February 2007



# NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Winter 2007 Newsletter

Members and Perspective Members

Hope you all are well this very cold winter. There was a very nice 12th Night Party at the museum, which featured the need for improved sound equipment at the school auditorium. We met many nice people, and hopefully it will nurture some more members and volunteers. Nancy Berry, Jim Tokos and their volunteers did a marvelous job with all who came, close to 50. We were very pleased with the evening's celebration.

There was a meeting on fund raising at the very hospitable home of Leo and Betty Welch. After being served Cheese, Many Cookies and Birthday Cake (it happened to be Betty's Birthday) we got down to exploring ways to raise funds.

As noted in other recent meetings we need about \$5000.00 a year just to keep up with normal expenses such as heating, electric, insurance and minor repairs. This money normally doesn't come from grants etc. We must get it from donations, adult tours, school tours and memberships, and any projects done for that purpose.

During our meeting the following ideas came up:

One idea was from Steve Beukema for Discount Coupon Books featuring businesses local to the area covered by the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. That could serve as a list of the businesses of the area at this time, for people of future years to refer to, and it would be a fund raiser for the Nanti-coke Valley Historical Association. For that we would need inexpensive printers, possible free, like a school or BOCES, volunteer salesman to sell the ads. Contact Steve to give your ideas and suggestions and to indicate an interest in working on something like that.

Also we have been talking with the Town of Nanticoke Historian (Joann Costely) and hope we can form an alliance to better represent that area of the Nanticoke Valley, with more input and more members.

Sue and I had a tremendous Turkey Dinner at the American Legion, sponsored by the younger veterans. We talked to the President and he said that a joint fundraiser would be possible, with them providing the facility and dinner and us providing advertising and the people. This can also help in the exposure of new people to becoming new members.

I've talked to Centerport Seafood about the possibility of having a First Annual " Maine Lobster Cookout" this summer. It would be no initial cost to us, just people pre-selling lobsters and volunteers to cook them. It could be done again in the fall as a "take home" version with the pre ordered sale of live lobsters to be cooked at home.

Nancy Rutkowski will be getting us a calendar of local Maine events so we can plan our activities without conflicts this year.

Also we will work with the Upstate History Alliance on other ideas for raising funds that have worked for other museums, but we need your help for more ideas, helping to implement them and for volunteering. Pass on ideas to any board member or to President Stan Lisk at slisk@stny.rr.com or 862-9705.

Our Monthly Meetings are short and the Programs wonderful, you will leave with a new appreciation of your community and its history.

Stan Lisk

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### **Building Maintainence**

Again we thank the Eichorns for providing the mill with nice wreathes on the doors and also for plowing out the mill.

Tom Kotasek reports that the heating thermostat for the museum has been moved to improve the heat distribution through the front rooms.

Also a period window has been found and a window casing built around it. It will replace the window at the end of the meeting area room, upstairs in the storage area. The old window casing had rotted so bad that it actually let go of the glass and let it slip down. This new window will still match the other ones in the building.

As you see, this maintaining of the buildings is a never ending thing, and it will be so long as we have them. Often there are short jobs that need to be done and which could be done by anyone interested. Besides that, there are some things that need people with some experience in carpentry or in other areas. Then too there is need for things like old window glass to have on hand for replacing broken panes or old fashioned plants to replace frost killed ones every spring. Please call Tom Kotasek 754-0381 to say what you are able to do. Leave him a message; he'll get back to you.

### **New Word Meanings**

By Anita Shipway

I have been confident that I've kept up, over the years, on the jumping around inferences of words like COOL and HOT and COLD and WARM. One day when a doctor's assistant was driven to raising her voice at me, because of the way I was answering her question of how long the symptoms had been noticed, I realized I had really not been paying attention as the language metamorphosed. I had answered, "Several days." She wanted to know what that was supposed to mean. I answered, "a few days." That was not acceptable. Finally I asked her what the words few or several meant to her, and she told me, "anything from one to a hundred." I was very surprised. So I began to notice what was being said around me. Maybe you've noticed these too:

A couple-of means a small number – five or six perhaps

A few means any number on into infinity

Adhere is what one does to two other things, rather than what one would do to (or with) one other thing

A booby has a perfectly acceptable usage which is not a blue footed water bird

Gloves are now things with one thumb but no fingers

Please is a word added to make it clear that this is a direct order, not open to discussion

A promise is not a pledge of your own self but assurance that something is inevitable. "I promise you we are in for a flood."

The bottom of a room is now called "the ground", those made of hard wood or marble, not just earthen floors. "In the dining room, he fell to the ground."

A diet is any cockamamie list of foods that someone thinks might make people lose weight – not the sum of foods being regularly eaten by an animal/person.

Asked is not ever to have made a question which would require an answer. It might be to invite (asked to dinner or asked to marry) or it might be to have requested or demanded (they asked \$125,000), but more likely it will mean "you received a direct order from me" (I asked you to do that yesterday or you were asked to have that in to your teacher).

A laundry list is what the word "list" used to be. It is any collection of words or ideas that have something in common. It has nothing to do with what pieces of clothing have been sent to the laundry.



#### First 50 years

Reprinted from "A Short History of Maine, New York" (Chapter 2) 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 Slisk@stny.rr.com or Phone at (607) 862-9705.

There are different versions of how Maine Township of Broome County got its name. As most of the early settlers came from Massachusetts, it is not likely to have been named after the State of Maine. One theory is that it was the "Main" village between Whitney Point and Union on an old Indian Trail, but then why spell it Maine?

Another possibility is that since Simeon DeWitt was surveyor General of New York State from 1784 until his death in 1834, he exercised his authority to name areas in New York on his map of 1802 that did not have names for reference. He is responsible for many of the classical name given to towns in this State. Possibly he named Maine and Lisle after provinces in France!!

Descendants of early pioneers to Lisle maintain that their ancestors named the area. Some of them in the Continental Army decided to come back and settle here. They asked General

LaFavette what they should name this area, and he said that central New York State reminded him of his home estates in France called Lisle and Maine -so out of honor to the General, these pioneer settlers adopted his suggestion and called their new homes Lisle and Maine.

Although the village was called Maine, the forty pounds for one hundred and twentyarea around it was part of the Town of Union until 1848. The first written reference to the name "Maine" was in 1825.

Probably the first birth was that of Cynthia Roe in July, 1797. No record seems to have been kept of the first marriage or first death. The first dame school was taught by Betsey Ward in 1802. Daniel Howard built the first grist mill in 1810 and Jared Ketchum opened the first store in 1825. Dr. Peter Payne came to Maine in or near 1825. Oliver Whitcomb opened the first tavern in 1829. The first post office was established in 1828 with John C. Curtis, postmaster, but most of the duties fell upon his deputy, Jehiel Slosson.

Captain Stephen Stoddard was one of the "Boston Purchase" surveyors and made ance in the pig pen which was located fame as a mighty hunter. He would take his flintlock and faithful dog and disappear in the forest for days. On one trip, the dog treed three panthers. The Captain had only three bullets but with unerring aim, he brought down the panthers. Later, someone said, "Suppose the gun had misfired?" His reply was that he never let his gun misfire under such circumstances. At one time, wolves were killing Stoddard's sheep so he set a large trap and fastened it to a block of wood. In the morning the trap was gone. He followed the trail to a pond and found the wolf with its head partly out of water. He talked to the wolf asking if it were not ashamed to have stolen sheep. Evidently the wolf did not repent, because the hunter shot him through the head.

When James Ketchum arrived from Connecticut at Chenango Point, the Ferryman, Samuel Bevier, was absent. His daughter, Anna Bevier, offered to take him across. The trip was a great success, for later they were married and

by 1802 they had settled in the southern section of Maine now called Union Center on Lot 155 of the "Boston Purchase". Because of the large hemlocks and hard wood timber, James Ketchum, Captain Stephen Stoddard, and Elijah Higbee, thought the land exceptionally rich and consequently settled there. Ketchum paid eight acres. The settlers built log cabins and continued to clear the land. The gaining of a bare living was hard.

Clothing was made from wool and flax spun by the women. Each family kept one cow and a yoke of oxen that pastured in the woods in the summer and ate brush in the winter. Bells were placed on cows to keep them from becoming lost.

Ketchum's taxes were twenty-five cents a year. If a man made four dollars a year, he did well. This had to pay for tea, carding wool, weaving and taxes. Maple syrup, used for sweetening, was made in large cauldron kettles. Barter was used to obtain needed commodifies"

One night, Ketchum heard a disturbabout ten rods from the house. Taking his rifle and a tin lantern, he found a large black bear trying to kill a pig. By the dim light of the lantern, he shot the bear and returned unconcernedly to the house. In the morning when he went to the pen he was disturbed for he found not only a dead bear but also a dead pig.

Wolves were so dangerous that a bounty of twenty shillings was placed on them as early as 1790. As late as February 1822, it was made lawful for the supervisors of counties to raise the bounty for wolf scalps to ten dollars and five dollars for whelps. Henry Wright, a pioneer, had sixteen sheep killed by wolves in one night.

Alfred and Russell Gates, brothers, who had settled near Binghamton, acquired land in North Maine. They were forced to cut a road from Centerville, now Union Center, to their farms. Because of attracting large numbers of wolves, they found they could not carry any food in their lunches that gave off agreeable odors



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Rev. Seth Williston in his diary of 20 July 1797, states, "I joined Mr. Rockwell (Abner of Union Center) and family in prayer and Mr. R. shod my horse gratis. I rode up the Nanticoke -a pleasant and "new" road eight miles to Mr. Gates, where I took dinner. I visited a couple of Dutch families on the road lodged at Captain Stoddard's."

Moses Delano came to town in 1812. He was a charter member of the congregational -Presbyterian Church, in 1819. He was a blacksmith -married in 1815 to Anna Slosson, daughter of Nathaniel, pioneer settlers in 1812. Moses' son, Aaron Delano, was a town supervisor and a Justice of the Peace. Marshall, a brother, held the office of district clerk 47 years in succession.

William Hogg from Scotland settled in East Maine in 1834. He was joined a few years later by a number of his relatives.

The following poem was found among the papers of the late James Hogg, nephew of the "Ettrick Shepherd ", the famous Scottish poet. Young James spent much time in the company of the Shepherd in Scotland came to Maine with his family about 1834.

James wrote poems under the pen name of "Sawney." (Copied exactly as printed in old newspapers.) "Sawney's Girlies" \* Sentiments

I've courted the muses pleasure, And searched in my bullet heid, For somthing to write in measure, Of Scotch folks, for Scots to read.

'Twould take too long to name 'ilka ane' That sailed the ocean o'er, And left their 'hame' in the years agone For one on a stranger shore.

A few Scotch family names I'll write The ones I 'ken' a 'mickle'; I'll do my best with all my might But that will no be muckle.

First comes the Hoggs of Mt. Ettrick, The Paisleys are of the same clan. The Ross's too, of the Glen, and Creek, And the Craines are Scotch to a man. Coe is the youngest Young of all Of the family of Uncle Hugh Young; His ancestors back, his great granter and all Spoke in the pure Gaelic tongue.

Now comes the name of a songster and friend, Mr. Forester, so full of his mirth. Miss Gillespie too, and my list shall end And 'lika' is Scotch by birth.

Let me tell you of the early Scots, That lived on Ettrick hill; "Twill bring to mind some vacant spots; I would they were occupied still.

The old log house at the end of the lane, Where "Uncle Paisley" and dear "Aunt Belle" Reared Elizabeth, Frank and Jane And lastly Johnnie and Nell.

The little old house of "Cousin Will's" With "Beardie" has gone to decay; The stranger folk the doorway fills, Of "Robbie's" red shop, down the way. "Little Jimmie" has sold his farm away, And strangers pass in at the door. "Uncle Robert" keeps his farm today, But his farming days are o'er.

"Uncle William's" empty house and place Speak volumes as we pass along. We call to mind his kindly face And seem to hear a quaint Scotch song.

These changes since the long ago Point us all to the home on high . Let us strive to forget life's care and woe And live for the 'sweet by and by.' M.M.

\*Girlies means granddaughter.

The families named in this poem, settled in East Maine in the 1830's and '40's, and called their new home Mt. Ettrick, a direct importation from the Scottish birthplace of the poet James Hogg, known as "the Ettrick Shepherd."

His nephew, William Hogg, (pronounced Hog) was the first settler on the new airport site.

The poet was born in the forest of Ettrick in Selkirkshire, Scotland, back in 1772. His descriptive name resulted from his early occupation as a shepherd. His nephew, the Maine pioneer, was also a shepherd and raised sheep here in Maine. Before making the journey to the New World, he tended the flocks of Sir Walter Scott, the Scottish novelist and poet whose Waverly novels and troubadour ballads have won him lasting literary fame.

William Hogg settled on his new Mount Ettrick in 1836. He served as Justice of the Peace for 30 years. Later, several relatives came to this country to join him and subsequently the mountain was occasionally called Hogg Hill.

The first cemetery there was right near the old Hogg homestead in a stand of pine trees, later moved to make room for the airport. Four Paisley girls who died of diphtheria are buried there, and a few children of James and Margaret (Hogg) Dalgliesh, who died young. A stone was also placed here for the Robert Hogg who died on shipboard on the way to America. William Hogg (called Green Billie) would climb over a fence into the fields if he met an "American" on the road.

William Paisley came to Maine in 1845; John, Alexander and George Ross, with their mother, arrived 1849. Albert Crane was born in Massachusetts, but his wife was a Hogg (in Maine by 1841) .They were married 1845. Hugh Young and wife settled here in 1843. The Foresters and Gillespies came after 1870. Another Scotch family to settle Maine in the 1840's was that of Adam Oliver. His parents, Richard and Mary (Siver) from Scotland, settled in Otsego County, where Adam was born in 1810.

Adam Oliver settled first near Gates Corners, then later about Civil War time, moved to Union Center. Two of the wives of early Hogg settlers were Olivers possibly relatives of Adam's family.

The early Irish settlers of Maine first appear in the mid 1840's. These people were part of the millions who left Ireland at the time of the Great Famine. As so many settled in this area of Maine, first called Fender's Corners, after Daniel Fender (from Ireland 1854), it later became known as New Ireland.



Some of the families who first came were the Casevs -James, Thomas, Daniel and Richard, whose claim to fame is a descendant immortalized in baseball's "Casey at the Bat" .Patrick and Daniel Burns and families came in 1846 - Michael Hayes in 1845- Patrick O'Brien in 1844 the Kellys in 1848 - Fitz Gibbons in 1846. The Keneficks came in 1845 - the Barrey family in 1855 - Thomas Adams from Ireland in 1846 - William Ouinn in 1850 and the Patrick Callons in 1848. Matthew Meloy and family came as early as 1839 -Fagans in 1847 - Malones in 1855. There were Condons, Quinlivens, Cloneys, Donovans and probably Many others.

One of East Maine's earliest settlers was Daniel Parker, who came from Massachusetts. The first gravestone to be placed on a grave in the East Maine Cemetery is on his grave.

Anthony W. North came from England and settled in Maine about 1892. He owned a 100 acre farm, and gave most of the land to be used for the East Maine Cemetery. Mr. Carpenter also gave some land.

A man by the name of Simons had a fight with an Indian on a hill back of the North homestead. Simons was killed and later his gun was found with his name engraved on it.

At the Farm-to-Market Road corners were a store, a blacksmith and wagon shop run by Russell Chauncey, and a post-office. The old post office, later used as a voting or polling place, is now gone.

On the back of the North property on the highest knoll 1619 feet above sea level, was a tall oak tree used by Indians and, later, hunters to look for deer. As lower limbs fell off the tree, people would put spikes in to aid the climbers. When it fell in 1950, it was discovered that many initials were carved in it clear to the top.

John Durfee, Captain Stoddard and Lyman Pollard ran early sawmills in Maine. Lyman Pollard was one of the prominent lumbermen who would run thirty or forty lumber rafts in a season down the Nanticoke Creek to the Susquehanna River and south to markets in Pennsylvania.

The first cabinet and furniture manufacturer was Michaiah Mooers who came to Maine in 1830.

Old buildings in the community include the Andrew Taylor house north of Bowers Corners built in 1822: John S. Fisher home in 1828, the first Bower's Mansion in 1832, and house of Jefferson Ransom at Bowers Corners in the early 1840's.

The first school house was said to have been built in about 1815 in the Curtis neighborhood near the cemetery across from the present American Legion Club House

The old Hathaway Inn, now owned by Mrs. Rodger Gallager, was built in 1810 (although the first written proof of its existance was 1825) and is still in use as a dwelling.

The Marean family is well represented in the history of Maine. The Hon. Henry Marean was born in Maine in 1842. He was area of Maine. The flower has been a descendant of Thomas Marean, a Revolutionary soldier, and of Henry and Chloe (Delano) Marean. Henry was deputy postmaster in Maine for many years; was a town supervisor from 1874 to 1878 and was elected to the State Assembly in the fall of 1878. Francis H. Marean, ran a mercantile business in Maine for many years, beginning in 1854.

The northeast part of the town was the last to be settled. It was forested with an exceptionally fine stand of timber which was appropriated at will by neighboring settlers. When officers attempted to serve warrants for the arrest of offending persons, they invariably received 1880's. the information that the guilty persons had gone to "Canada". People also believed New Ireland - by 1840-50's the Irish that thieves and fugitives hung out in "Canada". A family from southeastern New York had moved into the region, and earlier residents began to find many things disappearing. They suspected the new

family, probably in part, because they were not from New England, and it was said that they were fugitives. Later, others came from New York City, settling north of the Oak Hill region, and they became suspected horse thieves.

Names of other small settlements in Maine are:

Tiona - originally was McIntyre settlement named after Marcina H. McIntyre and family who settled there in 1840's ran several saw mills. Also called North Maine. Now is Tiona - named after the Tiona Kerosene Company who at that time delivered kerosene to that area - the store there received a free barrel of kerosene for naming the post office after them in the 1880's.

Gates - 4 Corners - Named after Russell and Alfred Gates, pioneers to area 1794. Corson Settlement in same area named after family from Pennsylvania probably the John Corson family in 1830 census.

**Arbutus** - this flower is often associated with oak trees, was found only in this gone from area now about 50 years. Area first called "Craftville" in honor of Dr. Edward S. Craft who farmed there. Name changed to "Arbutus" when Post Office established in 1880's.

East Maine - First called Stone settlement. Samuel Stone settled here in 1816.

Allentown - named after Ebenezer Allen family that settled here 1836.

Delano Corners - after the Moses Delano family from Massachusetts in 1812. Also called Vincent Corners after

seemed to settle in this area from Ireland fleeing the Great Famine. Called Penders Corners for awhile after Daniel Pender and family from Ireland 1854.



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**Brockett Hollow** - Dwight Brockett settled here in the 1820's.

**Bower's Corners** - Gardner S. Bowers settled this area in 1820's.

**Norton's Corners** - opposite Bower's Corners- Isaac Norton, son of Benjamin who came to Maine 1794, lived here.

**Union Center** - originally Centerville - the halfway stop between Union and Maine.

**Oak Hill** - near Shore's Hill or settlement east Maine -many beautiful oak trees in this area. **Finch Hollow** - named after Nathaniel Finch family from Chenango County about 1840.

**Broughamtown** - also called Dutch town named after the John Brougham (pronounced Brockam) family-Germans, from Newark Valley and earlier from Schoharie County.

### Schedule of Winter/Spring Meetings & Events

February 20 @ 6 PM: The Winter Picnic is upon us. For a while there it looked like it would be warm enough to have it on the lawn, but now we have had quite enough real winter to make it very nice to get together indoors as usual. February's meeting will be at 6:00, on the usual third Tuesday. Everyone is to bring a dish to pass and whatever is needed to eat with (a very big plate if you plan to fill it only once). Beverages will be provided. The program for the evening is "Slide into 2007". We'll be looking at some old slides of the musical productions presented over the years. When the people in them are identified, we'll be ready to make them into a CD.

See you in the food line and maybe in the slides too.

**March 20** @ **7 PM** will be a program about the recently acquired diary of Mary Delano 1897-1899, given by Sue Lisk. See the "From the Curator" column on the next page.

**April 17 @ 7 PM:** When did you first know about the Farm Bureau, or the Home Bureau or 4H? You are going to hear some very surprising things about them and the Cooperative Extension program. They are even more important to us than we may know. The speaker will be Charlie Baldwin who lives out on Nanticoke Rd. and whose family has been active in those programs for many years.

May 15 @ 7 PM: Steve Beukema will present a program on Gettysburg

**June 19 @ 6 PM** will be our summer covered dish supper (Bring a dish to pass and your table service. Beverages will be provided.) and a program by Sandy Rozek. It will have to do with the illustrations found in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Fairytale books.

### **Recent Happenings at the Museum**

**12th Night**: Our 12th Night gathering on January 6th was a tremendous success. A good time was had by all who attended. Jim Tokos did an outstanding job with the four food stations, everything was delicious.

Joe Child's pastafazul was wonderful. Jim's sister Theresa manned the carving station and Jim's friend Terry was in charge of the down stairs kitchen.

Joanne Weir greeted the guests with their schedules and bobbles for the evening, and informed our three royal guests of their duties.

Nancy Berry worked out the table rotation for the food service stations.

We had 4 college students help beforehand with moving and rearranging furniture and also moving several heavy items to our third floor.

On 12th night 4 other student volunteers served in several capacities.

We want to thank all the above for their hard work, creativity and gracious manor, which made our Annual 12th Night unforgettable.

We will be holding our 2nd Annual 12th Night next year. Information on how to obtain tickets will be in the fall newsletter. Forty-Eight guests will be able to attend. First opportunity to get your name on the list will be given to Historical Society Members in good standing.

The Mainamies Red Hat Society ladies held their February meeting at the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Museum.



## 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 a third person still to be named will serve through 2009.

## **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

#### From The Curator By Sue Lisk

Mary Delano's diary from 1897 - 1899 has found its way home to Maine after a very long absence. I acquired the diary from an auction on Ebay. The woman I bought it from obtained it from an antiques dealer in Western Maryland.

Mary was quite a woman! Very energetic, agent for The Home Insurance Co., a farmer, Congregational Church organist, and one of the first owners of a bicycle in Maine. Reading her descriptions of the town of Maine and its inhabitants is like taking a trip back in time. She names names and places! It is true snap shot of Maine at the end of the 1800's! Mary's diary is so entertaining that I hope we can have it published. I know you will all enjoy hearing more about Mary and her adventures when I do my program in March.

## 2007 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 2006 and 2007. 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.

Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s): 2006 2007 Note: See address label for your Dues Status. Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Is this name or address a Please mail returns to: change from your address c/o Dorothy Winans label? 993 King Hill Road Endicott, New York 13760 Yes No Name: **Amount Enclosed** Street Address: \$\_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_ **Dues: [** \$10.00 Single **\$25.00** Business **\$15.00** Family **\$25.00** Patron



## 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.

### **More New Word Meanings**

By Anita Shipway

Old means something that has out lived its usefulness to people of the moment. A never worn pair of ski pants which have been out grown are "old." A complete train-set no longer being played with every day is, "old." The telling of a story to the point that it is annoying is "getting old."

Brilliant doesn't mean bright and shining as the sun or as a superior intellect. It means a job well done or a highly prized thing.

A myth is now some silly idea, and not a simple story to demonstrate universal truths

The word freezing, as used in the phrase, "It's freezing out," means only that it is uncomfortably cool for the speaker. When uttered by a news caster, it may mean minus 30 degrees F or plus 50 degrees F, but what it does not mean is a temperature at which water will turn to ice.

I-am-excited means "I am looking forward to", "I am pleased", "I am relieved" or "I want you to feel good about yourself in this venture." It does not mean the presence of anything like excitement.

#### NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 75 Maine, NY 13802

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