

# NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015

Some Photographs from the Archives



**Nanticoke Valley Historical Society P.O. Box 75 Maine, NY 13802**

WELCOME



to the Hamlet of

MAINE

Formed 1848

# Early NYS Maps 1791 through 1802

[www.newyorkmapsociety.org/FEATURES/ALLEN2.HTM](http://www.newyorkmapsociety.org/FEATURES/ALLEN2.HTM)



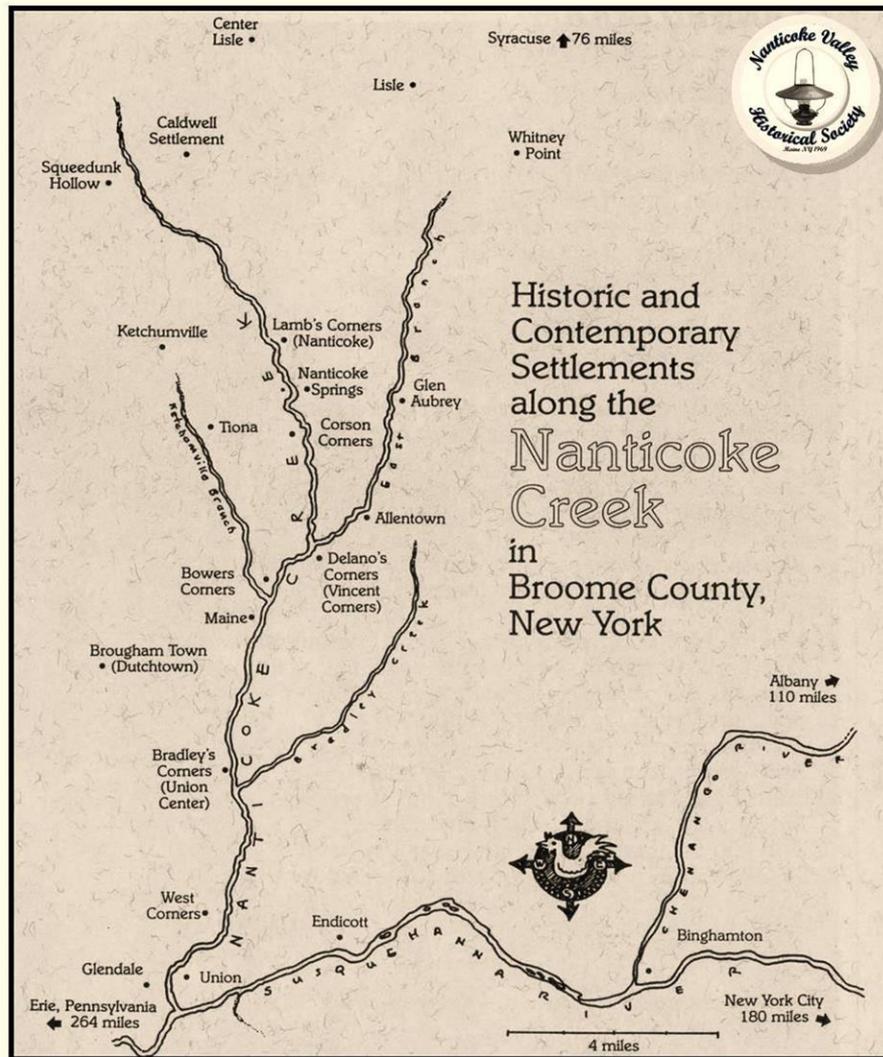
Detail of John Adlum, Map of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States (1791).



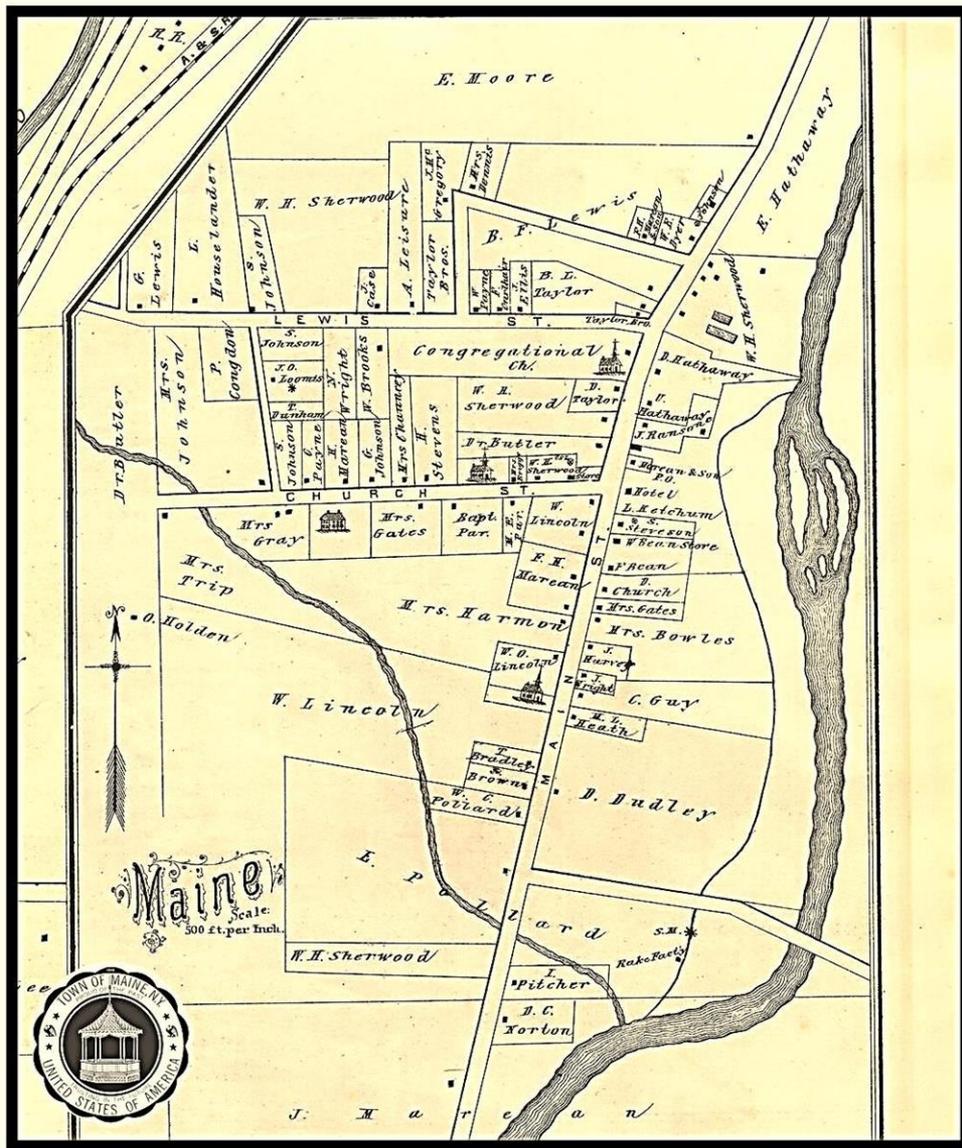
Simeon De Witt, 1st Sheet of De Witt's State-map of New York  
1793



Simeon De Witt, Map of the State of New York Library of Congress.  
1802



The Town of Maine and Town of Nanticoke began as part of a 230,000 acre tract of land known as the Boston Purchase or the Massachusetts Ten Townships. The purchase was made by 60 men from Berkshire County, Massachusetts in 1787 for 333 Spanish Dollars or 12.5 cents an acre. The first settlers became aware of these lands when they traveled through them as soldiers in the Revolutionary War.



Map of the Hamlet of Maine from the Broome County Atlas of 1876. Some of the homes on this map date from the 1850's. The first town meeting was in 1848.



"George Kenyon in 1905, a farmer and local milkman, is posing in front of his home. He had this photo on an advertisement he gave to his customers. This is now the home of NVHS."





1907 - Fourth of July celebration on Main Street (Route 26). The large building was the Tymeson Brothers store which today is the Maine Post Office. The Pagoda was in the center of the road then, today's Pagoda is a reproduction built in 1976.



9.1903



6.1938



4.1910

## Maine Celebrates the Seasons



2.1920



10.1912



7.1917



*The Maine Progressive Band now The Maine Community Band played on Saturday nights in the Pagoda. The band formed in 1861*



*1908—View of Maine's Main Street looking North. Note the large sugar maple trees which were planted in the 1870's. Most of the maples have died either from "old" age, blight or urban stress, especially road salt and air pollution.*

## WHY IS MAINE CALLED MAINE ?

"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 names 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 LaFayette 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 area around it was part of the Town of Union until 1848. The first written reference to the name "Maine" was in 1825."





1910 - Photo taken by Lee Loomis of his neighbor Audley Allen. Nationwide rabies outbreaks that year forced NYS to pass a law where dogs had to wear a muzzle.



1908- The preferred mode of transportation in winter were sleighs and cutters—light sleighs. Note the high, curved dash in front which deflected snow and ice. The cut rock at the sidewalk was used for getting into sleighs.



1910 - Photo by Lee Loomis of his young neighbor, the son of the pastor of the Maine Baptist church.



Janet Whitney Bowers in her kitchen near the turn of the 20th century. Cooking water was brought inside from a well. The wood burning stove and cast iron cooking implements made for exhausting work, especially in the summer.



Maine had various meat markets in the Hamlet through the years. This is an interior shot of Herman Kattell's market on Main Street.





1950's — Pitcher's Mill first built in 1830, operated until 1955. In 1849 the flour produced here was sent to California. It is located at 2819 Route 26 Maine. Insert, the mill as it had been restored as of 2012.





In the late 1800's the Bell and York State Telephone companies set up in Maine. This photograph shows Nel Gates at the central switchboard, which she ran out of her home on McGregor Avenue, in the Hamlet of Maine. In 1952 the last hand-crank call occurred in Maine, which was the last community in NYS to convert to a dial telephone system.



1848 -The home of Cyrus and Arabella Gates on the Old Nanticoke Road is now listed in the NYS and the National Registers of Historic Places. The Gates home was a station on the Underground Railroad.



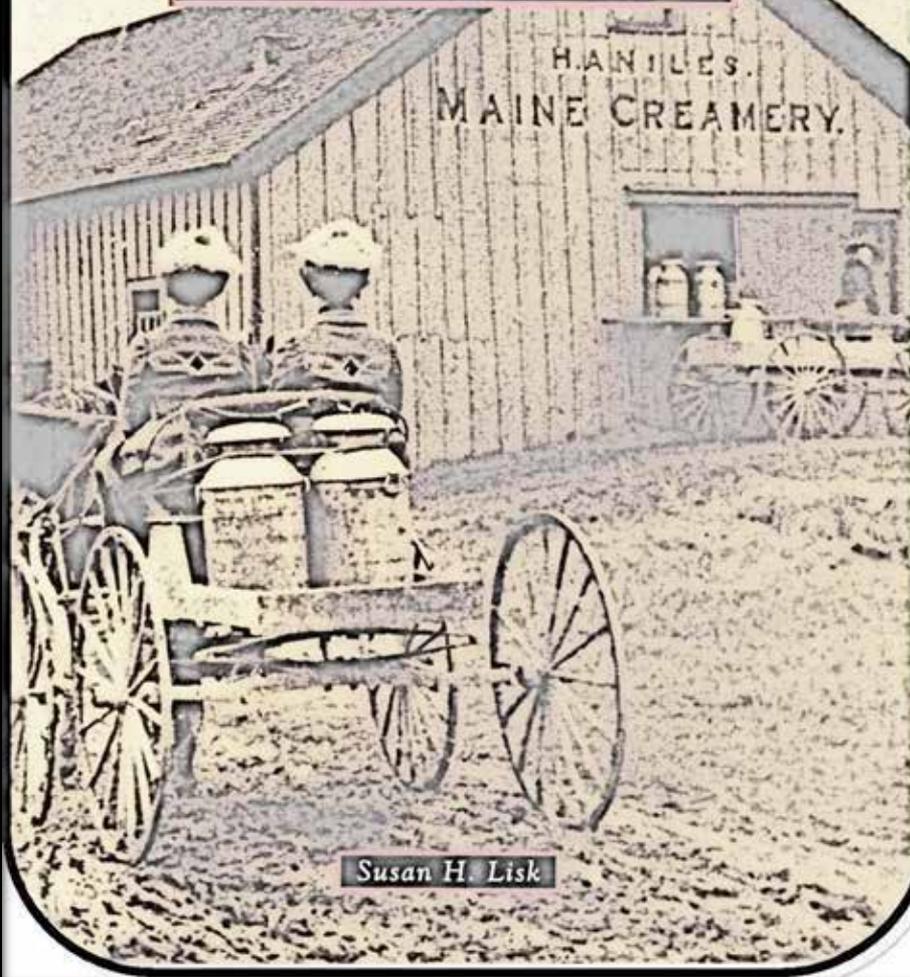
1935—Ray W. Payne fire chief, from 1923 o 1942, is between the trucks. The center vehicle was once a Meteor Hearse, donated to the company by J.R. Allen, Herman Wheaton at the wheel. Bennett Eckert is on the left. The Nanticoke Valley Fire Company was formed in 1923.



1908— J.R. Allen (right) on the first hearse in the Hamlet of Maine. J.J. Allen started his undertaking business a few miles north of the Hamlet. When the Allen's started the business, common practice was for the undertaker to come to the home and set up the body in the parlor. The business moved to Endicott in 1915.

IMAGES  
of America

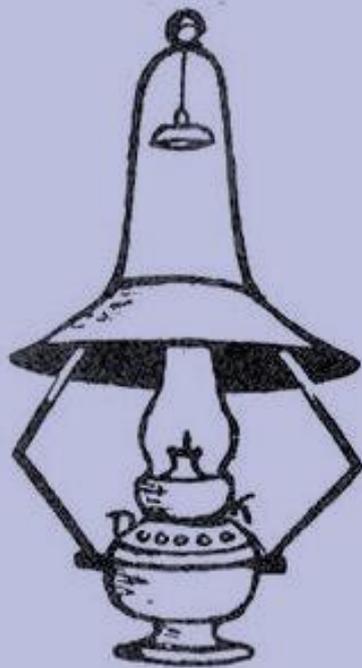
# MAINE AND THE NANTICOKE VALLEY



Susan H. Lisk



*Nanticoke Valley*



*Historical Society*

*Maine NY 1969*