

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

Newsletter #2 May 6, 2021

edited by Phil Childs

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com



Ca. 1850

13 Nanticoke Rd

Bowers Museum



Ca. 1830

2819 NY State Route 26

Pitcher's Grist Mills



Ca. 1840

38 Nanticoke Rd

Norton Carriage Works



Ca. 1845

14 Nanticoke Road

1845 School House

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52 Years



Officers 2021

President:	Gordon Gottlieb	232-0702
Vice President:	Joanne Weir	239-1020
Secretary:	Carla Sullivan	862-5385
Treasurer:	Judy Kunz	862-3410
Fundraising/Special Events:	Jeff Egan	862-5033
Media & Content Director:	Phil Childs	862-3405
Museum Curator:	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator:	Tom Kotasek	862-3081
Town of Maine Historian:	Susan H. Lisk	

The Board of Trustees*

Emeritus:	Jeff Egan, Ruby McConnell, Betty Welch
2021:	Nancy Berry, Sandy Rozek, Anita Shipway
2022:	Linda Hansen, Bob Lawler, Rita McKeon
2023:	Kerin Flannery, Lynn Ross, Brenda Stolarczyk

* New positions are voted on each year. The term of a trustee is three years. This provides for an ever changing but ongoing board coverage.



SPRING RIDGE FARM SOUTH OF MAINE ON RT. 26

The Cell Phone as an Appendage and Bringing Back that Third Dimension

I have had the opportunity lately to look at communication and education over the ages and how it has changed society. Some of what I read or viewed were older texts or videos, but they were prophetic, interesting, and well..... a little awkward to see how dated they looked or sounded. I forgave their obvious statements or shortcomings because they were predicting quite successfully where knowledge organization and digital social interactions were taking us. One of the books was "*The Axemaker's Gift*" by James Burke and Robert Ornstein. The book starts at the very beginnings of when humankind started processing, applying, and controlling knowledge and ends around 1995. It is powerful in the way it explains the progression and power that the keepers of knowledge held over civilization and society.



While being immersed in the material, I started to feel a little like Marty McFly in "Back to the Future" - swooping in for a snapshot in time, looking at the awkward maturation of his parents while knowing the outcome might just be dependent on his interference.

One Christmas afternoon about five years ago, after dinner, and after eating too much and falling asleep on the couch, I awoke to the starkly quiet scene of a dozen or more people in the room. They weren't sleeping, they were engrossed in their cell phones. It felt kind of sad (but, hey who am I to talk - I dozed off). Today as I write this - my daughter is at school teaching virtually, I get a Facetime call from my wife visiting her elderly mother in Charlotte, my granddaughter is playing Rooblox on her iPad, my grandson is watching YouTube videos... about video games, and I well.... I'm here on the computer typing this. Maybe I'll take a break and check Facebook as I've been up since 2 AM doing too much of my work, play, socializing, and exploring behind a screen.

This all seems very unhealthy to me, but somewhat necessary right now. I am resentful and at the same time grateful for the technology. I am recalling that over a decade ago people were predicting that electronic devices would become our 5th appendage. I take my appendages with me everywhere (except the shower) as I never know when I will have the urgent need to figure something out, look something up, or make a list of my lists.

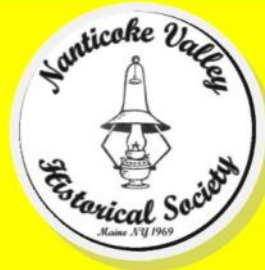
We are great at building things and advancing technology, and we will use it and overuse it, we will wear it out, hate it, and long for it all at the same time. COVID 19 has exasperated our feelings of being sick of virtual only interaction, Facebook, and Zoom meetingswe are all tiring of it. I think that "we" will figure it out and we will incorporate a way to infuse more face-to-face experiences and draw us back to the museums, events, and live arts that we all are missing and longing for.

When we get in front of each other again we will put technology back in its place. It will be needed, we will be undeniably reliant on it, but we will get away from it as much as we can. I think COVID has put things in perspective; we love our toys, we are thankful that we had them to get through this, and life in lock-down would have been unbearable without them..... at least we got by. This is our chance to go back like Marty and "take the axe" to it and mold the digital world to be a complement to eventually touching something, feeling a few more senses, and to make the world three dimensional again. We are almost there!

Thank you,
Gordie

After COVID 2020 our membership has dropped! We ask you to join us this year 2021! Application form is on the last page. This will be a very active year (see page four) We strongly support the total Maine community.

**MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY MAY 31 FROM 10 –3
JOIN US AFTER THE PARADE
AT THE OLD ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE
14 NANTICOKE ROAD**



⇒ **Flea Market Outdoors 10—3**

⇒ **BBQ by Smokey Legend 11– sold out**

⇒ **Baskets to Raffle, Desserts 11– 3**

⇒ **Museum & 1845 School House Open 11 –3**

⇒ **Special wood carving exhibit by Jim Howenstein**

⇒ **Country Wagon Produce Sale Table**

⇒ **Repair the Pagoda Fund—Kick-Off Drive**



5.31.2021

Poetry, Prose and Images of Maine NY - Old and New .

One of our current projects is to collect poetry from the past when individuals had written about the Nanticoke Valley. We have many fine poets in the region who have written poetry about life here in Maine, NY. NVHS has received a grant from the Broome County Arts Council to tie this poetry into an exhibit and publication which we hope to be available at the end of this year. Included will be Maine Memorial Elementary School students' poetry as they write about Life in A Small Town. We also will solicit poems about the region from individuals who would like to share with us. If you have examples of old poems or ones from now, contact Sandy Rozek at 862—9480 or email her at sjrozek@aol.com



GOODBYE FOR NOW

Lil Ames left us on April 3rd to join her Clarence who passed away on November 18, 2009. Lil and Clarence were charter members of the Historical Society and though it's hard to believe they both are gone, they left their mark on our community.



Lil 1973 Country store for 125th celebration

During the 125th anniversary celebration they were among the energetic group who organized and held the event in 1973. As Historical Society secretary Lil assisted president, Clarence Stratton during that very busy year. Meanwhile, Clarence, with the help of his friends and family, spent the winter building the wonderful pagoda that is depicted on our Town of Maine Seal and our local landmark. This replicated the original Pagoda which burned down in 1928. Lil was part of the planning and participated in almost every activity, school tours, musicals, fundraising, you name

it she was there.

Every part of our museum contains items that were donated by Lil and Clarence. The small work bench, golf clubs, and tools in the Men's exhibit are among the many artifacts, photographs, and archival objects they gave us. In the end Lil gave the pagoda to all of us. We will miss their humor, friendship and remember their generosity. Goodbye for now, Lil and Clarence.

NVHS Upcoming Events 2021 not complete yet!

For up-to-the-minute news and changes, please visit our website at:

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com or find us on Facebook (be sure to "like" our page!)

- **Monday, May 17, 7:00 PM** - Phil Childs will be taking us back in time as we take a virtual field trip on a Journey Up Route 26 along the Nanticoke Creek to the Town of Maine.
PATH weekend **June 19 & 20** Virtual programs see website for information
- **Monday, June 21, 7:00 PM** - The history of Nanticoke's Own Baldwin Family will be presented by Charles Baldwin, Carla Sullivan along with a history of Nanticoke, NY
- **Monday July 19 th** Outdoors NVHS PICNIC
- We will be starting the **summer Sunday museum** tours (1PM—4PM) July 11—Sept 26
- **Bowers Art Gallery two shows** this summer. Artists to be announced. June 13—Aug 1 and Aug 8 to Sept 26.
- **Sunday August's 15 at 3 pm** will delight you with a visit to the Maine Cemetery as we explore the History in the Headstones. We are currently looking for actors to take on the roles of deceased village residents as they narrate stories of their lives. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Sue Lisk (nvhscurator@hotmail.com or 862-9705).
- **Saturday, September 11** for the return of **MaineFest**, our full-day celebration of art and music in the Town of Maine.
- **Saturday September 25** Visitors from the ME 50/51 Reunion
- Monday September 20th 7 PM History in the Headstones Sue Lisk virtual visit
- Broome Art Trail **Oct 2 and 3 10—4** at the Museum. View local artists work.
- **Monday October 18th** Lore and Legends Death Valley Road stories. Sue Lisk
- November and December Events go to website or the September newsletter.
- We are starting Coffee Houses and sponsoring Music in the Park this Summer more information to come.

Sponsorship Opportunities

- A "Maine Sponsor" - \$500 (limited to 1 sponsor)**
 - Banner as the stage backdrop
 - Inclusion in Advertising, Media and Marketing
 - Highlighted Through Social Media Channels
 - Your Name or Logo on the Back of T-Shirts sold at the Event
 - A table or station at the event

- T-Shirt Sponsors - \$250**
 - Banner on stage front
 - Your Name or Logo on the Back of T-Shirts sold at the Event
 - Inclusion in Advertising, Media and Marketing
 - Highlighted Through Social Media Channels

- Stage Sponsors - \$100**
 - Stage signage
 - Inclusion in Advertising, Media and Marketing

- Family and Friend Sponsors - \$25**

Third Maine Fest

*An art and music festival to benefit the Nanticoke Valley
Historical Society*

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Hamlet of Maine, New York

www.themainefest.com

Contact: Gordie Gottlieb

607-232-0702 or themainefest@gmail.com

The day-long event will feature a Plein Air Painting event, local artists displays, a Flea Market, a Chicken Barbecue prepared by the West Comers Lion's Club, and musicians performing throughout the day. The Maine Fest will be held on the meadow (along Lewis St) behind the Maine Federated Church, Route 26.

All sponsors will also be listed in our Special Newsletter

Please return this form and payment no later than September 7, 2021

If you have a logo or artwork you would like to send us please email it to: themainefest@gmail.com

Please check one of the above boxes to indicate your level of sponsorship and fill out the form on the next page.

Business/Individual Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment method: Check or money order payable to NVHS, Amount: _____
 Cash

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, PO Box 75, Maine, NY 13802
Janet W. Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road Maine NY
<http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com/> ~ Phone ~ 607-232-0702
NVHS is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization. Tax EIN # 23-7169492

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com



The Tiny Hamlet of Maine, NY

by Richards Barons

Victorian Homes Magazine Winter 1987 p. 22-25

The tiny hamlet of Maine, in New York's Southern Tier, is nestled between the trees walls of the Nanticoke Valley. Not far from the high-tech pursuits of nearby Binghamton, this little town has changed only slightly since the end of the nineteenth century. Just off the beaten path, railroads and super highways never brought Maine in the race that has propelled the rest of this area into the computer age.

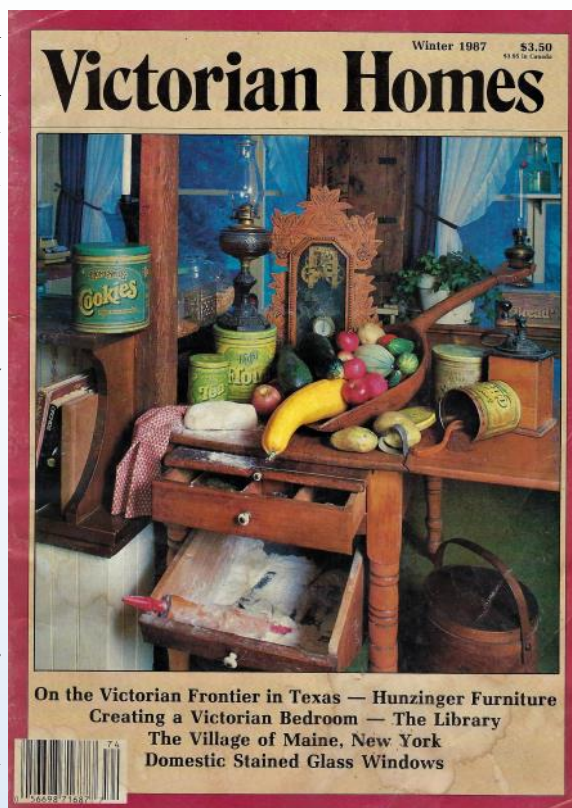
As you drive up Main Street today, a sense of quiet begins to transform this snugly-fit valley village into a rural hideaway. The huge, over-hanging maple trees shade the narrow street from the bright sun. Behind the houses, the valley walls are visible. Nothing seems hurried. Wicker rockers move gently in the breeze, making sounds on the verandah floor.

Main Street architecture dates from the teens in the nineteenth century up until the first decade of the twentieth. This is not a town of mansions. Even the larger homes lack the resplendent details that are often associated with the revival styles of the post Civil War and the building boom. Not that Maine is razor sharp in severity of plainness, rather there is a sparse and spare approach to decorative detail. The strong geometric shapes stand with simple verge boards or small lace-trimmed porches—these house look like buds about to open, rather than the full-blossoming styles from the 1850's on.

There is a square-faced honesty about Maine's homes that reflects hard work and living rather than luxury. This is a town in which rocky soil fights the farmer and church hymns mix with the echoes of Civil War marching songs. Those who had the money for ornament certainly did have ornament. The front doors are often rich in moldings and carved motifs, and over-hanging roof lines are often verge-boarded. The living that the nineteenth-century owners of these houses followed was most often geared to the local land. Mills aground grain and sawed lumber, fresh-cut from the surrounding hills. Even bark off the trunks of the hemlocks helped dictate and industry—tanning. Creameries abounded ; there was a carriage works and a busy rake factory. In 1878, a shopper in town could visit four general stores, two drug stores, two shoe shops, two blacksmiths, and two wagon repair shops, as well as a tin shop, flour and feed store, millinery shop, furniture store, post office and hotel.

When Maine was organized in 1848, the population was 1,800. In 1880, a peak in the census was made with a listing of 2,129 people, an increase of little over 300 people in 30 years. Maine was out of the mainstream. The population began to decline in 1880, and in 1915 there were fewer people living in the town than when the town fathers set aside and organized Maine. But by the 1940's, the town began to be reborn.

The old houses that had changed little from the time they were built began to be viewed no as out-of-date, but rather charming. There was a national trend toward recreating the atmosphere of the small town; the caring and sharing that seemed to be missing in the suburban web that engulfs the once-green borders of the nearby city. (continued next page)



Continued: The Tiny Hamlet of Maine NY

Maine's old houses began to sport new painted exteriors, and old storefronts began to open their closed shutters to a wide variety of shops and businesses. But always the sense of the old blended to make the new harmonize. By the end of the 1960's, an historical society was born, and it has helped guide Maine into its refurbished best. The town did not really need to be restored, just pulled up by the boot straps.

Today, Maine looks like the clock stopped. On summer evenings, the town band plays in the pagoda in the town square, as it has since 1873. Church socials are very much part of the town's way of life. The carriages of yesterday are now Japanese cars, but Maine is an ideal hometown — a perfect marriage of the best of two centuries. And it is the buildings that this life feeds on. Those simple and strong dream house of 1875 or 1864 are now symbols of our modern dreams. Our search for peace and self-pride are mirrored in the same architectural looking glass that our great-great grandparents used — the Victorian home.



This reprint from Victorian Homes Winter 1987 written by Richard Barons, certainly reaches into the soul of our small town. This thirty year old essay is still true today and I hope that you enjoy it as much as I do when you read it. Phil Childs

Problem Students/Student's Problems **Problem Students/Student's Problems** by anita alkinburg shipway 4/2021

The classroom teacher set her in front
because she didn't see well

The music teacher saw she was tall
and stood her in back,
so others could see

and in another room she was placed in a
corner
with kids who couldn't pay attention.
C'est la vie!

Preserving Our Legacy—The Pagoda

The town's 125th anniversary celebration in 1973 introduced a "new" Pagoda. This symbol of our town needs repairs. The NVHS is asking the town to allow us to start a fundraising event so that the NVHS can **BRING THE PAGODA BACK**. When



you stop by Museum after the Memorial Day Parade look donate money to this fund (Jars will be available) Our hope is to keep Lil and Clarence Ames' gift to the town in great shape and to have a fund to keep it in shape forever.



Join us at the Janet Bowers Museum this summer to enjoy a wonderful display of woodcarving creativity.

Jim Howenstein, a former Maine resident who passed away in 2007, left behind an extensive collection of award-winning carvings. He started



woodworking in the 1970s, focusing mainly on water fowl and entering his ducks in various shows throughout New York and Maryland. Jim also produced many hand-carved folk-art objects and furnishings that he gifted to family and friends over the years, some of which will be on display—including a carousel horse.

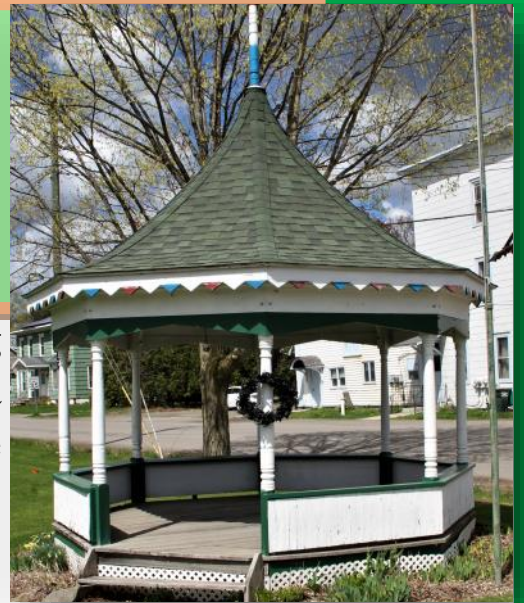
The Jim Howenstein exhibit opens this Memorial Day at the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society’s Janet Bowers Museum and runs through September. Stop by and see this captivating collection of hand carved creations. J.L.

IN MEMORIAM

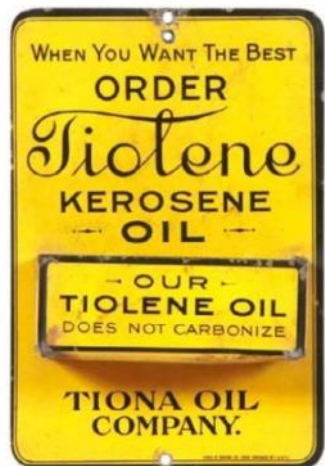


Lil Ames April 3, 2021

NVHS has a tradition of hanging mourning wreaths on the front doors of its buildings when a member of the society passes. Andrea Eichorn of the Country Wagon Produce made these wreaths for us. Thanks



Tiona, NY



The next time you drive down Tiona Road ask yourself a few things!
1. Where is the location of Tiona 2. Why was it called Tiona?

The location of Tiona was about 3.4 miles from the intersection of Tiona Road and Nanticoke Road. ””Tiona—originally was McIntyre settlement named after Marcina H. McIntyre and family who settled there in 1840’s—ran several saw mills. Also called North Maine. Now is Tiona— named after the **Tiona Kerosene Company** who at that time delivered kerosene to that area—the store there received a free barrel of kerosene for naming the post office after them in the 1880’s.” p. 9

“Tiona School, on Tiona Road was built before 1865 and was used until 1940.” p. 32 from Shirley Woodward Maine NY 1973 book.

Photo Courtesy © Wm Morford Auctions Morfauction.com

Additions to last issues information on churches

At the end of your article on churches March 2021 "They Once Reached to Heaven" you asked "What other churches did I miss? Let me know." Dick and Charles Baldwin sent the following additions. Thanks Phil

Nanticoke (Once Lamb's Corners) Churches In addition to the Methodist Church in Nanticoke which you wrote about, there was (and still is) a Baptist Church. Attached is a history I wrote about the Baptist Church for its 150th anniversary back in 2003 as well as a history I wrote about the Methodist Church for its 150th anniversary back in 2001 (pdfs).

There once was a Congregational Society in Lamb's Corners/Nanticoke. I have found no record of a Congregational Church other than the record of an 1885 deed signed by Marcus E. Rigby, "only surviving Trustee of the late Congregational Society," and others representing "the Several Religious Societies of Lamb's Corners."

Please note that Gerry Smith in his "Partners All, A History of Broome County, New York," placed, incorrectly, the Nanticoke Methodist Church in Glen Aubrey rather than in Nanticoke.

Glen Aubrey Churches Also missing from the listing of Nanticoke Valley churches are Glen Aubrey churches. Glen Aubrey had early Christian and Methodist Churches with a Baptist Church coming on the scene later. From a variety of sources:

- The Christian Church was organized in 1857. The church edifice was built in 1866. My great, great grandfather, Edward Tyler, was pastor at the time the building was erected. (Note: Some records incorrectly indicate that he was pastor when the church was organized). The building ceased to be used as a church in the 1920s, was later used as a community hall and was demolished in 1945.
- The Methodist Church building was erected in 1867 (Note: There is some discrepancy in the records as to when the church was organized, some reporting it was organized in 1867, others reporting that organization details are unknown.). The Methodist Church building still stands today.

The Methodist Church building once housed the Christian Church congregation for a time and more recently is occupied by the Baptist Church which is reported to have entered into a "New 99 year lease secured from the former M.E. Trustees, effective October, 1956" ("Highlights of History of the Glen Aubrey Baptist Church - October 19, 1969 and a "Supplement").

*** Carol Lee wrote that Union Center United Methodist Church located at 128 Maple Drive in Union Center will celebrate its 200 year anniversary in 2022.

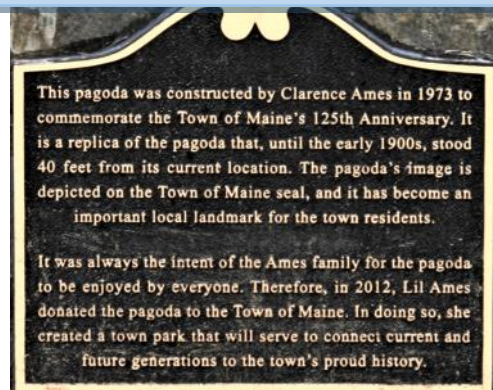


1972



12. 2021

9



Two Southern Tier Connections to England.

Dr. Clement Gray Bowers Met Queen Mother Elizabeth

“He was a founding member of the Men's Garden Club of Binghamton, and vice-president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. In 1932 he was chairman of plant breeding section of the 6th International Congress of Genetics. **In 1949 he was presented to the Queen Mother Elizabeth as an outstanding American Scientist. He was a fellow at the Royal Horticultural of Great Britain and a fellow of the American Society for the Advancement of Science**” Obituary 12 Apr 1973 (aged 79) Johnson City, B... 12.22.1893-4.12.1973



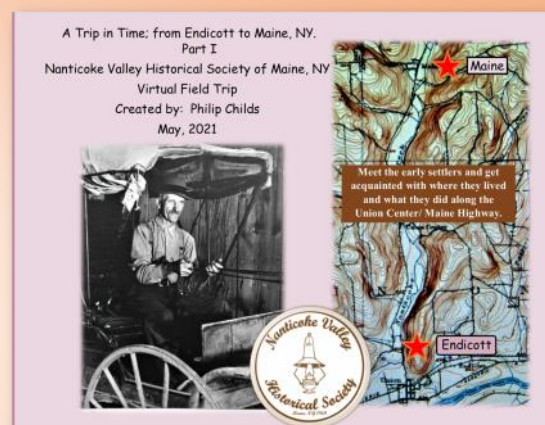
A gift fit for a princess

The wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten took place on **November 20, 1947**, at Westminster Abbey. The princess, who would one day become Queen Elizabeth II, received over 2,500 wedding presents from all over the world. One such gift was this **engraved Steuben crystal Merry-Go-Round bowl designed by Sidney Waugh** and given to Princess Elizabeth by President Harry S. Truman and his wife Bess. In addition to the Truman's' gift, Ambassador Lewis W. Douglas and his wife Peggy gave the couple 12 Steuben Audubon plates. <https://blog.cmog.org/2016/11/18/a-gift-fit-for-a-princess/>



A Trip Up NY Route 26 – Part 1: from West Corners to the hamlet of Maine: Hosted by Phil Childs - Let's take a ride up NY Route 26 in this entertaining and detailed look at the historic structures and the people that worked and lived along this historic stretch of road. Admission: FREE. Monday May 17 at 7PM

Registration is required go to our website www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com and you will find the registration form for this program..



My Old Sled

By Millicent Hust

“What am I bid?” said the auctioneer!
“What am I bid for the sled?”
But times were hard and money was dear
So nobody nodded their head

Well the auctioneer was nobody’s fool
He intended to make the sale
So first he threw in a milking stool
And then he threw in the pail

A small man pushed to the edge of the crowd
To a place where he could see
He raised his hand and called real loud
“A dollar-twenty-five for all three!”

A one-twenty-five? Going once! Going twice!
But nobody challenged this sale
So my father bought a stool that was nice
The sled and an old milking pail

That flexible flyer became our pride
The fastest sled on the hill
No one could beat us though many tried
And I still remember the thrill

Seems like the nights were colder then
My nose and toes would sting
But we’d go right back out again
And make those runners sing

I look at that old sled once in a while
And remember that old pollard hill
Where we could ride for more than a mile
When the snow was hard and still

Nowhere on earth is the moon so bright
Nowhere are the skies more clear
Stars shine down with a blue-white light
You can almost touch they’re so near

This creek is a satin ribbon below
Winds sigh in our old pine tree
The earth lies hushed in a blanket of snow
And it’s waiting there – for me”



A few years ago Anita Shipway heard Millicent Hust read this poem

Millicent E “Penny” *Carley* Hust
1925—2015

Penny was born in 1925 and grew up in Maine, NY. She retired from IBM and was a member of the Binghamton Poetry Club. She traveled with Art and collected rocks from all over the country

Spring Antique Engine Show Saturday May 15th 9AM to 3 PM
Location Country Wagon Produce on 2859 Route 26
Sponsored by the Southern Tier Gas and Steam Engine Association
Free Admission

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Dues: _____ \$20.00 Individual _____ \$35.00 Family _____ \$20 Senior/Student _____ \$50 Patron _____ \$100 Business _____ Other _____

Newsletter: Mailed or Electronic

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Name: _____ Date _____