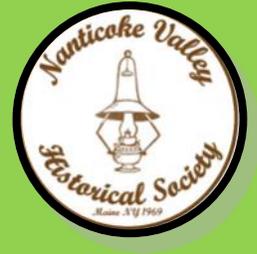


Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

Newsletter #1 March 1, 2021

edited by Phil Childs

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com



Ca. 1850

13 Nanticoke Rd

Bowers Museum



Ca. 1830

2819 NY State Route 26

Pitcher's Grist Mills



Ca. 1840

38 Nanticoke Rd

Norton Carriage Works



Ca. 1845

14 Nanticoke Road

1845 School House

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Our 52nd Year

Officers 2021

President:	Gordon Gottlieb	232-0702
Vice President:	Joanne Weir	239-1020
Secretary:	Carla Sullivan	862-5385
Treasurer:	Judy Kunz	862-3410
Fundraising/Special Events:	Jeff Egan	862-5033
Media & Content Director:	Phil Childs	862-3405
Museum Curator:	Sue Lisk	862-9705
Mill Curator:	Tom Kotasek	862-3081
Town of Maine Historian:	Susan H. Lisk	

The Board of Trustees*

Emeritus:	Jeff Egan, Ruby McConnell, Betty Welch
2021:	Nancy Berry, Sandy Rozek, Anita Shipway
2022:	Linda Hansen, Bob Lawler, Rita McKeon
2023:	Kerin Flannery, Lynn Ross, Brenda Stolarcyk

* 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.



Bloodroot Sanguinaria Canadensis An early spring plant 4.6.2020 Bailey Hollow Road

Presidents Page

Hello Members!

The past year has certainly been difficult, but there is reason to be optimistic about the coming months. Let us hope the COVID vaccine rollouts go smoothly and quickly so that we can gather responsibly, open our sites, and sponsor events. We will continue to monitor the guidance of health professionals and will open in a manner that is safe and appropriate. In the meantime, we are beginning work on programs that can be delivered virtually starting in April via Zoom or Facebook Live. Please keep an eye out for the announcements!

Our new board is in place and I am excited to introduce; Kerin Flannery, Linda Hanson, Lynn Ross and Brenda Stolarcyk as our new Trustees. I would also like to thank Betty Welch, Ruby McConnell, and Jeff Egan for serving out their terms. In addition, to better serve the society and needs of the community, we have created two new positions. Jeff Egan will act as a Finance and Special Events Officer and Phil Childs will serve as Media and Content Director. I am excited about the new structure and the continued support of the Trustees and Officers whose terms have expired.

In the next month or so, we will be sending a note asking for members to respond to a survey. We would like to get your opinion on programs, educational opportunities, or exhibits that you would like to see offered. We have many ideas, but your ideas and interests are important to us. We want to make sure that we are engaging you and providing programs that you value. We will also survey residents of the entire town at a later date.

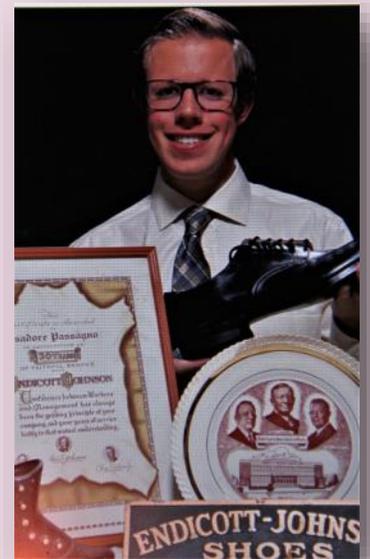
If you have not mailed in your 2021 membership yet, we have redesigned our website and added a convenient way to renew it! Just go to our website at: www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com and click "Join" or go to the "Become a Member" page. You will be taken to links for Individual or Family Memberships that allow you to use your credit card or PayPal to pay and join. There is also a link to download a membership form that you can print, fill-in, and mail along with your payment. If none of those options work for you, you can also use the form and instructions in this newsletter.

We love the past, but here's to a better future in the coming days!
Thank you,
Gordie



**April Monday 19th 7 PM, Meet the Author Luke Kaczynski
Virtual Live Event via Zoom or Facebook Live**

Luke will be presenting his brand new book about George F. Johnson entitled E-J's Town—The Endicott Johnson Story; How hard work, faith, and kindness built a Community. Luke wrote the book plus created all the original illustrations. This is the first public presentation of this work and NVHS is especially proud to be a small part in the introduction of this great book.

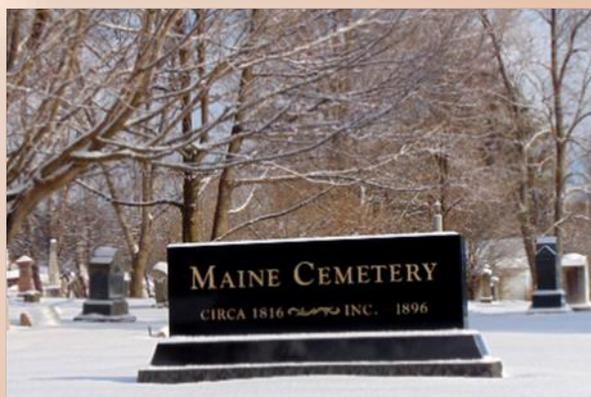


CURATOR'S CORNER

There is **HISTORY IN THE HEADSTONES** in the Maine Cemetery which is why we are going back there this summer for a more realistic trip to bring that history to life. You can be one of our costumed actors that will help tell the stories of the lives of our former residents in "Maine village."

Our tour guides will travel through time to give our guests a chance to hear Dr. Dwight Dudley tell about his interesting life. Lyla Ketchum will tell her tragic story along with several other people included in our tour but we need your help to tell their tales. There are many talented people in our town and our organization that can dress up and perhaps tell a ten minute interesting condensed biography of our former residents.

Due to COVID-19 the cemetery tour is still in the planning stages to take place in August. Whether or not it is a live event, and open to the public, HISTORY IN THE HEADSTONES will be recorded to play on our website. If you would like to be part of the "cast", help with wardrobe, lending appropriate costumes or help in any other way, please let me know at nvhscurator@hotmail.com or 862-9705. Thank you!~ Sue Lisk



NVHS Upcoming Events 2021

It'll likely come as no surprise that our 2021 Calendar of Events is a work in progress. The parameters and recommendations surrounding the pandemic will undoubtedly be changing over the next several months and we will do all we can to bring exciting and educational programs to you in the safest way possible. As soon as we can offer safe, in-person events we will be resuming our monthly coffeehouse program. In the meantime, the links to join all virtual events will be provided on our website and Facebook page

For up-to-the-minute news and changes, please visit our website at:

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com or find us on Facebook (be sure to "like" our page!)

Monday, April 19, 7:00 PM - Join us for a virtual book reading as local historian and storyteller Lucas Kaczynski shares his latest book, E-J's Town: The Endicott-Johnson Story.

Monday, May 17, 7:00 PM - Phil Childs will be taking us back in time as we take a virtual field trip on a Journey Up Route 26 along the Nanticoke Creek to the Town of Maine.

Monday, June 21, 7:00 PM - The history of Nanticoke's Own Baldwin Family will be presented by Charles Baldwin, Carla Sullivan along with a history of Nanticoke, NY

Summer Sneak Preview...

Fingers crossed that we can continue the tradition of our Annual Picnic in July - please stay tuned for updates! •

Sometime in 2021 Phil Childs, will be hosting a program about one of the early families to reach Maine, as he reveals facts about "the Ordinary Extraordinary Bowers Family".

August's program will delight you with a visit to the Maine Cemetery as we explore the History in the Headstones. We are currently looking for actors to take on the roles of deceased village residents as they narrate stories of their lives. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Sue Lisk (nvhscurator@hotmail.com or 862-9705).

Please pencil in **Saturday, September 11** for the return of **MaineFest**, our full-day celebration of art and music in the Town of Maine.



1845 One-room School House

Education

“New York has one of the highest rates of per-pupil expenditures for public education among the states. The public school system, with compulsory schooling between the ages of 6 and 16 or 17, had its beginnings in the colonial period. Schools were established by churches with government support as early as 1638 in New Amsterdam. It was not until 1791, however, that the state’s first public school was established. Some state support was granted in 1795 to elementary schools, and in 1812 a permanent system of public schools was established. Parent-paid fees provided part of the support until all elementary schools became free in 1867. During the 1850s a few cities established public secondary schools, which subsequently spread across the state during the second half of the century.”
<https://www.britannica.com/place/New-York-state/Education>

Reflections: Schools from Anita Shipway

“Most comments indicate a lack of understanding of what individuals expected of an 8th grade education. The main stated purpose of early 1-8 schools everywhere, was to prepare a person to be a competent citizen. People did not “drop out” after 8th grade, that was the end of a free public education. If your parents wanted you to have a higher level of education they would pay for you to go to a "High School" a Latin School an Academy or some such. That might be a day school or a residential school, or a day school which a kid roomed and boarded somewhere else, to be able to attend. It was not until the 1940's (I forget just when) that the local school was mandated to offer the 4 years following the standard 8. How that happened was that the taxes of the local school had to pay the tuition for their post 8th grade students, for where their parents wanted to send them. Soon after that the rule was that the local school board had to expand or merge or somehow to provide a High school site, from then on.

When in school, my mother was living in Canajoharie, NY and went to school there from K through 12 (I think, I should look up the K part). My father roomed in town during the week. His father drove him to town (horse?) for the week and came to get him for the weekend. When his younger brother got old enough to go to High school, their father bought a car so they could commute every day. It was an economic decision. It cost less to keep a car than it did to board two boys. Also they couldn't run the farm with no children at all to help at home. Sociologically it had quite a different effect on the different brothers.

There was no Kindergarten in any of the one room schools, and the law did not require children to attend until their 7th birthday. I can remember certain children who had some good reason, to start the day after their birthday, even in the middle of the year. Everyone could start at 6, and most did. There was not an established day that all the students started for the year, so another kid could start the day after his 6th birthday. The teacher was already teaching 8 grade levels of work, so a little more variation didn't scare her much.”

The following two pages contain the final exam for graduation from 8th grade in 1895, it comes from Salina, Kansas.

Are You Smarter Than an 8th Grader????

What it took to get an 8th grade education in 1895...

“Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an 8th grade education? Well, check this out. Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895? This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina , Kansas , USA . It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina , and reprinted by the Salina Journal.”

“ Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph
4. What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of 'lie, 'play,' and 'run.'
5. Define case; illustrate each case.
- 6 What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
- 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time, 1 hour 15 minutes)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. Deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. Wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3,942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1,050 lbs. For tare?
4. District No 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6,720 lbs. Coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. Long at \$20 per metre?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus .
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

Orthography (Time, one hour)

1. What is meant by the following: alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication.
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals.
4. Give four substitutes for caret.
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis-mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

Geography (Time, one hour)

- 1 What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Notice that the exam took FIVE HOURS to complete. Gives the saying 'he only had an 8th grade education' in a whole new meaning, doesn't it? No wonder they dropped out after 8th grade. They already knew more than they needed to know! "

Thanks to Anita Shipway for bringing this information to NVHS.

IN MEMORIAM



Dorothy "Dotty" Walker Winans January 21, 2021



The map to the left is from the 1866 Plat Book of Broome County. Note the three churches in town; two on Church St. (Maine Baptist Church and Maine Congregational Church) and one on Main St. (Methodist-Episcopal Church) and no Lewis nor McGregor Streets. "In 1848, the population of Maine, NY was approximately 1,800 persons. In 1880, there were 2,129 persons. The population then declined; in 1915 when there were only 1,339 persons. The population then began to increase and by 1970 there were 5,842." Shirley Woodward, town historian 1973

They Once Reached to Heaven.

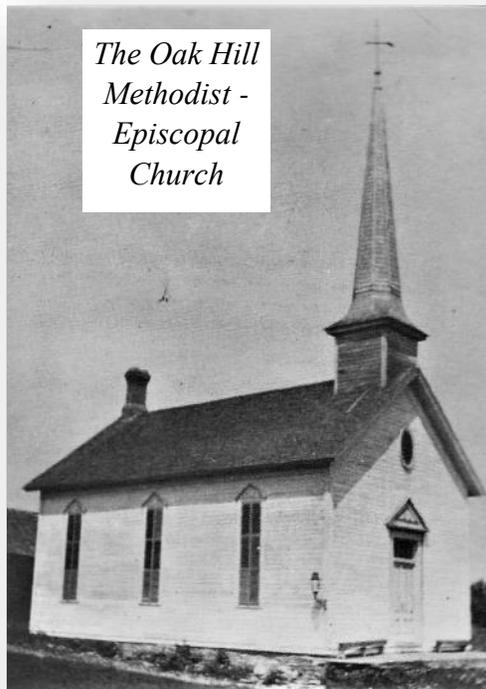
This past month while I was driving behind the airport on Commercial Drive , I noticed a for sale sign at 433 Upper Stella Ireland in front of the *Abbott West Chenango United Methodist Church*. It was dedicated January 7, 1869 and Rev. William Penn Abbott was the preacher. Abbott Methodist—Episcopal Church has been part of that community for over 150 year. I do not have many details of the sale but I reflected on how many other churches had once been part of the Maine community. This article will briefly touch on this topic. Many of these churches are no longer standing. Most of the information comes from two books: Shirley Woodward, *A Short History of Maine NY* 1973 and Ann Page Lewis, *Then & Now A Pictorial History of the Town of Maine, New York* , 1998.



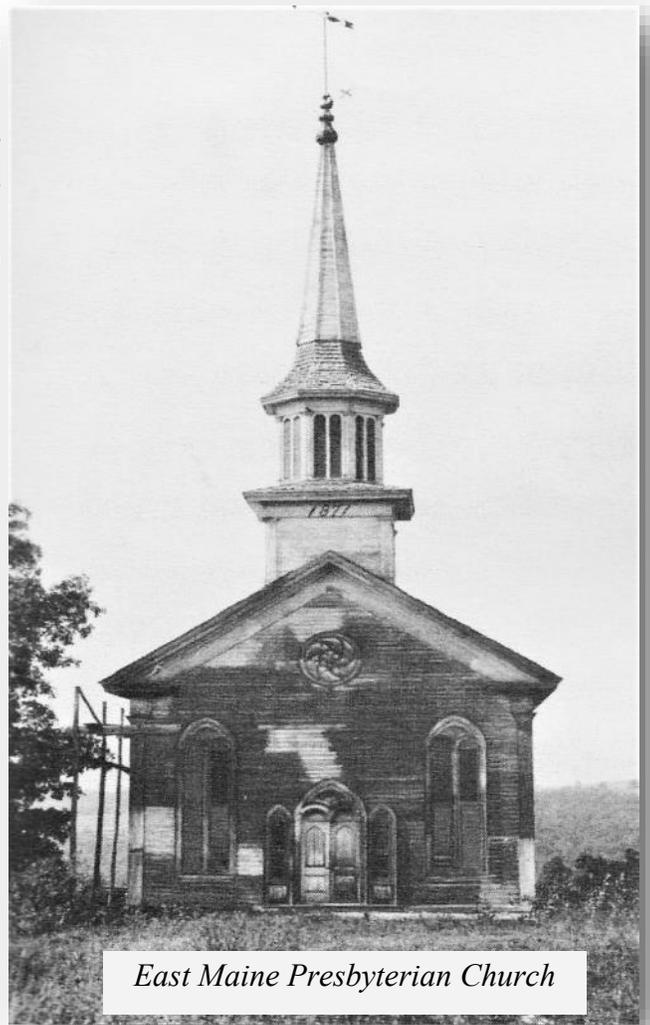
Abbott West Chenango United Methodist Church.

The *East Maine Presbyterian Church* organized July 5, 1871 located near the corner of East Maine Road and Farm-to Market Rd. The Rev. A. R. Clark of Owego dedicated the church June 12, 1872, It could hold 200 members and included a balcony. The church was being painted in the photo to the right. In September 1938 the church burned and it was never rebuild.

The *Oak Hill Methodist - Episcopal Church* was dedicated December 13, 1876 and was located at Harrington Road and Farm-to-Market Road, next to the church was a cemetery, which is still there, 49 graves are at this location. The church and land were sold in 1903.

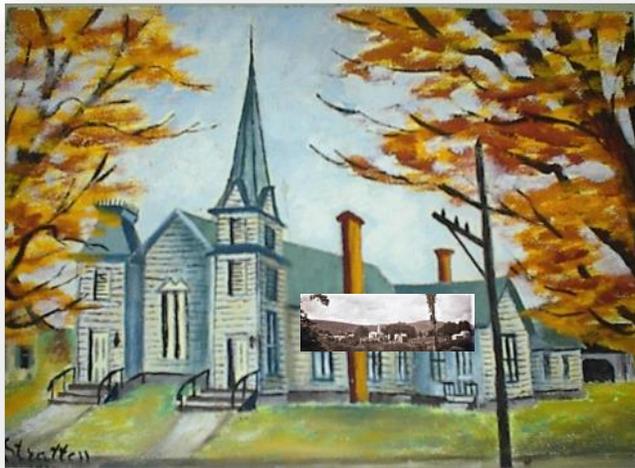


The Oak Hill Methodist - Episcopal Church



East Maine Presbyterian Church

“Methodist – Episcopal Church Maine NY,” The Methodist church was dedicated October 17, 1850 by Rev. J.M. Snyder and burned down 5.9.1928 and never rebuilt. The church combined with the Federated church and the lot, now 2559 Main St, where it stood, now contains a house. The parsonage 2579 Main St still stands and is a residence. The same year the original Pagoda in the center of Main St. also burned down. The view above is an oil painting by Clarence Stratton



Postcard early 1900's



Photograph taken by Franck Bowers around 1900 showing a country church



Our Churches
 There's the Girl Scout Church
 And the Boy Scout Church
 And the Church of the Fried Fish Dinners,
 But every one, it is plain to see,
 Has lots of Christians in her.
 By Anita Shipway

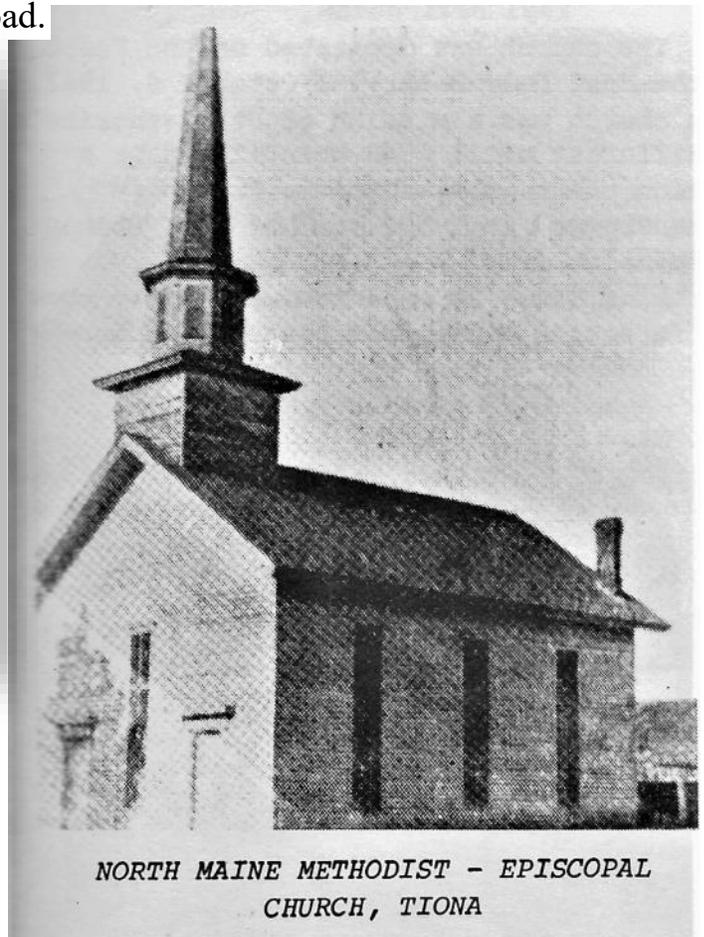
The Methodist Episcopal Church 25 Church St., in West Nanticoke was organized in 1851. The following year the new congregation erected and dedicated the meeting house which stood for 113 years before it was destroyed by fire in 1965.



The former town of North Maine (also called McIntyre settlement, Tiona and Ketchumville), has had at least two churches. The painting above by Clarence Stratton shows Ketchumville from between 1855 and 1865. This community is actually in Tioga County about 4 miles west on Tiona road. . ***The North Maine Methodist—Episcopal Church*** began around 1835 and its first pastor was Ithamer Ketchum. (1792—1857) Shown below with his wife Azubah Doud Ketchum. (1790—1862) married 1814. They are buried in the Ketchumville cemetery 1 mile east on Tiona Road.



Rev. Ithamer Ketchum with wife Aubah Doud Ketchum





November 2, 1841 headed by Rev. Nathaniel Pine saw the dedication of ***The Independent Congregational Church of Union Center***. Then in 1960 *Union Center Christian Church* headed by the Reverend Robert Buza. The building was sold yet still stands. This church is now Fine Design Art Studio. The congregation bought a nearby old school and moved there.

Next to it is the ***Nanticoke Valley Cemetery***, formerly known as the Union Center Cemetery, which has been serving the community since 1810. It is managed by the Officers and Trustees of the Nanticoke Valley Cemetery Association - a public, 501(c)13 non-profit, non denominational cemetery corporation incorporated in 1908. It contains over 1200 graves. Including Medad Bradley 1772—1850 and his wife Rhoda (1772—1853) the first settlers in Union Center that came from Berkshire County, Mass in 1791. The “town” was named Bradley’s Settlement. From 1800 to 1860 the town was known as Centerville and then Union Center. 12 other Bradley family members from the 1800’s are buried in Nanticoke Valley Cemetery



What other churches did I miss? Let me know.

Phil

SNEAKED?
INDEED I DISAGREE

by Anita Shipway

A person who would conjugate
might say sneaked
but a person who would be sneaking,
I'm sure would have said snuck.

Thursday, November 7th, 1918

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF KELOWNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prevent the spread of Spanish Influenza, all Schools, public and private, Churches, Theatres, Moving Picture Halls, Pool Rooms and other places of amusement, and Lodge meetings, are to be closed until further notice.

All public gatherings consisting of ten or more are prohibited.

D. W. SUTHERLAND,
Mayor.

Kelowna, B.C.,
19th October, 1918.

TREES REMEMBER US

Living, thriving trees remember all –
seen from lower windows by tiny children
knowing the promise of outdoors ...
gazed upon from upstairs panes
by grown-ups nurturing those children.

Feathered branches reaching
for the sky
carrying our memories
ever upward
toward unwritten time to come.

New plantings softly greening,
impatiently hoping to become mature
guardians of the future –
breathing thanks to those
who walked these halls and grasses.

Cheering from afar
as we reawaken their morning.

Read at tree planting at J. Ralph Ingalls school
Sandy Rozek

Words - Anita Shipway



"I see by this week's Agway ad that they have for sale a **"coal hod"**. The picture shows a lopsided metal pail for carrying and pouring stove coal. Though I am completely familiar with such a piece of apparatus, I have never heard it called anything but a Coal Scuttle.

I am also familiar with a "hod" as well as a "hod carrier." The later is a guy who runs up a ladder, free hand, with a V- shaped trough, fastened to a long descending pole for balance, laid on his shoulder. In it is stacked bricks, for the mason above. The wooden thing the bricks are in is the "hod" in this case. "

"hod (plural **hods**):

A three-sided box for carrying bricks or other construction materials, often mortar. It bears a long handle and is carried over the shoulder.

A receptacle for carrying coal, particularly one designed to facilitate loading coal or coke through the door of a firebox.

A pewterer's blowpipe.

(horse_racing) A bookmaker's bag. "



<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/hod>

Just in !!!! We just heard that we will be receiving a grant from Broome County Arts Council for: **Poetry, Prose and Images of Maine NY - Old and New** . We will be collecting both historical and recent poetry, prose and images from 4th and 5 th graders, adults from the Nanticoke Valley. More to come in the next newsletter.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Dues: _____ \$20.00 Individual _____ \$35.00 Family _____ \$20 Senior/Student _____ \$50 Patron _____ \$100 Business _____ Other _____

Newsletter: Mailed or Electronic

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Name: _____ Date _____