dr. Francis Ague Pills and Dr. Ruse's Obesity Powder.



Will Osterhout

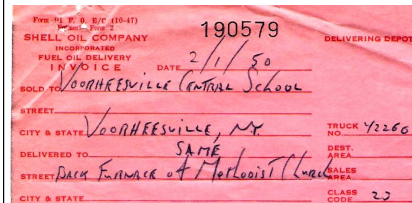


## School Power Bill!

The Voorheesville Central School received the following bill from New York Power & Light Corporation, January 5, 1950:

Library:	\$ 7.83
High School:	70.17
New Scotland School:	4.52
New Salem School:	11.45
Cottage:	13.37
Shop:	5.99
Church:	<u>49.20</u>
	\$162.53

The library was the public library located on Main St., the high school was what they called the brick school with grades 2—12, the cottage was the Home Economics House on 94 Maple Ave., and would include the small building behind it which contained 2 first grade classrooms, the shop was a building located between what is now Smith's Tavern and the Mobil Station which was used for Shop classes, and the church was the Methodist Church which contained the kindergarten classes. The New Scotland School is now the Town Hall (much enlarged), and the New Salem School is now the Wyman Osterhout Community Center and houses our museum.



**What is with this bill?**  
Among some old papers we found this bill. One might wonder why the Voorheesville School District got a bill for

fuel oil delivered to the back furnace of the Voorheesville Methodist Church on February 1, 1950. At that time, Kindergarten was held in the church because there was no room at the school. Hence, the school district paid the fuel bill for furnace which heated the portion of the building that the kindergarten used. Note that the school paid \$21.74 for 189 gallons, at \$.115 a gallon. Those were the days!

## Sunday Afternoon Winter Programs

As has been our custom these past few years, we have scheduled our Winter Programs for Sunday afternoons at 2:00 P.M. at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem. The Museum will be open for half an hour before each program. All programs are free and open to the public.

Before the January program, there will be a drawing for raffle prizes.

**Sunday, January 4, 2009**  
2:00 P.M.

**Paul and Mary Liz Stewart:** "People of Courage, People of Hope, Seekers of Justice: The Underground Railroad in the Capital Region of New York State"

**Sunday, February 1, 2009**  
2:00 P.M.

**Robert Parmenter:** "New Scotland Township: Then and Now"

**Sunday, March 1, 2009**  
2:00 P.M.

**Cindy Gurney:** "Messages From the Front—a Voyage Through History to Uncover the Wartime Experience for Army Nurses"

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**Reilly & Son Funeral Home**

**Smith's Tavern**

**Stanton's Feura Farm**

**Stewart's Shops**

**Voorheesville Hannaford**

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

**Membership Drive**

We had a very successful membership drive for the 2008—2009 year. NSHA would like to thank all those who sent in extra donations.

If you know of someone who would like to join, please pass the membership form on to them.

Bob Parmenter, Membership Chairman

**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: 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