

Nanticoke Springs

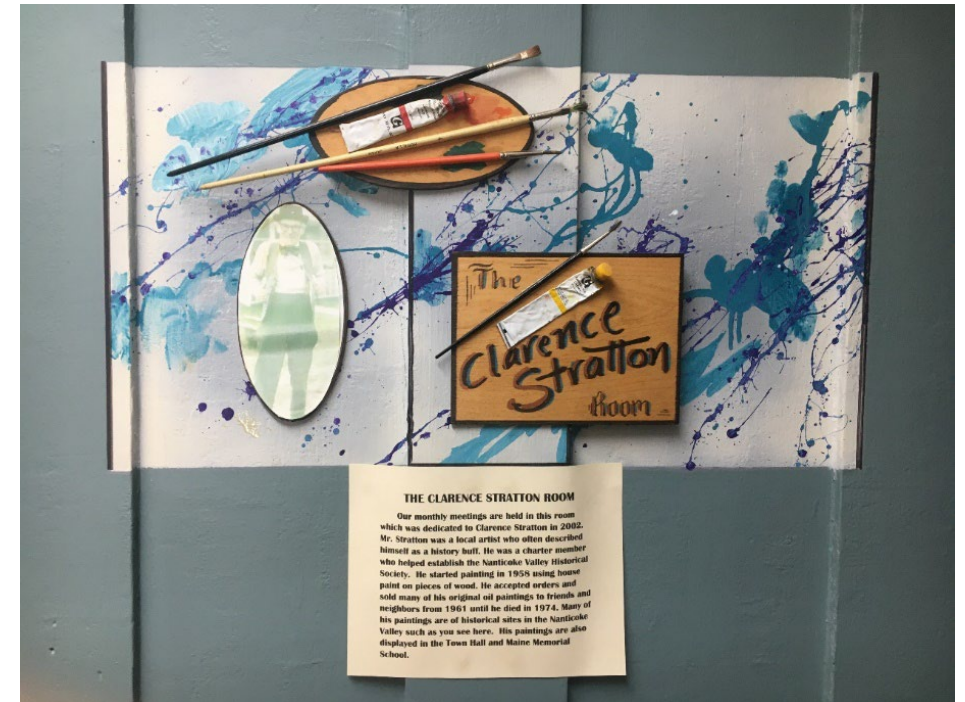
The Spa, the Painting, and the Story Behind It



Nanticoke Springs

THE CLARENCE STRATTON ROOM

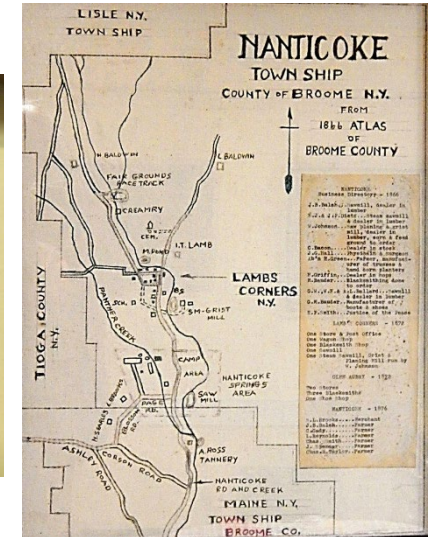
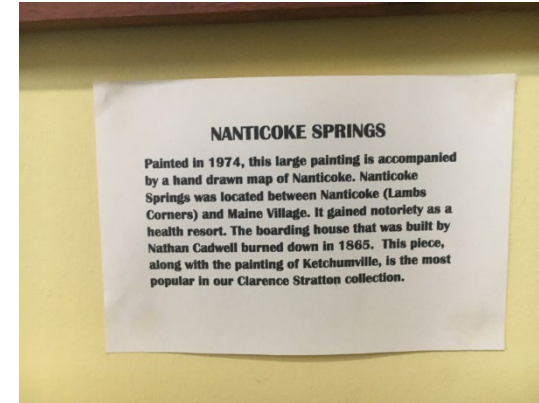
Our monthly meetings are held in this room which was dedicated to Clarence Stratton in 2002. Mr. Stratton was a local artist who often described himself as a history buff. He was a charter member who helped establish the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. He started painting in 1958 using house paint on pieces of wood. He accepted orders and sold many of his original oil paintings to friends and neighbors from 1961 until he died in 1974. Many of his paintings are of historical sites in the Nanticoke Valley such as you see here. His paintings are also displayed in the Town Hall and Maine Memorial School.



Nanticoke Springs

The Plan ...

- Intro.
- What about this sulphur water?
- What have historians said?
- How did Stratton know what to paint?
- What have some folks said through the years?
- Q&A, Discussion



Nanticoke Springs

Who is Dick Baldwin? Why me?

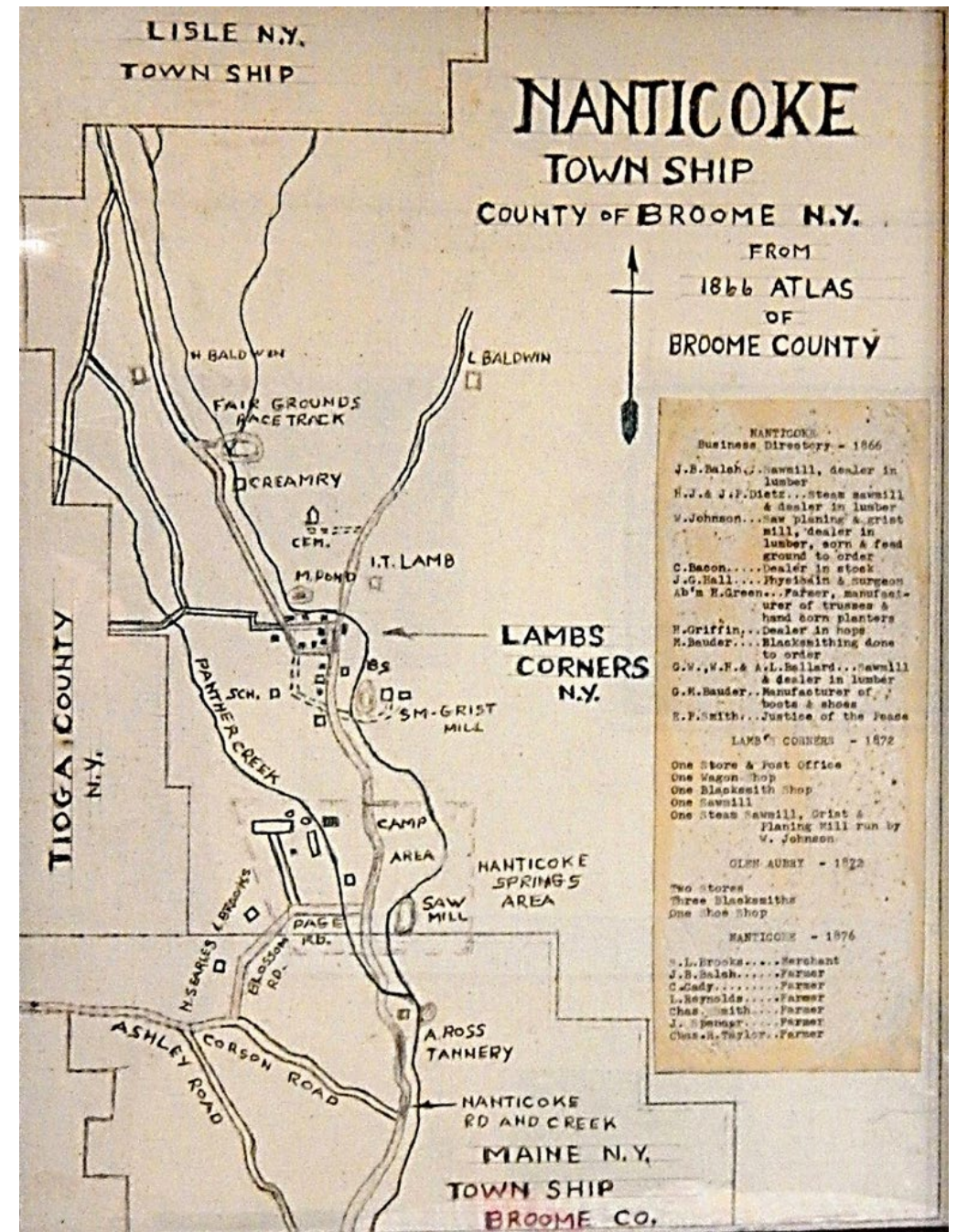
- Nanticoke native
- Grew up with family & local history all around
- Visits with father, notes & “chapters”
- Long-time “student” of Nanticoke history (with self-diagnosed OCD)



Nanticoke Springs

Where is Nanticoke Springs?

- 5 miles north of Maine
- At Maine/Nanticoke Tn. Line
- Springs Farm and one-time Spa is just off Nanticoke Rd. on Page Rd.

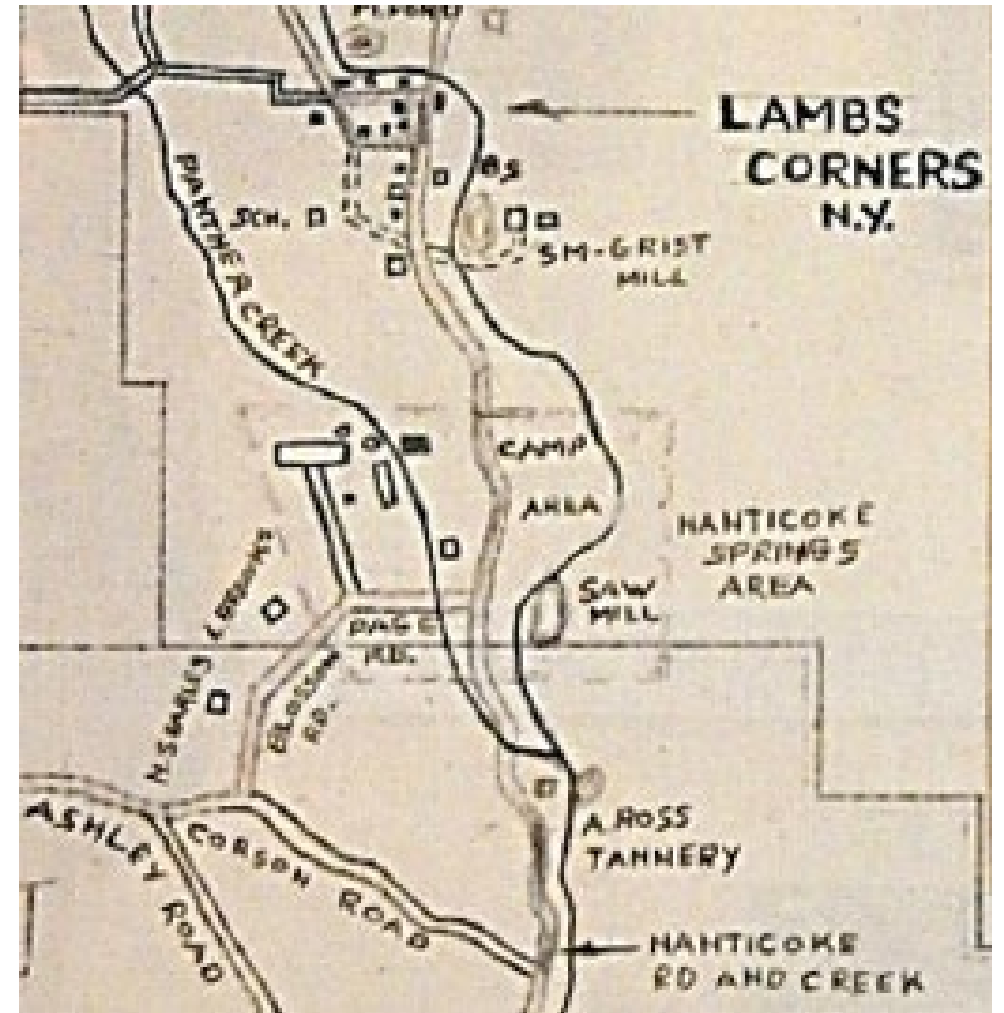


Nanticoke Springs

What are we talking about?

- The springs
- The health resort/spa
- The springs farm
- The community

We'll be touching on each but focusing on the Springs & Spa



Nanticoke Springs

1832 (Feb. 9) Br. Co. Republican

NANTICOKE MINERAL SPRING.

The waters of the above Spring have for several years excited a considerable degree of public attention.

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THE waters of the above Spring have for several years excited a considerable degree of public attention. They have proved of great efficacy in cutaneous affections, rheumatism, salt rheum, dyspepsia, scrofula, and all chronic complaints and cases of general debility, and many remarkable cures are justly ascribed to their effects. The waters are very abundant in quantity, remarkably cold and clear, and not unpleasant to the taste—acting as a powerful diuretic and promoter of the appetite. The proprietor has been at great expense in fitting up accommodations for the reception of visitors, and will make such additions to his present buildings in the spring as the wants of the public and increasing patronage may require. It is his intention to add to the present ample accommodations for shower bathing; a warm bath for those who may prefer it to cold bathing. This healthy retreat is situated near the Nanticoke Creek, about 12 miles from its mouth, and 20 miles from the flourishing village of Binghamton, to which place a convenient carriage for the conveyance of passengers will commence running three times a week early in the spring. The proprietor has associated with him, in the management of the house, Mr. NORMAN B. SMITH, and the public may rest assured, that no pains will be spared to render the establishment in all respects worthy of patronage.—Nanticoke, Feb. 9th, 1822.

NATHAN CADWELL.

☞ The Subscriber having become acquainted with the waters of the Nanticoke Spring, and experienced their beneficial effect, does not hesitate to recommend a trial of their quality to such as may be laboring under chronic diseases and general debility.—Binghamton, Feb. 9th, 1832. T. ROBINSON.

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Nanticoke Springs

Cutaneous affections ... to various skin conditions and infections

Rheumatism ... conditions causing pain affecting the joints or connective tissue.

salt rheum ... inflammatory disease of the skin

Dyspepsia ... indigestion or upset stomach

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Scrofula ... is a form of tuberculosis that occurs outside of the lungs, particularly affecting the neck lymph nodes.

Chronic complaints and cases of general debility

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The waters are ... remarkably cold and clear, and not unpleasant to the taste – acting as a powerful diuretic [sic] and promoter of the appetite.

[Diuretics are medicines that increase urine production and help to lower blood pressure and fluid retention.]

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T. Robinson.

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Nanticoke Springs

1836 Gordon Gazetteer

There are sulphur springs in the N. W. [sic] part of the town [of Nanticoke], 14 miles from Binghamton, much resorted to recently; near which, are a hotel, a number of dwellings, and a post office called Nanticoke Springs.

Nanticoke Springs

1840 NY Gazetteer

Nanticoke Springs, is the name of a post office, where is a Sulphur spring, much resorted to for its medicinal properties.

Here are situated an hotel for the accommodation of visitors, and several dwelling houses.

Nanticoke Springs

1860 French Gazetteer

Nanticoke Springs, in the s. part [of the Town of Nanticoke], and Glen Aubrey, are p. offices.

Nanticoke Springs

1872-3 Child Gazetteer

Nanticoke Springs, located on Nanticoke Creek, about one mile south of Lamb's Corners and near the south line [of the Town of Nanticoke], derives both its name and importance from the mineral spring located there"

Nanticoke Springs

1885 Smith History

Nanticoke Springs have attained some notoriety. They are situated about one mile from Lamb's Corners [now the hamlet of Nanticoke], a little west of south.

They consist of two springs near together. The water of one is a little stronger than the other.

Nanticoke Springs

1885 Smith History (Cont'd.)

The taste of the water is very similar to water that has had considerable powder stirred in it.

Nathan Cadwell owned them quite early and built a boarding house which would accommodate fifty or sixty persons. That was probably built fifty years ago [about 1835].

Nanticoke Springs

1885 Smith History (Cont'd.)

Persons came from the city of New York and from different parts of the country, to enjoy the benefits of the water by drinking and bathing. For many years they were quite noted.

Mr. Cadwell was succeeded by a Mr. Baker; he by a Mr. Arnold, and he by Joseph Shaw. The next occupant was a Mr. Balch, and while in his possession the boarding house burned down. This was some twenty years or more ago [about 1865].”

Nanticoke Springs

1885 History (Cont'd.)

Since this event the springs have lost their popularity.

For a number of years a stage was run from Binghamton to the Springs to accommodate visitors. It was run by Harry Ketchum.

The probabilities are the springs are as valuable as any in the country of their character.

Nanticoke Springs

1900 Lawyer History

About the year 1835, Nathan Cadwell developed a valuable mineral spring on his land, about a mile west [sic] of Lamb's Corners, and being a shrewd Yankee descendant, he set to work and built a large boarding house for the guests who always are ready to flock to any watering place or mineral springs.

Nanticoke Springs

1900 Lawyer History (Cont'd.)

This enterprise on the part of Mr. Cadwell led to a hamlet settlement, and in the vicinity a camping ground was soon afterward established.

But in the course of time, Nanticoke springs began to lose prestige, though the superior qualities of the water never were doubted.

Nanticoke Springs

1900 Lawyer History (Cont'd.)

The boarding house passed through several owners, and finally was burned about 1865.

About 1860 the post-office was removed from the springs to Lamb's Corners (now Nanticoke) and thereafter the old settlement was doomed to decay."

Nanticoke Springs

1924 Seward History

At one time a small hamlet sprang up at what was known as Nanticoke Springs, between Nanticoke and Maine village. The waters of the springs at this place were considered healthful and the place gained considerable notoriety as a health resort.

Nanticoke Springs

1924 Seward History (Cont'd.)

The boarding house put up by Nathan Cadwell was destroyed by fire about 1865. This was practically the end of the settlement at this place, only a farm house remaining to mark the site of this once popular resort.

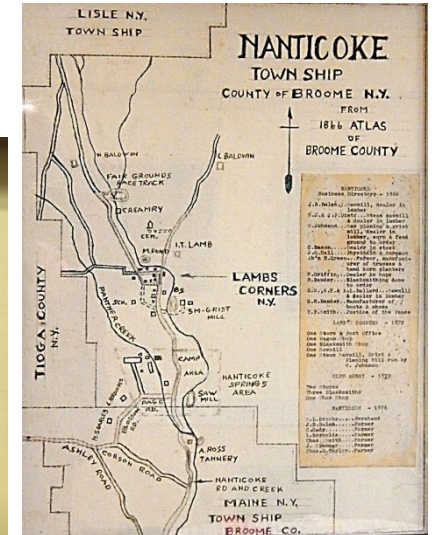
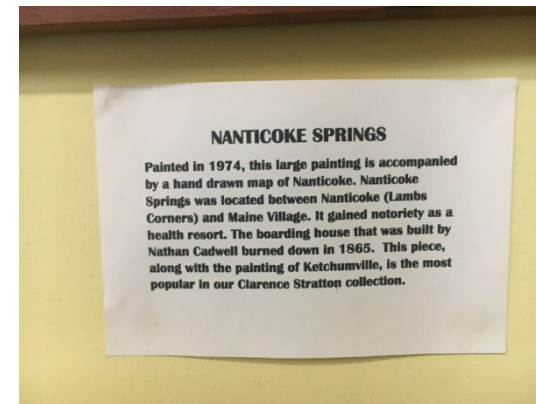
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

NANTICOKE SPRINGS

Painted in 1974, this large painting is accompanied by a hand drawn map of Nanticoke. Nanticoke Springs was located between Nanticoke (Lambs Corners) and Maine Village. It gained notoriety as a health resort. The boarding house that was built by Nathan Cadwell burned down in 1865. This piece, along with the painting of Ketchumville, is the most popular in our Clarence Stratton collection.

[photos of resort and map by Phil Childs]

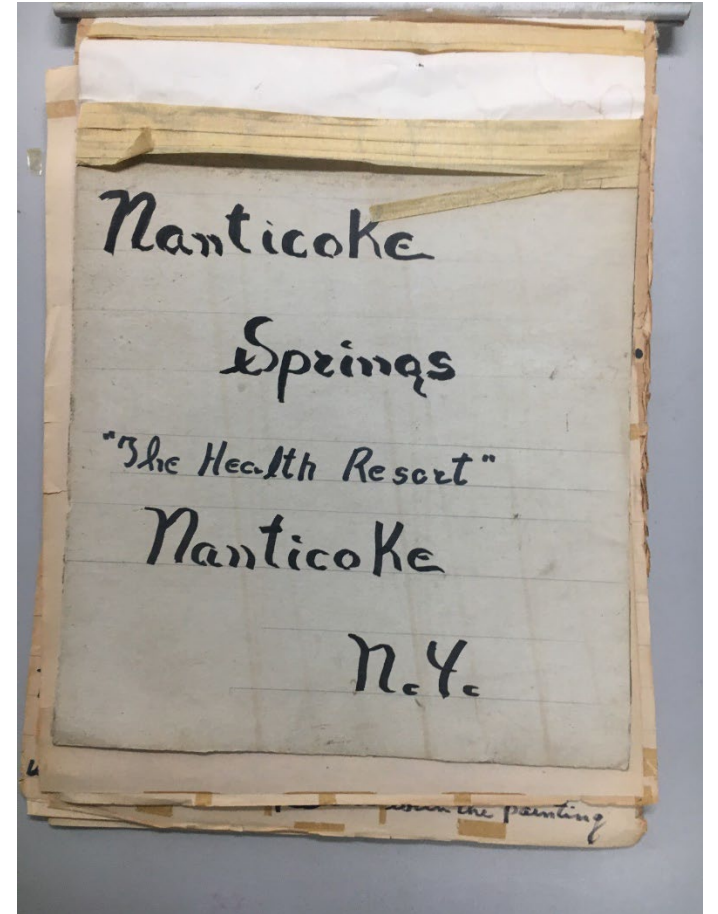


Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

Nanticoke Springs “The Health Resort” Nanticoke N.Y.

*[Flip Chart Photos by Charles & Dick Baldwin
with assistance from Carla Sullivan & Sue Lisk;
Transcription by Dick Baldwin]*



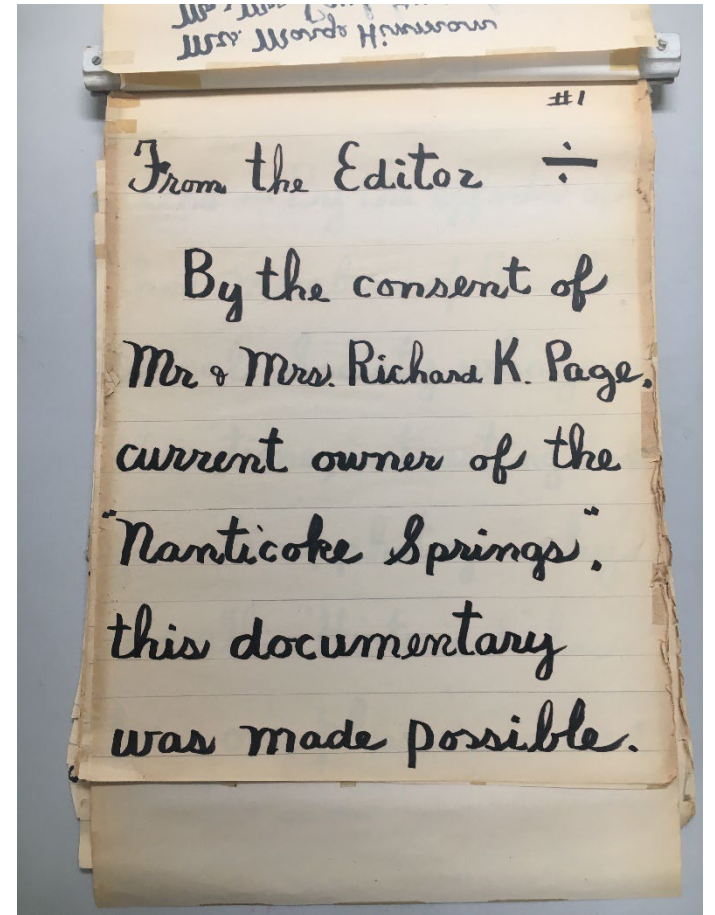
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#1

From the Editor –

By the consent of
Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. Page,
current owner of the
“Nanticoke Springs.”
this documentary
was made possible.

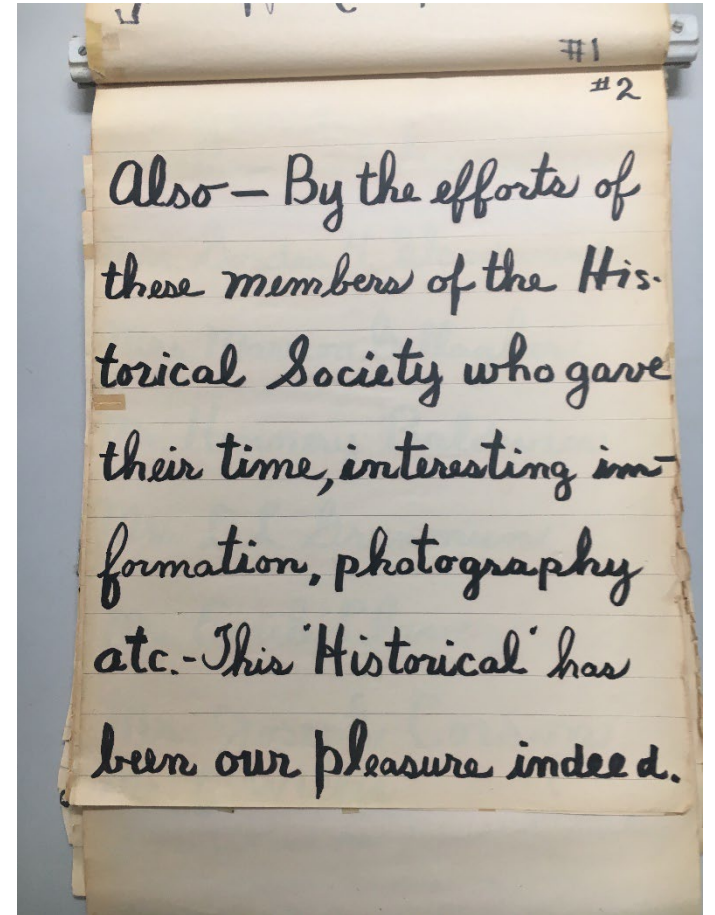


Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#2

Also – By the efforts of these members of the Historical Society who gave their time, interesting information, photography etc. – This “Historical” has been our pleasure indeed.

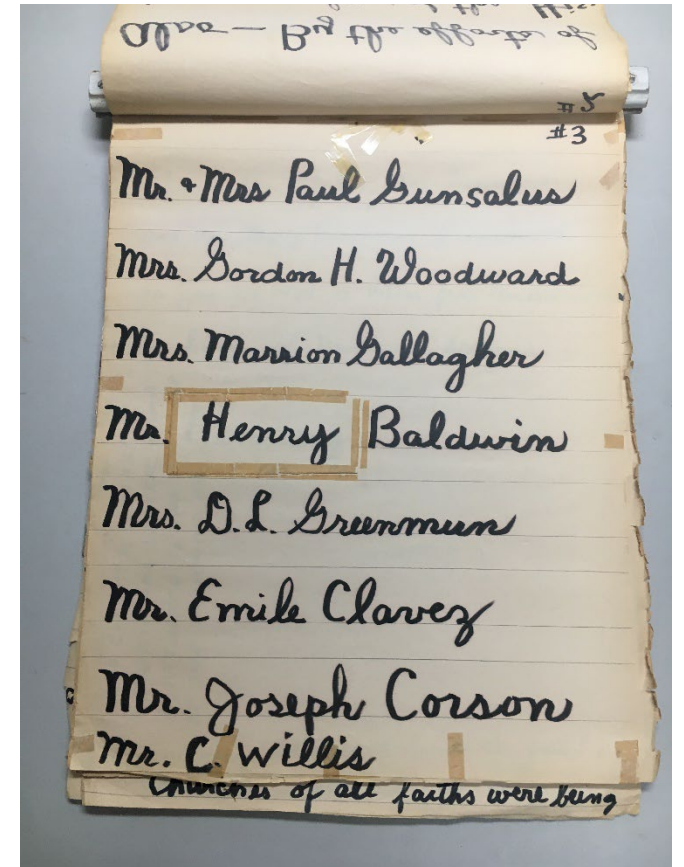


Nanticoke Springs

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#3

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gunsalus
Mrs. Gordon H. Woodward
Mrs. Marrion Gallagher
Mr. Henry Baldwin
Mrs. D. L. Greenmun
Mr. Emile Clavez
Mr. Joseph Corson
Mr. C. Willis



Nanticoke Springs

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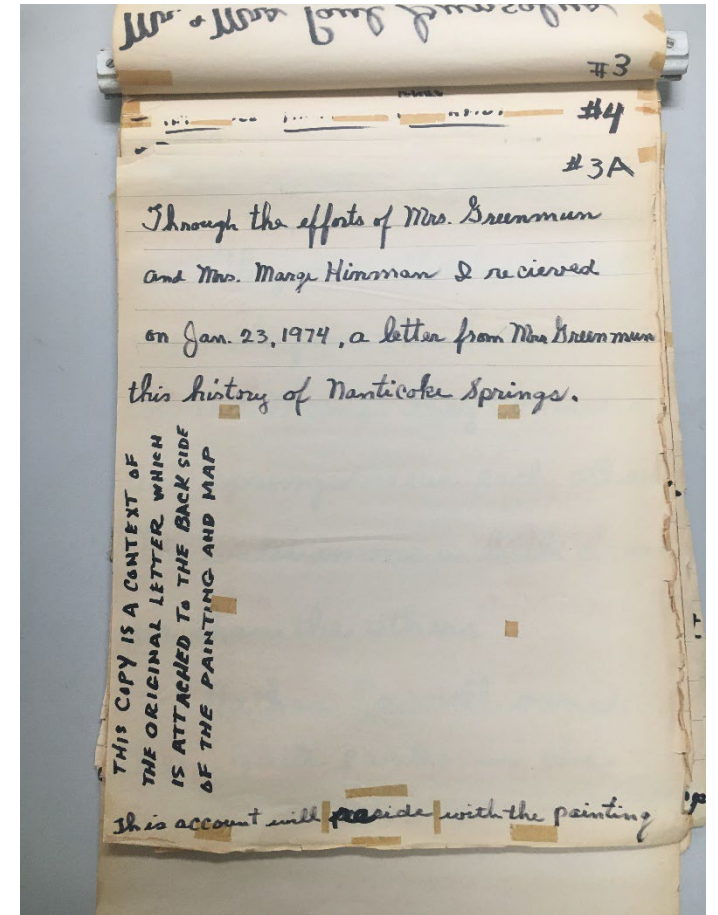
#3A

Through the efforts of Mrs. Greenmun
and Mrs. Marge Hinman I received
on Jan. 23, 1974, a letter from Mrs. Greenmun
this history of Nanticoke Springs.

THIS COPY IS A CONTEXT OF
THE ORIGINAL LETTER WHICH
IS ATTACHED TO THE BACK SIDE
OF THE PAINTING AND MAP.

[Note: Found by Sue Lisk Oct. 2023, captures what was reported
in various histories and adds detailed Post Office information]

This account will reside with the painting.



Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#3A (Cont'd.) The Greenmun Letter

Memo to Mr. Stratton:

This information came thru Marge Henman from Donald Bulgeas, Rosedale Drive, Sunrise Terrace, Binghamton. Nanticoke Springs

1836 Gazette lists it as a P.O.
{ Between Nanticoke and Maine. Once a health resort with stages making regular trips from Binghamton. Nanticoke is an Indian Name. } Henry B. Smith p.m. in 184

1876 Atlas lists it but not as a P.O.
1831 Supplement lists it as established between Oct. 1, 183 and Apr. 1, 1831 (Nathan Caldwell p.m.) Green
1846 Listed in postal guide Nathan Caldwell p.m. 1841 - Hm 1842 - Hm 1834

1860 Listed in French
{ Two mineral (sulphur) springs, Nathan Caldwell built a boarding house for 50 or 60 people. House burned about 186 Smith

1860 - P.O. moved to Lamb's Corners - Smith
First listed as of Mar 31, 1831
Name changed to Lamb's Corners between Sept 30, 1861 and July 1, 1862 Lyon

Edwin P. Smith p.m. in 1856
1832 - Nathan Caldwell p.m. postage 3.50 - Williams annual
Nanticoke (New)
Formerly Lamb's Corners - (Sheward)
P.O. in 1902 - (Postal Guide)
Name changed from Lamb's Corners about 1890 (Lyon)
Name changed from Lamb's Corners between Dec 4, 1891 and Dec 1, 1892 Lyon

Nanticoke Springs
Established Feb. 10, 1831
Nathan Caldwell - Feb 10, 1831 (spelled Caldwell later)
(William Green and Hosea Cram \$300 bond renewed Nov 29, 1837. Alfred Satis and E. H. Clark, new \$300 bond - May 7, 1842

1843
1849
1834
1854
1856
1857
Corners July 25, 1861
Corners May 24, 1892
July 24, 1892 (foldover)
July 14, 1893
July 14, 1897
Oct. 9, 1897
July 11, 1918
July 8, 1926
July 11, 1926
by Isaac Lamb about 1800
Lamb 1804.
63 as Lamb's Center
(child)
selfflower
it was moved from Nanticoke
ms
in 1879, still in 1885 (Smith)
Lyon p.m. in 1885 (Smith)
about 1890 - Sawyer
in site of Lamb's Corners
m. 1855 map

30, 1861 and July 1, 1862
between Dec 14, 1891 and
Dec 1, 1892 Lyon

ged from Nanticoke Springs
y 25, 1861
5, 1863
23, 1864
3, 1871
y 17, 1876
ch 5, 1886
u. 16, 1889
le May 24, 1892
ntical sent me by
my summary of the
ay Greenmun
Jan 23, 1974

Nanticoke Springs

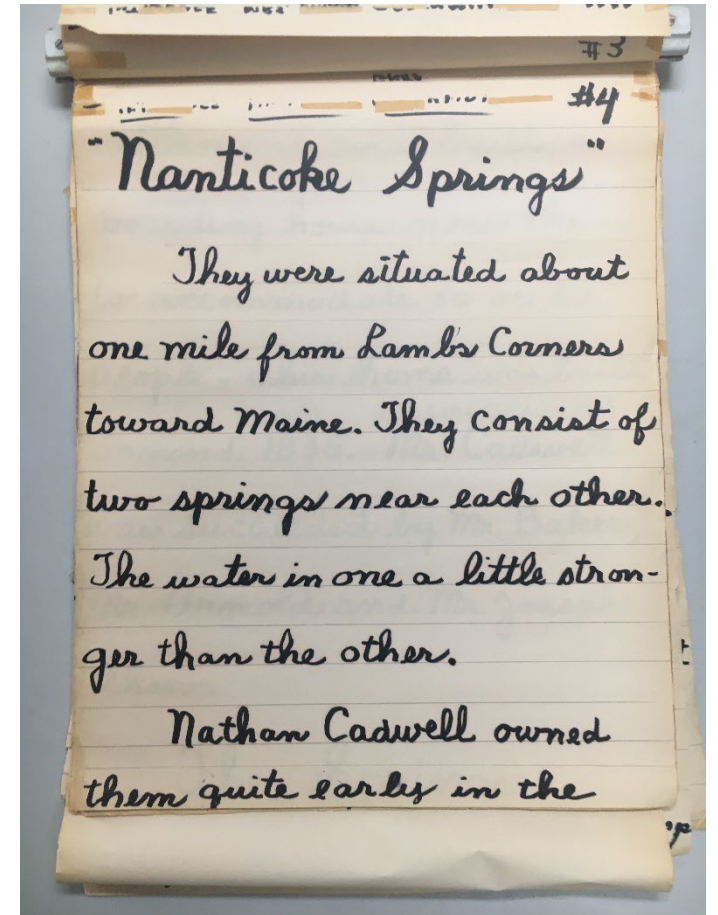
Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#4

“Nanticoke Springs”

They were situated about one mile from Lambs Corners toward Maine. They consist of two springs near each other. The water in one a little stronger than the other.

Nathan Cadwell owned them quite early in the



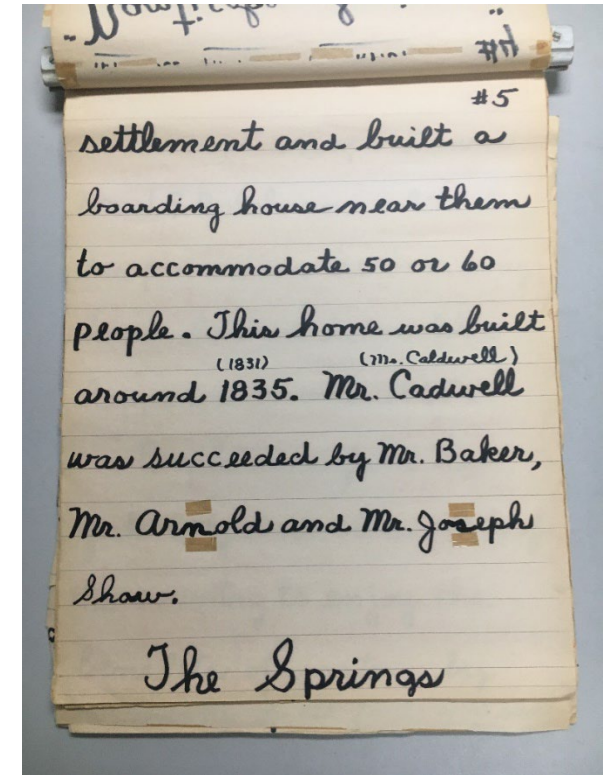
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#5

settlement and built a
boarding house near them
to accommodate 50 or 60
people. This home was built
around 1835 ⁽¹⁸³¹⁾. Mr. Cadwell ^(Mr. Caldwell)
was succeeded by Mr. Baker,
Mr. Arnold and Mr. Joseph
Shaw.

The Springs



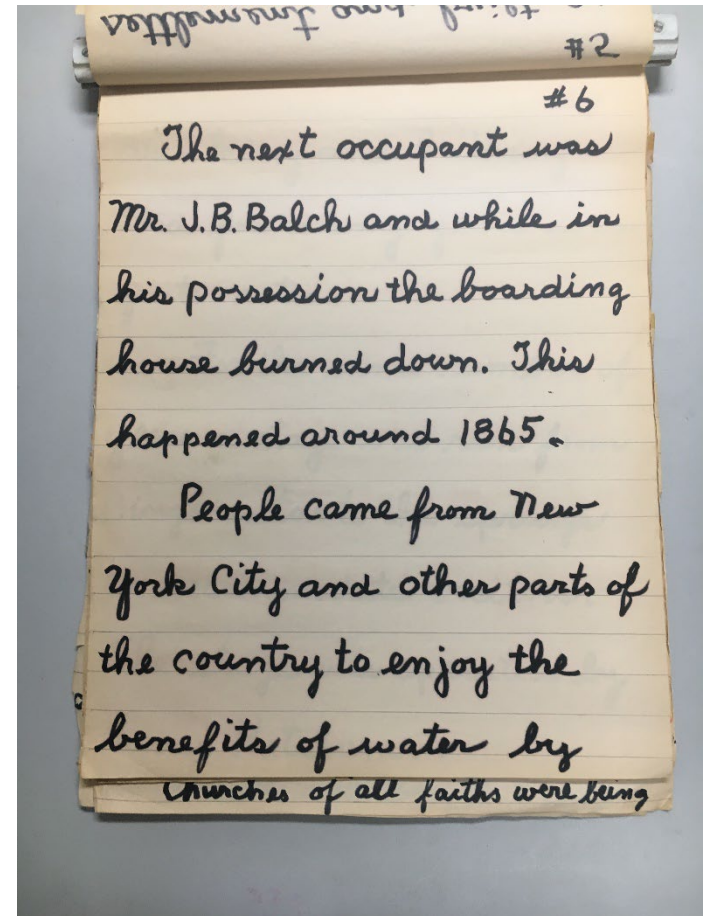
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#6

The next occupant was Mr. J. B. Balch and while in his possession the boarding house burned down. This happened around 1865.

People came from New York City and other parts of the country to enjoy the benefits of water by



Nanticoke Springs

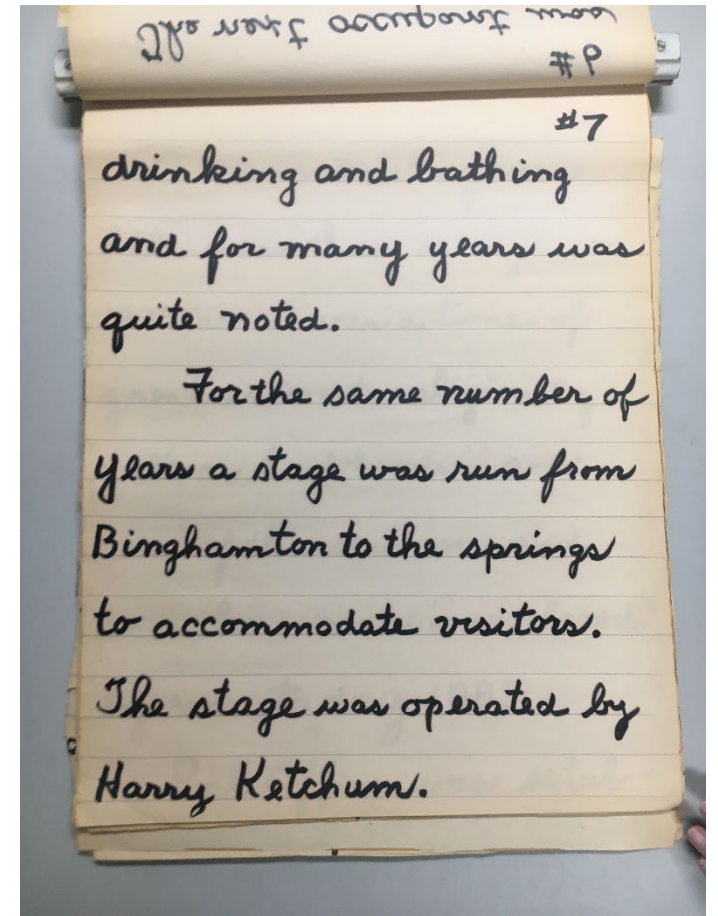
Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#7

drinking and bathing
and for many years was
quite noted.

For the same number of
years a stage was run from
Binghamton to the springs
to accommodate visitors.

The stage was operated by
Harry Ketchum.



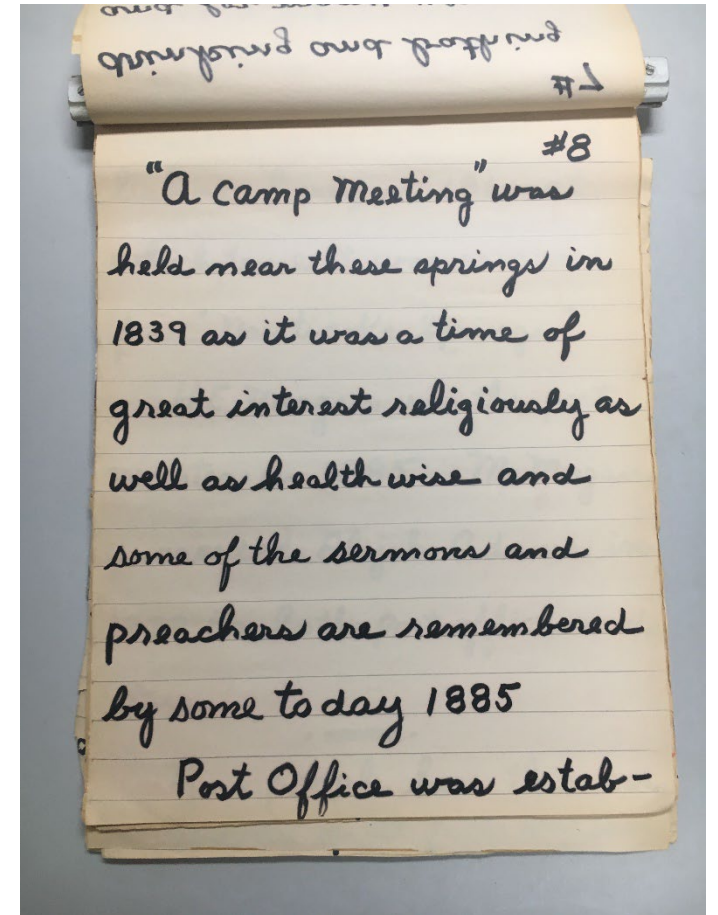
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#8

A Camp Meeting" was held near these springs in 1839 as it was a time of great interest religiously as well as health wise and some of the sermons and preachers are remembered by some today 1885[.]

Post office was estab-[lished].



Nanticoke Springs

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to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#9

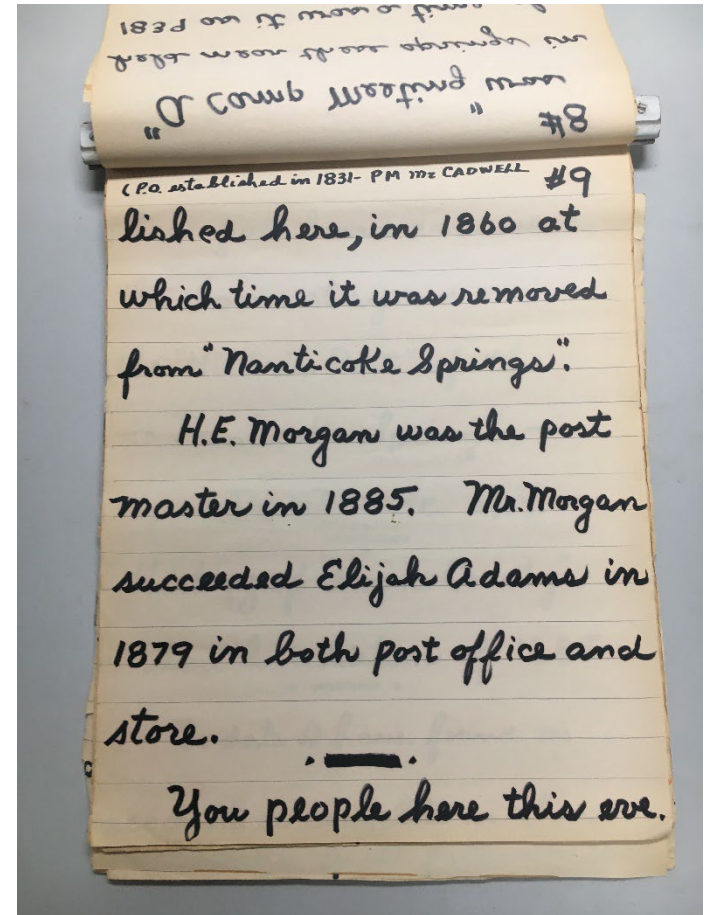
(P.O. established in 1831 – P.M. Mr. Cadwell[])

[estab]lished here, in 1860 at
which time it was removed
from “Nanticoke Springs.”

H. E. Morgan was the post
master in 1885. Mr. Morgan
succeeded Elijah Adams in
1879 in both post office and
store.

•_____•

You people here this eve.



Nanticoke Springs

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to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

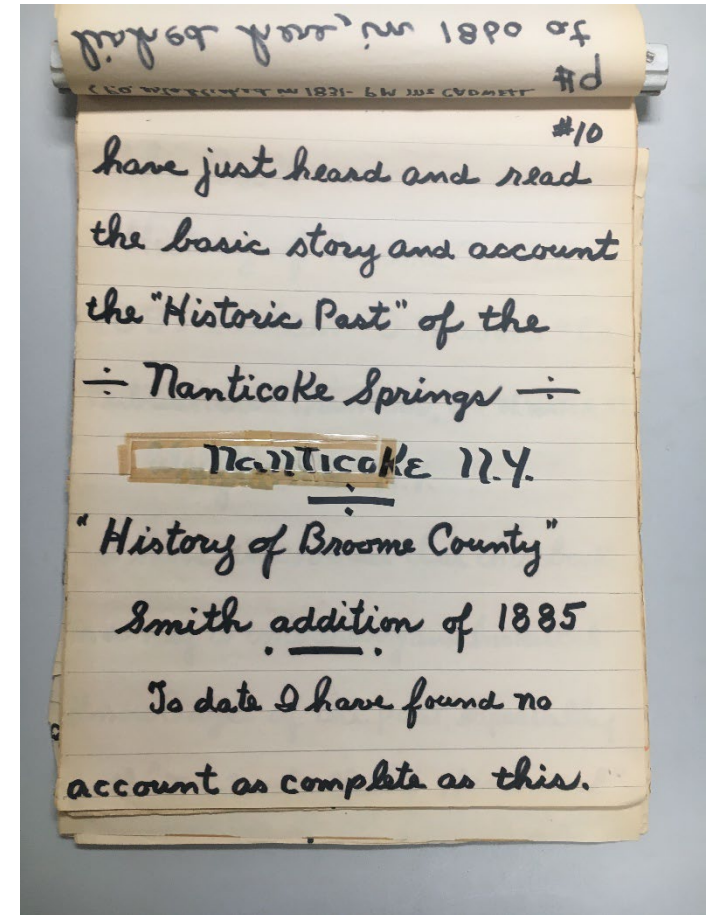
#10

have just heard and read
the basic story and account
the "Historic Part" of the
- Nanticoke Springs -
Nanticoke N.Y.

"History of Broome County"
Smith addition [sic] of 1885

• _____ •

To date I have found no
account as complete as this.



Nanticoke Springs

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to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#13

The Stage Coach Line 1829

STAGE LINE IN LATTER YEARS
TO THE SPRINGS

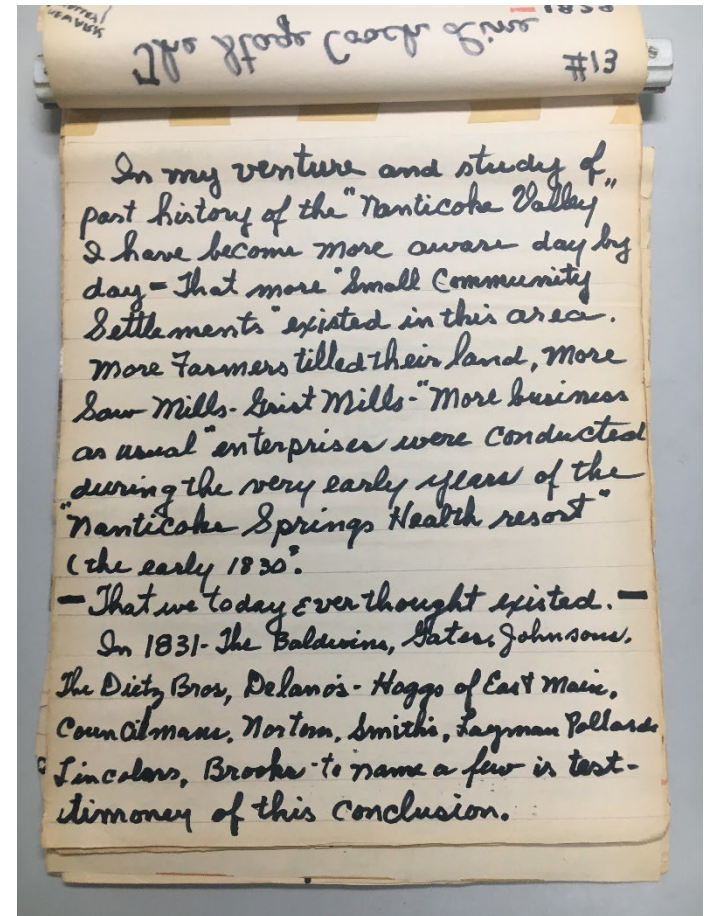


Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

In my venture and study of
past history of the "Nanticoke
Valley"

I have become more aware day by
day - that more "Small Community
Settlements" existed in this area.



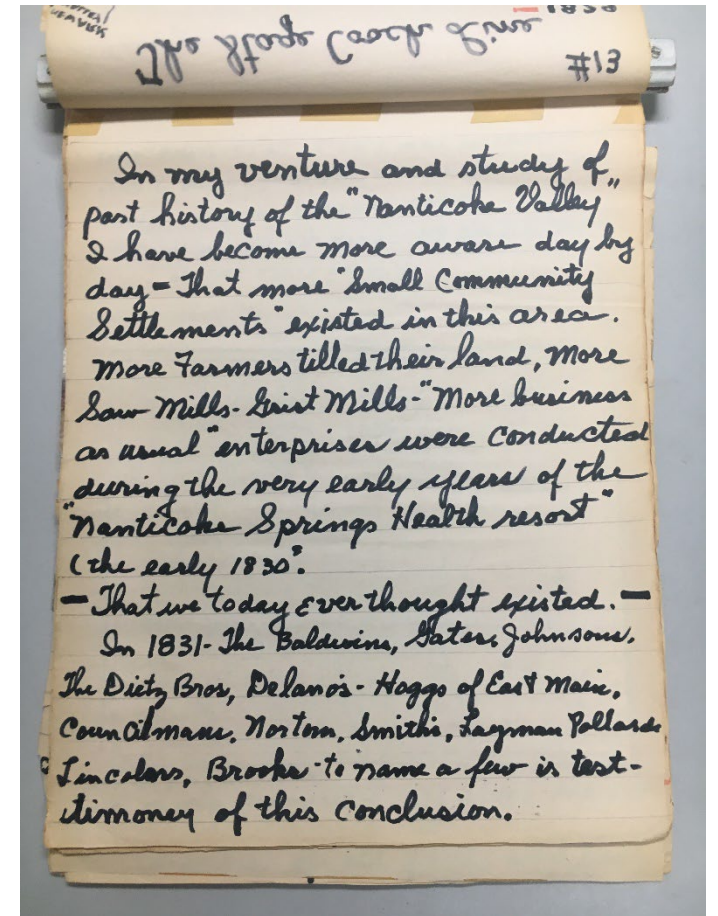
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

[Continued from previous slide]

More Farmers tilled their land. More
Saw Mills - Grist mills – “More business
as usual” enterprises were conducted
during the very early years of the
“Nanticoke Springs Health resort.”
(the early 1830^s.)]

- That we today ever thought existed.-



Nanticoke Springs

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to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#14

"Nanticoke Springs" as it is seen
today BY PHOTOS

The house to-day- the same location

[five photos]

The springs to-day- The Spring

[five photos]

The bridge -to-day

&

the Painter Lick —

open wing that still remains to-day

[four photos]



Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
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#14



Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#14



Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#14

The bridge - to-day
&
The Painter Lick —
Open wing that still
remains to-day

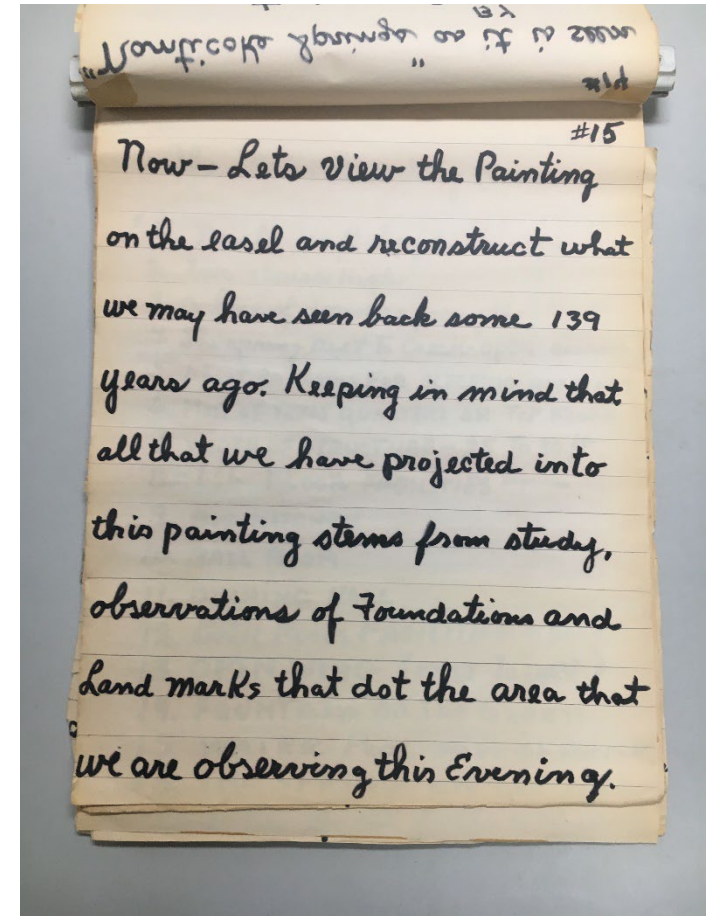


Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#15

Now – Let's view the Painting
on the easel and reconstruct what
we may have seen back some 139
years ago. Keeping in mind that
all that we have projected into
this painting stems from study,
observations of foundations and
land marks *[sic]* that dot the area that
we are observing this evening.



Nanticoke Springs

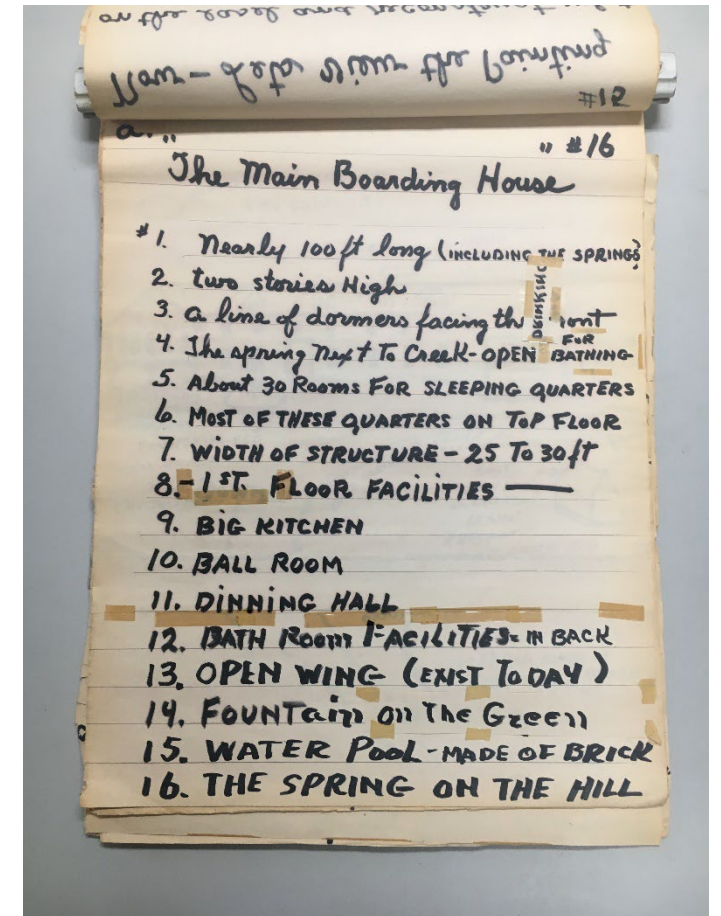
Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#16 a.

The Main Boarding House

1. Nearly 100 ft. long (INCLUDING THE SPRINGS)
2. Two stories High
3. A line of dormers facing the front
4. The spring next to creek – OPEN FOR DRINKING
5. About 30 rooms FOR SLEEPING QUARTERS
6. MOST OF THESE QUARTERS ON TOP FLOOR
7. WIDTH OF STRUCTURE – 25 to 30 ft

[Continued on next slide ...]



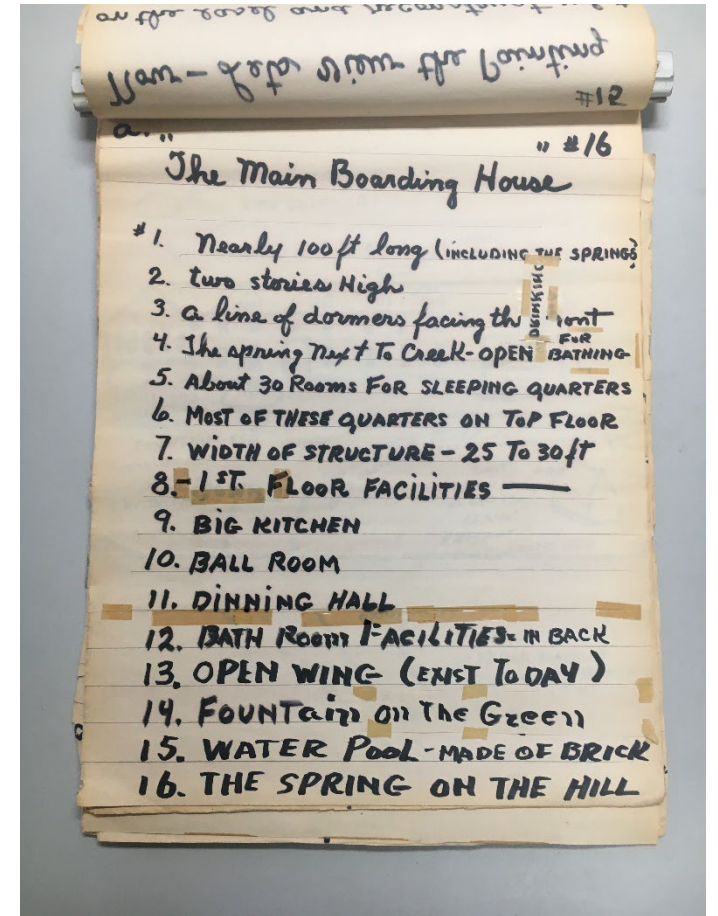
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#16 a. [... Continued from previous slide]

"The Main Boarding House"

8. 1ST FLOOR FACILITIES ---
9. BIG KITCHEN
10. BALL ROOM
11. DINNING HALL
12. BATH ROOM FACILITIES – IN BACK
13. OPEN WING (EXIST TODAY)
14. FOUNTAIN on the green
15. WATER POOL – MADE OF BRICK
16. THE SPRING ON THE HILL

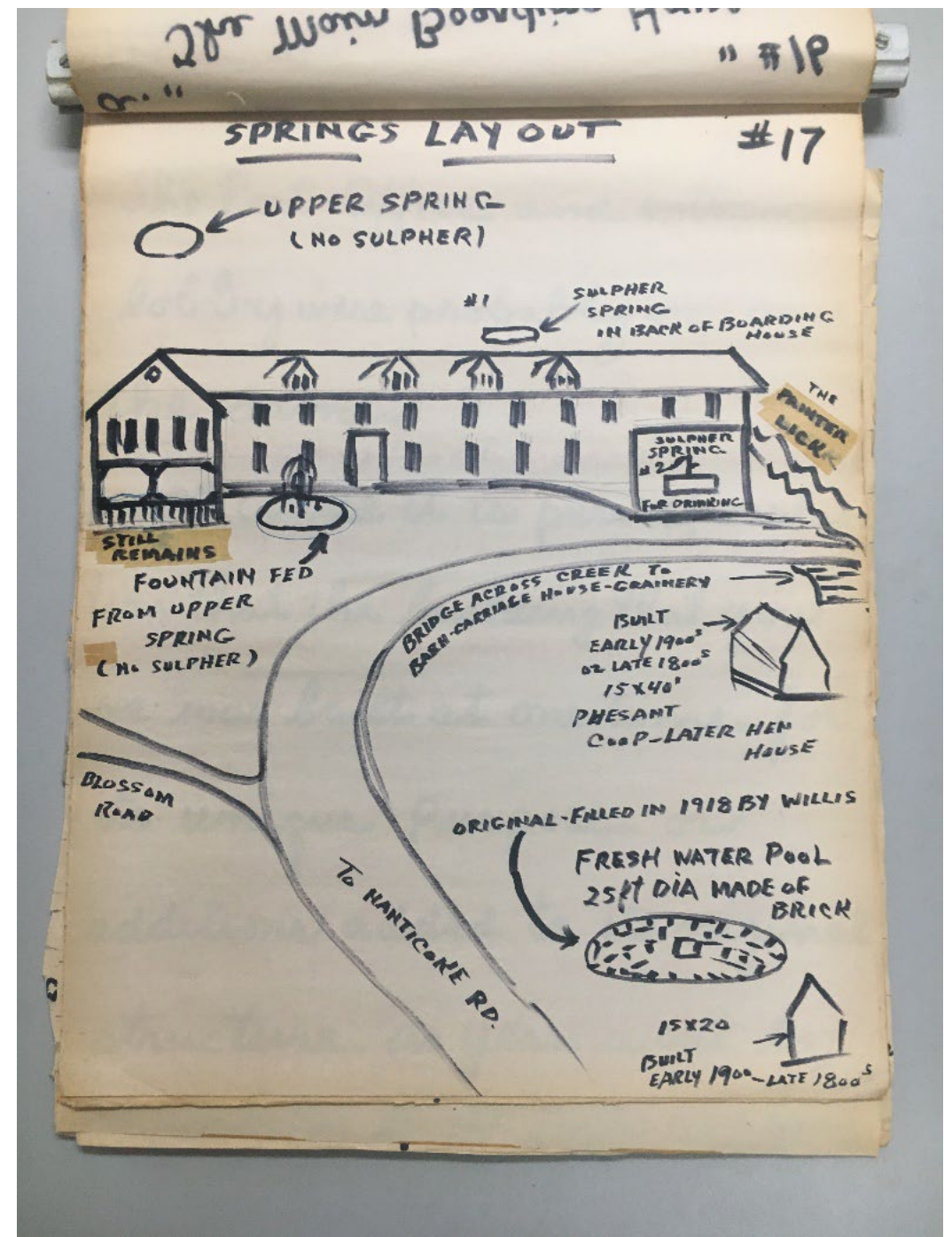


Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#17

Springs Layout



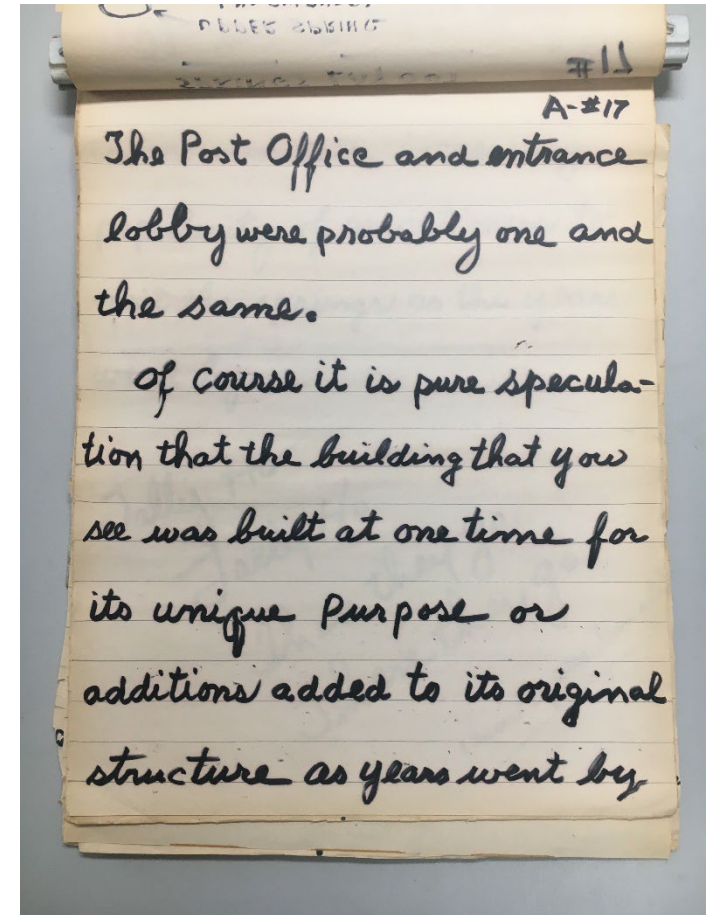
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

A-#17

The Post Office and entrance lobby were probably one and the same.

Of course it is pure speculation that the building that you see was built at one time for its unique purpose or additions added to its original structure as years went by



Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

#33

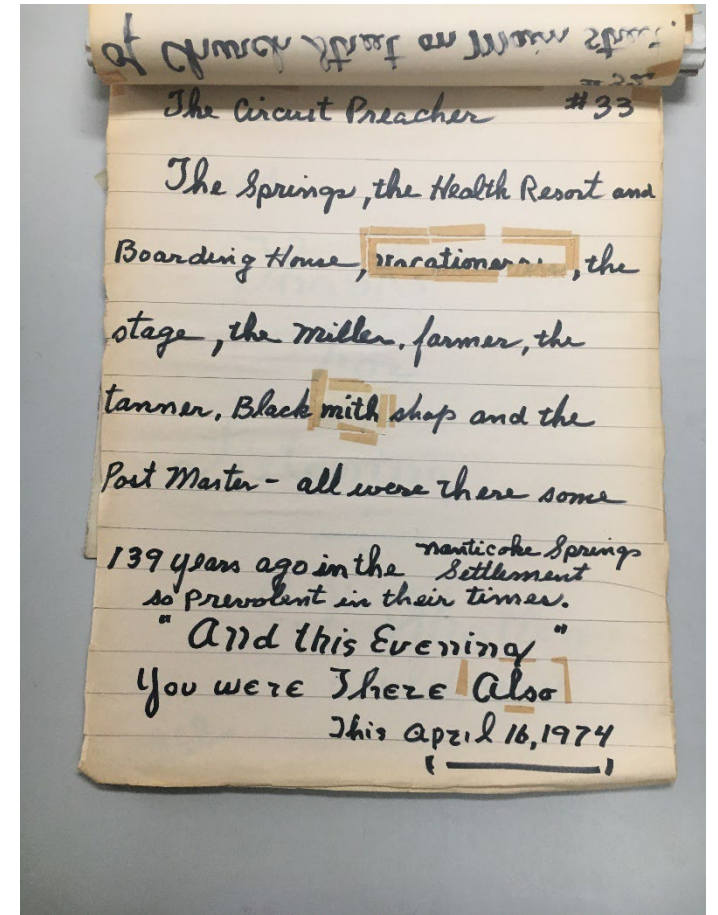
The Circuit Preacher

The Springs, the Health Resort and
Boarding House, vacationers, the
stage, the miller, farmer, the
tanner, Blacksmith shop and the
Post Master – all were there some
139 years ago in the Nanticoke Springs
Settlement
so Prevalent [sic] in their times.

“And this Evening”
You were There Also

This April 16, 1974

•————•



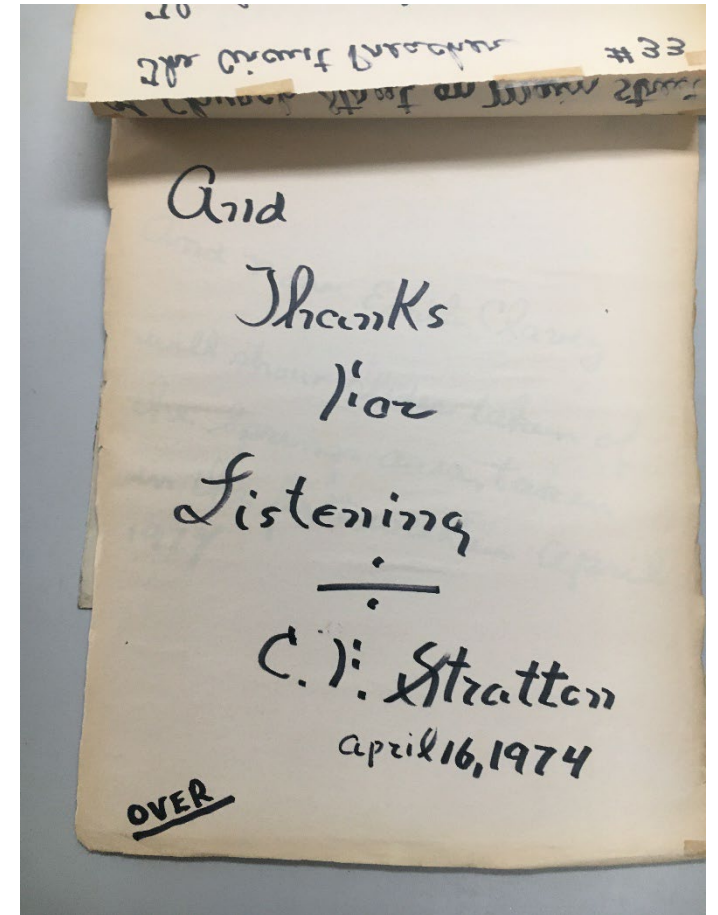
Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

And
Thanks
For
Listening

C. F. Stratton
April 16, 1974

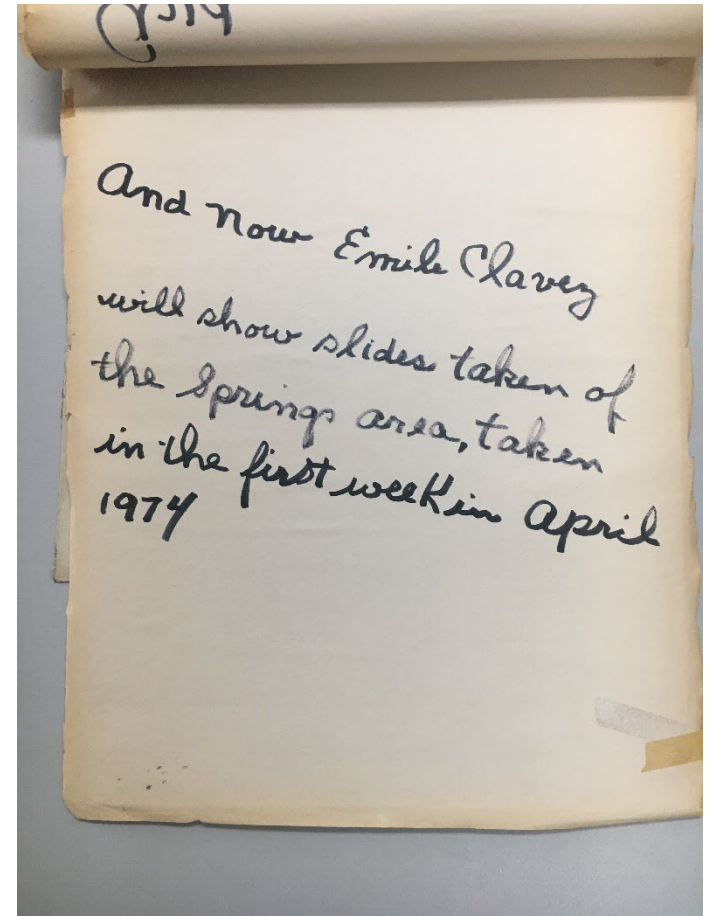
Over



Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

And now Emile Clavez
will show slides taken of
the Springs area, taken
in the first week in April
1974

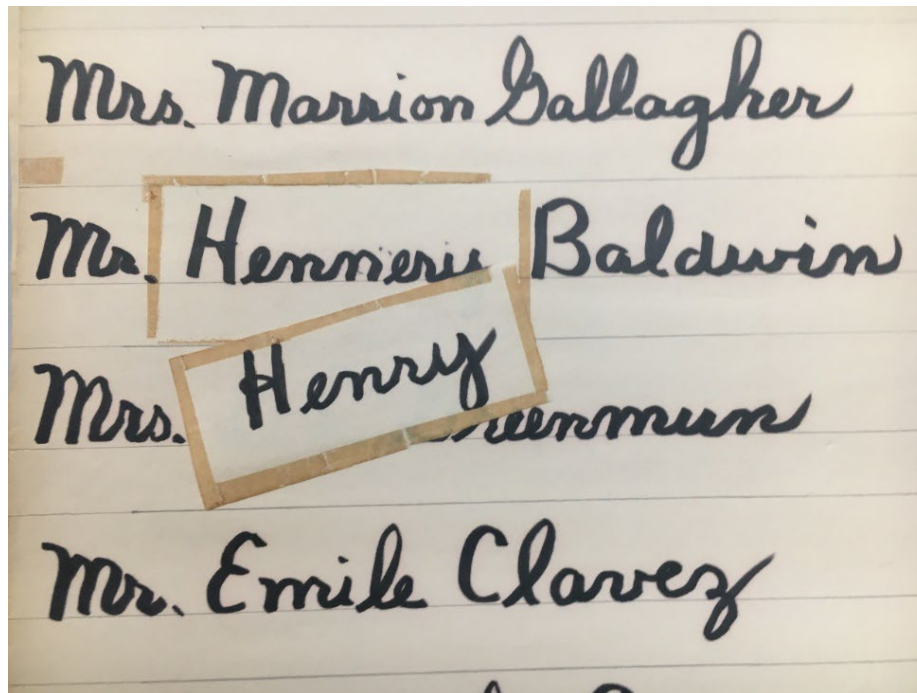


Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

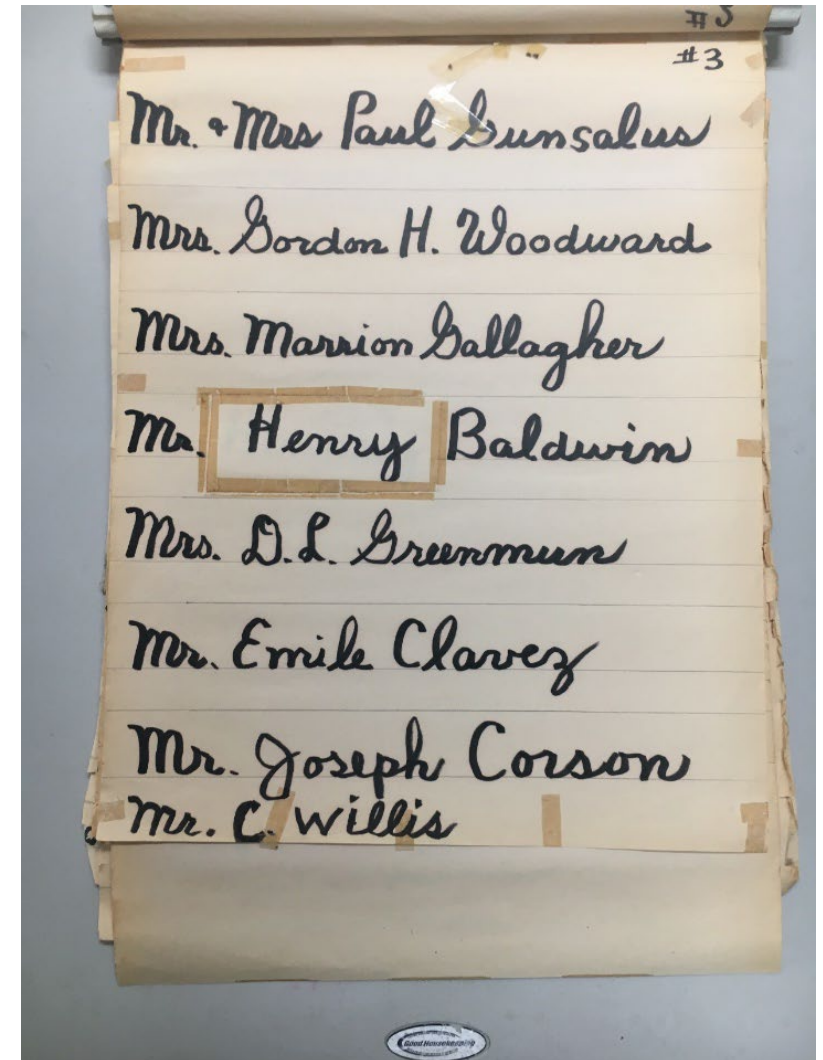
The "Cutting Room Floor:"

- Mr. Hennery/Henry Baldwin



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten names. The names are: Mrs. Marion Gallagher, Mr. Hennery Baldwin, Mrs. Henry Greenman, and Mr. Emile Clavez. The word 'Hennery' in the second line is crossed out and replaced with 'Henry' in a separate box. The word 'Greenman' in the third line is partially obscured by a box containing the word 'Henry'.

Mrs. Marion Gallagher
Mr. Hennery Baldwin
Mrs. Henry Greenman
Mr. Emile Clavez



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten names. The names are: Mr. + Mrs. Paul Sunsalus, Mrs. Gordon H. Woodward, Mrs. Marion Gallagher, Mr. Henry Baldwin, Mrs. D.L. Greenman, Mr. Emile Clavez, Mr. Joseph Corson, and Mr. C. Willis. The name 'Henry Baldwin' is highlighted with a box. The paper is numbered '#3' in the top right corner.

#3
#3
Mr. + Mrs. Paul Sunsalus
Mrs. Gordon H. Woodward
Mrs. Marion Gallagher
Mr. Henry Baldwin
Mrs. D.L. Greenman
Mr. Emile Clavez
Mr. Joseph Corson
Mr. C. Willis

Nanticoke Springs

Presentation by C. F. Stratton
to N.V.H.S. April 16, 1974

The "Cutting Room Floor" (cont'd.):

- Vationers/vacationers
- Black shop shop/Black smith shop

ding House, the Vationers, the
- the Miller, vacationers, the
r, Black shop shop and the
rster - mith were there some

of church work on Nanticoke Springs
The Circuit Preacher #33
The Springs, the Health Resort and
Boarding House, vacationers, the
stage, the Miller, farmer, the
tanner, Black smith shop and the
Post Master - all were there some
139 years ago in the Nanticoke Springs
Settlement so prevalent in their times.
"And this Evening"
You were There Also
This April 16, 1974

Nanticoke Springs

1919 Judge Ross Writes of Spring House

“My earliest recollection of the Spring House was that it seemed to me to be an immense building used as a summer resort. The spring possessed some medicinal purposes, quite strong Sulphur water.”

Nanticoke Springs

1919 Judge Ross Writes (Cont'd.)

“I can remember when parties came there and stayed during the summer and fished in Nanticoke creek and the tributary stream which ran through the spring farm.”

Nanticoke Springs

1919 Judge Ross Writes (Cont'd.)

“These streams in those days were inhabited by trout and were constant. And in the early 60’s the Post Office for that vicinity was located in one wing of the Spring House.”

“I remember the time of the fire, and the building was never rebuilt. I should say that it burned about 1862.”

Nanticoke Springs

1919 Judge Ross Writes (Cont'd.)

“And in the early 60’s the Post Office for that vicinity was located in one wing of the Spring House.”

“I remember the time of the fire, and the building was never rebuilt. I should say that it burned about 1862.”

Nanticoke Springs

1941 Ray F. Pollard

“City water is a sort of standardized product – all alike as to temperature, taste and content. If the drinker is not satisfied with tap water – and prefers water – he may have it cooled with ice cubes, or he may import some good country water in a demijohn at so much a gallon.”

Nanticoke Springs

1941 Ray F. Pollard

“Country water, on the other hand, is of all kinds – hard or soft, warm or cold, sweet or brackish, clear or cloudy.”

“There are abundant springs of mineral water and more notions than can be found with a crotched stick about their medicinal values whether taken internally or used externally.”

Nanticoke Springs

1941 Ray F. Pollard (Cont'd.)

“To the age of twelve I drank Sulphur water and like it; though some visitors said it tasted like old eggs.”

“It was wonderfully cold water, and I cannot believe it acquired its Sulphur from a place to which its taste might call attention.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin

An unimpressive boarded-over well is just about all that remains of a once thriving resort hotel and sulphur springs spa in the Town of Nanticoke.

The boarding house catered to New Yorkers who arrived at the tiny community on daily stage coaches over a century ago. The resort burned down in 1865 and was replaced a decade later with the house that still stands on the original site.

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

The sulphur springs that attracted the resort's guests were reputed to be the strongest in the state and are still potent.

The property's present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Page, who have lived on the 135-acre farm for 20 years, pipe the sulphur water into their home.

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

The odor, resembling that of rotten eggs, rises as soon as the tap in the kitchen is turned on. Even a sip of the water leaves an unpleasant after-taste in those unaccustomed to it.

A 1885 history of Broome County noted that the water tasted “very similar to water that had had considerable powder sifted in it” apparently meaning medicinal powder.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

Mrs. Page recalled a story about children who gathered at the spring when the town post office stood there a century ago.

The children pooled their resources and whoever could hold a mouthful of the sulphur water the longest won the prize of a few pennies that day.

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

Mrs. Paul Gunsalus, a member of a longtime area family, called the resort “quite a watering place.”

Her grandfather, who was born in 1832, had told her about the four-horse coaches that passed their house about two miles from the resort.

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

“It was completely out of the ordinary for the area,” Mrs. Gonsalus said. “It was nothing that the local people would participate in.

This is a Methodist-Baptist community. None of them approved of dancing.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

[Mrs. Gunsalus] remembered that as a little girl she liked to see the springs.

“The water was unusually cold,” she said.

“The sulphur bubbled up and left blue deposits.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

“When a drought hit the community the sulphur [sic] spring was often the only place that still had water.

“My father would ride there and bring home a pail of water. I would be the only one who would drink it. When you let it stand in a pail overnight, it’s just like ordinary water.” Otherwise, she said, “It tasted like hard boiled eggs.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

“The resort closed down a few years before the hotel burned to the ground in 1865.

“There were more profitable places. A new one opened and people would go there instead. There was nothing else there to attract people.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

The resort must have been impressive in its heyday. It housed more than 50 guests who often stayed for the summer. They bathed in the sulphurous water and drank it for medicinal purposes.

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

“It might have been modeled after the spas of Europe.” Mrs. Gonsalus said, “It perhaps was founded by someone who had been in Europe.” A large fountain graced the front.

“Mrs. D. L. Greenmun, the Nanticoke town historian, said “the spring was the center of “a pretty active community.”

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

A house was built on the foundations of the burned resort in 1872. The date can be placed with some certainty because when the owners removed some wallpaper they found a bill for lumber used in the construction.

“Old people still come here to visit the springs,” Mrs. Page said.

Nanticoke Springs

1971 Sun Bulletin (Cont'd.)

“The water always stays at 30 degrees and never freezes,” Mr. Page said. “After a rain, the sulphuric odor is even stronger.”

The Pages have not found the source of the spring. But the sulphurous water keeps coming. “We have a continuing supply of water when other people’s wells have gone dry,” Mrs. Page said.

Nanticoke Springs

Recent Historians

1976 Kay Greenmun, Bicentennial Commission Series
Mrs. Paul Gunsals [sic] recalls stories her grandfather Gates told of the excitement of watching the stage go by his home enroute [sic] from Binghamton to the spa, ... then on to Ketchumville and Ithaca.

The two, concreted springs were reputed to be among “the very best of the healing waters.” These were filled in by the Willis’ [sic] while they lived there.

Nanticoke Springs

Recent Historians

1981 Eleanor Brown Swan, The Story of the
Valleys

Drew heavily on

1885 H.P. Smith History and

1974 Clarence Stratton Presentation

2006 Gerry Smith, Partners All ...

Drew heavily on H. P. Smith

Nanticoke Springs

The Spa, the Painting, and the Story Behind It

