



# THE SENTINEL

Vol. 20, No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Spring 2012



## New Exhibit Commemorating 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War

**Sunday, April 15, 2012**

On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was attacked and the war that was to become the United States' bloodiest began. This war would stretch across "five Aprils" and would greatly affect the citizens of the Town of New Scotland.

On Sunday, April 15, 2012, from 1:00—3:30 at the NSHA Museum in the

Wyman Osterhout Community Center on Old New Salem Road, NSHA's Civil War Exhibit will open. This exhibit will illustrate the times and the events of the period, and will strive to respectfully acknowledge the numerous acts of service and sacrifices made by the Civil War veterans who came from our Town.

Come and see what a soldier's encampment would look like, what he would wear, and what accoutrements of battle might surround him!

There will also be a mini-exhibit commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812.

Other related events will follow in the spring!

**Mark your Calendars!**

**Mini Antiques Road Show**

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**12—3:30 P.M.**

**Wyman Osterhout  
Community Center**

## Civil War Letter #3

*(The following is the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of letters from John L. Houck, which Sandy Slingerlands asked me to transcribe for the *Sentinel*. They are copied exactly as written. I left a large space after each sentence to make them easier to read. Marion Parmenter.)*

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

Camp Falmouth Pa

Dear wife

I received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you again I am well at present hoping this will find you all the same it rained all night last night and this morning it commenced snowing and it has snowed all day as fast as it could but it melts pretty much as it comes down the boys are most all gone out of camp they was sent out as pickets Guard and they won't be back in three days or four days they have to stand out in the woods most of the time without any shelter which makes it lonesome in Camp at present for there are only about thirty left to guard the Camp I am still in Capt Olcotts Camp with seven others that came with us from Albany The Capt has got that letter but what was in it I do not know He sent one back to Dr. Dayton but I do not know what he wrote The Capt is sick now he has a sore throat Burnside is getting better or was when last heard from He is still in Philadelphia hospital I think that we will all come home when the Regts time is up if nothing happens I have nothing to do but practice a little on the Bugle every day and I wash my own clothes I wash once a week I bought me an India rubber (*waterproof*) blanket in Alexandria before we left there and paid four Dollars for it and I would not take eight for it now and be without They think that we will not be paid off until the Regts time is up and if that is so I do not know what some of them will do you need not send them socks or box of vituals yet for I am afraid that it would not get to them if you did I should like to have a good meal from home again but I know that I cant and so I shall have to be contented with what I get here you must write just as soon as

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# NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 541

Voorheesville, NY 12186

## OFFICERS 2011-2012

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Robert and Marion Parmenter,  
Editors

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#### Web Page

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

## President's Letter

Spring is on the way and it is time to think about emerging from our winter cocoons. To get you out, the New Scotland Historical Association will open its new Civil War exhibit on April 15. The opening will include special events. We also have a number of excellent programs this spring including Albany Rural Cemetery in the Civil War (March 6), The Star-Spangled Banner: Songs From the Second War of Independence (April 3), Historical Painting and Its Challenge presented by renowned Hudson Valley artist Len Tantilillo (May 1). Along with our regular monthly programs, we are also planning a repeat of our popular mini-Antiques Road Show on March 11.

If you ever wondered how a little historical association such as NSHA can get so much done, it is because of people like you giving of their time and resources. NSHA has no paid staff. Our Museum exhibit designers and docents are all volunteers. The same goes for the committees that select and document historic sites, plan events, and write for and publish *The Sentinel*. Many of New Scotland's citizens are involved in NSHA but we can use more help. We particularly need volunteers to help staff the Museum. If you can spare two hours on a Sunday afternoon every few months, we would appreciate your help. You can contact Marion Parmenter if you are interested. We also need a chairperson for our Historic Sites Committee. A history or architecture background is not a requirement, just a lively interest in New Scotland's natural and built environment as well as a willingness to work with others. If you are interested, please contact me.

We can also always use more material for *The Sentinel* and are eager to publish research on New Scotland history, interesting historic documents related to the town, and reminiscences about New Scotland and its citizens. Please remember that history is an unfolding process without a beginning or end date and yesterday's commonplace events becomes today's fascinating history.

As well as the many citizen volunteers that make our historical association a success, I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the many New Scotland businesses that support NSHA through their corporate memberships. They are listed on the back page of *The Sentinel*. A special recognition goes to Capital Financial Planning, which supports us through its annual contribution to the Eberle Fund.

Alan Kowlowitz



Capital Financial Planning is pleased to support the New Scotland Historical Association in honor of Donald and Ann Eberle. Don Eberle was a financial advisor with the firm before his retirement. Don and Ann continue to inspire others through their generosity and community service.

## NSHA Spring Programs

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Albany Rural Cemetery in the Civil War* In this power point presentation, local Civil War historian **Mark Bodnar** will take us on a virtual tour of the Albany Rural Cemetery, weaving a tapestry of military interest, genealogical research and local history.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *The Star-Spangled Banner: Songs From the Second War of Independence* A taste of history in song, with sing-along selections of American historic music – ranging from battle cries to fireside ballads –from the time surrounding the War of 1812. Presented by noted Capital Region musicians **Tom Lindsay and Michael Eck**.

**May 1st** Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Historical Painting and Its Challenges* Renowned Hudson Valley artist **Len Tantillo** will describe the particular artistic process involved in creating historical artwork.

### 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.

### More Civil War Programs!

The **Voorheesville Public Library** is presenting two wonderful programs as part of their project entitled “**Hearts Touched with Fire: Living Through the Civil War.**”

**Sunday, March 18** at 2:00 pm **Lincoln and Liberty: Songs from the Time of Honest Abe.**

**The Lost Radio Rounders, Tom Lindsay and Michael Eck**, perform tunes popular in Abe Lincoln’s life-time, including lively Civil War songs of the North and South. They accompany themselves on guitar, mandolin, banjo, auto harp, and dodro.

For more information: [www.lostradiorounders.com](http://www.lostradiorounders.com)

**Monday, April 9** at 7:00 pm **Music and the Underground Railroad**

**Kim and Reggie Harris** weave their magic to highlight a fascinating chapter in American history with songs, stories, audience involvement and an award winning multi-media presentation. For more information:

[www.kimandreggie.com](http://www.kimandreggie.com)

Both of these programs are presented at the library. Mark your calendars—they are both special performances.

### Inclement Weather?

In the event of stormy weather on a meeting night or any of our activities, if you are unsure about whether the event has been cancelled, please call Peg Neri, 765-3125, Alan Kowlowitz, 765-4212, Peg Dorgan, 768-2852. Emails will be sent to those on the email list. (*Winter weather MAY arrive sometime when we least expect it!*)

## Tales of a Highwayman MOVING UP THE HILL

During the middle of the 1970s, I had the opportunity to leave the Village of Voorheesville and go to work for the Town of New Scotland. This would create an opportunity to drive trucks and operate different types of equipment, plow real roads during the winter months and be a few miles closer to home. Good riddance to those courts in Salem Hills!

In Voorheesville I worked with "Wild Bill" and "Big John" and after I started work with the town, I learned they had their own cast of characters! Let me introduce you to a few that I can recall. Jimmy Hanlon, "The Fonz," never a hair out of place and a comb in his pocket at all times. Bill Kohinke, "Blueberry," a bit on the portly side, resembled a walking blueberry when dressed in his blue work clothes. John Hensel, "Johnny Head," was the water boy. John Podorski, "The Polock,"—self explanatory. Kevin Schenmeyer, "Whisker's," with a lovely large beard every winter. Keith Leonard, "Bag of s—t," a former garbage man. Buddy Picard "Ajax." Michael Hotaling, "Little Hoag," Leighton Hotaling's son. Jeffrey Countryman, "Jr.," Mike Kawzak, "Dump Mike," former operator of the Town landfill. Walter Meyers, "Waldo," former driver of the town garbage truck. Gary McVee, "Mac." As for myself, I became known as "Bones" thanks to my good friend Blueberry! Over the years I was to learn that these men were indeed an interesting cast of characters.

I started working at the town during the middle of the summer. Mostly I drove truck and did laborer work while becoming familiar with the operation and equipment. One of the things I did notice in particular was the large number of Walter snowplows that were parked inside the building. At times I would examine these trucks and marvel at their size, 3 steps to get up into the cab, with a very large steering wheel that required two good hands to operate and a bunch of plow and wing controls that I knew nothing about. Fortunately they were all automatic and not standard transmissions. Little did I know at the time but before the winter was over I would become very good friends with one of these metal monsters! A very large V plow made the front end very heavy and they traveled down the road from side to side like a sidewinder in the desert, needing constant steering corrections while speeding along at a top speed of 28 mph. There were times

when I wondered who was in control, the monster or me!

In the next story, I will explain how I obtained my own personal Walters and my first experience in taking her out to battle a virtual blizzard. You will notice I said "her;" I figured anything that difficult to control would have to be a female!

Til next time  
Will

### Mini Antiques Road Show Returns!

Our second "Mini Antiques Road Show" will be held on Sunday, March 11, beginning at 12:00 noon until 3:30 P.M. at the Community Center in New Salem. Caroline French has agreed to appraise our family treasures again this year. She commented that our event was the only one where everybody hung around to see what everybody else had!

You may recall from our previous show that Caroline is from New Hampshire and a graduate of Exeter High School, The University of New Hampshire and Pratt Institute. She has been buying, selling, and appraising antiques, jewelry, and silver for over 40 years. Other items are glass, china, pictures, oil paintings, prints, mirrors, baskets, needlework, toys, dolls, watches, lamps, etc.

These appraisals should be helpful for insurance purposes. She says she has no expertise with guns or knives so leave these items home; also, if the item is a large piece of furniture, please bring a picture of it. The charge will be the same as last year: \$5.00 each, or 3 items appraised for \$10.00. The limit at one time is 3, but you may go to the back of the line again if there is time. You will get a number when you arrive and there will be seating while you wait. We are fortunate that she will travel so far and donate her time. All proceeds go to NSHA.



you get this and Direct as before John L Houck  
Camp of 25<sup>th</sup> Regt New York SV 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Di-  
vision 5<sup>th</sup> Army corps Camp near Falmouth Wash-  
ington DC I should like to know if John Winnie is  
with you yet or not and how the children are getting  
along You do not know how bad I want to see you  
all again but that is out of the question I do see  
you every day but that only makes me feel bad for  
when I look at it I think I must come home and then  
again I know that I cannot at present But I hope it  
won't be long before I do now you must write as  
often as you can because it is the only comfort that I  
can get to read your letters so now I shall have to  
close by saying good bye I remain Yours truly  
forever

John L. Houck



*John L. Houck's grave site in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery*

## The Eberle Fund

In November of 2006, Capital Financial Planning, LLC, headquartered in Latham, NY, announced its endowment of the Donald and Ann Eberle Restoration, Education and Preservation Fund at the New Scotland Historical Association. This special endowment was created by Capital Financial Planning to pay tribute to the Eberles' long association with NSHA, and to honor Donald's retirement after thirty-five years in the financial services industry.

The fund has been used by the Association for a number of opportunities in keeping with the Mission Statement to preserve, protect, and promote history in the Town of New Scotland. An appreciation of local history, heritage and culture has been the focal point of research, publications, and educational programs.

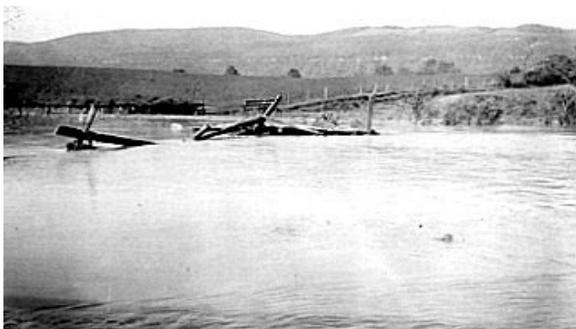
Among the choices made possible with these funds were the following:  
supporting Dutch history with a donation to the "Onrust," a ship which was built from Dutch plans and launched from Schenectady;  
creating the website for NSHA;  
providing a senior award to three Voorheesville graduating students, Meagan Logan (2008), John Neri (2009), and Alexis Moore (2010);  
purchasing display boards for the Museum, enabling easy visibility for Veterans' pictures, historical marker placements, preserved documents.

The Eberle Fund, with its support of NSHA's focus on education and preservation, has been a remarkable gift.

## We Need Photos!

We have few pictures of the local flooding which took place as a result of Hurricane Irene and would like more. Don Slingerlands gave us several of the Clarksville area along Rte. 443, and Jerry Parmenter donated several of the Voorheesville area around Smitty's, the elementary school, and along Rte. 85A approaching the high school. There must be others. NSHA does have a few pictures of the Hurricane flooding in 1938, but more would be welcome.

If you have any photos of local natural disasters, we would like to copy them for our collection. Please contact Marion Parmenter at 765-4652 if you can help us out.



This picture is labeled "Flooding after Hurricane in 1938." The top of the mountain on the right is the formerly cleared area. To the rear of the flooded area is a large cleared ridge. We are guessing it was taken from along the Altamont Road, fairly close to Voorheesville. Can anyone help us?

## Dr. Samuel Ingraham

By Martha Slingerland

Samuel Ingraham was born in Clarksville about 1823, the first child of Lyman Ingraham and his wife, Clarissa Hunter. As was the custom of the day, he was named after his paternal grandfather, who, according to the *History of the County of Albany* by Howell & Tenney, was an early settler who kept a tavern in the upper part of the village.

Samuel, the younger, graduated from Albany Medical School in 1849 and set up practice in the first house east of Brate's store (torn down a few years ago) in Clarksville. On the 1850 Federal Census, he is listed as a physician, age 27, with his wife Cornelia (Flansburg) age 26. Living with them is Hiram Crouse, age 30, also a physician.

In May of 1853, Maria VanDusen, wife of John Hendrickson, died very suddenly. She was only 19 and though the couple was living on Meads Lane with John's parents at the time, she was from Clarksville and Dr. Ingraham was her family physician. He was very suspicious and involved himself in the case. He conducted numerous scientific experiments and concluded that Maria had died of aconite poisoning. They found that John had purchased some aconite from a drug store in Albany shortly before Maria's death. One thing led to another and John was convicted of her murder and hanged May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1854. This was the first recorded instance of such scientific experiments being instrumental in bringing about a murder conviction.

Sam's father, Lyman Ingraham, had died in 1843 at age 42 of "consumption" and, as the eldest son, Samuel had become responsible for his mother's affairs. However, in 1850, Samuel was probably busy with his medical practice, so he and his mother,

Clarissa, signed papers giving her care and support, along with her land, over to her next son, Wallis, who was apparently already working the farm. Unfortunately, seven years later, Wallis died and in 1862, Clarissa transferred her lands to another son, Hiram, for \$500 and the guarantee of her care and support. By then Dr. Sam must have moved from Clarksville because in 1858, Samuel Ingraham and his wife, "of Verona," sold their property in Clarksville.

On the 1860 census, Clarissa is still only 57, and living with Hiram and Clarissa is her youngest son, Franklin, age 20. Later on Franklin married Catherine Jane McCulloch and raised his own family near Clarksville in what was known as the "Houck Neighborhood," where the Tommell farm is now. One of his younger children was Bertha, my mother-in-law.

When the Civil War came along, our Uncle Sam enrolled at Rome to serve three years in the 117<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, also known as the 4<sup>th</sup> Oneida Regiment. He mustered in as Assistant surgeon August 16, 1862, but was discharged for disability the following October 14. Whatever his problem, it must have cleared up, for he was soon accepted into the army again, enrolling January 10, 1863 at Washington DC in the 14<sup>th</sup> infantry (also known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Oneida Regiment.) He mustered in as assistant surgeon on Jan. 20, to serve 2 years, but the record shows, he mustered out at Utica, NY May 24, 1863 with his regiment. That regiment is said to have suffered severely during several engagements. Samuel would have been with them on May 1—3 at Chancellorsville, a bloody engagement in which our local Albany County regiments fought.

After the war Sam lived in the Palmyra area. Apparently his marriage did not survive, for his wife, Cornelia, is found in the

(cont. on page 7)

1870 Census back in the Clarksville area. In a document called Palmyra and Vicinity by Thomas L. Cook we find that, “Dr. Ingram bought property on Clinton Street and in the 1870s tore down the old time wood shed and the old barn and built two houses on the site of the barn.” Other sources lead us to believe that he continued to be a respected physician all his life.

Family tradition stated that Uncle Sam married a “Washington DC lady” and this is borne out by later census reports. In the 1892 New York State Census he is found living in Macedon, NY (near Palmyra). His wife’s name is Martha. Though we do not know when Samuel died or where he is buried, he does not appear in the 1900 US Census. By that time, Martha (Squiers) who was born in Washington DC, is a widow. Living with her is her daughter, Alice Ingraham, who was born in New York State in 1868.



*Alice Ingraham, daughter of Samuel Ingraham  
Photo c. 1890*

We have long had a picture of Alice Ingraham.

Since it was taken by a Palmyra photographer, a connection

with Uncle Sam seemed likely, but I couldn’t be sure. I also had a transcript of a letter written to her by her Uncle Hiram Ingraham

giving valuable information about early Ingraham ances-

tors and I knew that as an old lady, she had lived for a while in Schenectady with our Aunt Anna Ingraham Vadney, Alice’s cousin. Still, no one, not even Anna’s daughter, seemed to have any idea who she was. Now we know!

My thanks to Don Slingerland for doing the research that led to the information about Samuel’s military record and for finding the later Census reports in Wayne County.

### Collection Committee

The 1834 Survey Map of the Terwilliger property is currently being restored, thanks to your generous support. It shows us what the property which has now become Salem Hills looked like 178 years ago! Joy Severson O’Day, who grew up in the house, just presented us with a lovely old picture of the home which was on this property years ago, and built around 1850. Phillip Severson purchased the home and 175 acres in April 1904. Her father Clifford Severson paid off the mortgage in the 1940s. This home was demolished only a few years ago.

Last year the Collection Committee accessioned 51 artifacts which were added to our museum collection. All of the videos of our programs since 2001 have been converted to DVDs. These may be borrowed by NSHA members to be viewed in the comfort of their own living rooms! Many more old photos have been added to the albums. You are welcome to view them when you visit the museum.



Terwilliger-Severson home, built around 1850, as it appeared c. 1900.

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## Museum Closed

The NSHA Board voted to close the Museum for the four weeks that the new exhibit commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War is being created:

**It will be closed March 18<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The new exhibit will open Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mark you calendars! See you then!**

*(Also closed Mother's Day)*

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