



# NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2006

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Spring 2006 Newsletter Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

### A Letter from the President

Well it's been a busy winter but nice and warm so less oil used.

meeting in February, because of the many conflicts, but the one in March was full of great food and stories.

We lost some dear friends and key pillars of our Society and of Maine. Carol Jane Moore and Marion Gallagher.

Tom was busy this past winter, fixing the roof on the carriage barns, valve on the oil tank and cutting more trees and shrubs along the creek.

Sue, Sandy and I are going to Cornell for a talk on preserving collections, and will report our findings.

We have elected the new section of the Board of Trustees. There will be a Trustee meeting called soon.

I hope we will be developing a budget for the future.

I also would like to see an increase in our membership numbers and have some ideas I hope to get past the planning stage.

Stan Lisk.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

- **Tuesday April 18th @ 7:00 PM:** Mystery program – only the Shadow knows: Sandy and Ken Rozek
- **Sunday April 30th 2 to 4 PM:** Open House at the museum to welcome newcomers to our community. (Board meeting immediately to follow)
- **Tuesday May 16th @ 7:00 PM:** The May program meeting will feature Eileen Patch, presenting a costumed presentation based on actual Civil War letters. For more information go to: [www.thisfromgeorge.com](http://www.thisfromgeorge.com)
- **Tuesday June 20th @ 6:00 PM:** Dish to Pass Picnic at the museum.
- **Program:** Historical Severe Weather and Floods in the Southern Tier: David Nikosia, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration)
- **The dark red petunias** will again be available to fill tubs. One large hanging basket size fills one of the tubs, that have been popular along the streets of Maine. Sales benefit the Historical Society. Contact Geri Gunther at 862-9516
- **Broome County Bicentennial Parade - Saturday June 3rd, Binghamton:** Information on guidelines and registering for the parade can be found on the web at [www.gobroomecounty.com/countyexec/pdfs/paradeapp.pdf](http://www.gobroomecounty.com/countyexec/pdfs/paradeapp.pdf) **CONTACT:** Darcy Fauci, Executive Assistant. office: 607.778.3949 email: [dfauci@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:dfauci@co.broome.ny.us)
- **Deadline for parade applications is April 10, 2006.**
- The Maine Community Band will be playing on their band wagon.
- **July 9<sup>th</sup>: from 11AM to 4PM:** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine by the Yard Throughout the hamlet.

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Newsletter edited by  
Anita & Dick Shipway

## The Maine Community Band - A Brief History 1873-1973

by  
*James C. Babbitt, 1973*

The true extent of Maine's musical resources, performers, educators and admirers immediately after the Civil War seems difficult to assess. The community was enjoying a period of bustling activity, industry, and growth in the mid-century. And when a community boasted organized social activity and celebrations and dancing, there was bound to be music. This was the time of arrival of music-loving and music fostering Maine families. The surnames of Bean, Bronk, Dyer, Holden, Ingalls, Lincoln, and McIntyre are brought to mind. The well established family names of Allen and Dudley are not to be omitted, nor can we forget the "singing school" of Cyrus Gates. He was a nineteenth century choir director, as was Chester Marean. Maine was indeed becoming alive with music, and in Ketchumville, Lucius D. Clark was gaining renown as a manufacturer of fine mahogany pipe-organs under his own name, for use in church and home.

As of this date, it has not been determined to the day when, or by whom, the community band was organized in Maine. Probably it evolved over a period of months from unheralded beginnings. Instrumental musicians developed here before and during the Civil War and they very likely practiced with some ensemble. It is entirely possible that a really dedicated Maine bandsman might have driven his buggy or sleigh to irregular rehearsals and performances in Union Center, Lisle, Whitney Point or even Union for a time.

Mention is repeatedly made in the Union Weekly News after 1869 of both a "Union Cornett Band" and a "Union Centre Cornett Band", possibly one and the same group. Also appearing in Maine on repeated occasions was the 44th Regiment Band during the early and mid 1870's, a Binghamton-based military reserve unit which likely included Maine militia bandsmen when appearing in the village for a "pole raising" (1872) and the Maine Agricultural Fair (1875). The Civil War had given the very much expected spark to the popularity of band music. Every volunteer regiment had to have a regimental band, and in many cases, a fife and drum corps, too. The musician's rating was a very popular one, probably for many reasons.

In 1873 the Union Weekly News reported, "The Maine Musical Association will meet in the Congregational Church in Maine village", and two months later a concert by the Maine Philharmonic Society was presented "at the Baptist Church to a crowded house". Although primarily (perhaps entirely) vocal in nature (over eighty voices), the first conductors, brothers Ebenezer B. and John J. Allen, and the first secretary, Oren Holden, were equally renowned as early promoters and officers of the Maine Community Band, their original complement possibly partially recruited from the Union, Union Centre, Whitney's Point, and 44th Regiment Bands. By 1875 we know that a motley group of instrumentalists used rooms in the Lincoln Block (southwest corner Church and Main Streets) and over the drugstore. This group included strings (as did many Civil War "bands") and was as follows:

Fred Cummings (1<sup>st</sup> Violin)  
E. C. Johnson (Guitar)

Charles Lincoln (Clarinet)  
T. O. Smith (Violoncello)

A. D. Cummings (2<sup>nd</sup> Violin)

In conclusion, the newspaper article promised, "...it will not be long before they will equal any, and be excelled by none."

The aforementioned Oren Holden and Charles Lincoln were still active members, officers, and trustees of the Maine Community Band more than thirty years later, in a new century. John J. Allen was "chairman" of the band in 1876, then meeting at the hotel, when "There was a large attendance and the prospect is that we shall have a band right along." (Union News) By 1879 the same journal made the band sound well-known, accepted, and common place. "The band gave their usual open air concert Saturday evening last." The next year, in the Union Argus, under "Maine Items" we first hear of Maine's band referred to as a "Brass Band", reflecting the typical trend in instrumentation of that day.

Other outstanding local bandsmen born or arriving in Maine at about this time, and men who were to serve the band through the turn of the century were William E. Dyer (cornet, leader), Henry S. Ingalls (baritone, interim leader), Frank D. Bean (cornet, leader), Chauncey F. McIntyre (alto), Leroy Benton (tuba), and a new generation of Allens in Hector (cornet) and J. Rennie (bass-drum).

This author has been unable to deduce much about specific band activities during the last quarter of the nineteenth century from programs, clippings, or reminiscences. However, this was the nation's greatest band era, the era of Patrick Gilmore, Patrick Conway, Victor Herbert, Arthur Pryor, and John Phillip Sousa. In Maine, we know who the men were whose band activity spanned this period, and we also know of the band-stand on the village common (foot of Church Street) from both recollections and pictures. The late Dr. Guilford Dudley, in his early days a Maine Community Bandsman, recalled vividly soliciting money and assistance as a boy at the turn of the century, for the repair of the bandstand which then was weathering and worn.

Wellington McIntyre (trombonist) and Lee Loomis took excellent pictures of the band and Maine village at the turn of the new

*(Continued from page 2)*

century, when the novelty of photography was still in its infancy. There are excellent pictures extant of the Maine Community Band, reorganized at this time, in the Fourth of July parade masquerade (1905), by the Congregational Church (1905), by the Hathaway House (1907), and on an outing with families at Dayton's Grove (1908). I know of no pictures showing the pagoda while actually occupied by a band.

In 1905 or 1906 the Maine Band received a needed revitalization. Then leader, Frank Bean, and/or promoters ordered from Philadelphia used instrumentation for a complete band.

When the crate(s) arrived, the bandsmen hauled them upstairs above the wooden school on Church Street where they were opened eagerly and dispensed haphazardly, one to each young man, with little knowledge, care, or choice as to whether it might be a trombone, cornet, alto horn, or "clarinet". Presumably, each musician paid for his own instrument, as this-band has never enjoyed the financial support of a sponsoring organization or benefactor. From that point on, the great burden fell upon Frank Bean (brass and leader) and Charlie Lincoln (woodwind and percussion) to aid and instruct on all instruments during what must have been a rather painful and discouraging period in the band's history. Fortunately, the village still had a substantial experienced nucleus to guide and support the young Fred Ingalls (clarinet) Wellington McIntyre (trombone, following a trial with cornet), Fay Bronk (cornet, and bass fiddle-for square dances), J.R. Allen (drums) , Roy. Ellis and Will Frost (slide and/or valve trombone), Dr. Guilford Dudley (cornet), Lynn DeLano (clarinet), and Rev. Ralph Gould (mellophone), etc. in their novice endeavors.

During this peak period while the Maine school was being modernized and expanded, the band relied for a time on Hineman's blacksmith shop for rehearsals. Old timers passed away or retired, and young blood took over.

Drawn away by lucrative employment but held back by family and community ties, young Fred Ingalls possibly more than any other, kept the half-century band tradition alive in Maine. Even after a factory accident took several of his fingers, incapacitating him for clarinet playing, he changed to slide trombone (and baton) to keep alive this love. In addition to conducting the Maine Community Band through some difficult periods, wars, and depressions, and playing a dominant role in local minstrels with his brothers J. Ralph and Earl H., Fred played his trombone throughout the triple cities and in the IBM band right to the end (1969). His father Henry S., his brothers, and his son, Robert, have extended the Ingalls influence on this band to very nearly the full century of its existence.

The Maine Community Band of today differs from its parent organization in that the "community" has greatly expanded, now encompassing a good share of the county. Roads and transportation have much improved and public school music has greatly improved and multiplied available bandsmen, even to the inclusion of the fair sex since World War II. Hopefully, increased leisure time may portend increased participatory music in preference to the television and armchair type. In addition to drawing musicians from a wider radius, the Maine Community Band has also widened its audience. In 1964 the band traveled to Binghamton to play a "Hot Time In the Old Town Tonight" rally for Richard Nixon, and eight years later they met returning Vietnam veterans at the Broome County Airport, with heroic refrains. Regular indoor and outdoor concerts are performed at the New York State Hospital and in various Senior Citizen and nursing homes throughout the Triple Cities, not to mention park concerts, church suppers, chicken barbecues, ice cream socials, and the local annual American Legion Memorial Day services and Firemen's Field Days celebration. This is along with year-round rehearsing and availability. In all likelihood, the Maine Community Band is probably busier and more mobile today than at any period in its history.

Once in competition with the community bands of every little village in this and surrounding counties, with the Binghamton Boys Club Band, and with various industrial bands in the valley, the Maine Community Band now stands alone in Broome history and tradition, with only Windsor offering summer seasonal village band concerts, and the IBM Band still thriving with noteworthy industrial backing and talent. The Maine Community Band is not endowed and survives only by adopting the precept that music is intended for enjoyment. The greatest satisfaction to its performers is derived from a demonstrative satisfied audience.

The namesake descendant of Henry Marean has recently brought to light new evidence both to confirm and to antedate the preceding history of the Maine Band. From his grandfather's memorandum book dated 1861:

"Persons volunteering to join the Brass Band"

N. B. Wright, Oren Holden, George Hathaway, Ed B. Harmon, E. E. Todd, D. Dudley, Henry Marean, Myron Lewis, F. W. Hovey, and W. O. Lincoln.

From the 1862 military roll it is obvious that most of these young men were soon volunteering for another cause. Perhaps the Civil War brought about disbandment, but the spark, fortunately, would not die.

*Note: For further information and a current schedule for the Maine Community Band, go to:  
<http://home.stny.rr.com/maineband/>*



MAINE BAND

4th of July, 1907



MAINE BAND

1909



MAINE COMMUNITY BAND

February 9, 1969

The **March 2006 Meeting** of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society was extremely well attended and not hurriedly terminated. It was a postponed “winter” picnic, our usual dish to pass affair, and there was enough food for many more had we needed to feed extra wayfaring strangers. There were more than 30 in attendance and all eagerly shared their memories of the World War II years -

an awakening experience to realize that our group is so heterogeneous. These memories varied from childhood to adult vignettes, and the human mind is indeed miraculous in its ability to retain remarkably detailed images. The discussion elicited spirited conversation long after the meeting was adjourned.

### Maine Memorial Fourth Grade Maple Syrup Program

It’s always such a mystery – when will the sap run? This year was certainly no exception. We had dates, new dates and back-up dates, and as if by magic, another sugaring 4<sup>th</sup> grade tour at the museum had come and gone. That’s how we know the year is following its proper routine, and if we ever missed this event, I think a lot of people would feel as if spring could not arrive. The mild winter and

cold February left us a little befuddled until the moment of reckoning, but thanks to the efforts of Jo Childs, Andrea Eichorn and Andrea’s mother (a surrogate for Andrea and welcomed new arrival to our maple syrup team), all went well and the children enjoyed it immensely (even if they weren’t walking around with snow beneath their feet.)

### School Tours

With the sap gathering and boiling behind us, we are now ready to start our spring visitation season. We expect to have our usual 5<sup>th</sup> grade adventure, thanks to the hard work and planning of the staff at Maine Memorial, and their coordination with our team of guides. We have already been contacted by the Chenango Bridge Elementary School to begin arrangements for bringing 6 classes of 4<sup>th</sup> graders through our complex, and know that the tradi-

tional appetite whetting experience for our Maine Memorial first graders will most likely be planned for June. We all enjoy these tours so much, and every year it’s like a new experience for guides, teachers and students alike. The kids bring such a lively perspective to real-life local history, and we are so fortunate to have this wonderful opportunity to share the past with them.

### Call For Guides

As the demand for guided museum visits grows, our list of guides has dwindled. Although we have added teacher retirees, we have also, sadly, lost many of our very qualified and dedicated docents. All who participate in these fun-filled days come away invigorated by the experience and ready and willing to repeat the adventure. We know that there are as yet untapped resource people, members and friends of members, who may be waiting for an opportunity such as this to get involved. For those of you

who have yet to take part in a tour, the scripts for each exhibit are clear and those of us who are veterans are eager to help you get acclimated. As for the students, they arrive ready to be amazed at tales of the “olden days” and their appreciation is worth every minute. If you would like to become a school tour guide, please contact, Sandy Rozek, Education Director, at 862-9480, email: [sjrozek@aol.com](mailto:sjrozek@aol.com) or Sue Lisk, Museum Curator at 862-9705, email: [slisk@stny.rr.com](mailto:slisk@stny.rr.com).

### Did You Know?

- A guide to interesting places in N.Y.S has included an entry for the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society museum complex.
- Some graduate students recently used the NVHS enlargements taken by Betty and Leo Welch and the “Cooking up the Creek” cookbook compiled by Janet Bowers Bothwell to prepare a final report for a course. Their presentation included a cooking finale and was met with great success.
- The Maine Amies Red Hats are taking a bus excursion to MacKenzie Childs in Aurora, NY on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the trip is \$58.00 which includes the bus, lunch at the Aurora Inn and tours of both the Aurora Inn and the farmhouse. The bus departs from the Maine Memorial back parking lot at 8:00 AM Guests are welcomed on a first come, first served basis. Call Nancy Berry, 862-4527 or Sandy Rozek, 862-9480 by April 12<sup>th</sup> if you’re interested in joining us.

## Mill Activities Including Site Repairs and Maintenance

*Submitted by Tom Kotasek*

- **Museum Heating System Repairs (December)**
- The boiler was in need of a new air vent and a combination temperature/pressure gauge The fuel tank (275) gal. ) was in need of a new fuel gauge. These items were installed.
- **Carriage Shop Repairs (December)**
- The roof and south wall of the forge room needed repair. The wall was raised back into place and reinforced. Four new rafters were installed and 30% of the roof sheathing boards were replaced New galvanized steel roofing was installed. John Hricik assisted in making these upgrades.
- **Activity at the Mill:**
- On a warm day in February a refurbished upper & lower window sash set was installed over the tail race. A wind-storm had damaged the sash.
- **School Tour of the Mill**
- On March 6th Roberta Rittenhouse's 7th Grade Science Class (from Maine-Endwell Middle School) was given a tour of the mill. A group picture of the class was taken on the front dock and each student received a copy. This was the 4th year her class has visited the mill.
- **Schoolhouse:**
- The hedgerow behind the school needed some grooming. It is being worked on.
- **Creek Bank Property (at the bridge)**
- Damaged and rotted trees have been cleared to increase visibility of the Norton Carriage Shops and to make way for a few Maple trees. John Hricik and Larry Kotasek helped with felling and clean up.

## Museum Tours

Small personal tours: Call Sue Lisk, 862-9705, Nancy Berry 862-4527 or Ken Rozek 862 – 9480. School Tours: Sandy Rozek 862 – 9480 and for the Pitcher Mill tours: Tom Kotasek 754 – 0381.

## Broome County Bicentennial Parade

NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be in the Broome County Bicentennial Parade. It's June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, 11 am Rain or Shine and we will need volunteer riders for the float. We plan to use the old wooden wagon that is now in the Carriage Barns. It will ride on a trailer in the parade route hopefully, donated for the occasion. First we need volunteers to help paint the "old girl" and then some volunteers to come up with our dress and then to ride in the float that day. Please call me before I call you to volunteer.  
Stan

## Gift Ideas to Treat Yourself or a Special Someone

Framed prints of area buildings and homes painted by local artists are available at the museum and at the Rozeks' Summer of 42 Art Gallery. The items also include note card sized prints suitable for sending or framing.

Support the Historical Society and share local talent with others. Prices range from \$2.00 for note cards to \$40.00 for framed prints with various prices in between.

## The Board of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

- Each voting board position has a three year term. Three board positions are to be refilled each year, providing an ever changing but ongoing board coverage.
- Martha Hanitchak, Yancy Moore, and Nancy Rutkowski will complete their terms this year.
- Board members Ken Rozek, Betty Welch and Leo Welch will serve through the year 2007.
- Board members Sue Hoskins, Steve Beukema, and Sara Clavez will complete their commitments in 2008

## Officers and Committee Leaders

President: Stan Lisk  
 Vice President: Nancy Berry  
 Secretary: Alice Hopkins  
 Treasurer: Dottie Winans  
 Museum Curator: Sue Lisk  
 Education Coordinator: Sandy Rozek  
 Mill restoration: Tom Kotasek


## 2006 DUES ARE NOW DUE

Dues for the year 2006 are now due. Please refer and use the dues return slip below. On the top of the address label is printed your dues Due/Paid status for years 2005 and 2006. Your dues may either be mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting.

## Roundtable Discussion Presented by Upstate History Alliance

Sue and Sandy recently attended a workshop session on sharing ways of encouraging educators to bring students to avail themselves of the resources of museums and exhibits, especially primary documents. We received suggestions on how to prepare such document copies for use by visitors with hands-on needs. We also talked at length about the many hurdles created by the "No child left behind" educational initiative and the NYS Learning Standards and their specificity. We came away excited by the prospect of thinking of creative ways of publicizing our organization and its opportunities to meet the goals of those standards. It is up to us to market our skills and to show that we are there to supplement the students' learning, a feat not that difficult to achieve with the standards spelled out so clearly on the NYS Education Dept. web-sites. Knowing where to find them can give us a head start in fine-tuning our programs and tours, so as to meet interdisciplinary goals.

It was also eye opening to see that although we have given relatively fewer tours to out-of-town groups in the past year or two, by virtue of our proximity to Maine Memorial we have still been able to maintain a strong educational link in the community. Among the issues that have resulted in a reduction of the numbers of field trips are transportation costs and the pressures on grade-level teachers to meet state testing deadlines, of which there are more every year.



**Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s):    2005    2006**

**Note: See address label for your Dues Status.**

**Please Mail Returns to: Treasurer**  
 Nanticoke Valley Historical Society  
 P. O. Box 75  
 Maine, NY 13802

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed**

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Phone: (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Work)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:**    **\$6.00 Single**    **\$10.00 Family**    **\$25.00 Patron**    **\$25.00 Business**

## Museum has Acquired Numerous Gifts

The following items have been given to the museum over the past year:

- Sewing Machine – treadle in meeting room. *Given by Mary Jane Sieczkos*
- Wooden Shovel with metal edge - at least 150 years old . *Given by Gloria & John Murphy*
- Duster – Raw Silk
- Crinoline & Prairie Dress – Belonged to Deloris Lewis, Maple Ave., Maine, for Maine's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. *Given by Anna Mae Rude*
- Stained Glass Window – Was from St. Mary's Orphanage and removed when it was torn down and put in the house of Gen. Jones at that time. It was the window at the foot of the main stairway. It was removed by JoAnn and Steve Austin because the knee braces were collapsing & the window also was slumping. It needs to be restored. *Given by JoAnn and Steve Austin of Asbury Court, Binghamton.*
- Bowers Linens – Bought at the Bowers-Bothwell auction. *Given by Pat & Kim Corbin*
- Two Chairs with needle work seats bought at the Bowers-Bothwell auction. *Given by Lil & Clarence Ames.*
- School Item and Bicentennial Pictures – *Given by Venley & Kathy McGergor.*
- VHS Tape of Carol Jane Moore giving a tour of the museum. *Given by Betty & Leo Welsh.*
- A series of CD Oral Histories – *Given by Philip Parr.*
- DVD of Program of the Bowers Family – *Given by Lee Maulk*

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### NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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