

# Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2015 Newsletter # 3 September *edited by Phil Childs*



1870



1830



1840



1845



## TABLE OF CONTENTS Issue # 3 9/1

- Cover Page: Table of Contents, Our Youthful Revolution ( pages 1, 2, 3 )
- 2 & 3 A Win/Win Relationship with the community, Bells
4. Presidents Page, In Memory, Officers
5. What's Coming? Plan on It!
6. Yes Virginia J. Ralph Ingalls was real.
7. Franck Taylor Bowers: Artist
8. The Curtis House Route 26
9. Life was like That!
10. Join Us!



Lucas Kaczynski at Pitcher's Mill

The next few articles show an aspect of the Historical Society that many never see, that is the role that young people have with our organization. Three examples occurred this summer which showed how this relationship is strong. One article deals with a high school student who gladly volunteers to give tours of Pitcher's Mill, and anything else you ask of him. A second deals with a young man who is on his way to getting his Eagle Scout ranking in Boy Scouting and how this win/win relationship grew. The last example occurred twice when the oldest group of Summer Rec "kids" came over to the museum to fulfil their community service aspect of their five week summer experience.

Lucas Kaczynski, a resident of Maine, is currently a tenth grader at ME High School. On any given summer Sunday Luca can be found at his "second" home, *Pitchers Mill*. His love of history started well before school, originally it was focused on early Egyptian history and slowly it shifted to his current love of American Agricultural and Industrial history. He credits his family friend and mentor Tom Kotasek who put the passion into his love of "old" things. His parents are totally supportive of his interests which include a collection of over one thousand 2 gallon gas cans. He is a nationally known collector who actively buys sells and trades these icons of the early twentieth century oil industry. He is especially intrigued by the graphics on these cans . (continued)

Lucas continued: The day I spoke with him at the mill he was giving a tour to a mother and her two daughters who live in Whitney Point. The mother wanted to show her children what life was like for her as she grew up on a farm in Vestal. That day she shared personal stories of how her family had used the various farm implements when she was young. History at that moment was not a collection in a museum or words in a book but rather a treasure trove of memories to be shared so it was never forgotten. Lucas has donated his time and energy through an Eagle Scout project for the Historical Society and as a guide for the exhibits at the museum building. His early love of history might turn into his life's vocation as he plans to be a social studies educator. We can learn so much from what has occurred and he wants the next generation to learn history so that the earlier times are never forgotten.

\*\*\*\*\*

Charlie Dutton : Achieving goals are an important aspect of character building, especially when these goals are assisting others. On a weekend this June, in the front of the museum, ten members of Troop 201 of Endicott were being instructed by Charlie Dutton, on the cleaning and preservation of damaged tools. Charlie had learned about the water damage to the museum through his grandparents who are active NVHS members. He in turn sought out our curator Sue Lisk who along with Charlie's determined how he could best help the museum. Our first floor exhibits were severely damaged and all the metal implements had begun to rust. They agreed on an Eagle Scout project where he would clean and preserve these tools. He researched preservation methods, raised monies and organized a work force to tackle this job. He brought with him members of his troop who while assisting were also learning how to undertake an Eagle Scout project. Piece by piece each object was cleaned by hand (and potato) and brought to our curator for approval. Slowly each item was returned to the exhibit in perfect condition.



June 6 Charlie Dutton Troop 201 Endicott

Charlie is a talented and multifaceted individual whose family shares in his love of history, music, scouting and nature. He is currently attending Delhi majoring in food services. The next time the Maine Community Band is playing look for him, he is in the percussion section. This project introduced our museum and society to ten individuals who left Maine saturated with knowledge of our past and present. Perhaps one of them will decide to work with our society in a future project.



If you wish to get in contact with Phil Childs (editor of the newsletter ) contact him via email [achild233@aol.com](mailto:achild233@aol.com) or phone 862 3405 . Get your newsletter via email, it's colorful!

## Community Service Component of Summer Rec

The Maine Town Summer Rec program has been an integral part of so many people's lives. You may not know that it is not all fun and games, it's also educational. The oldest group, I think 11 and above, have a program which stresses community service. The historical society worked with the directors of the program (Mrs. Zuber and Mr. Pufky) to be included this year. A dozen

individuals came over twice to the museum. We worked with them to improve the front of the museum; weeding, cleaning and planting. The second time many of them also worked inside the school house cleaning. On their second visit we included short visitations to the galleries on the second and first floors. Society members gave them a quick taste of each gallery. Many had remarked that this was the first time they had visited inside the museum and how interesting it was. We used to conduct programs with many elementary schools in the region but "budgetary concerns" meant that the districts ended these educational field trips in order to save money! (No Comment PC). Next year the summer rec program connection will continue, any thoughts?

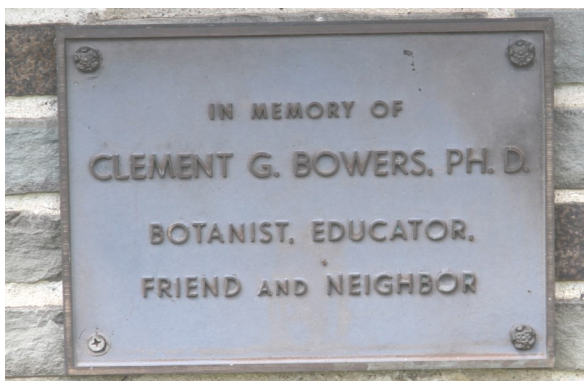


**Quiz:** 1) How Many "Real" bells are located in or close to the Hamlet?

2) What were their original functions?

Answer to part 1. **SIX**

- First Baptist Church on Church Street (in front of parking lot),
- Maine Federated Church ,Main Street (in bell tower),
- Wide Horizons School House (behind church on Lewis St.),
- Maine Memorial School (in front of the main entrance),
- School House #4 (in front of school),
- One in Pitchers Mill Collection.
- Not sure if Mt. St. Francis Hermitage on Edson has a bell? Any others? Remember Question 2!



## President's Page

Dear Readers:

As I review the number of people who serve our organization, and in doing so help us meet our preservation and education goals over, I'm overcome with feelings of awe and gratitude.

I'm grateful for the insightful decision of a summer recreation organizer who sent a dozen of her participants to our main museum site and school house to weed, plant, sweep, clean and polish. I'm reminded also that the Town of Maine assists us in the care of the museum grounds during the growing season.

We enjoy the contributions of many gifted members: a retired teacher who deftly organizes tours for groups of school children, and in doing so, helps us fulfill our chartered role as educators; a photographer whose talent includes the ability to create instant newsletters, programs, flyers and posters. He and his wife excel at the job of supervising the youth groups who visit and serve us.

Our buildings are maintained by a member who volunteers his time and, as a volunteer fireman, is especially careful about the safety of our members and visitors. I'm remembering also that our security system was installed by two long-time members who serve our organization in numerous ways.

We are blessed with the membership of a remarkable teenager who shares his extensive knowledge enthusiastically while acting as a guide at the Pitchers' Mill site. With dedication and perspiration, he maintains the Mill's interior historical integrity. I'm also grateful for a Mill neighbor who faithfully mows the Mill grounds and does not charge us for his service.

There are, necessarily dedicated members whose contribution is constancy. They are the go-to people who provide all programs with whatever is needed whenever there is a need.

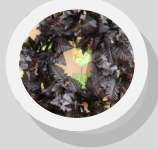
I've been asked not to name names because someone will surely be missed or misidentified, and the space in this issue would quickly be over-filled, but I so want everyone to receive well-earned recognition for their contributions. Because of everyone's efforts, and that of those who have served in prior years, our organization continues to welcome potential members and visitors who wish to experience glimpses of our rural past and the hospitality of our members.

With sincere appreciation, I remain

Carla Sullivan

President

### IN MEMORY



\* **George FitzGibbon May 5 2015 ;  
married 63 years to Harriet**

\* **Anna F. Kotasek June 22, 2015**

\* **Jeanne K. Kirkpatrick July 13, 2015**

### Officers

President:	Carla Sullivan	862-5385
Vice President:	Alice Hopkins	862-3635
Secretary:	Anita Shipway	785-9207
Treasurer:	Sandy Halliday	862-3470
Museum Curator	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator	Tom Kotasek	754-0381

### The Board of Trustees\*

2015: Phil Childs, Sue Hoskins, Joanne Weir

2016: John Haggerty, Diane Fleenor, Betty Welch

2017: Nancy Berry, Sandy Rozek, Pat Stacconi

\* 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.



## I Run For .. Half Marathon Sunday, September 20, 2015

**8:00 AM**  
**2693 New York 26**  
**Maine, NY**

### Starting Line in Maine Town Park

The inaugural I Run For... Half Marathon was held in the Town of Maine on Sept. 7, 2014. The race had 132 finishers and raised \$1,000 for transformative cancer research at Weill Cornell.

**Check the website for registration and information.**

**<http://www.irunforhalfmarathon.com>**  
**Contact Person Anne Seepersaud at**  
**[irunforhalfmarathon@gmail.com](mailto:irunforhalfmarathon@gmail.com)**

*The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine NY will have an informational table in Pavilion Two of the Town Park. Publications of the society will be available for purchase. Visit Us /Join Us*

**SEPTEMBER 12 Fieldtrip Saturday:** Leaving 8:00 AM for 9:30 Tour. Matilda Joslyn Gage House 210 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY We'll do lunch afterwards Cost involved \$6.00 [www.matildajoslyngage.org](http://www.matildajoslyngage.org) RSVP Sandy Halliday at 862-3470

**SEPTEMBER 12 Maine's Swing Thing**  
SEE BELOW or Call Sandy Rozek 862 9480

**OCTOBER 17 Saturday Cemetery Tour** at 2 PM The Allentown Cemetery; Learn about the stories of the 421 Individuals who are interred here If weather is poor PowerPoint showing. At the museum

**NOVEMBER 11 Wednesday Veterans Day**  
Dinner Fundraiser at Friend's Diner Maine NY

**NOVEMBER 16 Presentation Betty Welch** talks about "When the Hamlet of Maine was the place to live" if you worked for Binghamton University" .

A special thanks to Andrea Eichorn and **The Country Wagon Produce**, for making and donating new memorial wreaths



## MAINE'S SWING THING!!!



**Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine NY presents:**

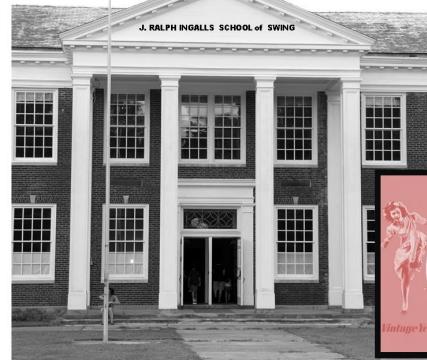
### **An Evening of Pure Joy**

#### **Hey Cats Here's the Facts:**

- ⇒ Learn to Swing from "Wicked" Cool Instructors from 6:30 to 7:30
- ⇒ Show your *Sway* and Dance from 7:30 to 9:30
- ⇒ Music via classic Swing Era records
- ⇒ Tickets \$10.00 for the whole swinging evening! Including one beverage.

#### For info and/or tickets contact:

- ♦ Sandy Rozek at 862 9480 or
- ♦ Nancy Berry at 862 4527
- ⇒ Dance located at the *J. Ralph Ingalls School*, Church St., Maine NY



**School of Swing: an evening of learnin' and swirlin'**  
**September 12, 2015**

# School Renamed For Ingalls

The Maine Elementary School has been renamed the J. Ralph Ingalls Elementary



J. RALPH INGALLS

School in honor of the man who has served schools in the Maine-Endwell area for more than three decades.

The Maine-Endwell Board of Education voted for the change to recognize Mr. Ingalls' "long and outstanding service and dedication to the Maine-Endwell School System and to the cause of education."

Mr. Ingalls, who will be 73 next month, said today he is "very much pleased" with the honor. "There certainly isn't anything else the board could have done that I would have appreciated more," he said.

A retired Endicott Johnson Corp. employe, Mr. Ingalls lives at 7 McGregor Avenue in Maine.

HE SERVED as board president, first for the Maine Central School District and later the Maine-Endwell district for 21 years.

The veteran board member says he plans to retire from the M-E board when his current five-year term expires in July, 1970.

Mr. Ingalls began his service to education in 1938, the year the old Maine Central School District was formed, as school treasurer.

In 1945, he was elected to the district's school board, and five years later, was elected to the board presidency.

When the Maine system was consolidated with the Union Free School District of Endwell in 1957 to become the Maine-Endwell district, he again was elected board president and served as president until 1966 when he was succeeded by Mrs. John T. Caulfield, who since has moved to California.

IN A CITATION, the board credited Mr. Ingalls' leadership for the "smooth" consolidation of the two districts and his plan of "spreading the debt" that turned out to be unique in the educational annals of New York State.

Mr. Ingalls' "success as a leader was not because he dominated, but because he commanded respect," the board citation read.

The school named after Mr. Ingalls is in Church Street in Maine. It was built in 1938.

<http://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper4/Binghamton%20NY%20Press%20Grayscale/Binghamton%20NY%20Press%20Grayscale%201969.pdf/Binghamton%20NY%20Press%20Grayscale%201969%20a%20-%202801.pdf>

**J. Ralph Ingalls.** I know a few details about him, mostly by doing a "Goggle" search. Born: 1896 Died 1972, Married Lucy H. ,born 1897, died 1990, Lived in Maine NY Buried in Maine Cemetery; Veteran WW I; Member of the Maine Community Band (played piccolo) , Grandfather James N. step mother Harriet E. Tucker (married 1890). Maine Central School (Church Street) dedicated 1940 ; renamed 1969 J. Ralph Ingalls School; 1940 Treasurer Board of Education; wife Lucy Ingalls 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher; lived on McGregor Avenue; PC

**And Now For the Rest of the Story: A painting showing life in Maine NY around 1900.**



"Teaching a Dog New Tricks" oil on illustration board . Signed F. T. Bowers 1904 12" x 18" Collection of Roberson Center for the Arts and Sciences. FRANCK TAYLOR BOWERS 1875-1932



**Franck Taylor Bowers** artist, son of Mr. and Mrs. LaMont M. Bowers born Binghamton NY; wife Frances Nicoll of Washington D.C. His brother was Dr. Clement Bowers, noted botanist. Clement Bowers was the father of Janet Bowers Bothwell Painting is from a publication of Roberson Center for a *Retrospective of Drawings, Paintings and Photographs*. 1977 Roberson houses many of F.T. Bowers art work.

Photograph from NVHS archives of Charles Bowers who is finishing off sap inside the house. Charles is a brother of LaMont and Uncle to Franck. He was an undertaker, coffin and furniture maker . His home was at 2878 Route 26 Maine NY. The home which is currently yellow with the barn that has an American Flag painted on it.



"The First Church Congregational  
 The Congregational church as it may have looked when it stood in the cemetery in 1825. The steeple may or may not have been part of the building. Note the Curtis home in the background. The minister who first preached at this church Rev. Olin Niell (1824 - 1830)." Clarence. Stratton 1969 Church Hall

INTERVIEW WITH THE CURATOR: Are you interested in the history of your home or buildings near you? The Historic Society has many records which date from the summer of 1982 compiled by the Preservation Planning Workshop of Cornell University. The documents contain both descriptive and historical accounts of the property. Contact Sue Lisk to see if your home is documented. The Curtis family history on the document states " John C. Curtis emigrated from Stockbridge Ma, where he was born April 15, 1902. The son Iram Curtis, John came to Maine in 1824, and settled approximately 1 1/2 miles south of the hamlet. The house ...was built a few years after his arrival. Curtis established the first Post Office on the site in 1928 and served as Post Master, but the functions where later moved into the hamlet. He was a member and trustee of the Congregational Church Society for 50 years, and was a Deacon for 25 years. In addition he held the office of Justice of Peace in the Town of Union for 11 years and was an assessor and supervisor in the Town of Maine . Curtis was a presiding officer at the first Town of Maine meeting held April 25, 1848. " These documents speak of marriages and children and other personal information besides facts about the property.



View of Curtis House from the cemetery. It contains many of the original outbuildings including an outdoor water pump under a gazebo.



Driving south on route 26 just past the Maine Cemetery you might have noticed the Curtis House (2356 Route 26). Most wouldn't notice it while traveling 55 mph but if you slow down and travel back to the mid 1820's this same location could have been the center of the hamlet. Across the street is the Dudley farmstead ,(photo below) just north is the Maine Congregational Church (See Stratton 1969 painting page 8) founded in 1819 . It had an established graveyard with its first burial of Grove Slosson who died in 1816 . Just north of the church was the Maples Farm (still there). Perhaps the land was too valuable and farming was its best use. Few choices existed in rural NY for earning a living, basically farming or working in the trades or shops which serviced the ever increasing population in the region. One of the first structures in the hamlet (1825) was an Inn which is still standing. (2613 Maine St) . Many other homes date from this time: The Lincoln house 2588 Main St. (Lil Ames' home, ), next door 2586 from the same time was the home of Francis Marean the son of an original settler Henry Marean. (pronounced Marine) other homes still standing on Main Street date from around 1830. The town grew rapidly then as it served the hamlet and surrounding farms The area was self sufficient: eggs, meat and grains came from a few miles away. Pitchers Mill built by Belden and Daniel Slosson dates from 1830 . Goods were brought to you by peddlers right to your door. The hamlet of Maine NY which incorporated in 1848 was a great place to live and you probably never had to leave it.



**In 1796 Jedidiah Dudley came from Stockbridge MA. The 1915 photo shows the home built in around 1825 by Jedidiah Jr. The farm was located where the Shadowbrook subdivision is today .**

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

Sept. 2015 Issue # 3

---

---

---

---

<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Street Address:</b> _____
<b>City/State/zip:</b> _____
<b>Phone: (Home)</b> _____ <b>(Work)</b> _____
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> _____
<b>Dues:</b> _____ <b>Single</b> _____ <b>Family</b> _____ <b>\$50.00 Patron</b> _____ <b>\$100.00 Business</b>
<b>Amount Enclosed: \$</b> _____

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

**Note:** See Address label for your Dues Paid status. Please mail returns to:

**Dues Please Circle Year(s)**    2015    2016