

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

2025 newsletter # 3 September 1 edited by Phil Childs

www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com

See us on Facebook



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MEDIA AND CONTENT DIRECTOR		Phil Childs 607 862 3405
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		Denise Gervais-Rock
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Maine Fest
September 20
J. Ralph Building
&
BAT
Sept 20 and 21



We're on
Instagram!

@NANTICOKEVALLEYHISTORICAL

MAINE, NY !

Presidents Note - Hello Everyone!

The NVHS schedules elections each year for officers and trustees, consider being part of the Historical Society. Please, let us know what you would like us to do for the community. Consider volunteering to be a docent at our sites when we host school visitations or join our Greenspace committee as we continue to add pollinator gardens throughout our locations. Tell us about presentations you would like us to have. At least, check out our website to see what we will be doing and also what we have done. The website contains years of our newsletters and past presentations www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com. Place on your calendars to set aside the third Monday of the month at 6:30 in our museum, to attend one of our presentations or join at our events you see within the newsletter.

Thank you, Gordie



Gordie Gottlieb

CAN I?

Growing up so fast you little folks.

How good you have become at bringing water from the well.

So many chores around this place for older ones to finish up, but

Now, you mustn't be late.

This year there's a new little lad to follow you to school.

I look around – the room is getting warmer.

Brisk autumn breezes made me scurry inside.

I came early today to begin a new adventure.

This was not an unknown skill—starting a fire to warm a chilly room.

Some in this new class will just have left the warmth of the kitchen cookstove for the first time.

They will not come alone, but in care of older siblings - cousins – neighboring friends.

Yes, these are the ones whose chores have grown with their owners- simple ones at first – then more demanding.

Hot breakfast at home, then the energizing walk to the schoolhouse.

Little students turn heads in awe of what older ones can do.

These are the ones who keep young ones safe – as they have been taught, climbing the ladder of responsibility with family dedication.

These are the ones who inerasably recall their childhood memories for a lifetime.

Only a few years earlier I was being taught – aspiring to move to fancier spaces –cityscapes - lofty crowded buildings where noisy traffic teems- away from rolling land where streams flow clean.

One day may call me there-hurrying to the next impending destination.

But for today I welcome waiting on roads void of signals, where I ponder what's beyond.

My skills are young, and growing as I'm still a teen – but for today it's time to share what I've learned – to challenge inquisitive minds as they turn to overhear older students in their quests.

They've learned their early morning tasks and chores.

It's time to read, write and learn to use their income wisely.

Today, what I've best learned as a girl in school is that I'm where I belong for now 'til I can turn around and go back home to finish off this day - waiting for calming restoration

Sending the children home

Then singing my way home

Knowing I may say farewell later, But for now, my choice is good.



Sandy Rozek

Sandy Rozek 6.16.2025 Schoolhouse No. 4 25 year rededication.

Minnie Samira LaTourette
5 Jun 1873-22 Jul 1957
Teacher Schoolhouse No. 4
At the age of 17.



Curator's Corner - Joanne Weir

Curator's Report

On June 16 the rain held off long enough for us to commemorate the 25 year anniversary of Schoolhouse No. 4 in Maine. Pat Stacconi and Michele Knaul, chair-persons from the original committee to move the schoolhouse, were also involved in this dedication. Others on the 25 year celebration committee were Nancy Berry, Phil Childs, Denise Gervais-Rock, Gordie Gottlieb, Sue Lisk, Mary Materese, Sandy Rozek and myself. The festivities kicked off with Charlene Thomson leading the large crowd in old-time school songs.

Following the flag ceremony conducted by Boy Scout Troop 212, the program included a proclamation by former Town Supervisor Jim Tokos, the history of the building, an original poem recitation by Sandy Rozek, and a toast to the Schoolhouse by Nancy Berry. The event concluded with the planting of an apple tree in the schoolyard by representatives from the Maine Memorial PTA. An exhibit of photographs of schoolhouses in Maine prior to 1940 is on display at the Janet W. Bowers Museum.

Work continues on our project to protect and document the painted ceiling tiles that were removed from Maine Memorial. Thanks to a grant from the Broome County Arts Festival we have ordered storage materials for the tiles when they are not on display. Phil Childs and Gordie Gottlieb are working closely with Maine Memorial art teachers Mary Ann Wasilnak (retired) and Kellie Smith (current) to compile information for a book dedicated to the tiles and the stories behind each of the 63 in our possession.

We are exploring ideas for an exhibit to honor the 10th anniversary of Maine-Endwell Little League's world title next spring. We are also looking at various options to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States next year. Stay tuned for updates!



A Toast to Schoolhouse No. 4

School house number 4
has walls for the wind,
a roof for the rain,
warmth from a cast iron stove fire.
Laughter from children,
lessons from the teacher,
all a One Room School might desire.

Kelli Smith 2024

Nancy Berry 6.2025

Nominations coming up

People who know people

People who talk to people

People who appreciate enthusiasm, know how to tap their energy and love to be busy ...

Pass on the call for :

Interesting conversationalists

Single and/or multiple minded "experts"

Those who can't wait to share what excites them

Planners, organizers and those who can't leave things undone

We need members, program suggesters, committee helpers and leaders. We have lots to do and more than enough motivating activities to share. Please contact all friends, neighbors or program presenters you have heard and enjoyed. Encourage them to join us through the next year of events and member meetings. S.J.R.

S.R.O. presents

GOD HELP THE OUTCASTS

A Celebration of Broadway's Misfits and Underdogs


Join us for a gala fundraising evening of food, drink, and music to benefit the historic J. Ralph Ingalls School and SRO Productions III

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

5:30pm Hors d'oeuvres
CASH BAR (Wine, Beer, Soda)
6:30pm Dinner
FOOD provided by The Ward,
(Ahipheh Wilson, chef)
7:30pm Cabaret

Fancy cocktail attire requested

TICKETS \$60
or
purchase a table of eight for \$400



J. RALPH INGALLS SCHOOL
35 CHURCH ST, MAINE, NY

Newark Valley's 44th Apple Festival

October 4 & 5, 2025
10 AM - 5 PM



Apples; Pie, Crisp, Ice Cream
Black Powder Encampment
Live Music--Stage & Barn
BBQ, Soup, Salt Potatoes
Artisans' Marketplace
Apple Dessert Contest
Barnista Coffee Cafe'
Charming Gift Shop
Historic Portrayals
Kids' Activities
Blacksmith Demo
Horse & Wagon Rides
Demos of 1800's Skills
Sycamore Bridge & Trails
Farmstead Museum Tours
Weaving: 1800's Barn Loom
...and much more!

\$7 Adults; \$6 Seniors (60+)
\$5 Students (6+)
\$5 NV Hist. Soc. Members
\$20 Family (2 adults, 3+ kids)
FREE PARKING

Tickets available at
nvhistory.org

Please, NO PETS

Facebook Square

VISIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

9241 Rt. 38; 1 mile N. of Newark Vly.; 20 mi. S. of Dryden

Watercolor Class

Help us support the J. Ralph Ingalls School Building by unleashing your inner artist at our Watercolor Painting Class Fundraiser!

September 13, 2025
6:00-8:00 p.m.
J. Ralph Ingalls Building
35 Church St.
Maine, NY

Custom-created Town of Maine designs for this event ONLY!

Under the expert guidance of local artist Chris Fox, you'll learn various watercolor techniques to complete a pre-created template of your choice. Take your masterpiece home with you or leave it with us to be displayed at the Broome County Art Trail at JRI on September 20-21! All ages welcome.

\$25

Supplies are included with your ticket purchase, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm! A portion of the proceeds will go towards essential improvements and resources for the J. Ralph Ingalls building.

Register to secure your spot today!
(Class is limited to 25 participants.)







Octoberfest

MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, RT 26, MAINE, NY
Friday, October 3, 2025, 5:00 - 10:00 PM
Saturday, October 4, 2025, 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Take-Out or Seating / Music

Super Raffle 50/50 at the office window
\$20 donation per ticket / payment based on # of tickets sold
Prizes: 1st - \$2,400, 2nd - 4th - \$1,250, 5th - 8th - \$1,000
1,000 tickets to be sold / must be 18 yrs old
Drawing on Sunday, 10/5 at 10:30 AM

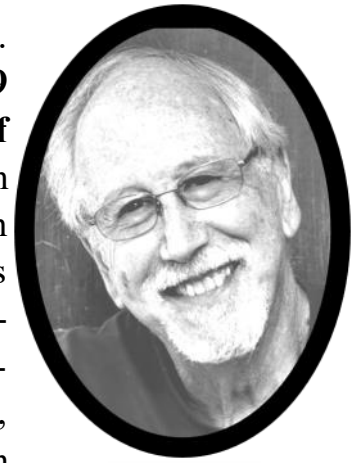
FOOD: Clam Chowder, Steak & Cheese, Chicken Spiedies, Salads (plain & spiedie), Italian Sausage with peppers & onions, Hamburgers, Pizza, Halupki, Halushki, Pierogi
ETHNIC DINNER: Halupki, Halushki, Pierogi & Kielbasa

Desserts, Bake Sale and Basket Raffle in the Hall till 9 PM
Kids' Games in Garage - Fri., 5-9 PM / Sat., 11 AM - 9 PM
Adult Games of Chance in Pavilion - Fri./Sat., 6-10 PM

Live Entertainment:
Friday: 6:30-10 PM - Messy Truth
Saturday: 12 - 1 PM - Maine Community Band
1:30 - 3:30 PM - Gordie Gottlieb
3:30 - 5:00 PM - Jordan & Marissa Loretz
5:30 MASS and 6:30 - 7 PM - BC Celtic Pipe & Drum
7 - 10 PM - Brothers & Friends
Bill Flynn - LIVE, 9AM - 12PM on WNBC 1290 AM/92.1 FM/93.9 FM

Whether or Not!

Destructive weather events are nothing new in Maine, NY.. **7.12.1908** a tornado went through the southern part of the town. In **1929** another tornado went through McGregor's farm. Flooding in **October of 1937** (see photos) covered large parts of the area. In **June 1954** a flash flood took out the King Hill bridge off of Lewis street. A similar flood in **1963** on Lewis creek took out the bridge and five high school students were swept away and died. **June 1972** saw a major storm in the Northeast causing Crocker creek to destroy the bridge over route 26. A tornado hit in the **1980's** passing from Bornt Hill through the town. Again, flash flooding hit Maine near East Maine Road in **2011** and again in **2016**. This year **July 3, 2025** and brought straight winds of one hundred plus mph causing resulting in three days of no power and hundreds of trees and power poles being brought down. **July 13** over three inches of rain, along with large hail, in one hour brought flash flooding to Maine along route 26. Note I have not even mentioned Blizzards!

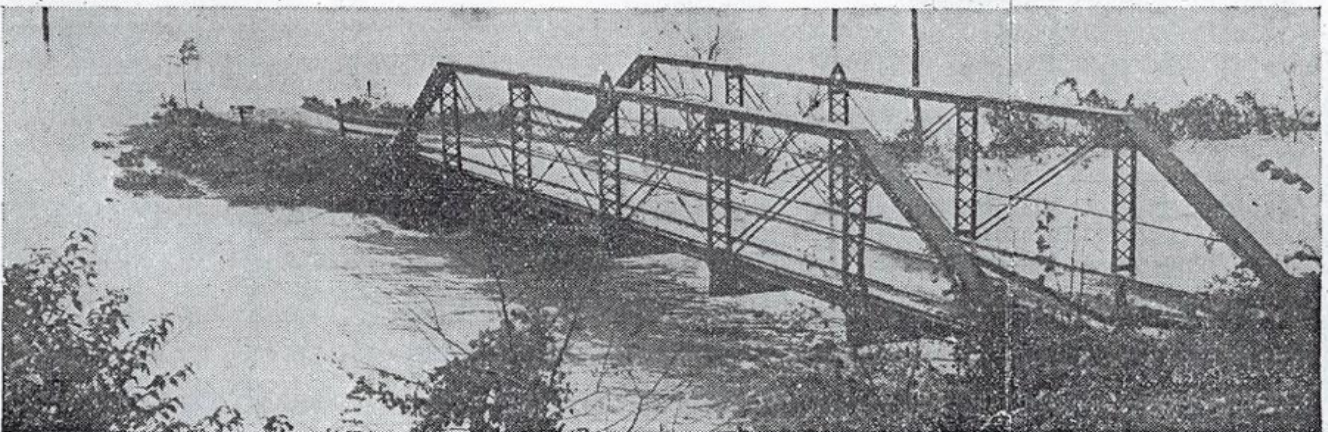


From Small Creeks to Raging Rivers

urs



Homes a short distance south of Bower's Corners, near Maine surrounded by water from raging Nanticoke creek.



Bridge on dirt road, extending from main highway just south of Maine village, isolated by Nanticoke creek flood waters.

Bridge near Cunniff Barns (nortons)



We are fortunate to have Susan H. Lisk as the NVHS archivist and also as the Town of Maine historian. Sue is also an author of the Images of American book *Maine and the Nanticoke Valley*, which you can purchase at the Clerks office on Main St. If you wish



to contact Sue use her email: nvhscurator@hotmail.com If you have questions or items to donate to the museum get in touch with her. We have a great town and many who have lived here for multiple generations. Recently the photo to the left was posted on the Facebook page *The Town of Maine, New York*. It shows the Pitcher family who lived on a farm at today's address of 2796 State Route 26, just across from Pitcher's Grist Mill. Their mother was Annie Zimmer Pitcher (1852-1926). Philip Pitcher their dad died in December, 1872. I would like to point out that for years the Pitcher twins (Inah and Inas) faces were not seen by the community. The photo of

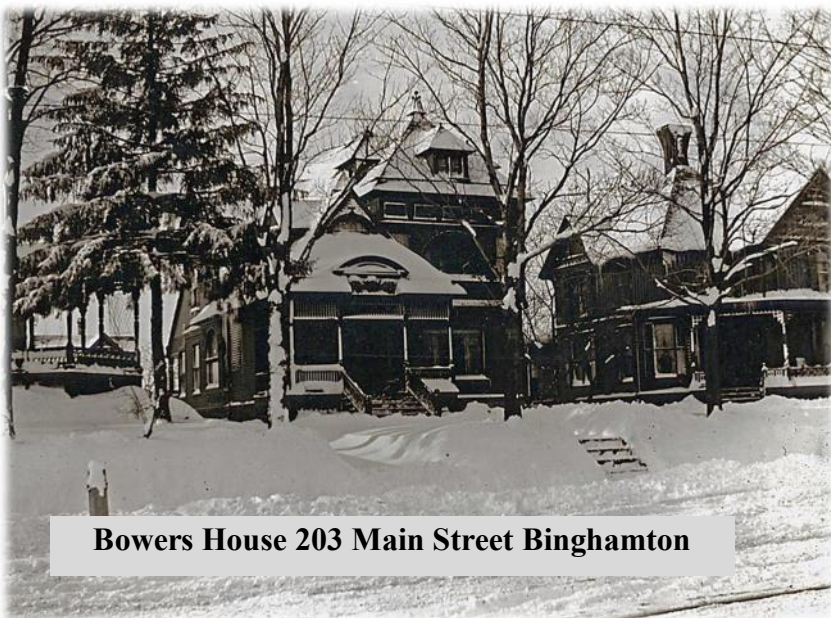
their backs waiting in line to deliver the farms milk is found on Sue's book (see photo above right). Next year a presentation on *Archie Rich Pitcher—The Man and the Mill* will be given at the NVHS museum at a monthly meeting. If you have information to share on the Pitcher family let Sue Lisk know.



The next time you travel around Maine's beautiful town be on the look out for **BIG TREES**. Our society holds an on-going contest called The Biggest Tree. It is easy to enter:

1. Identify the tree type, (submit a photograph).
2. Measure the circumference 4 feet up from the ground. (use inches)
3. If on public land, state the location. If on private land ask permission from land owners to locate it.
4. Any variety of trees can be entered.
5. Submit entries to website or to Phil Childs achild233@aol.com
6. Winning trees will receive a certificate and will be announced at the Maine Fest

To the left is a "winning" Silver maple from 2024

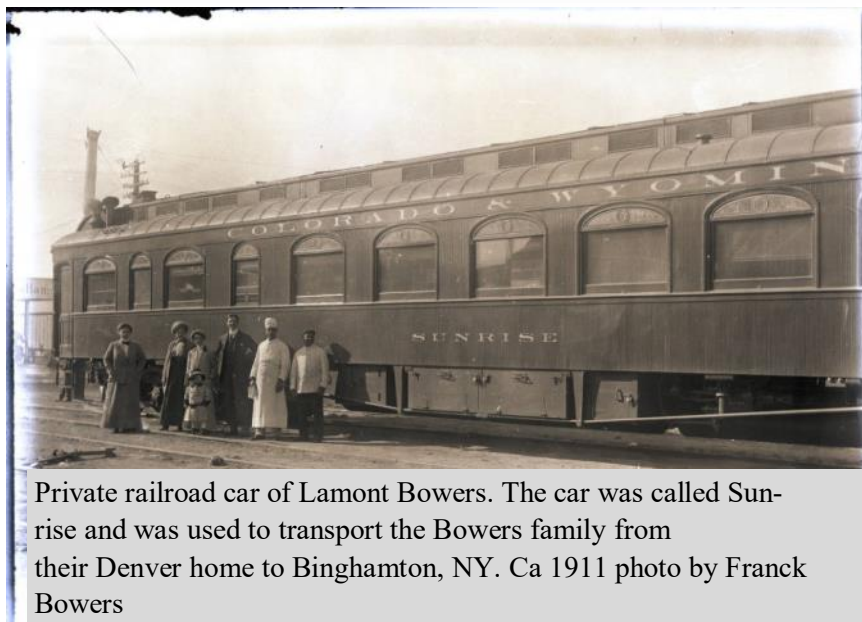


Bowers House 203 Main Street Binghamton

Lamont Montgomery Bowers (1847-1941) was the youngest of seven children of Gardner Swain Bowers whose house is still located at Tiona and Nanticoke Roads. Lamont had financial success and was a key employee of John D. Rockefeller. Lamont left Bowers Corners and lived an affluent life in Binghamton having at least one home on Main Street (see photo) and also one in Colorado, a private rail car, Glen Knob the Bowers Farm in the Town of Dickson and all the trappings that wealth afforded him. The next time you go to Roberson Museum and Science Center, tucked in next to the staircase in the mansion you will see Lamont's living room created (see photo). Janet his granddaughter donated this room to Roberson. She also gave Lamont's personal papers etc. to Binghamton University where they can be studied today. The house in Maine was where Lamont's son Clement lived and also Janet Bowers Bothwell until their deaths.



Bowers Living Room at Roberson

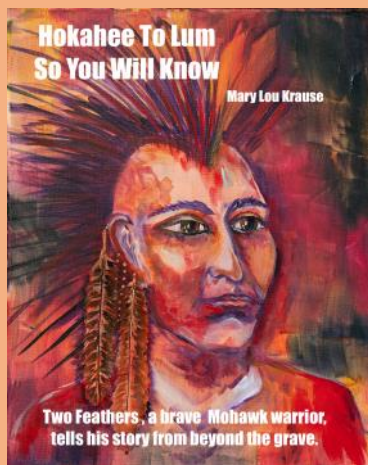


Private railroad car of Lamont Bowers. The car was called Sunrise and was used to transport the Bowers family from their Denver home to Binghamton, NY. Ca 1911 photo by Franck Bowers





Mary Lou Krause will be presenting, at the members meeting ,on Monday, **October 20 at 6:30 PM** at the museum. Her new book **“Hokahee To Lum So You Will Know”** will be discussed. Copies of the book will be available then.



This story presents a side of history all history books have left out. As the reader gets to know a young brave named Two Feathers, one learns of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Nation) way of life, the social structure of the Mohawk Tribe, and their young men’s rite of passage to adulthood, before becoming a warrior. Two Feathers’ life is seen from his unique perspective. He grows into a man, takes a wife and creates a family all while living as a warrior who wants to negotiate for and create peace in the land. The story takes place before and during the Revolutionary War and reveals how the Native Americans were pitted against each other and deliberately misled by both the colonists and the British, neither of whom intended to keep their word to the native residents of the land.

What you have been taught about Native Americans throughout history is told from the perspective of others. Hokahee To Lum, a channeled biography of Two Feathers, a Mohawk Warrior, tells the real story, so you will know.

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society invites you to a

Chalk Art Festival

AT MAINE FEST & BROOME COUNTY ART TRAIL

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

ERIC MARUSCAK

CHALK ARTIST & ILLUSTRATOR

Get ready to transform the sidewalks at the J. Ralph Ingalls Building into a vibrant canvas of imagination and color! Join us for a fun-filled day of community, art and creativity! FREE fun for all ages! *All supplies provided.

-Watch as Eric Maruscak creates a chalk art mural and then choose a spot to make your own!

-Eric will provide expert guidance and various artistic techniques to make your sidewalk art stand out!

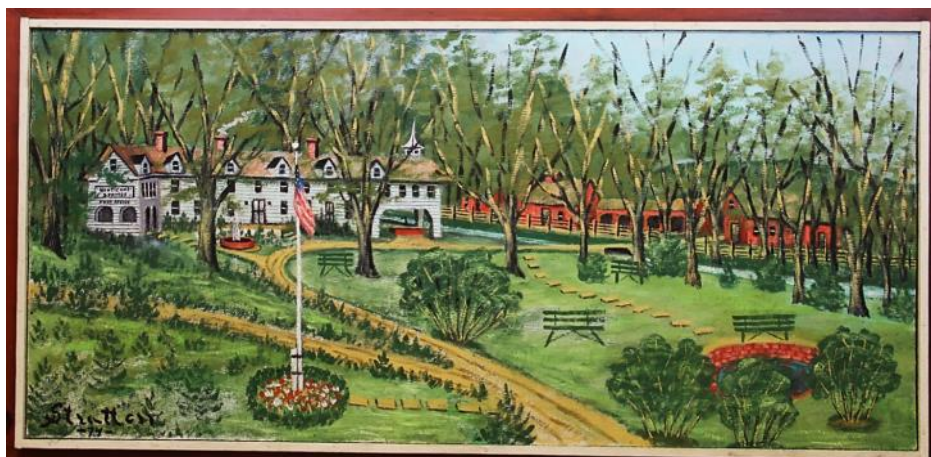
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
11:00-4:00
at J. Ralph Ingalls Building, 35 Church St., Maine, NY

We have a special event on **Saturday the 20th from 11-4** when nationally recognized chalk artist Eric Maruscak creates chalk murals (rain or shine) on the J. Ralph Ingalls sidewalks.

Did you know that NVHS has an active Greenspace Committee whose goal is to plan for the future “greening” of the town. Chair Christine Clifton-Kendall (cliftonchristine@gmail.com) chairs this group and tentative plans include: Arbor Day celebration, plantings of pollinator gardens at our locations, the biggest tree “contest”, Please contact Christine if you wish to be part of this group.

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Book Club

What better thought provoking activity for a relaxed social setting than the sharing of questions and answers based on our historic and personal roots - yes, indeed, a perfect expression of our interest in our national and local history as an organization. Welcomed are any newcomers and guests to the next installment of our NVHS book club. We meet at **6:00 PM every 2nd Tuesday of the month** at the Bowers Museum on Nanticoke Rd. across from the one room schoolhouse. Contact Sandy Rozek for more information.



Do you recognize this painting done by Clarence Stratton in 1974. Are you interested in the story behind it? When you attend the **Sept 15** meeting at 6:30 at the museum you will hear **Dick Baldwin**, Town of Nanticoke historian, tell the story about the **Nanticoke Springs health spa**.

IN MEMORIAM

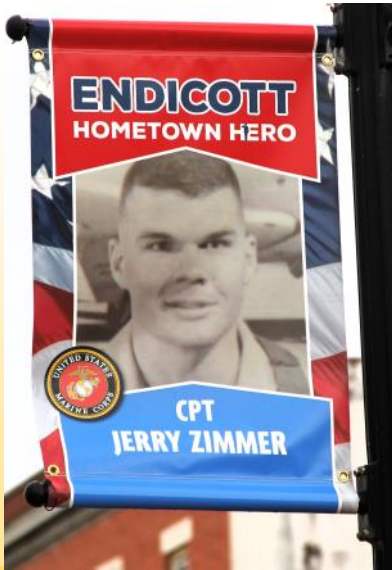


Ralph Theodore “Ted” Warner

May 11, 1945-April 30, 2025

Charles Hugh Goodwin

February 2, 1945-May 14, 2025



“This summer the Endicott lamp poles have banners hanging from them. The Village of Endicott, in proud partnership with **VFW Post 1449, American Legion Posts 82 and 1700, and Illuminations Holiday Lighting**, is thrilled to announce the launch of the **“Saluting Our Hometown Heroes”** program. This special initiative honors active duty and veteran service members, both living and deceased, with commemorative banners displayed throughout our community. Banners will be prominently displayed along **Washington Avenue and Main Street** (from Corner Drug Store westward) from **May 1 through the Fourth of July**, celebrating the sacrifices and dedication of our local heroes. They will remain on display for two years.” www.endicottny.com



St. Patrick's Day



July 4th

A special shot out to our decorative lighting crew:
Andrea, Scott, Nate and Mitchell Stanley.
Lesley, David and Lindsey Stokes
Bill Austin, Sylvia Ward, and Christa Munley.



Holiday Season

BOOK CLUB AND PROGRAMS

Sandy Rozek is our **programs organizer**. If you would like to present to NVHS this year contact her. If you know of some presentation that might be a great add to our year let Sandy know. Also our **Book Club** continues, second Tuesday of each month. contact Sandy for information. 607 862—9480 607 239 8868

Look for **Coffee House** dates on our website! Nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com

PROGRAMS FOR 2025

All programs are at the museum starting at 6:30 unless stated otherwise.

If it is a school snow day, we will not have a meeting.

If you have suggestions for programs let us know.

September 13 Saturday **Fall Festival** Union Methodist Church Maple Dr. 10-2

September 15 Monday: **Richard Baldwin; *Nanticoke Springs our Spa on Page Road*, plus more stories.**

September 20 & 21 **Broome Art Trail** site at J. Ralph; 10—4 Local artists, museum etc.

September 20 **Maine Fest** combined with Broome Art Trail on Saturday J. Ralph 10-4 Art, Music, Chalk drawing etc.

September 20 & 21: Broome County Art Council – **The Broome Art Trail**, our location is at the J. Ralph Ingalls building to view over 10 local artists see poster

September 27 Saturday SRO **Cabaret Show** and a dinner at J. Ralph Ingalls more details see poster

October 3 and 4 and 5th combined but separate **Oktoberfest** Most Holy Rosary (see page 9) and **Antique and Collectible Show at J. Ralph 35 Church Street** (Sat and Sunday 9-4 PM)

October 20: **Mary Lou Krause** presents her new book at the museum pg 8

November 17: **Yancey Moore - Moore Memories**; Carol Jane and D.Y. Moore memories

December 15: Muse Night -(**HOLIDAY MUSIC AND POETRY**) details to follow.



The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

What's Behind the Name?

R. H. Baldwin

Most (if not all) know that the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society takes its name from the valley that flows through northwestern Broome County following the Nanticoke Creek from its headwaters in the Town of Lisle and the far northern reaches of the Town of Nanticoke. The stream then flows through the Town of Maine before emptying into the Susquehanna in the Town of Union. "Duh! I knew that," you say.

And many (perhaps most) know that the creek takes its name from the Nanticoke Indians. "Yep! I knew that, too," you say. But what's behind the name? Where does the name come from? And what of the various Nanticoke streams and place-names found as far south as the Delmarva Peninsula and as far north as Ontario, Canada? Just how many Nanticokes are there, anyway?

So, who were the Nanticoke Indians? (Note: see sources cited at the end of this article.)

Captain John Smith Encounters the Nanticoke Indians The Nanticoke Indians, a tribe of Algonquian descent, were first "discovered" by Europeans in 1608. Captain John Smith, while looking for the elusive northwest passageway, was exploring the tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay on the Eastern Shore when he came upon the mouth of a wide estuary which we now know as the Nanticoke River.

As he travelled up the river, he encountered the Kuskarawaoks as he called them, what we later would call the Nanticoke Indians. In writings of his travels on the Nanticoke River, Smith tells of four place-names, apparently referring to the Indian villages situated on the river. Among them is Nantaquak, unmistakably the earliest English version of the word that was later spelled Nanticoke.

What Does Nanticoke Mean? One place-name scholar has suggested that the word Nanticoke may have meant "point of land on a tidal stream." Another explanation was given by the Moravian missionary, John Heckewelder, who said that the Nanticokes pronounced their tribal name Nentégo. He wrote that the Delawares called the Nanticoke people the Unéchtgo, and the Iroquois knew them as the Sganiateratieh-rohne. All three names, according to Heckewelder, meant "tidewater people" or "sea shore settlers." Historians acknowledge that the English translation of the tribal name cannot be given with certainty. C. A. Weslager wrote that "The best judgment is that the word was originally related to the natural habitat in the Chesapeake Bay country. Probably "Tide-water people" is the most logical guess that can be made."

Life in Maryland To say that the Europeans and the Indians of Maryland's Eastern Shore did not get along just peachy-dory is an understatement. Maryland, after having once declared war on the Nanticokes, later entered into a treaty with them and granted a request for land that they could call their own. In 1687 a tract of land was laid out on the Nanticoke River where the Nanticokes were then seated "that they may live and inhabit together unmolested and undisturbed." Unmolested and undisturbed they were not as the English introduced diseases such as smallpox which decimated Indian numbers and settlers continued to encroach on the Indian lands. A second "reservation" was established in 1711 on Broad Creek, a major tributary of the Nanticoke, upriver in Delaware.

The settlement of Nanticoke, can be found on a map of Maryland near the mouth of the river. Farther up the river you might find, but you'll need to look at an older map, another Nanticoke (this one the one-time city of Nanticoke in Delaware which was annexed into the municipal limits of Seaford in 1910). Both a Nanticoke Indian Center and a Museum are in nearby Millsboro, Delaware which is on (what else?) the Indian River! You can also step back in time or learn more about today's Nanticokes at the tribe's website www.NanticokeIndians.org. If you're counting, that's one Nanticoke River and two Nanticokes (a community in Maryland and a one-time city in Delaware).

The Move to Pennsylvania While the Maryland government may have acted in good faith in setting aside reserved lands for the exclusive use of the Nanticokes, the government did not enforce its own laws, and the officials were unable to restrain land-hungry whites. The Nanticoke chiefs decided, in the spring of 1742, they would join the French and Shawnees and go on the warpath in an effort to regain their original lands. Their plan was foiled, however, when word of it was leaked. A treaty was reached which did not favor the Indians.

In the late summer of 1743, a delegation of six Nanticokes made a trip to consult with the Great Council of the Iroquois League of the Six Nations. In that meeting (at Onondaga and well documented by an interpreter), the Nanticoke requested permission to settle on a "branch" of the Susquehanna River. The request was granted. Not wanting to alienate the Iroquois, Maryland also gave permission for the Nanticokes to relocate to Pennsylvania. By June of 1744 Nanticokes had settled on an island at the mouth of the Juniata River where it meets the Susquehanna.

The tribe later moved up the river arriving in 1747 at the wilderness area known as Wyoming, later to be called Nanticoke, where Pennsylvania's Nanticoke Creek meets the Susquehanna. If you're counting, that's two streams (a river and a creek) and three Nanticokes (Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania). The Nanticokes remained at Wyoming for about five years.

New York Becomes Home In 1753 the Nanticoke moved farther upstream settling at the Indian town of Otsiningo in the lower Chenango River Valley, just north of Binghamton. They were living in Otsiningo when the French and Indian War broke out and remained there into the years of the Revolutionary War. The Nanticoke, along with the majority of the Iroquois subsidiaries, tried to maintain a neutral position during the French and Indian War, but their sentiments were definitely pro-English. On one occasion they assisted the Onondagas at Otsiningo in turning back thirty Cayuga warriors, who had independently resolved to join the French and turn against the English.

The expressed policy of the Six Nations at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War was to remain neutral. Ultimately, they decided to go to war against the Americans. The Nanticoke supported the majority when the decision was made to do so. 120 Nanticokes were among those who fled from Otsiningo to the British-held Fort Niagara before Sullivan's forces arrived and destroyed their town.

The Nanticoke are responsible for the name of yet another stream, this one in today's Broome County, the Nanticoke Creek (if you're still counting, that's three streams now). The proprietors of the Boston Purchase surveyed three Townships (not to be confused with today's towns) along the southern border of the purchase. Nanticoke Township straddled the Nanticoke Creek with Chenango Township to the East and Owego Township to the West. Situated on the Nanticoke Creek near its mouth, was a hamlet called Nanticoke (not to be confused with the current hamlet of Nanticoke) with one of the earliest post offices in the county. The Town of Nanticoke we know today (a part of the Grand Division of the Boston Purchase) was not created until 1831 when it was set off from Lisle and given the name of the creek. And, today's hamlet of Nanticoke was not so named until 1892 when the moniker of the post office at Lamb's Corners was changed to Nanticoke (that's five communities now known as Nanticoke, not counting a township and a town both in what has become Broome County).

The Nanticokes at War It's estimated that the total Nanticoke population would have been 200-250 late in the Revolutionary War. A 1781 census listed 1,540 Indian Refugees settled on Buffalo Creek with 166 Nanticokes (57 men, 70 women, and 39 children).

Shenop was the chief of the Nanticokes living on Buffalo Creek. He led a number of attacks against the Americans from his base at Fort Niagara. He was in command of the Nanticokes who attacked the Americans building a fort at Wyoming. Shenop concentrated his forays in eastern Pennsylvania to territory along the Susquehanna but he also raided American settlements on the upper Delaware.

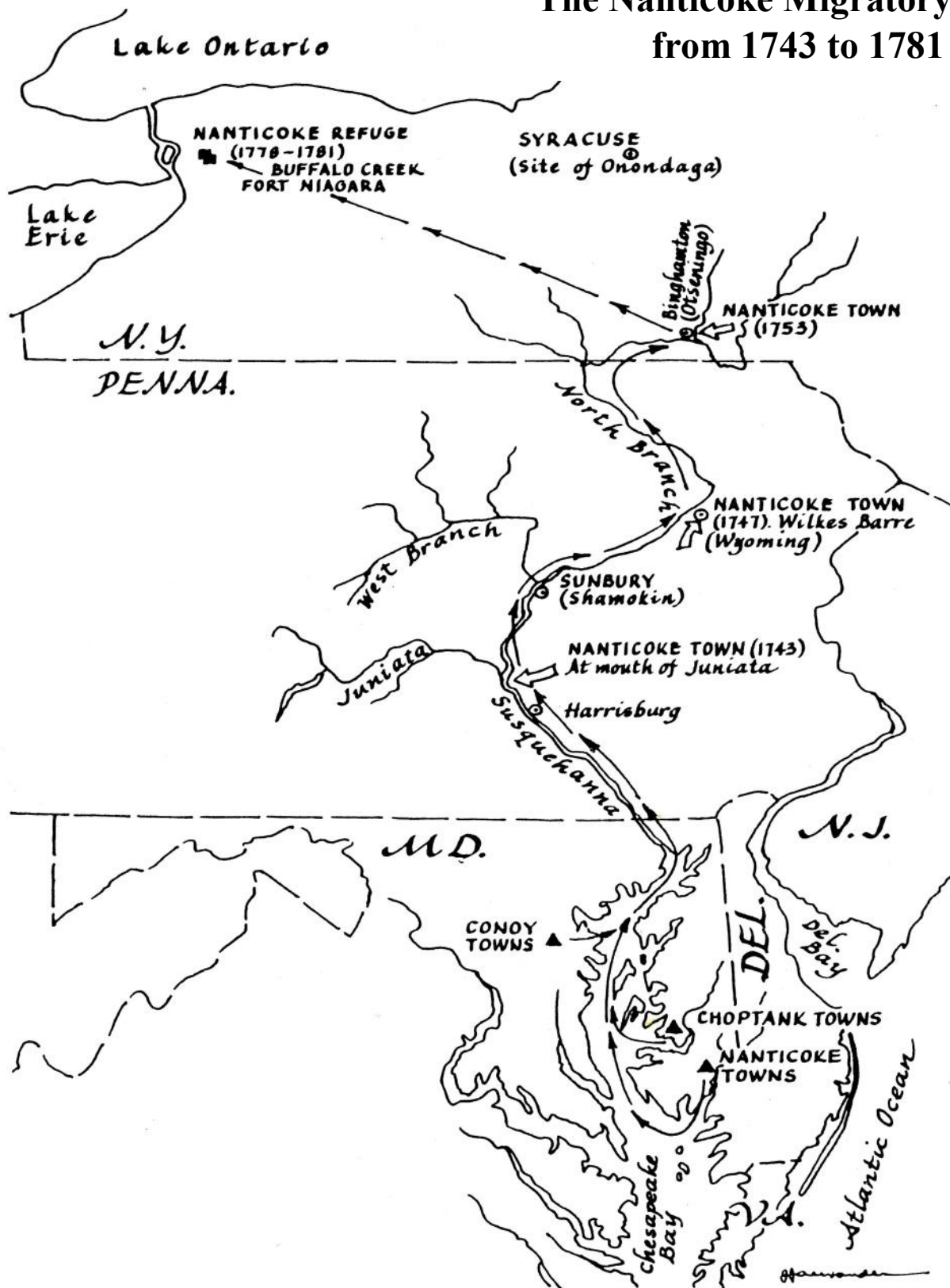
Off to Points West and Canada Some Nanticokes remained on the Delmarva Peninsula, never migrating north. Some likely stayed in Pennsylvania. Some left New York State to settle in what are now mid-west and western states. Others joined members of the Six Nations who crossed into Canada to settle on the Grand River reservation established in 1784. Nanticokes were reportedly among the 1,843 Iroquois who crossed into Canada in 1785-86. The reservation, Canada's largest, continues to exist today with 26,000 residents on 46,000 acres.

The city of Nanticoke in Ontario is just west of the Grand River Valley reservation. Nanticoke (that's now six communities named Nanticoke ... yep, I've been counting). Nanticoke, Ontario is on (what else?) the Nanticoke Creek (that's now four streams named Nanticoke) where it empties into Lake Ontario. Who knew? Did you? Should I even tell you that Lamb's Corners, Ontario is nearby. And that there is a statue of Isaac Lamb in Lamb's Corners, Ontario. Coincidence?

Poisons and Bones Two oft reported stories about the Nanticoke Indians involve poisons and bones. Yes, the Nanticokes were known to have been practitioners in sorcery, witchcraft, and poisoning though the stories told are no doubt exaggerated ("able to remove a person though he may be several hundred miles away!?!"). And, like others, they were known to have practiced mortuary customs that involved preserving the remains of the dead for a period of time and later burying them in an ossuary, or large communal grave. We're told the Nanticoke had the singular custom of removing bones of their deceased friends from the burial place to a place of deposit in the country they dwell in. Guess what Towanda (as in Towanda, Pennsylvania) means in the Nanticoke language ... "where we bury the dead."

Sources Much of what is reported in this article is from the book "The Nanticoke Indians – Past and Present" by C. A. Weslager. Other sources include "Nanticoke [Pennsylvania] 1776-1976" and "Nanticoke [Ontario, Canada] Through the Years" by Shirley Dosser. The Nanticoke, Pennsylvania book was prepared by the city's bicentennial committee as the city was celebrating 200 years since it's settlement, a celebration I attended in 1976.

The Nanticoke Migratory Route from 1743 to 1781



The Nanticoke migratory route from 1743 to 1781 through Pennsylvania and New York. After 1781 some families went west to join the Delawares in Ohio, and others merged with the Six Nations on a reservation in Ontario under the protection of the Canadian government. Map not drawn to scale in order to show important locations. (Map by J.J. Alexander)



“**The Haudenosaunee**, often referred to as the Iroquois Confederacy or the Five Nations (later Six Nations), consists of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca tribes. The Tuscarora joined later, making it the Six Nations. The confederacy is believed to have been formed between 1142 and 1660, emerging from the Great Law of Peace, attributed to the Great Peacemaker, Dekanawida, and his companion Hiawatha.” Wikipedia

“Map of Ho-De-No-Sau-Nee-Ga or the people of the long house : compiled 1851 by Lewis H. Morgan & Ely S. Parker a Seneca sachem from several French maps of 1720 or earlier, showing ancient trails, lakes, villages, and principal locations with their aboriginal names.” Map of Ho-De-No-Sau-Nee-Ga or the people of the long house - Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center

“The **Great Law of Peace** (Mohawk: *Kaianere'kó:wa*), also known as **Gayanashagowa**, is the oral constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy. The law was represented by symbols on wampum belts which functioned as mnemonic devices for storytellers, conceived by Dekanawidah, known as the Great Peacemaker, and his spokesman Hiawatha. The original five member nations ratified this constitution near modern-day Victor, New York, with the sixth nation (the Tuscarora) being added in 1722” Wikipedia

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