

History and Geography
Of the
Town Of Maine
Broome County, NY



Elton Parr

1957

Preface

The bulk of this history was written by my father, Elton Parr, for a Masters Degree course, “History and Geography of New York State,” taught by Dr Fish at Cortland. The paper was dated December 10, 1957.

Dad moved to Maine in 1932 where he got his first teaching job after graduating from Fredonia State College. He began at the one-room school in Allentown. Quickly, Maine became his “home town,” and he learned all he could of its history, and enjoyed talking to older residents about their lives. The material he discovered was taught to his students, and they in turn brought him stories from their grandparents. He collected newspaper clippings, maps, and photographs to help illustrate Maine’s history. Dad taught how people lived in pioneer times, and “The Homespun Era” was his subject long before the State education department made it a part of the curriculum. The paper for Dr Fish can thus be seen as a consolidation of the material he had been collecting for years.

As part of the research for the paper he arranged more formal interviews with knowledgeable townspeople. I accompanied him on some occasions, and used my newly-purchased tape recorder to advantage in recording the conversations.

When my parents broke up housekeeping, I inherited what remained of Dad’s archive. Unfortunately, not everything was accounted for. I especially regret that the photographs he carefully collected were gone. After his death in June of this year, I decided to give his material to the Historical Society. Re-reading his paper for Dr Fish, I determined to retype it in digital form, correct occasional mistakes, and add additional material as appropriate. Mostly, this new edition reads as though the terminal date is 1957, although here and there I added more recent details. I preserved his organization, and the endnotes will help future researchers retrace his steps.

Philip Parr, 2002

Historic Background Of Maine Township

There are several theories on how Maine received its name, but no documentary evidence. One view is that it was the “main” settlement between Whitney’s Point and Union, and was therefore called Maine. In the early 1800s farmers from the north driving their cattle to market were accustomed to spending the night at Hathaway’s Inn, sometimes called the half-way house.

Some believe that since the Town was mostly settled by New Englanders, it was named after the New England State. However the settlers came principally from New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and not Maine State. In 1935, Ken Kimble, a journalist for a Portland newspaper became interested in why a small town 300 miles southwest of Portland had the name Maine. He wrote to postmaster, F. H. Tymeson, and asked for information about the town. His entire column for Sunday November 17, 1935 was devoted to Maine, NY. (See enclosed).

The theory preferred by Clement Bowers is this. In the 19th century there was a revival in interest in classical Greece and Rome. It influenced literature, poetry, architecture, and even dress. In mid-century, the state Surveyor General, Simeon Dewitt, was confronted with the task of naming several towns and townships. It was necessary to eliminate duplicate names in order that mail be delivered properly. As Surveyor General he fixed the boundaries and provided the names if the residents expressed no preference. Many classical names were selected by Dewitt and by residents; witness Rome, Athens, Syracuse, and Troy. In keeping with this trend, Dewitt may have selected the township name from an old French atlas. Two adjacent provinces are named Maine and Lisle. This amazing coincidence seems to account for the naming of both New York towns. (Dr. Bowers has such a French map, dated 1633).^{1a} While not disputing the French map theory, some historians believed that the principal author of New York names was Robert Harpur, not Simeon Dewitt.^{1b}

Owasco Indians lived here between seven and eight hundred years ago. They suffered from great infant mortality, and the whole tribe in general was short-lived. They were short in stature, the males between five feet and five feet four inches tall. The Indians which preceded the Owascos did not make pottery nor had they tobacco, however the Owascos did.

During the ascendancy of the Iroquois Indians, Maine was included in the land of the Onondagas, near the border with the Oneida tribe. In 1748 the Iroquois nation permitted the Nanticoke tribe of Tuscarora Indians to settle in Maine. It is believed that this was done so that the Nanticokes would act as a buffer between the Onondagas and Oneidas. The Nanticokes were accomplished hunters and fishers, and thought to be skilled in witchcraft, and were dreaded on this account.²

On April 2, 1737 Conrad Weiser and his party “reached the water called Onoto, and were immediately taken across by canoe.”^{1c} Weiser was the first white person to visit the region. Onoto is where the Nanticoke Creek meets the Susquehanna. The first permanent settler was a fur trapper, Amos Draper, who built a log cabin at the site of Owego. Eventually he brought his family.^{1d}

Oquaga (SE corner of Broome Co.) was a principal Indian settlement. In 1753 Gideon Hawley became a Christian missionary at this place, but was forced to leave during the French and Indian War. The Mohawk leader Joseph Brandt had a headquarters at Oquaga in the Revolutionary War period.⁴²

As the white settlers arrived and Indian lands were sold, the natives gradually withdrew. The Oneidas located near Oneida, and on the Grand River, Canada. The Tuscaroras settled in the Tonowanda reservation south of Niagara Falls.²

Because of the vagueness of Royal charters, New York and Massachusetts both claimed a large area of land including the present Town of Maine. Specifically, New York claimed the land between 40 and 48 degrees north latitude by a grant from James I to Ferrando Georges in 1620. But in 1664 Charles II granted his brother, Duke of York (later James II) everything from Connecticut to the Delaware.^{2a} To settle the question after the Revolutionary War, Massachusetts was given the right of first purchase, or preemption, of the land from the Indians, while New York retained sovereignty and jurisdiction over the area. The settlement was ratified November 7, 1787. New York State negotiated with the Indians in 1785 and 1788 purchasing the land with the exception of reservations.

Maine was situated within a purchase of 230,400 acres known as the Boston Ten Towns Tract, lying between Owego Creek and the Chenango River. The buyers, in 1787, were eleven residents of Berkshire Co, MA and 49 residents of Boston. The cost was 12.5 cents per acre for a total of \$11,500, but the purchase was subject to any title that the Indians might have. Samuel Brown, representing the Boston Company, and two white settlers, Amos Draper and James McMaster, made a satisfactory treaty with the Indians. When the title was cleared, the land sold quickly at 25 cents per acre. The price was soon raised to a dollar, then to \$1.25 and \$1.50. At this time land in Union sold for only 75 cents per acre, because it was swampy and fever-infested.

In 1683, the entire western part of the State was formed as Albany County. In 1772 the part west of the Delaware River was organized as Tryon County, named after the Governor. When the Revolutionary War began Gov. William Tryon sided with the Crown, so the name of the county was changed to Montgomery, honoring Robert Montgomery a patriot general killed at Quebec. In 1791 State laws provided for dividing Montgomery County and establishing the County of Tioga and the Town of Union. Broome County was formed March 28, 1806 from Tioga County, and was named after John Broome, then Lieutenant Governor.³

The Town of Maine was not formed until March 27, 1848, when it was taken from the Town of Union. A small portion was taken from Maine and annexed to Chenango Township in 1856.

Although Maine's first settlers arrived in 1794, settlement was not much advanced until after 1810. The new residents came mostly from New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Many arrived from Berkshire Co, MA, perhaps influenced by the original purchasers of the territory. The town had a distinctly New England character as evidenced by its architecture. The Village also had a tiny villages commons or green. It was at the corner of Main and Church

Streets, and somewhat in the middle of the road. In the 1870's the Village built a Victorian-style bandstand on this small plot; it burned in the 1920s.

The first settler (1794) was Benjamin Norton from Stockbridge, MA, who located at Bowers Corners, north of the present village. In 1797 the brothers Alfred and Russell Gates from East Hayden, MA settled north of Norton's house at what was later called the Gates settlement. Also in 1797 Daniel Howard and Winthrop Roe arrived. In 1810, Daniel Howard built the first grist mill, and his friend recorded the first birth, July 1798, Cynthia, daughter of Winthrop Roe.⁴¹

Norton started a wagon shop at Bowers Corners, and after his death his son took over the business and made wagons through the Civil War period.

Early development of the Town is interesting for there were three (at least) centers of population. One group settled in the area of Bowers Corners, another located a mile south in what is now the village, and third settlement was located a mile further south where the cemetery was established. This last place was called the Curtis settlement, after the brothers Asa and Iram Curtis, who developed the region together with Jedidiah Dudley. The town's first school and church were established here, and all signs indicated this would be the principal settlement. However more businesses located in Maine village and soon it became the center of the town. The church finally recognized the reality, and in 1840 they built a new and finer building in the village and abandoned their 1825 church in the Curtis settlement.

About 1790 Dr Daniel A. Wheeler settled in Lisle, and it might be assumed that he sometimes made his way south to the Town of Maine. His counterpart, Dr Chester Lusk, moved to Union in 1800, and sometimes ventured north into Maine. Lusk was the principal originator, and second president, of the Broome County Medical Society. Early in the 19th century Maine was served by the Payne brothers, Herman (Heman?) and Peter, who move from Connecticut to East Maine. Peter practiced until about 1831. Dr William Butler (1805-1891) arrived in 1830 from Hillsboro Co., NH. At first he located at the Curtis settlement, but soon saw the future was in the Village, and bought a house on 41 Main St. He practiced for 60 years, and established a county-wide reputation. Butler traveled the trackless Nanticoke woods on horseback, his medical case his saddlebag. Butler was also a businessman and builder, and with William Lincoln, bought and rebuilt the Slosson (later Pitcher's) mill. In 1879 he built a drugstore next to his practice (Lester Padbury Store site).⁶² Dr. Dwight Dudley (1841-1921) was the first US Army medic. He attended West Point, and at age 23 became the youngest commanding officer in the Union Army. He was placed in charge of the notorious Rebel prison at Elmira. Dudley was a grandson of one of the founders of the Curtis Settlement. He was first educated at William Gates' Maine Academy, and got his medical degree from Columbia. He returned to Maine in 1869, living at first in the Curtis Settlement and later at 4 McGregor Ave in the Village. He had offices at 42 and later 34 Main St. He continued in active service until a year before his passing in 1921.⁶²

In 1802, Betsy Ward, a widow, opened the first school. It was in her home, and reserved for young women.^{3a}

Moses DeLano, a blacksmith, settled in East Maine in 1812. In 1819 he was a charter member of the Congregational Church. He married Anna Slosson in 1815. Her relation, Nathaniel Slosson, had settled about the same time as DeLano. The DeLano's son, Aaron, was a town supervisor and Justice of the Peace. Another son, Marshall, was district clerk for forty-seven years.

James Ketchum came from Connecticut, and settled on grand lot 155 of the Boston Purchase in 1802. His property was three miles southwest of Maine Village.⁴

In 1815 Timothy Caswell was one of the first settlers in the area later known as Allentown. The region was named after Ebenezer and Matthew Allen who arrived in 1836. John Marean also located there. The Marean family is well represented in Maine's history. The Hon. Henry Marean was born in Maine in 1842. He was the grandson of Henry and Chloe DeLano Marean. Henry was deputy postmaster in Maine for many years, was town supervisor from 1874 to 1878, and was elected to the State Assembly in the Fall of 1878. His brother, Francis H. Marean, ran a mercantile business in Maine Village for many years beginning in 1854.

Samuel Stone and John Payne came to East Maine in 1816, and Anthony North came from England in 1842. John's son, Peter, was the town's first physician.

William Hogg settled in East Maine in 1836. He was joined a few years later by relatives who gave the settlement the name of Mount Ettrick in honor of their uncle, James Hogg, the Scottish poet who was born in the forest of Ettrick on Dec. 9, 1770 (1772?). James was known as the Ettrick shepherd, for the name Hogg (pronounced "hog") means shepherd. In fact, many of the Maine Hoggs did raise sheep.⁵ When James Hogg read the poems of Robert Burns he thought he could do as well. "I have much more time to read and compose than any ploughman could have, and can sing more old songs than any ploughman could in the world."^{5a} Off his pen rolled pearls such as:

Ere the weapon's swing was sped
Sometimes it severed the kinsman head:

or

His face was like the rising moon
In blushed with the evening's purple dye.^{5b}

The poet was an intimate of Wordsworth, Southey, Byron, and particularly Sir Walter Scott. The Mount Ettrick neighborhood is now the site of the Broome County Airport.

Little Jimmy Hogg and his sister Belle were the nephew and niece of the poet, and Belle was pleased to receive the blessing of her famous uncle before she left Scotland for America. The former Hogg homestead is now occupied by Mr. Wolfe, manager of the airport. Near the home is a circular stand of pine trees, and in the center is a grave yard. Many of the children interred died of diphtheria. Some graves have been moved to East Maine Cemetery.

In 1957 Robert Spencer tape recorded Belle North Johnson, a granddaughter of Little Jimmy Hogg, and she told him many interesting details of East Maine history. She was born January

30, 1887, and had access to the records of the East Maine Cemetery and the East Maine Presbyterian Church.⁶

Nearly 100 acres of land for the East Maine Cemetery was given by Mrs Johnson's grandfather. Mr Carpenter also donated land. One of the earliest settlers was Daniel Parker of Massachusetts, and his grave was the first to be placed in the cemetery. The cemetery also contains graves of soldiers who fought in the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American Wars.

A rifle found behind the Johnson homestead was engraved with the name, "Simons." He had died many years previously in a fight with an Indian. The Johnsons had a tall oak tree which was used as a stand for hunters to shoot deer. Many initials were carved in its trunk, and it finally fell in 1950.

The red, one-room, East Maine school (now a home) was located across from the Farm-To-Market Road corners. Mr and Mrs Johnson both taught in this school in the early 1930s.

A small community was clustered about the school. There was a store, blacksmith and wagon shop (operated by Russell Chancey), and a post office. The blacksmith shop is now empty, and the old post office is a polling place. John Davis lives where there was once a log cabin.

In 1825 the first store was opened by Jared Ketchum. The first post office in Maine township was established in Maine Village in 1828 with H. C. Curtis as postmaster and Jehitabel Slosson as deputy. The mail was carried in a circuit: Binghamton, Union, Maine, Nanticoke, Whitney's Point, Lisle, then back to Binghamton. The trip required three days, and Maine received mail twice a week. The location of the post office often moved. Presently it is in the Babish Store, Ina Tymeson, postmistress. Today the mail arrives daily from two directions: Endicott and Whitney Point.

Post offices were more numerous in the early days. North Maine, East Maine, Nanticoke, Union Center, and Maine Village all had post offices.

Oliver Whitcomb opened the first inn in 1829.

A grist mill was erected north of the village in 1830 by Daniel and Beldon Slosson. In 1848 it was enlarged to its present size by Dr William Butler and William Lincoln. Mr Howard bought the business from the partners, and he sold it in 1870 to Seth Carman. One time it had three sets of grinding stones but two were replaced by modern equipment. It had a capacity of between two and three tons per day. Pancake flour from the mill went west with the 49ers.²⁸ The mill was operated for many years by Archie Pitcher, and although now owned by John Lainhardt, it is still known as Pitcher's Mill. Originally the mill was powered by a water wheel, but today it is powered by electricity. However it still uses the 19th century mill stones made of Nova Scotia granite.

Saw mills were an important early industry, and John Durfee, Captain Stoddard, and Lyman Pollard each operated one. Pollard often ran 30 or 40 lumber rafts a season down Nanticoke Creek to the Susquehanna, and south to Williamsport, PA. Prentice Fuller had a mill in East Maine as early as 1837.

Michael Mooers moved to Maine in 1830 and opened the first cabinet and furniture making shop. As was usual with cabinet makers, he also made coffins and acted as an undertaker. The undertaking business was sold to William Flint in 1860.

John Rennie Allen was born in 1883 in the house just north of the Allentown cemetery. In 1884 his father decided to become an undertaker. Embalming was not generally practiced until well after the Civil War, so Allen had a special coffin made that could be packed with ice to keep the body from spoiling until the funeral. At age 14, J.R. became a full-time assistant to his father, and later attended a six weeks course in embalming in Philadelphia. He took over his father's business, which he moved to Maine Village, living in the house now owned by the Gage family. He bought the first motorize hearse in the County, which he later gave to the Town to use as a fire wagon. To expand his business opportunities he moved to Endicott in 1915, where the company still operates.

In 1832 E. H. Clark built a tannery in Maine Village for manufacturing sole and upper shoe leather. It was located behind the present Masonic Temple, and the first building was sized 30 by 40 feet. Town hill sides were abundantly covered with hemlock trees, the bark from which was used for tanning acid. By the 1880s, the business had grown to such an extent that a building 50 by 500 feet was erected. It contained 132 vats and employed 25 men. Its capacity was 30,000 sides of sole leather per year. Some days 100 wagon loads of hemlock bark would be carted in to be used in the processing. Clark ran the business until 1862, when he sold it to William Sanford. From 1863 to 1884 it was owned by William Sherwood and partners. When the hemlock bark ran out the tanneries moved, and by 1884 the business was dying. F.A. Sherwood (a son?) obtained the business in 1884 and closed it in 1895.

John Casey came to America from County Cork, Ireland in 1831. In 1843 he moved to the SW corner of Maine, buying 50 acres for \$275. Subsequently, many Irish settlers located nearby, and the area became known as the "Irish Settlement." After 60 years it was changed to "New Ireland," then "Stella-Ireland." Descendants of John Casey were the brothers Daniel and Denny Casey, major league baseball players in the 1880s. The poem by Ernest Thayer, "Casey At the Bat," was written about Daniel Casey.

The Town of Maine was formed from the Town of Union on March 27, 1848. The first town meeting was held a year later, April 25, 1849, and John Curtis, Sands Niles, and Louis Gates were presiding officers. The following were elected: Supervisor, Andrew H. Arnold; Clerk, John W. Hunt; Superintendent of Common Schools; Marshall DeLano; Collector of Taxes, John T. Davis; Justices of the Peace, Cyrus Gates and John Blanchard and Hanan W. Mooers; Assessors, Orange H. Arnold and Thomas Young Jr and William H. Tuttle; Commissioners of Highways, Hanan Payne and Edward Ward; Overseers of the Poor, Dexter Hathaway and Matthew Allen; Constables, Eustis Hathaway and John B. Smith and Joel Benson and Ransom T. Gates; Inspectors of Elections, Jefferson Ransom and Amasa Durfee and Luke Curtis; Sealer of Weights and Measures, James W. Carmen; Pound Master, Lyman Pollard.⁷

Bradley Creek is named after the Bradley family who settled at the south end before 1850 and operated a saw mill. Russell Chauncey settled about 1830 on Bradley Creek, and also operated a saw mill. The area was called Chauncey Hollow. There was a grist mill nearby, perhaps the one built by Daniel Howard, and a blacksmith shop. There was a logging road that connected the mill owned by Chauncey and one owned by Mr Howard. In Brocket Hollow, named after Dwight Brocket who settled in 1854 from Connecticut, there was another saw mill owned by Amos Howard. Although E. H. Clark had a large tannery in Maine Village, Alex Ross opened a smaller business in North Maine about 1850.

William Lincoln could boast one of the biggest general stores in Town. It was a three-story, double store built in 1856, and located at the corner of Main and Church Streets. On the first floor was a tin shop and Lincoln's store where shoppers could purchase: notions, groceries, crockery, glassware, hardware, cutlery, boots, shoes, hats, caps, ready-made clothing, clocks, mirrors, flour, salt, cloves, timothy seed, and buffalo robes. The second story contained living quarters. The Masonic Lodge No. 399 (formed in 1856) held its meetings on the third floor. The building was consumed in the Great Fire of 1893. However Lincoln's 1820 house survived at 31 Main St.

While the Masonic Lodge survived the 1893 fire, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) had less staying power. It was organized in 1879, but floundered when its quarters were burned. Other organizations formed in the 19th century were the Sherwood Lodge, Knights and Ladies of the Golden Star, and Grand Army of the Republic.

Residents were firm supporters of the Union. When President Lincoln called for volunteers, Maine immediately raised a whole company. When they were informed that the call had been over-subscribed, the men were forced to wait. Eventually all joined different regiments. This small town sent 190 to fight in the Army, a high percentage not exceeded by many communities. Fifteen were killed or died of other causes. The main event of the day for town folks was the arrival of the mail and letters from local soldiers.

During the War, the home guard of Union Center obtained a small cannon to protect the community, and installed it at the corner of the Congregational Church cemetery. One night it was stolen by the Maine home guard and placed in the village square at Maine Village. The Union Center guard was naturally incensed. A skirmish occurred, and the Union Center people recaptured their cannon. The Maine guard would not let the matter rest, and a more serious battle erupted in the Union Center church yard. During the fracas, the cannon was pushed off the hill. It rolled across the road, down an embankment, and sank deep in the mud of the Brazilla Howard mill pond. It was never recovered.⁶⁶

The first Decoration Day was celebrated in 1871 by the GAR post. The Union Cornet Band furnished the entertainment. At the same time, patriots in Union Center raised an enormous Liberty Pole, with a new flag.

Maine was always musically inclined. Cyrus Gates had an early "Singing School." An 1873 newspaper article mentions the "Maine Musical Association" meeting in the Congregational

Church. Later notices mentioned the “Maine Philharmonic Society.” The Town band was led for many years by the Ingalls family, and most recently by James Babbitt.

The Taylor Brothers’ Store at the corner of Lewis and Main Streets was owned and operated by Baker and Dinsmore Taylor from 1865 to 1911. They were probably the wealthiest family in town. Their handsome Greek Revival building still stands at the corner of Lewis and Main Streets. After the store ceased operation, the building was used for a fire station, town hall and the village library. In 1951 some members in town objected to the sale of liquor at the restaurant in the new Broome County Airport. They wished to have Maine confirmed as a dry (or liquor-free) town under the 1918 “local option bill.” As part of their campaign, the drys convinced local photographer, Warren McGregor, to create a phony, doctored image of the beloved town hall (Taylor Bros. Store) tricked out as a beer garden. McGregor created a frieze board sign, “Pete’s Place,” placed beer kegs on the front porch, and so forth. It was a great photograph, and now a rare collector’s item, but in the end the drys were defeated 2:1. Baker Taylor’s fine house is just north of the store.

An 1866 map of the village shows only Church Street on the west side of Main, and does not show Lewis St. nor McGregor Ave. However Maple St. is illustrated, and after running a short block north it turns abruptly west toward Newark Valley. It is believed that Lewis Street was laid out in 1870, probably by the wealthy tanner, William Sherwood, who built a fine Eastlake style house about 1875 (18 Lewis St). It was owned for many years by Coburn Young. It is assumed that McGregor Ave was also put through about 1870.

In the 1870s Maine had a weekly newspaper, *The Maine News*. It was a small, 6 x 9 inch pamphlet. Advertisements appeared on the front page, and news on the inside. Publisher and editor was W. L. Brooks.³⁹ Only one copy remains, and it is dated June 10, 1876. Brooks was born in 1830 and died in 1882. His son, Joe, was believed to be the principal writer.

A millinery shop and ax handle factory operated at different times in the building which is now Dyer’s barbershop.

Freeman Curlhair built a harness shop, which later housed a necktie factory. It is no longer standing, but was located next to the Masonic building on Main St. Curlhair also operated the Maine Stage. It consisted of a democrat wagon with enough room for the driver and five passengers. Packages were stored under the seats. The wagon had a canvas top and side curtains to keep out the weather.

The first creamery was located north of the McGregor property. Another creamery was built at the site of the present village fire station, and was owned by Ray Turner and Kalif Brown. The Doanes creamery was built on a site behind the present Masonic Temple. The largest creamery was the Model Creamery, which was operated cooperatively by the farmers. It was in business only from 1912 to 1932. In addition to milk and cream it made powdered milk, condensed milk, and cottage cheese.

Town folks were fanatical baseball fans, and fielded a team as early as 1867. Oddly, the team field was on an island in the Nanticoke Creek behind the Model Creamery in Maine Village.

Morgan Heath and D.C. Norton operated a wooden rake factory in the 1870s. Later Chauncey McIntyre purchased the business. His steam powdered factory, located on Lewis St, operated until the 1930s. In addition to rakes, baseball bats and other wood products were made. The annual output was about 20,000 rakes. McIntyre also ran a saw mill on the property.

The Granger movement, which started in Fredonia, reached Maine in 1875. The Grangers opened a store or depot for supplies at DeLano's Corners, south of the village where "the farmer can get his money worth and the right change." Marshall DeLano was Town Superintendent. The sparsely stocked store closed during WWI. The Grangers built a meeting hall in Maine Village.

In 1878 Maine had four general stores, two drug stores, two meat markets, two shoe shops, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, a tin shop, one flour and feed store, a millinery store, furniture factory, hotel, tannery, two allopathic doctors, one homeopathic doctor, creamery, rake factory, gristmill, and saw mill. In 1880 it was noted with pride that Union had only five street lights while "Maine had ten, and more are being planned." One of the blacksmith shops was owned by Harvey Decker, now on the Rufus Clark property.

In 1878 W.C. Pollard, recently returned from a lumber-selling trip, introduced the telephone to Maine. He had seen one operate on his trip, and brought back a sample. By 1883 Maine was connected by phone to other communities. The sole phone was located in George Smith's store. There were also phones in Union (Warner's Store), Union Center (Andrews-Pitkin), and Hooper (Twining's Store). Smith's store unfortunately burned in 1905. The first telephone line for subscribers came from West Chenango. When the service man died unexpectedly, the company and subscribers were at a loss, for he was the only one who knew how the system operated. When demand for service grew, a company was formed and stock sold for \$10 per share. Phone rent was as low as \$2.50 per year. The phone utility that served Maine for many years was the Mt Ettrick Phone Company. Subscribers used crank phones, and connected with the "operator" or "central," Nell Gates, whose office was in her living room on Main Street. In the 1950s the Bell System purchased the Mt Ettrick Phone company, and the crank phones were retired and replaced with modern dial phones.

Nell Gates said her father, Asa Curtis, used to bring his milk into town on a cart pulled by their old horse, Nancy. He would drive to Lincoln's store at Church and Main, climb off the cart, tie the reins around the whip, and slap the horse on the rump. He would go into the store, and Nancy on her own accord would trot to the creamery. After the men unloaded the cart they would send her back to Lincoln's where she would wait until her master came out.

Ernest Ives was a watchmaker, as was D. N. Howard. Howard's office was over George Smith's store. He repaired the Congregational Church clock.

About 1900 there was a roller skating rink at Rufus Clark's corner lot on Church Street. Later an oil cloth manufactory was located at the site, but it only lasted three or four years.⁶⁰

On July 11, 1907 a tornado wrecked havoc in the southern part of town. William Walter's large barn was leveled and his granary was blown across the road and destroyed. At Emmett

Walter's Maple Farm roofs were blown off the barns. The tornado ripped apart a wagon shed on the Couse brothers farm which stood between two large barns that were untouched.

A 1929 cyclone carried a McGregor poultry laying house 500 feet, then gently returned it to earth without harming a bird.

Emmett Walter and his son Glenn operate the Maple Farm, and produce milk, maple sugar, and garden vegetables. They average fourteen 40-quart milk cans per day, which is sold to Crowley's Milk Company of Binghamton. From 1931 to 1952 they had their own milk route in the neighborhood. Each Spring they tap about 750 maple trees and produce about 240 gallons of maple syrup.⁹

Maine continued prosperously as long as the hillside lumber lasted and supported the saw mills and tannery. Population and influence peaked in the years following the Civil War, then the town experienced a slow decline helped by disastrous fires, the railroad, and automobiles. The town revived in the second half of the 20th century as a suburb of the Triple Cities. Some dairy farms still remain, but most of the population works in factories in nearby communities.

Maine never had a railroad, but in 1914 motor bus service was initiated between Endicott, Binghamton, and Maine. (See enclosed).

Electricity came to the village in 1922.

The Broome County Airport opened in May 1951 in the Mt Ettrick section of East Maine. It has a total area of 85442 acres, and has been an influential factor in the town's growth.⁸

Except for the airport, Maine's largest industry is the McGregor Poultry Farm, which produces 150,000 chickens per year in its hatchery, making it one of the largest such enterprises in the State. Eggs and chickens are wholesaled to all the local markets.

Today (1957) the town can boast four restaurants, a motel, two garages, six gas stations, two general stores, two grocery stores, post office, Grange Hall, American Legion, Masonic Hall, Kiwanis Club, four Churches, two saw mills, flour mill, two barber shops, dairy store, slaughter house, florist shop, large poultry business, children's amusement park, outdoor movie theater, airport, and summer picnic ground.

In general, Maine is a nice, serene place to live.

Geography Of the Town of Maine

Maine was formed from the Town of Union, March 27, 1848. (A small portion was annexed to Chenango in 1856.) It is located on the west border of Broome County, and is bounded as follows: on the north by the towns of Nanticoke, Barker and Tioga Counties, on the west by Tioga County, on the south by Union, and the east by Nanticoke and Chenango.¹⁰

The land is mostly hilly, but lowlands are found in the north-south Nanticoke valley. The hills rise 100 to 700 feet above the Susquehanna River.

Principal streams are the Nanticoke, Bradley, and Crocker Creeks. Bradley Creek rises a little east of the center of town, and flowing in a southwest direction, emptied into the Nanticoke Creek a little south of the south border of Union. It is named after the Bradley family who settled on the south end of the creek before 1850 and operated a sawmill.

Crocker Creek enters the town near the southwest corner of Maine, and, flowing in a general southeast direction, enters the Nanticoke Creek. Several minor tributaries of the Nanticoke spread fanlike over the north part of town. The Nanticoke flows almost due south into the Town of Union and finally enters the Susquehanna River west of the Endicott Johnson Country club golf course. This creek received its name from the Nanticoke tribe of the Tuscarora Indians.¹¹

It is thought that before the last ice age, drainage was toward the Great Lakes. After the ice retreated, the land became forested with hemlock though there were many oak, maple, elm, and nut trees. The hemlock forests contributed to 19th century Maine's thriving lumber and tanning industries.

Maine's gravelly loam and slate soil is best adapted to grazing. The town area is 27,320 acres.¹²

Maine Village lies about 916 feet above sea level. Broome County Airport is located on the highest hill at 1600 feet elevation. Lowest point in the town is in the south central area at 887 feet elevation.

The town is in the Eastern Plateau Climatic Area. One damaging tornado (1907) and one hurricane (1955) have struck the town.

Spring growing season begins in April for peas and other hardy crops. Last Spring frost usually occurs between 15 May and 25 May, and first Fall frost about mid-September, giving a growing season of about 120 days.

The largest farms are devoted to dairy cattle, with crops of hay and field corn. A few hundred bushels of potatoes are grown. There are a few apple orchards and strawberry farms. Many crops grown in the mid 19th century are no longer raised.¹³

Churches of Maine

Congregational Church. Before discussing the Congregational Church in Maine, the early relationship between the Congregational faith and the Presbyterian faith must be explained. The churches had an agreement that each would look after the parishioners of the other. New England, with the exception of northern New Hampshire, was predominately Congregationalist. Thus this church took in scattered adherents to the Presbyterian faith who lived in the area, and both worshipped in the Congregational church. In a reciprocal manner, Presbyterians were firmly established in New York, and this church helped small bands of Congregationalists worship and build churches. The Maine church was established under this arrangement, and for many years a Presbyterian minister was in charge of the local Congregational Church. Eventually, the two faiths went separate ways.

The first church in town was Congregational in faith. In 1819 a group of fourteen asked the Susquehanna Presbytery for permission to start a church. (The area was then in the Township of Union as Maine was not formed until 1848). In the Fall of 1819 the Susquehanna Presbytery sent a committee to examine the group, and subsequently the people were permitted to form a church.¹⁴ The first minister was Josiah Moulton (1819-1824). The first meeting house was built in 1825, and was located on the north side of the new cemetery. The settlers believed that a village would form around the cemetery, but it developed that the central village was sited a mile north. Consequently, in 1840 the now-larger congregation resolved to build a new church in Maine Village. It seated 260 persons, and was erected by master carpenter, Amasa Durfee for \$3000. It was dedicated June 14, 1841. The four, two-story, fluted pillars that make the building a landmark are hand-worked tree trunks, made by Michaiiah Mooers, Jefferson Ransom, and Amasa Durfee.

The original location was at the north corner of Church and Main Streets, however on June 1, 1867 it was moved on log rollers by teams of oxen to its present site. The old site was sold to pay for the moving expense.

The small, original church was subsequently moved to the east side of the road, and was used for farm storage.

Congregational church records have been preserved, from which the following has been obtained.

In 1819 a committee appointed by the Susquehanna Presbytery at the request of Rev. Josiah Moulton met at the new school house in the Town of Union on Tuesday 19th October, and examined fourteen person, three males and eleven females as to their experimental acquaintance with the religion of Christ and their faith in the Gospel, did on the Thursday following constitute them into a church upon their acceptance of the Articles and Covenant drawn up at the first meeting.

There were 23 Articles of Faith and, according to the records, two became controversial. The 22nd stated "That Christ has established elders (or bishops) and deacons as the only standing officers in his church." Later, they deemed it necessary to strike the words, "the only." The 23rd article dealt with the discipline of the Church according to Matthew 18; that is, every Church

has the right to discipline its members. This became a subject of disagreement, for a few of the more recalcitrant argued against the rights of some of the deacons and elders to act as judge and jury. However the Church did dispense justice and curbed with a stern hand all who strayed from the path of piety and morality.

It was stated in the Covenant, "We promise to maintain closet and family prayer morning and evening, constantly on God's Holy Day to attend on public worship; to dedicate our household to God in baptism and restrain them from balls and all other sinful amusements. Also to attend upon the Lord's Supper when it shall be administered in the church." There has been a pencil mark drawn through the words, "balls and all other."

Even civil suits were brought to the attention of the church for settlement. Many members were "cited" to appear and answer charges which had been brought to the attention of the church, and after an attempt at fair and equitable deliberation, those deemed blameworthy were dealt with accordingly. Several instances were reported where the only course to pursue was excommunication, but it was only as a last resort after the culprit had been labored with at great length and given every opportunity to repent.

One gentleman asked to have his letter of dismissal as he desired to return to NH. His marital difficulties had prompted the decision, and after a committee had visited him and his wife, labored with each of them singly and then together without resolving their difficulties, his request was granted. However it was noted in the dismissal letter that the findings were to forgive and forget, but his wife refused. The records do not state what became of the lady, or what disciplinary measures, if any, were taken against her.

Those who neglected family prayers were dealt with sternly. In one instance a hired hand who resided with a church family was seen by a neighbor to be harnessing his horses preparatory to work in the woods at the time when the family was engaged in morning devotions. The neighbor felt the situation needed correction, so the incident was brought to the attention of authorities at the next church meeting.

Dr Bowers related the following account of his grandfather's problems with the Congregational Church. Gardner S. Bowers had a Captain's commission to train all of Maine's able-bodied men over the age of 18 for the New York State Militia. Certain days were set aside as training days, and at these appointed times the manual of arms and the rudiments of military training were taught. However there were those who resisted, thinking it was foolishness, and they therefore disregarded the call. Bowers brought civil action against them, claiming they were disregarding the law.

Some of those eschewing military training were members of the prominent Slosson family, who were also powerful members of the Church. They brought suit against Bowers in the Church for prosecuting a fellow member and for bringing a curse upon the Church. A church trial followed during which Bowers proved that he was required by law to have the men report for military training. He was exonerated, but became so angry over the matter that he stopped attending services.

From 1831 to 1833 the pastor was Rev. Nathan Gould. Rev. Jeremiah Woodruff was retained as pastor in 1834 for \$350 annually and use of the parsonage, which had been purchased that year from Mr Perkins. In 1861 Rev. G. Todd was paid \$350 (plus use of the parsonage), and in 1863 Rev. W. Collins was paid \$325. In 1867 Rev. James Weller was secured for \$425 to preach in Maine Sunday morning and Union Center in the afternoon, Maine to pay \$375 and use of the parsonage. Weller's salary was raised to \$600 in 1870 and \$700 in 1871 by means of slip sales.

Concerts and lecture were held at the church during the Winter months which added a bit to the church coffers, but mostly filled the need for entertainment in an isolated society. There were sleigh rides, talent plays, maple sugar parties, a book club, and a ladies' guitar and mandolin club. In 1866 the Trustees passed a resolution that there could be "no show, concert or lecture, public or private for anything by which any fee is required.... Whenever the House is opened it shall be free to all who shall behave in a quiet an orderly manner."⁶⁵ After the Baptist and Methodist churches were established, the three congregations met in alternate churches each Sunday night for a union service.

Slips or seats were rented for the purpose of paying the minister's salary. In 1863 the slips rents totaled \$350 and the pastor's salary was \$325. In 1873 the pastor suggested that his salary be raised to \$517 by voluntary weekly contributions. The suggestion was granted, but the following year the church returned to the practice of slip rents. However the issue was not settled, for 1880 the church had an "Office of Collector" and there was no mention of renting slips.¹⁶

In 1877 some of the slip pledges were as follows: Amasa Durfee (\$5), S. Carman (\$20), J. Brown (\$10), Hull (\$5), I. Wright (\$8), S. Maples (\$5), C. Marean (\$30), William Brooks (\$10), Zarah Taylor (\$15), Taylor Brothers (\$25), W. Sherwood (\$15), John Fisher (\$42), F. H. Marean (\$10), E. Mooers (\$10), Moses DeLano (\$10), J. Curtis (\$35), N. Brown (\$10), C. G. Bowers (\$10), William Butler (\$60), G. Dayton (\$50), F, H, Marean (\$40), Marshall DeLano (\$30), H. Dayton (\$5), E. Hathaway (\$10), C. Brown (\$6), W. Flint (\$40), Esther Marean (\$10), F. Bean (\$10), Jed Dudley (\$10), D. Wight (\$5)

In 1930 this church federated with the Methodist church (qv). It should be mentioned that the Congregational organist and clerk, Mary DeLano and members Wellington and Frank Tymeson pushed hard for the federation. The Congregational property was valued at \$6000, and so the Methodists contributed a like amount which was used for renovations. The pastor continued to live in the Methodist parsonage, and the Congregational parsonage was rented to three sisters: Fannie Atwater, Cora Dayton, and Mary Dayton.⁶⁴

In 1958 a Sunday School building was constructed at the back of the church and named after Coburn Young, a valued member of the congregation.

First Baptist Church was organized with 31 members in January 21, 1835. In 1840 a lot was purchased for \$75, and soon a \$1500 structure was built. It was dedicated Dec. 27, 1840. Seating capacity was 300, William Gates (son of Russell Gates) was the minister from 1841 to 1852.

Gates owned the property now owned by Clayton Walter, where he ran a successful boy's school, The Maine Academy, from 1837 to 1852. He left town in 1852 to serve in Whitney Point, where he died in 1882. In 1872 church property was valued at \$6000.¹⁷ An annex to the church was built in 1948 and an educational building in 1958. The present pastor (1958) is Rev. Plew.

M.E. Church, Maine Village. The Broome County Circuit of Methodist ministers was formed in 1812. The circuit they traveled was 300 to 400 miles in extent, and they preached at 35 to 45 different locations taking a month to make the round. Maine was supported by preachers from the Pike Circuit. The County circuit existed until 1883, when it was disbanded. A meeting was held at the home of George Rexford on April 12, 1833 at which time the society was incorporated. Reverends S. Stocking and Rosman Ingalls presided, and Elijah Bancroft, James Howard, Gardner J. Bowers, James Bratt, John R. Durfee, and Norman Smith were elected trustees. Stocking served the Pike Circuit this year. Initially, meetings were held at the new school in Maine Village, but opposition from the Baptists and Congregationalist closed the school doors to them, and they were compelled to meet in the Curtis school, only recently vacated by the Congregationalist in 1825. A revival in 1845 strengthened the congregation, and on Aug. 19, 1845 a meeting was held in the Village and the society again incorporated. In 1848, William Lincoln, though not a member, gave a site for the church and further a gift of \$100 toward the cost of construction. Funds were so scarce that the frame stood more than a year before it was enclosed, and another year before it was finished. The building which cost about \$2000 was dedicated on Oct. 17, 1850. The first pastor was Rev. Edgar Sibley.^{20, 63} The church was re-organized with 40 members in 1866. In mid-century, the parsonage was located on Church Street where Leonard Bullock lives (1969). It was sold in 1886, and a new parsonage was purchased closer to the church (the Gunther property in 1969).

In the evening of Wednesday May 9, 1928 the church building burned to the ground. The next morning trustees of the Congregational Church called on the Methodist pastor, Rev. L. W. Hovey, and invited him to meet with the Congregational congregation the following Sunday. Later trustees of both churches met and devised 15 articles of federation. They were adopted April 7, 1930. As the Congregational pastor, Rev. Jacob Flook, was officiating as a supply minister, the combined congregation asked Rev. Hovey to become the first minister of the Federated Church. His first official service was March 16, 1930.²¹

Dorothy Ames, a member of the Federated Church, wrote this poem for the occasion.

The same skies arch above us
 The people of all the earth
 The same dear Father loves us
 Though varied our stations and birth;
 O teach us Heavenly Father
 That together we stand or fall—
 Though we live in separate rooms,
 The same roof covers all.

M.E. Church, Union Center was organized with 45 members in 1836. The present church was dedicated April 23, 1853. Seating capacity was 200, and Rev. S. Stocking was the first pastor. In 1956-7 the church built a large addition for Sunday school rooms.¹⁸

M. E. Church, North Maine (Tiona). Services started about 1835, and for about 35 years the North Maine schoolhouse was used for meetings. Thirteen members organized this church in 1844. The leaders were Marsena H. McIntyre, Orange H. Arnold, Russell Robinson, and George M. Hardendorf. The congregation built their own structure in 1870 on a site given by Adoniram Church. The building, seated 180, and was erected at a cost of \$2800. Rev. Thomas Pitts was the first pastor.^{19, 63} The church was abandoned in 1931, and later torn down by Ellis Payne for its lumber. He said that the corner stone on the left front side was designed as a “time capsule,” but that it was set so close to the grade that water seeped in and destroyed the papers deposited there.

M. E. Church, East Maine was built in 1869 at the site of the Broome Co. Airport, and has been destroyed.²²

Abbott M. E. Church is located in West Chenango on Dimmic Hill. The building was erected in 1868 for \$2200, and Rev. William Penn Abbott was the first minister.

Choconut Center and East Maine Methodist Church united with the East Maine Presbyterians and helped to build their church in 1872. However after the building was complete, the Presbyterians would not permit the Methodists to use it. Thus in 1876 the Methodist built their own church on Coe Rd. (now called Harrington Road) which was called the Oak Hill Methodist Church. The property belonged to Israel Chancy, who helped erect the building, which seated 150. The minister was Rev. Cole. The congregation diminished as the years passed and the church closed. The land was sold to Arthur Robinson, and eventually the building was demolished. The cemetery is still visible from Harrington Rd.

Presbyterian Church, East Maine was located at East Maine and Farm-To-Market Roads. It was built with the help of the Methodists of the area in 1872-3 for \$2887.³⁴ Ladies of the church furnished it for \$75. The Methodist were supposed to share the building, but after church was finished the Presbyterians said the Methodist were not welcomed. The church used the Congregational minister from the village for its service. Will North played the hand-pumped organ. The structure burned September 1938. The Presbyterian society in Binghamton held the mortgage and collected the fire insurance money, but a new church was not built.

Ketchumville Methodist Church was started about 1840, but then it subsided. Interest was revived in 1886 when the Maine pastor began working the area. The Salvation Army also visited

the place. The church was dedicated Dec. 12, 1888. Ketchumville is located about 6 miles NW of Maine Village.

Catholic Church, Maine Village. In the autumn of 1941 it was learned that there were about 60 Maine school children from Catholic families who were without religious instruction nor a convenient way to attend Mass. Many lived in the territory covered by St Christopher Mission Church, which was attached to St Catherine in Hillcrest. When Bishop Foery learned of the situation he gave permission to Father Phelan, pastor of St Catherine, to celebrate Mass in Maine Village and to care for the souls in the region. Holy Mass was celebrated on the first Sunday in December 1941 at the home of Mr and Mrs Jess Wade. The collection yielded \$2.80. Mass was celebrated at the Wade house each Sunday thereafter until it was apparent that a church building was necessary. A new mission was then added to St Catherine, embracing the entire Town of Maine.

During the summer of 1942, the Ketchum Hotel on Main Street was purchased from I. O. McGraph of Whitney Point. Father Phelan engaged Archie Furman to renovate the building into a church. The cost of purchase and renovation was about \$10,000. Through gifts of generous friends and parishioners, \$8000 of the debt was retired within a year.

The building was dedicated on October 4, 1942 by Most Reverend Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse, on the Feast of Most Holy Rosary. Bishop Foery contributed generously to this church and the other missions of St Catherine's, and he selected Most Holy Rosary as the church name.

A solemn Mass was celebrated by Father Phelan assisted by Rev. George J. Edwards, Sub-Deacon. Rev. Daniel B. O'Brien was Master of Ceremonies. From 1941 to 1948, this Mission was the obligation of St Catherine priests. In 1948 Most Holy Rosary became a mission of the newly established St Christopher parish. The church was completely free of debt, and had funded a substantial savings account. The parish continued as a mission church of St Christopher until 1956, when on 1 June, Bishop Foery established it as a parish, and appointed Rev. James Woulfe as its first pastor. At that time, land from the Hickey Estate in West Corners was purchased by the Diocese of Syracuse for a church, and it was attached to the Most Holy Rosary parish as a mission.²³

In May 1956 a new ranch-style rectory was built for the parish priest, and in 1970 a new church was dedicated on the grounds. The old church (Ketchum Hotel) was retained as a fellowship hall.

Chronological Summary

Congregational	1819 (formed), 1825 and 1840 (Church)
First Baptist	1835 (formed), 1840 (Church)
Maine Methodist (M.E.)	1833 (formed), 1850 (Church)
M.E. Church of Union Center	1836 (formed), 1853 (Church)
M.E. Church of North Maine	1835 (formed), 1870 (Church)

Ketchumville Methodist	1840 (formed), 1888 (Church)
Abbott M.E. Church	1868
M.E. Church East Maine	1869
East Maine Presbyterian	1872
M.E. Church of Coconut Ctr	1876
Most Holy Rosary Catholic	1941 (formed), 1942 and 1968 (Church)

Schools

The first Maine school was opened in 1802 by Betsy Ward, a widow. Female students were taught in her home, and she charged tuition for instruction.³⁰

In 1812 the State passed laws permitting towns to tax residents to support schools

In 1815 Maine's first school building (one-room) was built on a triangle of land across from the present American Legion building. The region was called the Curtis settlement, after the brothers Asa and Iram, who developed the area together with Jedidiah Dudley. Records of the Congregational Church mention an organizational meeting in October 1819 held at the "new school." From these remarks it is assumed that the school was the 1815 building.³¹ The Congregationalists met in the school until they built their own structure in 1825. The school was used until after 1900, and Burt Durfee attended there.

In 1833 a school was built on Church St. in the Village. By 1885 it had four rooms on two floors, with 85 pupils. It was remodeled and expanded in 1900, and was used until a new school was built on the property in 1940.

The Tiona, or North Maine school was used as a church on Sunday by the Methodists from 1836 to 1871.

Rev. William Gates (son of Russell Gates) taught a select school, the Maine Academy, at his house in the village (23 Main St.). It was in the nature of a high school, and ran from 1837 to 1852.³³ Gates was a "copperhead" in this strongly abolitionist town, though it did not seem to affect the success of his school. William was related to Cyrus Gates, a prominent abolitionist, and for this reason they did not get along. William Gates was also the minister of the Baptist church from 1841 to 1852.

Maine was formed from Union on March 27, 1848. On May 25, 1848, Marshall DeLano, town Superintendent of Common Schools, called a meeting for men concerned with the Maine school districts. Sixteen districts were located in the township. The records were filed and recorded at Maine in July 1848 by J. H. Hunt, Town Clerk. The meeting minutes are found on pages 1-4. *Book of Schools*, 1848.³²

District 12 (Brocket Hollow) was organized in 1855. Trustee records reveal that the teacher was paid \$29 for the Winter term, November to March. The Summer term, which ran from May to September, was usually taught by a different teacher. By 1859 the school had nine books in its library, and the teacher salary had been increased to \$69 per term. Each parent who had

children in school furnished 1/4 cord of wood, or \$0.25, which would buy that amount. If the school building required any maintenance or repair, taxpayers could work off their assessment.⁶¹

In 1859 there were 36 children between ages of four and twenty-one in the District 11 school. The 1862 school meeting was held in the library, which at that time contained only nine books. School was taught by duly licensed teachers for seven months. Twice it was visited by the "Committee." Six children were taught less than two months, nineteen were taught more than two but less than four months, and nine were taught more than four but less than six months. Apparently, none were taught more than six months out of the seven months school year.³⁴ Expenses for the year were teacher wages \$66.28 and fuel \$10.50.

The first school in Union Center stood on the site of the Merritt Sulger house on Rt 26. It was one-room, Number 10. It burned about 1870. It was replaced with a four-room school located in Union, just outside the Maine line. In 1885 it had 88 pupils.

In Maine Village, District 1, the 1870 school expenses were \$836.96, including teachers' salaries. At the annual school meeting Oct. 10, 1871, the following officers were elected: Trustees, D. W. Hull and F. C. Curlhair; Collector Standford Stevenson; Librarian, Jed Ring. There were two teachers: E. Osborn taught 16 weeks for \$290, and Mary Hathaway taught 16 weeks for \$60. In 1889 Lulu Gage and Lucin Hyde were teachers. Gage received \$40 for teaching a month.³⁵

In 1877 Lewis Edson taught at the Union Center School for \$1.50 per day.³⁶

From an unnumbered page of the "Book of Schools" (George W. Johnson, Town Clerk) this is provided for March 25, 1885.

District	No	Pupils 5-21 years	Ave Daily Attendance
Maine Village,	1	85	33, 785
North Maine	2	51	18, 557
Gates	3	16	7, 842
Allentown	4	40	14, 221
East Maine	6	45	19, 350
Curtis	7	24	11, 535
Mt. Ettrick	9	38	18, 335
Bougham	10	33	17, 114
Brocket Hollow	11	34	11, 150
New Ireland	13	33	7, 150
Geo. Kelly	14	16	7, 507
Union Center	15	88	38, 714
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12	555	248,795

When the Town was formed in 1848 there were 16 districts, but by 1885 consolidation had reduced the number to 12.³⁷

Through the first quarter of the 20th century, adults could acquire a certificate to teach in a one-room school by attending a training class, usually less than a year. Often, a farmer and his wife both qualified, and the income from teaching was a welcome supplement to the household. For example Harry and Belle Johnson of East Maine both taught during the 1930s. Their red, one-room school (now a home) was at the intersection of Farm-To-Market and East Maine Roads. It was furnished with a wood-burning stove, double seats nailed to the floor, and a recitation bench in front. There was no running water. The teacher taught eight grades. Most of the farm boys only attended in the winter months.

In 1938, a century after formation, the eleven existing school districts were centralized to form one district. The units which were combined were the four-room school in Maine Village; six-room school in Union Center; and the one-room schools at Bowers Corners, Tiona, Gates, Allentown, Mt. Ettrick, East Maine, Brocket Hollow, Pollard Hill, and Brougham. The Committee on Centralization consisted of W. C. McIntyre, Ralph Young, Harry Woodward, Dr. C. G. Bowers, and Linneus West. Dedication of this system was held at Maine Village, Friday May 29, 1940.

The centralized system provided for education of pupils in kindergarten through 9th grade in two schools: one in Maine Village and one in Union Center. Pupils in grades 10, 11, and 12 were transported to the Union-Endicott and Vestal Central High Schools.³⁸

The new, classical style K-9 school at Maine was a beautiful building, in part through the influence of Clement Bowers who was a member of the Board of Education. The building was started in 1938, partially opened in September 1939, and dedicated May 24, 1940. The rich appearance of the building, including oil copies of famous paintings, was not due to unusual expense, but rather careful design and effective use of taste. The architects were Conrad and Cummings.

On March 22, 1957 the Maine Central School District centralized again with the school district of Endwell. The principal reason for consolidation was that the population of both districts was growing, and each needed to construct new schools. Neither district had senior high schools, which were desperately needed. The State of New York agreed to pay 55% of the building cost for new schools constructed before June 30, 1959. After that date, the State would contribute only 15%. The new district hoped to have four buildings completed by June 1959.

After consolidation in 1957, the new district enrollment from kindergarten through ninth grade was 3090 pupils, and 500 pupils were sent to high schools in Johnson City, Endicott, and Vestal.

At the first annual meeting, it was resolved to spread the debt. This meant that Maine taxpayers accepted approximately 20% of Endwell's debt of \$1,090,000 or \$218,000, which Maine *did not* have to accept under the law. In turn, Endwell taxpayers accepted 80% of the Maine debt of \$76,000, or \$60,800. Before centralization the per-capita debt in Endwell was \$320, which after this resolution dropped to \$233. On the other hand, Maine's debt rose from \$51 per capita to \$233.

In 1980, the beautiful brick school built on Church St in 1939 was closed by the Maine-Endwell School district.

The one-room Bowers Corners School, which had been made redundant by the 1938 centralization, was acquired by Dr Bowers, moved to his property, and attached to his house. It is now used as a study. The script over the fireplace reads. "1850 Bowers Corners School 1886."
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Historic Structures

The Town of Maine was derived from the Boston Purchase, and was mostly settled by New England families. Consequently, the town architecture has a distinctive New England quality with several houses in the Federal and Greek Revival styles. A feature of New England villages is a village "commons" or "green." At first, Maine had a green, but it was a small plot located at the corner of Church and Main Streets.²⁵

Benjamin Norton from Stockbridge, MA, is credited with being the first town settler, arriving in 1794, and establishing himself at the place now called Bowers Corners. He gave his son Isaac Norton some land on which Isaac built a tiny, one-room home with sleeping loft in 1810. The house still stands (1957), and is believed to be the oldest structure in Broome County. After the Isaac Nortons moved to a more spacious house, their first dwelling was used for weaving.⁵⁵

The Bowers residence on Nanticoke Road was originally constructed in 1832, but was burned in the 1870s. The fire started in an attached shed where soap was being made. Dr Clement Bowers, present owner, is the grandson of the builder of the present structure. Dr Bowers has attractively landscaped the property with forests and ornamental gardens. Across the road are two structures which were once part of the Norton Wagon Shop, and are now used for storage.

Across the road and south of the Bowers house is a small, but choice Federal Style dwelling built by Jefferson Ransom in 1840. Ransom was a cabinet maker of refined taste, who read the New York Post newspaper. He was Town Supervisor from 1854 to 1867, and Inspector of Elections. After it passed from the Ransom family it became a gas station and small store in the 1930s. Dr Bowers purchased the property in 1938 and restored the house.⁵⁸

Andrew Taylor was a wealthy, Frenchtown, New Hampshire farmer with grown children when in 1822 he suddenly left his comfortable brick home and moved to the pioneer settlement of Maine. He immediately built a beautiful two-story Greek Revival style house north of Bowers Corners on the Nanticoke Rd. Taylor brought fine furnishings to show-off his new house, and was looking for a life a leisure and pleasant company in his retirement. He was disappointed, for his neighbors' grim lives were focused on grubbing a living from the land. He died a disillusioned aristocrat eleven years later. Andrew's son, John Milton Taylor opened a store in Maine, prospered in New York City as a merchant, and is believed to be one of the founders of the

famous Lord and Taylor store. The Taylor property has remained in family hands, and Dr Bowers, who has restored the house, is the present owner.⁵⁶

Farther north on the Nanticoke Rd is the 1848 Greek Revival Cyrus Gates House, now owned by his great-granddaughter, Louise Gates Gunsalus and her husband Paul Gunsalus. Cyrus was a surveyor, who mapped eleven State counties in a long career. Before the Civil War it was a stop on the “underground railroad.” There is a small hiding place over the left wing between the inner ceiling and outer roof where slaves trying to escape to freedom in Canada could be hidden in times of danger. Access is through a small wall cupboard in the master bedroom. Cyrus Gates and his family did more than hide slaves. They kept as a servant an escaped slave, Margaret Cruiser, who became a member of the family. She joined a local church, and when she died was buried in the family cemetery. The original false graining and other interior features are intact. The work was accomplished by A. S. Yarrington of New York City, who lived with the Gates family until the work was complete. The artisans of Maine did not appreciate the hiring of an outsider.^{26, 57}

Dr Glen Bartle, president of Harpur College, Endicott, lives on Rt 26, north of Bowers Corners. The 12-room house was built by John Steele Fisher of NH in 1828.⁵⁹

Mr and Mrs Edward Pomeroy live in a Federal style house north of the Fisher-Bartle House built by Thomas Marean in 1828. The front entrance is especially attractive.

A grist mill was erected north of the village in 1830 by Daniel and Beldon Slosson. Hand-hewn red beech timbers, 10 x 14 inches constitute the framework of the building. In 1848 it was enlarged to its present size by Dr William Butler and William Lincoln. Mr Howard bought the business from the partners, and he sold it in 1870 to Seth Carman. One time it had three sets of grinding stones but two were replaced by modern equipment. It had a capacity of between two and three tons per day. Pancake flour from the mill went west with the 49ers.²⁸ Originally the mill was powered by a water wheel. The Nanticoke Creek was dammed and a mill race dug to operate the wheel.

Archie Pitcher, still using water power, operated the business from 1925 to 1941. It is he who coined the famous “Sunrise Pancake Flour.” The next owner, Carl Taylor, converted to electric power. John Lainhardt bought the mill in 1945 but kept the name, “Pitcher’s Mill.” He gave up the business in 1955. Through all the changes, the mill still used the four-foot diameter, 19th century mill stones made of Nova Scotia granite.

Buckwheat flour was the principal product. Kernels were poured through a hole in the floor into a basement bin. An elevator took the kernels to the top floor and through a cleaning machine. Dropped downstairs, the grain was scoured and conveyed again to the top floor before being dropped through a chute onto the revolving mill stone. When the flour came off the stones it was sent back upstairs by elevator and run through silk sifting drums which separated the flour into four grades. One grade went back to the stone for more grinding, the best grade was used for flour, the third grade for cattle feed, and the shucks were thrown away.⁵²

The headquarters of Nanticoke Valley Historical Society has an interesting history. The land was purchased in 1792 by pioneer settler Benjamin Norton, who sold it to his son, Amasa, in

1795. It had several owners until Thompson Lewis bought the property in 1813 and erected a house. Lewis was a farmer and Justice of the Peace for 13 years. In 1854 the land and house was bought by Albert Dayton, but in 1870 the building suffered a severe fire. Dayton rebuilt, but extensively renovated the house, raising the roof, and creating a Victorian style dwelling. After passing through several hands it was owned by the McGregor family, and in 1976 the house was deeded to the Historical Society.

One of the oldest structures in the village is the 1829 Federal style house owned by Mr and Mrs Lewis Paige. It was built as a family house and inn. In the second story is a 33 x 44 foot ballroom with an arched, barrel ceiling. It is the only such ceiling remaining in this part of the State. The walls are wainscoted with wide, pine boards. At one time the community's social gatherings were held here. The building was erected by Oliver Whitcomb who operated as an inn for a few years. He sold it to Joe Hathaway who operated it as a hotel for about five years. Hathaway's daughter married Ephraim Ketchum, who erected the much larger Ketchum Hotel just south of the Hathaway house. Mr Hathaway then retired from inn keeping, and joined his son-in-law as a livery man and horse trader. On the Hathaway property was a huge horse barn that could stable 30 horses.⁵³

The Ketchum Hotel, now used by the Catholic Church, was an overnight stop on the Binghamton-Ithaca highway. Ketchum was famed as a horse trader and trainer of trotting horses. His stable of trotters was renowned, especially the horse Kitty Frazier, who raced in fairs throughout the State. Ketchum often made trips to Pennsylvania and south to acquire stock, and operated one of the largest sales stables in this region. Consequently his hotel was a favorite meeting place for eastern horse traders. Burt Durfee remembers that boxing matches were held in a Ketchum barn Saturday afternoons.

The small building that for many years was Harvey's Grocery Store, was built as a cooper shop.

A newer landmark is the Sherwood-Rozek House built by the wealthy tanner William Sherwood in 1875. Unlike many other Maine houses, it is essentially unchanged, and is a fine example of the Eastlake style.

South of the village is a small structure which was the first Congregational Church of 1825. It was originally constructed near the cemetery, but when in 1841 the congregation abandoned the building for a better and larger church in the village, it was moved across Rt 26 and used as a storage barn.

The Greek Revival Federated Church in the village was built in 1841 as the Congregation Church. The wooden roof truss with key design is especially notable for those interested enough to brave the attic stairs. Amasa Durfee was the master carpenter. The two-story fluted columns that front the porch were carved from tree trunks by Michaiiah Mooers, Jefferson Ransom, and Mr Durfee.

Transportation

In pioneer days the roads followed existing Indian trails. Since they were made for foot traffic the paths were narrow, and settlers with horse or ox carts had to widen the trails by cutting trees and brush. Family legend is that one pioneer group required four days to journey from Chenango Point (Binghamton) to the area of the Maine Cemetery. As the region became more populated paths were widened into roads, but they were still rough and bumpy. Small streams were unbridged, and in the Spring, roads became nearly impassable, muddy quagmires.

A minor improvement was the log or corduroy road, which was simply tree trunks laid across the path. As can be imagined, it was a bumpy ride in a wagon. Rocks were also used for road fill, and after the tanning industry became established in Maine, spent bark and peeled hemlock tree trunks were available in quantity.

A considerable improvement was a plank road. Sawn planks or tree trunks with the upper surface planed flat were laid across the road, providing a reasonably smooth surface. A plank road, however, was expensive to build and maintain, so most were constructed by entrepreneurs who charged a fee for their use. They were called toll roads. Such a road was built by a private company from Maine Village to Union. There was a toll house at the present location of the Ray Marean property. When the road was abandoned as a toll road, the toll keeper's house was moved to the property of the Maine School. For a time it was used as a home for the school principal, and in 1957 it was rented to Lyle Ward.

Good roads, by comparison, led from Maine to Binghamton. The first Susquehanna River bridge to affect Maine was built in Binghamton in 1808. It was a toll bridge, 600 feet long, and constructed for \$6000. Binghamton was also the southern terminus of the Chenango Canal, complete in 1837 to Utica at the Erie Canal. It was 95 miles long, and operated until 1872.

The Erie Railroad was completed from the Hudson River to Union (seven miles from Maine) in 1848 and continued to Lake Erie in 1851. The Maine plank road ended at the Union railroad station and helped bring settlers and business to Maine. In particular, the tanneries imported hides from the southern states and South America. Educated families subscribed to the *New York Times* and *New York Tribune*.

In the mid 1800s, a branch of the Seneca Turnpike crossed the Town east-west, north of the Leigh Ames farm.

In the 1920s a macadam road was laid on the plank road foundation, and it was one of the first macadam roads in this area (Route 26). Early automobiles were driven to the road for trial runs over its smooth surface.

Highway miles in the Town are 101.76. Of this total there are 16.30 miles of State roads, 25.30 miles of County roads, and 60.16 miles of Town roads.⁴⁴ Half of the roads are still dirt or gravel (1957).

The Broome County Airport is entirely within the Town, and is served by three passenger lines: TWA, Mohawk, and Eastern. The Flying Tigers freight line also operates from the airport. There are three rental car companies—Hertz is located at the terminal. There is one bus

line, Hendricks, which provides worker transportation, and a 12:30 shoppers' bus. It operates every day but Sunday.

Interesting Memos

Dr William Butler. One of the two giants in the medical field was Dr William Butler (1805-1891) who arrived in 1830 from Hillsboro Co., NH. He had a classical education from Greenfield Academy and Dartmouth College, and a medical degree from Dartmouth. At first he located at the Curtis settlement, but soon saw the future was at the Village, and bought a house on 41 Main St. He joined the Medical Society, and was elected President in 1849. He practiced for 60 years, and established a county-wide reputation. His friend and cohort, Dr. Dudley said, "He regarded his profession as a calling of God, to save human life and to relieve human suffering. He did not practice medicine simply to make money or to get a living." Butler traveled the trackless Nanticoke woods on horseback, his medical case his saddlebag. (He charged \$0.50 for a house call). Butler was also a businessman and builder, and with William Lincoln, bought and rebuilt the Slosson (later Pitcher's) mill. In 1879 he built a drugstore next to his practice (Lester Padbury Store site).⁶²

Dr Dwight Dudley. The first US Army medic was Dr. Dwight Dudley (1841-1921) of Maine. Young Dudley was student working for his MD degree when the Civil War erupted. To use his training for the Union cause, he convinced Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, that he should become a medical cadet. He attended West Point, and at age 23 became the youngest commanding officer in the Union Army. He was placed in charge of the notorious Rebel prison at Elmira.

Dudley was a grandson of one of the founders of the Curtis Settlement. He was educated at William Gates' Maine Academy, Binghamton Susquehanna Seminary, Groton Academy, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Geneva. He left college in Geneva to participate as a physician in the War, and after several assignment (including Elmira Prison) he was transferred to New York. This gave him the opportunity to attend Columbia University Medical School from which he graduated in 1864. After the War he served as a ship's surgeon, medical researcher in London, physician in Whitestone and Troy, New York before he returned to Maine in 1869. He lived in the Curtis Settlement, and rode his buggy to his office at 42 Main St in the Village. Like his friend Butler, he became president of the Medical Society (1882). He was also director of the Broome Co. Agricultural Society. Eventually he moved to a house at 4 McGregor Ave and moved his practice to 34 Main St. He continued in active service until a year before his passing in 1921.⁶²

William Morris Butler was born in Maine in 1850, the son of Dr William Bulter, and himself a neurologist of note. He was a specialist in nervous and mental disorders.

Grandville Gates was a Baptist country minister who established the Baptist churches in Nanticoke and Ovid. Later he move to Kansas and founded Highland College.

Frederick Taylor Gates, son of Grandville Gates, was born in Maine in 1853. He was educated at the University of Rochester and became a Baptist minister like his father. He wished to establish a Baptist college, and approached the wealthy Baptist, John D. Rockefeller, for funds. Rockefeller acceded to his request, and Chicago University was the result. At the time, Mr Rockefeller was receiving more than 3000 letters a day asking for contributions to various organizations and causes. He explained to Gates that he did not have time to evaluate the merits of the requests, and asked Gates to move to NYC, join his staff, and administer his charities. Gates agreed, and originated and chaired both the General Education Board and the Rockefeller Foundation. He felt that the causes of disease were often unknown, and urged Rockefeller to fund medical research, and so the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research was established. When Rockefeller needed a man to organize Great Lakes shipping, Gates recommended his kinsman, LaMont Bowers.

LaMont Bowers, father of Dr Clement Bowers, was born in 1847 in Maine, and was a most interesting man. For 30 years he was a member of John D. Rockefeller's advisory staff. He organized Great Lakes shipping into the industry it is today. While working in the field he invented and patented an anchor. After the patent expired, the Navy adopted the Bowers design. He invented a machine to make 8-foot lengths of eves trough, where formerly only 2-foot lengths were manufactured.

Dr. Clement Bowers received his PhD in horticulture, and is an authority on winter-hardy rhododendrons, and the author of a book on the subject. He is a member of the Broome County Planning Board and the Roberson Cultural Center in Binghamton.

Dr Edwin Slosson was born in Kansas in 1865 of Maine parents. A noted chemist, he helped establish the Science Service. His death merited notice on the front page of *The New York Times*.

Julia M Hinaman was born in 1895, and taught school in Mt Ettrick and Tiona. She represented the cause for child welfare before the League of Nations, and was the publicity director for the League of Women Voters in Washington, DC at the time the 19th amendment (suffrage) was passed in 1919.

Population. Population figures for the town are as follows: 1825-200 (estimate), 1850-1843, 1855-1979, 1860-2009, 1865-2061, 1870-2035, 1875-2071, 1880-2129, 1890-1692, 1900-1534, 1910-1363, 1920-1360, 1930-1682, 1940-2076, 1950-2315, 1960-3933, 1970-5319.⁴⁰

Diary. An 1895 diary gives the following hair treatment recipes. Shampoo: 8 ounces water, one

dram bicarbonate of soda, dissolved; and add the yolks of two eggs, well beaten. Hair tonic: one ounce tincture of cantharides, 2 ounces castor oil, 20 ounces essence of alcohol (or use one ounce oil to 1 pint alcohol). The writer of the diary is unknown, but there are two tax notations for \$1.88 and \$1.72 for 1895.

Con Artist. Lewis Paige, owner of the Hathaway House on Main Street, was told this story by Ray Smith, now deceased. At a time when the Paige house was an inn, a stranger rented a room. He was very secretive about his work, and would leave the inn every morning and head south. Interested town folks saw him digging on land above the falls, off old Nanticoke Valley Road, and on land now owned by Basil Love. Questions from the curious were turned away. People tried to open the door to his room, but it was always locked. But one day it was found unlocked, and the trespassers found many samples of gold ore. They confronted the stranger and demanded to know if he had found gold. Ultimately he confessed that he had. He said he needed money to start large scale mining operations, so the townsmen raised a considerable sum as a share. As soon as he was given the money he left town, and the diggings were found to have been “salted.”

Union Center residents tell of another gold mine swindle, which may, or may not, be confused with the Maine swindle. It was perpetrated in the 1930s by a UC man who owned a glen in Cornell Hollow, five miles from the center of the hamlet, and off the old Newark Valley Road. The owner “salted” the ground by loading shotgun shells with real gold, and firing them in selected locations. He convinced a New York City investor that a rich vein of gold ran through the property, which he sold for a goodly sum. He left town before the swindle was uncovered, and the deep shaft the investor had dug was a local landmark for years.

Wolves. During the settlement period, wolves and deer were plentiful. Wolves were so dangerous that in 1790 there was a 20 shilling wolf bounty. In February 1822 county supervisors could raise the bounty for wolf scalps to \$10 for adults and \$5 for welps.⁴³

Assessed Valuation. In the 1860s, Maine had an assessed valuation of \$232,116. The total assessed valuation (1956 figures) of Maine Township was real property (\$2,129,948), Public Service (\$188,180), Special Franchise (\$116,228) for a total of \$2,434,356. Partial exceptions amounted to \$55,802. The equalization rate was 42.⁴⁵

Baseball. Maine had a baseball team as early as 1867, with a ball diamond on an island in the Nanticoke Creek behind the Model Creamery in Maine Village. Robert Spencer, county historian, uncovered this interesting story. On June 8, 1867 the Maine Star Baseball Club played the Forest team of Glen Aubrey. Maine won the huge scoring game, 77 to 39. The game statistics were:

Star		Forest	
Striker	Runs	Striker	Runs
Hathaway	9	Dunham, M.L.	5
Pollard	9	Dunham, H	7
Lincoln	8	Stoddard, J.B.	5
Gates	8	Stoddard, C.	4
Norton, R.	6	Dunham, T.W.	3
Holden	9	Conse, D.E.	3
Shippey	11	Smith, E.	3
Marean	10	Graylord, J,	4
Hasbrouck	7	Dunham, A	5
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	77		39

On June 15, 1867 the teams played again, with Maine winning 43 to 21. But on August 31, 1867 Glen Aubrey's *first* Nine Eagles defeated Maine's *second* Nine Star 44-38. A game played September 7, 1872 again witnessed the defeat of Glen Aubrey by Maine 44-19. Another September game in 1898 resulted in a Maine win over Glen Aubrey by the low score of 16-9.⁴⁶

Daniel Casey of East Maine claimed that he was **the** Casey in the immortal poem *Casey at the Bat* by Ernest Thayer. Dan and his brother Denny were both born near Mt. Ettrick, and both played major league ball in the 1890s. Dan pitched for the Philadelphia Phillies, and Denny was an outfielder with the Detroit Tigers and New York Giants. Some say that Denny, not Dan, inspired the poem, for Denny was known for his hitting prowess, while Dan was a hurler.⁴⁷

1882 Prices. From a letter by Peter Wood to someone in this area, these prices prevailed in 1882. Hay: \$15-16 per ton, corn: \$0.50-0.60 per bushel, flour: \$7 per barrel, potatoes: \$1.40 per barrel, sugar: \$0.08-0.14 per pound, tea: \$0.25 and up per pound, and calico: \$0.05-0.14 per yard. Peter Wood said he sold a horse for \$190.

Maine Fair. In the 1870s Maine had a fairgrounds located on the George Durfee farm. The fair was staged in the Fall, after harvesting. Animals and crops were exhibited, and there was a half-mile harness racing track. Mr E. Ketchum, owner of the principal hotel, was also famed as a horse dealer. He raced his horses at the fairgrounds. His most notable animals were Kitty Frazier, Revenge Willie, and Revenge Daniel Webster, but Kitty Frazier was the most prized. Burt Durfee remembers that the track also featured bicycle races.

The first annual fair of the Maine Agricultural Society opened Tuesday October 5, 1875. There were slightly over 900 entries, and on Wednesday alone, over 3000 people attended. Receipts on Tuesday and Wednesday reached \$6000. The Hon. J.H. Selkreg was the speaker. The effort was viewed a success financially and otherwise.

Judge Clark of Owego gave the address at the third annual fair. The sixth annual fair was held Aug. 31, Sept 1 and 2, 1881.⁴⁸

Burglary. There was a burglary on Sunday Oct. 22, 1875, and another May 12, 1877. The latter was at the Taylor Brothers store. Watchmen at the tannery heard a muffled explosion in the vicinity of the store. They awakened one of the Taylors who found that the safe had been blown open with gunpowder. Taylor estimated the thieves escaped with \$600 in cash and a quantity of silverware. It was clearly the work of professionals, who were never apprehended.⁴⁹

Fires, Floods and Tornado. The Town has suffered so many fires that to list them all would take much space. The Bowers house at Bowers Corners burned in the 1870s.

The Great Fire of 1893 started 7 February in the backroom of Bostwick's Drugstore. The space had been used as storage for wood, oils, and paints, and spontaneous combustion was the probable cause. The drugstore (with YMCA quarters upstairs), Curlhair's harness shop, Ellis and Marean's Butcher shop (and GAR quarters), and a restaurant all were consumed. Eventually the fire leaped across Church Street, and Lincoln's fine store burned. Ketchum's Hotel was saved only by the expedient of covering the roof with wet burlap bags. Heat from the roaring blaze melted snow, and bucket brigades were formed by scooping water out of the streets. Villagers contacted the Binghamton Fire department for help. They asked if we had any water, and when Maine said, "no," Binghamton replied there was no use in coming.

On Dec. 5, 1905 the A.U. Curtis store and watch repair shop was burned.⁵⁰ In May 1928 the ME Church was destroyed by fire.

In 1907 a tornado struck the lower part of town and did much damage.

A flash flood in June 1945 did great damage in less than two hours. On the west side of town a cloud burst flooded small Lewis Creek. The King Hill Road bridge was destroyed, town machinery was damaged, the Maine School basement almost filled, and much farm top soil removed.

Distillery. One of the men caught in the famous Apalachin gangster raid of November 14, 1957 was apprehended operating a still in the Town of Maine.⁵¹

Death Valley Road is a small portion of a road, about a mile long, located in the eastern section, and running through Chauncey Hollow. It does not exist on the 1855 township map, and was apparently named after Death Valley, CA sometime after the Civil War. The north end crosses the present Wyok Rd. It still is remembered by youngsters with awe and fear. The tall, stately hemlocks are gone, but the road is cold and shadowy, even on the brightest days. Tales of the early days tell that youths were stalked by panthers in the region. There are several, but unsubstantiated, stories of deaths, murders, and a lynching.

Nanticoke Springs straddles the border between Maine and Nanticoke. Sulphur springs were

discovered in the 1820s, and a boarding house was erected on the property to attract health patients. Soon a little community developed around the boarding house. A post office, Nanticoke Springs, was established in 1831. Patients were attracted to the springs from great distances. Some would take the Erie railroad to Binghamton and then a stage to Nanticoke Springs for the cure. The boarding house burned in 1860.

Pioneers. The following is the name, date of settlement, nativity, and business.

Allen, M	1834	NY	farmer
Allyn, JB	1865	CT	farmer
Atwater, JJ	1866	NY	JP, sheriff
Brown, Norman	1857	NY	Town Clerk
Brooks, Asa	1822	NY	Pastor ME Church
Benjamin, Bela	1866	NY	farmer
Baker, Henry	1822	MA	farmer, sawmill
Bean, William	1833	NY	blacksmith
Baldwin, William	1875	NH	Pastor Cong Church
Church, Andrew	1868	NY	Druggist
Carman, JV	1847	NY	miller
Curtis, AV	1843	NY	farmer
Durfee, Amasa	1830	MA	farmer
Davis, John F	1828	MA	farmer
Davis, Helen E	1855	NY	teacher
Guy, CH	1869	NY	physician, surgeon
Holden, O	1842	NY	farmer, music teacher
Hogg, William	1836	Scotland	farmer, JP
Holland, Silas	1834	NY	farmer, JP
Hickok, MS	1839	NY	farmer, assessor
Johnson, Amasa	1836	NY	farmer
Ketchum, E	1835	CT	merchant
Lincoln, WO	1847	NY	merchant
Marean, Henry	1842	NY	merchant, supervisor
Marean, William	1831	NY	farmer
McIntyre, Mrs FF	1848	NY	farmer
Phipps, Francis	1841	NY	farmer
Rozell, Henry	1816	NY	farmer
Shafer, PC	1853	NY	farmer
Sherwood, William H	1866	CT	farmer, merchant
Smith, George	1839	NY	farmer, plow agent
Tyler, E.	1857	NY	clergyman
Thorn, Mrs MC	1869	NY	

Washburn, RA	1848	CT	pastor Baptist Church
Wright, JN	1828	NY	farmer
Walter, Horace	1829	NY	farmer
Whittemore, HB	1858	NY	farmer
Young, Elias	1865	NY	JP, saw mill

Endnotes

- 1a. Bowers, Clement, Interview with Elton and Philip Parr
- 1b. *Encyclopedia Americana*, "Robert Harpur," vol 13, p 723
1. Spencer, *Glen Aubrey*, p 1
- 1c. Ibid
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2. Smith, p 65
- 2a Smith, p 13-16
3. Spencer, *Glen Aubrey*, p 2
- 3a. Smith, p 11, 58
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5. Ibid, p 494-6
- 5a. Bathe, p 11, 58
- 5b. Bathe, p, 79, 82
6. Johnson, Belle North
7. Smith, p 498-9
8. *Broom County Airport*, MacDougall Equipment Co., 1951
9. Walter, Emmett, dairy farmer
10. *New Historical Atlas of Broome County*
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16. *Congregational Church Record Books*, Vol 1 and 2
17. Child, p 123
18. Ibid, p 123
19. Ibid, p 123
20. Ibid, p 123
21. *Congregational Church Record Book*, Vol 4
22. Child, p 124
23. *Holy Rosary Catholic Church Records*, Preface.
24. McGregor, Warren, farmer and photographer
25. Bowers, Dr. Clement, resident
26. Durfee, Bert, resident
27. Paige, Louis, resident
28. Lainhardt, John, resident
29. Durfee, Bert, resident
30. Smith, p 422-495
31. Durfee, Bert, resident
32. *Book of Schools, Town of Maine*, 1848
33. Smith
34. *School District Number Eleven In the Town of Maine*
35. *School District Number One In the Town of Maine*
36. Spencer, *I See By the Papers*
37. *Book of Schools, Town of Maine*, 1848
38. *Maine Central School Dedication Program*, May 24, 1940
39. *Scrapbooks*, Mildred Garrett
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- 52 *Endicott Bulletin*, Oct 26, 1953.
53. *Endicott Bulletin*, March 6, 1951
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63. Chafee, *History Wyoming Conference*, p 502
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