

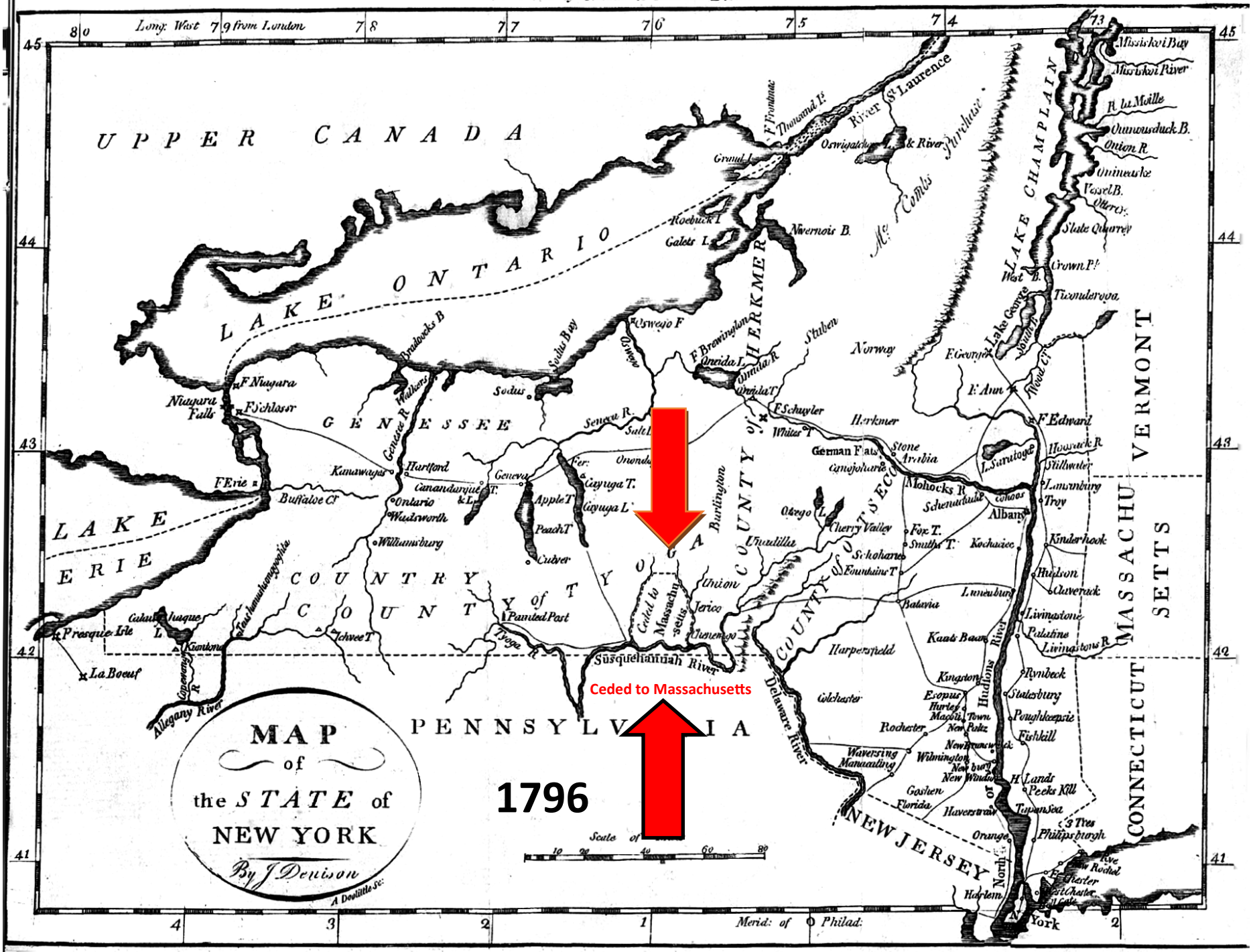
**From *Here* (Bowers Corners) to *There* (Corson Corners)!**



The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society of Maine NY presents:  
Philip Childs on Monday November 21st at 7 PM  
Janet Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road  
No Cost



A white pine/hemlock old growth forest  
is what welcomed settlers in the Nanticoke Valley in the 1700's.



**MAP**  
of  
the *STATE* of  
**NEW YORK**  
By J. Devison  
A. Dowling sc.

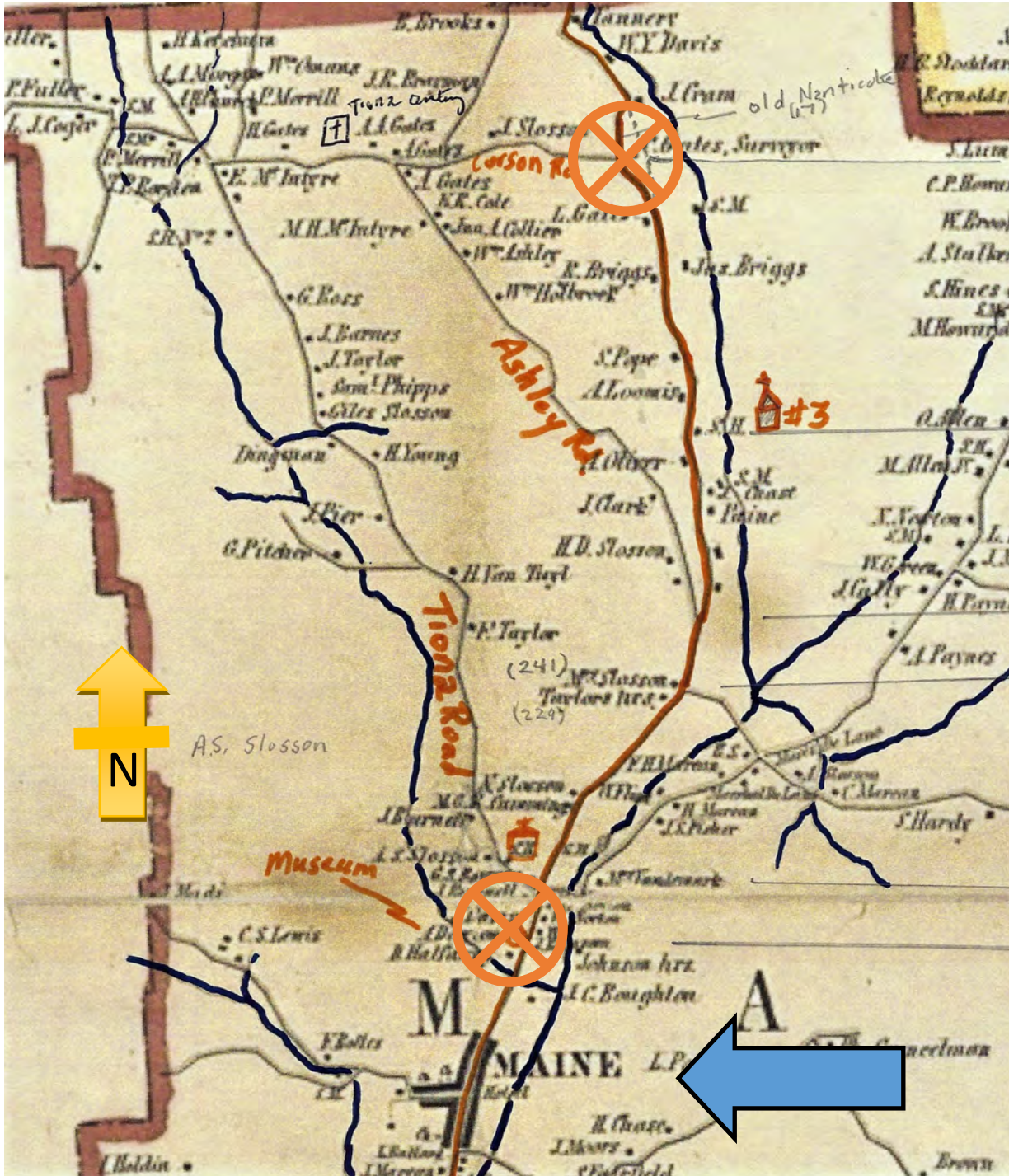
**1796**

Ceded to Massachusetts

1796 "Ceded to Massachusetts" — Boston Purchase lands



Tioga  
10 Townships  
Granted to the  
State of Massachusetts



# 1855 Map

3.2 Corson's Corners/  
Gates Farmstead

2.1 Gates School

1.3 Ashley Road

1.1 Ames Road

Zimmer Farm

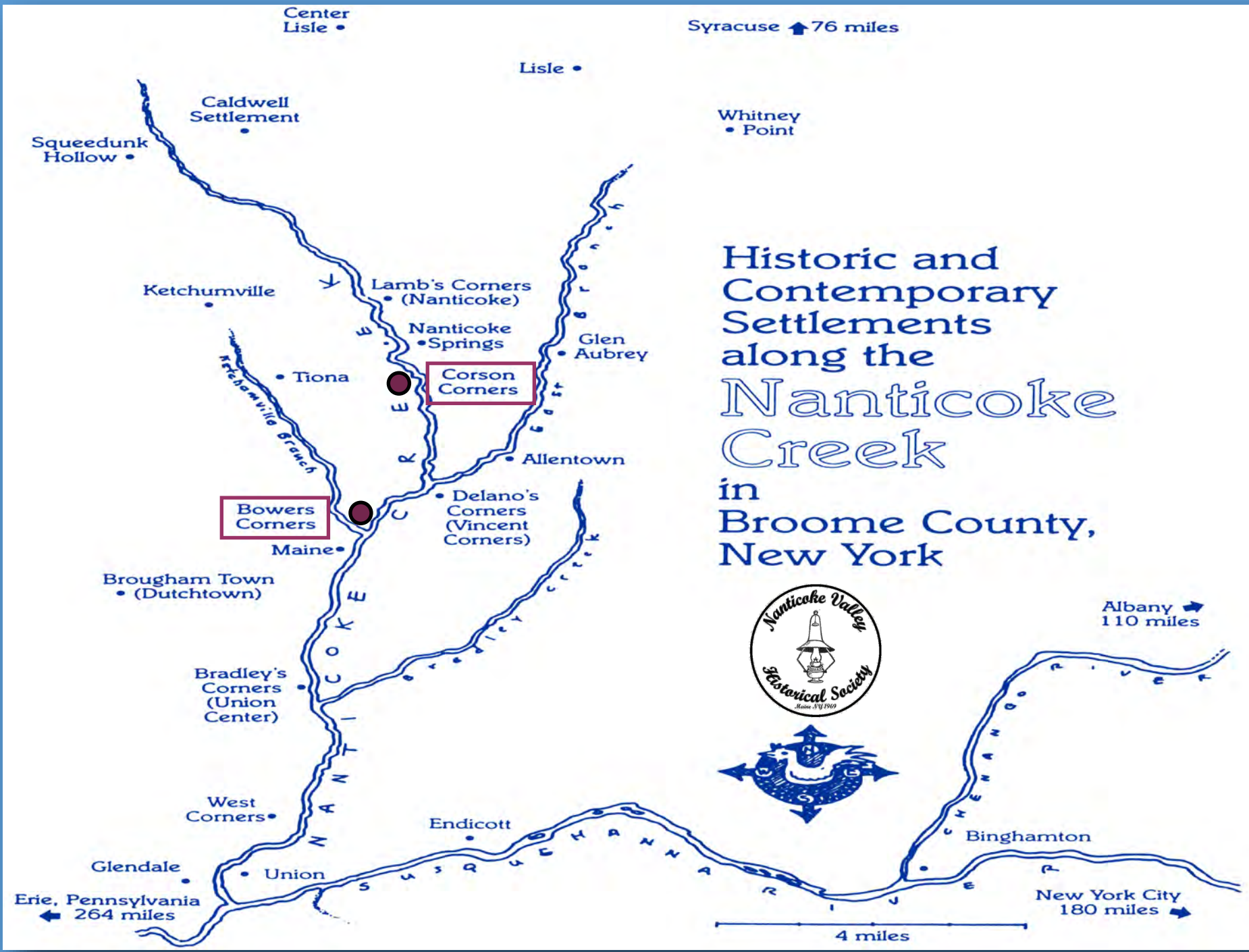
0.1 Bowers Corners

0.0 miles Start Museum

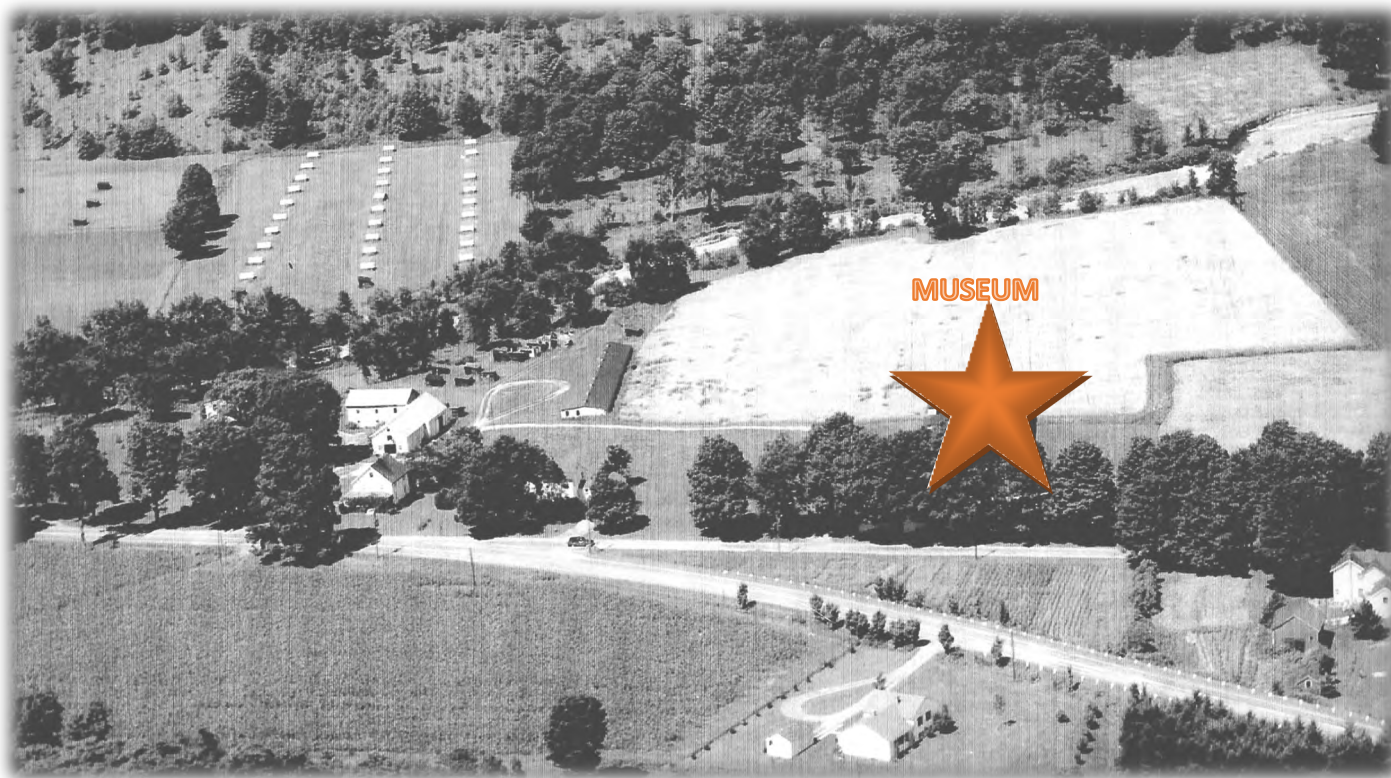
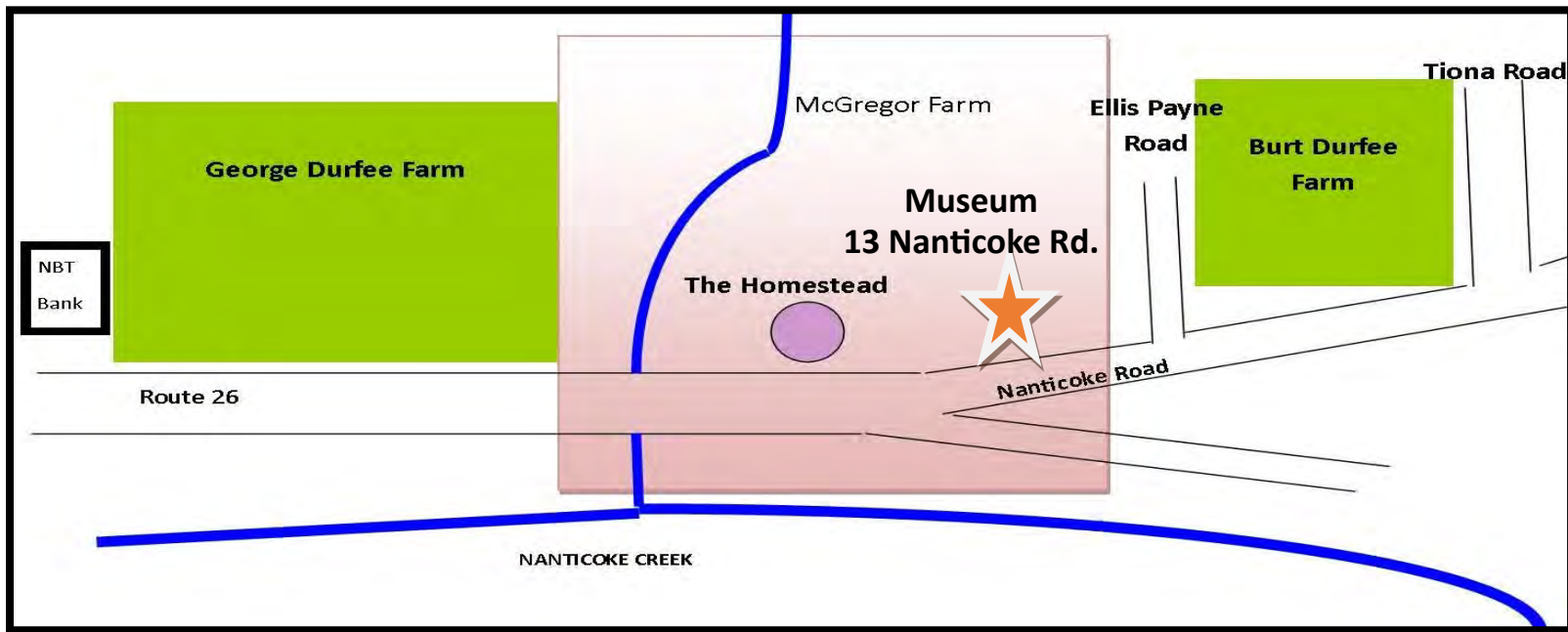
Hamlet of Maine

## General Timeline Referring to Some Facts Concerning Maine NY 13802 – Starting 1700 -1816

- Prior to 1700 the New York State region was the home to the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois and the Algonquian tribes) which formed an alliance called the Five Nations (Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga and Seneca) The Tuscarora joined later and it began the Six Nations.
- 1722 Nanticoke Tribe (Nantaquak -People of the tidewater) leave Maryland, Delaware area and move into upstate NY with permission of Six Nations.
- 1754 - 1763 French and Indian War British and Iroquois vs. France and Algonquian; British won. It was the North America aspect of the Seven Years' War (1756–63) in Europe.
- April 19, 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord
- 7.14.1776 Declaration of Independence
- Winter of 1777 – 1778 Valley Forge
- 11.11.1778 Cherry Valley Massacre
- February 1779 Congress asks George Washington to protect the frontier.
- 4.15.1779 Washington writes letter to General John Sullivan to destroy British/Loyalist, and Iroquois
- John Sullivan Campaign with General James Clinton. Sullivan travels north from Wyoming Valley Pa. , Clinton comes down Susquehanna,
- 8.18.1779 Cochugant tribe of Tuscarora village on Choconut Creek in Vestal destroyed by General Enoch Poor's army sent by Sullivan to meet Clinton.
- The two armies meet in August 28, 1779 at modern Union NY, thus the name. Campaign ends Oct. 1779
- Oct 1781 Battle of Yorktown
- 1780 settlers in Hooper (Endwell) Amos Patterson and Col. Robert Hooper, from New Jersey, settled in the region in the 1780s
- 9.3.1783 Official end of American revolution with signing of Treaty of Paris with Great Britain.
- 1786 Boston Purchase formed. The **Boston Ten Townships** refers to an area of 230,400 acres (932 km<sup>2</sup>) in Tioga County and Broome County, New York State
- 1786 William Cooper settles Cooperstown
- 7.26.1788 New York State formed
- 1789 George Washington 1st President April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797
- 3.16.1791 Town of Union and Tioga from dividing Tioga County Vestal separated 3.23.1823 and Town of Maine 3.27.1848.
- 1792 Riverside Cemetery starts burial of Joshua and John Mersereau.
- 1794 Corporal Benjamin Norton settles in Maine area, Brothers Alfred and Russell Gates cut Nanticoke road.
- 11. 1812 Jedediah Dudley (38 years old) oldest grave in Union Center Cemetery Nanticoke Valley Cemetery
- 4.1816 Grove Slosson (7 months) oldest grave in Maine Cemetery.
- 1822. Gardner S. Bowers arrives at Norton corners, Andrew Taylor home is constructed.



Owner	Address	circa	1800	1855	1866	1876	Today	mileage
<b>Dayton, Henry</b>	13	<b>1850</b>						<b>0.0</b>
<b>Ransom, Jefferson</b>	32	<b>1833</b>						
<b>Norton Benjamin</b>	35	<b>1810</b> <b>(Issac)</b>	Arrives 1794				NO	
<b>Carriage Shops</b>		<b>1820</b>						
<b>Bowers, Gardiner</b>	51	<b>1824</b>				<b>Rebuilt</b> <b>1870</b>		<b>0.1</b>
<b>Slosson , Anson</b>	41 Tiona	<b>1818</b>						
<b>Taylor, Andrew</b>	229	<b>1822</b>						
<b>Mrs. Slosson (Ames)</b>	241	<b>1850</b>						<b>1.1</b>
<b>Ashley Road</b>								<b>1.4</b>
<b>Gates School #3</b>	246	<b>1855</b>		<b>Yes</b>				<b>2.1</b>
<b>Alfred Gates</b>			Arrives 1795					
<b>Louis Gates</b>	Son of Rus- sell	<b>1839</b>					Burned 1997	
<b>Gates, Russell</b>		<b>1795</b>	Arrives 1795				Underground railroad 1835	
<b>Gates, Cyrus</b> <b>Son of Russell</b>	17 Old Nanticoke Road	<b>1848</b>					Underground railroad	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Bowers corners school</b> <b>#12</b>				<b>Yes</b>			Moved as a guest house attached to Bowers home	
<b>Number of homes from museum to Gates house</b>			3 homes	17 homes	29 homes		53 homes	



1970's aerial photograph of McGregor farm. All lands shown were part of their lands.



**Janet W. Bowers Museum 13 Nanticoke Road Maine NY 13802**





MR. AND MRS. GEORGE L. KENYON OF MAINE  
Who Observed Their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on Monday  
September 21, 1936



*Dayton-Kenyon-McGregor House Museum*  
circa 1900

Photo of museum **ca. 1900** . Note the open door to the left where a carriage was parked. **Mr. and Mrs. George L. Kenyon** taken in **1936** at their 50th wedding anniversary.

## 13 Nanticoke Road

### Dayton, Kenyon, McGregor House

"This indenture made the 13th day of February the year of our Lord one thousand and seven hundred and ninety-two between Isaac Curtis of Stockbridge in the County of Berkshire in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the 1st part and Benjamin Norton of Stockbridge aforesaid of the 2nd part for a sum of 95 pounds and 6 shillings" begins the history of the land and house now owned by the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society.

Benjamin Norton was the first of the pioneers to settle in what is now the Town of Maine, in 1792. Travel in those days was usually done during the winter along the frozen rivers and creeks. Oxen pulled large sleds laden with family household articles.

Benjamin Norton sold the Museum site to his son Amasa in 1795. Then on May 1st, 1807, Amasa Norton sold the property to Ephraime Hutchinson and Benjamin Simonds for \$1,165. Interestingly, on May 13th, 13 days after Amasa sold the property to the two Norwich men, the sheriff seized the land, along with lands owned by Elisha Bradley, to pay debts of these two men totaling \$393.75. The property in turn was sold to another Norwich man, George Saxon, in the amount of \$400.

Thompson Lewis, a sea captain from Connecticut, bought the parcel of land in January, 1813 for \$800. Lewis moved his family to Maine and became a farmer. He was a charter member of the Maine Baptist Church in 1835 and Justice of the Peace for 13 years in the village.

On the 1st of April, 1854, Albert B. Dayton purchased the land and house for \$3500. In 1870 a fire ravaged the Museum House and extensive renovation occurred. The roof was raised and an ell was built on the south side to create a Victorian house. Albert and wife Elvira were members of Maine



Ca. 1905 George Kenyon, farmer and local milkman

Congregational Church. In April 1895, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the house.

After the death of Elvira, Dayton sold the house to George L. Kenyon, a farmer, in January 1904 for \$2650.

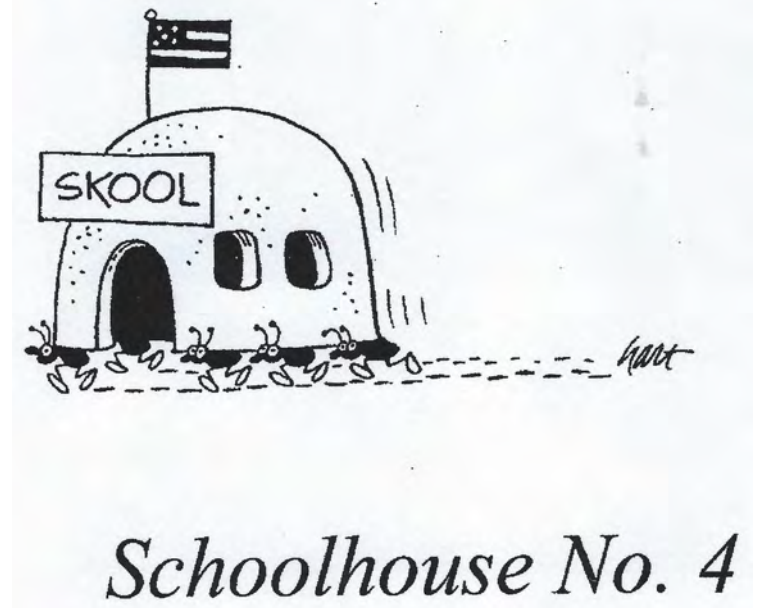
The house changed hands several times from 1920 to 1937, when Venley McGregor and his wife Clara bought the property. The McGregors ran a chicken and egg farm for many years. A son of Venley, Dane McGregor, and his wife Ruth lived in the house for several years, but otherwise it was rented to tenants.

On April 29, 1976, the property was deeded to the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. The Society made plans to renovate the house to fulfill the needs of the community as a museum. There will be displays of historical artifacts of the Nanticoke area. Portions of the house will be furnished in the period of 1870 to demonstrate the home and life-style of a prosperous rural family.

At Bowers Corners, the Norton carriage shops will be restored, creating an historical complex. These shops will display old carriages, farm implements and artifacts related to a New York agricultural community.



1845 one room school house was originally part of the Endicott school district and was located on Bornt Hill road. In the year 2000. The MMES PTA and teachers along with the NVHS moved and restored this school to 14 Nanticoke road.





“This home was built around 1833 on Boston Purchase Lot No. 51. It was converted into a gas station and general store around 1930. Dr. and Mrs. Clement Bowers refurbished this home around 1938. In 1850 Ransom was listed as a mechanic, which means carpenter. He was also involved in town of Maine politics including town supervisor 4 time between 1854 and 1867.” Ann Lewis, *Then and Now* 1998. The second barn on the Norton property was moved from the Ransom land around 1870.



The Ransom House located at **32 Nanticoke Road** Maine, NY c. **1833** was converted to a gas station around 1930. Restored by Dr. and Mrs. Clement G. Bowers around 1937. The price of a gallon of regular Capitol White Flash gasoline was 16.9 cents per gallon.

Information taken Then & Now A Pictorial History of the Town of Maine, New York by Ann Page Lewis May 1998 160 pages. pg. 110



Front  
door of  
Ransom  
home  
showing  
the front  
door  
pediment

**Benjamin Norton** was born circa 1751, probably in Guildford, Connecticut to Thomas Norton and his wife Bethia. The book "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War" Volume 11 (1903), by the Secretary of the Commonwealth has this entry for Norton's war-time service:

**NORTON, BENJAMIN.** Corporal, Capt. Erastus Sargent's co., Col. Benjamin Simonds's detachment of Berkshire Co. militia; muster roll dated Ticonderoga, Feb. 25, 1777; enlisted Dec. 16, 1776; enlistment to expire March 15, 1777; also, same co. and detachment; enlisted Dec. 16, 1776; discharged March 22, 1777; service, 97 days, at Ticonderoga, including 7 days (140 miles) travel home; also, Capt. Job Woodbridge's co., Col. Brown's (Berkshire Co.) regt.; entered service July 8, 1777; discharged July 26, 1777; service, 19 days; company formed part of a detachment under Maj. Caleb Hide which marched from Stockbridge on the evacuation of Ticonderoga; also, Capt. Ebenezer Cook's co., Col. John Brown's (Berkshire Co.) regt.; entered service Sept. 22, 1777; discharged Oct. 14, 1777; service, 22 days, at the Northward.

The mother of Benjamin Norton's children was Lois Wentworth Curtis, daughter of Elnathan Curtis of Berkshire County, MA. His second wife was named Phebe.

Benjamin Norton can be found in the 1790 census for Berkshire County, MA. It is said that in 1794, he moved to the area that is now the Town of Maine in Broome County, NY. It was then part of the larger Town of Union, Tioga County. In mid-June, 1819, Norton prepared his Last Will and Testament. Benjamin Norton died between June 16 and October 6, 1819."

**GEO. E. NORTON,**  
Manufacturer of the Celebrated  
**DAVIS BROS. PATENT  
COMBINATION SPRING PLATFORM,**



**THE BEST CARRYING, EASIEST RIDING AND MOST DURABLE WAGON IN USE.**

The best carrying because of perfect Springs, and bearings at proper points to give the greatest strength.

Easiest riding. A Wagon carrying 1500 lbs. rides as easy for one man as the best Phaeton.

Most durable, because the combination of the Springs is such as to give perfect elasticity to the gear, thereby entirely obviating the sharp side motion and consequent strain on the Wheels and other parts of the Wagon, allowing the Wagon to pass over all irregularities of road without winding or cracking the box, or jerking, or inconvenience to those riding. The binding of the circle, a necessity with all other Platform Wagons, is entirely obviated, allowing the Wagon to follow the road without crowding the team from side to side.

Our Wagons are manufactured from choice material, by the best mechanics, thoroughly painted, with fine finish and trim, and warranted.

If you want the best Wagon for the money ever made, write or call on us. If you want a Family Wagon, an Express Wagon, a Peddler's Wagon, Market Wagon, or a Wagon for any of the purposes for which the Platform or Democrat Wagon is generally used, see and try these Wagons and you will use no other.

We have arrangements whereby we can ship to any part of the United States at the lowest rates.

All communications will be cheerfully answered.

Special terms given to those wishing to deal in these Wagons.

**L. A. DAVIS & BRO., Patentees, Binghamton, N. Y.**

---

**GEO. E. NORTON,**  
Manufacturer of  
**Heavy and Light Lumber Wagons, Platforms, Carriages,  
Buggies, Cutters, &c.**

Repairing done on short notice. Painting a Specialty.

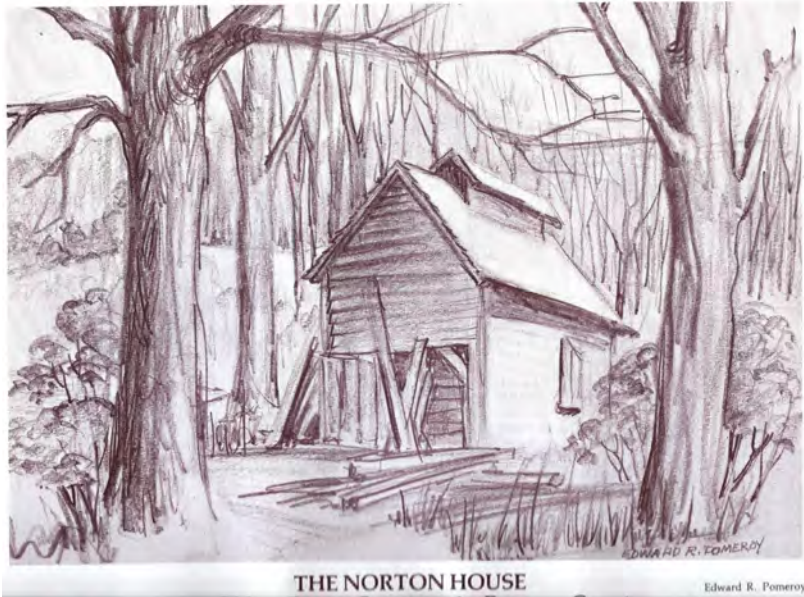
**MAINE, Broome County, N. Y.**

Republican Print, Binghamton, N. Y.



38 Nanticoke Road Norton Wagon shops





THE NORTON HOUSE

Edward R. Pomeroy



• Norton home (ca. 1810) (photo 1936)

“Isaac Norton had a man named Mr. Ashley build him a house in about 1810 in Maine, NY. It was the oldest house still standing in 1973. It was 9 X 12 feet and was originally used as a dwelling until a larger house could be built. Then it was used to house the loom. The boards and nails were machine made. The door was a single wide board with cross pieces held by hand-wrought nails. The house consisted of a single downstairs room and loft put together with pegs. The latch on the only door once operated with a string, typical of primitive dwellings. It was then moved into a grove of sugar maples across the road and was used as a sugar house to boil sap.

About 1820 two buildings were built by the Norton family and used as wagon shops and furniture "factory". They were still standing in 1973 on an abandoned road segment in Bowers Corners area of Maine.” (*Al Parr, 1957*)

The Norton’s built a large home next to the western wagon works. This building burned down in 1918. This crossroad was called Norton’s Corners and later called Bowers Corners. The Stratton painting on the next slide, gives a view of this area around 1870

## NORTON CARRIAGE SHOPS

- ❖ Donated to the NVHS by Clement Bowers. These buildings were owned by Janet Bowers and were deeded to NVHS in 1978. Various repairs have been made and both roofs have been replaced. Plans are being considered for displaying various horse-drawn vehicles and agricultural items



George E. Norton 1845 - 1931  
Alice Ring Norton 1848 - 1933

## Chain of Ownership of Norton Wagon Shops

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Liber</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Deed Date</b>	<b>Acre</b>	<b>Price</b>
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society	Janet Bowers Bothwell	1289	6	April 27, 1979	1.25	\$1
Janet Bowers	Clement G. Bowers and Janet Whitney Bowers	Will		April 19, 1973		
Clement G. Bowers and Janet Whitney Bowers	Robert L. Norton	434	496	April 6, 1933		\$1
Robert L. Norton	George E. Norton	Will				
George E. Norton	William H. Norton	89	537	May 10, 1869	1.25	\$400
William H. Norton	Thomas and Laura Nash	25	484	January 9, 1843	17	\$100
Thomas and Laura Nash	William H. Norton	25	131	January 9, 1843	17	\$100
William H. Norton	Elizer Norton	Will		1835		
Elizer Norton				1794		

Maine tax map parcel 074. 14-1-5; 38 Nanticoke Road, Maine, NY 13802

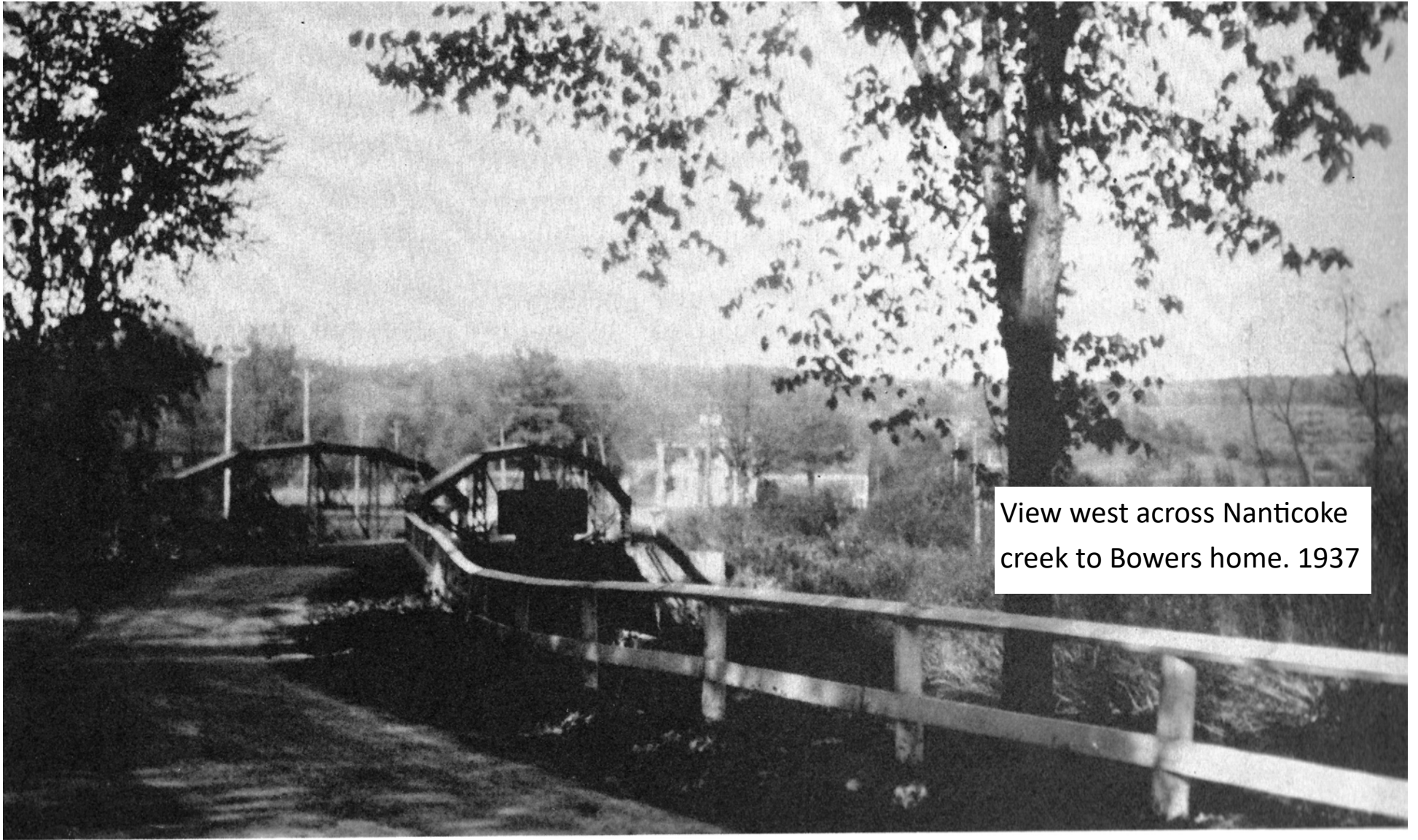
Current value: \$3000 land, \$7700 total

Liens: none

Property was originally Lot 51 of the Grand Division of the Boston Purchase



This painting of Bowers Corners was painted by Clarence Stratton in 1973 and was donated to the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society by Mr. Rauscher in 2020. It shows Norton (or Bowers) Corners as it looked around 1870. The two Norton Wagon Works buildings are located at 38 Nanticoke Road: the west building (ca. 1840) and the east building (ca. 1876). The ramp on the west building was used to take the wagons to the 2nd floor for painting in a more dust-free environment. Originally a one-story building, the second floor was added around 1850. The second barn was moved from the Ransom property to the south around 1870. The Isaac Norton house (ca. 1810) is shown on the east side of Nanticoke Road. This building burned completely in 1918. Across the extension of Tiona Road is a building which served at various times as a blacksmith shop and a general store. It was demolished in 1879. The original Gardner Bowers home was constructed in 1822 and burned in 1870. It was re-built as it was originally constructed and still stands today. Mr. Clement and Mrs. Janet W. Bowers used the western building as a planting shed and location for lectures. The Norton Wagon Works buildings were donated to the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society in 1978 by their daughter Janet.



View west across Nanticoke  
creek to Bowers home. 1937

Nanticoke Creek Bridge at Bowers Corners (dismantled 1937)



Mrs. Bowers in early photograph on Tiona Road. (51 Nanticoke Road)



“The property was acquired about 1835 by Captain Gardner Swain Bowers who came from Rindge New Hampshire in 1820. The house has many identifiable 1870 details, but is now an architectural hybrid. The portico in the character of Classic Revival and the bay window on the south side are later additions.” Historical Architecture of Broome County NY by E. d. Montillon 1972. **The sketch is by Franck Bowers of the 1837 Bowers home**





51 Nanticoke Road



51 Nanticoke Road the Bowers house rebuilt in 1870 after a fire destroyed the original



Bowers Corners school house, closed in 1938. It was moved by Clement Bowers to be used as a guest house and is attached to the main house and garage (upper right). Inside the guest cottage a second floor was added plus a fireplace in the main living area..





Image of John D. Rockefeller, the partner of Lamont Bowers who is the father of Clement Bowers, the infant seated on the man's lap. Bowers was a financial advisor to Rockefeller and helped run his operation in both New York and Colorado.” Bowers Collection of Broome County Historical Society

<http://nyheritage.nynln.net/cdm/landingpage/collection/p261501coll8>

**Clement Gray Bowers**

**b. December 22, 1893, Maine NY d. April 12, 1973 Johnson City, NY**

**Lamont Bowers besides his home in Bowers Corners had two homes on Riverside Drive in Binghamton plus his own railroad car , a home in Denver Colorado and also a cottage in the country side near Binghamton.**

**Lamont worked for J. D. Rockefeller meeting him through Lamonts nephew, son of his sister Sarah Gates who was instrumental in connecting Lamont with John D. Rockefeller. Granville Gates 1829 – 1906 and Sarah Jane Bowers Gates 1830 - 1904 son Frederick Taylor Gates born July 2, 1853 in Maine, Broome County, NY,**



**41 Tiona road**, just a half mile west of Bowers home on Tiona Road. It is the former farm of Anson S. Slosson and was probably built around 1818. Originally a four room home it has been added on to many times over the years. The Slosson children Beldon and Daniel were the first owners of Pitcher's grist mill ca. 1830.

# Captain Jerry Zimmer MIA since 1965

## 1969 *Maine Marine Pilot Killed in Vietnam*

Capt. Jerry Zimmer, 25, Maine, a Marine Corps jet fighter pilot, was killed Aug. 29 when his F4 Phantom was shot down 19½ miles south of Da Nang, the Marine Corps announced last night. He was escorting a reconnaissance plane when he crashed.

Captain Zimmer, born in Endicott, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Zimmer, Nanticoke Road, Maine.

He grew up in Maine and was graduated in 1962 from Vestal Central High School. He received a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Brown University in 1966.

Upon graduation from Brown, Captain Zimmer was commissioned as second lieutenant. He had been studying on an ROTC scholarship.

During his tour in Vietnam, which began Feb. 21, he was promoted to the rank of cap-



*CAPT. JERRY ZIMMER*

542, at Da Nang Air Base.

Captain Zimmer married Elaine Doherty in Providence, R. I., June 11, 1966.

He was a member of Maine Federated Church.

Captain Zimmer is the 44th Broome County serviceman to die in Vietnam.

In a recent letter to his family, the captain said he had just been awarded an Air Medal and had been recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross.

His widow and 2-year-old son, Craig, had been living in Providence during the captain's Vietnam tour.

Other survivors include: the parents; two brothers, James and Jeffrey; the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Naivette Westgale, and paternal grandmother, Mrs. Lulu Zimmer, all of Maine.

His mother said a memorial service would be held soon in Federated Church.

tain. He served with First Marine Wing, Marine Air Group



Little League field town park



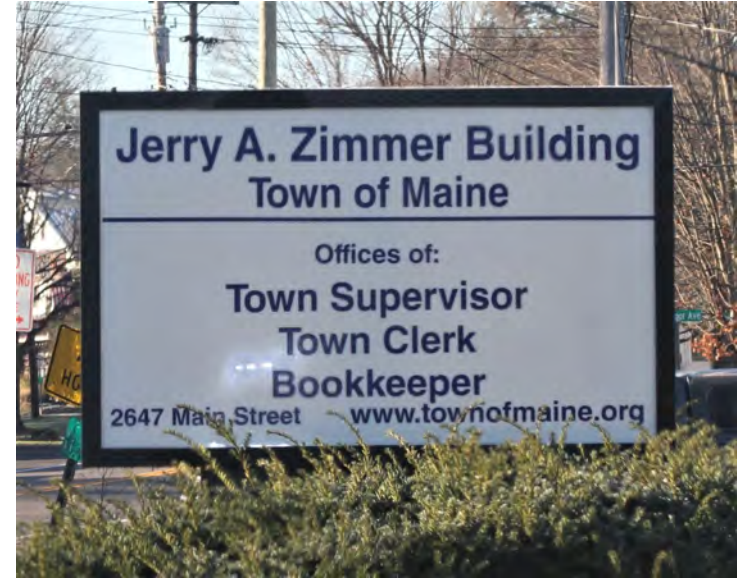
Zimmer farm on Nanticoke Road

**Captain Jerry Allen Zimmer**, United States Marine Corps, was born in Maine, New York on May 5, 1944. Raised on a dairy farm, he was the oldest of three boys and enjoyed a close relationship with his family. He attended Brown University on a Naval ROTC scholarship and graduated in 1966, whereupon he entered the Marine Corps and became an F-4 Phantom pilot. Shot down while flying a ground support mission on August 29, 1969, he is survived by his widow Elaine Zimmer Davis and their son Craig Zimmer.

IN MEMORY The funeral was held at the Zimmer farm, attended by Jerry's family and high school classmates, a few returned soldiers from Vietnam, and some of Elaine's childhood friends. There was a ceremonial flyover for the empty casket. "It was like overnight my life changed forever. That was the only thing I could say to anybody," Elaine recalls. ..." [https://repository.library.brown.edu/studio/item/bdr:405051/PDF/Local POW/MIA's Jerry Zimmer of Maine](https://repository.library.brown.edu/studio/item/bdr:405051/PDF/Local%20POW/MIA's%20Jerry%20Zimmer%20of%20Maine)  
HONORED ON PANEL 18W, LINE 9 OF THE WALL  
DATE OF CASUALTY 8.29.1969

The Zimmer dairy farm is located just north from the Bowers home and was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zimmer. Jerry Zimmer graduated from Vestal HS in 1962 and had brothers James and Jeffery. To this date he is still listed as MIA when his plane was shot down in 1965 in Vietnam. The town has named the Supervisors office on Main Street and the little league field after him.









RES. @ MRS. ZARAH S. TAYLOR,  
MAINE TP., BROOME CO., N. Y.

**229 Nanticoke Rd.** Illustration found in 1876 Broome County Atlas. The home dates to 1820 and sits along the current Nanticoke Road. The view is looking north.

“Andrew built a house of luxury to show off his fine furnishings, to reflect his love for beautiful things. But he did not find the atmosphere he was looking for in the Southern Tier. Andrew died a disillusioned aristocrat eleven years after his house was built.” S. Woodward p. 54



229 Nanticoke Road

Andrew Taylor built this home in 1822 in Maine. Taylor was the great-grandfather of Dr. Clement Bowers. The home had several owners over the years. The Taylor House on Nanticoke Road. Was built in the 1820's. The house is a mile north of Bowers Corner. When Gardner Bowers arrived in Maine in 1822 to start his new life the Taylor family lived up the road.



Gardner Sawin Bowers and married Ashcah Taylor. They married in 1827, had six children. Gardner and Andrew Taylor knew each other in New Hampshire.

## The Taylor House



- ❖ The Taylor House on Nanticoke Road. 1940's restoration of the house from the 1890's Victorian renovation to its "original" 1820's construction. The house is a mile north of Bowers Corner. The Bowers connection to this house is through Clements grandfather Gardner Sawin Bowers and his wife Ashcah Taylor. They married in 1827, had six children with the last one being Lamont M. Bowers 1847 – 1941, father of Clement and grandfather of Janet.

241 Nanticoke Road





This property contained 163 acres and belonged to the home at **241 Nanticoke road**. Boston Purchase Lot 91. The earliest owner was Mr. Baker who sold the property to Mr. William Lincoln who then gave it to his daughter and son-in-law. Georgiana and Norman Wright around 1865.



In the photo above Leigh Ames is shown with his team, Sam and Dan.” Ann Lewis book p. 109



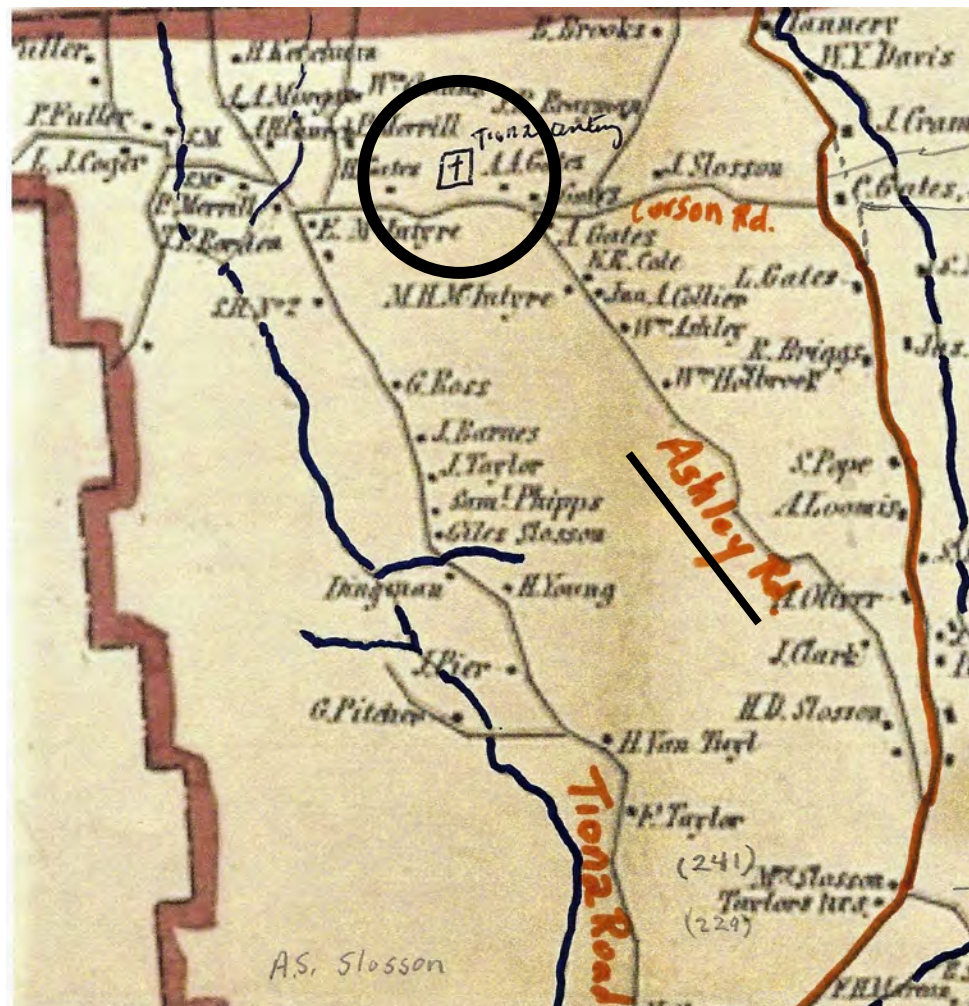
View from Bridan road looking east. Richard Henry created this painting which shows the Taylor house and Ames road which crosses Nanticoke creek and meets with East Maine road. It would have looked similar before 1850.



Just across from the intersection of Ashley and Nanticoke roads is the **Moulton farm**.

**Ashley Road** Located on the 1855 map, climbs from Nanticoke Road northwest to where it joins Corson Road and trends to the west to where it reaches modern day Tiona road near the former McIntyre settlement, about 3 miles. The old **Tiona Cemetery** is located here; one hundred fifty five burials have occurred here including “ Alfred Gates who was born in Connecticut to Levi Gates and Lydia Crocker. His mother was the great-great-granddaughter of Mayflower passengers John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley. Alfred's father, Levi Gates, was a Revolutionary War Patriot and a descendant of some of the country's earliest settlers. Alfred, with his brother Russell, was himself one of the earliest settlers of Broome County, New York, arriving in 1797. He married Lucretia Tubbs, and they had fifteen children. He died in 1859 at the age of 87.” The **Tiona cemetery** (10 burials) is about 1 and one half miles from Corson Corners cemetery via Corson road,

**Russell Gates (1766 –1839)** grave is located in Corson Corners cemetery along with 10 other graves. **The Nanticoke cemetery located in the town of Nanticoke , (266 burials)** **Cyrus Gates and his wife** are buried here.





Just across from the intersection of Ashley and Nanticoke roads is the **Moulton farm**. Richard Henry made the painting to the right.

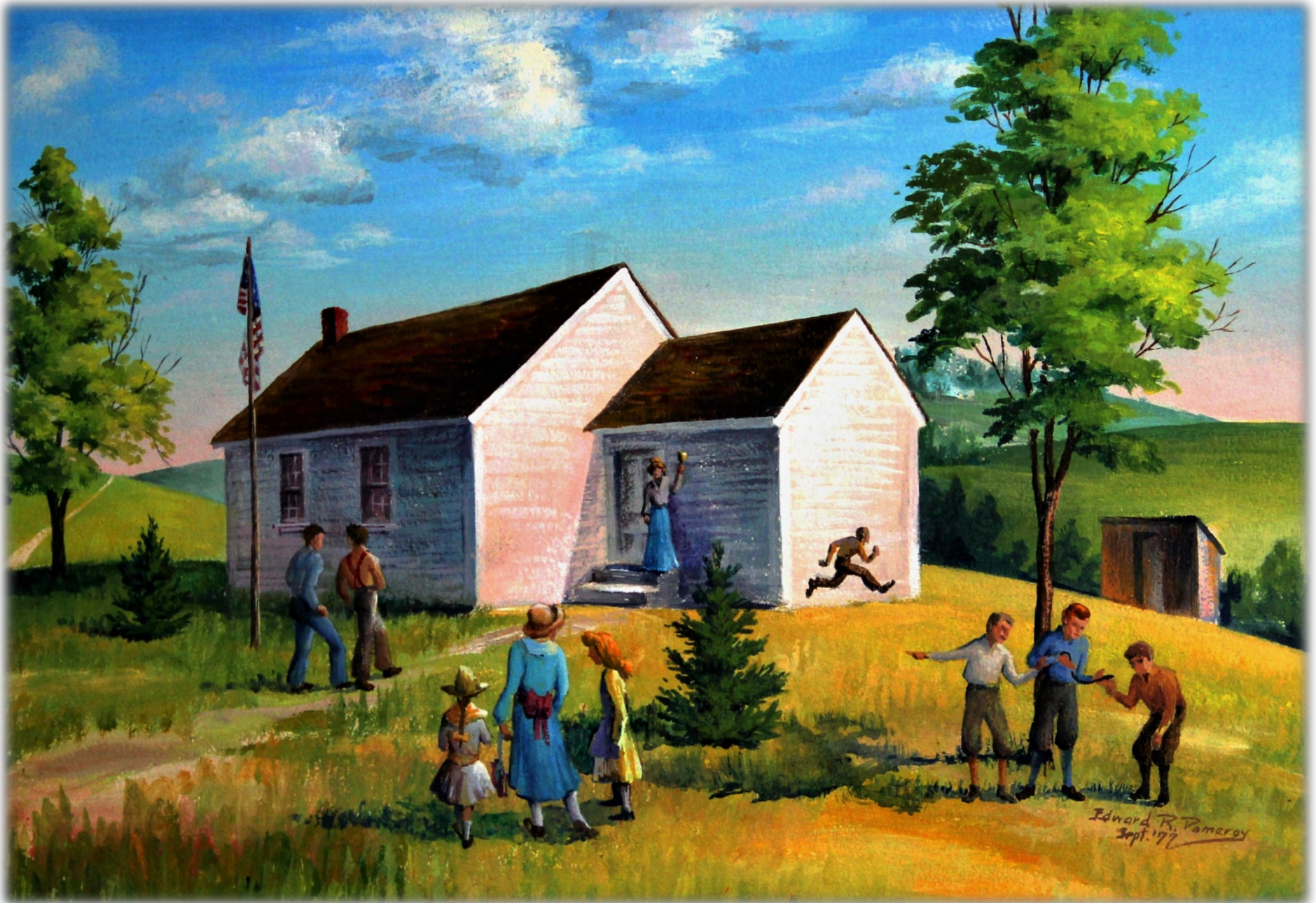




Google maps

Rozelle Road just north of Ashley Road is on the east side of Nanticoke road. This dead end road is the old path of Nanticoke Road and was changed to straighten out the road.

## Gates School # 3



Ed Pomeroy painted the Gates school #3 in 1977. It captures the atmosphere of a one room school house. It first opened in 1855 on land donated by Stephen Gates. .

Blanche was a teacher, beginning at 19 years of age, in the one-room school house of the Gates District, Maine, N.Y. Later she taught in the Maine-Endwell Schools. Mrs. Walter was also a Sunday School Teacher for 54 years at First Baptist Church in Maine, N.Y.

## **STORY OF A TEACHER**

By Blanche Walter

“I had a contract to teach the one room school of Gates District, Maine, New York for the 1932-1933 year. I was thrilled! I was 19 years old. The school opened in September of 1932 with twenty-one pupils of various grades. They were good children and I cared for them.

In the beginning, New York State divided the state into local school districts. The schoolhouse was in the center with a one- mile radius going from the center like spokes in a wheel. Children came from all directions. They also lived on farms on different roads. .... Each family had their own path. A large group came together. The farthest had to come a mile. The children from farms along the way joined them. The children took care of each other. I don't recall any problems with tardiness. They walked in all kinds of weather. I had the fire going early on cold days. Also, I had left a good fire in the heatrola the night before. It was a task to get them warm, dry and comfortable during bad weather times. We draped coats around to be dry by the time they needed them to go home.”

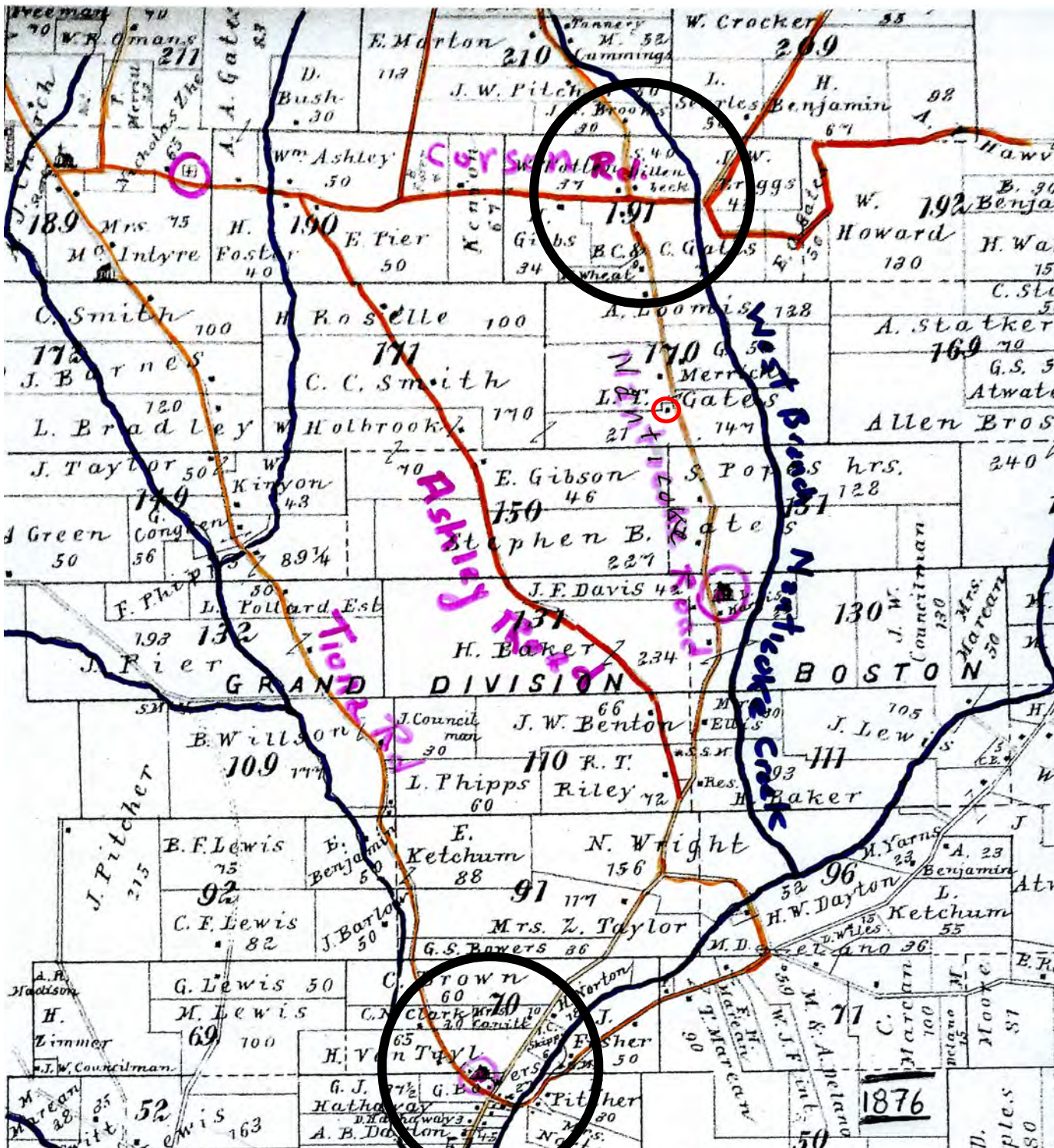
### Gates school # 3

To the left is the former Gates school # 3 in 1947. It closed in 1938 when the Maine schools were consolidated and the Maine Central School on Church Street opened. Below is the same property today located 0.8 miles from Ashley Road and 1.0 mile from the home of Cyrus Gates.

Below is the current location 246 Nanticoke Road.



1876 Plat Map  
Maine, NY  
From  
Bowers Corners  
to  
Corson Corners



# THE GATES FAMILY

**Levi Gates 1736–1802**

Lydia Crocker 1736–1796

Marriage: 29 May 1760

Children:

David Gates 1761–1831

Jirah Gates 1763–1836

**Russell Gates 1766–1839**

Levi L Gates 1768–1805

**Alfred Avery Gates 1772–1859**

**Rev. Alfred Avery Gates, b. 26 Feb 1772, d. 27 May 1859 (Age 87 years)**

(settled Br. Co. 1797, bur. Tiona Cemetery) 15 children

Alfred Gates was born in Connecticut to Levi Gates and Lydia Crocker. His mother was the great-great-granddaughter of Mayflower passengers John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley. Alfred's father, Levi Gates, was a Revolutionary War Patriot and a descendant of some of the country's earliest settlers. Alfred, with his brother Russell, was himself one of the earliest settlers of Broome County, New York, arriving in 1797. He married Lucretia Tubbs, and they had fifteen children. He died in 1859 at the age of 87.

**Russell Gates 1766–1839**

Russell Gates, born January 19, 1766 in East Haddam, CT, married at Canaan, Columbia County, NY, March 8, 1792, Esther Briggs, born in Dighton, MA, January 18, 1761, daughter of William Briggs and his wife, Esther.

Soon after their marriage, the couple decided to move westward to establish their home. Russell went to search for a suitable location in the Nanticoke Valley of Broome County, NY. He bought a tract of land and built a log house before making his way back east through the woods to pick up his wife for the return trip by ox team and cart. As early as 1793, they settled in Union (now Maine), Broome County, NY, then a wilderness of virgin forests, and they remained there for the rest of their lives.

Russell Gates built a large estate, consisting of a frame house with farms, an orchard, dam, and sawmill. He was chosen deacon of the Baptist Church and he conducted funerals in the neighborhood and officiated as a lay preacher. He died, suddenly, May 8, 1839, leaving bequests to his church. Mrs. Esther Gates died, November 6, 1850.

Children of Russell and Esther (Briggs) Gates, born in Broome County, NY:

1. William, born September 18, 1795.
2. Louis, born April 10, 1800.
3. Cyrus, born July 25, 1802.

# Louis Gates house on Nanticoke Road , burned in 1997



**Louis Gates**, son of Russell Gates, home on Nanticoke Road. It burned down in 1997. Louis' father Russell 1766 – 1839 constructed Nanticoke Road through “virgin” forests. He worked along with his brother Alfred. Both brothers were charter members of the Maine Baptist Church . Louis received one third of his fathers Russell's estate in 1839. This house dates from that time. (taken from *Then & Now* by Ann Lewis book 1998.)



Sally (Sarah Taylor Gates) died of rheumatic fever in 1854. She was Louis' second wife married 7.7.1842



Louis and daughter Mary Jane



Emily Payne Gates 1st wife died 3.3.1842. Buried Corson-Corners -County Rd. 314 next to Cyrus Gates Home

63



Alfred 1772– 1859 Tiona Cemetery had 15 children  
Russell 1766—1839 Corson Corners Cemetery  
Rev William 1795—1882 Riverside Cemetery Whitney Point  
Deacon Louis 1800 –1873 Maine Cemetery  
Deacon Cyrus 1802—1891 Nanticoke Cemetery



Cyrus Gates Farmstead



Nanticoke road has been straightened over the years and the Gates farmstead sits on Old Nanticoke Road

# FREEDOM IS WHERE I'M GOING"

## *Cyrus Gates' Station on the Underground Railroad*

“At a time when this nation was deeply divided over the issue of slavery, Cyrus Gates made no secret of his strong abolitionist views. Living in the Town of Maine, his farmstead was situated in line with one of many routes taken by runaway slaves seeking freedom. Gates and his wife Arabella opened their home as a safe haven, and together they were to host a station on the Underground Railroad. How safe the runaways were while at the farmstead is unknown, but Gates had an emergency plan. Beukema quotes Cyrus Gates' great-granddaughter, Louise



Gates-Gunsalus as having stated: "To facilitate the harboring and if necessary the hiding of runaway slaves, the Gates built a hiding place inside the south wing of their attic." Measuring roughly ten by twenty feet, and only four feet high, the secret room was accessed through a small hidden panel located in the back of a closet in an upstairs bedroom. The family's oral history would seem to be accurate. Built long before prohibition, predating the existence of electrical wires and attic insulation, Beukema and County Historian Smith agree that there would be no reason for the trap door other than to provide access to a hiding place.”



The Cyrus Gates farmstead painting by Suzanne Wirth<sup>52</sup>



” Later when Cyrus wanted a privy built, he had quite a time as the local carpenters, still feeling bitter about his importing an architect for his house..”  
For a while it was listed as the largest outhouse in Broome County

## Tales from the Nanticoke

### Shirley Woodward 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 1973

“In **1795 Russell and Alfred Gates**, of East Haddam, Massachusetts, who came in 1791 to “Chenango Point” and who were not satisfied with the soil there, migrated up the Nanticoke Valley to the end of the road near “Centerville” at the Dudley place. From there they cut their way through the wilderness to a place about four miles up the west branch of the Nanticoke Creek. It was necessary to continually guard against wolves and other wild beasts as all sorts of game and wildlife were plentiful at that time; however, little trouble was experienced with the Indians as most of them had begun to leave following the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign.” P. 2 Russell was 28 years old and Alfred was 22 years old when they arrived in the Maine area.

The settlement of **Bowers Corners**, a picturesque neighborhood located on mile north of Maine Village, is named after Gardner Sawin Bowers, who came to Maine in 1822. A store was established there in 1865 by J.M. and C.G. Bowers. In 1878 they sold it Issac Shippy, who closed it about a year later. The building was later removed. The house was built by Captain Gardner S. Bowers, to replace an older house burned in 1870.” P. 18

“also in this area in **1872** are listed a shoe shop and a blacksmith shop. The old Norton Carriage Shop or Furniture factory, dated about 1820, is still standing.’ P 18

The **Bowers’ Corners School** was located at the beginning of Tiona Road, north side. ... The school was built in 1850 and it burned in 1886. It was rebuilt in 1886 and used until 1940. ..The school has been moved onto Dr. Bowers’ property and is now used for an office. Mrs. Leigh Wheaton was the last teacher.” P. 30

“the **Gates District School** was on Nanticoke road, about two miles from Bowers Corners. In the early 1930’s the teacher was paid \$25.00 a week for 38 weeks, and she was the janitor too. At one time, Delores Lewis was the teacher and had 16 pupils. The school was heated by wood.” P. 32

“**Professor Reverend William Gates** must have had a very strong character, since he had the courage to remain a “copperhead” in this strongly Abolitionist territory throughout the time of the Civil War. His belief in slavery was supported by his thorough study of the Old Testament, and he would argue with anyone on the subject.” He taught in the “Maine Academy” which were held at 23 Main St. p. 33

“**George Norton**, who died in 1931, was the last Civil War Veteran in Maine. “ p. 36

“**Cyrus, son of Russell Gates**, pioneer to North Maine area in 1794, was a surveyor who mapped eleven New York state Counties during his career. He admired and decided to take as his own the style of the gracious old plantation homes of the Classic Revival period. Thinking more in the terms of a beautiful home than the feeling of local builders, he imported an architect from New York City, by the name of A.C. Yarrington. When half completed, the home was altered to accommodate an enclosed staircase rather than the open stair well as originally planned. P. 51” Later when Cyrus wanted a privy built, he had quite a time as the local carpenters, still feeling bitter about his importing an architect for his house..” p. 52 “before and during the civil Was this home was used as a station on the Underground Railroad. These runaways stayed in the attic over the south wing until it was sage to move on to the next station. The entrance to this hidden room was through a small wall cupboard in the master bedroom upstairs.” P. 52

“The **Andrew Taylor farm** shows the strong influence of New England Colonial architecture and the first hint of classic Greek Revival design the Taylor from on Nanticoke road, Maine, is one of the finest examples of the staunch New England four-square houses built in this area. Andrew Taylor, a wealthy retired farmer in his middle 50’s his children grown and a frontier urge tugging at his New England roots, moved to Maine in 1822. ...In the 1890’s the house was remodeled by affluent Victorians. This work was undone and house restored to its original form in the late 1940’s by Dr. and Mrs. Clement Bowers, descendants of Andrew Taylor.” P. 54

“The **Ransom House**. A cabinetmaker of refined tastes (he read the highbrow New York Evening while other residents in Maine followed the New York Herald) built himself a home which has stood for more than a century....the house nearly missed its century mark. About 1930, it was converted into a gas station and general store. ...the house was restored in 1938 by dr. and Mrs. Clement G. Bowers of Maine. P. 55

“One of the early home fires was that of **Gardner S. Bowers** In the March 3, 1871, issue of the “The Union Weekly News” a report stated this fine old pine frame home was destroyed completely last Thursday night. The fire originated in a barrel of ashes and there was no insurance to cover the loss.” P. 69

“**Gates-4 Corners** - named after Russell and Alfred gates, pioneers to area 1794. Corson Settlement in the same area named after family from Pennsylvania probably the John Corson family in 1830 census.” P. 9

## Some individuals who lived on Nanticoke Road and lived an interesting life

**Bowers, Dr. Clement Gray;** botanist, author, and historian; was professor at Cornell University and Harpur College for many years; is world authority on azaleas and Rhododendrons, was Past Chairman of Broome County Planning board. He was instrumental in bringing broom County Airport to Maine. Died 1974

**Bowers, Lamont M.;** Executive. Born at Bowers Corners 1847 For thirty years on personal advisory staff of John D. Rockefeller; organized shipping of Great Lakes, head of Colonial Fuel & Iron Co. Died 1941

**Bowers Franck Taylor;** Artist. Son of Lamont. Studied in New York and Paris, teacher of art; illustrator; National Academy Exhibitor. Died 1932.

**Bothwell, Bowers, Janet;** author, head of Bowers Foundation, organizing member of NVHS, preservationist, philanthropist. Died 2004

**Fisher, Ernest.** Business man. Born Bowers Corners 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-fonder 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 Frederick (above). For many years assistant to Dr. Alexis Carrel; died 1933 while conducting biological research at Harvard University.

**Gates, Franklin H.** Banker. Son of F.T.st Vice-President of the Chase National Bank, New York City.

**Gates Russell;** Businessman. 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.

**Marean, Josiah Taylor.** Jurist . Born in Bowers Corners District 1842 District Attorney, Kings County, 1897; Justice Supreme Court of NY, 1899-1912. Lived in Brooklyn, NY.

**Marean, Laura.** Educator . Born in Bowers Corners District. For many years Principal of a school in St Joseph Missouri.

**Ross, William McAllister.** Jurist. Born Gates District 1850. Graduate of Harvard and Justice of the Supreme Court of NY. Lived in Syracuse, NY.

**Zimmer, Jerry Allen ; Captain ,** United States Marine Corps, was born in Maine, New York on May 5, 1944. Raised on a dairy farm, he was the oldest of three boys and enjoyed a close relationship with his family. He attended Brown University on a Naval ROTC scholarship and graduated in 1966, whereupon he entered the Marine Corps and became an F-4 Phantom pilot. Shot down while flying a ground support mission on August 29, 1969, he is survived by his widow Elaine Zimmer Davis and their son Craig Zimmer.



**Taylor, John Milton.** Merchant Came from New Hampshire with father's family in 1822; taught school in Broome County; conducted one of the first stores in Maine, before 1837; later prominent as wholesale dry goods merchant in NYC and is reputed to have been a co-founder of Adams Express Company. Died 1860.

"John Milton Taylor was a wholesale dry goods merchant in New York City. He was a striking looking man six feet and five inches tall, broad shouldered and very straight, always dressed in the height of fashion and an aristocrat in appearance, though liked by everybody he came in contact with. Polished in language, using the most perfect New England manner of speech. He was selected by a New York publishing house, to sit with five others, for an engraving, to be known as the most handsome men of that city. He died in New York City at a young age of 52 and was buried by the side of his young wife, in the cemetery at Bennington, New Hampshire." taken from the Memoirs of L. M. Bowers 1922-23, who was John Milton Taylor's nephew.

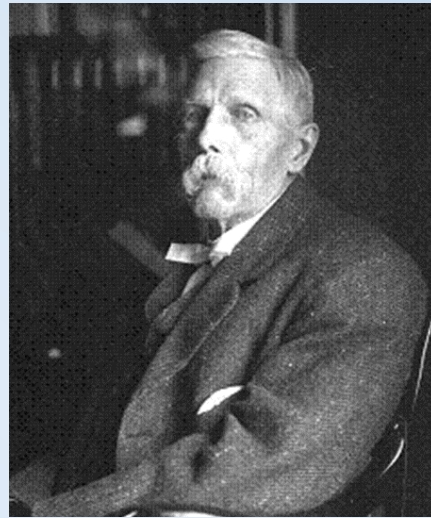
**Information from Shirley Woodward's 1973  
Maine NY History of the 125th Anniversary  
Celebration.**

**Stuart Weller;** studied geology and paleontology at Cornell University with bachelor's degree in 1894 and at Yale University with Ph.D. in 1901. Beginning in 1895 he worked at the University of Chicago, where in 1897–1900 he was a research associate, and became in 1900 Instructor, in 1902 Assistant Professor, in 1908 Associate Professor and in 1915 Professor of Paleontology and Geology. It is noteworthy to mention that Weller supervised Grace Anne Stewart, the first Canadian female to earn a B.A. majoring in geology, as she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

**Benjamin Norton** was born circa 1751, probably in Guildford, Connecticut to Thomas Norton and his wife Bethia. The book "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War" Volume 11 (1903), by the Secretary of the Commonwealth has this entry for Norton's wartime service "NORTON, BENJAMIN. Corporal, Capt. Erastus Sargent's co., Col. Benjamin Simonds's detachment of Berkshire Co. militia; muster roll dated Ticonderoga, Feb. 25, 1777; enlisted Dec. 16, 1776; enlistment to expire March 15, 1777; also, same co. and detachment; enlisted Dec. 16, 1776; discharged March 22, 1777; service, 97 days, at Ticonderoga, including 7 days (140 miles) travel home; also, Capt. Job Woodbridge's co., Col. Brown's (Berkshire Co.) regt.; entered service July 8, 1777; discharged July 26, 1777; service, 19 days; company formed part of a detachment under Maj. Caleb Hide which marched from Stockbridge on the evacuation of Ticonderoga; also, Capt. Ebenezer Cook's co., Col. John Brown's (Berkshire Co.) regt.; entered service Sept. 22, 1777; discharged Oct. 14, 1777; service, 22 days, at the Northward." The mother of Benjamin Norton's children was Lois Wentworth Curtis, daughter of Elnathan Curtis of Berkshire County, MA. His second wife was named Phebe.



Cyrus Gates  
1802–1891



Gardner Sawin Bowers  
1802–1882



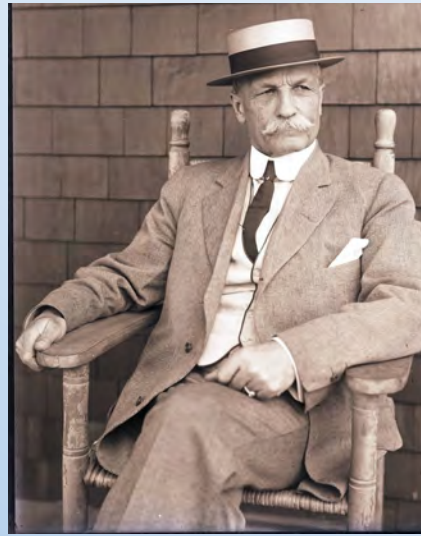
Ashsah Taylor Bowers  
1832–1906



Frederick Taylor Gates  
1853–1929



Fanny Gray Bowers  
1852–1909



LaMont Bowers  
1847–1941



Franck Taylor Bowers  
1875–1932



Sarah Jane Bowers Gates  
1830–1904



**Captain Jerry Zimmer**  
1944—1969



**John Milton Bowers**  
1842 – 1900



**Mr. and Mrs. George Kenyon**  
9.21.1936 50th Anniversary



**Janet Whitney Bowers Bothwell**  
1935 - 2004



**Dr. Clement Gray Bowers**  
1893—1973