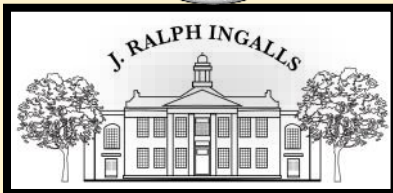


Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2022 Newsletter # 1 March

edited by Phil Childs

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com



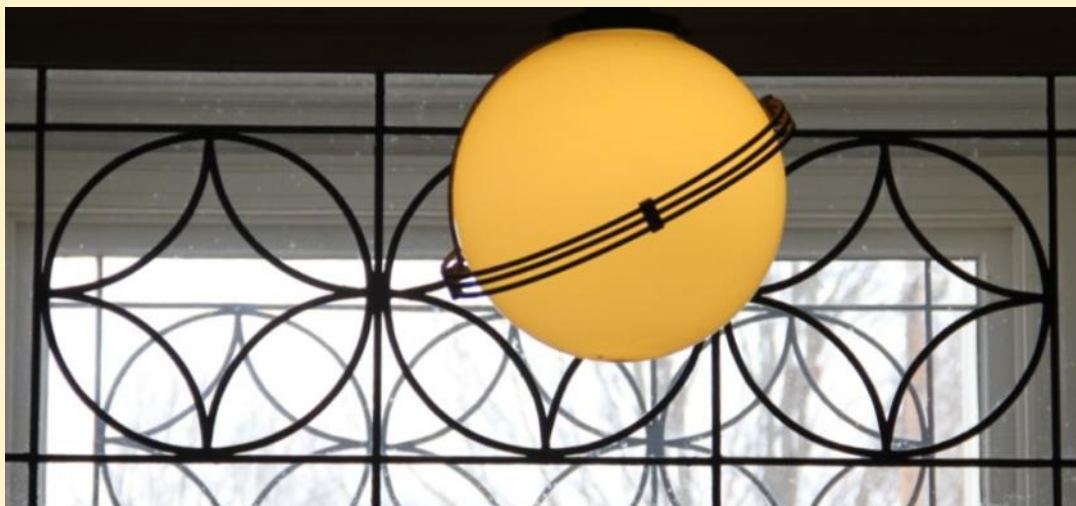
<u>Officers 2022</u>		
President:	Gordon Gottlieb	232-0702
Vice President:	Joanne Weir	239-1020
Secretary:	Sylvia Ward	242-3523
Treasurer:	Judy Kunz	862-3410
Fundraising/Special Events:	Jeff Egan	862-5033
Media & Content Director:	Phil Childs	862-3405
Museum Curator:	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator:	Luke Kaczynski	239-8009
Town of Maine Historian:	Susan H. Lisk	

The Board of Trustees*
Emeritus: Nancy Berry, Sandy Rozek, Anita Shipway
2022: Linda Hansen, Bob Lawler, Rita McKeon
2023: Kerin Flannery, Lynn Ross, Brenda Stolarcyk
2024: Bill Austin, Phil Childs, Christine Clifton-Kendall
* 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.



Demisemiseptcentennial in 2023

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J. Ralph Ingalls
school lobby

“The following newspaper report was found in an 1883 scrapbook: "Eighteen hundred and seventeen for a good man years referred to as the greatest sap season ever known. A few days before the seventeenth day of April of that year there had been a cold disagreeable storm when it suddenly turned very cold. On the seventeenth when it seemed too cold for sap to flow it commenced to running and freezing to the spouts and continued to run till icicles were formed from the spouts to the tubs as large as a man's arm. Nor did he flow cease when the tums were full. The boiling apparatus was driven to its full extent and the storages were filled. The sap still run, run 'til the tubs could hold no more. It is said that the sap, that sap lost upon the ground at that sap run raised the waters of the Nanticoke creek.” In the image above, an unidentified man is collecting sap.” Sue Lisk *Images of America Maine and the Nanticoke Valley*. P. 57



“Excursion to the Sap House,” 1973, During the spring many farms collected sap and made maple syrup. This one is possibly the sugar shack behind Mr. Durfee's farm off of Nanticoke Road. C. Stratton 1973

PRESIDENTS PAGE

Hello Members and Friends of NVHS,

Spring is right around the corner, and we have an ambitious spring, summer, and fall ahead of us. We are going to finish painting at the museum, stabilize the waterway underneath the mill, run power to the one room schoolhouse, and begin our renovations of the Norton Carriage Shops and grounds. The Carriage Shops' have a unique history, and we are excited to put this site back in circulation.

We are also going to put finishing touches on the pagoda that we stabilized and painted last summer. We are awaiting a final property line survey from the town to finish the landscaping around the pagoda, and thanks to your generous donations, we have set aside money to continue to maintain the pagoda over the years.

As usual we will be hosting our Memorial Day BBQ, the Maine Fest, Plein Air Painting classes, and we are hoping to restart our coffeehouses if COVID fades away. We produced some new cooking videos and we, are finishing up a new video that features how to make Paper Doll Garland. We'll continue to produce new videos featuring cooking and crafts.

We are delighted to offer several book and pamphlet projects that feature photo collections, spotlights on our sites, and local art, history, and poetry. These are in the final stages, and we'll announce them on our website and Facebook page when they are available. We hope you'll support our projects and purchase some of these when we offer them on our website, at our museum and a few other locations; Country Wagon Produce and Hust Roost Farm in Glen Aubrey.

In addition to all the above, we have the opportunity to take over the J Ralph Ingalls School. The school has been generously offered to us by Mike McKilligan who passed away recently. Mike was a great supporter of the Historical Society and ever the teacher and progressive thinker. He bought the old school when it was in disrepair and has spent thousands of hours upgrading it in hopes that the community will start to use it again. Mike was hoping that once the gas lines were put in it would be able to be occupied and heated efficiently. The day the gas lines were run to J Ralph Ingalls, Mike passed away. He left us with a great opportunity and a tremendous challenge. This historical society would like to see the school, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, be used in the way Mike dreamed it would be used. We will do all we can to preserve the building and create a bustling site for the people in the community to enjoy, learn, and celebrate. Not a day goes by that we don't think of both opportunities and challenges Mike has put in front of us. As we move forward in this journey, we hope you will support our efforts as we work with his estate and many friends to put the site back into service for our community.

I hope the above encourages you to please renew your 2022 membership by going to our website or by filling out the form in this newsletter and mailing it. Also, please think about volunteering when we put out calls for help.

I'd like to welcome our new trustees and officers and thank our ever-loyal former trustees and officers who still help us by continuing to volunteer and advise us.

Thank you,
Gordie



BECOME A MEMBER

Together we will make a difference!

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society has been an active part of the community since 1969. Our members make up a vibrant group of individuals and businesses who are interested in preserving the history and the historic sites within the Nanticoke Valley and Broome County, New York.

These are just a few of the benefits you will receive as a member: •

Invitation to attend special member-only events •

Priority notification and registration for events, presentations, field trips and workshops •

Discounts on select publications •

Subscription to the NVHS's digital Newsletter •

Opportunity to become involved with restoration projects and a variety of programs and events

• *Build a sense of community belonging as you share experiences and ideas with other friendly and knowledgeable people •*

Be an active part of the growing number of people who value and study our local history!

Please join us as, together, we delve into our past in the hopes of bettering the future of our community. In the words of one of our members: "I joined the NVHS so that I can support a place where my children can see and experience what it was like during the times that my grandparents lived here. We are so lucky to have these historical buildings in our town." JM

Memberships renew on a yearly basis each January, however, members are welcome to join at any time during the year.

Please call **Joanne at 607 239-1020** if you have any questions about joining.

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine, NY Our 53rd Year

OUR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING CONTINUES ONLINE

For the time being we will continue to provide virtual programming to you through our popular online "**Cooking Up the Creek**" video series. Just in case you missed "**A Heart Healthy Pie Crust**" or "**How to Make Kolachki Cookies,**" please be sure to visit our website to view these easy 'how-to' videos. We will soon be releasing the newest episode featuring Sandy Rozek and the art of making paper dolls. Please watch our Facebook page and website for up to date information as new releases are available to view.

If you've got an idea for an episode and would like to participate in a video presentation highlighting something you enjoy doing, please contact Joanne Weir at 607-239-1020 or jweir551@gmail.com. This program is specifically intended to preserve cooking, crafting, gardening (and more!) techniques of a time past. Help us keep these traditions alive! Filming can take place in your home, at the museum, or at some other appropriate and convenient location.



MIKE

Who Will Fill These Shoes?

Work is done, day is through-
who knew this was the last God would have him do?

Shoes and clothes spattered with paint-
the work he did would make him a saint.

Paint-splattered clothes laid carefully in a chair-
in hopes of the next day, he would certainly be there.

The vision and dream had now come to an end-
the torch, (a paintbrush) now handed to his friends.

Carousel horses lined up along the wall-
only he knew what would eventually be their call.

Pianos and organs of every size and shape-
not one from the auctions could ever escape.

The irreparable damage of the gym floor-
was enough to rip your heart out by the core.

A bid was waiting from the old Hooper School-
he knew exactly what was needed, he was no fool.

Long hours of labor went into each board to sand-
restoring the gym floor singly by hand.

He saw a bargain that would fit his vision-
there would be no need for further decision.

From his lofty perch in that 'ol boom truck-
he would be faced with a problem when the remote would be stuck.

He would have to rely on his close friend Sandy-
give her a buzz, to come push the button, that would be handy.

He was more than generous to our fine town-
keeping traditions for generations to be bound.

So here we are standing at the crossroads of a decision-
do we remain idle, or do we go on with his vision?

-Sylvia Ward February 2022



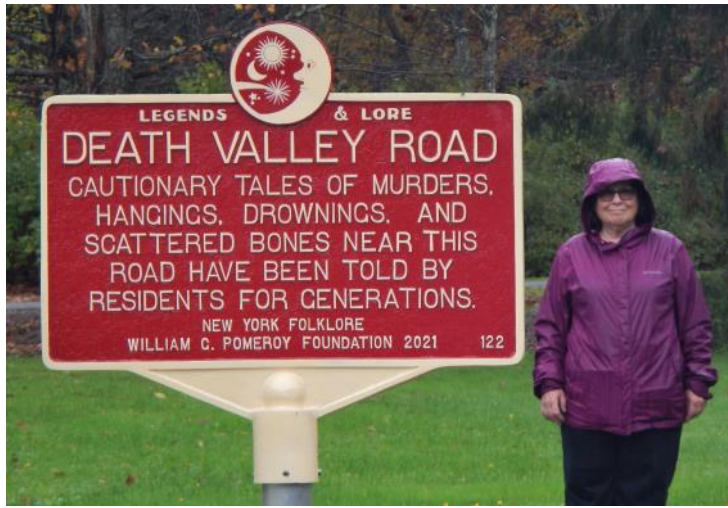
Michael T. McKilligan
1938-2021



J. RALPH INGALLS SCHOOL

The next time you drive past *Death Valley Road* you might spot “the old stranger”. He was been part of the area, walking the road, since it was first formed, ask him why Death Valley? And he will tell you all about the stories that existed for over one hundred years . OR you

can read the Historic Marker which our historian Sue Lisk obtained from a grant she applied for to the Pomeroy Foundation, Legends & Lore



roadside markers. It was dedicated October 16, 2021 when “the old stranger” (Luke Kaczynski) spoke to about 75 interested town members who showed up to hear all the stories. Thank you Luke and Sue.

NEXT YEAR MARKS THE TOWN'S DEMISEMISEPTCENTENNIAL (175th Anniversary)

NVHS Trustee **Lynn Ross** and Vice President **Joanne Weir** will co-chair the Town of Maine's 175th anniversary celebration in 2023. The historical society will be working closely with the Town, community members, our schools and businesses to develop a weekend of fun for the entire community. The event will take place next year on Memorial Day weekend, May 26, 27 and 28. Festivities will include a host of activities including a town parade, a community musical production, a beard growing contest, house and garden tours, old time games, a dinner and square dance, and much much more!

We are at the early planning stages and are welcoming individuals who are willing to take an active role as committee chairs. There are many opportunities to become a part of this historical event - how would you like to help? Please contact Lynn 748—1665 or Joanne 239-1020 to sign up or discuss any questions or ideas.

Semiquincentennial.

We will also join the rest of the United States in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026, also called the Semiquincentennial. New York State's plans are already in the works for this event. As Town of Maine Historian one of the activities I am planning to do is apply for a grant for a marker commemorating the Revolutionary War veterans buried in Maine Cemetery.

We will be enjoying these events in no time. Sue Lisk

The NVHS stretches from Union Center to the Town of Nanticoke. Approximately 12 miles.



The Biggest Little Town in
Broome County

3.18.1831



SERVICE AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL

3.16.1791



Proud of the Past
Trusting in the Future

3.27.1848



3.28.1806

The Story of the Town of Nanticoke Logos R. H. Baldwin May 25, 2021 Origins of the Town's Logo

“The origins of both the letterhead and the website versions of town logos can be traced to 1981 when Nanticoke was preparing to celebrate its sesquicentennial. The Town of Nanticoke, though settled earlier, was created on **April 18, 1831** when it, the Town of Barker and the Town of Triangle were set off from the town of Lisle. In anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the town, a committee was formed to help raise funds and to plan for a sesquicentennial celebration in 1981”.

Union Center “The hamlet of Union Center was established near the north line of the Town of Union, on the Nanticoke Creek, approximately four miles north of the village of Union, via the Union-Maine Highway. It is difficult to determine the exact date that the first settlers came to Union Center. Available records indicate that it was sometime in 1792 that Abner Rockwell settled near Union Center and a second settler, Elnathan Norton, from Stockbridge, Conn., settled three miles east of Union Center where he stayed only a few years then moving to Union Village to open a tavern.....Medad Bradley came to Union Center from Berkshire, Mass., to settle at the center in about 1792-1793. Elisha Bradley, also of Berkshire, Mass., arrived in Union center in 1793. The name of Bradley is still significant in Union Center, the creek and a road bears the name of Bradley.” by James V.; Photography by E. J. Hausman & Joseph F. Buran Fiori (Author) *A History of the Town of Union: its settlement, growth and development*, Bicentennial Edition Hardcover – January 1, 1990

Maine, NY The first settler Benjamin Norton and his family arrived in 1794. They settled where today’s Tiona and Nanticoke Road intersect. **March 27th, 1848, the township of Maine was formed from the township of Union.** Eight years later a small portion of the northeastern part was set off to Chenango, leaving 28,429 acres, which comprises its territory at the present time. The seal and motto were created in 1973.

- 1780 settlers in Hooper (Endwell) Amos Patterson and Col. Robert Hooper, from New Jersey, settled in the region in the 1780s
- 9.3.1783 Official end of American revolution with signing of Treaty of Paris with Great Britain.
- 1786 Boston Purchase formed, The **Boston Ten Townships** refers to an area of 230,400 acres (932 km²) in Tioga County and Broome County, New York State
- 7.26.1788 New York State formed.
- 1789 George Washington 1st President April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797
- 3.16.1791 Town of Union and Tioga formed from dividing Tioga County. Vestal separated 3.23.1823 and Town of Maine
- Broome County March 28, 1806 named for the American Revolutionary leader John Broome.

“GOING TO SCHOOL IN THE FIFTIES”

BY

Sylvia Ward

Who was Ollie Ketchum?

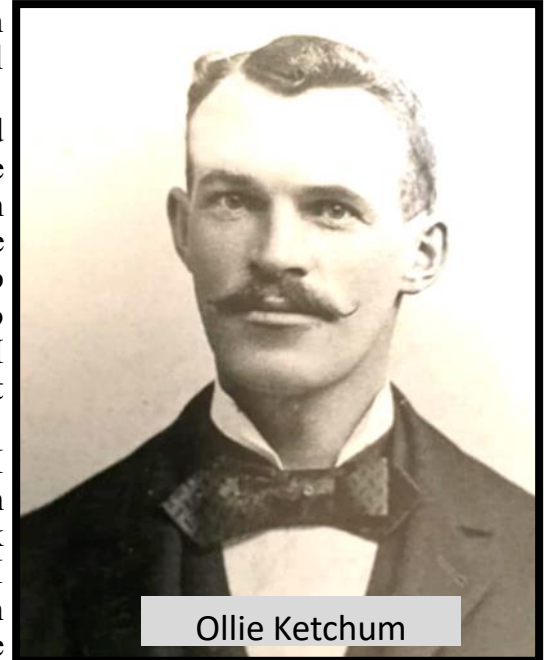
Back when I grew up in grade school, I had the misfortune of sporting a unusual name, which opened the door to teasing. My name was Sylvia Wasylsyln, which was quickly changed to “Silver Wash the dishes” thanks to the McGregor clan up the road. Oh and it was not that I was totally innocent, for I too indulged in my share of the translation of names to my fellow victims. Well that’s what kids did back then.

Back in the 1950’s we had men bus drivers, women did not come on board until early 60’s if my memory served me correctly. There was Lawrence Walter, Ivan Lee, Colburn Young, Carl Harmon and Burt Nelson to name a few. I’m sure it included some Corsons and Kaczynski too. Their main job was to get us to and from school safely, not to involve too much in the bus drama, within reason. With a name like mine, I was thankful I was the last to be picked up and the first to get off. So the torment was limited!

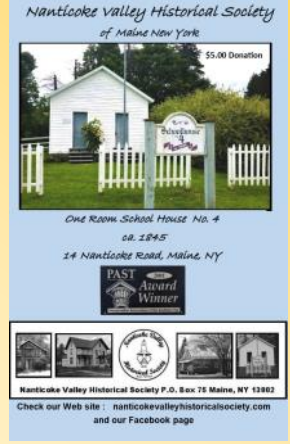
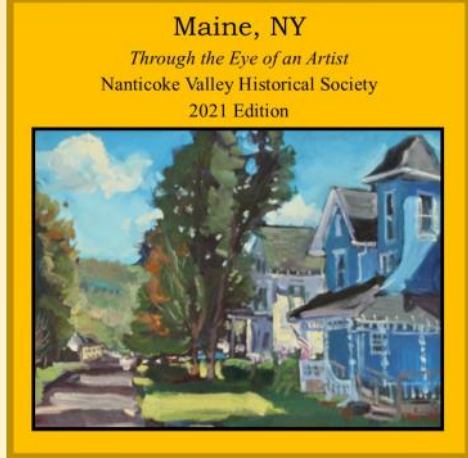
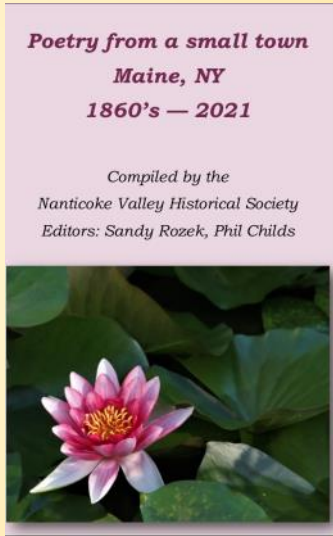
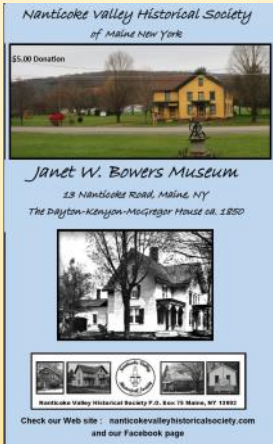
Well then I got new glasses, being so proud because I now looked studious and smart! Which was short lived when “Ralphie” got a look at them. The name changing took a back seat as his eyes lit up and announced to the whole bus, that I looked like an “owl” ! Oh but that was not good enough, it then evolved to “owl lee”! Then on to “Ollie Ketchum” “Yes” he exclaimed, above the noise and clamor, “that’s it! Ollie Ketchum”. This went on day after day, week after week! I soon hated those glasses, as much as he loved picking on me about them. I would stomp past him muttering “shut up Ralphie” as I would think to myself “who the heck was Ollie Ketchum anyway!” My mind just assumed he was a old crotchety man in town with spectacles. For many years I carried this self-imposed image as I grew up. Loathing those glasses, loathing the name “Ollie Ketchum”

But many years later, I was perusing a book the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society put together, lo and behold there in front of my eyes was a picture of Ollie Ketchum!!!! As I pondered and gazed upon the page, I came to the full realization this was quite an astute and accomplished man. He was a town justice, town clerk, town historian and s lineman for the phone company. But no glasses, where are the glasses? Did he sport them in his later years? Or was the “owl” image so strong that a kid had naturally gravitated to the name “Ollie”. Who knows? And it was not like I was crippled and needed counseling for years because of it. Back then we had a saying “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me”

But words can have a lasting impression that may tarnish our own self-image. My whole perspective was polished and shined that day many years later as I gazed and read that little historical book about Ollie Ketchum. Back then bullying took a different form. You could escape it just by stepping off the bus. Not today, it’s ugly fingers dig deeper and follow you into your home. The convenience of a hand held device can keep the torment going 24/7 if we let it. These devices are designed to be attractive and addictive, which makes it hard to put down. Have one in my hand right now! We need to protect our children and be diligent in what is put in their mind. As a man thinketh so is he. Clean eating is not just for your body but for your mind too! Oh by the way Ralphie now wears glasses!



NVHS new publications available soon:



1. **Poetry from a small town Maine, NY 1860's—2021** Over one hundred pages of poetry written by members of the community. This includes childrens poetry developed this year. In a project sponsored by Broome County Arts Council .
2. **Maine, NY Through the Eyes of an Artist** . Plein air artists 2019 –2021 Over 30 original painting of the hamlet and countryside. Support from Broome County Airs Council
3. & 4. **Two new pamphlets** covering the history of; the **1845 one room school house** and our **1850 museum building**.

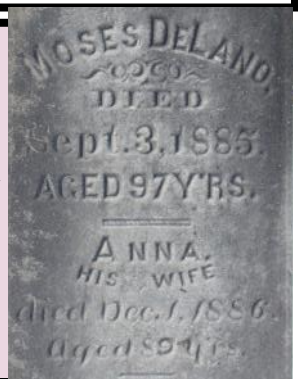
IN MEMORIAM



Dale C. Berry August 16th 2021
Michael T. "Mike" McKilligan November 29th 2021

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2023—Sue Lisk

It's never too early to plan for the 175th anniversary edition of **HISTORY IN THE HEADSTONES-MAINE FOUNDING FATHERS**, One of the activities planned for the 175th events. Once again our costumed actors will be back to tell about our early pioneers that settled in our area. Several of these hardy souls are buried in Maine Cemetery and will share their story of their interesting lives with you. Last year was our first trip back in time. I am sure this time will be even better and more exciting!



A Berry Nice Town Indeed!

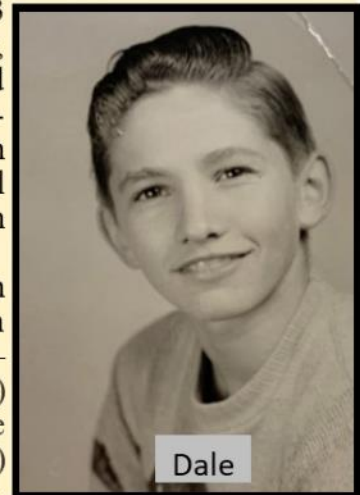
The town of Maine is touted as a great place to live and raise children. This article will focus on one family that arrived in Maine in the 1930's and became an integral part of the community. It starts with a young man living in North Bangor, NY which is four times closer to Montreal, Canada than to Maine NY. Clarence Berry (1904 - 1994) was looking for a teaching job. He got a job in Endwell, NY in a one room school house which was located close to today's Highland park. He met Minerva (1911—1999) who grew up in the town of Nanticoke and was working on a farm which was located where Highland park is today. They met, married and raised a family as Clarence worked in different school districts after Endwell including: Potsdam, Harpursville, Maine and retiring from Union Endicott schools. He was a math teacher, drivers education teacher and principal. He and Mineva had five children: Jean Ash, William (Bill), Dale, Nancy L. Berry and Kaye B. Pedigo. The home that they lived until 1998, was 1 Maple Ave. A house which can be traced back to 1820. Clarence had an immense home garden and constantly worked. On the same street many of the Berry's later lived; 4 Maple (Podest family) , 5 Maple Bill and Nancy Berry and family (3 children), 53 Lewis (Jean Berry Ash, Dick and family, 45 Lewis St., Dale & Carol Berry and family. For a time 8 of Clarence and Minerva's grandchildren would walk down Maple Ave. past his home to the Central School (J. Ralph Ingalls School) on Church Street.



Clarence Berry



Dale & Carol Podest Berry



Dale

Church Street.

Dale Berry recently died (August 16, 2021 where he lived in Phoenix Arizona. They left Maine in order to live in a climate which was healthier for their son Ricky (1960—1973). Dale C. (1934—2021), Carol A. (1937—2007) are survived by daughters Chris (Bob)

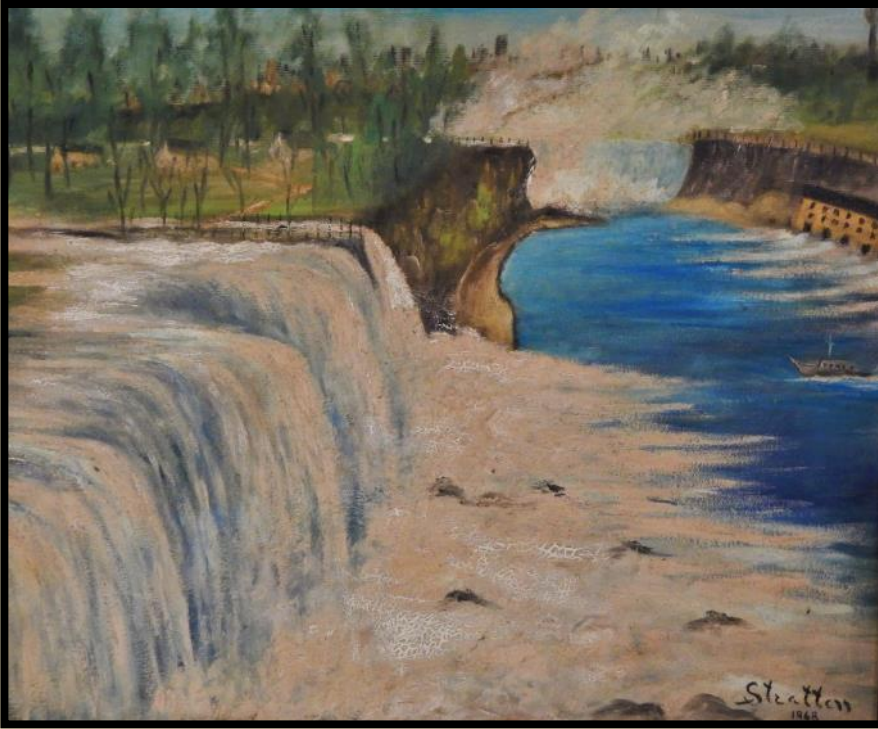


Minerva & Clarence 1982

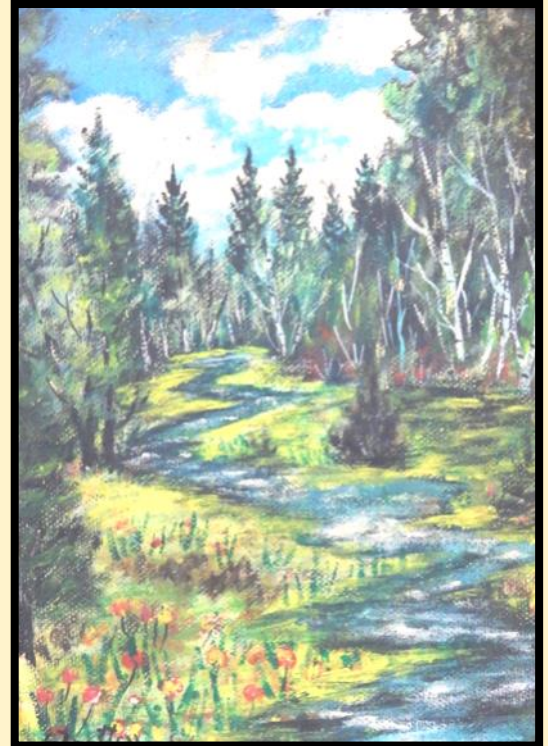
Horner and Lynne Berry, three grandchildren Jennifer (Jeff) Hoelzel, Tyler (Haley) Horner, Trent (Whitney) Horner, 8 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters, Nancy Berry and Kaye Pedigo.

When Clarence applied for his first teaching job in the 1930's his future was totally open. His offspring grew up in Maine, married and raised families. A few descendants still live here in Maine, still actively engaged with families and the total community. I'm referring to Nancy Berry (3 children) (McGregor Ave.) who along with Meagan & Kyle Kost (3 children) living at 5 Maple and Lorrie and Kerin Flannery on Lewis St. (4 children) have continued to the add to the motto of Maine ("Proud of the past and trusting in the future").

From the Curator Sue Lisk



Niagara Falls 3.1968



Mountain Birch 3.1969 Painting #339

“These paintings were given to NVHS on December 15th by Roxanne Smith from Whitney Point. Mountain Birch was painted May 22, 1969 and was a wedding gift from Mr. Stratton to Roxanne and her husband. The other one was commissioned by her parents Niagara Falls painted 3-18-68. Clarence Stratton’s daughter, was of friend of the family. Roxanne’s dad worked at a lumber yard and was the source of the Masonite that Clarence used for his paintings.” S. Lisk C. Stratton created over 400 paintings during his short art career.

The Cyrus Gates Farmstead on Old Nanticoke road was listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1999 and its fame as a stop on the underground railroad is well known. This role started in 1848 and continued until 1865. However this is not about this historic locations underground railroad station but about its **outhouse**. It was listed as the largest family outhouse in Broome county. This four seater has stood proudly on this property for over one hundred and seventy years!



Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

March, 2022 Issue # 1

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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Name: _____ Date _____