

# Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2018 Newsletter # 2 May edited by Phil Childs



1850



1830



1840



1845



## TABLE OF CONTENTS 2018 Issue # 2

- 1 Table of Contents, Officers
- 2 *Maine Central School Path Through History event*
- 3 Mill dedication, The Maine Event Tea, thanks to our sponsors
- 4 Clarence Stratton Painting, bio, *The Maine Fest*
5. Newark Valley upcoming events, Main Street in photographs 1908
6. Norton Wagon Works
7. Phone history in Maine, NY
- 8-10 my great grandfather; Vittorio Pezzulla by Jeff Egan
11. Mark Your Calendar
12. Join Us!

FYI... The IBM company is still providing matching grants for current workers (100%) and to retirees (50%). If you are interested in using this program contact Sandy Halliday (phone number is listed above). It is an easy way for your dues and donations to make more of a difference for NVHS.

## Officers 2018

President:	Philip M. Childs	862-3405
Vice President:	Anita Shipway	785-9207
Secretary:	Carla Sullivan	862-5385
Treasurer:	Sandy Halliday	862-3470
Museum Curator:	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator:	Tom Kotasek	862-3636

## The Board of Trustees\*

- 2018: Lucas Kaczynski, Rita McKeon, Clark Gardner  
2019: Gordie Gottlieb, Rachael Lawler, Cyrena Summers  
2020: Jeff Egan, Ruby McConnell, Betty Welch

\* 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.

**Memorial Day Monday May 28** after the parade work your way to 13 Nanticoke Road. We will have: *tours* of the Museum, and mill (10—3), *Smokey Legend BBQ* available (11— sold out), Bake sale. (10—3), Raffle Baskets. (10—3), and a very large sale inside the 1845 school house. (10—3). You will not be disappointed!



Bill Eichhorn Plowing

“MAINE CENTRAL SCHOOLS CLASS REUNION will be the name of our latest exhibit and the focus of the 2018 Path Through History Weekend, June 16-17, at the Janet W. Bowers Museum. The exhibit will continue through the summer months until the end of September.

Maine Central School was built in 1939 and the Union Center Elementary School was built one year later to meet the educational needs of students in grades one through nine in Maine, Union Center, Bowers’ Corners, Tiona, the Gates Neighborhood, Allentown, Mount Ettrick, East Maine, Brocket Hollow, Pollard Hill, and Broughamtown. Students in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades attended school at Union-Endicott, Johnson City, and Vestal High schools. In 1969 Maine Central School was renamed J. Ralph Ingalls School in honor of Ingalls, a school board member. The architecturally significant building is now listed in the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.



Maine Central School

Starting June 16th paintings that were commissioned to hang in the two schools will be hanging in the temporary gallery in the future 1910 living room. It is my hope all who are interested can donate funds to help have the paintings restored.

Artifacts will be displayed in the “middle” room. The Maine Central class photos will also be on display as well as photographs of the faculty.

On Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4 there will be a reception for all students and teachers who attended both schools as well as all who are interested . I hope they can share some of their memories with us and have them recorded for our archives. You can also email any memories you want to share in advance and they may be included in our exhibit.

If anyone has any items they would like to loan us for the exhibit please let me know. All questions, suggestions, or offers for items to be loaned for the exhibit please call me at 862-9705 or email me at [nvhscurator@hotmail.com](mailto:nvhscurator@hotmail.com) Thank you! “ Sue Lisk



Union Center Elementary School





Nanticoke Valley Historical Society  
of Maine, New York

Pitcher's Grist Mill  
Circa 1830

**PITCHER'S MILL**  
GRIST MILL FOUNDED CA. 1830  
BY H. B. & DANIEL SLOSSON.  
OWNED BY A. PITCHER 1920-1949.  
CLOSED IN 1955. DONATED TO  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1988.  
WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2017 395

Donated by William G. Pomeroy Foundation 2017

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society P.O. Box 75 Maine, NY 13802

Check our Website: [www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)  
and our Facebook page

On April 15 the Pitcher's Mill Roadside Marker was dedicated. It was donated by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation . A few of the speakers were: Sue Lisk, Town Historian, Jason Garnar, Broome County Executive, Luke Kaczynski, Trustee and Mill Guide and Tom Kotasek, Mill Restorer. A new sixteen page booklet is available for purchase at the Mill and Museum.

**Small town - large heart .** A special thanks to our local businesses would supported our April Tea fund raiser by providing gift certificates. Thank you: Cacialli Auto Repair, Kelli's Too, Gerry Tull's Store, Our Country Hearts Restaurant , Frank's Restaurant , Friend's Diner, Lori's Hairstyling, Country Wagon Produce and *The Maine Event*



*The Maine Event*  
**Banquet Facility and Event Services**  
*"Affordable Elegance"*

The Maine Event hosted "A Breakfast at Tiffany's Tea on Sunday April 22. Rachael certainly knows how to throw a party. The tables and room were "dressed" perfectly , even Aubrey Hepburn showed up .







1973 Clarence Stratton 125th town celebration.

“Clarence F. Stratton was a self-taught artist who often described himself as a “history buff.” Soon after he settled into the Hamlet of Maine, he joined a group of residents who also enjoyed researching and sharing the rich history of Nanticoke Valley. Having held their first meeting in 1969, Clarence and his fellow enthusiasts established the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society.

Local history became the theme of most of Clarence’s art work when he started painting in 1957. Initially, he created scenes to decorate his home using regular house paint on pieces of wood. In 1960, oil painting became therapy for Clarence while he recovered from a cerebral stroke. By 1964, art was no longer Clarence’s hobby. He began accepting orders and selling many of his original works to friends and neighbors. In the years between 1957 and 1974 he had created over 300 paintings.

Clarence’s originals are currently displayed in Maine’s Town Hall, Maine Memorial School, Maine Federated Church, NVHS’s Janet W. Bowers Museum, and many local homes. His work is owned by residents in several states as well. At the time of this account, two of his paintings are located in Paris, France.

Mr. Stratton died in 1974 at the age of 60.” by Carla Stratton Sullivan

The NVHS is in the process of creating a book of Clarence Stratton’s paintings. We are planning on having it ready for The Maine Fest, along with a new Children’s Book about the Pagoda.

## The Maine Fest

September 15, 2018 a Saturday 10—5 PM the NVHS will be hosting a full town event. Bands on Porches, Artists in Barns, Crafts at the Maine Event, Children’s Activities at various sites, Walking Tours, Trolley Rides...A Great Family Friendly Event. More details will be coming: via posters, a new Face book Events page, email blasts.



## Some Newark Valley Historical Society Classes

**5/22 Registrations due - Flint Knapping I.**

**Workshop on 6/9/18; 9am – 1pm “Flint Knapping I, Pressure Flaking”.** Mike McGrath. Learn basics, work small points, hone your skills. At Bement Billings Farmstead Museum, 9241 Rt 38 Newark Valley NY, 13811. All flint material & tools provided, \$45/40 members. Participants bringing own tools purchased from Mike will pay for flint only. Call Leslie to register 607 642-5412 by 5/22/18. Scholarships. Website [nvhistory.org](http://nvhistory.org) NYSCA-Dec.

**7/10 Registrations due - Flint Knapping II.**

**Workshop on 7/28/18; 9am – 1pm “Flint Knapping II, Percussion.** Mike McGrath. Learn basics, work large flint, hone your skills. At Bement Billings Farmstead Museum, 9241 Rt 38 Newark Valley NY, 13811. All flint material & tools provided, \$70/65 members. Participants bringing own tools purchased from Mike will pay for flint only. Call Leslie to register 607 642-5412 by 7/10/18. Scholarships. Website [nvhistory.org](http://nvhistory.org) NYSCA-Dec.



Main Street Looking South towards Endicott. Note the large maples, many of which were planted in 1875. Sidewalks were found on all the streets in the Hamlet. Today Route 26 has been raised many inches and paved.



J.R. Allen on the right parked in front of 2586 Main Street. His father, John J. Allen started the undertaking business in Allentown ( a few miles north on Route 26), then moved to Maine and in 1915 moved to Endicott. J.R. Allen married Dr. Dudley's daughter Jessie.

1908





Norton Wagon Works Circa 1840 .-Closed in 1929 . Carriages, Wagons, and Sleighs. Land first purchased by Corp. Benjamin Norton 1751–1819 from Stockbridge MA settled Norton’s Corners in 1794. Then willed to his son Elizer (Eleazer)1788–1835, then willed the site to his son William H. 1818–1894 then to his son George E. 1845–1931 to his son Robert L. 1879–1945. Sold to Clement Bowers in 1933.

**Chain of Ownership, Of 38 Nanticoke Road  
Originally Lot 51 of the Grand Division of the Boston Purchase**

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Liber</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Deed Date</b>	<b>Acre</b>	<b>Price</b>
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society	Janet Bowers Bothwell	1289	6	April 27, 1979	1.25	\$1
Janet Bowers	Clement G. Bowers and Janet Whitney Bowers	Will		April 19, 1973		
Clement G. Bowers and Janet Whitney Bowers	Robert L. Norton	434	496	April 6, 1933		\$1
Robert L. Norton	George E. Norton	Will				
George E. Norton	William H. Norton	89	537	May 10, 1869	1.25	\$400
William H. Norton	Thomas and Laura Nash	25	484	January 9, 1843	17	\$100
Thomas and Laura Nash	William H. Norton	25	131	January 9, 1843	17	\$100
William H. Norton	Elizer Norton	Will		1835		
Elizer Norton				1794		



Thanks to **Joe Danvers** who is constantly adding historic news articles to the Maine Facebook page. We appreciate it.

*Joe Danvers to Maine, NY  
January 2, 1952....Maine going high tech!!*

## Dial System Starts Tomorrow

# *Crank Phones Bowing Out in Maine*

The old "turn-the-crank" telephone service in the Maine area will be a thing of the past tomorrow.

At 7 a.m. the New York Telephone Co., which serves the area, will cut the old switchboard dead, and Maine will be tied to the Triple Cities by "the latest and most modern" dial equipment, according to Stuart M. English, company manager.

Mr. English said introduction of the new service is the climax of about six months' work, and the expenditure of more than \$200,000 by the company.

Included in the expenditure was the cost of construction of a cen-

tral office building in Lewis Street, Maine.

About 500 residents of the Maine area will be affected by the service changeover. They will be able to dial each other direct, and other places in the Triple Cities by first dialing "7."

The new dial system will eliminate toll charges on phone calls between the Triple Cities and Maine. The Maine area was the last served by the phone company in the state to have the "turn-the-crank" system.

The area formerly was served by the old Mt. Ettrick Telephone Co., which was taken over by New York Telephone in March, 1950.

The improvement in service to the area is part of a statewide program by the phone company to expand and improve its facilities.

The Triple Cities will be affected further by the program next year, when about 5,000 new telephones will be provided for residents of Binghamton, Johnson City and Endicott.

In connection with the opening of the dial service in Maine, the telephone company will hold open house at the Maine Telephone Building from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday to demonstrate operation of equipment in the building.



"In the late 1800s. The Bell and York State Telephone companies set up in Maine.

Eventually. Nel Gates (pictured) ran the central switchboard in her home on McGregor Avenue in Maine Village. On January 6, 1952, Ollie Ketchum made the last hand-crank call in Maine, which was the last community in New York State to convert to the dial telephone system. "

*Images of America Maine and the Nanticoke Valley p*

## **John Philip Sousa and my great grandfather; Vittorio Pezulla** **by Jeff Egan**

“Charting the family genealogy tree is rewarding. Just as the roots of a tree develop in diverse directions so does the pathway when tracking ancestors and how they arrived at their eventual destination. The journey of my family coming to the Triple Cities involves the realm of music. In particular, it was my great grandfather Vittorio Pezulla and his friendship with the legendary composer John Philip Sousa, the March King.

Vittorio grew up in the Puglia region of Italy where he was both a professor of music and a band concert conductor. He met Sousa, who was on vacation, in the year 1896 in Potenza and their friendship commenced. When Sousa departed Italy to return home it was aboard ship that he wrote "Stars and Stripes Forever" his most popular composition. Vittorio maintained contact with Sousa over the years. Eventually, in June 1903, he moved his young family including my grandmother Aida to America. They came with few possessions along with hopeful expectations. The Pezulla family found New York City to be an amazing place. “Model T” cars were the new rage, subway construction was nearing completion, the "Wizard of Oz" was premiering on Broadway, and local businessmen had just purchased a struggling Baltimore baseball franchise that would become the famed New York Yankees dynasty.

They would spend the next decade living in the Bronx and Yonkers area where Vittorio taught music. He met with Sousa a few times as New York City was a popular stop for the Sousa band. The Triple Cities also hosted Sousa band concerts over the years including November 1913 when Sousa had contact with George F Johnson. Johnson was a man of profound vision. His Square Deal program recognized that a fulfilled worker would also be a faithful worker. The result was that his Endicott Johnson (E-J) Shoe Company was one of the most successful in America. In an effort to uplift his employees he desired the creation of a marching band that would serve both his corporation and the surrounding community. He mentioned this to Sousa who recommended my great grandfather for the position of organizing this marching band. Vittorio would accept the offer from Johnson and thus he moved his family from Yonkers to Endicott in 1914. They found Endicott to be a thriving community which was not only the home of the E-J Shoe Company but also the beginnings of the IBM Corporation. It was indeed the melting pot of many ethnic groups including a large Italian segment. The new E-J marching band would become a major attraction in the area over the years especially the summer band concerts at En-Joie Park where thousands would attend.” continued next page



<https://www.npr.org/2010/12/01/131725100/the-legacy-of-george-f-johnson-and-the-square-deal>



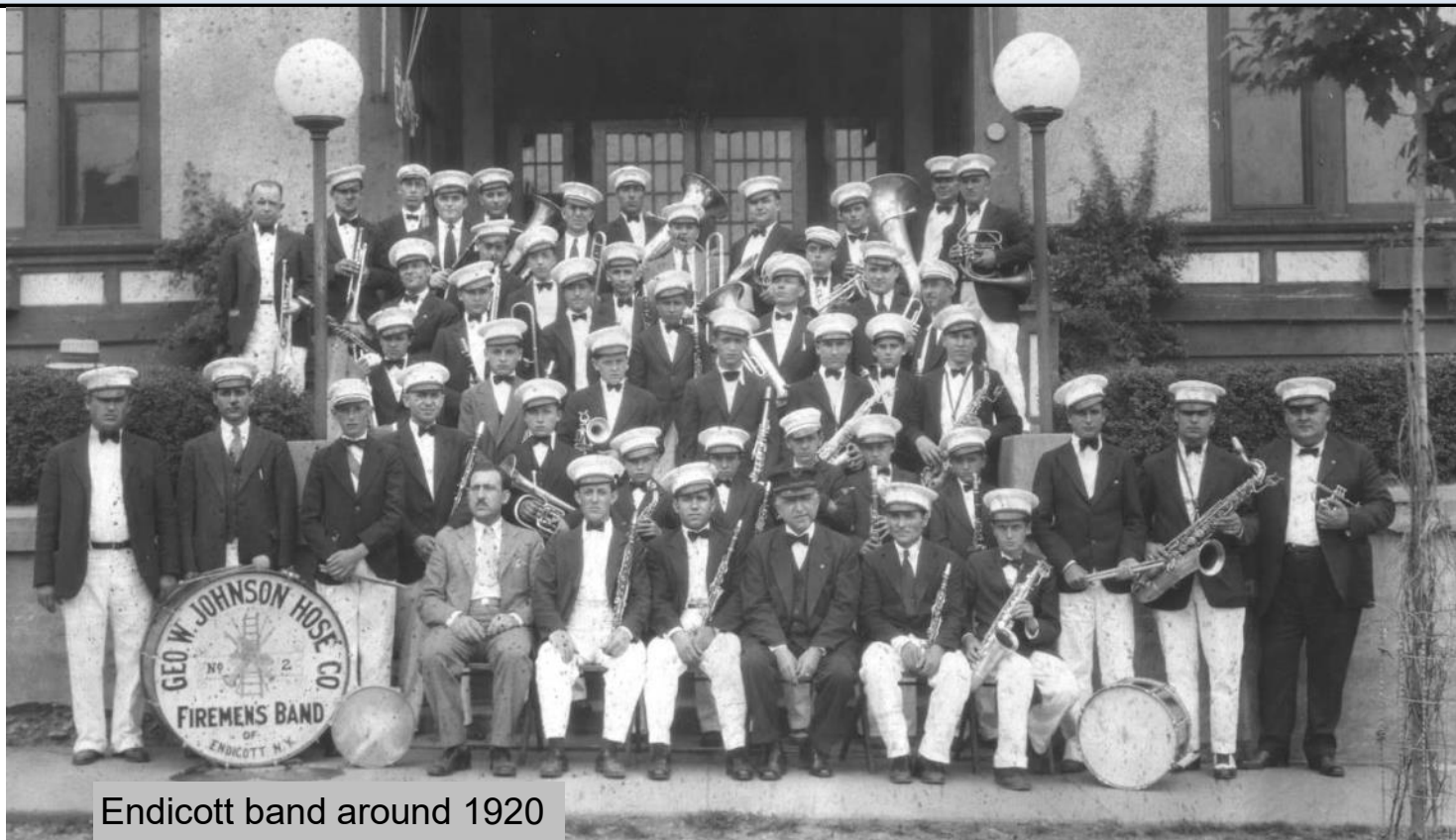
<http://www.marineband.marines.mil/About/Our-History/John-Philip-Sousa/>



“Sousa would make more appearances in the area over the years including perhaps the most controversial incident of his illustrious 50 year career with an event that made national headlines. It involved Blue Laws which were regulations that prohibited commercial activities on Sunday. If the Sousa band played on a Sunday he would call it a sacred concert. He would wear a white uniform instead of his traditional black one. He was a man very much in touch with the Divine who thought that a sermon could be preached with music as well as words. On November 12, 1922, George F Johnson, as a gift to his 12,000 employees, sponsored a Sunday matinee and evening Sousa sacred concert. Vittorio's band would also have a role in the performance. Tickets would normally go for \$ 2.50 in order to cover band expenses as Sousa himself would not accept a personal fee. Johnson arranged for his employees to only pay 25 cents and he thought that Blue Laws would be overlooked as the sacred concert was promoting much good. The Binghamton Ministerial Association, however, demanded that the Blue Laws be enforced. This enraged Sousa who would reply that "there is more inspiration in some of my marches than in all of their sermons."

Time marched on and the Sousa band made their last USA tour in 1931. It would be just a few stops but it included Endicott at En-Joie Park on August 30, 1931. Vittorio's band joined with Sousa for a few numbers before the start of the concert. My mother, who was a young girl at that time, vividly recalled the event. In particular she remembered the emotional finale, the passionate playing of "Stars and Stripes Forever" where numerous American flags would be flowing in appreciation for our great country.

Sadly, both Sousa and Vittorio would pass way the next year in 1932. My mother would eventually meet my dad John Egan years later and thus would be the blending of my Irish and Italian heritage. They raised their family in Endwell and here I am years later a proud resident of Maine thankful for my rich heritage. Heritage is defined as something handed down from one's ancestors. That "something" is a legacy which engraves an indelible imprint on the soul.” more information next page



Endicott band around 1920



# Sousa's Band to Play at En Joie Park Next Sunday Evening

## 76 YEAR OLD COMPOSER AND DIRECTOR HERE ON 38TH TOUR

Lieutenant Commander John Philip Sousa and his famous band of 53 pieces will provide the feature Sunday evening concert of the year at En Joie Park next Sunday evening when the premier aggregation and their celebrated director will render a program of band music, marches and several late compositions of the most famed band musician in the country.

Sousa, who has reached the ripe old age of 76, is now on his 38th annual tour and has proven that age does not detract from his ability or his energy by the composition of five new march numbers which will be among the many on the versatile program which will no doubt draw a record crowd of more than 30,000 to the popular recreation center on Sunday evening.

A concert will be given by the group at 2:30 in the afternoon at Recreation Park in Binghamton and the program at En Joie will start promptly at 7:30, it was announced.

It frequently has been said that the marches of John Philip Sousa, "The March King" are a history of the American nation because he has found the inspiration for so many of them in stirring incidents of American history or the commemoration of those incidents. For the 38th annual tour of his band, Sousa has written three more "chapters" of American history, two of which are of international significance. They are "Royal Welsh Fusiliers", "Salvation Army" and "George Washington Bi-Centennial."

"Royal Welsh Fusiliers," which already has had its dedicatory performances both in England and America, commemorates the 13th anniversary of the Battle of Tientsin during the Boxer Insurrection in China in 1900. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, one of the famous regiments of the British Army, and the United States Marines, marched together to the relief of Tientsin, one of whose defenders was a young mining engineer, who was to become President Herbert Hoover. In

Washington, in May, Sousa gave the march its first American presentation when he conducted the United States Marine Band, his old command, before an audience at the Gridiron Club, which included the President. Then he went to England in the company of General George Richards and Captain Jonas H. Platt, of the United States Marine Corps, where in London at the 30th reunion of the survivors of the Battle of Tientsin, it was played for the first time on British soil by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers' Band.

The other historic marches which Sousa has written for his forthcoming tour are "Salvation Army", in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of that organization and "George Washington Bi-Centennial," written for the celebration of the 200th birthday of the Father of Our Country, to be observed in the National Capital in 1932. In addition to these marches Sousa has composed "The Harmonica Wizard", a march for boys' harmonica bands, of which there are about 20 in the country, and "Daughters of Texas", a march dedicated to the Texas State College for Women, located at Denison.



1931 Sousa band concert held in Endicott



- Quiz :**
1. Who is the painting on the right of?
  2. Where exactly was it found in Maine Central School?
  3. Where can you find it on June 16, 2018

**Answers:**

Come to Janet W. Bowers Museum, 13 Nanticoke Rd on Saturday June 16 and or Sunday June 17 to find out. Hint Ans. To Q: #3



1896 in Potenza, Italy and it was the year that he first met Sousa. . Vittorio Pezzulla wearing his white suit.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 13 Nanticoke Road at the Janet W. Bowers museum. Information of these programs will be via email blasts and also reminder phone calls. Call or email Phil Childs at 862-3405 achild233@aol.com for information

**Local Field Trips:** 1. Roberson Museum *New Nature Trek Exhibit* (\$ cost involved.) details to follow.  
2. Hanford Mills Museum, also known as Kelso Mill, is a historic grist mill and sawmill and national historic district located at East Meredith, in Delaware County, New York.

**May Meeting 21 Monday at 7PM** *Charlene Thomson Folk Music of WWI* The War in Europe started in 1915 and ending in 1918. This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of this war. Charlene will introduce us to popular songs and patriotic songs all set to the history of the war. This program will weave the history and music of that time.

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/>



**Monday May 28 FUNDRAISER PLUS:** Memorial Day after the parade, Smokey Leg ends BBQ, Rummage Sale at the 1845 School House , Plus tours of all buildings. Starting at 10 AM at the Museum BBQ starts 11 AM until sold out.

**June 16-17 PATH THROUGH HISTORY: Weekend Event:** June 16 & 17 Path Through History Weekend Maine Central Schools will be the focus at the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. In the Janet Bowers Museum Gallery visit exhibit of **1939 paintings** commissioned to hang in the **Maine Central School** (later named **J. Ralph Ingalls School**) and in the **Union Center Elementary School**. In the Middle Gallery visit the **"Class Reunion"** - photos of alumni and faculty through the years and artifacts pertaining to the history of the schools and the people whose life stories started in the Nanticoke Valley. A **reception** will be held on Sunday 1 -4 for all who attended or worked at the schools in hope that they will share their **memories to be recorded and saved in the museum archives**. **Guided Tours** will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Admission: **FREE**.



By Jacob Goble

Docents Needed for school trips and Summer Sunday open houses : contact Sandy Rozek 862 -9480

- Meeting scheduled for Monday June 18 will not held. Please attend our June 16 and 17 Programs
- July Meeting topic to be announced
- August Meeting topic to be announced
- September Newsletter.
- October, November and December meetings will be held 3rd Monday at 7PM at Museum.
- July through September **Sunday tours at museums**. SUMMER HOURS for TOURS Museum, Mill and School House Sundays 1-4 PM July 8 to September
- Sept 15 **The Maine Fest** (Saturday) whole town events 10—5 art and music, craft fair, walking tours etc. More





Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,  
PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802  
May 2018 Issue # 2

---

---

---

---

**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: \$** \_\_\_\_\_