

**The Town of Maine, N.Y. -
from Settlers, to Farmers, to Commuters - 1790 - 1920.**

for
Binghamton University Lyceum
hosted by
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society
Janet W. Bowers Museum
13 Nanticoke Road Maine NY

Part 1 Slides 1 - 29
Part 2 Slides 30 - 59
Part 3 Slides 60 - 87

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October 5, 2017

The Town of Maine, N.Y. - from Settlers, to Farmers, to Commuters - 1790 - 1922

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In the 1790's, what will become Maine, NY, was the wilderness; land speculators (Boston Purchase -11.1787) opened the frontier to settler's. The course will introduce you to some early settlers, the earliest industries, and the formation of Maine NY on 3.7.1848. Historic homes will be highlighted along with the development of the town. The lives of the residents will be reinforced through a visit through the two museum floors. We end in 1922 when electricity reaches the community.

October 5, 2017 1- 3 PM

Table of Contents

1. Nanticoke Valley Historical Society
2. Town of Maine Heritage
3. Land Speculators - The Boston Purchase
4. Early Settlers Arrive. What did they find?
5. Lumber Industry - Saw Mills
Rafting
6. Clearing Farmlands
7. Industries – Artesian –Rakes, Tanning & Wagons
8. Decline of Agriculture
9. Commuting Community
10. A few families- Gates, Bowers & Dudley
11. Hamlet of Maine 1866 & 1876



Circa 1850 Janet W. Bowers Museum

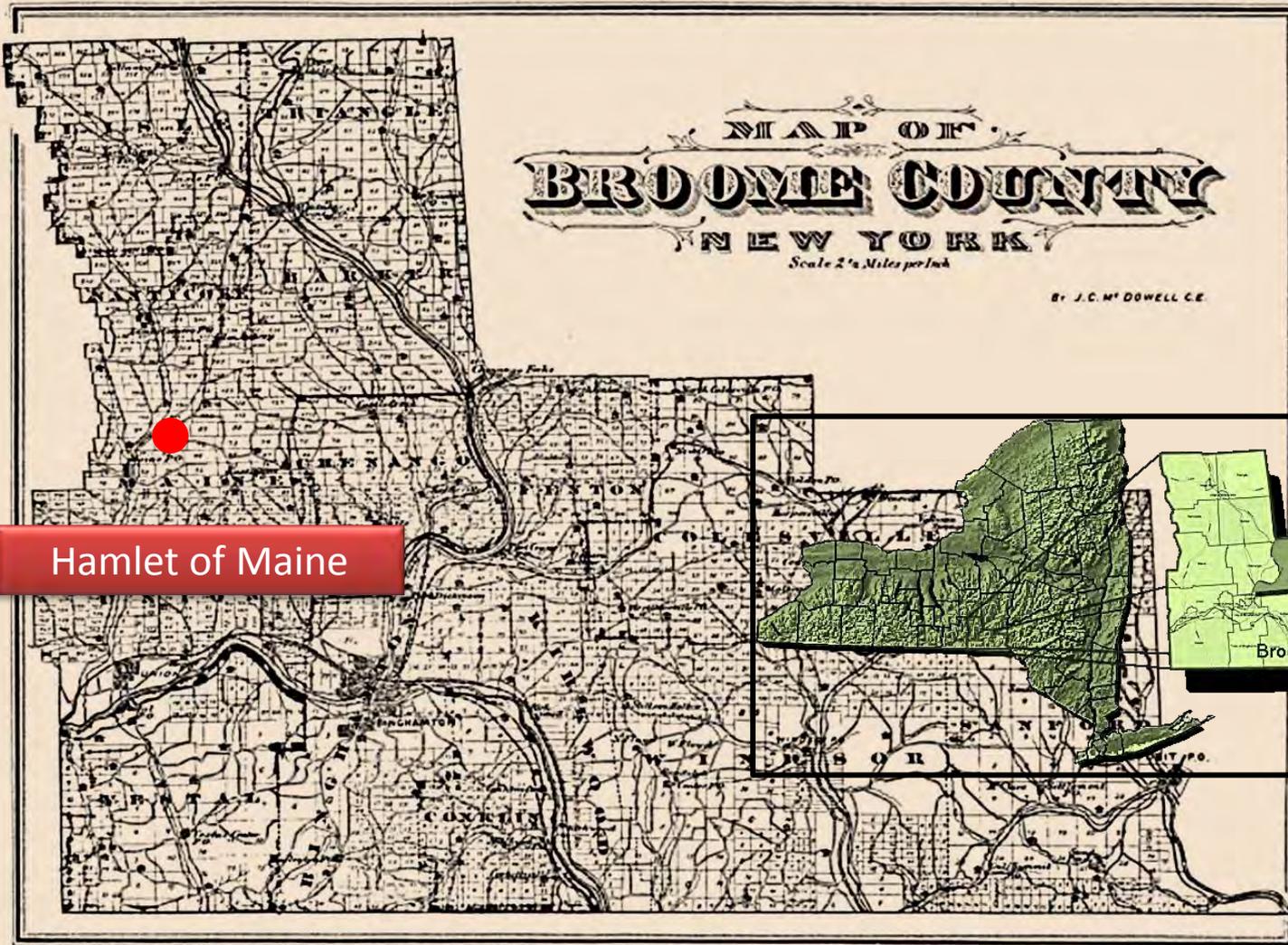
Circa 1840 Norton Carriage Shops



Circa 1845 One room school house

Circa 1830 Pitchers Grist Mill





Hamlet of Maine

Source: *Combination Atlas Map of Broome County New York*. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign & Everts, 1876, p. 14.

1876 Broome County Atlas





**Tymeson Bldg.
- Post Office**

View looking north east around 1900

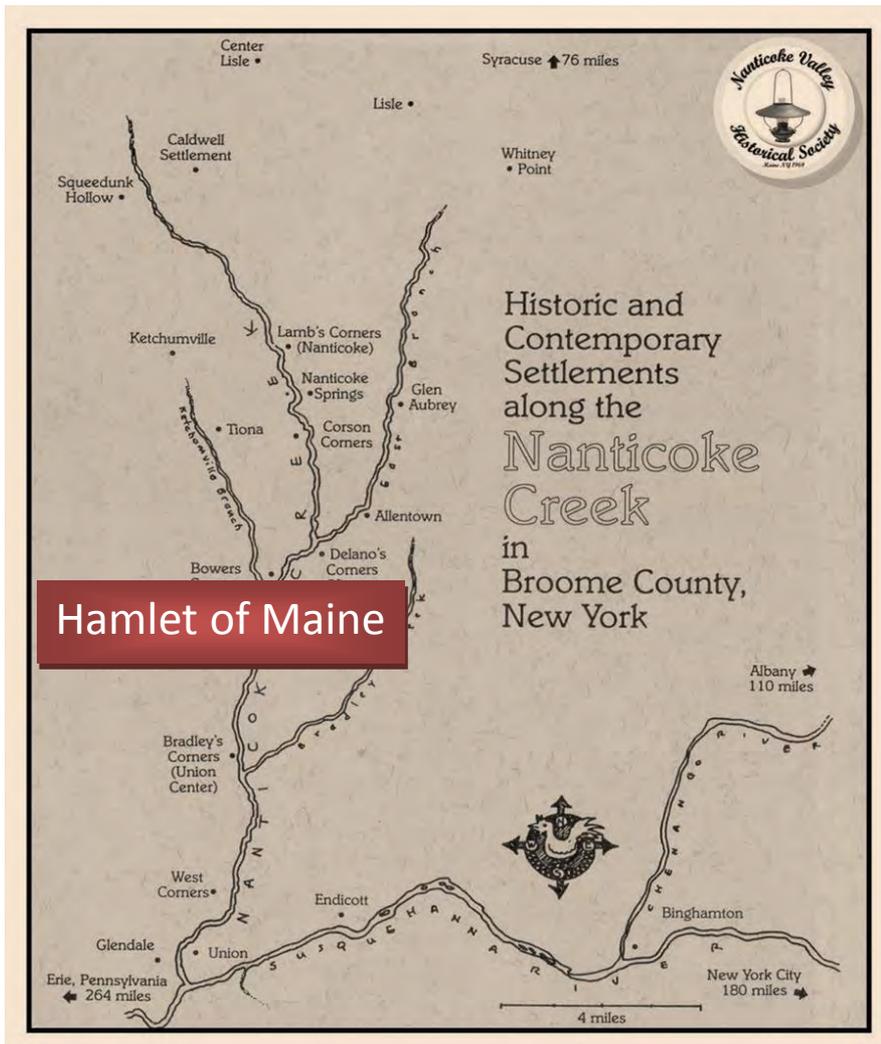
TOWN ON MAINE HERITAGE

" Maine is situated within a tract of 230,000 acres of land known as the "Boston Purchase." This tract was purchased by a group of sixty residents of Berkshire County, Massachusetts in 1787 for three-hundred and thirty-three Spanish dollars (twelve and one-half cents an acre).

The first settler in Maine was Benjamin Norton from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, who settled about three-fourths of a mile north of the present village site in 1794. Two years later Jed Dudley also came from Stockbridge and built a log cabin near the site of the present Maine Cemetery. Later arrivals in the 1700's were Russell and Alfred Gates, Timothy Caswell, Ebenezer and Matthew Allen, and Marsena McIntyre. Early 1800 arrivals were Aaron Delano, John Durfee, Martin and Samuel Ingraham, Asaph Morse, John Wilson, Thomas Marean, and Daniel Chamberlain. Phineas Pomeroy and Abner Rockwell settled in Union Center. Those who settled in east Maine were Moses Delano, Nathaniel Slosson, Samuel Stone, John and Herman Payne, and James Ketchum.

There is no proven theory how Maine got its name. Several descendants of early pioneers claim that General LaFayette named Maine and Lisle after estates in France. Names of small settlements in Maine are: Mount Ettrick, Gate's Four corners, Tiona (North Maine), Arbutus (Craftville), East Maine (Stone Settlement), Allentown, Delano Corners, New Ireland (Pender's Corners), Brockett Hollow, Bower's Corners, Norton's Corners, Union Center (Centerville), Oak Hill, Finch Hollow, and Broughamtown."

“ Maine was officially formed from the northern part of the Town of Union, March 27, 1848. The first Town meeting was held April 25, 1848, at the school house in Maine Village with John C. Curtis, Sand Niles, and Louis Gates as the presiding officers. They decided at this meeting that there would be four constables, three assessors, three commissioners of highways, and one pound master. At their second meeting, they elected the following officials: Andrew H. Arnold, supervisor; John W. Hunt, town clerk; Marshall Delano, superintendent of common schools; John T. Davis, collector; Cyrus Gates, justice of peace; John Blanchard, justice of peace; Hanan W. Moores, Justice of peace; Orange H. Arnold, assessor; Thomas Yourn, Jr., assessor; William H. Tuttle, assessor; Herman Payne, commissioner of highways; John R. Wheeler, commissioner of highways; Edward Ward, commissioner of highways; Eustis Hathaway, constable; John B. Smith, constable; Joel Benson, constable; Ransom F. Gates, constable; Jefferson Ransom, supervisor of elections; Luke Curtis, supervisor of elections; Amasa Durfee, supervisor of elections; James W. Carman, sealer of weights; and Lyman Pollard, pound master. At the annual county meeting of town supervisors in 1848, Maine was recorded as having 33,037 acres of land with a total evaluation of \$109,693. Maine's county tax was \$555.72 and the town tax was \$510.96. In 1848, the population of Maine was approximately 1,800 persons. In 1880, there were 2,129 persons. The population then declined; in 1915 there were only 1,339 persons. The population then began to increase and by 1970 there were 5,842. In the 2000 census, there were 5,459 people in the Town of Maine.” Shirley Woodward, <http://townofmaine.org/content/History>



A large portion of the men in these armies were from the New England States, and they were very much impressed by the territory, so much so, that some of them eventually returned to settle along the new frontier. At least they must have carried back many stories, for we find most of the early inhabitants coming from New England, principally Massachusetts. The first one to actually take up land was a short distance up the Chenango or "Ochenang" River in 1787.

Maine was situated within a tract of 230,000 acres of land known as the "Boston Purchase", or "Massachusetts Ten Townships", purchased by a group of sixty residents of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, on November 7, 1787. The purchase price was 333 Spanish Dollars. The land cost twelve and one-half cents per acre but was subject to any title that the Indians might have. Previously, Samuel Brown, with three other grantees; Elijah Brown, Orringe Stoddard, and Joseph Raymond, representing the Boston Company, and two white settlers, Amos Draper, a trader living near Vestal, and James McMaster, a farmer near Owego, made a satisfactory treaty with the Indians of this territory on June 22, 1787.

Shirley Woodward *A Short History of Maine New York, 1973*

The Boston Purchase or Boston Ten Townships

" In the year 1785 or 1786 there was formed in Boston, Mass., a company of eleven men (later enlarged to sixty) for the purchase of land "in the west." Three of the original eleven soon came to this part of the county to "view the land." These men were Amos Patterson, his brother-in-law, Co. Avid Pixley and Captain Joseph Raymond. The company, or syndicate, as it would be termed now, purchased this tract of land from the "Government of Massachusetts," then called the Boston Purchase or Boston Ten Townships. They called themselves the "Boston Purchase Company." Col. Pixley was one of the commissioners sent out to trade with the Indians for "rights to the soil." He learned the Indian language and greatly endeared himself to the Indians.

This tract of land comprising the Boston Purchase included the parts of the counties of Broome and Tioga which lies between the Chenango River on the east, and the Owego Creek on the west and extended Northward from the Susquehanna River about twenty-five miles. It contained about 230,000 acres of land and was divided into lots, each of the sixty proprietors taking his share of lots according to the amount of money he invested. ...the original map is now property of Library of Cornell University."

Town of Newark Valley History *By Shirley Callahan, Historian*

http://www.tiogahistory.org/Site/Newark_Valley.html

Early History Maine, NY

IMAGINE that you can travel back in time to visit the town you live in today. Let's turn back the clock to around 1799 and look around. Many of the earliest settlers traveling from the New England states have arrived and a few are listed here; Benjamin Norton from Stockbridge, MA in 1794; Russell and Alfred Gates from East Haddam, CT in 1795; Nathaniel Slosson from Massachusetts and Jedidiah Dudley from Stockbridge, MA in 1796. Why did they leave their homesteads in New England to travel to the wilderness of what would be Maine, NY? Why did they come here, and more importantly, what did they hope to accomplish once they established themselves here?

The land was covered from hilltop to hilltop by old growth trees such as hemlocks and hardwoods. The eastern hemlock takes over 250 years to reach maturity and may live for 1000 years, attain a height of 160 feet and have a trunk diameter of over six feet. Forests had to be cleared to gain open farm lands. Wild animals were abundant including many which were dangerous livestock and people. Mountain lions, bobcats, bears and wolves were common and early settlers first built barns to protect their livestock from these predators. Settlers arrived with the bare essentials: perhaps an iron plow head, axes, firearms and oxen. Roads had to be created by "hand" but that would occur later! On their land they would build a small shelter and barn and slowly they would clear the land. The trees were a great natural resource, and some early settlers rafted logs down the Nanticoke Creek to the Susquehanna River for sale. By 1825 sawmills and grist mills were built and population centers started to grow. In 1832 E.H. Clark started a tannery in the Hamlet of Maine. It was located behind the site of the current Masonic Lodge building .

Early History Maine, NY

The tannery slowly grew in size from two employees in a 30 x 40 foot building, which held four tanning vats to twenty five workers in a 40 x 100 foot building housing 132 vats. The tannery bought hemlock bark from local sources. The bark was needed to make the acid necessary for tanning hides. Each day required up to ten cords of bark and over thirty thousand tanned hides were produced at this location yearly. The hides came from Texas and South America. “Lamont Bowers told of seeing one hundred loads of hemlock bark pass in one day.” The used bark from the tannery was brought south of the hamlet and used as fill along the toll plank road which stretched from the Maine cemetery to Union. Slowly the hills were cleared of trees, fields were farmed and by 1848 the town of Maine was formed. The tannery operated until 1890 and the buildings were torn down around 1908. Doanes Creamery would be the next industry to occupy this site.

In 1870 the town had grown to a population of over 2,305 and both Lewis St. and McGregor Ave. were laid out. The major industries in the region were lumbering and farming. Between 1875 and 1883 Maine had a fair ground. Our museum has a copy of the 1876 Broome County Atlas, one illustration is of the Maine Agricultural Field Ground (Notice that the hill in the background is cleared of trees). This hill is the one behind the Maine Memorial Elementary School and the next time you are at the *Main Scoop* ice cream shop look west. You’ll note that the hill is now covered with trees.



Eastern Hemlock

MAINE AGRICULTURAL FAIR GROUND 1875 - 1883



The first fair was in October 1875. Fairs were held here until 1883. Ulysses S. Grant, our 18th president was in office from March 4, 1869 - March 4, 1877. This was located just to the south of where Maine Memorial Elementary School is today. Notice most trees have been harvested.



Old Growth Stand of
Eastern Hemlock and
White Pine
in
Tiadaghton State
Forest, PA



Old growth white pine, circa
1923. Photo: Harvard Forest
Archives

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stand_of_Eastern_Hemlock_and_White_Pine_in_Tiadaghton_State_Forest,_Pennsylvania.jpg
<http://northernwoodlands.org/articles/article/pisgah-forest>

Bucking up a large white pine with a crosscut saw, circa 1890



Superior National Forest Minnesota

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bucking_up_a_large_white_pine_with_a_crosscut_saw,_circa_1890s_\(5188097294\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bucking_up_a_large_white_pine_with_a_crosscut_saw,_circa_1890s_(5188097294).jpg)



Early Wilderness Farm: Taming the Wilds

*Engraving from: American Agriculturalist
November (1864)*

<http://www.mcz.harvard.edu/Departments/InvertPaleo/Trenton/Intro/HistoryPage/Social%20History/earlysettlement.htm>

“In fact, Keesler (1999) has stated that by 1825, most of New York's frontier regions had been purchased, ... Once roadways were established, the pace of deforestation was magnified by the development of the potash industry which not only provided an additional source of income for the immigrant farmers, but also fueled the incentive to clear lands for agricultural use. The illustration below, drawn by David Hamilton (Keesler, 1999) emphasizes the processes involved in the production of potash. However, most compelling is the comparison of this image with that from above. Although these scenes represent an artist's rendition of early industry in frontier America, the fact remains, that by the 1820's and scarcely 40 years after the initial settlement of the region, much of ... upstate New York had become substantially modified.”

Keesler, M. P. 1999. *Kuyahoora: Discovering West Canada Valley*, Canterbury Press Publisher, Rome, New York, 286 p.

Potash Industry in the early 1800's

Drawing by: David W. Hamilton

Keesler 1999



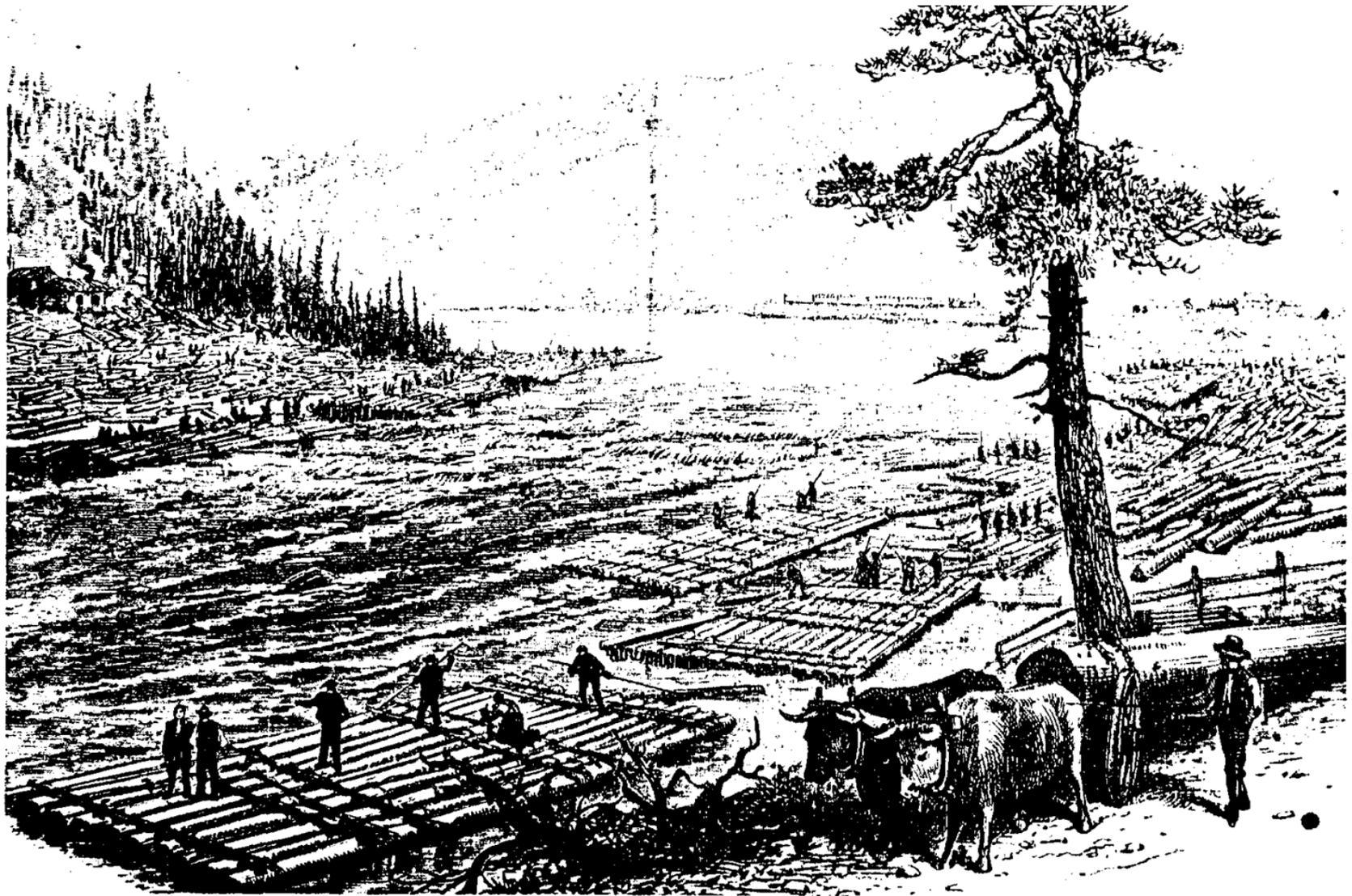
A S H E S.

THE subscriber wishes to inform his customers and the public in general that he will give ten cents per bushel for good house ashes; delivered at the still house of Capt. LUKE BATES, about two miles up the river from this Village, at which place he purposes to erect a Potash works for manufacturing the same.

Tioga, Owego Village, Feb. 8th.
CHARLES PUMPELLY.
[ns81f.]

"The American Farmer," Owego, New York, December 29, 1812. BCHS

<http://www.mcz.harvard.edu/Departments/InvertPaleo/Trenton/Intro/HistoryPage/Social%20History/earlysettlement.htm>



"Making Rafts on the Susquehanna," engraving. BCHS.

Logs, Lumber and "Black" Salts (Potash) were rafted to Baltimore and Philadelphia



HEATH & NORTON,
MANUFACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN
Hand Rakes, Fork, Hoe,
And Broom Handles, &c., &c.
We defy competition and cannot be undersold. All goods guaranteed. We have satisfied our patrons and always will.
Heath & Norton, Rake Factory, Maine, N. Y.

"Broome Tioga County Business Directory, 1876." BCHS.

"in 1878 Chauncey McIntyre built a sawmill on Lewis Creek. The wooden rakes made there were sold and shipped as far away as Australia. The mill also made baseball bats and shingles. It closed in 1928." S.L.

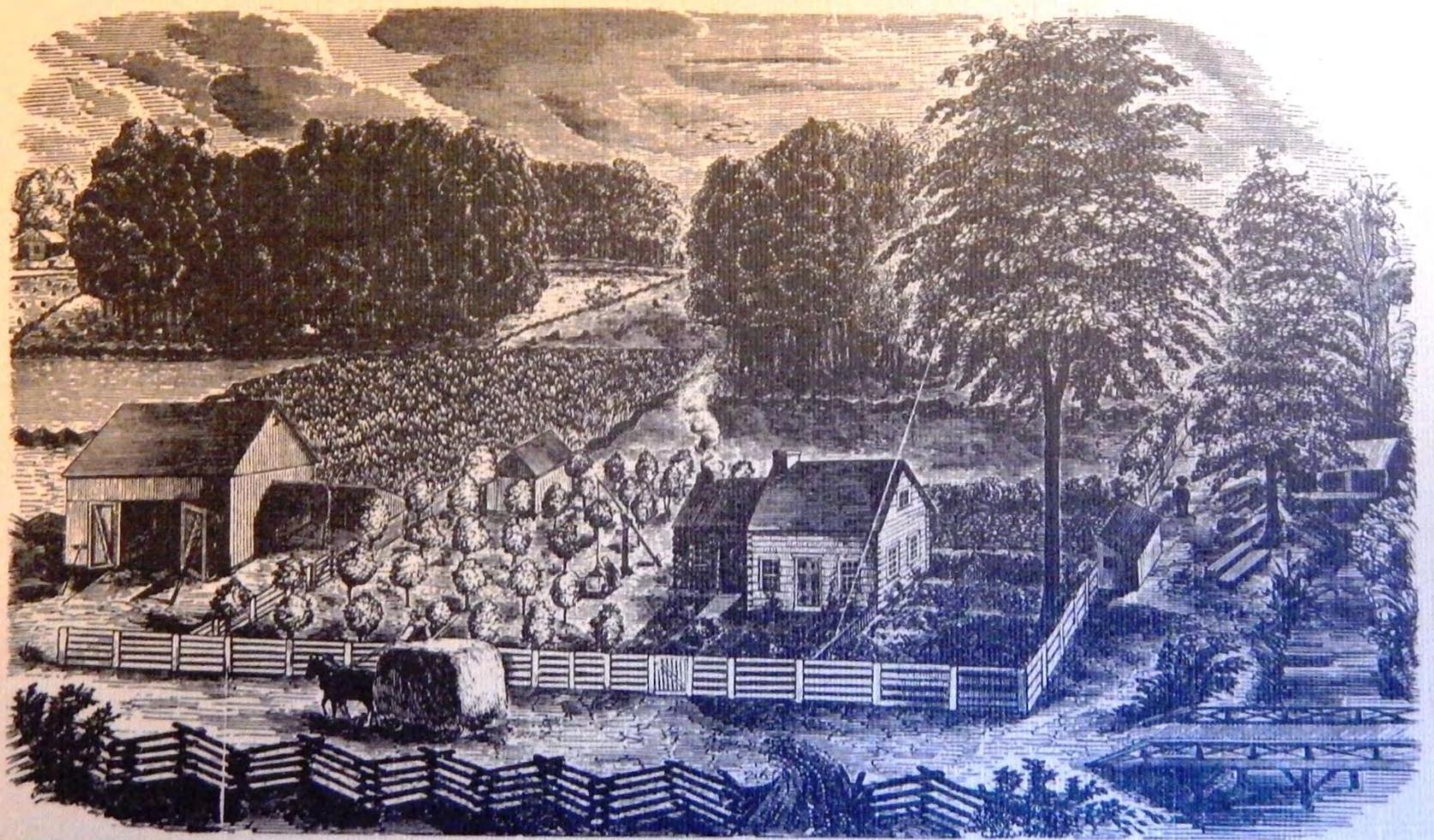


The Pioneer Settler, first year, from the "Pioneer History of Holland Purchase," O. Turner, (Buffalo, 1850).

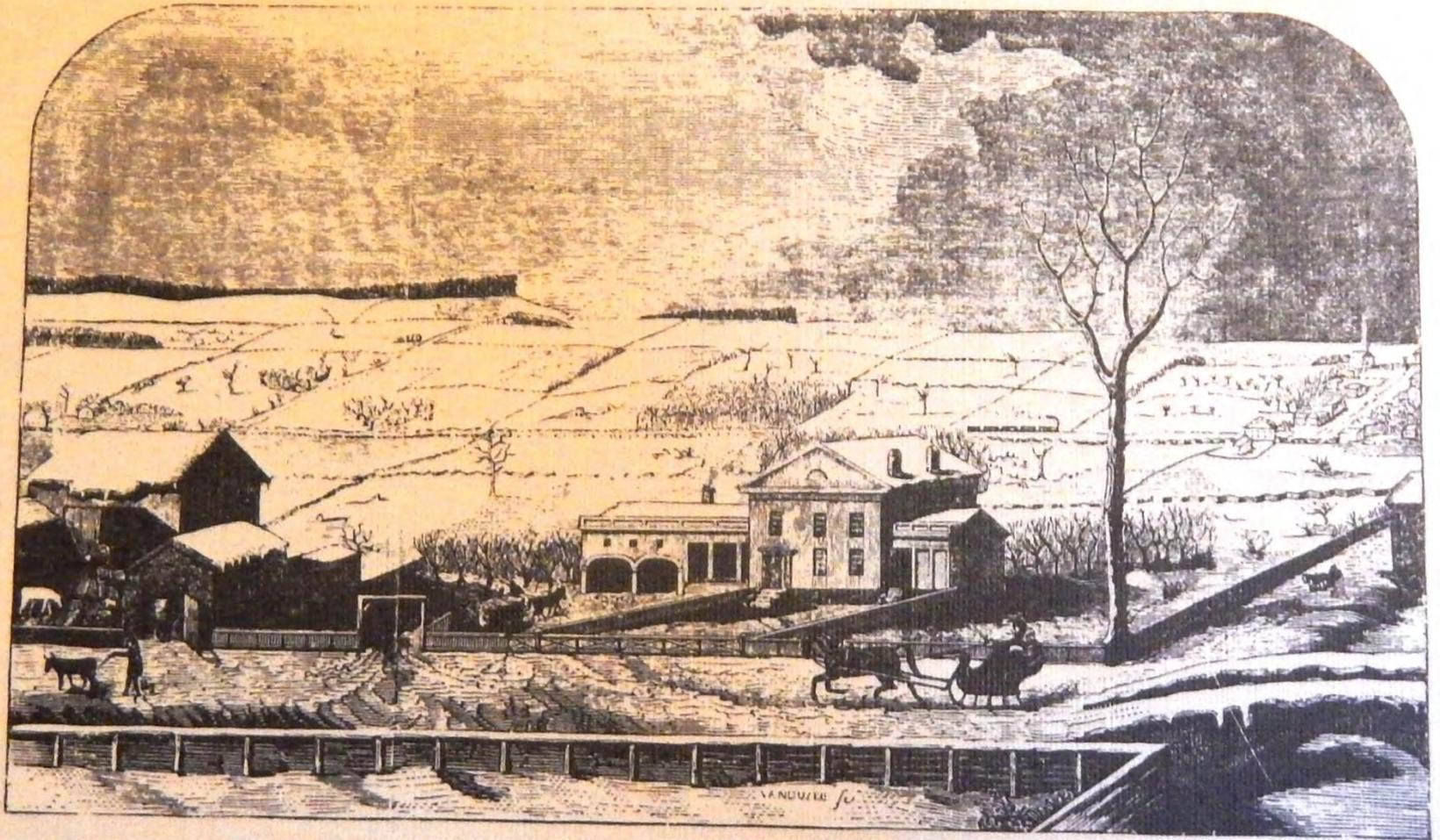
First Year for Settler



The Pioneer Settler, tenth year, Turner.



The Pioneer Settler, twentieth year, Turner.



The Pioneer Settler, forty-fifth year, Turner.



RES. OF MRS. ZARAH S. TAYLOR,
MAINE TP., BROOME CO., N. Y.

229 Nanticoke Rd. Illustration found in 1876 Broome County Atlas. The home dates to 1820 and sits along the current Nanticoke Road. The view is looking north.

The current southern tier of New York State was the wilderness after the Revolutionary War. The native Americans (Six Nations Homelands) who had lived in this region for over five thousand years were systematically killed by the Sullivan and Clinton Campaigns of 1779. (See <https://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/the-western-expedition-against-the-six-nations-1779.htm> for a quick over view of time in history). The region could be easily navigated via the network of rivers and streams. The major rivers; the Delaware River ending near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna River ending near Baltimore Maryland opened the area to explorers and settlers and also to selling products from this area to large cities. The early settlers came mostly from Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley, Eastern New York and New England. Many of these settlers had been in North America for five generations and many wanted to move to new areas. Land was offered through land speculations who had purchased large tracts of land from New York State, buying the land from anywhere from twenty five cents to one dollar per acre. Some of these speculators were: William Bingham of Philadelphia owned ten thousand acres, John Jay, James Clinton, Robert Morris, William Cooper, and Robert Harpur who had over 60 thousand acres near current Colesville. The Maine NY area was controlled by the Boston Purchase, a group of eleven individuals from Massachusetts. In 1790 the speculators sold the land in 50 acre plots for around two hundred dollars. Many acted as creditors giving a 7–10 year mortgage of about 7 per cent. This was still a lot of money at that time however speculators would barter with the new land owners for goods and or services.



<http://sullivanclinton.com/maps/>

The settlers first task was the clear the land and thus creating one of the first industries in these new regions, lumber. In 1885 Broome County had 178 saw mills in operation. The land was totally covered with “old growth” trees including: white pine, hemlock and various hard woods. White pines were the most sought after and both logs and boards were rafted down the rivers to the large eastern cities. Rafting started on the Susquehanna in 1796 and 1788 on the Delaware river occurring during spring when water levels were highest. Once the rafts were delivered the lumber the crew “walked” back home.

When the land was cleared crops were planted, mostly grains (rye, wheat, buck wheat and corn) and thus a second industry grew with the opening of grist mills. Pitcher's Mill in Maine, NY circa 1830 is an example of an early mill and this one lasted until 1955. The soil was initially fertile however the farmers did not fertilize the soil nor practice crop rotation and the land was "used up" within twenty years. By the year 1875 one half of the land of Broome County was cleared of trees.

The population of Broome County grew from 13,893 in 1825 to 25,808 in 1845. Maine NY was incorporated in 1848 and it had a population of 1,843 individuals, today's population is 5,238.

Another industry was that of Potash making. The hardwoods were burned and the ashes could be sold for twelve cents per bushel. Water was poured through the ashes and then boiled down to make "black salts" - this could be sold for three dollars per hundred pounds and it was then sent to *asheries* where it was put into brick kilns and made into "pearl ash". This material was rafted down to the major cities where the potash was used; in the making of glass, fertilizer, soap and manufacturing of gun powder.

After about twenty years of straight farming the soil was depleted of nutrients and many farmers turned their fields to grazing lands. In 1842 the Broome County Agricultural Society held classes in crop rotation and fertilization of soils. Our region also requires the addition of lime to the soil. By 1850's many farmers left the land for the next frontiers such as; Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. The fields turned to grazing which saw a large increase in dairy cattle and the introduction of creameries to the came about. Milk would spoil quickly and therefore much of it was turned to butter and cheese. The butter market sent the product via the Chenango Canal in 1836-1878 and the Erie Railroad in 1848, opening sales to Albany and New York City.



The farmers who stayed, besides using modern agricultural techniques also turn to machinery which assisted with planting to harvesting. The farming families, many times had large families to help with the labor needed around the farm however many realized that they would not inherit the farm. Around 1870 many starting seeking employment in “town.” They would have a room in Endicott or Binghamton returning on weekends to Maine.



“In 1878, Henry Curlhair started an express line between Maine and Binghamton for freight and passengers...” S.L.

Industries where located in Maine such as a; rake factory, tannery, wagon works, grist mills, poultry/eggs business and creameries but they had a small work force. The town continued to grow and shops and services, continued to serve the towns people and farms. Major industries had factories in Binghamton and Endicott including: furniture making, glass making, cigar making, shoe manufacturing, and time clocks which attracted workers from the country side. In 1922 electricity reached Maine.



Ideal Creamery, Main Street—painting by Clarence Stratton 1972



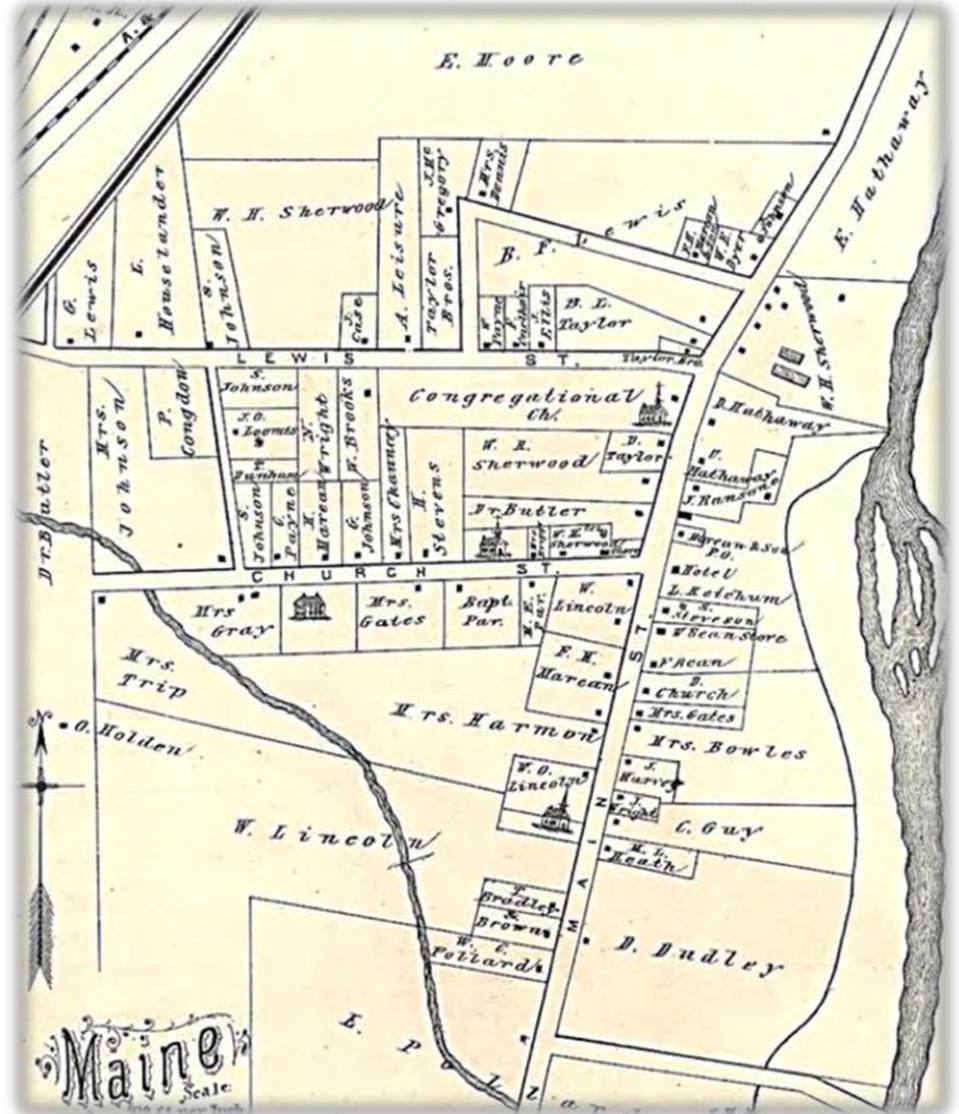
“In 1902, the Pitcher twins, Inah and Inas, take their milk to the H.A. Niles Creamery, which was behind the Columbian block, east of Main Street. This creamery was listed in the New York State list of “butter and cheese factories, milk stations, and condenseries” as producing 26,828 pounds of butter in 1902.” S.L.

MAINE, NY 1878

Little Known facts:

In 1878 Maine had

- four (4) General Stores
- two (2) Drug Stores
- two (2) Meat Markets
- two (2) Shoe Shops
- two (2) Blacksmith Shops
- two (2) Wagon Shops
- One (1) Tin Shop
- One (1) Flour & Feed Store
- One (1) Millinery Store
- One (1) Furniture Store
- One (1) Hotel
- One (1) Tannery
- One (1) Creamery
- One (1) Rake Factory
- One (1) Grist Mill
- One (1) Saw Mill
- Two (2) Doctors - MD's
- One (1) Homeopathic Doctor



Maine 1876

Three Families who where among the early Settlers to Maine, NY

- Russell and Alfred Gates from East Haddam, CT in 1795
 - Gardner Swain Bowers from Rindge, NH in 1822
 - Jedidiah Dudley from Stockbridge, MA in 1796

