

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2026 newsletter # 1 March 1 *edited by Phil Childs*

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com

See us on Facebook



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AMERICA



Join us on Monday March 16 at the Museum
3 Nanticoke Road at 630 PM. First member
meeting for this year.

**We're on
Instagram!**

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Cyrus Gates House– old Nanticoke Road
Underground Railroad Stop

“The **Solar cycle**, also known as the **solar magnetic activity cycle**, **sunspot cycle**, or **Schwabe cycle**, is a periodic **11-year** change in the Sun's activity measured in terms of variations in the number of observed sunspots on the Sun's surface. Over the period of a solar cycle, levels of solar radiation and ejection of solar material, the number and size of sunspots, solar flares, and coronal loops all exhibit a synchronized fluctuation from a period of minimum activity to a period of a maximum activity back to a period of minimum activity.” 2025-2026 has been a period of high sunspot activity with subsequent high levels of northern lights. Many local Mainers shared their photographs of the northern lights on Facebook. Many found that the northern lights were more visible on camera images than with the “naked-eye”. Thanks Bob for sharing your photo.



Bob Hansen January 2026

General Timeline Referring to Some Facts Concerning Maine NY – Starting 1700 -1816

- **Prior to 1700** the New York State region was the home to the **Haudenosaunee** (Iroquois and the Algonquian tribes) which formed an alliance called the Five Nations (Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga and Seneca) The Tuscarora joined later and it began the Six Nations.
- 1722 Nanticoke Tribe (Nantaquak -People of the tidewater) leave Maryland, Delaware area and move into upstate NY with permission of Six Nations.
- 1754 - 1763 French and Indian War British and Iroquois vs. France and Algonquian; British won. It was the North America aspect of the Seven Years' War (1756–63) in Europe.
- **April 19, 1775** Battle of Lexington and Concord
- 7.14.1776 Declaration of Independence
- Winter of 1777 – 1778 Valley Forge
- 11.11.1778 Cherry Valley Massacre
- February 1779 Congress asks George Washington to protect the frontier.
- 4.15.1779 Washington writes letter to General John Sullivan to destroy British/Loyalist, and Iroquois
- John Sullivan Campaign with General James Clinton. Sullivan travels north from Wyoming Valley Pa., Clinton comes down Susquehanna,
- 8.18.1779 Cochugant tribe of Tuscarora village on Choconut Creek in Vestal destroyed by General Enoch Poor's army sent by Sullivan to meet Clinton.
- The two armies meet in August 28, 1779 at modern Union NY, thus the name. Campaign ends Oct. 1779
- Oct 1781 Battle of Yorktown
- 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
- 1786 William Cooper settles Cooperstown
- **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 from dividing Tioga County Vestal separated 3.23.1823 and **Town of Maine 3.27.1848.**
- 1792 Riverside Cemetery starts burial of Joshua and John Mersereau.
- 11. 1812 Jedidiah Dudley (38 years old) oldest grave in Union Center Cemetery Nanticoke Valley Cemetery
- 4.1816 Grove Slosson (7 months) oldest grave in Maine Cemetery

Local Intelligence Under the heading “Local Intelligenc. [sic],” you’ll learn “Potato bugs are quite plentiful in this vicinity.” Also, that “Wm. B. [yep, the B stands for Baldwin] Morgan has returned from Wisconsin, where he has been since last spring.” Can you guess who “Old Mother Rumor” is talking about as “A city gentleman is expected to claim one of Lambs [sic] Corner’s [sic] fair damsels for his bride?” And, what “very fine winter wheat” Mr. S.T. Councilman has grown, “now nearly ripe enough to cut.” Oh, and “Remember the Broome County Farmer’s Jubilee which is to be held here on the 5th of next month.” And, take “[n]otice” that the Lamb’s Corners Agricultural Society will be meeting at the School House next Saturday evening.”

Lamb’s Corners Market See the “Lamb’s Corners Market” section to learn of the price of, among other things, eggs (17 cents a dozen), dried apples (8 cents a pound) and even the price of paper rags (3 cents a pound).

News All Around In the “News All Around” section, checkout the price of gold in New York and of crop damage done by grasshoppers in Minnesota. Other news told of Chicago again being in ashes, “A terrible fire has been raging there since the 15th last.” The *Eagle* reported that “[a]ll papers, to actual subscribers within the County where published, go free through the mails now. The law went into effect July 1st.”

Church Directory Looking for the M. E. Church? You’ll find in the “Church Directory” section that it’s located on the corner of “Church and College Streets.” I guess they thought quite highly of the little red school in town! Want to go to a prayer meeting this week? You can go to two ... the Baptists hold their prayer meetings every Tuesday evening while the Methodists hold theirs every Thursday evening.

Scraps Under “Scraps,” learn what is the longest rail-road in the world and why Michigan is called the “Lake State.”

Funiosities Don’t miss the “Funiosities” column telling about the debating club in Binghamton discussing the important question of “[w]hether a rooster’s knowledge of daybreak is the result of observation or instinct.” And, check out the ad run in a Western city noting: “[l]ost – a valuable silk umbrella belonging to a gentleman with a curiously carved head.” And there’s the aged bachelor who was quoted as being asked if he had ever witnessed a public execution replying, “[n]o, but I once saw a marriage.” And read about the German writer telling that “a young girl is a fishing-rod; her eyes are the hook, her smile the bait, the lover the gudgeon, and marriage the batter in which he is fried.”

Time Table Want to catch the train in Whitney’s Point, see the “S.B. & N.Y. R. R. Time Table.”

All this and more can be found in the four pages of the *Eagle*. It seems, however, that the *Eagle* was short-lived. An LG article published on Sept. 17, 1874 reported that “The Lamb’s Corners *Eagle* suspends publication this week.” It sites as the cause “the editor has gone away to school, and the Co. has got married and doesn’t want to dabble in newspaper affairs.”

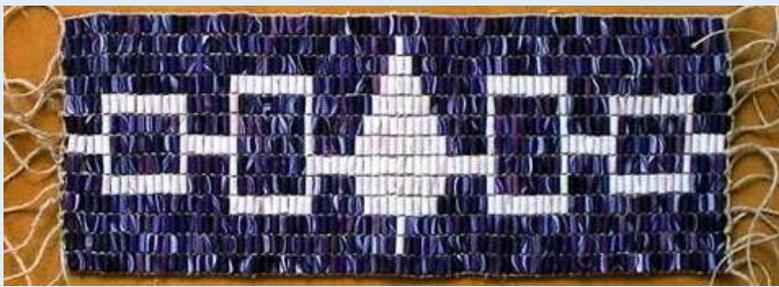
A Sept. 18, 1875 EMB article tells that Joseph Brooks, editor of the *Eagle* “is attending the commercial college at Binghamton.” What was meant in the LG article when reporting that “the Co. has got married” is not clear. Joseph Brooks, born in 1859, married in Maine on June 26, 1883. He died on June 28, 1921 and is buried in the Maine Cemetery along with other members of the family including his father, Levi LaRoy Brooks and Mariette (Wood) Brooks and other members of the prominent Nanticoke Valley family.

The Maine News Not to be outdone by Lamb’s Corners, Maine had its own newspaper a hundred years ago, The Maine News. Published by W.L. Brooks, the first issue of the paper was published on February 9, 1876. A copy of the June 10, 1876 edition ... Vol. I No. 10 ... survives. Like the *Eagle* copy, the copy of the News can be found in the files of the BCHS. An undated newspaper article tells that that paper was given to the Society by Lena Taylor of Maine after having been handed down in her family. Some will recognize the Taylor name. Mrs. Taylor was born a Hathaway and is buried, with her husband, Robert, in the Maine Cemetery. My copy of the *Eagle* is not of the best quality. It is one provided to me by the BCHS years ago. If you would like to see a copy, email me at BaldwinsOnline@Comcast.net asking for a scanned copy of the paper. If you’d like, I’ll send a scanned copy of the Maine News, as well.

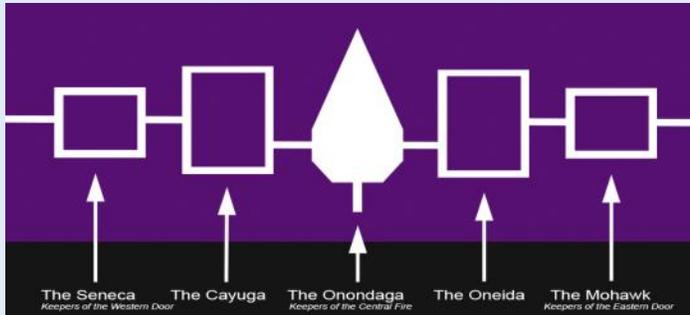
Dick Baldwin Nanticoke Town Historian

Maine-Endwell’s Volunteer Celebration & 32nd Annual Founders Day Dinner

Recognition from MMES PTA and the MESD of NVHS members. The M-E PTA Council Community Contribution awards where held on February 26th at Endwell Greens. The PTA recognized: Phil Childs, Sue Lisk Sandy Rozek and Carla Sullivan for contributing to the education of students and adults about the Town of Maine’s History.



Haudenosaunee, (pronounced "hoo-dee-noh-SHAW-nee"). It means "peoples of the long-house," Much has been said about the inspiration of the ancient Iroquois "Great League of Peace" in planting the seeds that led to the formation of the United States of America and its representative democracy. The Iroquois Confederacy, founded by the Great Peacemaker in 1142 is the oldest living participatory democracy on earth. In 1988, the U.S. Senate paid tribute with a resolution that said, **"The confederation of the original 13 colonies into one republic was influenced by the political system developed by the Iroquois Confederacy, as were many of the democratic principles which were incorporated into the constitution itself."** www.pbs.org/native-america/blog/how-the-iroquois-great-law-of-peace-shaped-us-democracy.



"This belt is a national belt of the Haudenosaunee. The belt is named after Hiawatha, an Onondaga who was the Peacemaker's helper in spreading the good words of Peace. In this belt, it records when five warring nations; the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk, buried their weapons of war to live in peace. Today, the Hiawatha Belt has been fashioned into a flag that has been flown in many places around the world.

The Hiawatha Belt is extremely old. This belt was created at the beginning of our confederacy of peace. We do not know when this belt created, but we know we have had this belt long before the French, Dutch and English explorers made their way to our lands.

When the peace was made between the 5 nations, the Peacemaker told us to think of us all living together under one longhouse. Just like a longhouse, every nation will have their own council fire to govern their people. But they will govern their people under one common law, one heart, and one mind. The Peacemaker changed 50 evil thinking men to good thinking men (Hoyane/Chiefs) to lead the path towards peace for the people. The Peacemaker also gave the power to the women (Clan Mothers) to replace and remove the leaders. The Hiawatha belt is comprised of 5 symbols joined together and when reading the nations of the belts, we follow the path of the sun, starting in the East.

The first nation on the belt and the first nation to accept the peace is the Mohawk, our Eastern Doorkeeper of our common longhouse. Any nation willing to enter the lands of the Haudenosaunee from the east must seek permission from the Mohawks first. There are 9 Hoyane (Chiefs) sitting in the Mohawk Council.

The next symbol represents the council fire of the Oneida, the People of the Standing Stone. There are 9 Hoyane (Chiefs) sitting in the Oneida Council.

The third symbol (the tree) represents Onondaga. Here the Peacemaker uprooted the tallest white pine, the Tree of Peace, which leaders buried their weapons of hate, jealousy, and war beneath it (they buried the hatchet). Since Onondaga lies in the middle of the peace, the Peacemaker also titled them the Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee. The Onondaga are entrusted to keep the council fire to continue burning for the confederacy to come and meet. This often referred to as the fire that never dies. There are 14 Hoyane (Chiefs) sitting in the Onondaga Council.

The fourth symbol is that of the council fire of the Cayuga, the People of the Swamp. There are 10 Hoyane (Chiefs) sitting in the Cayuga Council.

The fifth symbol belongs to the council fire of the Seneca, the People of the Great Hill. The Seneca Nation is the Western Doorkeeper of our common longhouse. Like the Mohawks, if anyone wishes to enter the territory of the Haudenosaunee from the west, they must seek permission from the Seneca first. There are 8 Hoyane (Chiefs) sitting in the Seneca Council.

Together all five symbols unite to make the Hiawatha Belt. When there is a Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee, the Hiawatha Belt is present to remind the leaders to maintain the peace and to make decisions for only to today, but the future Haudenosaunee citizens yet unborn."

www.onodaganation.org/culture/wampum/hiawatha-belt/

Traveling down Lewis Street from Kay Road as you enter the sharp curve you might note the old road bed which went from Lewis and connected with King Hill road. A bridge was located just below the waterfall. This bridge was washed out twice before the town connected Church St to King Hill with a bridge.. This time of year you can easily see the old road bed (just above the red line) when the shadows are just right. In the early history of the town you would travel west on Church St. right onto Maple Ave (not named until around 1900) left on Lewis (opened in 1870) to the bridge, take it across Lewis Creek and then up King Hill road and then off to Newark Valley!



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Spring Cleaning : “The arrival of spring each year meant a thorough housecleaning that included beating and shaking the dirt and dust out of rugs Jessie Dudley Allen (1887-1972) (left) and her mother, Alice E. Haskins Turner Dudley (1861—1955), clean the family homestead, just south of Maine Village, Jessie is beating the rug with a horsewhip.” From *Images of American: Maine and the Nanticoke Valley*, by Sue Lisk



PITCHER'S
SUNRISE PANCAKE FLOUR
 AND
SUNRISE BISCUIT FLOUR
 ARE ALWAYS GOOD
 AT ALL GROCERS

A. R. PITCHER

MAINE, NEW YORK

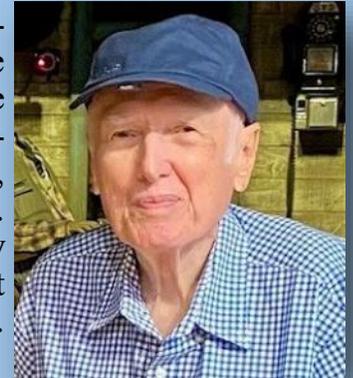


The school on Church street was built in 1938 and opened in 1940. A “grove” of sugar maple trees were planted on the school grounds (photo on the left) and when they grew large enough they were tapped in the spring and the sap was boiled down into maple syrup. Each spring you could see students sneaking a taste of this sweet sap. When the school closed around 1980 the property was offered for sale. Sadly the trees were cut down in the 1990’s by an owner who used the wood to burn and heat the building! After Mike McKilligan bought the school he along with the NVHS planted maples along the roadway. It will take another forty year before they are large enough tap!

The sudden death of John Goodnough has the members of the Civil War Committee wondering how to continue. This committee is made of representatives from: Maine, Nanticoke and Lisle and it is their goal to create a book which talks about the Civil War soldiers from these three communities. They had been working for over two years and John had



amassed over 150 large three ring binders to hold the research. The photo to the left shows Dick Baldwin (Nanticoke town historian) working with the reference materials at the J. Ralph building, where we are temporarily storing them. The committee meets next, Tuesday March 24 to plan for the future. Contact me (Phil Childs) for more information. achild233@aol.com



IN MEMORIAM



Kenneth R. Brady 86
July 31, 1931 — September 9, 2025

John T. Goodnough 84
September 16, 1941 — November 15, 2025

Janet L. Mead 94
April 7, 1931 — February 5, 2026

Mildred L. (Clark) Silvernail, 88
April 8, 1937— September 19, 2025

Revolutionary War

Daniel Chamberlain

Aaron Delano

John Durfee

Samuel Ingraham

Thomas Mearns

Asaph Morse

Abner Rockwell

Phineas Pomeroy

John Wilson

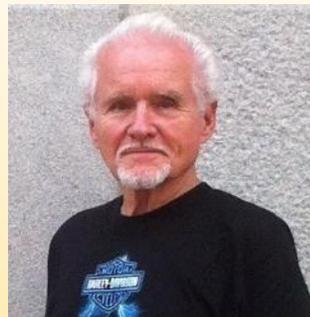
Shirley Woodard was a founding historian in both Maine, NY and Broome County. The listing above is from research Shirley did over fifty years ago and it has a direct impact on our town today as we approach our country's 250th anniversary. These revolutionary war soldiers heard about our region either from fighting here with the Clinton/Sullivan campaign or land sale through the Boston Purchase group.

“Ralph Theodore “Ted” Warner, born on May 11, 1945 and passed away on April 30, 2025, Ted did many things throughout his life. His ancestry in the region spanned many generations, establishing a foundation of civic and historical importance.” Obituary Press and Sun Bulletin. We are pleased to announce that Ted left a large donation in his will to the NVHS. He worked closely with us over many years. We were also informed that he donated to many other historical societies in the area. Thank you Ted.



The NVHS owns and maintains five different historic sites including the ca. 1830 Pitcher's Grist Mills property. Over the recent years only a few docents have been at the mill; Tom Kotasek, Anita Shipway, Lucas Kaczynski, Ken Brady and myself. If you personally wish to learn about the mill Lucas has recorded a one-hour video which you can find on the NVHS website.

When I retired from teaching in 2008, I put my energies into the NVHS and the one location that I was fascinated with was the mill. The mill is open on Sundays during the summer and when I went over there, I met Ken Brady who was conducting tours that day. He was a person who showed true love for the mill. He knew all about each gear, pulley, belt and machine that occupied the building. I listened and learned from him and looked forward to the times I spent with him. Ken was only in Maine NY in the summer as he lived on both sides of the country, here and “winter” in Arizona. When I heard about Ken's passing, I felt a deep loss, no longer would I be learning from him, no longer will the mill visitors get a great tour! Thanks Ken, I miss you. Phil



Dr. Dwight Dudley (Oct. 18, 1841) marries Alice Hoskins Dudley (1861-1955) had four children; **Jessie A. Dudley Allen** (5 Nov 1887 - 21 Nov 1972) married Rennie “J.R.” Allen (16 Jul 1883—12 Dec 1953) They had two sons: **Audley Dudley Allen** (15 Dec 1907—9 Sep 1985) and J. Ward Allen (11 Oct 1911—25 Jun 1983) **Audley Allen** and Alison Allen had a child **Janet L. Allen Mead** April 7, 1931— February 5, 2026 who married Robert W. Mead (17 Feb 1925—2 Nov 2018) who had 3 children; Robin Mead, Rhonda McConnell, and Robert A. Mead and his wife Sandra.. **Janet was a direct descendent of the**

Dudley and Allen families of Maine, NY and Allentown, NY Check the photo on page 7 showing Jessie Dudley and Spring Cleaning.

About this time last year, the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society (NVHS) invited the community to share ideas for the J. Ralph Ingalls building on Church Street in the hamlet of Maine through an online survey. We're excited to share an update on the progress made over the past year.

Getting Started: NVHS took ownership of the building in early 2023. Our first year focused on cleaning, organizing, and preparing the space for community use. We held a large rummage sale, several book sales, and a few small events to reintroduce the building to the community. In spring 2024, major upgrades took place—most notably, replacing all lights with energy-efficient LEDs and giving the gym a much-needed refresh with new paint and repairs.

Highlights: This year brought both exciting accomplishments and a few ongoing challenges. One classroom became home to arts and crafts classes, including glass-making fundraisers hosted by Jablon Studios. The gym buzzed with events: an antique tool auction, a kids' music camp ending in a community performance, a dance recital, participation in the Broome County Art Trail with sidewalk chalk artists, a Dinner & Show Gala, an Antique Show & Sale, and the Town of Maine Recreation Christmas gathering. The building also hosted several private gatherings—birthday parties, a baby shower, and even served as a backdrop for professional and family photos, including Maine-Endwell Homecoming photo opportunities.

Project Updates: Our most significant milestone this year was completing Phase 1 of the gas service project—connecting the NYSEG gas line to the building. We also now have hot water in both downstairs restrooms. As we head into the New Year, we still don't have heat inside. The gas is connected, but the heating units require additional servicing before use. As a result, the building will be closed for events through the winter, reopening in spring 2026. Exterior painting was also delayed. Most trim and window work will move to next year, though the large arched windows on the second floor were completed—and now make a beautiful photo backdrop!

Looking Ahead:—Ongoing Work and Volunteer Needs We still have some clutter and organization to tackle throughout the building, as well as painting some interior and exterior surfaces. Many of you offered to help through last year's survey, and we hope to reconnect with you soon as we plan for another productive year. Your time and support make all the difference in keeping this historic building alive and active. As interest in the building and space grows, we are continuing to work on the organization of operations and the building's function within the community. Thank you to everyone who attended events, volunteered, donated, or simply encouraged us along the way. With your continued help and support, we'll keep turning this beautiful, historic building into a lively hub for our community! For updates, check Nanticoke Valley Historical Society's Facebook page and website.

A Year in Review at J. Ralph Ingalls



“The song was a pre-Revolutionary War song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "Yankees" with whom they served in the French and Indian War. It was written at Fort Crailo around 1755 by British Army surgeon Richard Shuckburgh while campaigning in Rensselaer, New York. The British troops sang it to mock their stereotype of the American soldier as a Yankee simpleton who thought that he was stylish if he simply stuck a feather in his cap. It was also popular among the Americans as a song of defiance, and they added verses to it that mocked the British and hailed George Washington as the Commander of the Continental army. By 1781, "**Yankee Doodle**" had turned from being an insult to being a song of national pride. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yankee_Doodle



Yankee Doodle went to town

A-riding on a pony,
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it macaroni'.

Chorus:

*Yankee Doodle keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.
Fath'r and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding.*

Chorus

And there we saw a thousand men
As rich as Squire David,
And what they wasted every day,
I wish it could be saved.

Chorus

The 'lasses they eat it every day,
Would keep a house a winter;
They have so much, that I'll be
bound,
They eat it when they've mind ter.

Chorus

And there I see a swamping gun
Large as a log of maple,
Upon a deuced little cart,
A load for father's cattle.

Chorus

And every time they shoot it off,
It takes a horn of powder,
and makes a noise like father's gun,
Only a nation louder.

Chorus

I went as nigh to one myself
As 'Siah's inderpinning;
And father went as nigh again,
I thought the deuce was in him.

Chorus

Cousin Simon grew so bold,
I thought he would have cocked it;
It scared me so I shrunked it off
And hung by father's pocket.

Chorus

And Cap'n Davis had a gun,
He kind of clapt his hand on't
And stuck a crooked stabbing iron
Upon the little end on't

Chorus

And there I see a pumpkin shell
As big as mother's bason,
And every time they touched it off
They scampered like the nation.

Chorus

I see a little barrel too,
The heads were made of leather;
They knocked on it with little clubs
And called the folks together.

Chorus

And there was Cap'n Washington,
And gentle folks about him;
They say he's grown so 'tarnal proud
He will not ride without em'.

Chorus

He got him on his meeting clothes,
Upon a slapping stallion;
He sat the world along in rows,
In hundreds and in millions.

Chorus

The flaming ribbons in his hat,
They looked so tearing fine, ah,
I wanted dreadfully to get
To give to my Jemima.

Chorus

I see another snarl of men
A digging graves they told me,
So 'tarnal long, so 'tarnal deep,
They 'tended they should hold me.

Chorus

It scared me so, I hooked it off,
Nor stopped, as I remember,
Nor turned about till I got home,
Locked up in mother's chamber.

Chorus

We have learned so much about trees since this poem was written. It just blows me away to know that those trees can communicate by way of their own version of “www” using the extensive network of mycelium! . Sylvia Ward

“Arbor Day is a national holiday that recognizes the importance of trees. The most common way people celebrate Arbor Day is to get together in groups to plant trees. The day was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraskan journalist who later became the U.S. Agriculture Secretary under President Grover Cleveland. Morton was an enthusiastic promoter of tree planting, had long championed the idea of a day dedicated to planting trees.” .farmersalmanac.com/arbor-day-trees

The next National Arbor Day is Friday, April 24, 2026. On **Saturday April 25, 2026** arbor day will be celebrated by both the town of Maine and the NVHS. The Town will celebrate in the town park behind MMES. Tree planting and dedication, children’s book reading, a toast to the trees and more. The times will be announced on the town of Maine website. The NVHS will hold an arbor day and J. Ralph Ingalls toast at 35 Church street...Times and other events will be announced via Facebook.

"Alfred Joyce Kilmer (December 6, 1886 – July 30, 1... more



Trees

SERGEANT JOYCE KILMER
165th Infantry (69th New York), A. E. F.
(Born December 6, 1886; killed in action near Ourcy, July 30, 1918)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Reprinted from *Trees and Other Poems*, by
Joyce Kilmer, by permission of George H.
Doran Company, publishers. Copyright, 1914.

Tales of the Tiles
The History of the Maine Memorial Elementary School Ceiling Tile Project
2010 - 2024

Thanks to a grant from Broome County Art Council to NVHS in 2025 the history of the MMES ceiling tiles could be shared with the community. When the construction at the elementary school required that the ceiling had to be removed a teacher at the school alerted the NVHS and we accepted the 60 ceiling tiles. As part of the grant they are to be archived and preserved and a book was to be created showing the tiles and telling the tale. This book will be available very soon.



Arbor Day Celebrations:

- **Friday April 24 6:30 PM** NVHS at 35 Church St. J. Ralph Ingalls Building 630 PM tree planting, school tours ,more.
- **Saturday April 25 1 PM** Town of Maine, Town Park family friendly tree Dedication toast and snacks plus!

Maine NY and the Underground Railroad Sue Lisk Maine, NY Historian

February is Black History month. Before and during the Civil War New York's Southern Tier was a critical part of the Underground Railroad. Broome County and Maine, NY were part of our local history. The home of Cyrus and Arabella Gates was built in 1848 on Old Nanticoke Road. Cyrus was a surveyor and cartographer and he and Arabella were also abolitionists. They helped escaped slaves flee to Canada by making a stop at the Gates farmstead and underground station until the end of slavery in 1865. Their house included a concealed attic space with a secret door to hide people fleeing slavery. It was located off the master bedroom.

One of the escaped slaves was **16 year old Margaret Cruiser** who was passing through. She was so homesick that she begged to stay with the Gates family and was accepted. In 1835 Margaret joined Maine Baptist Church which was the same Church the Gates family attended. Margaret remained there and worked for the Gates family. She also married Thomas Crocker of Binghamton.

Margaret was buried on the Gates property in the small cemetery known as Corson's Corner Cemetery along with her three children. The Gates family members say there was never a marker for Margaret but say she was buried somewhere in the southwest corner of the grave yard, her husband, Thomas Crocker, is buried in Binghamton.

Much of this history was obtained in 1973 from an interview of Louise Gates Gunsalus whose family lived in this home and who Shirley Woodward spoke. Sue Lisk archivist of NVHS and Maine Town Historian. You can view an article of the Gates farmstead at: www.wbng.com/2026/02/19/historic-maine-farmstead-served-an-underground-railroad-stop/ Feb. 19, 2026.



Article is Press & Sun-Bulletin



“The U.S. mint is issuing five different **2026 Semiquincentennial Quarters Celebrate 250 years of American history** with the **2026 Semiquincentennial Quarters**, a special series honoring the people, documents, and moments that shaped the United States. Issued as part of the nation’s 250th anniversary, these quarters commemorate the foundations of American self-government, sacrifice, and unity through powerful historical designs.”

**PTA Community Hero Awards
February 26th, 2025**

Hello Everyone,

It was my great honor to nominate and introduce four of our members for the PTA Community Hero Awards at Endwell Greens on Thursday, February 26th, 2026. Gordie

History does not preserve itself and stories need to be captured. They endure because someone cares enough to protect or capture them. Capturing them takes dedication, patience, passion, and hard work. Tonight, I'd like to recognize four individuals, who have become guardians of history — people who have devoted themselves to preserving the record of the Nanticoke Valley and the Town of Maine. Through research, writing, presentations, photography, archiving, and dedication to education, they have built an invaluable historical record of Maine, New York — from its earliest settlers to the vibrant community we know today. Their work lives on through the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society's website, publications, videos, exhibits, lessons, newsletters and programs. Together, they have gathered letters, public records, photographs, oral histories, and personal collections — transforming fragments into narrative and memory into legacy. One concise and remarkable example of their work is a three-part lyceum that was presented at Binghamton University.

Sue Lisk, as Town of Maine Historian, has become a trusted steward of local memory. She is the archivist for the historical society and author. Her book *Maine and the Nanticoke Valley* captures the spirit of our community through carefully restored photographs and deeply researched stories. You can find this book in Barnes and Noble and many online book sellers.

She created our *History in Headstones* programs, which sound a little morbid, but recreates the characters of our past standing near their gravestones and talking about their joys and challenges. Their stories are vivid and engaging. She has built exhibits, attended countless seminars to gain new ideas and methods that make her a better historian, archivist and curator.

Sue has helped secure some of the historical markers around town that connect our landscape to its past. Perhaps most meaningfully, she welcomes families researching their roots — reconnecting people to their history with extraordinary care.

Sandra Rozek has preserved the voice of the community. Through *Poetry from a Small Town*, she gathered more than a century of local expression — capturing not just events, but emotion. Through presentations and programs, she helps us understand not only what happened here, but how it felt to live here. And through her hospitality and warmth, she helps create the sense of belonging that history depends on. She is a gifted poet, educator and writer and has extraordinary energy. She has worked for years on our school tours and monthly programs and coffeehouses. She curates our programs and over the years we have had hundreds of diverse and eclectic programs like beekeeping, paranormal events, the history of stock car racing in Glen Aubrey, our native American predecessors, and has given neighboring historians a chance to connect with us.

Phil Childs has brought Maine's history into focus, both literally and figuratively. Through photography and many authored publications, he has documented the evolving life of Maine — preserving today's moments as tomorrow's history. He is a prolific writer and you will find many of his lectures, presentations and images on the NVHS website. Phil taught science for over 35 years at Union-Endicott. I was in Earth science class which happened to be the 2nd year that Earth Day started (1971). To this day he is teaching me.

It is not surprising that Phil is also a driving force on the newly formed Greenspace Committee. From compiling artistic works to organizing festivals, working with BCAC on multiple projects and contributing to community initiatives, Phil ensures that Maine is not only remembered — but seen. He is encouraging to other educators and writers helped people like Lucas Kaczinski publish his children's book the E-J's Town the Endicott Johnson Story by photographing all the paintings in Lucas's book.

He is the person who conceived the book called *The Tale of the Tiles*, about the Maine Memorial Ceiling Tile project. Documenting its importance, History, and preserving the tiles.

Carla Sullivan has been a steady and thoughtful leader within the Historical Society. As former Secretary and currently Corresponding Secretary, she ensures clarity and purpose to our mission and charter, but her contributions go far beyond procedure. She has captured oral histories, detailed minutes and notes from thousands of hours of proceedings. Served on the hospitality committee, has organized many events, strengthened outreach, and helped keep the museum both rooted in tradition and open to future possibilities.

She is a steward of the historical society's history and future. Through her connection to her father, artist Clarence Stratton, she also helps preserve a visual legacy that continues to inspire our community. Mr. Stratton's art is located in public places and homes within and beyond the Town. You will notice his works in the Maine Memorial auditorium. He captured many buildings that no longer stand. Carla and family have made sure those images are there for the future. Together, Sue, Sandy, Phil, and Carla have preserved archives, gathered voices, served hundreds of meals, acted as docents for our 5 Historical Sites, photographed change, safeguarded art, educated children, and welcomed family's home.

I could spend another 30 minutes talking about all they have done, but we are of limited time here. They do not seek recognition. They simply do the work. Sue. Sandy. Phil. Carla.

Thank you for preserving our past, enriching our present, and protecting our future. Please join me in celebrating these four extraordinary Community Heroes.

Gordie



EVOLVING MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE 2026

All at museum 3 Nanticoke Road at 6:30 PM unless otherwise stated

- MARCH 16 Monday **RING IN THE YEAR**
Gerald Wood : Meneely Bells
(our one room schoolhouse bell history and stories)
- APRIL 20 Monday **Phil Childs** Archie Pitcher: Family and Friends
- APRIL 24 Friday 6:30 at J. Ralph Ingalls **TOAST TO J RALPH INGALL**
- April 25 Saturday 1 PM **Arbor Day in the Town Park** activities, kid friendly.
Organized by the Town of Maine
- MAY 18 **MEMBERSHIP SHOW AND TELL** and**
CURATORS "FROM THE COLLECTION" unique items that we
have in our archives.
** whatever is your interest and what draws
you to share it with all of us (era, historic
events, collections, creative ventures)
- MAY 25 **AFTER THE PARADE** Event: **SMOKEY LEGEND BBQ**
Music, tours, children's activities, raffle baskets Open House at
the museum and schoolhouse
- JUNE 15 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION** (Q and A and
discussion including leaders from several
local nearby museums whose missions are to
preserve their communities' early 20th
century pre-depression development)
- JULY 4 Sunday EVENT To Be Announced
- JULY 20 Picnic and or TBA PRESENTATION
- AUG 17 PICNIC or TBA PRESENTATION
- SEPTEMBER ?? 11 AM **Maine Fest and Broome Art Trail** at J. Ralph Ingalls
Actual date will be announced when BCAC announces date for BAT
Saturday/Sunday at J. Ralph
- SEPTEMBER 21 **THREE PARKS IN THE TOWN OF NANTICOKE**
(Glen Cove, GE, and Greenwood)
Richard Baldwin presenter
- OCTOBER (early on a weekend) **Stream Cleanup** of the Nanticoke at Ames Road
- OCTOBER 19 Presentation TBA
- NOVEMBER 16 **HISTORY OF GIRL SCOUTS IN MAINE**
(memorabilia of Mary Crockett) **Sue Lisk** presenter
- DECEMBER ? **HOLIDAY MUSE** (Musicians TBA, open mike)

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A DOCENT FOR OUR SCHOOL TOURS AND/OR OPEN SUNDAYS DURING THE SUMMER

- **SCHOOL TOURS USUALLY DURING MAY AND JUNE**
- **OPEN SUNDAYS 1-4 JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER AT THE MUSEUM, SCHOOL HOUSE AND MILL**
- **CONTACT SANDY ROZEK TO VOLUNTEER OR TO SUGGEST PROGRAMS FOR THE SOCIETY.**
- **FROM TIME TO TIME, WE WILL HAVE SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE J. RALPH INGALLS BUILDING. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND OR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Visit the 'Become a member' tab on our website: NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety.com

OR • Complete and mail this renewal page with your check
2026 Yearly Membership Dues:

- ◇ Individual - \$15
- ◇ Senior/Student/Teacher - \$10
- ◇ Family - \$20
- ◇ Patron - \$50
- ◇ Business - \$100
- ◇ Lifetime - \$500
- ◇ Additional donation
- ◇ Total Amount Enclosed—_____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

**Newsletter: Mailed please add \$5.00 to your membership
to cover postage**