

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2015 Newsletter # 1 MARCH *edited by Phil Childs*

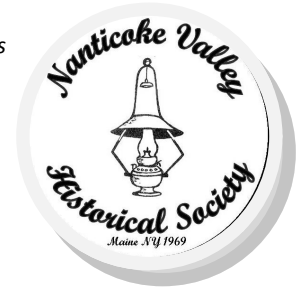


1870

1830

1840

1845



"Lest we forget... This house is dedicated to the preservation of our proud heritage – the legacy of treasured tradition and historical value bequeathed to us by those who laid the foundation for the good life which we now enjoy." Dorothy Ames 1979

Officers

President:	Sandy Rozek	862-9480
Vice President:	Nancy Berry	862-4527
Secretary:	Carla Sullivan	862-5385
Treasurer	Sandy Halliday	862-3470
Museum Curator	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator	Tom Kotasek	754-0381

The Board of Trustees *

2014: Alice Hopkins, Dottie Winans,
Clarke Gardener

2015: Sue Hoskins, Joanne Weir,
Phil Childs

2016: John Haggerty, Anita Shipway,
Betty Welch

* New positions are voted on each year. The term of a trustee is three years. This provides for an ever changing but ongoing board coverage.

Q: How long has the Town of Maine Logo looked like the illustration below?

Q: Why is there a pagoda in the seal?

Q: How has the Ames family been involved in the history of the pagoda.?

Q: What occurred on December 6th?



A: In 1973 the Town of Maine was organizing its 125th anniversary celebration. The historical society and its membership were asked to be involved in the planning of this event. In the winter of 1973 Clarence Ames decided to recreate the Maine Pagoda which was torn down in 1928. The original was located in the center of Main Street where Church Street meet Clarence designed a small replica of the Pagoda based on historic photographs. The winter of 1973 was mild and he, his friends and family built it next to his home, The Lincoln Home (ca. 1820) on Church and Main Streets. A contest was held in 1976 to design a town logo. Douglas Guiles, a 17 year old student, created the logo which we use today. Last year Lil Ames donated the Pagoda and the land it is built on to the town in memory of Clarence. An official ceremony was held December 6th to present Lil with a plaque which will be placed on the Pagoda.



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Programs/Trips/Picnic and Fundraisers : 2015

Work in progress still hammering out some details
Most programs are on the 3rd Monday of each month usually at our museum.

March 16 Monday Broome County Historian Gerald Smith 7 pm at the museum "Irish in Broome County"

March All Endicott Public Library Photos from the traveling archival show exhibition.

April 20 Monday Charlene Thomson *History and Music of the Autoharp* 7 pm

May's Program will be on June 7th Sunday meeting at museum at noon for carpooling. Viewing the *Cornell Plantation* the Dr. Clement Bowers Rhododendron connection - Many of the 12 gardens are an easy walk We can meet for lunch afterwards perhaps at the Boatyard Restaurant in Ithaca. RSVP Sandy Halliday 862-3470

Also in **MAY ON THE 9** Saturday 1 pm. *John Rogers returns with a blue bird workshop* which includes a presentation and you building your own blue bird houses. Cost involved \$25.00 limited to 30 participants. Call 862-3470 to register

Programs/Trips/Picnic and Fundraisers : 2015 (continued)

May 25 Monday Memorial Day Smokey Legend BBQ Time 11—2 will have signs up near museum.

June 15 Monday *Picnic* 6 pm at the museum Topic Sharing Memories of Picnics Past - Please bring a favorite dish of yours to pass.

June 20 Saturday 1-3 pm at museum. Joyce Jackson/Sue Hoskins Genealogy Workshop. Cost \$12.00 to register call Sue Hoskins 862-9437

July 17 -19 Friday to Sunday BIG SALE Christmas in July J.R. Ingalls School. **AND** a musical production details TBA

August 1,2 Saturday-Sunday Musical Production "School House Rocks" details TBA

August 17 Monday Kimport Ethnic Doll Company- From the Depression to the 1970's. For collectors of foreign costume dolls, the Kimport Doll Company is the jewel in the crown. Presented by Candy Brady - Past President Broome County Doll Club

September 12 Saturday: Leaving 8:00 AM for 9:30 Tour. *Matilda Joslyn Gage House* 210 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY Cost involved \$6.00
www.matildajoslyngage.org RSVP Sandy Halliday at 862-3470

October Date TBA Saturday Event, The Allentown Cemetery Learn about the stories of the 421 Individuals who are interred here. Saturday at 3 PM If weather is poor PowerPoint showing. At the museum

November 11 Wednesday Veterans Day Dinner Fundraiser at Friend's Diner Maine NY

November 16 Betty Welch talks about When the Hamlet of Maine was the place to live if you worked for Binghamton University's .

You might consider the following from other organizations:

April 13 7 PM Program at Our Savior Lutheran Church Hooper Rd *Endwell* Judith Matanic relives the early 1900's America.

Learn about: the Titanic, Nursing and medications in WW I.

Aug. 15 Newark Valley HS Tuscarora Beaded Owl: with Native American beading artist Rosie Hill, 10 AM-3 PM @ Bement-Billings Farmstead. \$35/\$33 NVHS member.

Hiding in Plain Sight. The Ketchum Inn (ca. 1841). "From 1860 through, 1876, when the Willowhurst hotel (picture below) in Maine Village was called the Ketchum Inn, it was famous for being a horse-dealing center run by Ephraim Ketchum and his brother-in-law H.E. Hathaway. After the Civil War, there was a serious shortage of horses, so Ketchum went back and forth to Canada and Missouri to purchase quality animals, once making 100 horses available at the Ketchum stables behind the inn. It was called the Willowhurst hotel from early 1900s until 1942, when it was sold to the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church." ** Which today is used as the church's social hall. *Can you see the Ketchum Inn in the church social hall? Check it out.*

Our museum curator Sue Lisk recently presented a tour of the Maine Cemetery . She filled it with stories of the individuals who are located there, giving insights as to who these people were while alive. The following is a tragic love story of Lala Ketchum and Henry Marean.

" MEET ME IN HEAVEN"



F.H. Marean & Son store



Ketchum Inn



"Meet Me in Heaven"

Lala Marean

Delilah (Lala) Harriet Tabor Ketchum and Henry Marean were part of a romantic and heartbreaking love story. Lala grew up in her parents' hotel, the *Ketchum Inn*, while right next door Henry worked as a clerk in his father's store, *F.H. Marean & Son store*. *They fell in love and secretly became engaged, Lala 15 years old and Henry 20 years. They had a three year engagement then married in 1865, Lala died in childbirth 5 months later, after delivering a baby girl named Lala. She was raised in the Maine Village.*

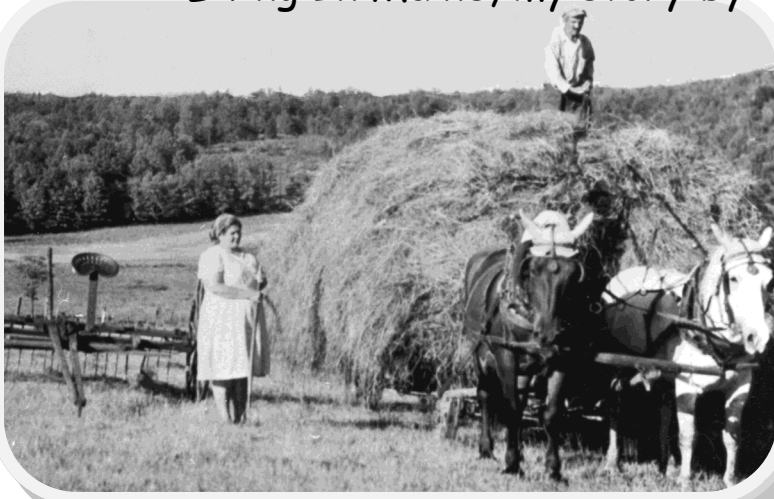


TO A SNOWDROP

"LONE Flower, hemmed in with snows and white as they
 But hardier far, once more I see thee bend
 Thy forehead, as if fearful to offend,
 Like an unbidden guest. Though day by day,
 Storms, sallying from the mountain-tops, waylay
 The rising sun, and on the plains descend;
 Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend
 Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed May
 Shall soon behold this border thickly set
 With bright jonquils, their odours lavishing
 On the soft west-wind and his frolic peers;
 Nor will I then thy modest grace forget,
 Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring,
 And pensive monitor of fleeting years!"

William Wordsworth (1719–1850) **1819**

Living In Maine, my story by Alice Tartanian Hopkins



"Mary Tartanian is helping her husband, John, with the haying on the farm"

My ancestry is Armenian. Their land was an ancient, mountainous region in western Asia, lying around Mt. Ararat, the spot upon which Noah's Ark came to rest. Armenia now is a small, land-locked nation whose citizens see, but cannot visit their mountain, as they are northwest of Turkey also bordering Ukraine and Iran.

This year (2015) is the 100th year remembrance of the year when the Turkish Government (during WW1), aligned with Germany, decided to eliminate the Armenian people from their land. One million, five hundred thousand Christian Armenians were killed. Among them were my mother's family. The men were killed first, then the women and children driven into the desert. A Kurdish woman approached my grandmother and wanted her young daughter, my mother to live with her and help with housework and child-care. My mother never heard again about her

My father who lived near Constantinople (now Istanbul), came by ship in 1913, with four other young men to the address of Congregational Missionaries in Sherburne, New York in 1913. Before passports, one could come here with only the address of a friend. Dad and his older brother worked on farms and saved enough money to buy a farm. They found one of 120 acres, barn, house and outbuildings owned by John and Fanny Atwater in the town of Maine and bought it.

After the world war, missionaries toured Turkey, looking for orphans. I still wonder how this miracle was accomplished...but my mother was in an orphan home in Greece when my father visited his mother, sister and brother-in-law in Providence, RI. Uncle Kevork showed him a picture of his cousin Mariam, saying, "She is in Corfu. Why don't you go and bring her to America?" So he wrote her a letter to which she replied with a "Yes". His cousin in New York City helped him apply for a passport and book passage. So they met, were married, went to Athens for her passport, and boarded a ship to America.

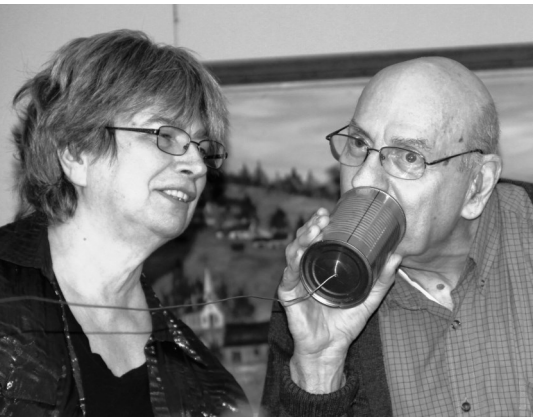
The Atwaters were members of the Congregational Church in Maine, which our family joined. We knew the liturgy and hymns which we learned from the missionaries who had come to our land. We sang in Armenian while others sang in English!



The Tartanian family came to the United States from Armenian... Minas, Arshaloos, (Hagog) grandmother Eskouhi, Paris Mesrobian (Julia) and John. Photos from Images of America Maine and The Nanticoke Valley by Susan H. Lisk

THE ARCHIVES PROJECT: The digital archives project is under way. It has had a very slow start since we first dealt with the January water damage. The Past Perfect computer program has been ordered. This is an immense undertaking covering many years, as everything in all five of our buildings will be inventoried. If you would like to be part of this project please call Sue Lisk at 862-9705. Funding is always needed to make this project a success so donations would be appreciated.

NOT ANOTHER FUND RAISER! It seems that the NVHS has had an endless season of fund raising. Perhaps you are wondering why? Make a list of the costs of maintaining an old house, now multiple by four! Maintenance is pretty close to the top of our expenses and with "modernizing"... well you have the idea. Exterior painting, roof repairs, paying for utilities, and maintaining the integrity of old structures (George Norton Carriage Houses). Now throw in plans for the future which include: fixing the Carriage Houses so that they will not collapse and then add displays adding the Carriage Houses to our list of vital structures, turn Pitcher's Mill into a "working" mill, completing the Archives Project so that we know what our collection contains, add a security system for our museum which will assist in stopping further water damage episodes and help prevent theft of our valuable collections. The tasks are almost overwhelming but if take them one step at a time and hope for no other catastrophes it can be done, all it takes are dedicated members and a supportive community. Help the NVHS by getting a friend to join!



Monthly Presentations from March through November: Another reason to belong to NVHS

Any ideas for programs? Contact Sue Lisk

nvhscurator@hotmail.com

IN MEMORY



Theron Doyle McKittrick

February 25, 2015

Over twenty five attended on NOVEMBER 17- EARLY TELEPHONES IN THE TOWN OF MAINE . **Bill Jaker** did a program pertaining to telephone service prior to 1952. Bill is the retired program director of WSKG and at one time was a country telephone operator. Many individuals shared early telephone memories.

Yesterday & Today

"Maine Congregational Church founded 1819, next to Maine Cemetery, new church built on Church St. and Main St., 1867 moved to current location. In 1930 it became the Federated Church when the Methodists joined them" * Sue Lisk



1841 The church was located at Church and Main St it was moved in 1867 to present site. Lewis Street opens in 1870's Paintings by Clarence Stratton 1969. Originals are in the Maine Federated Church fellowship hall.



2615 St. Rt. 26
Maine, NY 13802
Church Phone #: 607-862-3387
Parsonage Phone #: 607-862-3345
Fax #: 607-862-3345
Email: mainerev@juno.com

<http://www.federatedchurchofmaine.org>



Interested in the history of Broome County? Our Historical Library is on the museum's second floor: contact Sandy Rozek (president NVHS pictured) or Sue Lisk Curator

The historic photos of Maine traveling show can be found in the Endicott Public library during the month of March. It is hoped that others will be excited about our town when they view the exhibit.

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."

PRESIDENT'S PAGE for the 2015 first newsletter of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

Having celebrated the renewal of our building by dining on a sumptuous turkey dinner at Friends' Diner on Election Day, 2014, having installed our newest technology advance in the wireless alarm system currently alive and well at the museum, having decided that we've almost had enough winter, and having worked on planning for the current Historical Society year, we can look forward to a new season of excitement—awaking our creativity to reorganizing, reassembling, renaming and renewing our identity. Oh, indeed, we are the same organization, still eager to spread the news of the past, present and future history of our community, but... we've had a serious "cooling off" session to regroup and start afresh. We are in the process of arranging some fund-raisers which will challenge the skills of our members and planners, and our in-progress program and workshop outlining schemes promise to reach out to a varied and motivated audience.

With the spring thaw, tapping of the trees and warming sun, we can look forward to a year of adventures together. We have several new members, our Open Sundays brought visitors, in spite of our unfinished state, and we are on the brink of another Eagle Scout project to refurbish, identify and display our agricultural and industrial artifacts. Seeking out grants that will help us to maximize the potential of our renovated construction and amended décor, we are all eager to share with you the growth of an emerging educational and historical culture. The first item of educational business is to learn not to call our pending arts and crafts living room a parlor, as we have aged out of that Victorianism. We will eventually be cloaked in 1910 to 1915 simplicity and are anticipating the comfort and warmth of "new designs."

Please be forthcoming with ideas you may have regarding ways of attracting larger numbers of students for tours and activities, with suggestions for how to appeal to the celebratory nature of our community, and with volunteer "peoplepower" to help us grow in all age groups. Change is good, and after the better part of a year of watching our museum building recover from its vicious assault, join us in the process of affecting continuing positive change from inside out.

We have achieved the task of creating a slate of officers which will be up for election at our March meeting, and after a strategic game of tetris with our manpower, my presidential term will soon be coming to its conclusion. Thank you to all who have agreed to fill in the spaces on our game board and who promise to provide us with wonderful leadership for the new year.

Sandra J. Rozek, retiring president

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

March 2015 Issue

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ **(Work)** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues: _____ \$15.00 Single _____ \$20.00 Family _____ \$50.00 Patron _____ \$100.00 Business

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

Note: See Address label for your Dues Paid status. Please mail returns to:

Dues Please Circle Year(s) 2015 2016