

# Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

Fifty-One  
Years

Newsletter # 2 May 1, 2020

edited by Phil Childs

[www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)



1850



1830



1840



1845



## Memorial Day/ Decoration Day

“Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday, commemorating those who have died in military service to their country. It is observed annually on the last Monday of May.

Memorial Day was originally known as *Decoration Day* - an occasion to decorate the graves of the war dead - and was created in the aftermath of the American Civil War.”

<https://www.calendarpedia.com/when-is/memorial-day.html>



<http://historicalsocietyspfnj.org/events/memorial-day-and-its-origins-in-the-civil-war/>

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**Officers 2020**

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Past 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	862-3081

**The Board of Trustees\***

**Emeritus:** Gordie Gottlieb, Rachael Lawler, Cyrena Summers

**2020:** Jeff Egan, Ruby McConnell, Betty Welch

**2021:** Judy Kunz, Sandy Rozek, Nancy Berry

**2022:** Bob Lawler, Rita McKeon, Joanne Weir

\* 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.



**Good bye to  
the Kopiak  
Barn**



**Medallions at Gravestones in Maine Cemetery**

## Presidents Page

Hello Trustees and Members,

This has been an odd time for our organization as we have had to cancel many events and plans. We also go forward with some uncertainty about the near future. We will proceed cautiously once the social quarantines are lifted and after we receive additional guidance from the medical community.

I guess one inherent feature of people that have an interest in preserving history is their ability to put things in perspective. We are living through remarkable times and I am hoping that the 3 or 4 months that we are affected will be but a blip on our collective futures.

It is different for those that have perished or suffered, those that are impacted harshly, and those that will feel the residual medical and economic hardships. They will need our support as they do their best to recover. I am hoping that we can in some small way contribute to their future healing by documenting what the local people have went through and the strength they have shown. I am also hoping that we can provide entertainment, or distraction from their problems. Once we get the greenlight to start meeting and providing programs, I am sure there will be a new appreciation by both those that attend and those that provide. In the meantime, we will prepare.

Being a relative newcomer to the organization I am not certain if there has ever been a Trustees meeting by teleconference much less videoconference. I guess now is the time to try it. We will be holding our first trustees meeting on Monday, May 4th using the "Zoom" conferencing app. We'll see how that goes and I suspect it will be useful tool and serve at the very least a temporary purpose by keeping us in touch.

I have personally subscribed to the Zoom App and can hold a teleconference for up to 100 people. I am wondering if we should consider using it to work collectively on projects in hopes of continuing to make gains as we are locked down. I have been attending a few workshops using the Zoom app and the delivery of materials and discussions are quite effective. I think it is a tool we can take advantage of.

I also believe that we should offer a Facebook livestream of one of our presentations as an experiment. I have a couple of ideas that I would like to propose at the next meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone face-to-face soon, but in the meantime, we will make the best of what we have. I am hoping by the next newsletter we are past the roughest of times and getting back to normal. Until then..... stay safe and think of ways you can tribute to our mission.

Thank you,



### ***A few things coming up!!!***

- Summer Plein Air art class taught by Richard Henry. Details to follow. Cost \$30.00 6-hour session. Send an email to [achild233@aol.com](mailto:achild233@aol.com) if possibly interested. Sponsored by Broome County Arts Council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plein Air Art Event. **September 12 Saturday**. Paintings of the Town of Maine region 7AM to 4 PM Displayed and Judged, reception and art sale (Federated Church fellowship Hall. 5 – 8PM Applications will be available soon for this event. Sponsorship Broome County Arts Council
- 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Maine Fest **Saturday September 12** Details to follow.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Art Trail **October 3 and 4** Saturday and Sunday. BCAC is sponsoring a full Broome County art event. NVHS will be part of it at the Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road and 1845 one room school house 14 Nanticoke Road where we will house works of ten artists. Food and entertainment 10- 4, Rain or Shine



BROOME COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

*Some Interesting Personalities*

During their existence of almost a Century and a half, the schools of the territory now included in our Central District have been training your people who, we like to believe, are second to none in inherent qualities of merit. That the native stock is endowed with a high load of potential ability and natural effectiveness seems borne out by the records of those who have made names for themselves in the world outside of Maine. Neither time nor space has permitted the preparation of a complete list or the presentation of adequate records of their achievements, but with little effort we have secured an imposing array of names representing personages who, mostly, are or have been of considerable importance in the nation—several of international significance. That an area of such small proportions and modest means could produce so many prominent sons and daughters in the span of a couple of generations seems little short of amazing. This knowledge should be an inspiration to all of us, and it should especially serve as an incentive to the younger generation.

Accordingly we present herewith a list of names with brief citations of persons who seem to have achieved special prominence, or who, for other reasons, are of very special interest. We suspect that several who deserve to be on this list are not included, owing to time limitations on our research. Most of those included in this list were born in this District or lived here for a considerable time. A very few, however, are immediate children of Maine parentage, born elsewhere, whose importance to the world has been such that it reflects great credit upon the stock from which they came. Accordingly, we have included these as well as two or three others whose fame did not transcend local bounds, but whose significance to this community has been of signal import. "Who's Who in America" and similar source books have been liberally drawn upon, since nearly half these people have gained recognition in such national works. We take pride in presenting the following list of interesting personalities, most of whom we can regard as our distinguished alumni:

**ANDREWS, EUGENE M.** Banker. Born in Connecticut, 1848. Lived in Union Center many years. President of the Farmers' National Bank of Union; public official and Trustee of the N. Y. Agricultural Experiment Station. Now deceased.

**BOWERS, LaMONT M.** Executive. Born at Bowers Corners, 1847. For thirty years on personal advisory staff of John D. Rockefeller; organized shipping on Great Lakes; head of Colo. Fuel & Iron Co.

**BOWERS, FRANCK TAYLOR.** Artist. Son of the preceding. Studied in New York and Paris; teacher of art; illustrator; National Academy Exhibitor. Died 1932.

**BROWN, CURTIS.** Journalist. Born in 1866, son of Ellen Curtis of Maine. London correspondent for American papers, 1898; organized a literary agency and has been very prominent in publishing and literary circles for over 40 years. Resides in London, Eng.

**BUTLER, WILLIAM MORRIS, M. D.** Neurologist. Born in Maine, 1850. Prominent specialist in nervous and mental diseases; author. Died in Brooklyn, N. Y.

**CASEY, DANIEL.** Noted Baseball Player. Born in East Maine. Served on the big leagues and immortalized in E. L. Thayer's poem; "Casey at the Bat," (1888).

- CURTIS, RODNEY.** Business Man. Born in Maine before 1850. Organized tramway system and was prominent in Denver for many years; an important street in that city is named for him.
- DAYTON, HENRY.** Teacher. Born in 1830. For forty years Mr. Dayton taught in the schools of this district and as such was the beloved preceptor of many celebrities in this list. Died in 1923.
- FISHER, ERNEST.** Business Man. Born in Bowers Corners District, 1850. Executive of large electrical manufacturing firm in Michigan.
- GATES, FREDERICK TAYLOR, LL. D.** Educator and Executive. Born in Gates District, 1853. Co-founder of Chicago University; originator and Chairman of General Education Board and Rockefeller Foundation; co-founder of Rockefeller Institute. Chief business and benevolent executive on personal staff of John D. Rockefeller. Died, 1929.
- GATES, FREDERICK, L., M. D.** Scientist. Son of the preceding. For many years Assistant to Dr. Alexis Carrel; died in 1933 while conducting important biological research at Harvard University.
- GATES FRANKLIN H.** Banker. Son of F. T. Gates. First Vice-President of the Chase National Bank, New York City.
- GATES, RUSSELL.** Business Man. Born in Gates District, 1845. For many years a prominent mercantile man and livestock dealer in Colorado. Died 1915.
- GRAY, JOHN W., M. D.** Pathologist. Born in Gates District, 1883. Research worker and author of scientific papers on arthritis, etc. Member institutional staffs, Newark, N. J. and New York City.
- HINAMAN, JULIA M.** Educator and Publicist. Born 1895: Represented Russell Sage Foundation before League of Nations, Geneva, on Child Welfare; publicity director for League of Women Voters in Washington, D. C. at time Suffrage Amendment was passed. Resided in Maine and was onetime teacher in Mt. Ettrick and Tiona schools. Died 1927.
- HINE, COLONEL CHARLES DeLANO.** Army Officer and Railroad Executive. Born in Virginia, 1867; son of Major Orrin E. Hine and Alma DeLano, both of Maine. West Point graduate; Major in Spanish War; led famous 69th Regt. ("Fighting Irish") overseas in World War as Colonel; later on staff duty. Studied law; became railroad executive and expert advisor for Harriman lines. Now deceased.
- HOGG, WILLIAM.** Founder of Mt. Ettrick. Came here in 1839; from Ettrick Parish, Selkirk, Scotland; was relative of Scotch poet, James Hogg ("The Ettrick Shepherd"). Before coming here with his relatives, William Hogg was shepherd for Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford for fifteen years. He named Mt. Ettrick District.
- HOLDEN, OREN.** Public Official. Born in Maine, 1842. Became prominent in County and State politics and held position in New York Customs House. Deceased.
- HOWARD, ARCHIBALD.** Lawyer. Prominent member of the Broome County Bar. Both parents were born in Maine.
- HUGHES, ADA MAREAN.** Educator. Born near DeLano's Cors. Taught at Bowers Corners school; President of the International Kindergarten Association; lived in Toronto, Can. Deceased.
- LOOMIS, LESTER, D. D.,** College Professor. Born in Maine, 1886. Professor of Religious Education and Secretary-Treasurer of Keuka College, Penn Yan, N. Y.
- MAREAN, JOSIAH TAYLOR.** Jurist. Born in Bowers Corners District, 1842. District Attorney, Kings County, 1897; Justice Supreme Court of New York, 1899-1912. Lived in Brooklyn, N. Y. Deceased.

**MAREAN, LAURA.** Educator. Born in Bowers Corners District. For many years Principal of a school in St. Joseph, Mo. Deceased.  
**MAREAN, WILLIS ADAMS.** Architect. Born 1853. A prominent architect in Denver, Colo., from 1880.  
**PIERCE, ANNA E.** Educator. Born at Union Center. Dean of Albany Teachers College.  
**ROSS, WILLIAM McALLISTER.** Jurist. Born in Gates District, 1850. Graduate of Harvard and Justice of the Supreme Court of New York. Lived in Syracuse, N. Y.  
**SLOSSON, EDWIN E., Ph. D.** Scientist. Born in Kansas, 1865; both parents from Maine. Professor of Chemistry and Scientific Editor; director of Science Service; prominent scientific writer. Deceased.  
**TAYLOR, JOHN MILTON.** Merchant. Came from New Hampshire with father's family in 1822; taught school in Broome County; conducted one of first stores in Maine, before 1837; later prominent as wholesale drygoods merchant in New York City and is reputed to have been a co-founder of Adams Express Company. Died about 1860.  
**VINCENT, EDGAR L.** Author and Editor. Born 1851; came to Maine, 1888 and lived here for many years at DeLano's Corners. Wrote novels, religious books and many agricultural articles for rural publications; member of N. Y. State Assembly. Deceased.  
**WELLER, STUART, Ph. D.** Geologist. Born in Maine, 1870. Professor of Geology, Chicago University; authority on geology and palaeontology; author of many scientific papers. Deceased.

What I am asking is for you to help me continue this list from 1940 to today. Send me names and a few details of distinguished individuals who lived in Maine NY and "made-a-name" for themselves . Send info to [achild233@aol.com](mailto:achild233@aol.com). Thanks



TAYLOR HOTEL  
 PAGODA  
 1907  
 MAIN STREET

## IN MEMORIAM



*Carl R. Stannard, Jr. March 16, 2020*

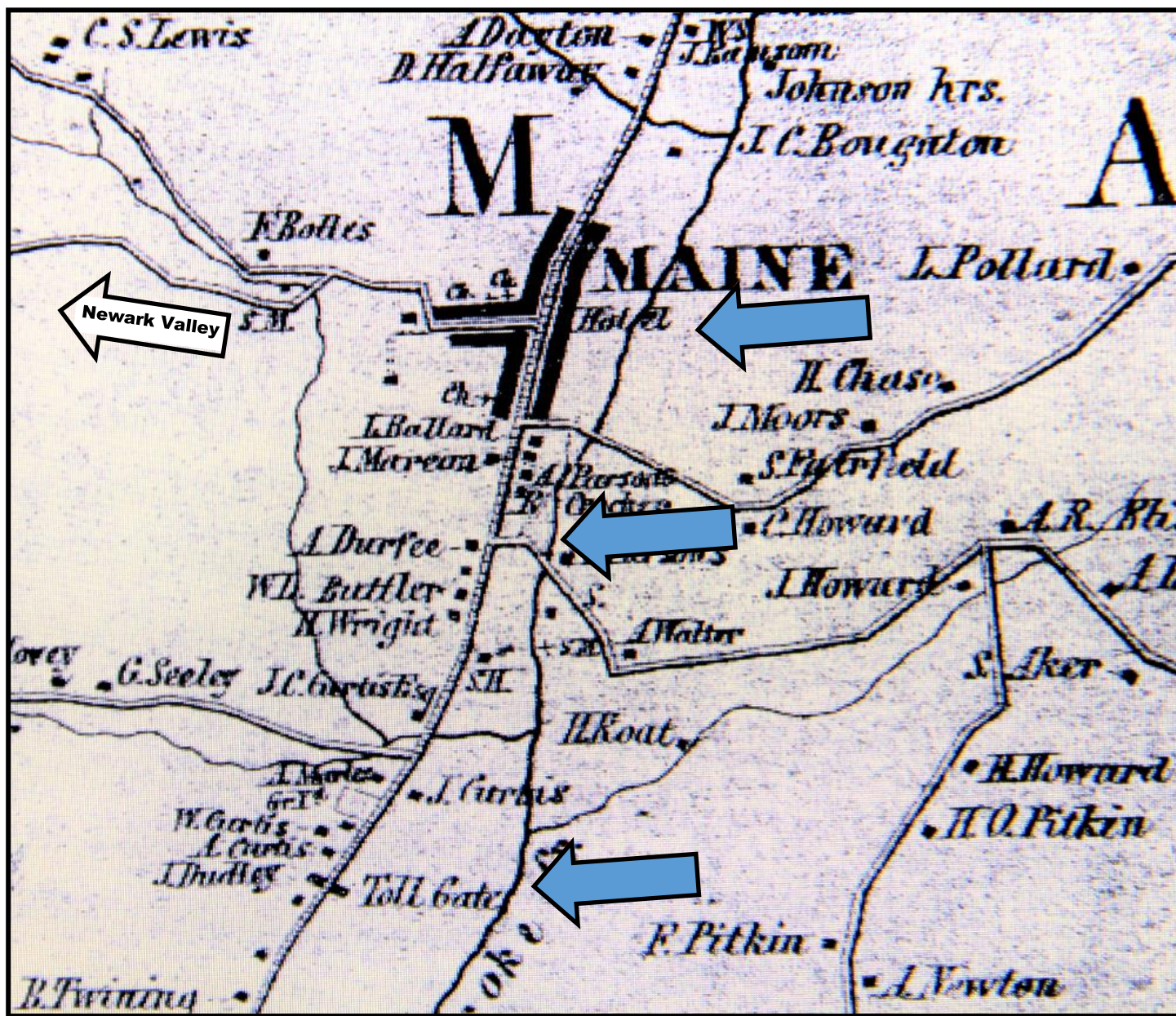
Town of Maine	Population
1848	1,800
1850	2,419
1855	2,798
1870	3,093
1880	3,128
2010	5,377

The Town of Maine was formed in 1848 and had a population of 1,800 people. Maine was originally part of Union but in 1848 the Town of Maine was formed. The town grew from 2,798 in 1855 to 3,128 in 1880. Broome County first published maps of the county in 1855.

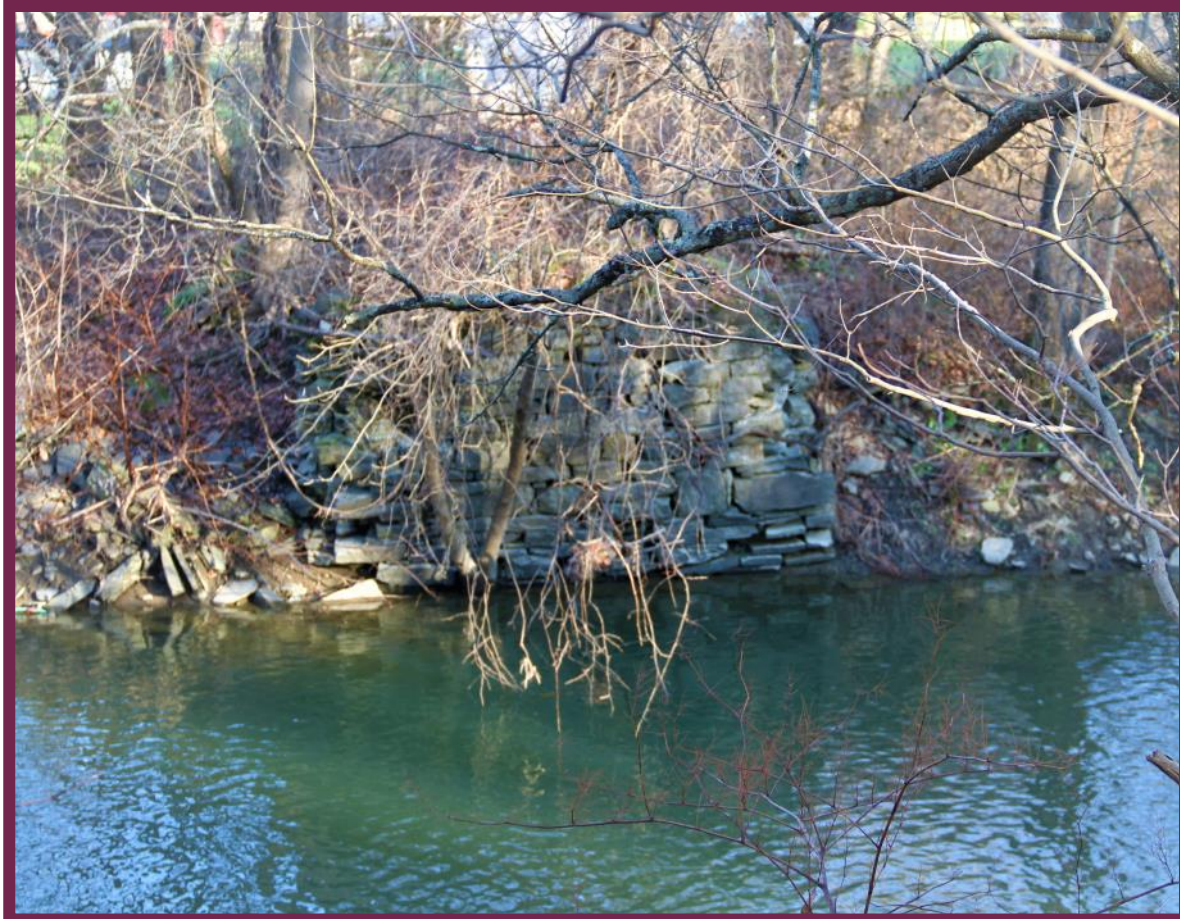
The 1855 map below has a few things that might be of interest to you. As you travel south of the town you have Pollard Road just as it is today but a little further you will see a bridge going across Nanticoke Creek. This is next to the white house at 2479 Rte. 26 on the east side of the road, just as you are in the "S" curves. The bridge foundation is still there (see photo) but I must confess I have never noticed it in the 35 years I have driven this route. Further south you will note S.H. (school house) in the flats near the

town of Maine welcome sign. After its closed it was moved to Sylvia Ward 's property on the west side of the road and connected to the house. It is still there today. South of Shadowbrook Drive you will see Toll Gate, Yes, 26 was a toll road from Union Center to Maine. The Toll gate was directly opposite the Dudley House ca 1850 at 2319 Route 26. The tollgate keeper was Lyman Burrell Grey who was bugler as a soldier in the Civil War, dying from yellow fever in 1863.

1855 Map of Maine NY

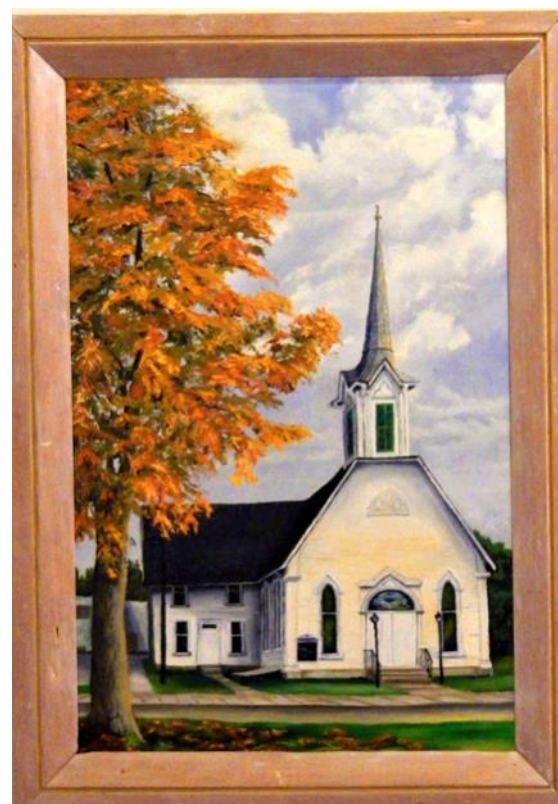


In 1855 Church street had two churches; the Baptist Church and the Congregational Church. The first Methodist Episcopal church was incorporated in 1845 and they built its church on Main Street in 1850, it burned down in 1928. After the 1928 fire at the Episcopal Church the two churches joined



becoming the Federated Church. In 1867 the Federated Church was moved from Church St to its current address on Lewis and Main St. The original Baptist Church was torn down in 1980 being replaced by a larger building .see painting to the right.

Back to the 1855 map; note *no Lewis Street, no McGregor Ave.* To get to Newark Valley back then, go down Church St. right onto Maple Ave, left, go a few hundred feet , go left across the bridge over Lewis Creek (note the S.M., saw mill symbol) make a right on- to King Hill. The Hotel, constructed in 1837, shown in the town is still around except it is the recreation Hall for The ,Most Holy Rosary Church. The hotel was known by a few names; Ketchum Inn, Taylor House and Willowhurst Hotel until 1942.



The Population of Maine, NY. In **1850** the number of people in the town had reached 1,843;

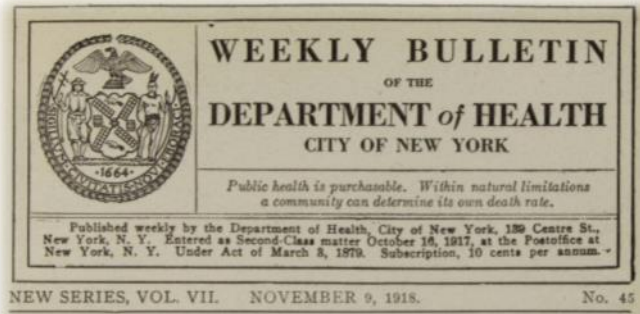
**1860**, 1,609; **1870**, 2,305; **1880**, 2,129; **1890**, 1,692; **1900**, 1,534; **1910**, 1,363; **1920**, 1,360, **1960** 3931, **1970** 5842, **2010** 5377 (Urban 366 Rural 5011).



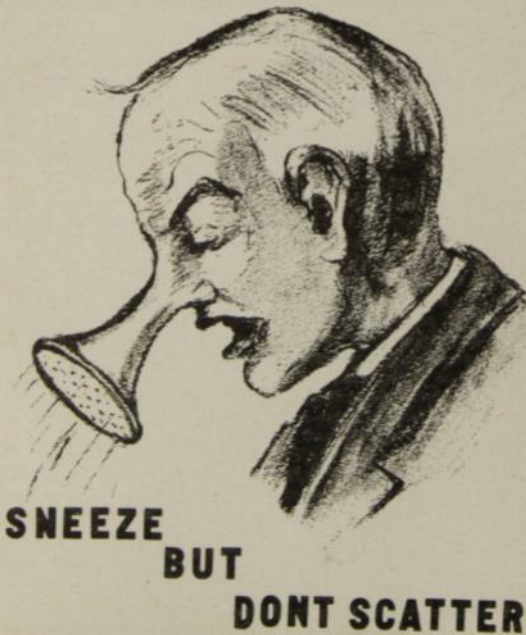
## SPANISH FLU 1918



Train conductors in New York, like many residents at the time, wore masks for protection against influenza. Credit...National Archives



### HOW DISEASE IS SPREAD



<https://wbng.com/2020/01/29/lessons-to-be-learned-from-the-pandemics-of-the-past-in-broome-county/>

### January 29, 2020

"Although it is often called the Spanish flu, many historians now believe the influenza outbreak of 1918 originated in Kansas. In just over a year, this specific strain of flu is believed to have killed more than 50 million people, or 3 to 5 percent of the entire world's population at the time. He says the conditions of the day helped the disease spread.

A military man who was stationed in the Bronx, actually, came here to visit his family, brought the influenza with him," ..... "He infected several people, and then it just spread like wildfire through this area." It's believed soldiers returning home from the Great War are the ones who spread the disease across the globe."

Of the 3,000 cases of influenza reported in the Binghamton-area in October and November of 1918, at least 175 people died."

A Great article to read concerning the Spanish flu is <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/nyregion/spanish-flu-nyc-virus.html>

Part of it is reproduced on the next page

# What New York Looked Like During the 1918 Flu Pandemic

The Spanish flu raced through crowded tenements and neighborhoods, killing more

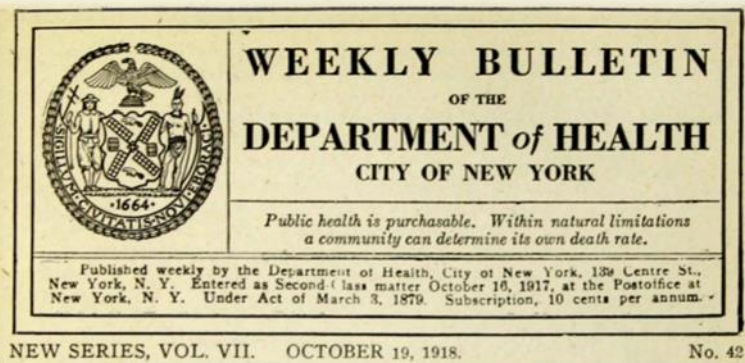
By Michael Wilson

Published April 2, 2020 Updated April 6, 2020

“The wire arrived in New York City from an incoming ship at sea, announcing that 10 of its passengers and 11 crew members were ill. So a team of doctors and officials waited at a Brooklyn pier to greet the Norwegian vessel Bergensfjord and, with it, the first cases in the city of the deadliest pandemic in modern human history.

It was Aug. 11, 1918. The ship docked, the sick were rushed to nearby hospitals, and the pier was placed under quarantine. Everything appeared to be under control. Then more sick arrived. The illness spread, racing through crowded neighborhoods and tenements. The numbers rose slowly at first, then soared as if swept in on a huge wave — a pattern eerily familiar 102 years later.

**It was the Spanish flu, and it would kill tens of millions of people worldwide, including 675,000 people in the United States. In New York City, more than 20,000 died, at a rate of 400 to 500 a day at its apex. It was a bracing death toll — and yet city leaders saw it as a sign of a job well done after the fact. It could have been much worse.”**



## “SPANISH INFLUENZA”—“THE FLU” “THREE-DAY FEVER.”

The disease now spreading over this city is highly catching and may invade your home and attack you and your family unless you are very careful.



INFLUENZA is a crowd disease. *Therefore:* Keep out of crowds as much as possible.

INFLUENZA spreads mostly by inhaling some of the tiny droplets of germ-laden mucus sprayed into the air when careless persons sneeze or cough without using a handkerchief. *Therefore:* Cover up each cough and sneeze.

INFLUENZA is probably spread by the filthy habit of spitting on sidewalks, street cars, and other public places. *Therefore:* Do not spit on the floor or sidewalk.

INFLUENZA is probably spread also by the use of common drinking cups. *Therefore:* Shun the common drinking cup.

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## BE A WITNESS TO HISTORY!

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented effect on our lives in Maine, Broome County, New York State, the United States as well as worldwide. All local government-appointed historians have a duty to document not just the past but also the present. This includes documenting and recording articles, photographs, newspaper clippings, interviews, blogs Facebook entries audio, video and written diaries of daily events during this time. You can help too by being part of the project! Let us know how this crisis is impacting your family and our community. If you are a teacher, part of the medical community, fire department, local government, provide other essential services or local citizen let us know about your experiences. If you are a parent teaching your children from home tell us about it.

We are also collecting posters and flyers to add to our archives. After all items are collected we will share them with the State Historian Archives.

If you have anything to questions please contact me at [nvhscurator@hotmail.com](mailto:nvhscurator@hotmail.com) or call me at 862-9705. Thank you!

Sue Lisk, Town of Maine Historian



### THANK YOU BETTY!!!

## *Santa's helper is working at a post office in Maine*

By BARRY KATZ

Western Broome Bureau

So what if Santa Claus wears lipstick? The warm smile, twinkle in the eye and jolly "Ho, ho, ho" are still there.

Santa — alias Betty Welch, postmaster of the U.S. Post Office in the hamlet of Maine — has been answering children's Christmas wish-list letters dropped in a special miniature mail box at the post office for the past two years.

"I answer every one individually," says Welch, postmaster for three years. "I think it's great. Christmas is for children. What you get out of it is what you do (for others), not what you get."

Reading the awkward scibblings of 4-year-old children on her lunch hour or at home late at night, Welch has written nine Santa letters this year. She mails her letters, using her own stamps, to the kids' homes or drops them in their families' mail slots at the post office.

"A little boy came in here early this

morning with his mother to pick up mail," she says, recalling when the youngster received his reply from St. Nick. "He came out of here with the biggest smile."

Welch's replies to children usually compliment them on their writing or pictures. She almost always tells them not to expect everything they've asked for.

Welch's secret wish is to be a department store Santa, despite her petit size.

"Oh, I'd love it," she says. "I'd probably spend too much time with each of (the children). I'd enjoy them all."

Wearing a Santa necklace, Santa earrings and Santa pin on her Christmas-red blouse, Welch — a 25-year veteran of the postal service — remains mysterious when asked her age.

"How old is Santa Claus?" she asks.

Leaving the post office to the snowy street outside, one visitor wished Welch a merry Christmas.

"Thank you," she called back. "And the same to you . . . Ho, ho, ho!"

12.24.1983

[Penny](#)

[McKay](#)

December 24,  
1983 newspaper Facebook

3.17.2020



Betty Welch, Maine postmaster, answers some of the letters addressed to Santa Claus.

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802



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Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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