



## NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2007

# Fall 2007 Newsletter



Members and Perspective Members,

Hope you all had a busy and fun summer. Time flies, and it seems our plans for more fund raising were put on hold and aren't moving along as fast as we would like.

We had two great meetings and programs this fall. In September, Trustee Steve Beukema gave a very informative talk on Gettysburg and New York Soldiers in the Civil War. In October, Brenda Cave James did a wonderful program on a man, Jermaine Westly Loguen, who had been a former slave and ultimately a Bishop, along with a short history of the Underground Railroad in the Broome County Area.

On **November 20**, we will all bring a favorite book from the days of our youth. If you can't find a copy, just bring your memories to share with everyone. At this month's meeting we elect officers. Please tell our nominating committee of any name, that you would like to see put forward. There will also be nominations from the floor. We must also choose 3 new Trustees, who will begin service in the year 2008.

Our Trustee Meetings will start up on **November 18<sup>th</sup>**, and we will be looking for more ideas for fund raising. We hope to have our 12<sup>th</sup> Night Celebration Dinner, again in January. It has been a great success in the past. With the limited space available, members of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society will be given first choice for tickets.

We need to come up with a couple of more ideas for the spring.

Any of you who has the schedule of activities for some other local organization, please get a copy to Alice Hopkins or Stan Lisk, so our activities can be scheduled to avoid conflict. This would include Churches, County, Town, or Fraternal Organizations, as well as others. Also we could mention those other activities in our meetings, newsletters, and/or webpage.

As was discussed and decided earlier this year, we plan to have our February meeting on the third Wednesday, instead of our usual Tuesday. This is to make it possible for the Historian of the Town of Nanticoke, and others involved in history preservation there, to join us at our meeting. Their area, of course, is within the Nanticoke Valley, so we have many interests in common.

Also being talked about is an area business map with advertisements that will pay for it and raise money for the up-keep of the Museum. It would have the current

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*Newsletter edited by  
Anita & Dick Shipway*

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map on one side with present day businesses from Whitney Point to Endicott. On the back side could be a Historical Map with Past Businesses and Areas of Interest.

We need a PR campaign, on what the Society does for the Community and what we offer in ways people can learn about and enjoy Maine, Union, Nanticoke, Glen Aubrey, Whitney Point, and the whole Nanticoke Valley. Hopefully we can come up with a booklet to pass out to individuals, on the importance of the Society and upcoming events that they would enjoy. This might serve to encourage people and businesses to join or sponsor the organization.

All committee members will be working hard to create and implement ideas that can bring in enough money to allow for maintaining and also improving the Buildings and Programs, of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society.

Please come and enjoy the Monthly Meetings and Programs, for the good fellowship and historic information. Bring that book that has meant so much to you over your life time, for the meeting on **November 20**.

Stan Lisk, president

## Funds running Low for Historical Society Projects

Memberships are important to the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. The collection of people who have an interest in and a commitment to what it is all about, is what makes it possible for things to keep going. There are four historic buildings to maintain and improve. There are programs to put together for school kids and for outside groups, to help a greater number of individuals become aware of the past, which produced the present, of the Nanticoke Valley. There are projects underway for creating accurate and informative printed materials, which preserves information and which will inform and excite people. And, there is the need for the opportunity to meet and associate with other people interested our local history – a spot with heat and lights.

However, the small amount produced by dues doesn't have too big an impact on the budget. There are other sources which can be tapped by individual members. Some employers, or previous employers of retirees, have programs of matching funds for what an individual has contributed to a nonprofit organization. If there is a lower limit for the donation to count, it is possible to pay more than one year's dues etc. at one time. That brings the amount up and then it all could be doubled for the Historical Society.

Other employers or groups, of which you are aware, may help pay for a project, for instance printing costs, paint, landscaping, entertainment for an event. Some churches, some organizations, and some foundations which have been set up for that purpose, will help with supplemental funds for doing something that furthers particular interests of those groups. Usually a person who is a member of that group must make the application for another group's grant proposal. Are you a person who could do that for the Historical Society?

Also, memorials are a lovely way to honor a loved one, and to help perpetuate the memories and ideas that keep that person a part of our lives.

Please speak to the Treasurer, Dottie Winans, or any other officer or board member about the part you can play. Thanks.

## Formation of Town of Maine

*Reprinted from "A Short History of Maine,  
New York"*

*(Chapter 3—Part I)*

*Compiled by Shirley L. Woodward  
Historian, Town of Maine, 1973*

**Note:** We are planning to re-issue the book this chapter is from. We understand there are some awkward to read bits and some seemingly not right sections. Please look for such spots, as you read it, and point them out to Sue Lisk so they can be addressed for the new publication.

To Contact Sue: Sue Lisk, 2625 Main St., P. O. Box 275, Maine, NY 13802, or E-Mail at [Slink@stny.rr.com](mailto:Slink@stny.rr.com) or Phone at (607) 862-9705.

Maine was officially formed from the northern part of the Town of Union, March 27, 1848. The first Town meeting was held April 25, 1848 at the school house in Maine Village with John C. Curtis, Sands Niles and Louis Gates as the presiding officers. From this meeting it was resolved:

That there be four Constables, three Assessors, three Commissioners of High-ways, one Pound Master, and that their next Town meeting would be held at the school house near John R. Wheeler's in Stone Settlement.

At the second meeting the following persons were elected:

Andrew H. Arnold, Supervisor; John W. Hunt, Town Clerk; Marshall De lano, Superintendent of Common Schools; John T. Davis, Collector; Cyrus Gates, four years, Justice of Peace; John Blanchard, one year, Justice of Peace; Hanan W. Moores, three years, Justice of Peace; Orange H. Arnold, two years, Assessor;

Thomas Young, Jr., three years, Assessor; William H. Tuttle, one year, Assessor; Heman Payne, one year, Commissioner of Highways; John R. Wheeler, (Appointed, May 8, 1848) Commissioner of Highways; Edward Ward, two years, Commissioner of Highways; Eustis Hathaway, Constable; John B. Smith, Constable; Joel Benson, Constable; Ransom F. Gates, Constable; Jefferson Ransom, Supervisor of Elections; Luke Curtis, supervisor of Elections; Amasa Durfee, Supervisor of Elections; James W. Carman, Sealer of Weights; Lyman Pollard, Pound Master.

The early meeting records seem to record the appointments to various offices in town as they became vacant. Once they mentioned that money collected be given to the school district. Other business transacted was just not recorded. The first audit, November 9, 1848, consisted mainly of money given to each officer, but they did buy a desk for town books for \$14.00. At the annual county meeting (1848) of town supervisors, under Maine data: 33,037 acres of land with total evaluation of \$109,693.00. County Tax: \$556.72. Town Tax: \$510.96.

### **Early vital statistics of 1848 are:**

**First birth:** April 17, David O. Parker, son of Uriel and Isabell Parker.

**First death:** April 1, Lucy Isbell age 34.

**First marriage:** April 6, Ezra Jay age 22 married Theda A. Howard age 24, marriage performed by Rev. Horace Kelsey.

**First divorce:** "Mrs. C. Loomis from James O. Loomis, granted last week, was the first in Town of Maine" (from the January 18, 1878, issue of "Union News".)

Many of the buildings constructed in the early 1800's are still standing, including the store owned by George Shamulka, once a Cooper's Shop, the old Norton Wagon Shops at Bowers Corners and many of the houses along the Main Street. The present house on the old Gates farm near Nanticoke was built in 1848 by Cyrus Gates and contains a secret room used by the famous "underground railroad" during the Civil War.

Nathan Hovey was the first to build in the village area. Lyman Pollard, who came in 1829, became one of the leading businessmen. Although chiefly interested in lumbering and rafting the logs down the Susquehanna, he built a store in 1847.

In 1832, a tannery for manufacture of sole and upper leather was built by E.H. Clark and located behind the present Masonic Building. Maine hillsides were abundantly covered with pine, hemlock, and hard wood trees. Bark of the hemlock trees were used until the end of the 19th century for tanning acids. The first building measured only thirty by forty feet and not over two men were employed. By 1875, it had been enlarged to forty by one hundred feet and employed twenty-five men and had 132 vats and eight to ten cords of bark were used daily. At this time, an annual capacity of thirty thousand side of sole leather per year was reached. Lamont M. Bowers told of seeing one hundred loads of hemlock bark pass in one day. The tannery operated until the 1890's.

At the time of organization in 1848, the population of Maine was approximately 1,800 persons. The population gradually increased to a peak of 2,129 in 1880. The population declined until, in 1915, only 1,339 persons, or less than the number when the town was set off, lived in the town. Then gradual growth again set in. By 1920, a slight increase had occurred as the figure reached 1,360; 1925, 1,599; 1930, 1,682; 1940, 2,076; 1950, 2,315; 1960, 3,933 and in 1970, 5,842. Sugar rationing certificates were issued to 2,295 persons in 1942. If this figure represents a close census, Maine then had surpassed the old high of 1880. The increase during recent years is largely due to Greater Endicott's industries because many employees prefer living in the pleasant rural sections.

According to the 1855 census of Maine, there were 406 families living in 386 homes. Of these houses 69 were log cabins and one was a plank house. The rest were framed construction.

After most of the timber had been cut and the land cleared, farming, especially dairy farming, became the

principle means of livelihood for the people of the township. Accordingly, the village became quite a center of farm trade. A dairy known as Doane's Creamery was operated just east of the Maine Street near the site of the old tannery. This was later replaced by a new and modern creamery just north of it where condensed, and later powdered milk and cheese were made.

There was also a good sized steam saw mill and rake factory operated by Chauncey McIntyre just west of the village. This operated until 1928.

Maine Lodge No. 399, F. and A. M. was organized on February 12, 1856, with N. W. Eastman as first master. The Maine Chapter of the Eastern Star, No. 599, was chartered October 10, 1917, with Fannie L. Lincoln, first matron. Sherwood Lodge Knights and Ladies of the Golden Star, a mutual insurance group, was organized in 1884. The Knights of Honor was organized in 1877 with William A. Sherwood in the chief office of Dictator.

Maine also had a Young Men's Christian Association which was started in 1879. This organization continued until the Great Fire of 1893 when its quarters were burned. There seems to be no evidence of its existence after the fire.

The Improved Order of Red Men whose origin, from its records, began in 1765, formed a chapter in Maine on November 17, 1885, called the Uncas Tribe #73. This chapter flourished only a short time, then surrendered its charter.

During the Civil War the town of Maine furnished 190 men of which 15 were killed, or died of disease.

Following the Civil War the growth was rapid and by 1870 population had increased to 2,305. In that year Lewis Street and McGregor Avenue were laid out.

The principle industry at that time was lumbering, and there were several mills in the valley. One mill was owned by Mr. Pollard and was water powered. Another and larger one owned by Mr. Baker was steam powered and produced 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 feet of lumber annually.

There was also a wooden rake factory southeast of the village which produced from 15,000 to 20,000 rakes a year.

During this period the old Susquehanna Cayuga turnpike crossed the valley about one and a half miles above the village.

Just above the village and west of this highway is located a plot of land known as the old fair ground. Agricultural Fairs were held there from 1875 to 1883.

In the 1830's Professor William Gates operated a School of Higher Learning in the house which is now owned by Clayton Walter at 23 Main Street, and L. L. Smith had a "Writing School" here at the same time.

The store building which now houses the post-office and until recently the Masonic Lodge rooms was built in 1895 by LeRoy Brooks. The old hotel built in the 1840's was remodeled into a Catholic Church. The old Maine school which stood on the site of the present school was remodeled in 1908.

Maine possesses an historic site that few communities in the United States, except in most remote sections, can display. It is an old water power mill, built about 1830 using massive old mill-stones to grind grain. Sunrise Pancake Flour made at the mill was exceptionally famous.

Maine quickly became a part of the Grange movement founded in 1867 by Oliver Kelly. The local "newshawk" reported June 4, 1875, "The Grangers have, we learn, opened a store, or depot, for supplies at DeLano's Corners with Marshall DeLano as Superintendent where all Grangers can get the worth of their money and the right change back. So mote it be."

In 1878 Maine had four general stores, two drug stores, two meat markets, two shoe shops, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, a tin shop, one flour and feed store, one millinery store, one furniture store, one hotel, one tannery, one creamery, a rake factory, a grist-mill, and a sawmill. There were two doctors and one homeopathic doctor.

It is not widely known, but Maine had a weekly newspaper in the 1870's. It was published in pamphlet form 6" x 9", and supplied advertising and liberal news to many folks of the country side in the Maine area. The advertisements were on the front page and the news appeared on the inside columns. The paper was called "The Maine News" and its publisher and editor was William L. Brooks. The first issue was published February 9, 1876.

**Maine** was established as a Post Office on January 7, 1828, and John C. Curtis was appointed the first Post Master. Mail was received twice a week. It was carried from Binghamton to Union and hence to Maine, Nanticoke, Whitney Point and Lisle, taking three days for the trip. Oliver Whitcomb was the second postmaster in 1829, and Norman B. Smith was appointed in 1833. This was made a money order office on April 25, 1892. Frank Tymeson was appointed March 2, 1917, and held the office until 1954. He was followed by Mrs. Durwood Dence and then Mrs. Wellington Tymeson. Present postmaster is John W. McCormick.

**East Maine**, formerly Hogg Settlement, was established as a Post Office May 15, 1849. The first postmaster was Moses W. Bennet 1849, Silas Brown the second in 1849, and James Aker the sixth and last postmaster in 1893. This office was discontinued March 31, 1904, and mail was sent out of Lestershire, now Johnson City.

For one year, February 1885 to November 1886, there was a post office in the town of Maine under the name of "Mayor". John Hugaboom was the first and only postmaster.

**Notice February 13, 1875** - subscribers to "Union News" you must pay 10¢ extra to pay for postage fee for mailing paper for one year - {came once a week:)

In 1878 Henry Curlhair started an express line between Maine and Binghamton for freight and passengers. The wagon left Thursday and Saturday mornings.

In May 1878, W.C. Pollard returned from his second trip down the Susquehanna River with a raft of logs.

On his return telephones had been introduced to Maine:

The William O. Lincoln General Store (which burned in 1893) was the largest in town. It was built in 1856 with three floors, one floor for the store, and the third floor was the Maine Masonic Lodge Hall. Some of the items one might buy at William O. Lincoln's Store, corner of Church and Main Streets, were notions, groceries, crockery, glassware, hardware, cutlery, boots, shoes, hats, caps, ready-made clothing, clocks, mirrors, lamps, flour, salt, cloves, timothy seed and buffalo robes.

The origin of the Marean-Lauder Co., Inc. men's clothing store lo-

cated on 171-173 Washington Street, Binghamton can be traced back to 1810, when Henry Marean divided a one-quarter section of land in the village of Maine, New York, among his four sons.

One of the sons, Francis H. Marean, who was a clerk in Maine, went into business with a Mr. Pollard in that village in 1844. In about 1865, Mr. Marean dissolved this partnership and built his own store in Maine, presumably on the land received from his father.

He took his son, Henry, into partnership and operated this firm as F. H. Marean & Son. Henry stayed with the store until after his father died. About 1900, Henry sold the

store in Maine, and with the proceeds formed a corporation in Binghamton known as Marean, Lauder & Bone. Alfred B. Lauder was a master tailor and coatmaker who learned this trade through an apprenticeship. He married Bessie L. Marean, daughter of Henry Marean, in 1900, just prior to the formation of Marean, Lauder & Bone. Their son, Henry Alfred Lauder, became an officer about 1940.

#### **Notes:**

1. Photos included in the original publication have not been included in this newsletter.

2. Part 2 of this chapter (3) will be included in the next newsletter.

## School Tours

*Submitted by  
Sandy Rozek*

I'm convinced, that a large part of historical connectivity is the result of unexpected events that "just happen" at the right times. I'm so excited to be able to report, that the invitation to plan curriculum-related field trips has been extended to cover all the elementary school children in our district, as a result of Superintendent's Conference Day grade-level workshops having taken place at the Maine Memorial School building. I just happened to have been running an errand to the school that day and so was able to remind all the teachers of the variety of tours we have been able to give to school-aged children over the years, at our museum and its partner buildings, the one room school house and Pitcher's Mill. There were many new teachers who had never been to our facility and now are really looking forward to using it as a field trip opportunity, some time in the future. We were even given tentative dates in May for a fifth grade excursion.

And, I am looking forward to working with anyone interested, in seeking out some creative curriculum connections, for use in a brochure, showing the varied types of activities we have been able to provide over the years. We will be researching the state curriculum and showing the many ways that local history, community development, ecological and archeological endeavors and biographical emphases can be vividly illustrated by hands-on activities in our own neighborhood. Anyone interested in taking part in any of these projects, either as a docent (teacher/guide), as a researcher/designer/publisher/writer of the brochure, or as the organizer of one of these trips, please contact us through Sandy Rozek, Education Director, by phone at (607) 862-9480, or by email ([sjrozek@aol.com](mailto:sjrozek@aol.com)). We're hoping to be very busy, redeveloping and expanding this program, and will welcome lots of eager volunteers who are interested in being trained or doing training in and around the museum.

## Building Maintenance

Please talk to Tom Kotasek, if you are able to be available for regular repairs on the Museum building, the Schoolhouse, or the Mill, and big salvage projects regarding the wagon shops.

This past spring and summer the porch off the parlor was reworked and the front building sill behind the porch was replaced. The tour children are again able to hang laundry there, after they have scrubbed it on the scrub boards and run it through the crank ringers.

## Improving the Greater Binghamton Area

The Press and Sun-Bulletin was asking for ideas for “the improvement of the Greater Binghamton Area.” Anita Shipway, of the Nanticoke Valley Society, wrote to the paper, saying that she had an idea for a vast improvement for the Greater Binghamton Area. It was published in the November 11, Sunday paper.

Her idea would be a far flung Napalm offensive, to include every sprout and sprig of Ornamental Bamboo (also known as Japanese Knot Weed or “That @#\$%@&\*#%^% Plant”). Now, I do recognize that it is a plant that is easy to grow, will flourish in difficult places and is even attractive. This has been a wonderful year for it, and the beautiful dark green, heart shaped leaves have been actually sparkling in the sun for months. Now, a blush of foamy cream colored flowers is overlaying the dark green and it is lovely. Visually lovely!

The whole time the darned stuff stays in bloom, my voice is barely up to speaking at all -a great hardship to me, personally. Along with that I find great difficulty breathing. I must alter my routes to necessary destinations, to avoid exposure to the stuff, which can be fairly simple in a bad year, but nearly impossible when it is flourishing everywhere, as it is now. My ears ache and I can't hear through them. My chest is congested along with my head. Gums are sore, teeth seem to be floating. Glasses lenses can't get close enough to be effective, there is so much swelling around the eyes.

I have read that people eat the early sprouts, like asparagus. Well, People, you are not eating enough of them! I find it hard to believe that I could be the only person so afflicted.

Soon we divided persons will surely find each other, and we will be a multitude. Then we will be a force to be reckoned with. Perhaps someone should already be running for election on a platform of Ornamental Bamboo eradication. Or perhaps in the dark of night eradication might take place selectively. I do know a farmhouse where three generations of ownership have seriously attempted to completely remove an old stand of the stuff. The job is still not finished, so Napalm does still seem best.

Stoning seems a good deterrent for anyone who actually plants any!

Several people have replied to the piece in the paper. One person said that after trying “everything”, he discovered that by digging out every root he could find and then dousing the root area with gasoline and another douse of Calcium Chloride, and redoing it a number of times, he has had no sign of it for 10 years.

Another person wrote that he keeps bees in the state of Maine and that they rely heavily on the late summer food source, to carry them over the winter. The flavor of the honey made from Ornamental Bamboo is said to be a delicacy, though not to those allergic to it, one would think.

## 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.
- Board members Sandy Rozek (elected to finish Ken's term), 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.
- Board members Sandy Halliday, Carol Sienko, and Charles Hathorn will serve through 2009.

## Officers

President: Stan Lisk  
 Vice President: Nancy Berry  
 Secretary: Alice Hopkins  
 Treasurer: Dottie Winans

## Committees

Membership	Dottie Winans, Carol Sienko, Sandy Halliday
Finance	Dottie Winans, Sara Clavez
Buildings & Grounds & Mill Restoration	Tom Kotasek
Ways & Means	Nancy Berry , Sue Hoskins
Museum Curator	Sue Lisk
Education	Sandy Rozek , Carol Sienko
Fund Raisers	Stephen Beukema, Stan Lisk, Charles Hathorn
Video / Audio	Betty and Leo Welch
Town Historian	Nancy Rutkowski

## 2008 Dues Are Now being Accepted

Please use the dues return slip below. On the top of your address label is printed your dues Paid/Due status for years 2007 and 2008. Your dues may either be mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting (in an envelope with your name on it and the dues slip enclosed).

Note: As of November 2006 the dues have changed.

<b>Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s): 2007    2008</b>		
<b>Note:</b> See address label for your Dues Status.		
Please mail returns to:	Nanticoke Valley Historical Society c/o Dorothy Winans 993 King Hill Road Endicott, New York 13760	Is this name or address a change from your address label?
Name:		Yes _____ No _____
Street Address:		\$ _____
City/State/Zip:		
Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____		
<b>Dues:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Single <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Business	

## **Gift Ideas to Treat Yourself or a Special Someone**

Framed prints of Pictures 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.

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**NANTICOKE VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Maine, NY 13802

**Fall 2007 Newsletter**