



# NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2008

## Winter 2008 Newsletter

### 2008 Winter Programs

We will start our winter season with our **February 19** meeting. The “winter picnic” will start at **6 PM**. Bring a dish to pass and your table service. Our business meeting will follow, and the program will be a discussion of the Bowers Foundation and Jan Bothwell’s gift to the historical society. We will discuss ideas and recommendations for how this money should be handled.

On **Tuesday, March 18**, at the usual **7 PM** the business meeting will be followed by a program called “The Real Mc Coy.” Pat Krzyewski will bring a few items from her Mc Coy Pottery collection. We invite you to bring a Mc Coy piece to show, if you have one.

**April 15**, after the **7PM** meeting, we’ll have an interesting program, with the help of Betty Welch.

**May 20, meeting at 7PM** will be followed by Who’s Got the Button? Our president, Sue Hoskins will present a program on antique buttons.

**June 16, 2008**, will be our annual summer picnic (inside the museum). We will meet at **6 PM**. **Bring a dish to pass and your table service**. Our program will be “The Lawton Legacy.” Sandy Rozek was contacted by a couple in Oregon whose family tree has roots in Maine, NY. We will be discussing the Lawton and Pollard families. Come prepared to add your information.

In addition, “The Lost Hour” dinner will take place on **March 8, 2008**. It’s the weekend that clocks must be set ahead for Day Light Saving Time. It will be like the 12<sup>th</sup> Night dinner held last year, so you can ask people who were there. Lovely ambiance and wonderful food will be available for only 48 people.

Tickets will be \$25.00 for each person. First opportunity to buy tickets will go to Historical Society members. For more information or to make a reservations, contact **Nancy Berry 862-4527**.

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*Newsletter edited by  
Anita & Dick Shipway*

## A Letter from the President

Hello readers,

My name is Sue Hoskins. I am the new president of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. I have been interested in local history for a long time, especially the Town of Maine and the surrounding area, and I have recently been serving on the board of trustees of the Historical Society. When I became president, Stan Lisk took my place on the board.

I have been working on the genealogy of my family and of my husband's family for thirty years. It's a hard job, but very rewarding. I would like to set up a genealogy area in the museum, that would be available and useful to the people of the area, and also for those people from far away who may contact us with questions. To get what is here into a usable order will be a challenge that we will need a lot of hands to meet. Sandy Halliday and I have already begun going through the records, and we see how much there is to do. Please contact me at 862-9437, if you would be part of it, or think you might. We can tell you the kind of things we'll be doing. As soon as we're more organized, the Historical Society and the Town Historian together will be able to help anyone out with some information.

I would like to see the museum, schoolhouse, and mill open more this year. The town of Maine is a small town, with a lot of interesting history. I would like to see new Historical Society members with new ideas, and I would like to have members of long standing come and see what all has developed here. It never fails, that someone comes along with a school tour or wanders in when the open sign is out and declares, "I had no idea!" Maybe you have a connection with a group of Scouts or Sr. Citizens or church people who would love to come through. Tours can be arranged for people's convenience.

As always, many hands make light work. If it is showing kids who have never seen a clothes line all the things to be considered when a piece is hung, or sorting and filing pictures and artifacts so they can be turned up when needed, or if it is replacing a rotten board, it is very important work and a lot of fun.

Thank you,

Sue

## Ambulance Squad Craft Sale

The Historical Society will be having a table at the Ambulance Squad Craft Sale, on Saturday March 8. Ours will be selling baked goods, so everyone please contribute something scrumptious. (Call Sue Hoskins 862-9437)

Historical Society items like mugs and pictures will be there for sale too.

If you can man the table for a while, tell Sue. If you only have time to shop, that's good too. It will be in the old Big M plaza.

## Formation of Town of Maine

Reprinted from "A Short History of Maine, New York"

(Chapter 3—Part 2)

Compiled by Shirley L. Woodward  
Historian, Town of Maine, 1973

**Note:** We are planning to re-issue the book this chapter is from. We understand there are some awkward to read bits and some seemingly not right sections. Please look for such spots, as you read it, and point them out to Sue Lisk so they can be addressed for the new publication.

To Contact Sue: Sue Lisk, 2625 Main St., P. O. Box 275, Maine, NY 13802, or E-Mail at [Slisk@stny.rr.com](mailto:Slisk@stny.rr.com) or Phone at (607) 862-9705.

It is interesting to note that Maine had a baseball team as early as 1867. Robert Spencer, a former county historian, found some interesting data on Maine's baseball lore. It seems that on June 8, 1867, the Maine Star Baseball Club met the Forest team of Glen Aubrey at Glen Aubrey with disastrous results. Maine won 77-39. The line-up and scoring follows:

### STAR

Strikers	Runs
Hathaway	9
Pollard	9
Lincoln	8
Gates	8
Norton, R.	6
Holden	9
Shippey	11
Marean	10
Hasbrouck	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

### FOREST

Strikers	Runs
Dunham, M.L.	5
Dunham, H. B.	7
Stoddard, J.B.	5
Stoddard, C.	4
Dunham, T.W.	3
Conse, D.E.	3
Smith, E.	3
Gaylord, J.	4
Dunham, A.	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

On June 15, 1867, the two teams again played with Maine winning 43-21. But on August 31, 1867, Glen Aubrey's first Nine Eagles defeated Maine's second Star, 44-38. A game played September 7, 1872, again witnessed the defeat of Glen Aubrey by Maine 44-19. Another September game played in 1898 resulted in Maine winning over Glen Aubrey 16-9.

Daniel Casey of East Maine claimed until the day he died that he was The Casey in the immortal poem "Casey at the Bat", by Ernest L. Thayer. Daniel had a brother Denny. Both were born in Maine by Mt. Et-trick, and both played major league ball. Daniel was a pitcher with the Philadelphia Phillies, and Denny was an outfielder with the Detroit Tigers and the New York Giants, in the 1890's.

Casey's family lived on a hill farm near an area now called New Ireland because of the Irish settlement there in the 1840's. Daniel Casey married Mary Ann McGowan, of an East Maine family. In later years Daniel was a streetcar conductor in Binghamton until retirement in the 1920's when he went to live with relatives in Maryland. Sometime in later 1920's there was a magazine called "Collier's Weekly" that published an article on his life.

In August 18, 1876, issue of "Union News" it was noted that the Maine Alert Baseball Club reorganized last Saturday and played the Union "Live Oaks", score, 17-9 in favor of the "Alerts". Next week the "Alerts" were to cross bats with the "Mystics" of Binghamton at the Fair Grounds.

From the 1866 atlas of Broome County a list of businesses in Maine also included a Tannery on the road to Nanticoke just at the Town line, run by Alex Ross. A cider mill was just a few miles below on this same road, and a shingle factory was listed up Bradley Creek Road. There were 80 1/2 miles of public road, 14,646 acres improved land and 9,837 acres unimproved land. 1865 census - 1,026 males and 1,033 females, 420 homes and 434 families, 12 school districts, and 16 businesses listed in Maine Village.

Bustling with activity, Maine was not left without excitement. Follow-

ing a series of burglaries in Union Village, Maine was struck Saturday, May 12, 1877, the first reported burglary since Sunday, October 22, 1875. Regrettably, time permits only excerpting from a half column running account carrying a heavy black head.

### TAYLOR BROS.' STORE "BURGLARIZED" A LARGE HAUL

On Saturday night, one of the boldest and most successful burglaries that has ever occurred in this vicinity took place in the village of Maine.

About two o'clock that night Theron O. Smith, night watchman at Sherwood's Tannery, heard an explosion while on Main Street, and hurried to the tannery and awoke the other watchman. He then started out, and seeing persons in the store of Taylor Bros., concluded there was something wrong, so he went to the house of Baker Taylor and rapped once or twice on the door. Seeing a light burning in the house, Mr. Smith thought perhaps, after all, Baker might be busy 'til late in the store, so he ran back and on his way met the other watchman, who said that there was no doubt that burglars were in the store. Arousing Baker Taylor they maneuvered. Taylor saw a light near the barn and heard a dull pounding kept up by the burglars. Baker, being armed, maintained watch while the others summoned assistance.

Assistance arriving, Baker Taylor went ---to the spot where he had seen the light ---but the thieves had decamped. On the ground lay the large pocketbook of Taylor Bros., empty.

By this time the village was alarmed, and scouting parties were sent out in every direction, but owing to the darkness no track of the burglars was found.

The safe had been blown open -- with gunpowder. The amount of cash taken was about \$600, very fair pay for one night's work. That the robbery was by professionals there is no doubt, but it is believed that the prime mover does not live a thousand miles from Maine.

Active and persistent search has been made, but without avail.



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From the 1872-73 Directory of Maine, the following statistics are of interest: 462 men are listed mainly as farmers - but many had a second occupation listed. Of the 101 other occupations, carpenters held the lead, with 14 listed. Saw mills were next, with wagon and carriage makers close behind. Most occupations were represented on this list, plus two auctioneers, an insurance agent, one undertaker, one hop raiser, a basket maker and one man who said he was a "conveyancer."! A list six years later added a creamery, Y.M.C.A. and the fair- grounds. Three doctors were in Maine Township, and another who was a homeopathic physician!

Maine has seven cemeteries -only three in use currently -the others: small with very old stones with occasionally a new grave placed in a family plot.

From a letter written by Peter Wood to someone in this area we find these prices prevailed in 1882: Hay was sold from \$15.00 to \$16.00 per ton; corn \$.50 to \$.60 a bushel; flour \$7.00 a barrel; potatoes \$1.40 a bushel; sugar 8~ to 14~ a pound of tea 25~ and up per pound and calico from 5~ to 14~ per yard. This same Mr. Wood sold a horse for one hundred and ninety dollars (\$190.00) .

With just civic pride January 13, Maine exulted: "Union boasts of five street lights. Maine has ten and more are soon to be erected. Don't forget to light them these dark nights."

Agriculture was mostly subsidiary farming, the people earning cash from shoemaking, tailoring, weaving, cabinet and carriage making and other sources. Because the river flats were thought to be full of malaria, the more suitable land in Maine cost more than bottom land.

East Maine, a hamlet in 1872, had one cooper shop, a wagon shop, one black- smith and one store. The post office was established by Anthony W. North, who settled there in 1842. The Presbyterian Church was organized July 5, 1871, and the building dedicated June 12, 1872.

The settlement of Bowers Corners, a picturesque neighborhood located one mile north of Maine village, is

named after Gardner Sawin Bowers, who came to Maine in 1822. A store was established there in 1865 by J. M. and C.G. Bowers. In 1878, they sold to Isaac Shippy, who closed it about a year later. The building was later removed. Dr. Clement G. Bowers now resides in the large stately colonial house located on the corners. The house was built by his grandfather, Captain Gardner S. Bowers, to replace an older house burned in 1870.

Also in this area in 1872 are listed a shoe shop and a blacksmith shop. The old Norton Carriage Shop or Furniture Factory, dated about 1820, is still standing.

Before 1870's North Maine lacked stores and a Post office. A Methodist Episcopal group had met for some years in the schoolhouse until 1872, when they decided to erect a building.

Broome County Agriculture Societies have been holding "Fairs and Cattle Shows" since 1832. In the "Union News" of May 22, 1874, an article appears telling about the new society, Maine Village Farmers Club, which held their first monthly picnic at the home of A. Loomis, Esq., on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Speakers were E. H. Clark, Esq., and Dr. J. G. Hall. Later newspapers announced they will hold meetings every Tuesday in the schoolhouse. Discussion of holding a fair next fall was the main topic at these first meetings. E. (Ephraim) Ketchum was preparing a trotting track on his "flats" near Mrs. Thorn's, and a committee was appointed to ask him for the use of this flat for the fair grounds.

By August of 1875 the Finance Committee reported that the Society had raised \$1,210.00 and that the Fair would be held in October. In September the Union News reported that fences and buildings for the fair were fast approaching completion and that Rev. Henry Ward Beecher would deliver the address on the second day. The 44th Regiment Band of Binghamton would provide the music. Finally on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of October the First Annual Fair was held in Maine. There were 900 entries in the fair buildings. Animals and crops, farm implements, la-

dies fancy work, domestic articles and cooking and "birds" were all listed in the early program booklets. Horseback riding for men and women, foot races and "trotting" seemed to be the competitive activities. There was a half mile track for harness racing.

Ephraim Ketchum's fast horse, Kitty Frazier raced here -other famous horses were Revenge Willie and Revenge Daniel Webster. At later fairs bicycle races were held. Receipts for the first two days of 1876 totaled \$6,000.00. Honorable J.H. Selkreg was one of the speakers. The newspaper reported that this first venture was an unqualified success, financially and otherwise. It was noted, though in the newspaper of October 29th that Ezra T. Councilman caught a cold at the fair and subsequently died of this "cold".

In February of 1876, Mr. Ketteridge, the sketcher, began sketching the fair grounds and buildings to put in the County Atlas that was published later that year. This Fair was repeated each fall for eight years.

In the early days road routes followed Indian trails. As they were very narrow, ox and horse carts had to cut their way as the person traveled. It is said that one family took four days to travel from Chango Point (Binghamton) to a point just south of the Maine cemetery. As more and more settlers arrived here, the roads were widened but became very rough and hard to use. Logs and fill of rocks were used. As the lumber industry grew, tanning became a co- industry. Refuse from this industry and the peeled hemlock logs were used to make a plank road the entire distance between Maine Village and Union. This plank road seven miles from Maine to Union Railroad Station was one of the best in the state. Businessmen in Maine could get hides from Texas and South America for their tanning industry. Salt was brought in from Syracuse down canals to Binghamton- then up the new road to Maine.

The road was made by a private company which installed toll gates at each end of the road to collect money from its users. One such gate was located where Ray Marean lives today. The toll keeper's house was moved from the Marean property up to

the Maine school's land after tolls were no longer charged in the 1850's.

From the Union Town records 1791 - 1839- in July of 1791 Russell Gates was on the list of those who were assigned to improve the road in District #6 -Town of Union.

From the Planning Board Book of 1940- the first county record of a road survey in the Town of Maine area was in 1803. A part of the Bradley Creek Road from a stake on the present Town of Union northern boundary for about three miles running along the east side of the Nanticoke Creek to a beach stump and stones by Benjamin Norton's barn.

McGregor Avenue in the village of Maine was originally laid out in September of 1816 as a private road as follows: Beginning at a stake and stones on west side of highway near a large hemlock tree marked with a blaze and two notches and the letter "H" , going northwest for .16 miles to a stake and stones on the northeast corner of Abel Brigham's land.

What is now Route 26 from Crocker Creek Bridge through Union Center was laid out in August of 1822 with quite a colorful description. Beginning at a hard maple tree marked with letters "L" and "V" having a north line of (the point) Town of Union and being continuation of road to Berkshire and Lisle -going south and east as follows - 20 chains to a beech tree marked with three hacks- 20 chains to a beech tree hacked - 13 chains to a stake and stones -13 chains to a hemlock hacked -10 chains to a beech hacked -6 chains to a soft maple hacked - 11 chains to a birch tree hacked -31 chains to a stake and stones standing between Abel Norton's house and barn near center of the Main (Nanticoke Creek) Road.

Many of the early roads surveyed in Maine Township were surveyed designated parts of the old roads. The names of the roads were forgotten as new names appeared. We shall try to record some of the history of the old roads on the following pages.

Lewis Street -May 6, 1866, this street was laid out and called the Newark Valley Road. This road did not exist before and was not on 1866

maps. The road began from a point 1.3 chains north of Congregational Parsonage House and 1.37 chains south of the Benjamin F. Lewis House going west about 20 chains (or .32 miles) to a stone on the northwest corner of Norman Wright's land.

Church Street -This was a village highway used before 1850. In June of 1871, this piece of road .21 miles long beginning with the Nanticoke Creek Road (the present Route 26) and going west was surveyed and described and designated as a village highway. The road continues on over the hills to Village of Newark Valley in Tioga County, and there is no record of the original surveyor when the road was first used although it must have come into existence in 1820'5. It was called Church Street for the Baptist Church built there.

MacGregor Avenue -Using the private road originally laid out in 1816, this road was officially surveyed and designated a public highway in April of 1817. The road began in the center of Nanticoke Road in log 30 and went west 12.35 chains on the southside of Allison and Sherwood's boarding house then cut south for 6.17 chains on west side of T.S. Ward's house to north side of Congregational Church lot. A total of .23 miles. Named after the James MacGregor family who settled in Maine 1851.

Maple Drive -Part of the original Newark Valley Road of 1820'5. It did not have a name on the 1908 maps.

Route 26 - State highway running north from Union to Lisle. Part of this was first laid out by Gates brothers in 1794 from Union up through Maine where original road goes north to village of Nanticoke and Route 26 goes northeast to Lisle. This road was referred to as the Nanticoke Creek Road in all the early surveys. In May of 1833 the Main Street through Maine was surveyed. This road was also referred to north of Maine as Maine- Glen Aubrey Road and south of Maine as Union-Maine Road. The original road north of Maine laid out by Gates brothers is now called Nanticoke Road.

Most of the town roads are named after the early pioneer family who

settled there. Some names have changed as the very early family moved or died out and new families moved in.

The old Patterson Creek Road became known as the Farm-to-Market Road soon after World War II when there was an act passed by Congress called the Farm- to-Market Act. This was to get the bad roads modernized so the farmers could get their produce to markets more easily.

Death Valley Road was originally the Brockett Hollow Road in 1850's. No one knows why this is now called Death Valley Several theories are discussed under the chapter on Town Anecdotes.

Knapp Road was originally Canada Road -where the fugitives hid in the thick woods.

Arbutus Road named after the flower found in that area years ago.

The Old Mill Road by Crocker Creek - was the road to the old Carman Mill on the Nanticoke Creek dated in 1890's. This mill, built by Seth Carman, was later owned and run by Wayne Woodward whose descendents still own the land nearby.

Blossom Road near Tiona was actually named after the "Blossom" family who settled there.

Cross Road was not named after any family- it was simply a cross road between two other highways.

#### Notes:

1. Photos included in the original publication have not been included in this newsletter.
2. Part 1 of this chapter (3) was included in the previous newsletter.



**Norton's Carriage House  
Bowers Corners**

- **At the January 20 meeting of the Board of Trustees**, it was decided to replace the rotted sign, which stands in front of the Museum building. Tom Kotasek will be facilitating it. At present, we have considered signs made on finished aluminum, back to back in a wood frame. People felt strongly that the word Museum should be prominent. Phone numbers to contact, to set up tours and visits, will be added and updated as necessary.
- A report was given on the poor state of the roof of the house porch and the stoop roof on the side of the house.
- Some concern was stated about the possibility of finding ourselves with a bus load of children on a really nasty day, and nowhere under cover to give them their program.
- A project is under way to put together a souvenir map of the, now, Route 26 area from Whitney Point to Endicott. One side of the sheet will have the locations of businesses of by gone years. The other will provide an opportunity for local businesses to have their locations featured on a modern day map. Please contact Stan Lisk (862-9705) with your willingness to take on some part of the job.
- The suggestion was made that the Historical Society make itself responsible for giving public congratulation to individuals who are doing personal projects, that support the historic and aesthetic character of the Maine area.

We are very sad to relate the passing of a dear friend of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society. Waneta Griffin died suddenly in her home on January 29, 2008. She and her husband Bob, who predeceased her, were both greatly interested in the idea of a Historical Society and provided superior service in many different ways.

She was an active member of Most Holy Rosary in Maine. She was also a member of the ME school board and the president since 1983. She had been presented the Award for Distinguished Service by the National School Boards Association, in 2000.

She is survived by her children: Jennifer (and husband Peter) Doubrava now of Middletown and Brian Griffin (and his fiancée Kara Christenson), Newark Valley, as well as grand children and brothers and sisters, along with their children.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Waneta may be added to the Robert E. Griffin Memorial Scholarship fund in care of Maine Endwell High School, 750 Farm to Market Road, Endwell NY 13760.

## The Board of Trustees for the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

- Each voting board position has a three year term. Three board positions are to be refilled each year, providing an ever changing but ongoing board coverage.
- Board members Stan Lisk (serving out Sue Hoskin's Term), Steve Beukema, and Sara Clavez will complete their commitments in 2008.
- Board members Larry Rice (taking over for Sandy Halliday), Carol Sienko, and Charles Hathorn will serve through 2009.
- Board Members Mike McKillian, Carla Sullivan, and Anita Shipway will serve through 2010.

### Officers

President: Sue Hoskins  
 Vice President: Nancy Berry  
 Secretary: Sandy Halliday  
 Treasurer: Dottie Winans

## Committees

Membership	Dottie Winans, Carol Sienko, Sandy Halliday
Finance	Dottie Winans, Sara Clavez
Buildings & Grounds & Mill Restoration	Tom Kotasek
Ways & Means	Nancy Berry, Sue Hoskins
Museum Curator	Sue Lisk
Education	Sandy Rozek, Carol Sienko
Fund Raisers	Stephen Beukema, Stan Lisk, Charles Hathorn
Video / Audio	Betty and Leo Welch
Town Historian	Nancy Rutkowski

## 2008 Dues Are Now Due

Please use the dues return slip below. On the top of your address label is printed your dues Paid/Due status for years 2007 and 2008. Your dues may either be mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting (in an envelope with your name on it and the dues slip enclosed).



**Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s): 2007 2008**

**Note: See address label for your Dues Status.**

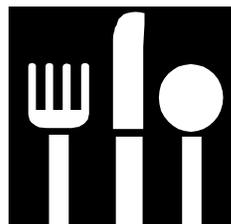
Please mail returns to:	Nanticoke Valley Historical Society c/o Dorothy Winans 993 King Hill Road Endicott, New York 13760	Is this name or address a change from your address label?  Yes ___ No ___
Name:	_____	<b>Amount Enclosed</b>
Street Address:	_____	\$ _____
City/State/Zip:	_____	
Phone: (Home)	_____ (Work) _____	
<b>Dues:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Single <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Business		

## Winter is a Great Time to Eat Together.

**The February meeting, the 19<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00, will be the Annual Indoor Picnic, at the museum. It will be a pot luck occasion. Everyone should bring a table setting too.

**On Saturday, March 8**, daylight savings time weekend, there will be a lovely dinner served at the Museum building. Like the 12<sup>th</sup> Night party that was had last year, there will be dinners for 48 people prepared. The charge will be \$25.00 a head and all tickets reserved. Members of the Historical Society will be given first opportunity to purchase tickets.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Nancy Barry 862-4527.



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**NANTICOKE VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 75  
Maine, NY 13802

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