

# Summer 2009 Newsletter

July 2009

## NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The **Museum Buildings** will be open every Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4 this summer and going into October.

Please pass the word. Please come to see them, and **please give some time** to keeping them open. We need a person for every floor of each building, not that we need to stay apart between visitors, but we need to assist all people as they go through. Often the people going through are full of information themselves, and we like to get that jotted down. If you feel you just don't know enough about some exhibit to talk about it, come go through with someone else who is already expert, and listen. Soon you'll have plenty to say. Also, there are helpful sheets with the significant things to point out to people.

**Program meetings** will continue through the summer this year. The August one will feature long time residents of the Maine area who will form a panel discussion about the Maine area through many years. **Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month.**

**The rummage sale** in July brought in \$534.00. During that we realized that there was a demand for some particular kinds of things, so we have decided to offer a sale of books, a sale of period fabric, trims, thread etc. and a sale of old or interesting Christmas things. Please start digging into those dark corners.

**The fabric sale will be the week end of August 21 and 22.** That is the same weekend as the Gas Engine Days in the park. Perhaps gas engine people will enjoy looking at the fabrics too. Anything to do with sewing and needle work would be wonderful. Call Sue Hoskins at 862-9437 or Sue Lisk at 862-9705 to arrange to drop off things, beginning now. Thanks.

If you have connections to any teddy bear makers or vintage clothing enthusiasts or groups of young people just starting to learn these things let them know about this, or contact Anita Shipway with an e-mail address or other contact information.

**In September there will be the second annual book sale.** If there are books that were bought at the first annual book sale that are now finished, they'll be glad to sell them again. There will be for sale all kinds of books, in all kinds of shape. These are great to tuck away for stocking stuffers or bread and butter gifts.....and to read.

There will be more information to come, on the **Christmas Decorations Sale**, but it will be sometime closer to the Christmas season. There are already materials available for people who would like to make Swedish red and white woven heart pockets for Christmas trees, cornucopias for tree and all year decorations, and papier-mâché molded Christmas decorations. They will be sold at the sale, along with all the Christmas things gathered from our various homes. Call Anita Shipway to get with a group to make these things – 785-9207. And, again, begin to look into those dark corners at home.

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Newsletter edited by  
Anita & Dick Shipway

## Other Happenings of Interest to Historical Society Members

**National Night Out** will take place in the Maine Town Park on August 4, starting around 6:00, with free food, free concert by the Maine Community Band and lots of demonstrations and things to try. There will be a parade from Maine Memorial, around the Masonic Temple building and on to the park grounds. Everyone is encouraged to join the parade.

**12 Noon, August 27** will be the opening of a large exhibit, about the (Endicott Johnson) Johnson family, and particularly son Charlie. It will be in the new **NBT Bank, in Johnson City**, which is in what was the home of Charlie Johnson – Main Street in Johnson City.. Come to get a first look at the exhibit, have a little snack, and listen to live music of the **EJ Shoe Tunes**, as they revisit the music of EJ chorus and band. The CD will be for sale.

**Sundays 12:30 to 2:00** and the First Monday and the Third Wednesday of each month, the **IBM History and Heritage Center** is open. Reservations must be made at least a full week ahead. Call 773-0092. There can be special group tours set up for other times, same contact number. The exhibit covers a hundred years (the 1880s to the 1980s) of IBM Technology and Innovation. It is at 1701 North St., Endicott.

**We Haz Jazz, and on September 20, 2009** the Maine fall musical will take place at the Maine Memorial School auditorium. Watch for more information.



**Scales at the Mill**

**The large Scale above** was used to weigh many sacks of grain and is built into the building. It is used today to weight classes of school children that are touring the mill.

**The portable scale to the right** is smaller and was used to weigh just one or a few sacks of grain.



## History of Present Societies in Maine (part 1)

*Reprinted from "A Short History of  
Maine, New York"  
(Chapter 8)*

*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](mailto:Slisk@stny.rr.com) or Phone at (607) 862-9705.

### **MASONS MAINE LODGE #399**

Midway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a small group of Masons who had settled in the hamlet of Maine decided to form a lodge there. A meeting was held in the home of G.P. Hubbard on February 12, 1856, and a lodge was organized under the name of Maine Lodge #399, Free and Accepted Masons (F & AM). The first officers were: N.W. Eastman, Master; Charles Smith, Senior Warden; John Pollard, Senior Deacon; Hugh Young, Junior Deacon; Nathan Wilcox, Secretary; F.T. Andrews, Treasurer; and W.S. Chase, Tiler.

The lodge operated under dispensation of the grand lodge of which J.D. Evans was then grand master, and met every Tuesday at 6 P.M. On March 18, 1856, the first meeting was held in rooms above a storeroom owned by M. Hovey, and subsequently sold to William Lincoln, at the south west corner of Main and Church Streets. The lodge had leased the rooms. The site is now a vacant lot. The lodge received its charter on June 30, 1856, and charter ceremonies were held the following July II. District Deputy Grand Master George Park installed the officers with the assistance of

Center Lisle, Union and Binghamton Masons. The original charter, still in the lodge's possession, carries the signatures of John S. Lewis, Grand Master, and James M. Austin, Grand Secretary.

It was apparently some time before 1864 that William Lincoln bought the building where lodge meetings were held, since after that date it is referred to as Lincoln's store. There is an account of a disagreement with the Speedville lodge over jurisdiction of Newark Valley. A survey disclosed that the village was precisely half-way between the two lodges. The lodges came to an agreement but the agreement was shortlived, since Newark Valley formed a lodge of its own.

Maine Lodge suffered a setback on May 19, 1877. On that date, all the lodge money was stolen from a safe. Money for operating expenses had to be borrowed. From the start, this small lodge was active in civic affairs. On August 1, 1871, the lodge brothers convened in a special meeting, went to Owego to assist in placing the Tioga County Court House cornerstone and then returned to close lodge. The mode of travel being what it was in those days, this probably took a whole day. On June 8, 1885, a three man committee was appointed to go to Oneonta to assist in placing the cornerstone of a new state armory. **DISASTER:** On the night of February 7, 1893, Lincoln's store burned to the ground. Although the lodge rooms were destroyed, records and part of the furnishings were saved. Shortly thereafter, the lodge came to an agreement with Henry Marean for renting rooms over his store located on the south side of Main Street where the Grange Hall now stands. The first meeting was held there on February 27, 1893, with permission of James TenEyck, state grand master.

Early in 1895, a committee of Masons conferred with LeRoy L. Brooks about the design of a

store he was constructing on the northwest corner of Main and Church Streets. The building is now owned by Mrs. Wellington Tymeson. The committee asked Mr. Brooks to add another floor to contain a lodge hall. He agreed. Plans were completed and approved March 4, 1895. The new hall was dedicated on December 16, by Emara Cobb, district deputy, grand master, with the Rev. A.P. Woodworth giving the principal address and Theodore T. Lawton, master, presiding.

A discordant note appears to be behind circulation of petitions that occurred in December of 1906. The petitions were authorized on December 17 in order to sell shares to finance the purchase of the old Marean store, then owned by F.A. Benson, instead of renewing the lodge lease in the Brooks and Martin store. But whatever disagreement there may have been, was composed by February 18, 1907, the date that a new contract was signed with Mr. Martin.

By 1922, the membership was so large that the annual lodge banquet had to be held in the old Methodist Church on Main Street. Beginning in 1925, the lodge investigated means of buying larger property or building a temple. Trustees were authorized on July 6, to broach the purchase of the old hotel building which now houses Holy Rosary Church but nothing came of the proposal. A proposition to buy the Hathaway property on Main Street was defeated on November 2. On April 19, 1937, Maine Lodge joined in a statewide celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Masonry in New York State. It was on June 6, 1938, that a resolution was adopted authorizing the drafting of plans and cost estimation for buying a lot and building a temple. The plans were delayed, until in 1945, a lot was donated by Robert and Lena Taylor to the lodge, and it is on this lot that the present temple stands. The lodge purchased a lot adjoining the



property.

The Ashlar Club, predecessor of the present Fellowcraft Club, was formed on December 2, 1940. By 1951, conditions had changed sharply since the original building resolution had been adopted. The plans had to be re-submitted for approval. There was a lodge meeting on November 5, 1951, to consider the question and the result was that the building committee was empowered to undertake the project and to commence building the following spring if possible. Timber was donated. On December 17, a group of members went out into the woods and began felling trees. Much of the wood in the temple was obtained by these woodcutters. Meanwhile, the Fellowcraft Club, the order of the Eastern Star and Triangle, sponsored dinners to raise money to defray expenses.

On June 14, 1952, concrete walls were poured by lodge personnel. By 1954, construction was close enough to completion so that on February 17, the lodge held its first annual banquet in the temple dining room. On January 1, 1955, the lodge officially moved from the old lodge rooms, occupied since December 16, 1895, into the new temple. The first regular communication was held in the new temple on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

J. Ralph Ingalls brought honor to the lodge on May 23, 1955, through his appointment as district deputy grand master of Broome Chenango District. The temple was dedicated June 14, 1955. Grand Master Raymond C. Ellis and his staff of Grand Lodge officers officiated. The Eastern Star served dinner before the ceremony. Thus from a small beginning with a handful of members, Maine Lodge #399, F & AM had grown and prospered, maintaining the high ideals of Freemasonry and providing a temple for a monument to those ideals.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet was held in the Temple on February 25, 1956. On June 30 a special meeting was held to celebrate

100 years of Masonry in Maine.

A new parking lot was added and several improvements have been made. The lodge now has exceeded the 200 membership mark.

**Richard Willoughby – Master 1970**

**A HISTORY OF MAINE CHAPTER #599. O.E.S.**

Organized – September 21, 1916  
Constituted – November 27, 1917

**1967**

**"OUR GOLDEN YEAR"**

*by Dorothy L. Ames*

Before starting the reading of this history, let us pause for a moment and reflect upon the beginning of our fraternal endeavors in the Town of Maine:

Back mor'n a hundred years ago  
'fore you an' I waz on  
this here terrain,  
Some folks now gone these many  
years waz livin' here in  
Maine  
An' the men- they got t' talkin'  
an' they thought it wud  
be good If they should  
band t'gther In Masonic  
Brotherhood:  
Well, they worked to git things  
goin' an it seemed in  
just no time  
They organized the Eighteen  
Fifty-Six Maine Lodge  
Number Three Nine Nine.

They had their hard times  
startin'- even had a fire  
they say  
An' once some ornery bugger  
sperrited their funds away  
But they never give up tryin',  
faith waz stong ant courage  
true  
An' their early struggles helped  
t' smooth the path fer me an'  
you;  
Prob'bly some 0' them wuz head-  
strong- wanted things run  
jest their way  
An' some wuz meek as Moses-  
Kinda balanced up, I'd say!  
Well, at any rate they pro-  
gressed, growed in membership  
each year  
'Til t' day we view with pride  
this fine Masonic Temple

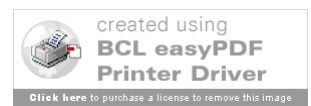
here:

They deserve a lot 0' credit  
but they wouldn't a got  
s' far  
Without the ladies who joined up  
t' form the Eastern Star!  
Y' see, fine'llly the wimmen  
folks they said, "Now looka  
here,  
We're glad you fellers got a  
Lodge that you all love  
s'dear  
But what about us ladies -  
we set t' home you know;"  
(in them days the girls didn't  
get out much - they never  
seed a show  
An' not many folk owned a motor  
car fer that wuz long ago).

So mebbe partly in self-defense,  
but mostly t' be kind  
They helped the ladies organize  
our Chapter Number Five Nine  
Nine.  
An' they worked along t'gether -  
Men's brawn an' wimmen's  
brains- (!)  
(Course I didn't really mean  
that it's jest one o' our  
ol' sayin's!)  
An we built t'gether here a Tem-  
ple not made jest with  
human hands  
An' on the Rock of Brotherhood,  
today it firmly stands.

They's names you never heerd of  
if you look back on the rolls  
But them dear folks away back  
there wuz truly splendid  
souls.  
An' though the things they some  
times done may seem old-  
style t'day  
Their courage an' their forti-  
tude's a light unto our  
way  
Let's you an' I remember  
each time we gether here,  
The dear ones who've gone on be-  
fore who saw their duty  
clear  
Who saw the Light in Eastern  
skies an' went t' join  
there  
The others who had journey'd far  
an' led a life four-  
square.

To those twenty-four dear Sis-  
ters and Brothers who saw the  
Light of the Star in the Eastern  
sky and with courage and vision



organized Maine Chapter No.599, this history of our first fifty years is lovingly dedicated.

Excerpts from the minutes of the first meeting when Maine Chapter was organized inform us that, "On September 21, 1916, at the Masonic Hall at Maine, New York, a special meeting was called by the District Deputy Grand Matron, Mrs. Lillian Manwaring for the purpose of organizing an Eastern Star Chapter. The Pass of Adah was taken".

The Dispensation from the Grand Chapter was read. Sister Fannie Wallace Lincoln was named to be Worthy Matron. Sister Catherine Clark Dyer was named to be associate Matron. Brother Clarence Hendrix was named to be Worthy Patron.

They were conducted to their stations by the Grand Conductress and Acting Associate Grand Conductress.

The other officers were as follows: Conductress, Inez Ingalls; Associate Conductress, Flora Dence; Adah, Jennie Payne; Ruth, Floss Starbird; Esther, Louise Davey; Martha, Emma Vansice; Electra, Alice Dudley; Marshall, Eva Haskins, Chaplain, Maude Perry; Organist, Jennie Smith; Warder, Corlista Lawton; Sentinel, Theodore Lawton; Historian, Lenora Lewis; Secretary, Ina Tymeson, Treasurer, Amelia Bronk.

Maine Chapter was duly constituted on November 27, 1917, when the charter was received, and in February, 1918, the By-Laws were adopted.

The record of those first

early years reflects the fortitude of the officers and members who met the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, climbing two flights of stairs to the Chapter room which was heated in winter by wood stoves. The Masonic Lodge room where the Chapter meetings were held was located on the third floor over Tymeson's Store and the Post Office. In the minutes of one of the early meetings, we read that a committee was appointed to find someone to start the fires early enough on Chapter evenings so that it might be warm in time for the meeting. At another time, the record showed that a Brother had presented a bill for 58 cents to pay our share of the expenses of carrying wood upstairs. Of course, in later years, another type of heat was supplied. On warm evenings the air conditioning was provided by the ladies who had brought their cardboard fans along. These fans served a dual purpose, as they not only stirred up a faint breeze, but since they were usually decorated on one side by interesting pictures, and on the other by advertisements of products or services offered by the donors, they acted as a source of advertising!

How many of us today would feel that a Chapter meeting was of sufficient importance that we would come by wagon, driving five or six miles over a steep, icy road, in order to assume our duties in the meetings. Our Sister, Worthy Inez Ingalls, who lived atop a hill some miles distant used to do this. When the weather was particularly cold or stormy, and it would seem to be difficult for her to

return home after the meeting, occasionally her husband would bring her down to the home of one of the sisters where she would don her white dress and shoes (for many years all the officers wore white at their regularly stated meetings) and then spend the night with a sister. Her husband would return for her the next morning.

During the war years, boxes were packed and mailed to service men. We have answered all calls for charitable assistance to the best of our ability.

Over the years various methods of replenishing the treasury have been employed. A rather large source of revenue was revealed in an entry in the minutes, which announced that 25 cents per person would be donated to the Chapter for each member who visited a newly decorated funeral home.

In 1952, Maine Chapter was granted a food concession at the Whitney Point Broome County Fair and this has continued as an annual event, providing a most substantial source of revenue which has increased from year to year.

In 1951, decision to sponsor a Triangle organization was made. Later this resulted in the formation of Evelyn Triangle.

In 1952 Maine Chapter joined with Maine Lodge No.399, in financing and supporting a new Temple which was dedicated on June 14, 1955. Most Worthy Estelle Caldwell, Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter was present for the occasion.

The first installation in the new Temple was January 11, 1955, at which Worthy Margaret Reik and Worthy Harvey Eisenhuth became Matron and Patron.

In 1956, the Masons celebrated their 100th Anniversary, marked by a dinner provided by the Maine Chapter.

After the new Temple was built, it was no longer necessary to hold our District Meetings in other places.

Maine Chapter has endeavored to meet every appeal for the advance of the work of the Order, and has enjoyed fifty years of service to others - with God's help, for which we give humble thanks.

#### EVELYN TRIANGLE

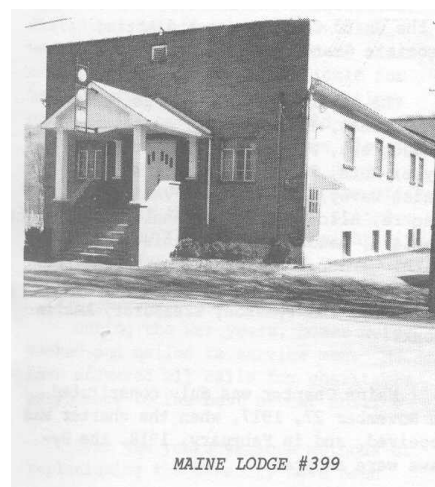
The Evelyn Triangle of Maine was given a charter on October 13, 1951, and was named in honor of Evelyn Carman who was Matron

of Eastern Star in Maine at that time. Beverly Brown was the first Queen, and the rest of the charter members were: Patricia Adams, Betty Avery, Nancy Berry, Marsha Comstock, Lura Daugherty, Evelyn Fellows, Vivian Gage, Marilyn Gellatt, Nancy Gellatt, Irene Heffers, Virginia Ingalls, Janice Ingraham, Nancy McGregor, Eva McManus, Marceil Padbury, Marcia Petrovsky, Sandra Prentice, Judith Riek, Patty Rivenburg, Margery Seely, Edith Smith, and Janet Smith.

Mrs. Durward (Mildred) Dence was the first Junior Deputy, and in 1960 Mrs. George (Elinore) Meyer became the second and current Junior Deputy. The Triangle, originally the Daughters of the Eastern Star, united with sixty other Triangles in New York State in 1961 under the name "Organization of Triangles, Inc." The Maine Triangle meets twice a

month and has always met in the Masonic Temple in Maine. It is for girls between 12 and 21 who have Masonic affiliation. Based on charitable, social, patriotic and fraternal fundamentals, the importance of education is stressed, and these girls are very active in community activities.

*Mrs. George Meyer*



### **Recent donations to the Museum**

A wooden box full of personal papers from the Ames and Marean families came from Nancy Berry.

Miscellaneous items were received from Rosalie and Sara Clevez, and from Evelyn Brewster.

Rick Naro of Paradigm Systems in Endwell furnished our third floor office with several very nice pieces of office furniture. He had previously presented us with a grant.

A picture done by Theresa Green of a yard on Haskins road was given by the artist.

Lil and Clarence Ames donated several small items that had to do with the old village of Union ( now part of Endicott) to be disposed of as seen fit. When the people were here to do the program on Union, they saw them and bought them. That's \$50.00 to go toward museum expenses.

## The Board of Trustees for 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 on-going board coverage.
- Board members Stan Lisk, Yancy Moore, and Charles Hathorn will serve through 2009.
- Board Members Mike McKilligan, Dorothy Winans, and Anita Shipway will serve through 2010.
- Board Members Nancy Berry, Betty Welch, and Sue Hoskins will serve through 2011.

### Officers

President: Sandy Rozek  
 Vice President: Alice Hopkins  
 Secretary: Carla Sullivan  
 Treasurer: Sandy Halliday

### 2009 Dues Are Due

**Check the address label to verify that your dues are up to date.**

Please use the dues return slip below. On the top of your address label is printed your dues Paid/Due status for years 2008 and 2009. Your dues may either be mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at meetings (in an envelope with your name on it and the dues slip enclosed). **Please note that the dues have increased effective January 2009.**

2009 Committees	
Membership	Dottie Winans, Sandy Halliday
Finance	Dottie Winans, Sara Clavez, Sandy Halliday
Buildings & Grounds	Tom Kotasek, Stan Lisk
Ways & Means	Sue Hoskins, Debbie Stark, Lil Ames
Curator - Museum & School-house #4	Sue Lisk
Curator - Mill & Norton Wagon Shops	Tom Kotasek
Education	Sandy Rozek, Carol Sienko
By-Laws	Sandy Rozek, Charles Hathorn, Anita Shipway, Carol Sienko
Video / Audio	Betty and Leo Welch
Town Historian	Nancy Rutkowski
Endowment	Sara Clavez, Carla Sullivan, Larry Rice, Mike McKilligan
Special Projects	Stan Lisk, Nancy Berry
Newsletter Editors	Anita & Dick Shipway

**Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s):**    2008    2009   

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

Please mail returns to:	Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Attn: Treasurer P. O Box 75 Maine, New York 13802	Is this name or address a change from your address label?  Yes ___ No ___
Name:	_____	<b>Amount Enclosed</b>
Street Address:	_____	\$ _____
City/State/Zip:	_____	
Phone: (Home)	_____ (Work) _____	
<b>Dues:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Single <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Business		

### **Business Membership Drive**

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society launched a fall drive to recruit members for the new category of Business Membership. (See the membership form in this news letter) Initial response is very positive. Please support member businesses, and please consider the Business Membership for any business you may be connected to.

### **Welcome Business Members!**

**Country Wagon  
Our Country Hearts**

**Lori's Hair Styling  
Alpaca Fantasy World**

**NBT Bank**

Business Memberships will be listed quarterly in the Historical Society Newsletter. Though memberships will run by the calendar year, those joining now will be considered members from the time they join through the end of 2009.

Member businesses will be given first opportunity to promote themselves by sponsoring any Historical Society program or event.

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**NANTICOKE VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 75  
Maine, NY 13802

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