Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2018 Newsletter # 1 March edited by Phil Childs











1850

1830

1840

1845

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Thanks to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for our Pitcher's Mill Historic Roadside Marker 2017

Officers 2018

President:	Philip M. Childs	862-3405
Vice President:	Anita Shipway	785-9207
Secretary:	Carla Sullivan	862-5385
Treasurer:	Sandy Halliday	862-3470
Museum Curator:	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator:	Tom Kotasek	862-3636

The Board of Trustees*

2018: Lucas Kaczynski, Rita McKeon, Clark Gardner2019: Gordie Gottlieb, Rachael Lawler, Cyrena Summers2020: Jeff Egan, Ruby McConnell, 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.



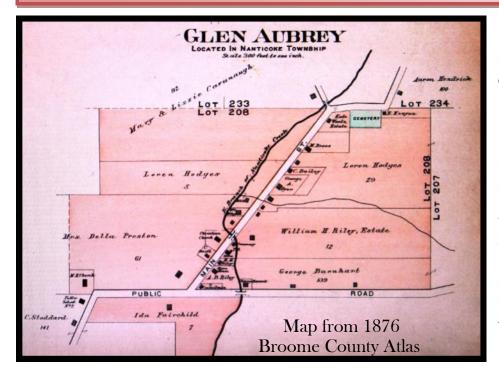
Meet Mary Delano Emerson Page 11





"The inscription says: Philip Councilman
Died Oct. 29, 1831, AE 74 years
"The Righteous have Hope in his Death 1831"
(AE Engravers method of determining age)
Glen Aubrey Cemetery, Broom county, NY
Other records say:
Philip Adam Councilman
Birth 23 Dec 1757, Buck, Luzerne, PA
D. 29 Oct 1831 Nanticoke, Broome, NY
wife Catherine Foster b. 1757, PA d. 15 Nov 1822 Nanticoke,
Broome, NY She is Buried right next to him, according to a book written by Eleanor Brown Swan in 1981 called the Story
of the Valleys, Town of Nanticoke. "

If you are interested in tracing family ties you should check a website that might allow you to do so. https://www.findagrave.com/_is a site that you can easily navigate and sometimes contains "gems" that will open you to great understandings of the individuals you are researching. I have included one such "gem" concerning the Councilman family of Glen Aubrey, NY the original family to locate here, in fact it was called Councilman Town before its current name. The site contains "AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE COUNCILMAN REUNION, GLEN AUBREY, SEPTEMBER 3RD 1894 BY E. W. COUNCILMAN" that contains more information than any history textbook might about the early settlers. The Glen Aubrey cemetery has 539 memorials the oldest one going back to 1813. The inter net is not necessarily a definitive location to gain your genealogical information but it is a starting point. Contact your town historian or the Broome County historian to start your journey!



"In 1793, Philip Councilman made the first settlement in Nanticoke. The hamlet later changed it name to Glen Aubrey after George W. Smith's wife. Smith owned the Octagon Inn and the tannery in the early 1800's. (see pg. 5). The Glen Aubrey post office was established in Broome County on July 10, 1855, with Smith serving as the first postmaster." <u>Images of America Maine and the Nanticoke Valley</u>, Susan H. Lisk, 2012.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE COUNCILMAN REUNION, GLEN AUBREY, SEPTEMBER 3RD 1894 BY E. W. COUNCILMAN

"A little over a century ago, Philip Councilman, the progenitor of our race, with his wife, whose name was Catherine Foster and six small children, Barbara, Catherine, John, Philip, Henry and Peter, left Tioga Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and came up the Susquehanna River to Glen Aubrey, then a part of the town of Union, Tioga County, New York, to find a home. The country was then almost a wilderness, inhabited by the bear, wolf, panther, elk, deer and the wild Indian. Their progress up the river was slow and tedious. Their only means of travel was the primitive Indian canoe, to be pushed up the river with a setting pole. This frail craft was leaden with the family of eight persons and with what household goods they could take along to begin life anew. Their substance consisted principally of the wild game of the forest brought down by a trusty rifle in the hands of the father, and the fish caught from the river, while the mother prepared the frugal meal by the camp fire, while watching over the six little ones. They were usually lulled to sleep by the howling of the wolf, screeching of the panther, hooting of the owl, interlude to vary the monotony, perhaps, by the bark of the fox.

After a slow and tedious journey, paddling against the current, they arrived at the Chenango Point, now called Binghamton, where then there was but one house far down on the point of land between the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. After a few days of rest and recuperation the father procured a yoke of oxen and a two wheeled cart into which was stowed all their earthly goods together with those members of the family who were not able to trudge on foot. You who have traveled by stage coach, rail, or perhaps by the Cunard Line to Europe, think of a two-wheeled cart being the only conveyance to carry a family of eight persons with their household goods from Binghamton to Glen Aubrey and over a road made only with an axe, through a dense forest over these hills!

Why, I can see the wheels of that cart, one going down into a hole and the other going over a knoll, one hub careening into a tree, and the cart shy across cod the other hub strike on a tree, and the other side, the tongue from the yoke against the rains and then back against the collared shoulders of those poor oxen with their tongues out. I can hear the mothers sing out "oh!" and see the children thrown from side to side and cry out with pain while being tumbled about in the cart. I can hear father crack his whip over those oxen's heads, saying, "whoa up, Buck and Broad!" to steady to cart over the rough road.

I don't wonder that dyspersia was an almost unknown desire in those days. If there is anything in the wide world that would stir up dyspersia it would be that mode of traveling. Arriving at Glen Aubrey with only the canopy of leaves and the inter-locking branches for a covering, would to us, their descendants, they had poor outlook for a home, but that for a sturdy pair of oxen, five descendants of the tentative race, endured the hardships of the early days, they knew not what it was to quit. A rude log house was soon thrown up, into which the family was soon settled. The wild game of the forest and the fish from the bubbling brook still furnished the principal supply of food. The trees and underbrush were soon cleared away and a patch large enough to plant some corn and potatoes and the garden truck was soon prepared. Soon to them the desert (wilderness) began to blossom as the rose.

Thus our grand parents laid the foundation of their future home, where we now celebrate. There were added to the family four more children; Betsey, David, Jacob and Samuel, making ten in all, all of which lived to rear families of their own, dieing at a ripe old age.

The boys grew up doing most of the farm work and clearing the land. The girls helped spin the yarn, make the cloth and clothes and knit the stockings, for everything had to be done by hand in those days.

In those early days, the sheep and cattle were allowed to get their living in the woods. The millennium not having arrived, it was not thought best to allow the wolf and the sheep to lie together, so some of the boys were dispatched early enough in the afternoon to bring them into the fold at night. The boys soon contracted the habit (boy-like) of loitering, sometimes not getting in till after dark. After the usual anxiety on the part of the mother, she conceived the idea of giving the boys a scare to teach them to be in before dark, as savage wild animals abounded in those days. So she went in the direction from which they were to come, and on hearing the bell she hid behind a tree. After they had passed, she commenced imitating the wolf. " continued page 4

"After listening (Philip and Henry) and on being convinced that the wolves were really after them, such a shooing and shouting is seldom seen or heard. Sometimes the boys were ahead of the sheep and sometimes they were on top of the sheep, and sometimes the sheep were on top of the boys. Thus it was boys and sheep and sheep and sheep and boys all mixed up together.

It had the desired effect. The boys could ever after get in on time and our grandmother was noted as a great knitter. She would be seen on the road knitting, making neighborhood calls. On one of these occasions a cross sheep buck took it into his head that it was not quite the proper thing for and old lady to be knitting along the road, so he put his theory in to practice and went for the old lady. But, she was too sharp for him: Stepping to one side as he made his plunge, she took him were old Grimes took the spotted steer, by the horns. She led him even into the brook, where she got a stone with which she pummeled his nose 'till it looked like the drunken woodpecker that smashed his face against a tree 'till 'twas all agore of blood. Mr. Bucky, in his sheep talk (sheep talk sometimes, you know) said "Just knit or sew along the road as much as you please, but stop that.

Frequently the old hunter, on his hunting excursions, would sleep under the root of an upturned tree or log. On one of these occasions, a huge bear undertook to dispense of the old man at an unreasonable hour in the morning. Mr. Bear mounted the log, growling and thumping and advancing on the enemy's woods in the bear-ship style, but when thought too near for comfort or safety, the old hunter brought his flint lock at the crook of which Mr. Bruin tumbled off the log and summarily died without discussion."

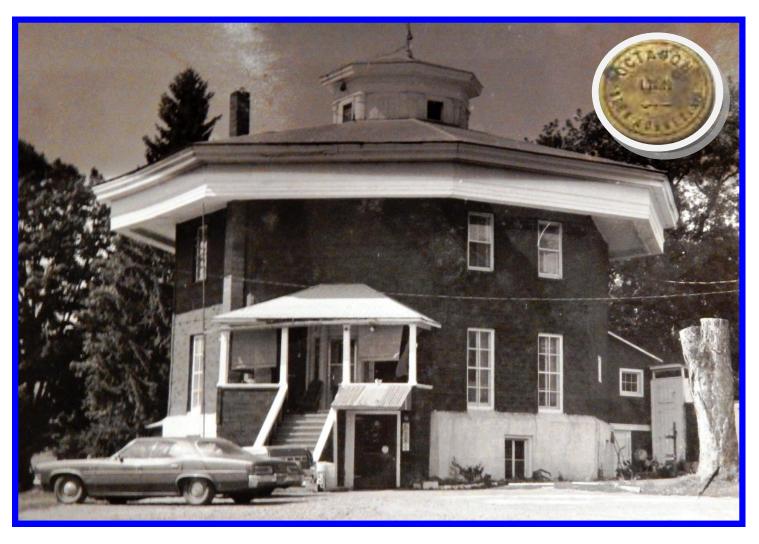
Tradition says our ancestors were from Germany, and of the Lutheran persuasion. They were as a race, a deeply pious people, believing strictly in the doctrine as taught by Martin Luther. It might be mentioned in this connection that the doctrine taught by Luther were those of the mother church, from which he seceded. His protest was against the temporal rule and methods of the Pope, but not against the dogmas and doctrines of the Roman Church. To go back to the introduction of the Councilman's into their country, tradition states that the first progenitor was Christopher, a cultured German Gentleman, who landed at Baltimore some 150 years ago, at least. From him has sprung a numerous race which now inhabit Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, and California.

Although it might be said, without disparagement, our bunch has never arrived, as yet, to any great degree of eminence in literacy attainment, political preferment, or in the accumulation of wealth. But this can be truthfully said: They are a kind-hearted, sympathetic, temperate, law abiding people. Kindness in preference to genius - one drop of human sympathy is better than an ounce of wealth, one grain of true patriotism to all the political trickery of the nineteenth century. So let our lives be one of usefulness, integrity and honesty. Let our aim be to discharge every duty that presents itself. To all our fellow men as far as circumstances will allow, and to do injury to none. Let our lives be one of good motives and good deeds. Ever let our conduct be squared by the highest principles of right, of justice and of truth. These are the greatest good.

Article in Tioga County, New York Herald No Date, Reunion Occurred 1899
COUNCILMAN REUNION

The Councilman reunion and family picnic assembled at the casino grounds in Union, New York, in numbers around eighty, Saturday, September, 2nd. A very jolly, enjoyable affair it was. Their distinguished lady friend and distant relative, Mrs A M Cockey, from near Baltimore, Maryland, was with us, a true type of the Southern lady, and elegant conversationalist, but with all the Southern prejudices brought about by the late rebellion. It was really enjoyable to hear with what zest she would characterize Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe and "her batch of lies", from her stand point, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and the part William Lloyd Garrison took in bringing on the war between the North and the South.

The death of our President having occurred last May, it was necessary to elect some one to fill his place. Jicah F Councilman was elected to take the place of his father, Timothy S; Sylvester Councilman was elected Vice-President; Lorenzo Bush, treasurer. The next meeting was voted to take place the first Saturday in September, 1900, on Frank Davis' lawn, Newark Valley.."



Octagon Inn Glen Aubrey, NY

"Glen Aubrey History according to 1996 article.*

"The home was built between 1835 and 1850 by tanner George W Smith. The huge porch and pillars stood until 1938. They were costly to repair and Route 26 was also enlarged at that time. The porch measured 132 feet around. He used the grout wall construction on his 3-story house including an above-ground basement. Oftimes Smith would occupy the cupola to keep watch on his workers below. It was said his rooms were decorated with silk wall hangings. He died at 44 yrs. in 1859. The Widow Smith then sold the uncompleted house to Lorenzo & Josephine Tanner for \$10,000. The third floor was partitioned to have 8 rooms. The Tanners hired paper hangers from NY city for the parlors which were on the 2nd floor. They had floor to ceiling windows and rolled into the walls. The 2 doors between the 2 large parlors also rolled back. (Pocket doors??) The home had 3 inside staircases and 2 outside. Tanner also ran a grocery store on the property to provide supplies for his workers.

Tanner (as was customary at the time) paid another man to serve his place in the Civil War. When that man was killed, Tanner provided for his wife and family. 50 yrs. later, his daughter Ida May Tanner sold the home. A later owner (circa 1930) Arthur Ames remove several of the porch columns. The basement was converted to a tavern in 1930s. In 1963 it was operated by a man named James Greene. In 1996, the house had become a tavern and Inn when it burned to the ground." *http://www.octagon.bobanna.com/NY A M.html



MISSING

The late Warren McGregor was a brilliant photographer. Rita McKeon, his shared this photo taken by niece. Warren, which he entitled "Buggy Days" Rita had mentioned that she remembers many of Warrens photographs but does not know where they wound up! If you are aware of any more of Warren's great photos could you contact Phil Childs achild233@aol.com 862 3405 or Rita McKeon, as we hope to have a display of his works at the museum. Also who is the gentleman driving the buggy?

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine is planning an event on a Saturday in the Summer 2018 from 10 AM – 5 PM. Final date will be decided in late March . The event will feature Art, Music and History throughout the hamlet and the Historic Sites in the Town of Maine. The goal is to feature the artwork of Clarence Stratton and many other Town of Maine and regionally based artists. We also hope to borrow a page from the growing number of "Porch fests" throughout the country and have musicians and artists at locations throughout the hamlet. Events geared for children will be part of this day too. . This day will also feature a "Plein Air event" where painters are in the hamlet painting images of the hamlet or historic sites. The Maine Community Band will host a concert at 4 PM. We hope to make this an annual family event and fill the town with art, crafts and music.

If you have additional questions or you would like to display your art, play your music, volunteer, or add your porch, barn or lawn as a potential site, please email us at:

Achild233@aol.com or phone 607 862- 3405 (Phil Childs)

Thank you!

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Stratton Days Committee Gordie Gottlieb Chair

COMING SOON:

AN ORIGINAL CHILDRENS BOOK , AUTHORED BY NANCY BERRY AND EDIT-ED BY SANDY ROZEK AND GORDIE GOTTLIEB

LEARN ABOUT "OUR" PAGODA AND HOW THE MAINE TOWN SEAL WAS DE-VELOPED. THE BOOK IS GEARED TOWARDS CHILDREN AND CONTAINS HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORY PHOTOGRAPHS

IT WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY SUMMER.



Original 1886 Voter's Tally Located in Norton Wagon Works

John E. Davis

Charles Twining

Martin Snavely

Gerald D. Tull

Ralph Howard Jr.

Supervisor List ** 1848—1995	Original 1886 Voter's Tally Located in Norton Wagon Works		
Supervisor List ** 1848—1995 1848	For Supervisor, HENRY MAREAN. For Town Clerk, JOE A. BROOKS. For Justice of the Peace, AARON DELANO. For Assessor, ENOS NORTON. For Commissioner of Highways, THEODORE T. LAWTON. For Overseer of the Poor, WILLIAM F. BEAN. For Collector, WELLINGTON D. HOGG. For Constables, JOHN J. AFWATER. AUSTIN S. GREGORY. ELIAS CHRYSLER, WELLINGTON D. HOGG. THOMAS L. DUNHAM. For Game Constable, ABEL CURTIS. For Inspectors of Election, District No. 1, ALBERT WHITTEMORE, CHARLES D. BENTON. For Inspectors of Election, District No. 2. WHITMAN INGERSON, JACOB J. BRONK. For Town House, EPHRAIM KETCHUM'S,		
1932 Henry S. Ingalls 1949 Joseph M. Daughtery 1958 Charles Twining	1985 Nancy W. Berry		
1956 Charles Twirling 1961 John F. Davis	1986 Marguerite H. Kielgaard		

1985	Nancy W. Berry
	Marguerite H. Kjelgaard
1991	Theodore T. Woodward Jr.
1995	Paul Olsen
Copied fr	om pg. 148 Ann Lewis <u>THEN & NOW A Pictorial Histo-</u>
ry of the	Town of Maine, New York 1998
	Copied fr



The 1910 post card above shows McGregor Avenue looking very similar to a view from today. The location of today's firehouse was a creamery and a Ginseng "farm" owned by William E. Dyer was found at the north end of the near Maine Street. "Using the private road originally laid out in 1816, this road was officially surveyed and designated a public highway in April of 1817. Named after the James McGregor family who settled in Maine in 1851. "SW 14 (1870), 20 (1880) and 24 (1875) on the north side of the street were built by James Benjamin McGregor 1843—1923.

IN MEMORIAM



- Robert A. Dorio, February 10, 2018
- Charlotte M. Gage, October 15, 2017.
- Richard A. Hoskins Sr., December 5, 2017
 - Robert Juser, October 4, 2017
- Dimitrios "Jimmy" Mpintos, October 13, 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Events may be subject to change. If schools are cancelled due to weather events we will be closed and rescheduled.

SUGGESTION: As you do your "spring cleaning" set aside items to donate to NVHS for their annual Memorial Day Sale at the school house.

PROGRAM: March Meeting 19 Meet Rochelle Levine of Ruby & Sons Jewelry. She will discuss all the questions you may have about your jewelry. This is <u>not</u> an appraisal session, learn some tricks of the trade.

FYI a grant from Broome County Arts Council will aid in our gallery exhibit of the J. Ralph Ingalls Paintings. (see pg. 10)

BROOME COUNTY A'RTS COUNCIL

CARPOOL FIELD TRIP: Local Field Trip to Roberson Museum New Nature Trek Exhibit (\$ cost involved.) details to follow.

Picnic and dedication of the mill sign April Meeting 16th will be a Picnic at the museum starting at 6 PM At 5 PM NVHS will hold a dedication ceremony for the Mill Plaque. This dedication will be held at the mill at 5 PM and include special guests.

FUNDRAISER: <u>Breakfast at Tiffany's</u>, a truly Gala Affair, at the <u>Maine</u> Event. Sunday April 22 starting at 1 PM, for reservations please call 607 759-0811

May Newsletter get it by email...It's colorful!

PROGRAM May Meeting 21st Monday Not sure yet as to the topic.

FUNDRAISER PLUS: May **Monday May 28** Memorial Day Parade and Smokey Legends BBQ Plus tours of all buildings



PATH THROUGH HISTORY: Weekend Event: June 16 & 17 Path Through History Weekend Brand new exhibit and J. Ralph Ingalls paintings in the Gallery!

PLEASE NOTE: Mondays meeting scheduled for Monday June 18 will not held. Please attend our June 16 and 17 Programs

July through September **Sunday tours at museums.** SUMMER HOURS for TOURS Museum, Mill and School House Sundays 1-4 PM July 8 to late September

Coming this Summer **The Great Maine Day** (Saturday) whole town events 10—5 art and music, children's activities, walking tours, sales, etc. It will be greater than its name! Actual date will be determined later.

The rest of the years calendar will be published in the May Newsletter.

If your went to J. Ralph Ingalls school do you remember the art work in the halls?



Six of the original paintings will be displayed in the Gallery at Museum 13 Nanticoke Road. Many need restoration due to "old age" and years of neglect. The Broome County Arts Council is assisting with a grant to start this project.

Fact: This was not a portrait of General Lafayette.

"Captain George K. H. Coussmaker (1759-1801)

Artist: Sir Joshua Reynolds (British, Plympton 1723–

1792 London) **Date:** 1782

Reynolds gave close attention to his portrait of George Kein Hayward Coussmaker, a lieutenant and captain in the first regiment of Foot Guards. No fewer than twenty-one appointments—and at least two more for the sitter's horse—are recorded between February 9 and April 16, 1782. The composition is complex and the whole vigorously painted. "

Oil Paintings

The oil paintings are copies, made especially for this school directly from originals hanging in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the New York Historical Society. The work was done by artists of the Federal Art Project in New York City. Two of the paintings are still in preparation, while five of them

have been received. All exemplify the work of famous artists. A certain amount of expense, incurred in their preparation and framing, had to be reimbursed before our school could receive these works of art, and this was secured by contributions. The following benefactors who generously covered these expenses and sponsored the various paintings are listed as follows, with title of painting:

TITLE ARTIST SPONSOR

Entrance Foyer, Maine

George Washington
Benjamin Franklin
Alexander Hamilton
Thomas Jefferson
Gilbert Stuart
Joseph S. Duplessis
John Trumbull
Rembrandt Peale

Maine Lodge 399, F. & A. M. Mr. Raymond Stahl Mr. Herbert H. Ray Mr. Vincent J. Smith

Entrance Hall, Maine Col. George Coussmaker Sir Joshua Reynolds

Messrs. Conrad & Cummings

Library, Maine Lady With A Pink

Rembrandt Van Ryn Mr. Clement G. Bowers

Assembly Room, Union Center Hendrickje Stoffels Rembrandt

Rembrandt Van Ryn Popular Subscription

Opening Ceremony Program for Maine Central Schools May 24, 1940

Sue Lisk from the Archives

March is Women's History Month. Our archives are full of stories of remarkable women who once lived in the Nanticoke Valley and I would like to share with you my favorite.

Mary Delano Emerson kept a diary most of her life. Ten years ago one of these diaries made it back to Binghamton through an Ebay auction. This particular one covers a period of Mary's life 1897-1900. She lived at the Delano Corners which was the corner of Route 26 and East Maine Road. Eleanor Fenton once told me she and her husband bought that house after the Emerson's died. After her father, Marshall Delano died in 1888, Mary lived with and took care of her mother, Lucy until she died in 1897. In 1900, at the age of 37 she married her longtime friend and neighbor, Lot Emerson. This diary covers some of this period.

Mary Delano Emerson was quite an unusual woman for her time. As a business woman she sold policies for the Home Insurance Company. She also sold Bibles and bread makers to her friends and neighbors. She also occasionally worked in her brother, Henry Delano's store, which we all know as Mary Crocket's store.

After her father passed away Mary managed the family farm. In 1898 Mary became one of the first women in the area that owned a bicycle, which she called "the Wheel." On it she made many of her insurance calls all over the area, up and down hills as far away as West Chenango and Castle Creek, all without brakes!

Mary was an accomplished organist at the Congregational Church which is the Federated Church today and also gave lessons.

Because this was before most people had telephones, most communications were handled through the mail or in person. At that time croquet and crokinole was all the rage as well as choir school and Church events.

I would like to share some of the entries from Mary's diary to give you a sample of all she accomplished.

March 31, 1897- "Got up at 5:30 hurried around with the morning work and drove up to Mr. Eli Bronk's for Mother to see him about the pasture. He is to have it this year for \$14. Then we drove to Mr. Travis' and got two jars of butter and took them to George Davis for him to take to Union to sell. Mr. Travis had talked to him about it and we took them down to accommodate Mr. Travis as he wanted to be working. We called at Henry's a few minutes. When we got home I hitched to the platform wagon and went to the Mill and got 200 lbs. of bran (\$1.90)."

April 22, 1898- "Auntie has been planning to go to Binghamton today to stay a week or so. I found a letter from Mr. Hitchcock wishing me to come to Binghamton this week if possible. I came up home with Mert Saddlemire, started up the coal fire and fixed it to leave again, got things I needed, went on Wheel to Henry's. I had lunch there, started from Auntie's on wheel when she started on the mail stage. I got to Union a little before she did. Waited with her till the car came and saw her aboard the car. - rested a little longer then went on Wheel to Hooper. Stopped at Mrs. Leonard's and visited with her about an hour. Got to Mrs. Brown's about 4:00. Did not find her, so left my grip at Mr. Bowers' and went to see Mr. Hitchcock. Called at Watson Curtis' coming back to Mrs. Brown's where I am going to stay all night (Binghamton). Am quite tired from my long ride."

These entries are only a small sample of Mary's life long ago in Maine and the Nanticoke Valley.

Sue Lisk from the Archives

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Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

Date

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

March 2018 Issue #1