

# Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2016 Newsletter # 3 September

edited by Phil Childs



1850



1830



1840



1845



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NVHS Museum Sites  
located at 13 Nanticoke Road  
Corner of Route 26 & Nanticoke Road  
P.O. Box 75  
Maine NY 13802

<http://nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com/>

[https://www.facebook.com/  
NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/NanticokeValleyHistoricalSociety/)



<http://ebookfriendly.com/vintage-halloween-cards/vintage-halloween-cards-what-the-boys-did-to-the-cow/>

### Officers 2016

President: Philip M. Childs 862-3405  
Vice President: Alice Hopkins 862-3635  
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\*

2016: John Haggerty, Diane Fleenor, Betty Welch

2017: Nancy Berry, Sandy Rozek, Pat Stacconi

2018: Lucas Kaczynski, Rita McKeon, Anita Shipway

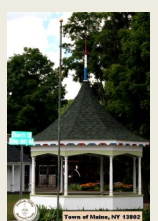
\* New positions are voted on each year. The term of a trustee is three years. This provides for an ever changing but ongoing board coverage.

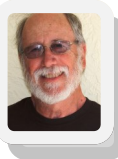
### For Sale Original Maine Postcards

\$1.50 each 4 for \$5.00

On sale at the Country Wagon Produce &

At all our sites.





President's Page: While speaking with Sue Lisk, I mentioned that I was interested in writing a piece about Union Center hoping to get some information from her to use. She laughed and responded by suggesting that I look at what Shirley Long Woodward had collected. Sue provided me with three overflowing "scrapbooks" filled with information, photographs, news articles and notes that Shirley Woodward had amassed on the history of Union Center. These volumes certainly made my job easy and it was then that I realized that so much of what I write about in this newsletter really came from Shirley Woodward and others. In science we use a quote attributed to Isaac Newton "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Mrs. Woodward is this giant that enables me to "see". She has been working her entire life studying the history of our region. She was the Town of Maine Historian from 1960 to 1995. "She also served as Broome County Historian from 1971 to 1978. Her records are contained on 150,00 index cards housed at the Broome County Library" (Press and Sun Bulletin Article) She is the author of "A Short History of Maine New York, 125th Anniversary Celebration 1973" and even though she has moved to Sun City Arizona, she still strongly believes in the NVHS and supports us totally. Shirley worked in many other capacities including leadership roles in the Southern Tier Genealogical Society. Perhaps it is her heritage or her DNA that makes Shirley a great historian. Shirley Long Woodward's father was Cayuga County historian for 25 years (1972\_Tempo\_Apr19th), and the historical lineage of her husband Gordon H. Woodward, who was a member of Sons of the American Revolution and Mayflower Descendants, might also have influenced her scholarly approach to history. Gordon Woodward's obit: stated; "He met Shirley Anne Long, of Auburn, NY, at Cornell University in 1947, and they married in 1949. They were married for 64 years. Shirley Long attended Cornell University where she met Gordon Woodward of Union Center.

Sue Lisk keeps in touch with Shirley and as our curator she totally understands the legacy Shirley has left behind in our region. I see that Shirley has a Facebook page so perhaps if you wish you can friend her. Thank you so much Shirley...Phil Childs

If you wish to get in contact with Phil Childs (editor of the newsletter ) contact him via email [achild233@aol.com](mailto:achild233@aol.com) or phone 862 3405 . Get your newsletter via email, it's colorful!



## IN MEMORIAM

**George A. McKeon June 5, 2016**

**Gloria Jean Edwards (Schmidt) Murphy July 10, 2016**

## TODAY AND YESTERDAY



**2016 Maine-Endwell  
Little League Team:  
World Champions**

*Alphabetical Order*

**Jude Abbadessa,  
Billy Dundon,  
Jayden Fanara,  
James Fellows,  
Ryan Harlost,  
Jack Hopko,  
Michael Mancini,  
Jordan Owens,  
Brady Raleigh,  
Conner Rush,  
Justin Ryan.**

*Coaches*

**Joe Hopko,  
Joe Mancini,  
Scott Rush.**

**Maine Supervisor Jim Tokos  
8.2026**



1906 Maine Baseball Team:  
James McGregor, Jake Zimmer,  
Gilford Dudley, Vernon  
Sweet, Vernon Vanderburg,  
J.R. Allen, 2 unidentified

## WHEN DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT IT'S HISTORIC?

"Historic means 'famous or important in history', as in a historic occasion, whereas historical means 'concerning history or historical events', as in historical evidence; thus a historic event is one that was very important, whereas a historical event is something that happened in the past."

[www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/historic-or-historical](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/historic-or-historical)



Newark Valley Historical Society [nvhistory@stny.rr.com](mailto:nvhistory@stny.rr.com)  
 Celebrating Our First 40 Years! 1976-2016  
 Celebrate Newark Valley's **37th Apple Festival**  
 October 1 & 2 10 AM to 5 PM.



**Newark Valley Days  
 Parade 8.13.2016 -**  
 Special thanks to Stan  
 Lisk for sharing his  
 Club Car CarryAll 500  
 and his companionship.  
 PC



**For Your Library** The Historical Society has been blessed with talented authors throughout the years:  
 Perhaps you wish to add these volumes to your library. The first two are out of print however check on EBAY for copies. The  
 next four can be purchased at The Country Wagon and or at our museum sites.

- ⇒ **Shirley L. Woodward:** Town Historian wrote: A Short History of Maine, New York self-published, 1973.
- ⇒ **Ann Page Lewis:** Town Historian wrote for the Historical Society: THEN AND NOW : a Pictorial History of the Town of Maine, New York May 1998 160 Pages, ASIN: B0006R3UCC
- ⇒ **Janet Whitney Bowers** Curator Historical Society wrote: Cooking up the Creek: Recipes from a Rural New York Valley. Maine, NY: Bowers' Corners Press, 1994
- ⇒ **Susan H. Lisk** Curator Historical Society wrote: Maine and the Nanticoke Valley Arcadia Publishing 2012, 128 pages. ISBN 9780738576862
- ⇒ **Nancy Grey Osterud** Historian wrote: Bonds of Community: The Lives of Farm Women in Nineteenth-Century New York. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991. ISBN-10: 0801497981.
- ⇒ **Nancy Grey Osterud** Historian wrote: Putting the Barn Before the House Women and Family Farming in Early Twentieth-Century New York. Cornell University Press ISBN10: 0801450284
- ⇒ **Senior Citizens** of Maine and New Valley created: The Bicentennial Cookbook, 11.1.1976



# THE WILD WILD EAST: Our Brush with History!

Father: William Alonzo Hickok  
Mother: Polly Butler  
Married: 6/23/1829 in Grand Isle Co, VT  
They had seven children



Child 1; Oliver Otis Hickok B: 5/1/1830 in Union, Broome County, NY  
Child 2: Lorenzo B. Hickok probably died as an infant  
since Child 3 was given that same name  
Child 3: Lorenzo Butler Hickok B: 11/23/1832 in Union, Broome County, NY  
Child 4: **James Butler Hickok** B: 5/27/1837 in Homer (Troy Grove), IL  
Killed 8/2/1876 in Deadwood, Dakota Territory  
He was buried there  
He was known as legendary **Wild Bill Hickok**

After marrying in Vermont, William and Polly travelled to Union, NY (Town of Union)  
They most likely lived near Maine, NY

At that time the **Town of Union** was larger and included the area **around Maine**.

While living there they had two children

- 1) Oliver Otis was born 1830
- 2) Lorenzo Butler was born in 1832.

*In 1834 the couple and their two infant sons travelled from Union, Broome County, NY in a wagon drawn by ox-team, carrying what worldly goods their wagon would hold*

They settled in Homer (now called Troy Grove), IL. On 5/27/1837 they had their 4<sup>th</sup> child, James Butler Hickok

Wild Bill was killed by Jack McCall in Deadwood, Dakota Territory (now SD) while playing poker in Nuttal & Mann's Saloon.

When shot, he held in his poker hand a pair of aces and a pair of eights, all black. Forever since that hand has been known as "dead man's hand".

This information was forwarded to us by: *R. Ted Warner, President*

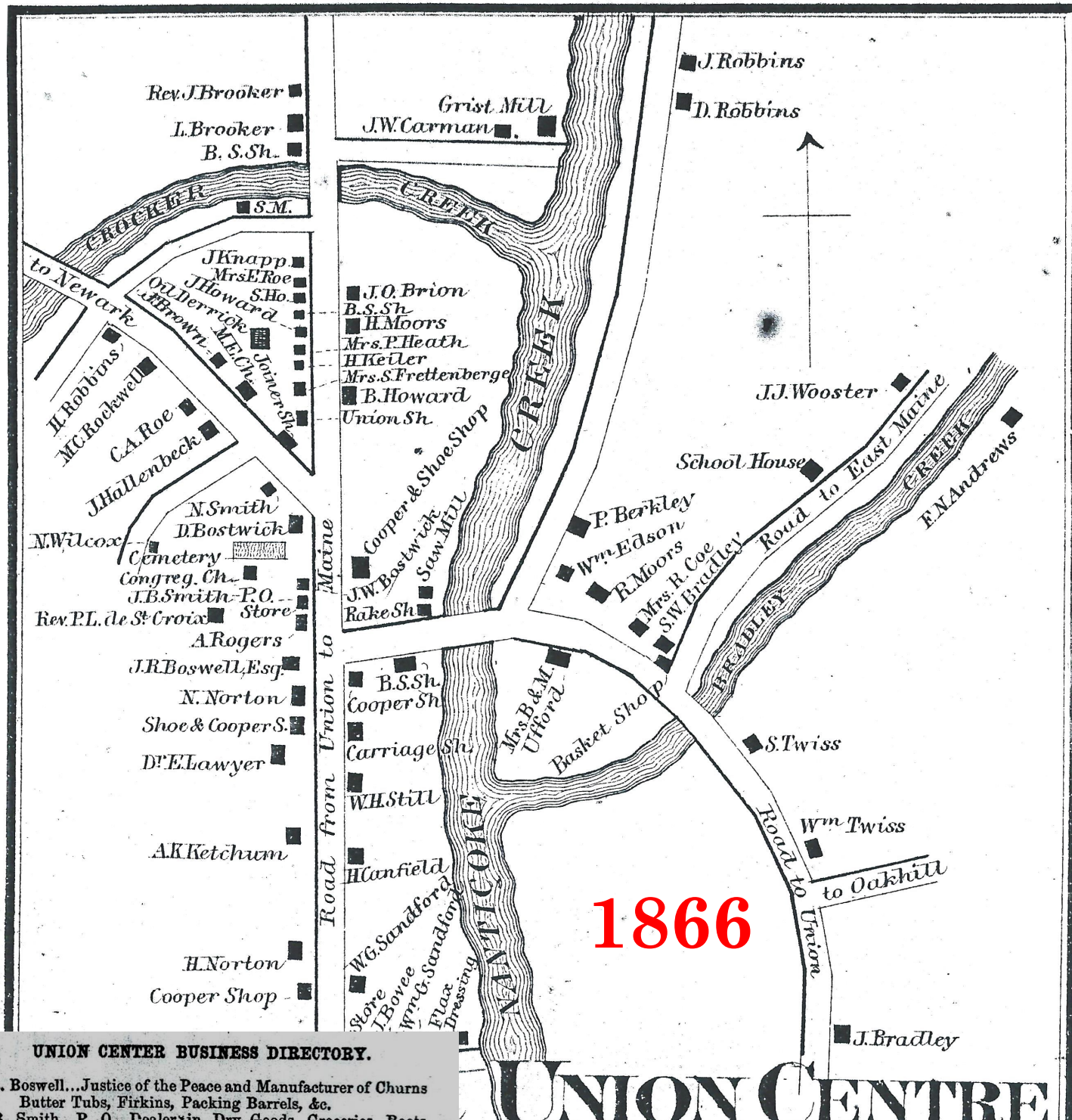
*Old Village of Union Historical Society  
c/o Endicott History & Heritage Center  
40 Washington Ave, Endicott, NY*

For much more go to: <http://www.kansasheritage.org/families/hickok.html>



The history of a region has so much to do with the people who lived there. Why would the Hickok family leave Vermont and settled in Maine, NY, in 1830 and in 1834 move again to Illinois? Look up Wild Bill and find out about this complex man. His life and deeds are not what I thought I knew about him and his times! Thanks to **Ted Warner** for sending this tidbit of history in our direction.

<http://www.biography.com/people/wild-bill-hickok-40262>



**UNION CENTER BUSINESS DIRECTORY.**

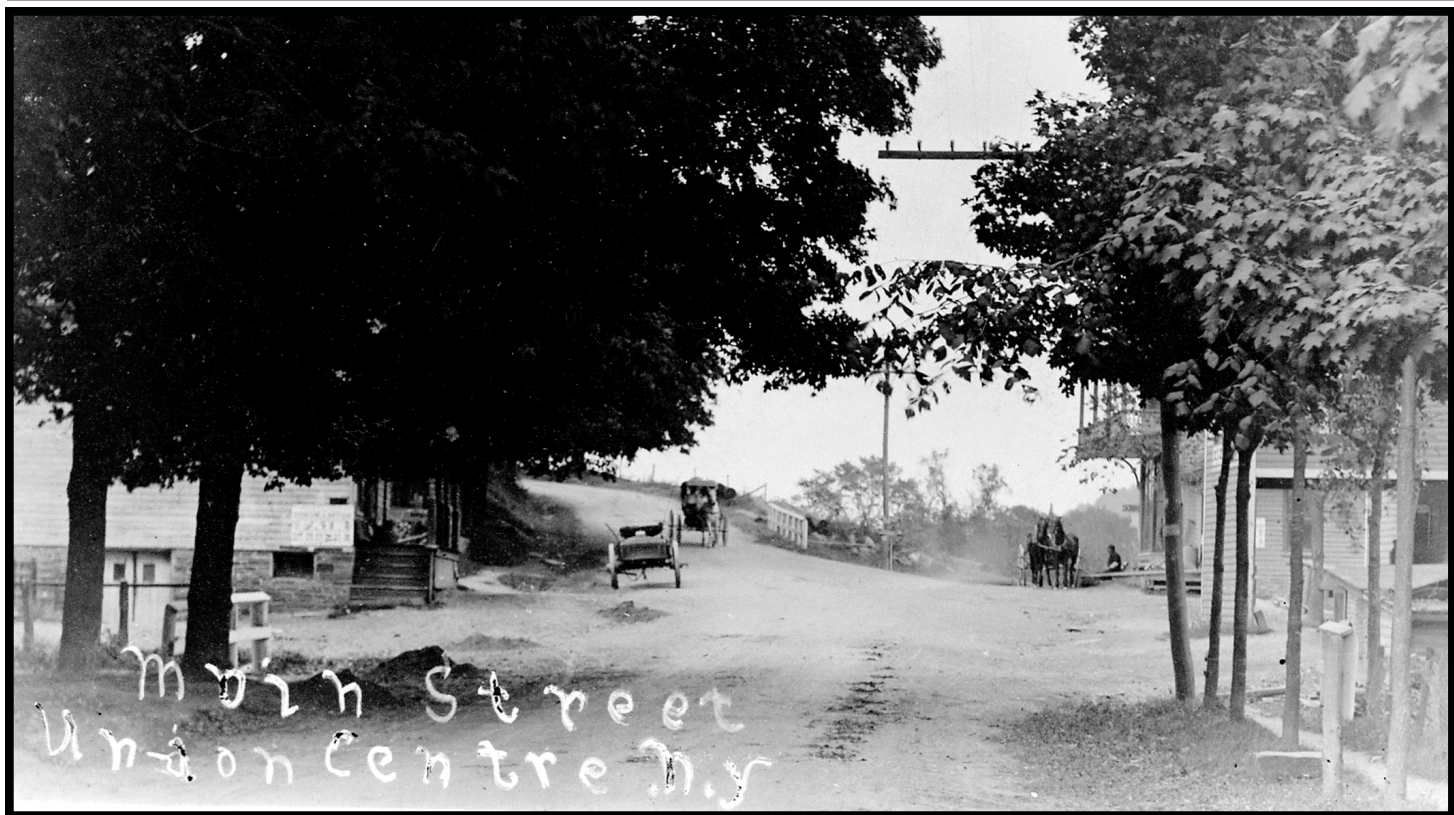
- J. R. Boswell...Justice of the Peace and Manufacturer of Churns Butter Tubs, Firkins, Packing Barrels, &c.
- J. B. Smith...P. O., Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, &c.
- E. Lawyer...Physician and Surgeon.
- W. A. Norton...Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes, and Repairing done to Order.
- D. Bostwick & Son...Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes. Tubs, Butter Firkins and Packing Barrels, &c.
- Wm. Edson...Manufacturer of Hand Hay Rakes, Broom, Fork and Hoe Handles. Also, all kinds of Lumber, Lath, Pickets, kept on hand for Sale. Orders solicited.
- J. De St. Croix...Carriage Maker. Orders solicited, and promptly attended to.
- A. A. Moulton...Farmer and Manufacturer of Hand Hay Rakes.
- Luké Ward...Ground Plaster kept on hand for sale, and Feed Ground to order.
- E. Cunningham...Manufacturer and Dealer in Tubs, Butter Firkins, Packing Barrels, &c.
- D. Mersereau...Manufacturer and Dealer in Hand Hay Rakes, Broom Handles, &c. Orders solicited.
- A. K. Ketchum...Farmer and Agent for the Sale of Prince Melodeon.

**UNION CENTRE**

When Medad Bradley (1770—1829) settled here in 1791 the "town" was named Bradley's Settlement. His wife Rhoda (xxxx-1852 and son Lyman (1791—1873) moved here from Stockbridge MA.. 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 ( 1150 interments) . Find A Grave Memorial# 18208486



Halfway between Maine and Union is the cross road hamlet of **Union Center**. In the last census it was listed as having a population of 165 people with a total of 80 households. It would be difficult to imagine that in the 1800's it was a thriving community. Two churches, two large general stores, two saw mills, a rake factory, blacksmiths, two school house, a carriage maker, a cheese factory, creamery and along with a grange gave an indication of how prosperous this community was!. Driving through it today gives little indication of its former glories. The original settlers choose this location for its; old growth forests, abundant game, and a stream which one could harness its power to run saw and grist mills. At one time over seven saw mills were found along the Nanticoke and its lumber was rafted down its waters to the Susquehanna River and then south, providing wood for a growing cities along the east coast. Farms occupied the hills and valleys after the trees were harvested. Creameries supplied milk and butter to surrounding towns. Poultry was a large business and in Union Center the Woodward Poultry and Egg business, since 1921, was sold in 1982 to V.C. McGregor's & Sons of Maine, NY. Road names reflect the original families who settled here and if you look many of the early homes are still around. Check out Sue Lisk's and Ann Page Lewis' book for more about Union Center. PC



View looking North on current Route 26. Today's road still follows the same path. Lewis Brougham's store on right side (west) with Pitkin's store on the right side of the road. The road to the right crosses Nanticoke creek via a bridge. Circa 1906.





S. Pitkin and Son Store was the location of the Post Office in Union Center. Its location was at Pitkin's store if a Democrat were president. If it was a Republican president the post office was found across the street at Brougham's store.

C.L. Pitkin & Son store around 1906. It was destroyed by fire in 1931. It was located at the corner of Route 26 and Nanticoke Drive (east side of the road). Today you will find Doug's Automotive Service (1842 Union Center Maine Hwy), Across the street was Lewis Brougham's store which burned in 1938.

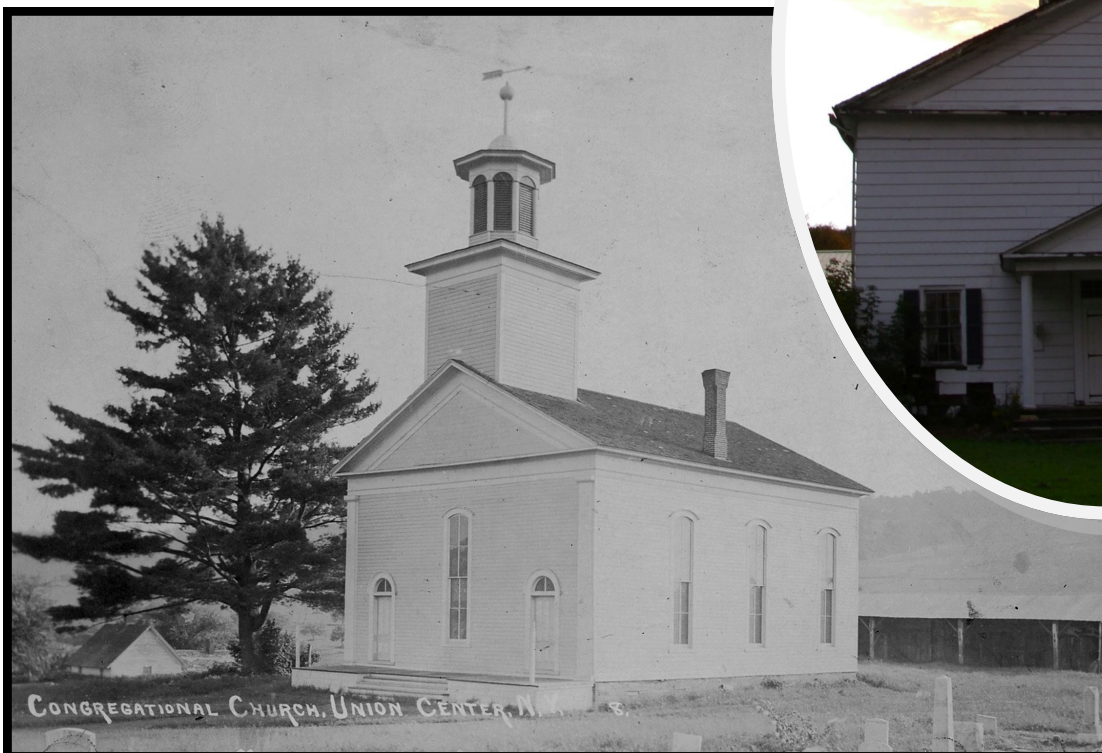


The Carman Mill (Old Red Mill) was torn down in 1939. It was situated at the junction of Nanticoke Creek and Crocker Creek, near the current Weber Road. The last owner was Wayne Woodward. It was originally built by Daniel and Nathan Howard in 1810 and rebuilt by T.W. Carman in 1856.



Lewis Brougham 1839—1928 built this home next door to his store and lived there with his second wife, Georgia (1859—1939). Its current address is 1859 Union Center Highway. His first wife was Hattie (1844—1881). Twenty six Brougham family members are buried in the Nanticoke Valley Cemetery.

Union Center Congregational Church, photo below, taken in 1908, a recent photo is to the right. The church was built in 1841 and it sits next to the Nanticoke Valley Cemetery (1,150 interments). Many of the “original” families are buried here. Check <http://findagrave.com> . Its current address is 1921 Union Center Highway and it is no longer a church.







In the spring of 1896 the Union Center School was destroyed by fire. Two years later this new school took its place. The two original schools were the Brougham and Bradley Creek School. The Bradley Creek School is now a private home.



Photo of Shirley Woodward 1982 located on NYSTGS web site.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nystgs/history.html> 1982



This is a 1962 photo of Shirley & Gordon Woodward's home. The *Woodward Poultry and Egg* business was two houses north. The house was built ca. 1825/30. As you drive on Route 26 check out this home at 2016 Union Center Hgwy. Today Union Center is found in both the Town of Union and the Town of Maine. It stretches a little over a mile on NYS Route 26.



**Future Events** (*subject to change*): if you wish to receive notification of events via email contact the editor of this newsletter Phil Childs achild233@aol.com Thanks

Meetings: March—December, Third Monday of Each Month; usually at 7 PM at the Janet W. Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road.

**September 13** Tuesday Joint Meeting with Newark Valley Historical Society.  
13 Nanticoke Road our Janet Bowers Museum Starting at 7 pm

**September 18 and 25** Sundays Tours of Museum Buildings 1—4.

End of Summer hours. Call for an appointment to the museum curator.

**October 17 Monday Meeting** October 17 either "When Maine was the Home to Harpur Colleges Educators"...Betty Welch or "The Dudley's of Maine, NY" Phil Childs

**November 8** Tuesday Election Day... share a full Thanksgiving meal at Friend's Dinner Times and Menu to come. PC

**November 19 Saturday** from 6 -9 PM at The Maine Event Beer & Wine Tasting (tentative).

**November 21 Monday Meeting** either "When Maine was the Home to Harpur College's Educators"...Betty Welch or "The Dudley's of Maine, NY" Phil Childs Following the Program we will hold election of Officers and appointment of Trustees for 2017.

**December 19 Monday Meeting** tentative plan *Just Desserts!*

*January 1 Dues are due for 2017*

*March Newsletter 2017 Edition 1*

**March First Meeting of 2017 Monday 20**

Spring Picnic 6 pm bring a dish to share.

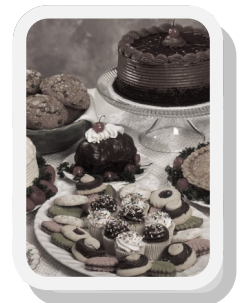
*May Newsletter 2017 Edition 2*

**May 7 Sunday** 2nd annual spring tea event at :The Maine Event" Details TBA

**May 29th Monday Memorial Day** Annual Smokey Legends BBQ 10 -2 Plus.

*Summer Museums Tours July—September; Openings Sundays 1 -4  
Museum, School House & Pitchers Mill*

**July Major Event** Charter Day. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary of our 1977 NYS permanent charter. We were founded in 1969 and our provisional character was issue by NYS in 1973.



**Have you considered being a docent for either school tours, museum openings during July—September?**

**Do not be concerned because "you won't know what to say!"**

**We will prepare you totally.**

**You choose the dates and each event would require only a few hours of commitment.**

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society,

PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802

September 2016 Issue # 3

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**Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues extend from Jan to Jan.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail returns to: Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 75 , Maine, NY 13802