

# Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2023 Newsletter # 1 March CLXXV

edited by Phil Childs

[www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)

See us on Facebook



## Officers 2022

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:	Joanne Weir	239-1020
Museum Archivist:	Sue Lisk	862 9705
Mill Curator:	Luke Kaczynski	239-8009
Town of Maine Historian:	Susan H. Lisk	

## The Board of Trustees\*

**Emeritus:** Linda Hansen, Bob Lawler, Rita McKeon

**2023:** Kerin Flannery, Lynn Ross, Luke Kaczynski

**2024:** Bill Austin, Phil Childs, Christine Clifton-Kendall

**2025:** Dixie Kucharski, Carla Sullivan, Sandy Rozek

\* 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.

1. Table of Contents, Board of NVHS, Photo by Sandy Rozek
2. President Page...Gordie Gottlieb, J. Ralph Ingalls photo
3. Maine is turning 175 this year, Paintings from the Maine Fest.
4. Events coming ahead! Square Dancing classes
5. Sponsorship form for the 175th.
6. Sylvia Ward...treasures, barn quilts project - Joanne
7. Fond memories...Anita Shipway by Sue Lisk, Save your peanut butter jar lids.
8. It Takes a Village 175<sup>th</sup> Town of Maine Committees
9. Obituaries, History in the Tombstones, Regina Pneumatic Cleaner
10. Play Dough, Gary Hinman blacksmith coming to the 175th celebration
11. News from the Vice President ...Joanne Weir, Images of the post office
12. Join Us. .



Sunset on Pollard Hill Road taken by Sandy Rozek

Greetings Everyone,

I am pleased to announce that the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society has assumed ownership of the J Ralph Ingalls School on Church Street from the Michael McKilligan Estate. Mike was generous to us, and we are working to fulfill Mike's vision of turning the school into a vibrant and community serving property. To make it easier to achieve this vision, we have created a new 501c3 charitable corporation (separate from the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society) to facilitate the increased activities and responsibilities that accompany such a project. The new organization is called the **J RALPH INGALLS PRESERVATION SOCIETY**.



In the near future, we will be looking to establish an Executive Board and Trustees to guide this organization. We hope many of you will be involved or volunteer to serve. We will be asking for volunteers. In the meantime, an ambitious group of volunteers have made great progress in getting the building ready for a series of next steps that will allow the public to come into the school for some upcoming sales or clean-up activities. The building needs a lot of work, so we will need support.

In addition to the J. Ralph Project, Kerin Flannery and Bill Austin have led an ever-growing team of volunteers who have stabilized the Mill foundation and updated the electric service. They have put electric service behind the one room schoolhouse (for future activities) and have started renovations for a handicapped accessible bathroom and improved the lighting and storage functionality throughout the museum. The teams have also cleared out the Norton Wagon Works barns and safely relocated the contents that were inside so we can begin renovations there.

Joanne Weir, Lynn Ross and Jim Tokos are doing an unbelievable job organizing the Memorial Day Weekend activities planned for the Town of Maine's 175th Birthday celebration, or it is fondly known as, the *Demisemiseptcentennial* Celebration of Maine, NY. Please follow our website to learn more about the fun events and activities planned. [www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)

In addition to the above, please watch for more programs, classes, BBQs, and concerts, as we plan a full year of activities for the NVHS.

Thank You!

Gordie

J. Ralph  
Ingalls  
Prior to 1980  
Name on  
front façade.





## Maine is turning 175 this year!

### Help us celebrate the Demi-semi-sept-centennial



175 Years

*Demisemiseptcentennial*

This year marks the **175<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the Town of Maine and many exciting activities in celebration of this historical event are being planned. Don't miss out on involving your family in this once in a lifetime happening! We also rely on our members to become involved as volunteers so please consider how you'd like to help.

The celebration will kick-off with a Toast to the Town on **Monday, March 27** – the actual anniversary of Maine's incorporation in 1848 – at **6:00 PM** at the pagoda on the corner of Route 26 and Church Street. This is open to all ages! Thanks to a generous donation from Matco Electric, the first 150 adults to arrive will take home a commemorative wineglass with the celebration logo on it!

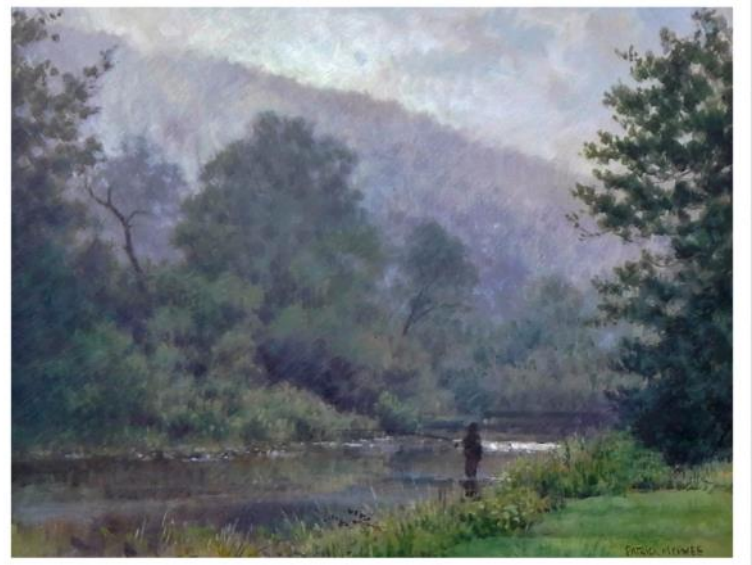
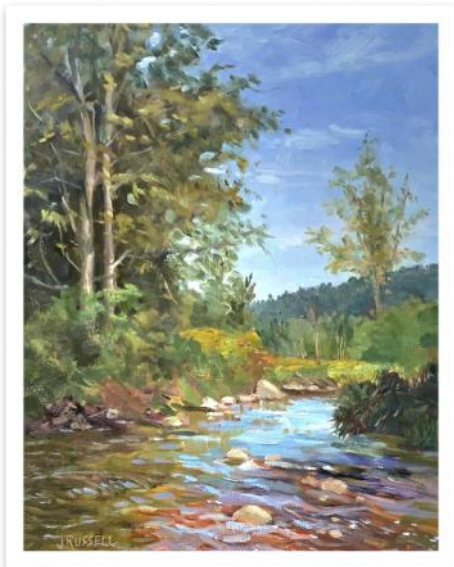
The celebration in May will open on **Friday, May 26** at Maine Memorial at 7:00 PM and will continue **Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28**. Activities for all ages will include:

- *Bathtub Races* • *Beard-Growing Contest* • *Country General Store* • *Museum Tours*
- *Family Activities & Games* • *Vendors* • *Cornhole Tournament* • *Trolley Rides* • *Tikes & Trikes Parade* • *Youth Activities & Old Time Games* • *Food Trucks* • *Community Musical Performance* • *Maine's Gong Show* • *House Tours* • *Pancakes in the Park* • *Square Dance* • *Artisan Demonstrations* • *Music in the Park* • *Quilt Exhibit* • *Spelling Bee* • *and MORE!*

The calendar of events is still a work in progress; however, thanks to Gordie Gottlieb's hard work and talent, you can check out the latest schedule, news and updates by visiting our website at [www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com).

Please note that the American Legion is planning their annual Memorial Day Parade on **Monday, May 29** and the historical society will host our annual Smokey Legend BBQ and bake sale that day at the museum.

An amazing group of people have been involved in planning the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we welcome new members to the committee. Please get in touch with any of the chairpersons listed, or email [MaineDemi@gmail.com](mailto:MaineDemi@gmail.com).



Two views of Nanticoke Creek at the Park St. park location. To the left is Jerry Russell's view looking upstream (first place) and Patrick McPhee's (second place) looking downstream.. These are from the 2022 Plein Air art contest held at the Maine Fest .



*“Hey! rub-a-dub, ho! rub-a-dub, three Maniacs in a tub, And who do you think were there?  
The butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker, And all of them gone to the Demi-semi-sept-centennial!”*



Joanne Weir, Kristy Dougherty and Lynn Ross show off their bathtub racer.



Bath tub racers in 1976, Bill Berry (GW) and Clarence Ames at the town of Berkshire's Bicentennial celebration.

Many events are planned throughout the year to focus a spotlight on Maine, NY. We have a second workshop scheduled for **barn quilts** to beautify the town and **square dance lessons** are being offered in preparation for the May 27 dinner dance. On March 27 at 6:00 PM the town will gather at the pagoda on the corner of Church St. and Route 26 for a **Toast to the Town** featuring Jim Tokos, Sue Lisk, Sandy Rozek and Nancy Berry. In the spring, Richard Henry will conduct a **Plein Air art class**. The 3-day **175th anniversary celebration** in May will be followed by the American Legion's annual **Memorial Day parade** down Route 26 to the dedication ceremony at the Maine Cemetery. NVHS will welcome folks to the museum for a **Smokey Legends BBQ** following the parade. On Sunday, August 13 at 3:00 PM a **History in the Headstones** performance will allow visitors to meet characters from Maine's past. On Saturday, September 9 we will host the **Plein Air competition** and **MaineFest**. Follow updates and details on our website [www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com).



Above photo: .... the town was hopping as an enthusiastic group had the first square dance lesson under the direction of Judy Myers. Next lessons are on 3/4 and 3/11 - come on down!

## Help us celebrate Maine's Demisemiseptcentennial! 175 th Anniversary Celebration - Sponsorship Opportunities

Activities will take place throughout the hamlet of Maine, NY  
on May 26, 27 & 28, Memorial Day Weekend, 2023

**Double Demi-Semi-Sept Sponsor \$175 x 2 = \$350**

Opportunity to display a corporate banner during the weekend's major events

Opportunity to be introduced as a top sponsor

Name/Business displayed on prominent signage throughout the weekend\*

Inclusion in Advertising, Social Media and Marketing materials\*

4 Tickets to Saturday's Dinner & Square Dance

4 Tickets to Maine's Community Musical Performance

Souvenir certificate commemorating your support of this historic event

**Demi-Semi-Sept Sponsor \$175**

Name/Business displayed on prominent signage throughout the weekend

Inclusion in Advertising, Social Media and Marketing materials\*

4 Tickets to Saturday's Dinner & Square Dance

Souvenir certificate commemorating your support of this historic event

**Demi-Semi Sponsor \$17.50 x 4 = \$70**

Name/Business listed as a contributor on signage at the event

Souvenir certificate commemorating your support of this historic event

**Demi Sponsor \$17.50**

Souvenir certificate commemorating your support of this historic event

Please check one of the above boxes to indicate your level of sponsorship, complete this form,  
and mail it with your check payable to NVHS, PO Box 75, Maine, NY 13802.

Business/Individual Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

**Please return this form and payment no later than March 31, 2023**

**Or visit [www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com) to place your order online.**

NVHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. TAX EIN #23-7169492

Sponsorship contact: Peggy Miller @ 607-725-3829

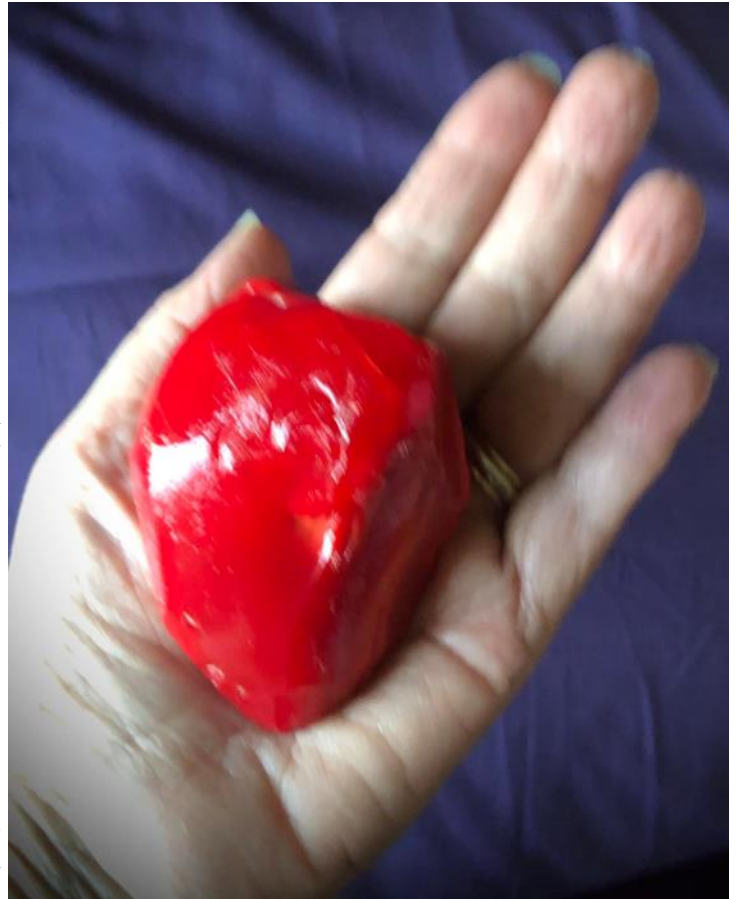
*\*Email your logo or artwork to [MaineDemi@gmail.com](mailto:MaineDemi@gmail.com)*





Sylvia Ward · Maine NY 2.14.2023

This treasured item has been in my possession for most of my life. I always loved red, plus I always loved the heart shape. So many years ago, my gramma had a farm in Ketchumville. I spent many memorable days with her. Days were long and she knowing nothing but hard work from sun up until sun down. She was down to one cow and a few chickens plus geese. My parents were talking about moving closer to town as the commute was hard especially in winters. Plus time away from home was a consideration also. But my gramma grew the best gardens. Huge was an understatement. Meticulous kept and weed free. As a child growing up in Ukraine her job was to pick potatoes all day long for the boss. Her wage were a few coins which she sewed in the hem of her apron for safe keeping. So one morning we headed down to the lower field where she grew potatoes, I'm not sure if she was hilling the plants or plowing the plot to grow. But I distinctly remember with the turn of the spade this red item glistened in the morning sun. I picked it up and stared in amazement at my new found treasure, wondering how it got there. Only to be told later it probably was a remnant of some slag glass. Nevertheless it was a treasure to me. So as the years passed with the decades, I've kept this treasure with me! It's been my constant companion and a sweet reminder of the many people I've had loved in my life, to have to love but for a season. My gramma lived a long life but when she died, I felt the first real sting of death from losing someone very close to me. With many more to follow, that love is now safely tucked away in my heart with the promise of being with them when I will fly away. Please be gentle with one another, may your days be filled with the genuine love than only comes from above. As you ponder the purpose of life here on earth, always remember what is the greatest of these! LOVE ♥



Town of Maine residents: If you have a wooden barn quilt square hanging on a building or your home and would like it to be photographed as part of a Barn Quilt Tour exhibit for the Town of Maine's celebration, please provide your name, address, phone, email address, and the location of the barn quilt to us at [MaineDemi@gmail.com](mailto:MaineDemi@gmail.com) or call Joanne Weir at 607-239-1020 by Friday, March 31. Please let others in the town know of this exciting opportunity to show off our town.



It's funny how time passes so quickly here in the Nanticoke valley. I feel like I just met Anita Shipway but it really was in 1992. To meet the needs of a number of schools in our area we started to offer school tours. Local children would come to the museum to learn how people of the past hand washed their clothes, made butter, planted crops, played games, and, of course, the secrets of the outhouse. One day I received a note attached to an old fashioned hoop and stick. The note came from Anita Shipway, a teacher who soon was retiring and would be coming to help me with the school tours. Well, Anita came and did help with many school tours through the years as well as anything she felt that needed doing. No one had to ask, if she saw there was a need, she and her sidekick, Dick Shipway, would do it.



They wrote the newsletter for a number of years. Anita and Dick measured our electric usage to determine how we could save electricity and get our rates down so we could have meetings in our own building instead of the Federated church or Town Hall.

When I was writing MAINE AND THE NANTICOKE VALLEY Anita and Dick just showed up one evening and fact checked the whole chapter on the Maine Community Band. Thank you!

And finally, in January 2014 a pipe froze and broke on the second floor of the museum that caused a lot of damage and flooded several rooms. I called the National Archives to ask what to do with all the wet books. On their advice Anita took many of the books home to store in their freezer. She also took the Dudley family Bible that was soaked through. Because of Anita and her neighbors in Park Manor we still have the Dudley Bible because Anita asked all her neighbors to donate paper towels to put in between the pages to aid in drying it out.

These are just a few of the wonderful things Anita and of course ,Dick did for our organization. That doesn't cover what she did for every place else in Broome County too. Anita will be sorely missed by us all. Goodbye for now Anita and thank you! Sue Lisk



REQUEST: Eat lots of peanut butter!  
We need plastic lids from peanut butter jars.  
Please contact Sandy Rozek if you can donate any for  
a kids' game project. Sandy: 607-862-9480



## It Takes a Village 175<sup>th</sup> Town of Maine Committees

An amazing group of people have been involved in planning the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we welcome new members to the committee. Please get in touch with any of the chairpersons listed, or email [MaineDemi@gmail.com](mailto:MaineDemi@gmail.com)

### Committee Co-Chairs:

Lynn Ross, Jim Tokos, Joanne Weir

### Activity/Event Chairs:

Treasurer

Judy Kunz

Activities (Family)

Christa Munley, Maine Town Rec Committee

Activities (Youth)

Christine Clifton

Art Team

Kim Hayden, Kellie Smith

Contests

Kristy and Dan Dougherty

Cornhole Tournament

Crystal and Tom Mott, Beth Barrett

Facilities

Town of Maine

Food/Dinner Dance

Jim Tokos, Karen Meschner

General Store

Carla Sullivan, Andrea Eichhorn, Sylvia Ward,  
Linda Austin, Sandy Rozek, Sue Lisk

General Store – Pop-up

Sandy Rozek

History

Sue Lisk

House Tours

Lorrie Flannery

Music

Gordie Gottlieb

Musical/Gong Show

Hilary Rozek

Pancake Breakfast

Darlene and Joe Voltz, Knights of Columbus

Parade – Trike & Bike

Lorrie Flannery

PTA

Sara Morey, Jen Hess

Publications

Phil Childs

Quilting

Linda Austin

School – May Day

Jim Tokos

School – Spelling Bee

Jen Lis

School Engagement

Holly Wisnewski

Souvenirs

Carla Sullivan

Sponsorships

Peggy Miller, Matt White

Ticket Sales

Gordie Gottlieb

Town Beautification

Sue Gottlieb

Town Engagement

Sandy Rozek, Carla Sullivan, Nancy Berry, Vivian  
Rice, Bonnie Ewing, Brenda Stolarcyk

Vendor/Artisan Fair

Bri Burghardt

Volunteers

Nicole Doyle

### Your help is needed!

- **Volunteer** to help during the Memorial Day weekend celebration
- **Pass along the sponsorship** request form (included in this newsletter). We are offering a variety of affordable sponsorship opportunities for you to consider and pass along to involve business owners you may know. The financial support will help provide a high-quality, low-cost opportunity for families and community members throughout our area to enjoy a fun weekend together with neighbors and friends. Any proceeds from this event will be used to restore the Norton Carriage Shops in Maine owned by the Historical Society. Sponsorship order forms are also available on our website.
- **Please keep checking our website** [www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com) for fun details as they are released. Questions to [MaineDemi@gmail.com](mailto:MaineDemi@gmail.com)



## IN MEMORIAM



Joseph McDonald Waples  
4.02.1941 - 5.18.2022  
Anita Alkinburg Shipway  
9.10.1938—1.5.2023



### WAIT! HISTORY IS NEVER OVER!

We will still be celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> with HISTORY IN THE HEAD-STONES in MAINE CEMETERY on **Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 3PM** by going back there this summer for a more realistic trip to bring that history to life! You can be one of our costumed actors that will help tell the stories of the lives of our former residents in “Maine Village.”

Our tour guides will travel through time to give our guests a chance to hear these early settlers tell about their interesting lives. We need your help to tell their tales! There are many talented people in our area and our organization that can dress up and perhaps tell a ten minute interesting condensed biography of our former residents.

If you would like to be part of the “cast,” help with wardrobe, lending appropriate costumes or help in any way, please let me know at [nvhscurator@hotmail.com](mailto:nvhscurator@hotmail.com) or (607) 862-9705

Sue Lisk



### **Never Worry About a Power Outage !**

Regina Pneumatic Cleaner “March 19, 1907.

*Regina Pneumatic Cleaner* Manufactured By The Regina Company Rahway NJ New York - Chicago Patented Model A. Canister is metal with diaphragm chambers at each end. A person would work the handle back and forth causing the pivoting metal frame and rods to operate the diaphragms causing a vacuum in the chamber, sucking in the dust, dirt, etc. “ <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/antique-regina-pneumatic-cleaner-vacuum-hand-oper>

**Found among the many treasures at J. Ralph Ingalls school ...this could be yours.**



## Inducted Year: 1998 to the “Toy Hall of Fame”

“Play-Doh modeling compound started out as wallpaper cleaner. Joe McVicker learned from a teacher that kids usually found modeling clay too hard to manipulate. Discovering that the squishy cleaning product he manufactured could substitute, McVicker shipped some to the school. After teachers and kids raved, he offered to supply the product to all Cincinnati schools. More rave reviews followed. McVicker showcased the modeling clay at a national education convention in 1955, and word spread to Macy’s and Marshall Field’s. By 1956, the wallpaper cleaner had become Play-Doh. A year later, the manufacturer offered a softer Play-Doh in primary colors. Kids mixed these to make other colors, ending inevitably in brown. Captain Kangaroo endorsed Play-Doh, and so did Miss Frances from Ding Dong School. Play-Doh Pete appeared on product cans in 1960. The Fun Factory let kids extrude the material into interesting shapes, making mock hair, colorful spaghetti, and pretend ice cream that wouldn’t melt. In the 1980s, Play-Doh expanded its palette to eight colors. Later versions sparkled with glitter, glowed in the dark, or smelled like shaving cream. Recent estimates say that kids have played with 700 million pounds of Play-Doh”



<https://www.museumofplay.org/toys/play-doh/>



Gary Hinman’s “first public appearance as a blacksmith was at age 15, when he set up an exhibition at the Town of Maine’s 125th anniversary celebration. At first, he recalled, people were skeptical of seeing a scrawny teenager in that role.” Meet him at the towns 175th celebration “ 10



### *News from the Vice President...*

We are in need of someone to take on the role of Vice President! I am currently Acting Vice President; however, I've recently agreed to take on the role of Curator and will need to step down from the VP position. The Vice President assists the President as needed and acts a chairman of the programs committee, making sure that suitable programs are provided at monthly membership meetings. It's not a hard job and it's a great way to be involved. Does this sound like you or someone you know?

### *Upcoming programs...*

Thanks to a dynamic work crew headed by Kerin Flannery, the bathroom at the museum is undergoing a complete renovation and will soon be handicap accessible. The lighting in the building has been improved and many repairs have been made. We are also readying the large meeting room for its transformation into a Country General Store for the celebration weekend. Because all this is happening, we will not be meeting at the museum in March

- **Monday, March 27** – the actual anniversary of Maine's incorporation in 1848 – at **6:00 PM** at the pagoda on the corner of Route 26
- Planning of a Plein Air art lesson by famed artist Richard Henry.
- On **Monday, April 17** at 7:00 PM local craftsman and dulcimer maker Bernd Krause will be sharing the art of dulcimer making with us. At the museum 13 Nanticoke Road.
- **May 26 - 28** will consist of activities surrounding the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Please keep Memorial Day Weekend open!
- **Monday 29th** the American Legion will host its annual Memorial Day parade followed by the Smokey Legend BBQ and bake sale at the museum.
- On **Monday, June 19** we will host our annual Membership Picnic. This is typically a Bring a Dish-to-Pass affair on the lawn of the museum. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer.
- **Sunday August 13** at 3:00 PM meet at the Maine Cemetery for History in the Tombstones.
- **Saturday September 9** Plein Air Event with Maine Fest.

**Plus more....check the website for other events!!!!**



Two views of our post office on Main and Church streets. Photograph by Richard McPherson and painting by Scott Yurko.

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

PO Box 75, Maine, NY 13802

March, 2023 Issue # 1

---



---



---



---

### Renew Your Membership Today

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter: Mailed (Add \$5:00) or Electronic

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior/Student \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Business \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, PO Box 75, Maine, NY 13802

Save a stamp and renew online <https://nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com/become-a-member>