1845 Schoolhouse No. 4

"Starica

1845

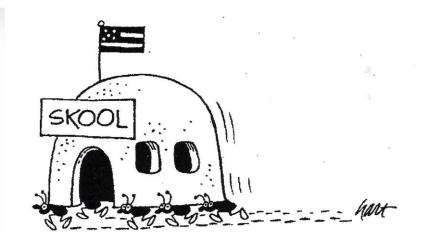
e School That Could!

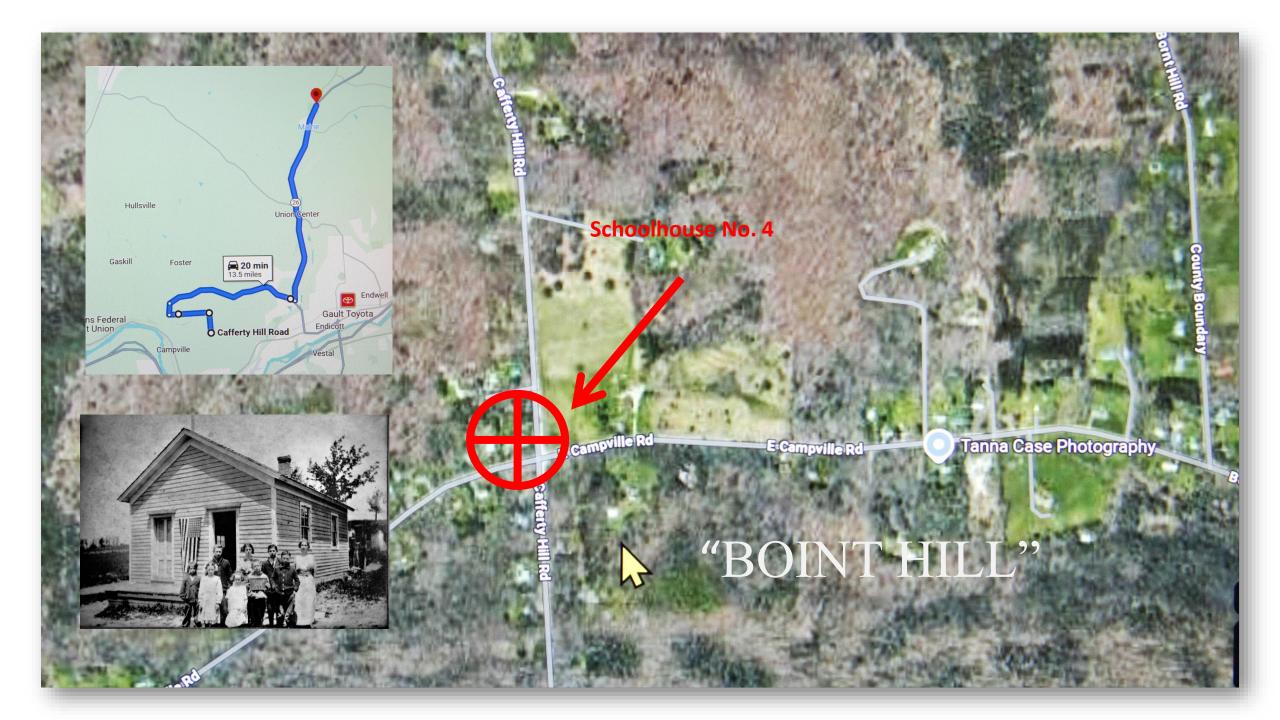
 Built in 1845, closed its doors in 1942, then moved 15 miles in 1999 to start a new life as part
of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine, NY. In March of 1998 the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society received a donation of a one-room schoolhouse built in the 1840's. The schoolhouse, donated by Diane and Larry Thornton, was built in 1845 and was used as a K-12 schoolhouse until 1942. Located at the intersection of Campville Road and Cafferty Hill Road, it was originally called Schoolhouse No. 4 and was part of the joint school district of Tioga/Town of Union.

The Schoolhouse Committee of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society was formed for the purpose of establishing an authentic, hands-on museum in Maine, New York. The addition of this building will help create a unique complex of buildings including the existing House Museum, Pitcher's Mill and Carriage barns.

To the right is a photo of Pat Stacconi with Schoolhouse No. 4. She located two possible old schools in the hills of Broome and Tioga Counties.

Members of the original 1999 committee where: Michele Knaul, Pat Stacconi, Co-Chairs, Nancy Berry, Irene Hall, Mary Materese, Jen Palmer and Joanne Weir. Current members of the committee are: Nancy Berry, Phil Childs, Denise Gervais-Rock, Gordie Gottlieb, Michele Knaul, Sue Lisk, Mary Materese, Sandy Rozek, Pat Stacconi and Joanne Weir.





BUMPER CROP OF MEMORIES By JOHN SILLICK, Apr 23, 2000

https://buffalonews.com/news/farm-life-in-20s-a-bumper-crop-of-memories/article 112aa6fd-dd8e-5860-a605-aa6f042c0506.html

"The dishes were cleared from the table and the coffee served. My father-in-law, Charlie, who's been visiting with us, had helped me unbolt a front loader assembly from a tractor. Now it was good just to sit at the table and talk. I steered the conversation toward his boyhood on a farm in the Southern Tier. In 1928, when Charlie was 8, his parents, Frank and Anna, moved the family from town to a farm they had bought up on *Boint Hill.* Life was different in the country.

Charlie smiled as he told stories about the one-room school that he and his five siblings attended; a three-mile walk from home. He remembered how Gus, who came in early to start the fire in the stove, sometimes took it upon himself to discourage troublemakers from interrupting class. The school featured a hot-lunch program. The students brought whatever food they could spare at home, and then the class put it together as a soup or stew, simmering it on the stove as they did their morning lessons. His father, a jolly man who served as school trustee, labeled it the "Bring your lunch and we'll help you eat it" system. Charlie liked the school: "By the time you got to the next grade, you already knew a lot of the material from overhearing it."

Most people think the Great Depression began in 1929, but falling farm prices through the '20s gave it a premature start in rural America. Frank worked in a shoe factory shaping leather on lasts. Anna went to work at the diner in town. Charlie remembers how she brought home broken cookies and other food. Frank and Anna drove a Model T Ford to work when they could. "But there was no one to plow the road in the winter, so they had to take the horse and cutter."

Frank named the farm "Tioga View." Behind the barn were 10 acres. Across the dirt road were 50 more belonging to a relative who let them use it. The family kept a couple of cows and three coops of chickens. Their eggs and poultry were taken to the market in town. Charlie's father had one capable work horse, as did a neighbor, so they often teamed them and worked together plowing and mowing hay. The kids liked horses, especially old Harry, who was almost blind. Once Charlie strapped on a home-made saddle and hurt his leg when Harry fell, and the boy couldn't get his foot out of a tight stirrup.

My son asked his grandfather what his chores were like. Charlie remembers picking beetles off rows of potatoes. There was pig-butchering and burying cabbage in a pit. Apples, mostly Northern Spies, were picked and carried to the cellar, where they sat by barrels of cider and crocks of salt pork. Firewood for the parlor and kitchen stoves was buzzed by a saw, its belt driven by the flywheel of a 1922 Chevrolet. "How that blade would sing." Electric wires didn't run up Boint Hill, so the family spent evenings in the glow of kerosene lamps until they installed a carbide gas system. Charlie recalls his father putting granulated carbide in a tank and adding water to release the gas. The light was very bright, and his mother used an iron heated by the gas. Charlie describes himself as a rambunctious boy. Once he and his brother shot the glass ball on the lightning rod atop the house. Knowing their father was due home soon, they scrambled up on the roof to turn it around, hoping the broken side wouldn't be noticed.

After almost 70 years, Charlie still remembers their father's reaction. "He looked at us standing there with our BB guns and challenged us to see if we could hit a target of his choosing -- the very glass ball we had cracked earlier." Time can make things good or bad. Sitting around the table on a windy night, we feel its benevolence. We sense how hardship borne as a family strengthens all, and how telling of it after all these years helps pass that strength on."

This story centers on out 1845 one room school house. It covers memories of the school and life on the farm from almost one hundred years ago.



1900 Photo of Schoolhouse No. 4, part of the Tioga/Town of Union school district.



Oct 15, 1913





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WAATINH.

Honorary Members Greg Asfoury, Diane Chainis, Liz Manvell, Dennis Reed, Lynn Ross, Darlene Voltz, Beth Winsor "On Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6 groups of volunteers met at the schoolhouse to dismantle the roof and chimney under the supervision of local craftsman and restorer John Leahy to ready the building for its move to Maine."



Schoolhouse to move

The Schoolhouse No. 4 Committee of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, Maine, has achieved its goal of raising \$17,000 to move a vintage schoolhouse from Owego to the Town of Maine. Part of the moncy came in the form of a \$5,000 grant from the Decker Foundation, Binghamton.

The schoolhouse will be moved at a cost of \$10,000 to a pie-shaped piece of land at the intersection of Nanticoke Road and Route 26 in the hamlet of Maine. The remaining \$7,000 will be used to build a foundation and replace the roof. Moving day will be in June. More fund-raising efforts will be needed to buy building materials, said Pat Kollar, Schoolhouse Committee member.

The 19th century schoolhouse was donated to the Society in March 1998.

Update appears every Monday. This week's contributions were written by George Basler, Connie Nogas and Sharon Eurich.









How do you move a one-room schoolhouse? Very, very slowly. The school, accompanied by an entourage of escort vehicles and history buffs, makes ts way down Day Hollow Road on its way to the Town of Maine.

Town of Maine gives schoolhouse new home

BY SHARON EURICH

Staff Writer

A vintage one-room schoolhouse taught the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine lessons in perseverance and persistence.

On Thursday, society members Charles and Geri Gunther, along with president Nancy Berry of Maine, sat in the back of a green Model-A pickup truck and watched in awe as building movers L.D. Dexheimer and Sons Inc. of Guilford hauled the 1845 building about 12 miles into the hamlet of Maine on Route 26. "A year ago we were only talking about it and now the schoolhouse is here," Berry said.

It cost more than \$10,000 and took nearly two hours to move the schoolhouse from its original site at the corner of Campville Hill and Cafferty Hill roads just over the Tioga County line in the Town of Owego. In March 1998, a family who wishes to remain anonymous donated the

TO HELP

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society welcomes donations of 19th century schoolhouse furnishings such as desks, globes, maps and textbooks.

For more information, call Nancy Berry at 862-4527.

schoolhouse to the historical society.

Almost immediately, the Schoolhouse Committee formed to devise ways and means of financing the project of moving and restoring the schoolhouse. Through fund-raisers and grants, the committee raised about \$23,000. "They worked really hard," said Berry.

"We're seeing a dream come true," said Pat Kollar, a chairwoman of the committee. A third-grade teacher at Maine Memorial Elementary School on Route 26, Kollar sprinted across its lawn to snap a picture of the

June 10, 1999

SEE SCHOOLHOUSE 6B

CONTINUED FROM 1B

schoolhouse, covered with a blue tarp, as it rolled by.

She wore a gray T-shirt imprinted with a design created by cartoonist Johnny Hart featuring ants and the phrase, "together we can move the schoolhouse."

From turning out for fund-raisers to constructing a foundation, the community pitched in to help bring the schoolhouse to Maine. "Everybody got as excited as kids on Christmas morning about the project," said Geri Gunther, who wore a Tshirt printed with the motto, "expect a miracle."

On the weekend of June 5 and 6, about a dozen volunteers met at the schoolhouse to dismantle the roof and chimney to prepare for the move. "I told my pupils to use their imagination when they get their first glimpse of the schoolhouse, because it won't look like much with the roof removed," Kollar said.



Schoolhouse No. 4

In its new setting on a triangleshaped lot at the intersection of Nanticoke Road and Route 26, Schoolhouse No. 4, as it was originally called, awaits further work.

The historical society plans to install a new roof, refurbish the interior and exterior of the building and furnish it with desks, textbooks and educational tools dating from 1845 to 1910.

Kollar doesn't know how long the restoration will take because it depends on finding additional money for building materials and volunteer labor. Nevertheless, she looks forward to its completion.

"The schoolhouse will be an attractive addition to the community as well as teaching visitors lessons about the past," she said.



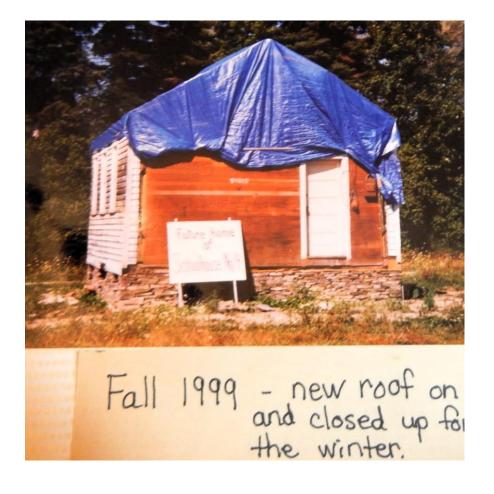
The foundation was done by James Construction Co. (Vic James) and the plans were drawn up by Root 2 Architecture/Engineering PC



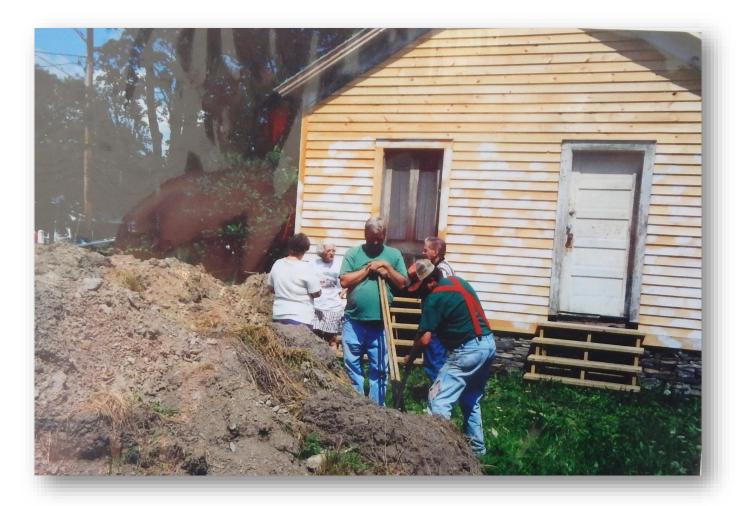
Bill Rozelle Concrete donated his time and equipment to pour the concrete foundation.



The school was placed in position waiting for the stone foundation to be put in place. The school would then be lowered into place.



Spring 2000 - repairs and restoration begins! Future home



Digging to install flag pole which was donated by the Maine American Legion.



The 27-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1845. A star was added for the admission of Florida and was to last for only 1 year. The only President to serve under this flag was James Polk." www.chamberofcommerce.org/ usflag/the.27.star.flag.html .

The Maine American Legion donated the 27-star flag which is flown over the school.

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Maine, New York

> Schoolhouse Committee Pat Kollar, Co-chair Michele Knaul, Co-chair Jennifer Palmer, Treasurer Nancy Berry Irene Hall Mary Materese Joanne Weir

Honorary Members Greg Asfoury, Diane Chainis, Liz Manvell, Dennis Reed, Lynn Ross, Darlene Voltz, Beth Winsor

> American Legion Color Guard Glen Butler – Flag Raiser Michael Fauver Tim Gregory George Lee Sean Lee Dave Pender Jeremy Prine Gary Williams

> > Restoration Contractor John Leahey

Schoolhouse No. 4 Dedication Ceremony

Sunday, September 24, 2000 2:00 P.M.

Words of Welcome	Nancy Berry, President Nanticoke Valley Historical Society
Flag Ceremony	Maine American Legion
	e able for our National Anthem
Invocation	
Introduction of Mr. & Mrs	s. Larry Thornton Michele Knaul
	yPat Kollar
Special Acknowledgemen	
	Jennifer Palmer
Ribbon Cutting	Sarah Weir and Patrick Knaul

Please join us for refreshments following the ceremony.

A horse-drawn wagon will provide rides this afternoon until 4:30 to take visitors between the museum, Country Wagon and Pitcher's Mill.



Introduction of the Thorntons who donated the building.





Faces in the crowd including: Marion Gallagher, Esther Frazier, Jennie Eber, Mary Stevens



Former Student Ruth Porter





Obituary of Miss Minnie LaTourette, Binghamton Press, July 23, 1957 Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Endicott for **Miss Minnie LaTourette**, 84. a lifelong resident of the village who died at Ideal Hospital yesterday after a long illness. She was the last surviving child of Elias LaTourette, a town of Union native and prominent farm owner in the area before the Civil War. Prior to her hospitalization earlier this month, she lived alone for many years at 524 West Main Street, Endicott. She was a graduate of the old Union High School in Endicott's Loder Avenue, a teacher of Sunday school classes at the Endicott Central Methodist Church for several years and a member of Endicott Garden Club. Her body was taken to Coleman & Daniels Funeral Home 300 East Main Street Endicott, where funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Earl V. Tolley, pastor of Central Methodist Church. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Endicott. Miss LaTourette is survived by a niece. Mrs. Jenny Main and two nephews Fred Brink, and Earl Brink, all of Endicott.

Minnie LaTourette started her teaching career at the age of 17 in Schoolhouse No. 4. Born: June 5 1873 Died: July 2 1957 Age: 84 Buried: Riverside Cemetery, Endicott, NY

"Minnie Samira LaTourette , unmarried sister of my great grandfather Robert Latourette and a teacher at schoolhouse No. 4 . " (Tim Main donated this photograph.)

Minnie Samira Latourette taught at Schoolhouse No. 4 from 1890 -1891. This photo was taken in 1890 when she was seventeen years of age.



Outfit worn by Minnie.



Interior view today. The stove is from 1840's but not the one in the original schoolhouse. The desks are ca.1890's and were donated to NVHS. The reason for two doors is that traditionally boys entered and sat on the left, girls on the right.

Marms, Masters and Other Friends

Chapter Two

arms, masters and other friends helped all of us through our years of education back in the Good Old Days. However, sometimes I think we schoolchildren may have had as great an influence on their lives as they have had on ours.

When I think of the teachers who tried to round off a few of my rough edges, I remember my prim and proper fourth-grade teacher. The memory always makes me smile.

Grandma Stamps was a profound influence on my life in many ways. She explained the deeper mysteries of life like why the morning glories close up with the heat of the day. She laid the groundwork for good nutrition and healthy living. ("Eat your peas—and if you touch my snuff can again, if it don't stunt your growth, I will!") One of the ways she influenced me was in my early speech patterns, sometimes to the chagrin of parents and, later, teachers.

As a big, strapping boy of 8 entering the fourth grade, I encountered a teacher unaccustomed to the country dialect of her charges. Headed out to heed the call of nature one rainy autumn morning, I explained to her that I needed to go but that I would be back "dreckly."

"Dreckly?" she retorted. "What is dreckly?"

"You know, I'll be back pretty quick, soon dreckly!" I wasn't going to be disrespectful, but my need to get to the backhouse was quickly overshadowing my need to explain the finer points of hill-folk speech. Finally she relented and I hurried out of the room.

"Grandma Stamps always said "dreckly," I explained to my teacher when I returned to the building. After some thought and discussion, she ascertained that Grandma and I were saying "directly." "You meant to say you would be back di-rect-ly," she enunciated.

"What's that mean?" I countered.

"You know, pretty quick, soon—dreckly!" she said in frustration.

The year with that school marm was a challenge to both of us. She was constantly waging a battle to understand some of my phraseology and to change what she could. She explained that a "fur piece" was a lady's wrap, not a long way to walk. She took out a map of the area to point out to me that my favorite swimming hole was on Barren Fork, not "Barn Fork," as I had learned it. She squinted, frowned and tapped her foot through many of Grandma's little malapropisms brought to school in the form of this stubborn little country kid.

I suppose she was the first step in my loss of Grandma's influence in that part of my life. Leaving it behind, I think I was made poorer. I never passed any of those Grandmaisms on to my own children. All in the name of good English and grammar—what a pity.

Well, it's pretty warm today. I think I'll mosey on down to that swimming hole on Barn Fork. It's a fur piece, but I reckon I'll be

there dreckly. There are a few things I'll probably hang on to the rest of my life—despite all the hard work of those marms, masters and

other friends in my little country schoolhouse. —Ken Tate

ountry se. en Tate



This is not a story about Schoolhouse No. 4 but it does mirror the time and perceived events that might have occurred there. Photo above is a recreation of a school teacher and student.

One-Room School Houses:

- Maine had eleven school houses (districts) until it was consolidated in 1938 when Maine Central school (1-8) on Church Street was built. A second school was located in Union Center (1-6) In Maine, if you wished to continued high school, you could enroll in either Endicott and or Johnson City and you had to provide your own transportation.
- Schools had two entrances- one for the girls and one for the boys. Boys on the left and girls on the right.
- The youngest students sat closest to the teacher In school house No. 4 please notice that desks are of various sizes for different age children.
- Grades 1 8 were all taught by the same teacher.
- The school day was from 8 AM to 4 PM.
- If you were late you waited outside until recess.
- It was common to walk to school each day, sometimes 2 or more miles.
- In cold weather students might bring a baked potato in their pockets to keep their hands warm. They placed the potatoes on the stove until lunch time.

- Typical subjects were reading, writing and athematic. Sometimes called the three r's; reading, 'riting 'rithmetic.
- Arithmetic was taught by memorization (flash cards)
- Small slates were used instead of paper
- Penmanship was an important subject.
- When the student was answering a question, they stood next to their desks.
- Discipline was very important. Punishment was; use of dunce cap, getting your hand struck with a hickory stick, standing in the front on the class with your nose touching a circle on the black board or doing chores.
- If the weather was good outdoor recess (15 minutes) was held in the morning and afternoon.
- Lunch was whatever the students brought, a drinking bucket was filled either from a stream or well and an outhouse was available.
- Schools rarely had books besides the bible.
- One company created McGuffy Readers which covered grades 1-6. They were published from 1836 to around 1920.
- Teachers taught morals, honesty, courage, kindness, and behavior besides academics

One-Room Schoolhouse No. 4

In March of 1998 the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society received a donation of a one-room schoolhouse built in the 1840's. The schoolhouse was built in 1845 and was used as a K-12 school until 1942. Located at the intersection of Campville Road and Cafferty Hill Road, it was originally called Schoolhouse No. 4 and was part of the joint school district of Tioga/Town of Union.

The Schoolhouse Committee of the NVHS was formed for the purpose of establishing an authentic, hands-on museum in Maine, N.Y. The addition of this building has helped create a unique complex of buildings including the existing House Museum, Pitcher's Mill, and Carriage barns.

The Schoolhouse Committee held a variety of activities and received grants to raise the funds needed to move the schoolhouse and restore it to its original condition. There was an outpouring of community support, generosity, and enthusiasm for this project.

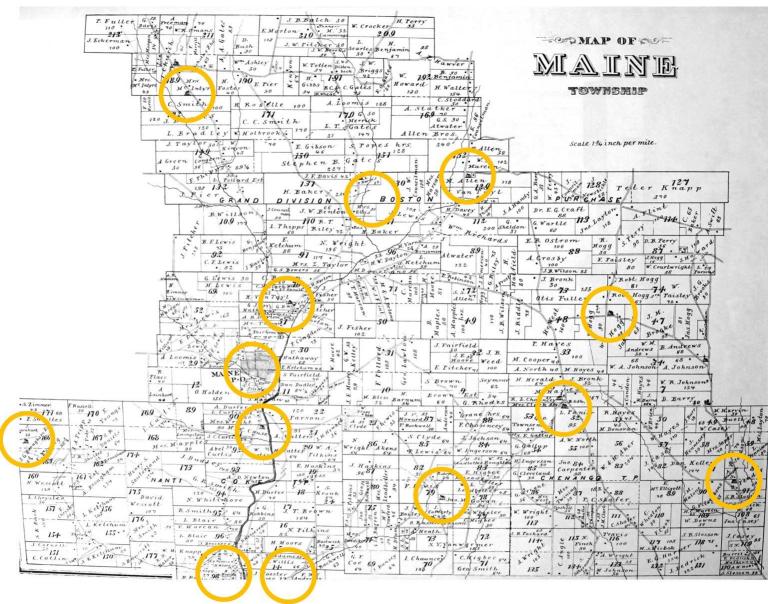
On Saturday, May 15, 1999 a Groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of an exciting chain of events. The new site at the intersection of Nanticoke Road and Route 26 was prepared and a concrete foundation was poured. Meanwhile, groups of volunteers dismantled the roof and chimney on Schoolhouse No. 4 to prepare it for its 12 mile move.

On Thursday, June 10, 1999 the schoolhouse was moved and placed in its new home. Over the next few months a hand-laid stone foundation was built under the elevated building. After it was lowered onto the stones a new cedar shake roof was put on and Schoolhouse No. 4. The building was closed up for the winter and once Spring 2000 arrived further renovations and restoration began.

On Sunday, September 24, 2000 the Dedication Ceremony took place and Schoolhouse No. 4 was officially opened to the public.



To the left is a short recounting of the history of when and how Schoolhouse No. 4 was moved to Maine, NY.



Locations on map show the Maine schoolhouses prior to 1940

From an unnumbered page of the "Book of Schools" is this interesting information of March 25, 1885 (George W. Johnson, Town Clerk):

	Pupils	Daily
No.	5-21 Yrs.	Attendance
1	85	53,785
2	51	18,557
3	16	7,842
4	40	14,221
5	45	19,350
6	24	11,555
9	38	18,335
10	33	17,114
11	34	11,150
13	33	7,150
14	16	7,507
15	88	38,714
12	555	248,795
	1 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 13 14 15	No. 5-21 Yrs. 1 85 2 51 3 16 4 40 5 45 6 24 9 38 10 33 11 34 13 33 14 16 15 88

The above is taken from a leger of 1885 showing the Maine school districts including: names and enrollment.

25th Anniversary Ceremony Schoolhouse No. 4



June 16, 2025 Nanticoke Valley Historical Society 14 Nanticoke Road Maine, New York

2025 Schoolhouse Committee

Nancy Berry	Sue Lisk	
Phil Childs	Mary Materese	
Denise Gervais-Rock	Sandy Rozek	
Gordie Gottlieb	Pat Stacconi	
Michele Knaul	Joanne Weir	

Special thanks to the following people and organizations who helped to make this celebration possible.

Boy Scout Troop 212, Maine, NY Country Wagon Produce Kimberly's Greenhouse Tim Main Maine Memorial PTA Matco Electric NVHS Building & Grounds Committee and Friends NVHS Greenspace Committee Charlene Thomson



Schoolhouse No. 4 Dedication Ceremony Monday, June 16, 2025

5:30 - 6:00 PM Old-Time Musical Selections by Charlene Thomson Schoolhouse No. 4 Open House

6:00 PM

Introduction	Gordie Gottlieb, President NVHS
Flag Ceremony	Boy Scout Troop 212
Welcome and Acknowledgeme	ents Mary Materese
Proclamation	Jim Tokos
History of Schoolhouse No. 4	Pat Stacconi & Michele Knaul
	Sandy Rozek
	Charlene Thomson
Toast to Schoolhouse No. 4	Nancy Berry
Tree Planting	Jen Hess/Maine Memorial PTA



Please visit the photography exhibit of Schoolhouses in Maine before 1940 on display at the Janet W. Bowers Museum across from the schoolhouse.

"School Days" Lyrics by Will D. Cobb and Music by Gus Edwards 1907

School days, school days Dear old Golden Rule days Reading and 'riting and 'rithmetic Taught to the tune of the hick'ry stick You were my queen in calico I was your bashful, barefoot beau And you wrote on my slate, "I Love You, Joe" When we were a couple o' kids.

Members of the Original Schoolhouse Committee Michele Knaul, Pat Stacconi, Co-Chairs, Nancy Berry, Irene Hall, Mary Materese, Jen Palmer, Joanne Weir

In March of 1998 the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society received a donation of a one-room schoolhouse from Diane and Larry Thornton. The building, built in 1845, was located at the intersection of Campville and Cafferty Hill Roads in Tioga County and was used as a K-12 school until 1942. With the help of grants, local businesses and the community, the Schoolhouse Committee raised funds to move the building to its current location on Nanticoke Road in the Town of Maine. Much work went into dismantling and re-constructing the building. The building was dedicated in September 2000 and a 10year anniversary was celebrated in 2010. Today the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society hosts school tours to offer children an idea of what school was like in the 1800s. Volunteers are always welcome!



Program of 25th Anniversary Ceremony - June 16, 2025



Members of the NVHS 2025 Schoolhouse No. 4 Committee: Nancy Berry, Michele Knauf, Mary Materese, Joanne Weir (Chair), Sandy Rozek and Sue Lisk. Missing members: Phil Childs, Gordie Gottlieb, Denise Gervais-Rock and Pat Stacconi.

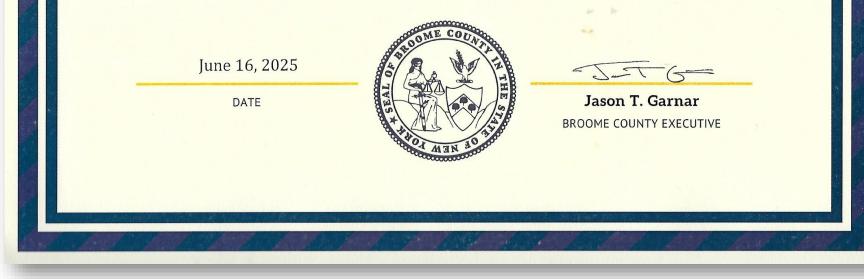
Certificate of Recognition

BROOME COUNTY CITATION

Broome County Executive Jason T. Garnar and the People of Broome County hereby honor and recognize

Schoolhouse No. 4

Celebrating 25 years as a treasured landmark in Maine NY, Schoolhouse No. 4 stands as a proud symbol of our educational heritage, preserved through the efforts of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society.



The Town of Maine. New York Proclamation

Whereas:

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, founded in 1969 is charged with; "The development and preservation of the history and the historic sites in the Nanticoke Valley and its environs in the Town of Maine, Nanticoke and Union in Broome County."

SKOO

Schoolhouse No.4 Maine, New York

Whereas:

Schoolhouse No. 4, circa 1845, was moved from Bornt Hill Road, Endicott, New York to 14 Nanticoke Road, Maine, in the year 2000.

Whereas:

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society has used this building for students and adults to experience what education was like in Broome County during the mid-1800s.

Now, Therefore: I, James Tokos, Supervisor of the Town of Maine, New York,

do hereby proclaim June 16, 2025 as Schoolhouse No. 4 Day throughout the Town of Maine and encourage all citizens to recognize the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society for the significant impact the one-room schoolhouse has had on our community.

Signed this 1st day of May in the year twenty twenty five.

James Jokin James Tokos

Supervisor