

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2017 Newsletter # 2 May *edited by Phil Childs*



1850

1830

1840

1845



THE MILL ISSUE



TABLE OF CONTENTS 2017 Issue # 2 5/17

- 1 Table of Contents, The Mill Issue.
- 2 Photos: Inside the Mill
- 3 Brief History Slosson to Pitcher
- 4 1994 History by Tom Kotasek
5. 1837 Map of Mill
6. Artistic Interpretation (2)
7. Deed History of Property by Sheril and Jerry Green
8. 1836 Deed; Save the Mill
9. Programs
10. Join Us!



**Pitcher's Mill ca. 1830
2819 NYS Route 26 Maine, NY**

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* 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.



Mill viewed from Nanticoke Creek

Finished flour travels down a shoot and is loaded into bags and or barrels.



1868 D. Howard and E.O Howard 1866 Graffiti



The belts get their "power" from the water wheel. The wheel was in the lower area and was vertical. The water struck the wheel in the middle which turned a series of belts. The belts turned gears which powered the various machines needed to grind grains.

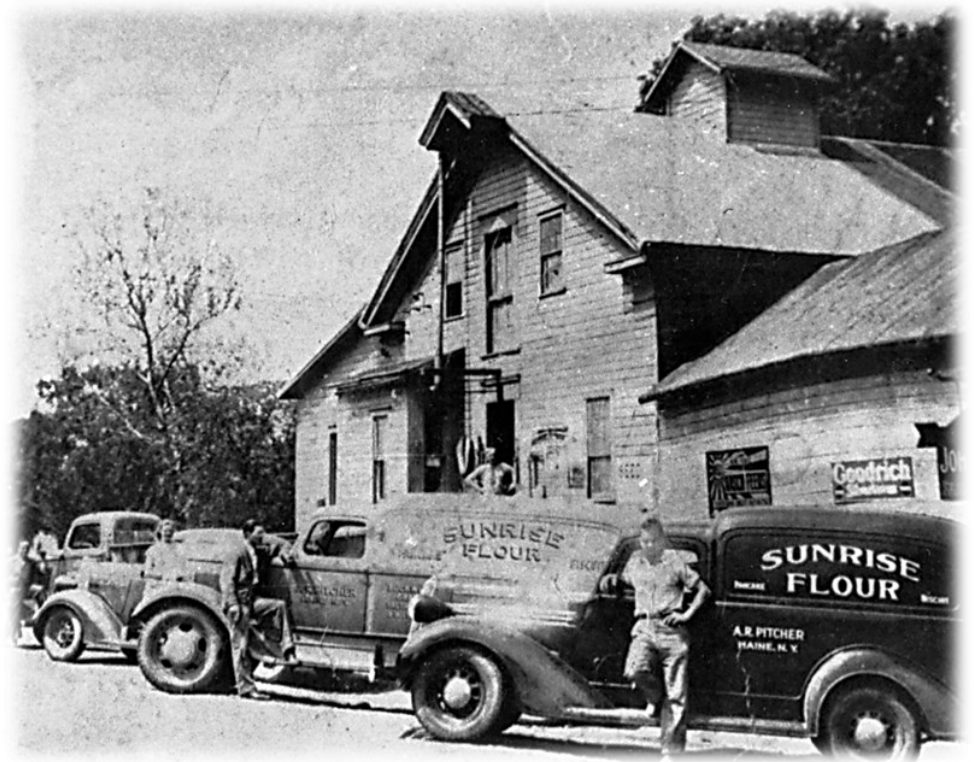


Grinding mill stone operated in pairs separated by just a few millimeters. As the turned the grain was ground into flour. Many of the mill stones are made of granite and were shipped into the area from New England.

**Pitcher's Grist Mill
2819 NYS Route 26,
donated to NVHS in 1988.**

**WHO BUILT
PITCHER'S MILL ?**

It was Daniel Slosson who died in 1853 at 41 years of age. Pitcher's Mill was ca. 1830 by Belden and Daniel Slosson. Archie Pitcher owned the mill from 1925 - 1941 and gave his name to the building. The mill closed in 1955. When the mill was built **Andrew Jackson** was our 7th president. He held office from March 4, 1829 to March 4, 1837.



Grist Mill what did it make? "A gristmill (also: grist mill, corn mill or flour mill) grinds grain into flour. The term can refer to both the grinding mechanism and the building that holds it." One of the main products was animal feed. The flour was of high quality and in 1849 was shipped to California. From 1925 to 1941 it was owned and operated by Archie Pitcher. After 1941 the mill was powered by an electric motor. The Lainhart family owned and operated the mill from 1945 to 1955. The mill no longer operated after that and the electric motor was sold to New Hope Mills in Moravia NY where it still operates. The Weld family owned the mill and mill keepers house where they lived. Mr. Weld was a professor at Harpur College. In 1985 the Bowers Foundation purchased the mill with the hope of restoring it. The Bowers Foundation donated the mill to the NVHS in 1988 and the rest as they say is history thanks to Tom Kotasek and many volunteers. The mill is open for touring on Sunday's from July to September from 1 –4 or by appointment. Many school children have tours of the mill each year thus learning about their towns history.



"If you say that something is grist to the mill, you mean that it is useful for a particular purpose or helps support someone's point of view" or "anything that can be turned to profit or advantage."
<https://www.collinsdictionary.com>

"Grist : Grain intended to be or that has been ground."

**Mill keepers
house in 1954.**

28 February 94

Mill History

Maine posses an historic site that few communities in the United States can display. It's an old water power grist mill, using massive millstones to grind grain into feed or flour. At one time the mill had three sets of millstones and had a grinding capacity of between two and three tons of grist per day. Flour from this mill went west with the 49'ers. Sunrise Pancake Flour made at the mill, from locally grown buckwheat, was exceptionally famous.

Pitcher's mill is one of Broome County's oldest landmarks. It was built in 1830 by brothers, Daniel and Beldon Slosson. Hand hewn red beech timbers 10x14 inches constitute the frame work of the building and were cut from the virgin forest on the hills nearby. The millstones made of Nova Scotia granite are four feet in diameter and weigh almost a ton each. Picking and trimming the furrows (sharpening) of the millstones was a regular task in order to grind fine flour. This was done twice a year by a skilled "stone chipper".

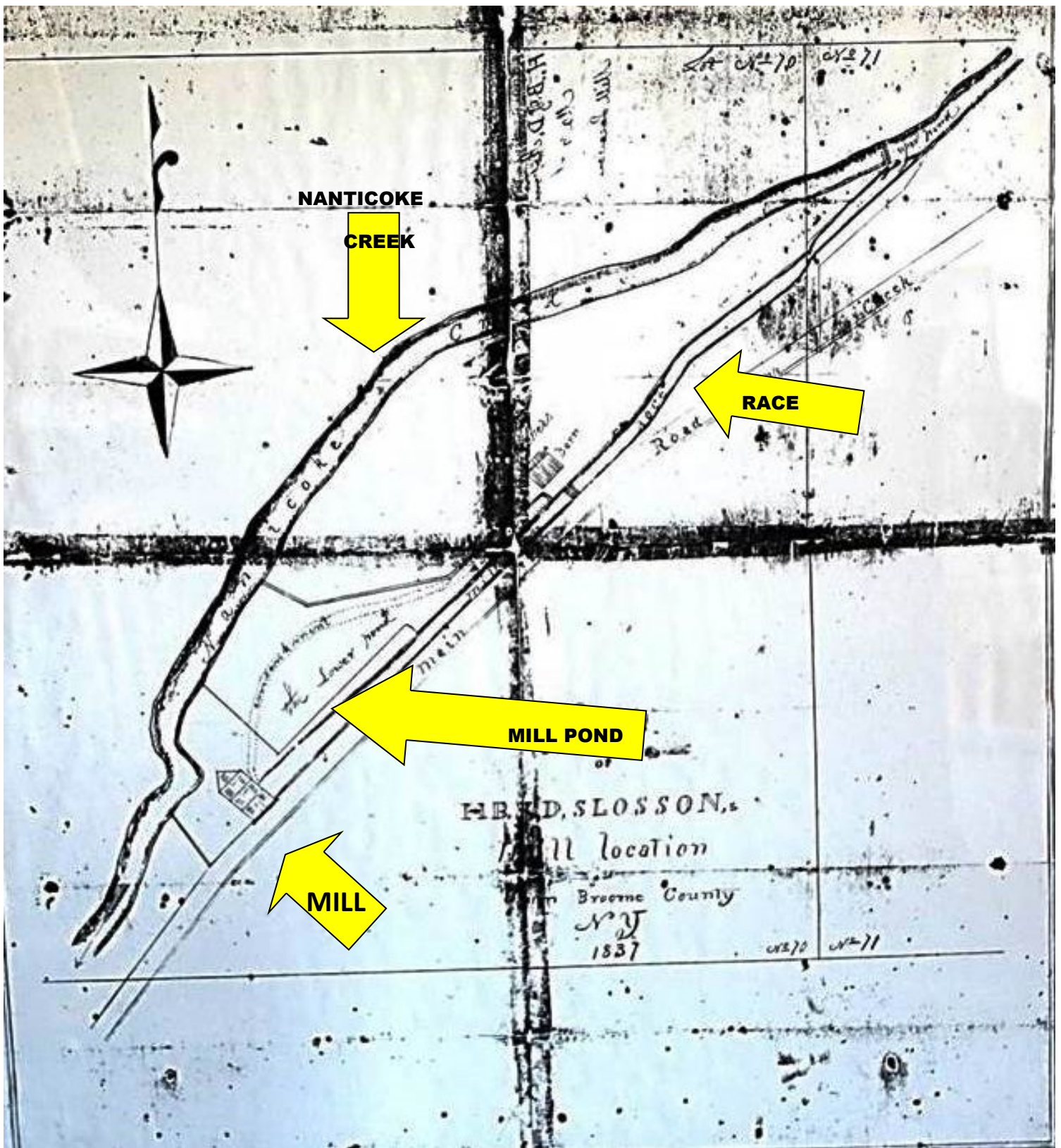
In 1848 the mill was enlarged to its present size by Dr. William Buttler and William Lincoln. The mill was sold to John P. Davis and Nathan Howard who in turn later sold it to Seth Carman and Abram Green. Archie R. Pitcher bought the mill in 1925 and continued to grind flour and feed until 1941. The famous logo "Sunrise Pancake Flour" was developed by Mr. Pitcher in the mid 30s. The logo and the name Pitcher's Mills have been retained since. The last remaining mill hand known to have worked in the mill while powered by water is Ray Lantz, (in the early 40s). Between 1941 and 1945 the mill belonged to Carl and Eva-Bell Taylor. It was during this period of ownership and operation that water power was abandoned in favor of electric power. Howard Taft operated a John Deere tractor and machinery dealership from the flour packing warehouse, across the road. John and Elsie Lainhardt became the owners in 1945 and operated the mill till 1955, when the millstones turned their last. From the mid 20's to mid 50's, the task of dressing the burrs, (sharpening the millstones) was done by Mr. Kibbey, who lived on Solon Pond in North Pitcher. He drove the 40 miles to Maine in his Model-T Ford, spent the rest of the day "chipping", and stayed the night in the millers house. The next day he would complete the job and drive back to Solon Pond. Mr. Kibbey drove only Model-Ts, up to 1961! The "Little Giant" turbine (water motor) was sold in 1947 to New Hope Mills of Moravia, NY, and is still in use. In 1957 John Weld purchased the mill properties. The Welds were the last owners to live in the miller's house, located next to the creek, behind the mill. Then in 1985 the Bowers Foundation purchased the mill for the expressed purpose of being restored as an educational and historic exhibit, open to the public. In 1988 the Bowers Foundation, under the direction of Janet Bowers Bothwell, gave the mill to our local Nanticoke Valley Historical Society.

Since 1957 the large millstones, grinders, mixer, sifters and grain elevators have stood silent. Our mill is silently waiting for the opportunity to "speak" to our future generations, to show a proud part of our past,.... a part of Broome County, a piece of America!

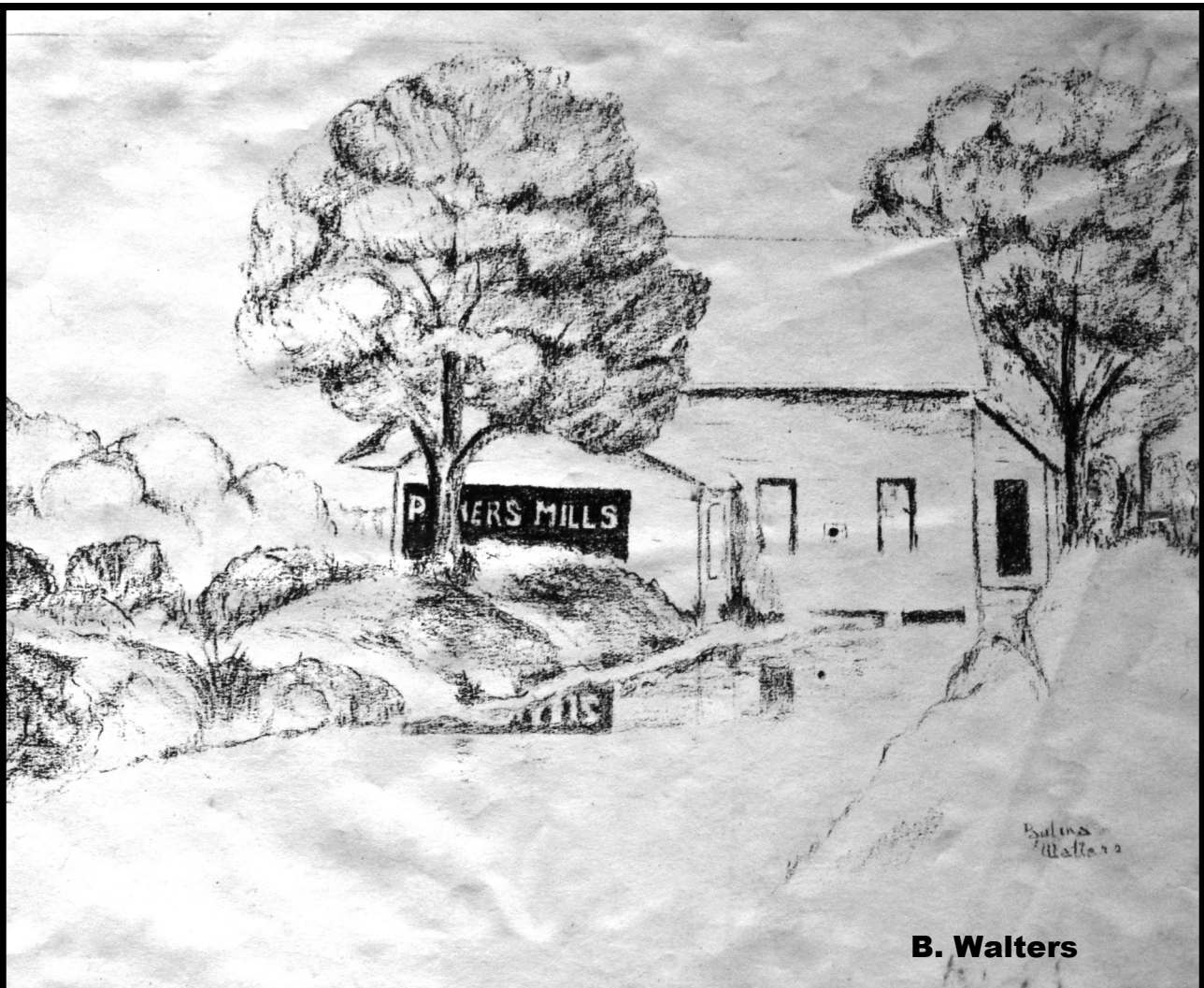


Thomas J. Kotasek

Chairman of Restoration Committee
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society



Hand drawn map of the area around the Mill in 1837. It hangs in the office of the mill. The Maine Road, now route 26 ended about one half mile south of the mill and crossed the creek via a bridge where it connected to Tiona Road and Nanticoke Road. The lower mill pond was kept full by a “race” that paralleled the road and joined the creek near the barn which has the flag painted on it.



B. Walters

Art work showing the mill race entering the mill from the north where it flows through the mill turning the water wheel. It exits on the south side and joins Nanticoke Creek.



Harrington

PITCHER'S MILL LAND RECORDS

Researched in Broome County, NY Clerk's Office 1996

| GRANTOR | GRANTEE | LIBER/PAGE | DATED/FILED | LOCATION |
|--|--|------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Robert Gossman | Henry Smith | 12/63 | June 19, 1829/July 24, 1829 | Tn of Union, Broome Co. NY; p/o Lt 70 GDBP 53 A 38Perches |
| Henry Smith & Wife | John Fisher | 12/64 | July 24, 1829/July 24, 1829 | Same as 12/63 |
| Daniel Locke & Wife | William West & Daniel Slosson | 18/400 | Sept. 3, 1836/Sept. 3, 1836 | |
| Nathan Howard & Wife | Seth Carman | 79/569 | | |
| Benjamin F. Lewis & Wife | Seth Carman | 79/495 | | |
| John T. Davis & Wife | Seth Carman | 79/496 | | |
| Seth Carman | Abram H. Green | 83/527 | 1870/1870 | 1/2 Int in Mill, property P/o Lt 70 GDBP 2A117Rods + 2A2roods8Rods |
| Seth Carman by Extr | Harry I VanSice et al | 263/350 | Feb 15, 1916/feb 21, 1916 | See the 3 deeds in Liber 79 |
| Abram H. Green by Extr | Harry I VanSice & Emma | 263/351 | Feb 15, 1916/Feg 21, 1915 | 1/2 Int see 18/40 & 83/527 & Will of Abram 120/122 |
| Harry I VanSice & Emma | Broome Co. | 281/54 | July 23, 1918/July 24, 1918 | Road Right of Way |
| Emma F VanSice, Widow | David Coleman | 284/422 | Feb 13, 1919/Mar 25, 1919 | Life Use |
| Emma F. VanSice, Wid | (Philip N. Pitcher) | 294/559 | Mar 4, 1920/Jun 11, 1920 | Parcel 1 is Mill Property; Parcel 2 is in 18/400 of Lt70GDBP |
| Harry I VanSice & David Coleman, wid. | Archie R. Pitcher & Ellana M. Pitcher | | | |
| Archie N. Pitcher et al | Philip N. Pitcher | 379/179 | Sep 9, 1927 | E. side of Rt. 26 |
| Philip N. Pitcher, et al | R. Carl & Pitchers Mills, Inc | 550/524 | May 29, 1945 | |
| Ina Pitcher Demond | Eva Belle Taylor | 709/299 | Feb 1, 1949/May 10, 1949 | See 18/400 + Parcel from 379/179 across road |
| & Alice P. Blatchley | R. Carl & Eva Belle Taylor | 709/374 | Feb 1, 1949/May 10, 1949 | See 550/524 |
| Pitchers Mills, Inc. | John S. & Ann B. Weld | 805/416 | Jul 15, 1952/Jul 17, 1952 | 4 1/2 A include Mill property |
| R. Carl & Eva Belle Taylor | John R. & Elsie Lainhardt | 891/208 | Jan 17, 1955/Apr 5, 1955 | Parcel 2 in 123/817; Parcel 3 in 1092/651 |
| R. Carl & Eva Belle Taylor | John R. & Elsie Lainhardt | 912/234 | Jan 19, 1955/Nov 11, 1955 | See 709/374 - Mill Property |
| John R. & Elsie L.Lainhardt | John S. & Ann B. Weld | 1092/651 | Jun 16, 1965/Jun 18, 1965 | |
| Ann B. Weld | John S. Weld | 1239/817 | May 27, 1976/May 28, 1976 | |
| Ann B. Weld | Bowers Foundation | 1434/329 | Feb 14, 1985/Feb 21, 1985 | |
| Bowers Foundation | Nanticoke Valley Historical Assoc | 1743/34 | Dec 29, 1988/Dec 30, 1988 | 70 ft. frontage on Rt. 26, 0.58 Acre |

History of the Mill land records from 1829 to 1988 compiled by the Green's. Painstaking research in the Broome County Clerks office. An ancestor Abram Green ran the mill in 1870.

Compiled by Sheryl + Lucy Green



Luke Kaczynski a trustee of NVHS and expert tour guide of Pitcher's Mill taken in 2015

Nathaniel SLOSSON

b: 3.1.1764 in Richmond, Berkshire Co., Mass. d. 8.29.1822 in Maine, NY

Spouses

1. Eunice Sisson Slosson (1766 - 1804) died in Cone Hill Cemetery Richmond MA
2. Rhoda Judd Slosson (1.17.1775 – 8.27.1857) Maine cemetery
m. Dr. Westel Willoughby Jr. 1769 – 1844 Newport Cemetery Herkimer NY

Children

1. William Slosson (1800 - 1899)
2. Ozias Judd SLOSSON b: 23 JUL 1807 in Stockbridge, Mass.
3. **Henry Belden** SLOSSON b: 30 NOV 1808 in Stockbridge, Mass d. 1.8.1864
Evergreen Cemetery Owego Find A Grave Memorial# 112468118
4. Sarah Judd SLOSSON b: 24 OCT 1810 -1826 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts
5. **Daniel SLOSSON** b: 31 AUG 1812 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts
d. 8.24.1853 .Maine Cemetery Find A Grave Memorial# 42988229
6. Grove SLOSSON b: 8.6.1815 in Stockbridge, MA d. 1.14.1816 in Maine, NY
7. John SLOSSON d: 13 JAN 1817 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Daniel with his brother, Henry Belden built "the Slosson Mill".

It was in operation in 1837. Daniel was unmarried.

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:2656123&id=111070>

LIBER 18 PAGE 400
Daniel Locke, Mrs. Indenture, Made the third day of September in the year of our Lord...
 To *William West and Daniel Slosson*
 of the first part, and *William West and Daniel Slosson* of the second part, *Witnesseth*
 That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of *Twenty* Dollars
 to them in hand paid, by the said parties of the second part, *fraud in consideration* the receipt
 whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, conveyed, sold, remised, released, advised and confirmed
 and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, advise and confirm, unto the said parties
 of the second part, in their exact propriety, view being, unto their heirs and assigns forever, *ALL*
 the equal undivided half part in fee simple of *that certain piece or parcel of land* being part of lot
 number *Seventy one (71)* in the *Grand Division* of the *Western Purchase* so called, and as here
 follows, *viz*, Beginning at a stake standing on the original west line of *Said lot* being 65 links
 south from the northwest corner of *said lot*, thence with 46° 15' east 38 links, 18 links to a stake
 two, thence north 70° 30' east one chain 20 links to a stake, thence south 47° 30' west 5 chains
 which to a stake on the said west line, thence south 88 links to the place of beginning contain
 ing *thirty two rods* of land together with the privilege of going on to said premises at any time

Part of the original deed (Indenture) September 3 1836, transferring the mill site from Daniel Locke & Wife to William West and Daniel Slosson. Book 18 Page 400. The document is about 2' by 12 inches.



Save The Mill 1996:
 Nancy Berry, Tom Kotasek,
 Diane Waples,
 Kerin Flannery (on the ladder)

Soon Pitcher's Grist Mill will have an historic roadside marker which will announce to the travelers historical highlights of the mill. It is being provided by the William G. Pomeroy



William G.
Pomeroy
Foundation
 For History. For Life.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Events may be subject to change. If schools are cancelled due to weather events we will be closed and rescheduled.

SUGGESTION: As you do your "spring cleaning", set aside items to donate to the NVHS for their annual Memorial Day Sale at the school house.

PROGRAM: May 15 Monday 6:30 PM Join a panel of other small historical society groups from Broome etc. They will talk about what they have and lead a discussion on how to get more to come to their location. We will conduct tours to the museum and school house at this meeting.

CARPOOL FIELD TRIP: May 24 Wednesday 3:00 (need sunlight) Trip to Lucas Kaczynski's Oil Can Museum—Kay Road Details to follow.

FUNDRAISER: Monday May 29 Join us at the junction of Nanticoke Road and Route 26 after the parade. You'll find "Smokey Legends BBQ" from 11–2 plus raffle baskets, bake sale and a NAEOS event* (new and exciting opportunity sale) aka rummage sale. All the above is at the one room school house. Also available for tours will be our: 1845 One Room School House and 1830 Pitcher's Mill and Janet Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road.

PROGRAMS: June 17 and June 18

Saturday: In conjunction of NYS PATH Through History Weekend. 1-4 PM *The Dudley Family 1608—1989*; Museum Exhibit and Power Point Presentation.

Also available for tours will from 1–4; 1845 One Room School House, 1830 Pitcher's Grist Mill and Janet W. Bowers Museum

Sunday: Gala opening of THE GALLERY AT MAINE, NY. Supported by a Broome County Arts Council grant June 18 Sunday Art Gallery Opening 1-4 with reception; Join Us at the Museum 13 Nanticoke Road, Meet Cyrena Summers, be stimulated by her art! Exhibit runs June 18 - August 6th. Gallery open on Sundays from 1–4 or by appointment. The Gallery is supported by a Grant from the Broome County Arts Council.

The June meeting scheduled for Monday 19 is not being held. It was hoped you attended the Saturday and Sunday Events.

CARPOOL FIELD TRIP: a carpool field trip for the latter part of June, at the Phelps Mansion in Binghamton, to see what life in the city IN THE 1880'S We HOPE TO coordinate a visit to the Broome County Historical Society collections, upstairs in the Broome County Library, which is right next door to the Phelps Mansion, on the same trip.



NVHS CHARTER CELEBRATORY PICNIC July 16 Sunday 3 PM This replaces our Monday July 17 meeting (note time) at the Bowers Museum join us as we celebrate the dedication of our society. First organized in 1969 the NVHS gained its NYS 40th Absolute Charter anniversary in 1977. We will include other organizations to join our celebration. Share your food and stories with others...This will be HUGE.

AUGUST 13—OCT 8 AT THE MAINE GALLERY Our second summer artists exhibit details will be coming.

AUGUST 21 MEETING AND SEPT 18 MEETINGS The speakers have not been confirmed as of yet check our website more up to date information. www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com
Our next newsletter in September will have up to date program information for Oct—December events.

SEPTEMBER; WE STRONGLY SUPPORT : I Run For .. Half Marathon Sunday, SEPT. 10, 2017
8:00 AM Starting Line in Maine Town Park 5K, HALF MARATON AND MARATHON
<http://www.irunforhalfmarathon.com>



SUMMER HOURS for TOURS Museum, Mill and School House: Sundays 1-4 PM July 9 to Early September

*** Are you aware that the NVHS has elementary students tour the museum and our other buildings. We have set lessons that are geared to 1-2 and 3-5 grades. Each visit is taught by NVHS and it is an extremely positive experience.. We invite you to volunteer and join as a an **NVHS educator**...NO Experience Needed Contact Sandy Rozek if you have any questions. 862 9480 or SJRozek@aol.com

**** **Docents** wanted for summer hours. We need individuals to guide visitors through the Mill, School House and Museum (1st and 2nd floors) (scripts and training provided.) Contact Sue Lisk for more information. 862 9707 or nvhscurator@hotmail.com

FYI

Lyceum Course Binghamton University Oct 5 Thursday 1-3 At the Janet W, Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road, Maine NY. Registration through the Binghamton University Lyceum Program. Title: The Town of Maine NY from; settlers, to farmers, to commuters, 1790—1922. In the 1790's, what will become Maine, NY, was the wilderness; land speculators Boston Purchase -11.1787) opened the frontier to settlers. The course will introduce you to some early settlers, the earliest industries, and the formation of Maine NY on 3.7.1848. Historic homes will be highlighted along with the development of the town. The lives of the residents will be reinforced through a visit through the two museum floors. We end in 1922 when electricity reaches the community.



Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

May 2017 Issue # 2

Please mail returns to: Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

Name: _____ Date _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Newsletter: Mailed or Electronic

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

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Dues extend from Jan to Jan.