



What is Happening These Days

August 1 - the three buildings of the museum will be open from 1 to 4
All are welcome, and more volunteers to show each building are always needed

August 3 – National Night Out in the Town Park behind Maine Memorial School

August 5 – Work Evening at the former J. Ralph Ingalls School building, on Church St.
There will be jobs and materials ready to go, for more information call 862-4527 or 862-9480

August 8 – Mill, one room School, and the Museum (house) open 1-4

August 10 – practice begins for the September 19 musical, at the J. Ralph building

August 12 – work evening at J.Ralph Ingalls building

August 17 – Get acquainted with the Old Union Historical Society, 7:00 PM
407 E. Main St. (Endicott) in the yellow house building , next to the medical center
We'll meet at their building to see their collection and gather at Friendly's after

August 20 – 5:00 to 9:00, 321 Water St. Binghamton See and try a “Blue Box” Link flight trainer. This local product was the one thing that made it possible to train pilots before they got into a real airplane for combat..

August 21 - 10 AM to 4 PM Try out an operational World War II Link flight trainer. This provided a great service to the war effort, saving many planes and many pilots.

August 22 - Museum, Mill and one room School open 1-4

August 26 – work evening at J. Ralph Ingalls Building

August 29 – One Room School, Museum and Mill open 1-4

September 2 – work evening at J. Ralph Ingalls building

September 9 – work evening at J. Ralph Ingalls building

September 12 – buildings open to public 1-4

September 16 – work evening at J. Ralph Ingalls building

September 19 – buildings open 1-4 one room School, Mill, and Museum

September 19 – Get in the Game, the fall community musical
2 o'clock and 5 o'clock performances, Maine Memorial School

September 21 – September meeting, 7:00 at our museum building
Program will be given by Betty Welch, “Moving the One Room Schoolhouse”
It will be 10 years since the School House No. 4 was moved.

September 23 – work evening at J. Ralph Ingalls building

September 26 – Historical Society buildings open from one to four

September 26 – A rededication ceremony for the little No 4 one room school house, and afternoon of activities for all. 1:00 to 5:00 at the little school building.

October 13 – The Doug's Fish Fry lunch wagon will be set up at the Country Wagon store on Rt. 26 N. 11:00 to 6:00. This is a fund raiser for the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. .

October 19- NVHS October meeting 7:00 program by Nancy Rutkowski, Town Historian
“Rutkowski Families in Maine”

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Recent Meeting Notes

The joint gathering of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society with the Maine Community Band took place at the Town Park, June 15, 2010, at 6 PM. The band gave a short concert, and all ate themselves cross eyed at the bring-a-dish-to-share buffet.

The year 2011 will be the band's 150th season. Special programs are being planned both in Maine and out in the wider area, where the band is also well known.

The program of the July meeting was given by young Luke Kaczynski who has a great deal of interest in historical things and is a knowledgeable collector. Reports from those lucky enough to have been able to see him indicate that we will be asking him for a program again.



Docent Musings in an Old Mill

A tingling blush of freight
seems always, these days
to be running through
and 'round us.

Can we make it...what if...but...
I don't know, we just don't know
Freaking out.

Only there in a dark corner
of this old mill
I can sit among these
ancient tools.

In their midst I feel a calming,
like a strong arm 'round me.
they tell that others
have made it.
Others have.

Work Activities Update

- School House No 4, has been sitting on our point of land between Nanticoke Road and Rt. 26 for ten years now! Like every 10 year old paint job, it was ready for a new coat. Boy Scout Andrew Sellick has been organizing boys in the big job of scraping and is about to start the painting.
- The J. Ralph Ingalls school building is beginning to have the replacement floor boards installed in the auditorium. These were saved from the gym of the Old Hooper School in Endwell, when it was torn down to make way for the McDonald's. Some of the J. Ralph floor could be saved. Water damaged parts have been carefully taken out, and the Old Hooper School boards are being spliced in. It is a lot of work, and every Thursday evening there is an opportunity to help. Call Nancy Berry 862-4527 or Sandy Rozek 862-9480 for more information. As soon as the floor is complete, there will be a good place for basket ball games and other gym activities as well as stage productions. A committee from the Historical Society will be coordinating the use of the Auditorium/Gym.
- One of the first activities at the J. Ralph Ingalls building will be a Good Old Country Auction. There is space at the building where items can be stored, so begin looking right now. Don't forget to tell other people they can do a good deed by donating unwanted sports equipment, furniture, musical instruments and other stuff to the Historical Society Auction. Date to be announced.
- The fall community musical will be coming up in September. People interested in participating can call Nancy Berry 862-4527. The theme this year will be "Get in the Game." Practices will begin soon. See another page for more particulars.
- Plan on dinner or lunch (or both) from the Doug's Fish Fry lunch wagon on October 13. It will be a fund raiser for the Historical Society. Look for it between eleven and six beside the Country Wagon store. This is a wonderfully low work event, from our point of view, but the more people we get to come, the more money we get.

Old Houses in Maine - Part 1

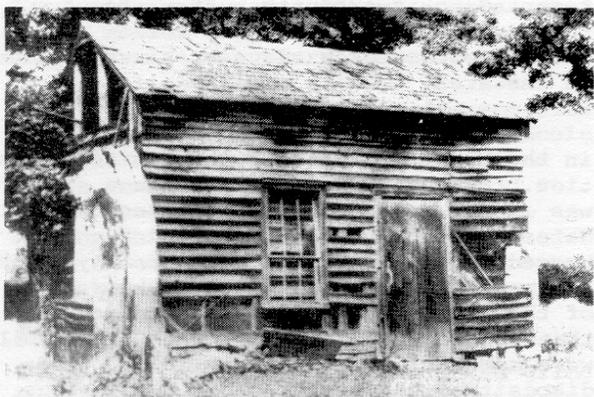
*Reprinted from "A Short History of Maine, New York" (Chapter 9) Compiled by Shirley L. Woodward
Historian, Town of Maine, 1973*

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.

The village of Maine lies strung out along Route 26. There are many old homes and buildings in this hamlet covering several styles of architecture. As the first settlers came from New England, they brought with them the ideas of home building from their native settlements. The first homes, of course, were log cabins - many still in use in the 1850's as the census recorded about 62 in the Town of Maine. The one plank house in Maine 1850 was in McIntyre Settlement, now Tiona. Ebenezer McIntyre 29, and his family lived there - he was a "canaller" by profession. Another plank house that is know of was the old Elijah Shoultes house up Route 38B in Broughamtown (or Dutchtown area). It has since been covered with siding and still lived in today. Possibly there are others. There are no log cabins left in town today.

The oldest house in Maine still standing was built about 1810 by Mr. Ashley for Isaac Norton, son of Benjamin, the pioneer to Maine 1794. Nine feet by twelve feet, it was originally used as a dwelling until a larger house could be built, and then it was used to house the loom. The boards and nails are machine made. The door is a single wide board with cross pieces held by hand-wrought nails. The house consists of a single downstairs room and loft put together with pegs. The latch on the only door once operated with a string, typical of primitive dwellings. Years ago it was moved a short distance to the clump



ISAAC NORTON HOUSE

of sugar maple trees where it now stands and was altered to be used as a sugar house to boil maple sap. It is no longer used and will soon be gone.

About 1820 two buildings were built by the Norton family and used as wagon shops and furniture "factory". They are still standing on an abandoned road segment in Bowers Corners area of Maine.

There are several homes of historic interest in Maine. The Gates homestead on Nanticoke Road north of Maine was built in 1851 by Cyrus Gates. Of Greek revival architecture, it was dubbed in those days as "Gates White Elephant".

Cyrus, son of Russell Gates, pioneer to North Maine area in 1794, was a surveyor who mapped eleven New York State Counties during his career. He admired and decided to take as his own the style of the gracious old plantation homes of the Classic Revival period. Thinking more in the terms of a beautiful home than the feeling of local builders, he imported an architect from New York City, by name of A.C. Yarrington. This man stayed with the family while designing and building the new house - and developed a loving interest in Cyrus' daughter.

Cyrus did not approve, basing his personal dislike on the fact that this young man belonged to several secret societies - Masons, Red Men and Odd Fellows. This young man was a good worker and faithfully followed Cyrus' building whims. When half completed, the home was altered to accomodate an enclosed staircase rather than the open stair well as originally planned. This change, which altered the location of the front door making it slightly off center, did not bother Cyrus at all. The building of this house took about three years, being finally completed in 1851.

Cyrus succeeded in ending the budding romance between the architect and his daughter, but the architect had the last laugh. This trick was not discovered until ten years later. The architect had hand grained the native pine used in the woodwork, beautifully preserved until this day, and in the grain lines on Cyrus' bedroom door near the floor the architect



CYRUS GATES HOME

signed his name and date (1851) and beneath it in exact detail, he reproduced the square and compass of the Masons, the three links of the Odd Fellows and the All seeing Eye of the Red Men. Cyrus roared with laughter when he finally discovered it. Other features in the home are gaslit crystal chandeliers and offset moulding around the doors.

Later when Cyrus wanted a privy built, he had quite a time as the local carpenters, still feeling bitter about his importing an architect for his house, would say, "get your New York City architect to build your privy". It was some time before the ruffled feathers were smoothed down and Cyrus got his privy.

Before and during the Civil War this home was used as a station on the Underground Railroad. These runaways stayed in the attic over the south wing until it was safe to move on to the next station. The entrance to this hidden room was through a small wall cupboard in the master bedroom upstairs. The old leather thong, used to close the panel in the rear wall, is still there.

Mrs. Paul Gunsalus, a descendant of Cyrus Gates and presently living in the house, related this story concerning the Underground Railroad.

"I know of only one route in Maine township for the travel and care of slaves. This route has, as far south

as I have been told, its first point of contact in a home in Vestal, New York. Its next station, or stop, the Luce home on Route 26, south of Union Center, and next to the Russell Gates home, later his son's, Cyrus Gates, and now the present home of Russell's great, great, granddaughter, Mrs. Paul Gunsalus. The next and last known point was the Bushnell home on the Newark Valley, Dryden Road at the crossroad where the Bushnell house stood. From there the next station was in or near Ithaca, but where I have no information.

The method of transportation was by horse drawn vehicles at night with the slaves well hidden. The home farthest south was responsible for carrying its' charges to the next point of contact and so on. The aim, of course, was to deliver the slaves safely over the line into Canada.

Great secrecy was necessary since political fervor was at an all time high and neighbors' views did not always coincide with those of the underground owners. Hence, diaries and letters of the times held no information of the activities taking place. Family quarrels often resulted causing feuds which were not healed for years.

The hiding places were sometimes in cellars and sometimes in closets which might have access to unsuspected space. The purpose of these secret places was not so much to be lived in, as to be resorted to if a bounty hunter sent from the southern owners were to follow some suspicion of a slave or slaves hidden in the area.

The period of the underground known in the Maine area has this definite foundation. Margaret Cruiser, a teenage slave, was one of a group passing through Russell Gates' home. She became homesick and begged to stay with the Gates family which she was allowed to do. Later, by record of the Maine Baptist Church, she joined that organization of which the Gates family were members. This date is 1835. Since disposition had been made in the various homes for these travelers and a route well planned before the migration took place,

the period of its inception must have been substantially before 1835."

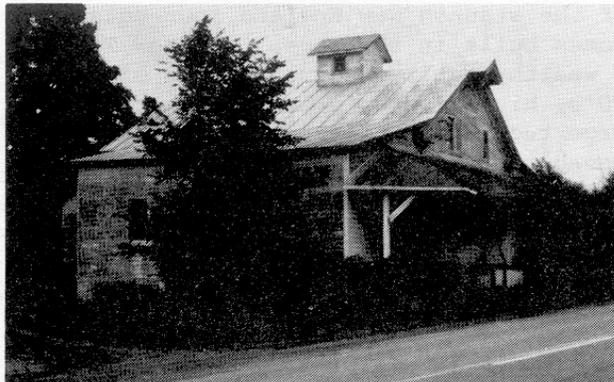
Another interesting home on Main Street is the Hathaway House, built about 1825 by Oliver Whitcomb as an Inn, later owned by David Hathaway. The second floor included a large ballroom with a vaulted ceiling, where most of the community's large social gatherings were held. It is built in the Federal style of 1815-20, with window sashes of 12-over-12.



HATHAWAY HOUSE

Pitcher's Mill is one of Broome County's oldest landmarks. It was built in 1830 by brothers, Daniel and Beldon Slosson. Hand hewn red beech timbers 10x14 inches constitute the framework of the building and were cut from a nearby hill. The grindstone made of Nova Scotia granite weighs almost a ton and is four feet in diameter. It was sharpened twice a year by specialized stone masons. In 1848 the mill was enlarged to its present size by Dr. William Butler and William Lincoln. The mill was sold to John P. Davis and Nathan Howard who in turn later sold it to Seth Carman and Abram Green. A.R. Pitcher bought it in 1925 and continued to grind flour until a few years ago. John Lainhardt owned the mill for many years. It is presently owned by John Weld.

At one time the mill had three grindstones and had a grinding capacity of between two and three tons a day. Flour from this mill went west with the 49'ers.



PITCHER'S MILL

The Dudley farm one mile below Maine has been in the family since 1796. A log house was built on the old road, which at that time ran along the creek. The road was soon moved to higher ground and neighbors helped old Jed Dudley build a pine plank home near the present structure built in the 1820's. The barn was built in 1812 and only recently was removed. Dr. Dwight Dudley lived here nearly 50 years. Because the wolves were so troublesome in the early 1800's, the stock had to be shut in the barns at night. If they came too close to the houses, the residents would throw fire brands out the upper windows to scare them away.



DUDLEY HOME

The Andrew Taylor Farm shows the strong influence of New England Colonial architecture and the first hint of classic Greek Revival design. There is a certain integrity to be found in a house built around 1820 that the cereal box imitations of today can never quite achieve. The Taylor Farm on Nanticoke Road, Maine, is one of the finest examples

of the staunch New England four-square homes built in this area. Andrew Taylor, a wealthy retired farmer in his middle 50's, his children grown and a frontier urge tugging at his New England roots, moved to Maine in 1822. Just what prompted his urge to leave the comfort of his brick home in French Town, New Hampshire, for the raw newness of the Southern Tier family records fail to mention.

He built his eight-room homestead on the western slope of the Nanticoke Creek Valley. The view sweeping across the quiet valley and swelling over gently rolling hills has a definite New England flavor. The house was framed solidly with huge corner posts. Three inch hemlock planks were used for siding and inside, wide pine boards were split by hand with a small hatchet for the plaster lathing. The floor boards, many of them more than a foot wide, were nailed to the joists with the old square head nails. Up in the attic, five inch pegs still hold the rafters in place while two hand-hewed logs running the full width of the house act as auxiliary roof supports.

The architectural design was probably copied from a master plan book popular in those days and follows typical New England colonial architecture. The frieze board under the second story eaves shows a hint of classic Greek Revival although the typical pilasters of the later period are missing from the facade of the house. Other indications of the growing interest in Greek Revival are



ANDREW TAYLOR HOME

seen in the cornice, front door frame and the pillared portico over the wall on the south side of the house.

Andrew built a house of luxury to show off his fine furnishings, to reflect his love for beautiful things. But he did not find the atmosphere he was looking for in the Southern Tier. Culture and an appreciation for the niceties of pleasant living were missing. His neighbor's lives were made grim by the urgency of grubbing a living from the land. Andrew died a disillusioned aristocrat eleven years after his house was built.

His home was rented out and, with two exceptions, has been occupied by tenants ever since, although the property has remained in family hands. His descendants moved on to fame: his son, John Milton Taylor, who opened the first store in Maine prospered in New York City as a wholesale dry goods merchant. Another descendant was co-founder of the University of Chicago.

In the 1890's the house was remodeled by affluent Victorians. These well-intentioned revisions constituted a minor crime to those who appreciate the Spartan beauty of classic architecture. The fireplace in each of the rooms was walled up. The sunny nine pane over nine pane windows were replaced by ugly casements. The simple dado or wainscoting in the living room and dining room were removed.

This work was undone and the house restored to its original form in the late 1940's by Dr. and Mrs. Clement Bowers of Maine, descendants of Andrew Taylor, who now own the homestead of some 160 acres. Working with the thoroughness of detectives, the Bowers "Sherlocked" through old atlases, and discovered from an old wood cut that at one time a picket fence fronted the house. Removing the plaster from the walls, they unearthed the foundation for the wainscoting. A single window in the back hall remained in its original nine over nine form and the other windows in the house were replaced to conform with this first plan.

A century of restless feet had ruined the original flooring downstairs

and new floors were installed. Upstairs, however, a brisk sanding restored the wide pine board to their former beauty. Some of these boards are more than a foot wide. The original hand-turned cherry wood bannister remains on the stairwell. The old woodshed, now obsolete in these days of central heating, was converted into an artist's studio. The wall paneling was taken from an old barn across the street and a fire-place installed.

Another house typical of this period is the Henry Dayton house built by Francis Marean in 1842. His daughter married Henry Dayton and they lived there many years.

Nathan Hovey, the first settler in the area, now the Maine village, built a small home still standing as part of the house at 19 Main Street. It was built 1820-30 and is a good example of early local work.

The Ransom House. A cabinetmaker of refined tastes (he read the highbrow New York Evening Post while other residents in Maine followed the New York Herald) built himself a home which has stood for more than a century as his monument in the pleasant Nanticoke Valley. Located on Nanticoke Road under towering old trees, it stands primly within its picket fence, a fine example of the classic revival style of architecture.



JEFFERSON RANSOM HOUSE

The fan over the pilastered doorway and the keystone arch in the living room bed well are evidences of his professional and artistic eye as a designer.

The bed well, also known as the parson's cove or parson's alcove, was a popular feature in the well-to-do homes of the middle 1800's. It was actually a tiny parlor bedroom, set off from the living room by an archway which could be curtained at night for privacy. Here, the visiting circuit parson could sleep after paying calls to his country parishioners.

The house nearly missed its century mark. About 1930, it was converted into a gas station and general store. A false front covered the house, a glass paneled door was substituted for the old one so that the station attendant could see his customers coming.

This violation was rectified when the house was restored in 1938 by Dr. and Mrs. Clement G. Bowers of Maine. The false front of commercialism was removed, the gas tanks torn out and the front door restored from its banishment in the barn. An offensive green trim was removed and the house freshly painted.

A doorway garden was planted on the east side. It is sheltered from the weather by the single story ell which angles to the south and by the connecting woodshed. The design of the garden is typical of those found in dooryard gardens in colonial Williamsburg.

Captain Gardner S. Bowers House. The original house here was built about 1820 and was destroyed by fire in 1871. The new house was built in traditional classic revival style. The grounds were restored in character of 1835.



CAPTAIN GARDNER S. BOWERS' HOUSE

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 Mike McKilligan, Dorothy Winans, and Anita Shipway will serve through 2010.
- Board Members Nancy Berry, Betty Welch, and Sue Hoskins will serve through 2011.
- Board members Stan Lisk, Yancy Moore, and Diane Chianis will serve through 2012.

Officers

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

2010 Committees	
Membership	Dottie Winans, Sandy Halliday
Finance	Dottie Winans, 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	Carla Sullivan, Mike McKilligan
Special Projects	Stan Lisk, Nancy Berry
Newsletter Editors	Anita & Dick Shipway

2010 Dues Are now 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 2009 and 2010. 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.**



Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s): 2009 2010

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 ___
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Street Address:	_____	\$ _____
City/State/Zip:	_____	
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Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Single <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Business		

Please support the Historic Society's Business Members

<p>Alpaca Fantasy World Ed & Donna Rutkowski 368 Tiona Road Maine, NY 13811 607-862-4495</p>	<p>Country Wagon Produce Plants, Produce, Bakery, Gifts Rt. 26 Maine, NY 862-3985</p>
<p>Frost-Klossner-Swan, Inc Insurance 2640 NY Rt. 26, Maine, NY 862-3222 14 N. Maine, Newark Valley, NY 642-3224</p>	<p>Lori's Hairstyling 2719 Rt 26 Maine, NY 13802 862-3092</p>
<p>Our Country Hearts Restaurant, Gift Store & Furniture Store Corner of Rts 26 & 38B 2007 NY Rt 26, Endicott, NY 757-9906</p>	<p>NBT BANK of Maine 2647 Main St. P. O. Box 187 Maine, NY 13802 862-3204</p>

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**NANTICOKE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Summer 2010 Newsletter