

# Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2024 Newsletter # 3 Sept. edited by Phil Childs

[www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)

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Each year the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society strives to include new “things” for our membership and to our Maine Community to participate in. The book club was (is) a great success and we hope to expand it in the future. The Maine Fest (9.14.24) is designed this year to expand both our music and art presence to our calendar, check page three of this newsletter. We are now 55 years old and have five locations. Send suggestions what you would like us to do in the future. Consider volunteering as a tour guide at our sites or assist when student field trips come to visit. Attend our monthly meetings or come to our coffee houses. Purchase our publications. Visit our website!!! It is our goal to be an active part of your family this upcoming year. Thanks for your support.



Co-Presidents  
Gordie Gottlieb and  
Joanne Weir

## CALL FOR ARTISTS!

Attention All Artists, there will be a **One Day Paint Out** in Historic Maine New York on Saturday, September 14th 2024, **Rain or shine.**

From 7:00 AM until 4:30 PM. This is a non-juried show with awards following the judging that day. Judging will be held at the J. Ralph Ingalls building, 35 Church St. Maine, NY

This event is part of the 2024 Maine Fest. Other activities include live music, tours, displays and food vendors.

Paint time from 7:00 AM until 4:30 PM. Open to all skill levels of artists and open to the first twenty individuals who apply.

***Come and get your paint on!!***

For information and to register contact:

Philip Childs at:  
achild233@aol.com/  
Ph: 607 862 3405  
or  
Richard Henry at:  
henry.artist1@gmail.com/  
607 754 0535



## Thank you Sponsors for our 5th annual Maine Fest:



Keith Payne

Jim Tokos



Our Country Hearts - Furniture, Gifts, and Restaurant  
2007 State Rte 26, Endicott, NY 13760  
(607) 786-9712



Kelli's Too

2601 NYS, State Rte 26, Maine, NY 13802 (607) 862-4222



THE NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH , 2024**

35 CHURCH STREET MAINE, NY  
AT THE HISTORIC J RALPH INGALLS SCHOOL

- 4:00 PM** Performance by the **Maine Town Band**  
Free Hot Dogs while they last!  
Bake Sale
- 5:00 PM** Dedication of the Pollinator Garden  
Announcement of the winners of  
***The Biggest Tree in Maine, NY contest***  
Plein Air Art Display begins
- 5:30 PM** **Plein Air** Judging, Awards, and Sales
- 6:00 PM** Performance by members of the  
**Maine-Endwell High School Band**
- 6:30-8:00 PM** Community Sing-Along under the direction  
of Charlene Thomson and Hilary Rozek  
Free ***I Sang at the Ralph*** T-shirts  
to the 1st 100 people to attend

For complete information go to  
[nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)  
or scan this QR code



## **One-Room Schoolhouse No. 4**

In March of 1998 the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society received a donation of a one-room schoolhouse built in the 1840's. The schoolhouse was built in 1845 and was used as a K-12 school until 1942. Located at the intersection of Campville Road and Cafferty Hill Road, it was originally called Schoolhouse No. 4 and was part of the joint school district of Tioga/Town of Union.

The Schoolhouse Committee of the NVHS was formed for the purpose of establishing an authentic, hands-on museum in Maine, N.Y. The addition of this building has helped create a unique complex of buildings including the existing House Museum, Pitcher's Mill, and Carriage barns.

The Schoolhouse Committee held a variety of activities and received grants to raise the funds needed to move the schoolhouse and restore it to its original condition. There was an outpouring of community support, generosity, and enthusiasm for this project.

On Saturday, May 15, 1999 a Groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of an exciting chain of events. The new site at the intersection of Nanticoke Road and Route 26 was prepared and a concrete foundation was poured. Meanwhile, groups of volunteers dismantled the roof and chimney on Schoolhouse No. 4 to prepare it for its 12 mile move.

On Thursday, June 10, 1999 the schoolhouse was moved and placed in its new home. Over the next few months a hand-laid stone foundation was built under the elevated building. After it was lowered onto the stones a new cedar shake roof was put on and Schoolhouse No. 4. The building was closed up for the winter and once Spring 2000 arrived further renovations and restoration began.

On Sunday, September 24, 2000 the Dedication Ceremony took place and Schoolhouse No. 4 was officially opened to the public.





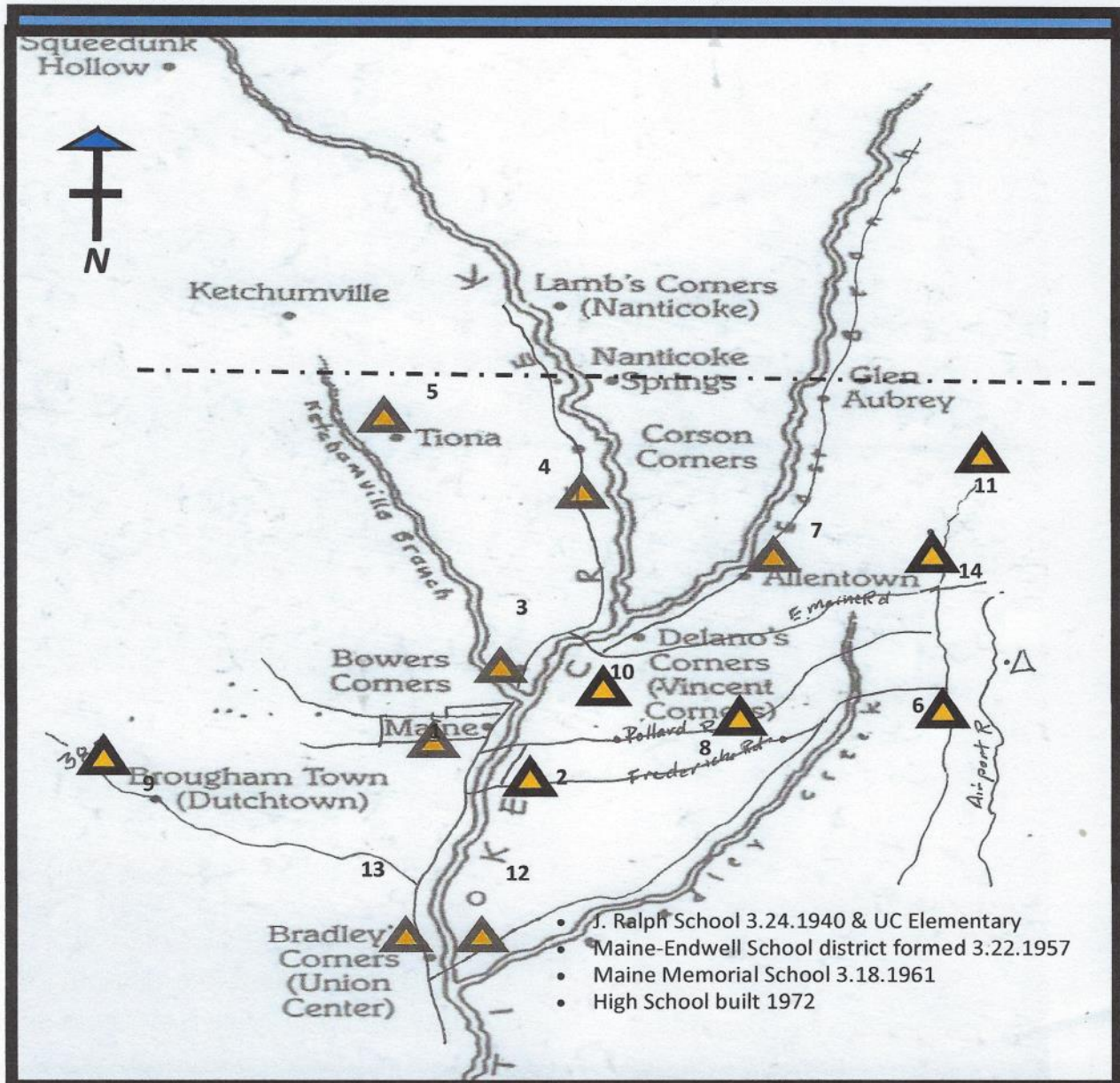
Ina Tymeson to the Left.... Unknown individuals in the above photo. Let me know who you believe they are!



1845 School House, note the 27 star flag we have...it's not an antique and was donated by the American Legion in 2000.

### Maine District #18 - Schools Prior to 1848 - 1938

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Maine Village Church St. 4 Room ca. 1833           | 8. Brockett Hollow ca. 1855 Frederick Rd.        |
| 2. Curtis School ca. 1819—1900 off Rte.26             | 9. Broughamtown School ca. 1866 604 Rte. 38B     |
| 3. Bowers Corners ca. 1850 Tiona and Nanticoke Rd     | 10. Pollard Hill ca. 1884 448 Pollard Hill Rd.   |
| 4. Gates School ca. 1855 Nanticoke Road.              | Also called George Kelley                        |
| 5. North Maine or Tiona School ca. 1865 649 Tiona Rd. | 11. Mt. Ettrick School ca. 1860 Airport terminal |
| 6. Finch Hollow* Townline & Oakdale Rd.               | 12. Bradley Creek School                         |
| 7. Allentown School Flint and Rte. 26                 | 13. Union Center School ca. 1866                 |
|   | 14. East Maine ca. 1851                          |





## THE SCHOOL HOUSE

The school house was commonly a one room building where all ages and grades levels were taught together. As the community grew in size, separate classes were created for different age levels. Schools were built on land that was not suitable for farming or other productive use. Dirt floors were not uncommon in early schools and desks and benches consisted of rough plank furniture. The first buildings had fireplaces but by the mid 1800's wood stoves were common. Chalk boards were made by painting a smooth board black. The school yard usually contained "privies" (outhouses) and a flat area for playing games. Water came from a well or nearby creek. There was usually a bucket and dipper near the door that provided drinking and washing water. The school house also served other community functions. Social and holiday gatherings were the highlight of each year. The building was the site of box socials, community spelling bees and seasonal activities.

## TEACHERS

Real teachers were a prized possession for a community. Until one could be 'acquired', a parent of one of the children might take on the duties. Until the late 1800's, male teachers were predominant. Teacher salaries were typically low (\$15 - \$30 per month). Many young women entered the teaching field because salary was not the issue - starting a "career" was. Rural teachers often began at the age of 16. Teachers were expected be virtuous and have extremely high morals (see Teacher Rules). They were expected to keep the school house clean, draw each day's water supply and keep the wood stove fired up on cold days. The community would provide the fuel for the fires.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Most students had to furnish their own supplies including books, writing slates and chalk. Children were asked to bring whatever books were at home, which generally meant a Bible, an almanac or old textbooks brought on the westward trip.

## SCHOOL DAYS

The school term was constructed around the needs of the community. The farm family needed all available hands for spring planting and fall harvest, therefore school was not held during this time period. Most rural children attended shorter sessions than city children. The nine-month school term was fashioned for urban communities. A typical school day would begin with a patriotic song, a salute to the flag and possibly a scripture reading or prayer. The main subjects were spelling (orthography), reading, penmanship, grammar, vocal music, arithmetic and geography. There were no tests as we know them today, students memorized long poems and had figuring races. Spelling bees were often social events. Due to the shortage of books, students shared texts and exchanged among themselves. A book would be studied at school from cover to cover before another would be issued. If there were no more available, they would start on the same book again. Little or no playground equipment existed. Younger children played games which had been popular since the early colonial period - drop the handkerchief, hide and seek, and blind man's bluff. Older pupils favored playing ball games which included ante over, dodge'em, and work up.

Thursday June 10, 1999 arrival in Maine, NY.

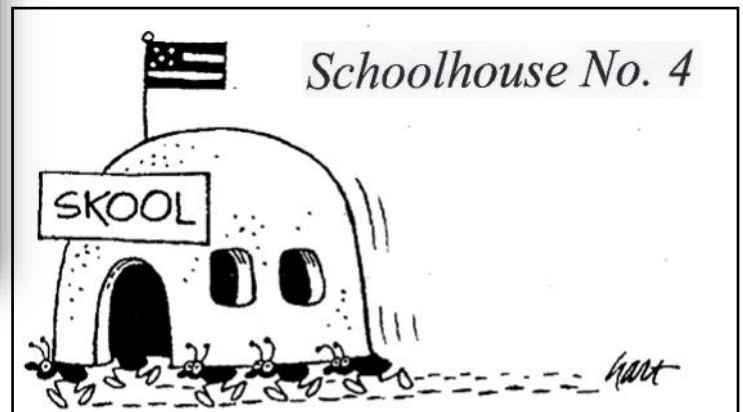


**What lies beneath?** Kerin Flannery and his crew are currently working on the 1845 school house, which is over 179 years old. Most of the building inside and outside is original materials. It was recently discovered that the buildings sill boards need attention. When they removed part of the foundation, in order to examine the status of the structure it was noticed that the main cross support beams are full trees (see photo to the left) and still in good shape. The top photo shows the dismantled school house arriving in town 9.10.1999. It took over a year to reassemble the building and next year we will hold a 25 year celebration for this illustrious building. Each year the NVHS hosts hundreds of elementary students who "attend" the 1845 school.



Original location was Cafferty Hill and E. Campville Road.

Original logo for our 2000 move of the 1845 school house was created for us by Johnny Hart.





"The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861 – 1865 is a not-for-profit organization that unites female direct lineal descendants of honorably discharged Union Veterans of the Civil War. Their mission is to perpetuate the memories of their ancestral fathers who served in the Civil War, honor their loyalty and sacrifices, and keep alive the history of those who participated in the struggle to preserve the Union." <https://www.duvcw.org>

Dedication of Civil War Union Soldier **Private Richard Elwood Smith's** Marker placed by ~ Mrs. Benjamin Harrison ~ Tent 2 ~ Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Nanticoke Cemetery 99 Cherry Valley Hill Road, Lisle, NY 13797 Tuesday, August 20, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Richard Elwood Smith was born 27 Jun 1828 in New Lebanon, Columbia County, NY, a son of John L. and Lucina I. (Griggs) Smith. Richard Elwood Smith's known lifetime occupations were as farmer and cabinet maker. As far as is known, Richard did not marry. He was on a regional list of potential draftees as of July 1863 and subsequently enlisted on 17 Jul 1863 to serve for 3 yrs. At the time of enlistment, his physical features were described thus: Eyes, dark; Hair, brown; Complexion, light; Height, 5' 9". His first entry into Union Army service was as Private, Co. "E", 76th NY Infantry. On 18 Nov 1864 he was transferred to Co. "A". He was again reassigned on 28 Jan 1865 as Private, Co. "B," 147th NY Infantry. Both regiments served with the Union Army of the Potomac.

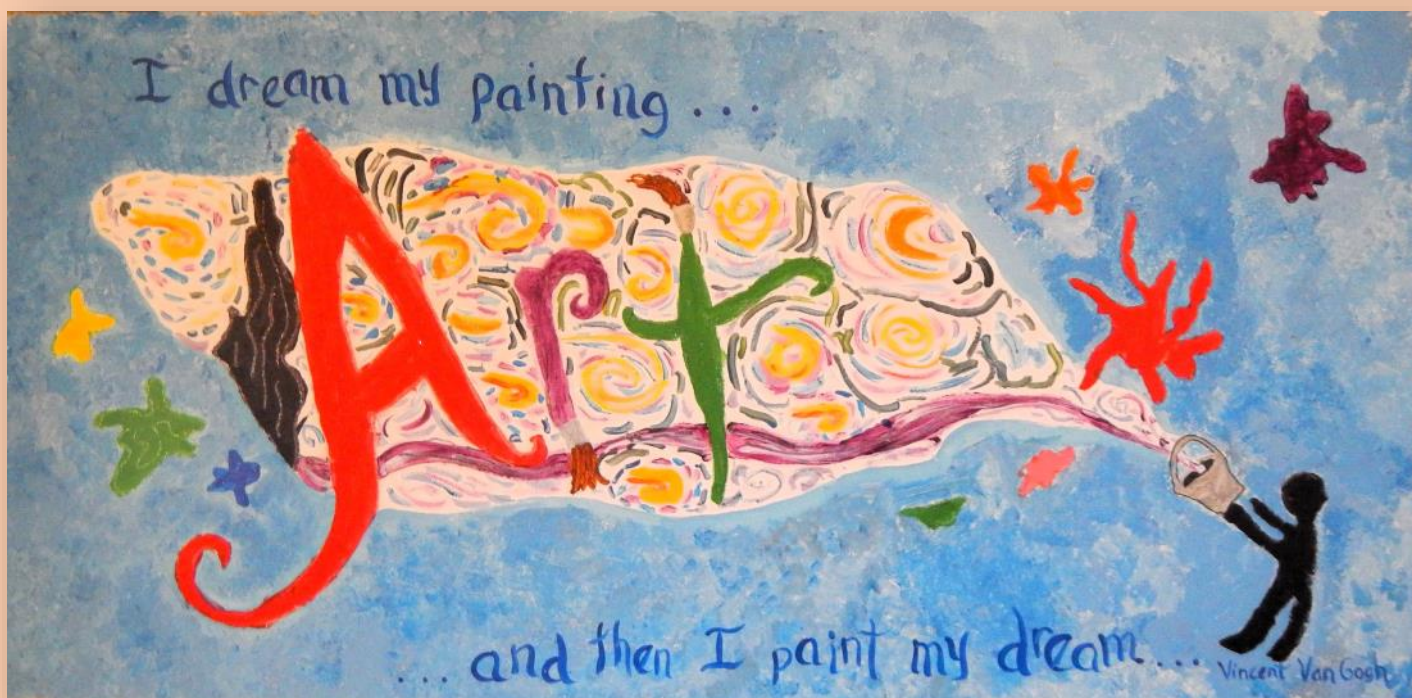
Private Smith's extant records indicate hospitalizations relating to issues suffered in service. One source shows he was discharged on or about 03 Jul 1865; however, another source states "Taken ill Nov 1863 and went home; did not recover". But Smith survived and applied successfully for an Invalid's Pension (Certificate #149219). In the early 1870s, he was living on his parents' farm in the Town of Nanticoke. The Federal List of Pensioners on the Roll dated 01 Jan.1883 shows Richard E. Smith at Center Lisle, NY, and then receiving a monthly stipend of \$24.00 for an affliction diagnosed as "Locomotor Ataxia". The latest update in benefits had been approved back in Nov 1877.

During the Jun 1890 Special Veterans' Census, Smith reported at Lisle where he confirmed wartime service in the 76th NY Infantry but could not supply dates. Other notations by the census enumerator included "Locomotor Ataxia" and "Drafted". He passed away on 08 Apr 1891. Interment was in the Nanticoke Cemetery per Find A Grave Memorial #234063024. He was a brother of Dwight R. Smith, who served in the 50th NY Engineer.





## Looking UP!!



This summer Maine Memorial Elementary School is doing renovations and adding 4 more classrooms. The art department has for years charged students to design and paint the 2 x 4 ceiling tiles in the hallways. These 60 plus tiles were removed and their destiny was uncertain. The NVHS was given these ceiling tiles and our curator Joanne Weir is planning to use them in our museum gallery. This show will occur this Fall, make sure you pay attention to our eblasts or our website for the announcement.



### *Upcoming programs...*

Schedule of Events for Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine NY

Here are the programs in place:

- **Book Club** contact Sandy Rozek for details 607 862—9480 607 239 8868

### **Future Programs**

Look for **Coffee House** dates on our website! Nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com

- Maine Fest Saturday September 14 see poster page 3.
- Broome County Art Trail September 21 and 22 at J. Ralph on Church street 11—3
- Oct 14 Charlene Thomson A. Lincoln and the Arts Museum at 6:30
- Nov. 18 Dolores Elliott Native Americans prior to 1800 in our area. 6:30 Museum
- Dec 16th Out Annual Muse Night Music and Poetry site to be determined.
- We take a break from programs in Jan and Feb.
- Dues start Jan 1.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST AT 6:30 PM**

**TIM BALL &  
AUSTIN MACRAE**



**J RALPH INGALLS SCHOOL  
35 CHURCH STREET MAINE, NY**

**SPONSORED BY THE NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## **Tree-mendous News!**

### **NVHS Greenspace Reference Card**

#### **Biggest Tree Contest**

<https://nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com/2024-largest-tree-contest>



#### **Lingering Ash**

<https://www.wanderponder.earth/resources/mama-info>

Email: [greenspacenvhs@gmail.com](mailto:greenspacenvhs@gmail.com)

Email: [bill@wanderponder.earth](mailto:bill@wanderponder.earth)



Check our website for the “rules” for “collecting” a big tree. The NVHS will continue with our search for the biggest tree of any species for a few years. See who are this years winners for this year at Maine Fest

### **BROOMSTICK-TIME**

On Hallowe'en the witches fly  
Like withered leaves across the sky,  
Each with a broomstick for a steed  
That gallops at tremendous speed.  
Although I don't approve of witches  
Who wear tall hats and live in ditches,  
Still I am glad there is a day  
When broomsticks have a chance to play.



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**Renew Your Membership Today**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter: Mailed (Add \$5:00) or Electronic

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior/Student \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Business \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, PO Box 75, Maine, NY 13802

Save a stamp and renew online <https://nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com/become-a-member>