



NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 2008

Fall 2008 Newsletter

Christmas/Note Cards For Sale

There will be half-fold cards of **local** winter scenes, in paintings by Clarence Stratton, available for sale this fall. This is the painter whose pictures of local scenes hang through out the museum building. The picture fills the front of each card, while the inside is blank.

There are two different scenes, Christmas Eve Service which has a snow scene with the Federated Church visible and Home for Christmas showing a typical farmstead. The paintings were photographed exclusively for these cards. They will be available for sale at the October 21 meeting and at the Country Wagon, any time.

Individual card with envelope	\$1.50
10 pack of all one design	\$12.50

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Attention

The next **regular meeting** will take place October 21, with a visiting speaker. Gerald Smith from the Broome County History Center, will give a talk entitled Knives and Forks and Spoons, Oh My. It will be about the history of the A & J Manufacturing Co.

Attention

Please arrive at 6:45. The program must begin at 7:00 sharp.

The meeting will follow the program. Place: the house-museum building

*Newsletter edited by
Anita & Dick Shipway*

Rummage Sale Report

The rummage sale on August 23 and 24, at the museum, brought in \$400.00. There was an encore during the Park Manor garage Sales on September 27. There had been so much left after the August sales, that an upcoming church rummage sale didn't have room to accept it. Then the date for the Endwell Park Manor sale was announced, and it was decided to move everything to Shipways' driveway for that day. There were no expenses, since the Park Manor Home Owners do the advertising, and people watch for it.

Despite an all night rain, followed by an all day rain, but supported by two "dining canopies," a long porch, and the undying spirit of garage sale-ers, we took in another \$179.15.

These are the people who made it all happen for the Museum Sales. It was a nice fund raiser, and it offered a great service to all of us who really needed to send a tremendous amount of stuff out of our homes and to a good cause:

Sandy Holliday, Alice Hopkins, Carla Sullivan, Janet Jordan, Debbie Stark, Sue and Richard Hoskins, Tom and Ann Kotasek, Anita and Dick Shipway, Lil and Clarence Ames. Jeremy Hoskins and Bre, and many others who proved the old saying about many hands making for light work.

Thanksgiving William H. Seward Governor of the State of New York A Proclamation:

*From an 1841 issue of the Mirror,
printed semi-monthly in Little Falls, Herkimer County*

In the year which is about to close, Divine Providence hath been pleased, as in former years, to vouchsafe to the inhabitants of this state the various fruits of the earth in their proper seasons – health, security and tranquility – prosperous commerce, and peaceful relations with foreign countries – freedom of conscience – religious instruction and consolation – moral, social and intellectual improvement – and laws established and administered by representatives chosen by the people. I do therefore, appoint Thursday the ninth day of December next, to be set apart for the customary annual offerings of public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, for all his mercies and blessings; and I recommend that this occasion be observed through out the commonwealth with the humility, devotion, and gratitude, which become a free and favored Christian People.

In Testimony, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the privy seal of the said state to be affixed at the city of Albany, this twenty-fifth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty one, and of American Independence the sixty-sixth.

By the governor:
William H. Seward

Henry Underwood,
Private Secretary

Summer Open-Sundays

Buildings were open Sunday afternoons for most of the summer and early fall. People came on bikes, by foot and also cars. It was encouraging to hear people say they'd seen the Open sign on other weekends, when they couldn't stop, and finally had come back. On the days when no one at all shows up, it is sustaining to think that being there that day will urge people to come another day, and that did seem to be the case. There were always things to do while waiting for them. There are piles of things to be read, to give a volunteer more background for showing displays, and a patch of cleaning is never out of order.

Our new sign has two phone numbers, either of which can be called to request an opening at another time, for a group or family. That was mentioned to all who came. Some groups came along with a student who had been there with a trip from school or had been in the Park and Recreation group this summer. We were amazed to hear them spouting information that we hadn't been at all sure they'd been listening to, when they were there with their trip. Quite a number of the people who came to the school house this summer turned out to have gone to one room schools themselves, and they had lots to tell.

We are sending a copy of this newsletter to people who left a name and address when coming to tour the buildings, just to say, "We were glad you came."

School Tours

We are in the process of planning a tour for Homer Brink first graders for mid October. They have been told to think about what children would need to wear if they were not going from a warm house to a heated bus to a heated school, and that will be their situation going to the unheated school building.

Be on alert. Sandy Rozek will be looking for people to work on the tour, as soon as it is all arranged.

Presidential Elections

Each United States Presidential election seems to hit a new high of something or other, and (this year's) (is) no exception: the longest and most grueling series of primaries ever, the raising and spending of unnumbered millions in campaign funds; vituperation that likened the President of the United States to Adolph Hitler and accused his opponent of seeking to run up the white flag of surrender to the country's enemies.

There were more polls, more panel shows, and more appeals to pressure groups than ever before. The delineation of real or imaginary campaign issues transcended the calculated, to approach the Jesuitical.

Yet the expected happened: Nixon was reelected by a huge margin, and even the most fanatical McGovernites seem to think that the country will somehow survive.

These paragraphs begin an article, by DM Marshman, Jr, in the February 1972 American Heritage magazine. It goes on to examine presidential elections through the years and the influence, on them, of projects attempting to influence the final results. Now, 36 years after that was printed, even these introductory up-to-date beginning paragraphs seem to us pretty droll. "The more things change, the more," certainly, "they stay the same."

Used with permission

Schools In Maine

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

(Chapter 5)

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 Slik@stny.rr.com or Phone at (607) 862-9705.

WOULD I WERE A GIRL AGAIN

Oh, would I were a girl again
With heart and spirit free,
To gayly rove the village plain,
Or singing o'er the lea,
Then can you wonder if I sigh
And sadly thus deplore,
To wish for days alas! gone by
And be a girl once more.

I gayly trod the mountain side
Knew naught of care or gloom
Its purple bells brought home with pride
To deck my mothers room.
Then can you wonder if I sigh
And sadly thus deplore,
To wish for days alas! gone by
And be a girl once more.

March 11th 1862 by
Lala (Ketchum) Marean

The first school was started in Maine in 1802 by a widow named Betsy Ward. She needed money to carry on, so she opened her home as a Dame School, and charged a fee for teaching her charges.

In 1812 a State School Law made public education a state function, and school districts were permitted to collect taxes to maintain these schools.

The Congregational Church records reveal an organization meeting in the "new" school in October 1819. From these remarks, we gather that

the school was built about 1815. This building was located over one half mile south of the present village on the east side of the road and called the Curtis School. This site was across from the present American Legion. Burt Durfee told of going to this school. The boys were good ball players and favored Union Center for loyalty to sports. The school was discontinued after 1900.

On April 16, 1833, at the home of George Rexford, Union, a committee met to organize a new school district for Maine area, called District #18. They were authorized to buy or lease land from Dr. William Butler or Captain Stephen Stoddard in Maine. On May 25, 1848, Marshall Delano, the Town Superintendent of Common School of Maine, called a meeting of all men involved in district changes for Maine schools. Eight districts were included in the Maine area. There were sixteen districts planned for. These records were filed and recorded at Maine July, 1848, by J.H. Hunt, Town Clerk. These minutes are found on Pages 1 to 4 of the book of "Schools" of the town of Maine from 1848.

In 1853 an act was passed providing for Union Free School Districts.

The Bowers' Corners School was located at the beginning of Tiona Road, north side. The Bunts family resides in this location now. The school was built in 1850, and it burned in 1886. It was rebuilt in 1886 and used until 1940. The first area school was at Vincent's Corners, before 1850, and Bowers' Corners School took the place of that one. The school has been moved onto Dr. Bowers' property and is now used for an office. Mrs. Leigh Wheaton was the last teacher.

The Pollard Hill School was originally called the George Kelly School and had 16 pupils in 1885. It was built on George Kelly's land up Pollard Hill Road about a mile east of Maine Village in the 1860's and was used until 1940.

The Finch Hollow School, located on Finch Hollow Road on the border of the Town of Maine was abandoned a few years ago, and the land now contains a pond and paths for nature study. The

building of this school was bitterly opposed by Nathaniel B. Finch, pioneer to this area of Maine. Samuel Crocker led the battle for the school, and it was built. Libbie Richards was the first teacher. Mrs. Eugene Leadbetter led the singing in this school. Unfortunately, she was not an accomplished singer, so the local families got together and hired Chester Marean of Maine to teach the pupils singing. This school was in the Johnson City school system, not the Maine District.

The old school at the village of Maine on Church Street was referred to as early as 1833 in church records. This building had two classrooms on the first floor. The "Primary" room held grades 1 through 5. The other room held grades 6 through 9. The second floor was a large hall with a stage at one end. This room was used for entertainments, political meetings, box socials, band practice, etc. Later, the building was remodeled and two class rooms added on the second floor. Three teachers were employed until centralization when it was torn down and replaced by the present J. Ralph Ingalls School.

The East Maine red school house was on the East Maine Road opposite the Farm-to-Market Road. It was a one room structure with a wood-burning stove and double seats. There was a recitation bench in the front. The teacher taught all first eight grades. Most of the boys from the farm attended school only in the winter months. Mrs. Johnson was a teacher in this school in the early 1930's. The school is now remodeled and lived in by the Clarks.

The 8rockett Hollow School District was organized at a meeting held June II, 1855, at the home of Chancellor Higbee, where Kenneth Koon now lives. Deacon Dwight 8rockett was chosen moderator. Oliver Russell, Jr., was elected District Clerk for the coming year. Steuben Clyde was elected to serve as trustee for one year. Thomas H. Rockwell, who lived on the corner across from where the Oak Hill Methodist Church stood, was to serve two years. Leonard Johnson, to serve as trustee three years, lived near the present fire station in East Maine. Chancellor Higbee was elected collector for the year.

Oliver Russell, Jr., was elected librarian for one year. It was left to the trustees to select a site for the school house on land owned by Chancellor Higbee on the road running north from Thomas Rockwell's to Mr. Rockett's saw mill, the plot to contain one-quarter acre. The trustees also were to make a plan for the school house, fix upon the amount necessary for building a house, let the job out with the restriction that they do not exceed two hundred dollars. A special meeting was called in September, 1855, at the home of Mr. Higbee for the purpose of voting to raise a tax to obtain money to build the school house.

Each parent who sent children to school furnished one-quarter cord of wood, or enough money to buy one-quarter cord at the rate of one dollar per cord. In 1859 they paid fifty cents for a blackboard, and they had seven months of school. There were that year 36 children between 4 and 21 years of age. If there was work to do around the school yards or building, the taxpayers had the privilege of working out their taxes. In September 1856, they held a special meeting to vote on raising a tax of \$20.00 to bank the school house, clear the ground and build a necessary out-house to the school house.

Children from this district went to the Johnson City High School. There were about 20 pupils in 1940. After centralization the school was dismantled because it was on the Tom Cummings property, not part of the school district.

In Union Center, a one room school house used to stand about where the Merrit Sulger home is today on Route 26 near 388, called School House #10 on the 1866 map. The well to this school is on the property next door, owned by Elvin and Jane Courtright. This possibly was the one referred to in Union Records of 1833, to purchase or lease from Captain Stephen Stoddard as he owned much land along the Crocker Creek, where he had a mill in the early 1800's. This school burned about 1870, and a new school for Union Center area was built a little further south over

the line into the Town of Union.

The Broughamtown School was built over 80 years ago and was used as late as 1940 as a one room school on Route 38B opposite the entrance to Dutchtown Road. This school house never had a well and water had to be carried from nearby farms. It had been remodeled by previous owners before being purchased by the present occupants, the William Porter family.

The North Maine School, or Tiona School, on Tiona Road was built before 1865 and was used until 1940. The Baileys, Van Orders, and Rutkowskis attended this school. Miss Dumbrowski was the teacher in 1931-32. In the spring the road was muddy, and autos had problems. On Arbor Day children would take a hike, and after a short time the boys would go off on their own and disappear for the rest of the day.

The Gates District School was on Nanticoke Road, about two miles from Bowers Corners. In the early 1930's the teacher was paid \$25.00 a week for 38 weeks, and she was the janitor, too. The school has been made into a home, now occupied by Frank Hoskins. At one time, Delores Lewis was the teacher and had 16 pupils. The school was heated by wood.

The Mt. Ettrick School was located on a hill where the present airport is now. It was built before 1860 and had 38 students in 1885 and was used until 1940. Glen Tingley was the teacher in the 1930's.

The Allentown School was on Route 26, opposite the Allentown cemetery. It is today the Croft home. All early teachers had to do the janitor work as well as teaching. In the 20's and 30's there were many children from immigrants or children of foreign-born parents. Clarence Berry was a teacher 1930-31. Elton Parr taught all the grades from 1931-33.

From trustees' records of District #11, Brocket Hollow, we learn that in 1855 the teacher was paid \$29.00 for the winter term, which was from November to March. The summer term was from May to September, and usually there was a different teacher for each term. By 1859 the school

had nine books in its library and the teacher's salary had been raised to \$69.00 per term.

A teacher's certificate issued in 1853 follows: "I hereby certify that I have examined Miss Emma Serena Keller and do believe that she is well qualified in respect to moral character, learning, and ability, to instruct a common school in this town for one year from the date thereof. Given under my hand this 6th day of August 1853. William H. Niles, Superintendent of Common Schools for the Town of Maine."

There was a rapid increase in the number of schools from the beginning of the century. The nearest approach to a high school before the Civil War time was "Select School" taught for fifteen years by Rev. William Gates, called the "Maine Academy". Classes were held in a house which is still standing at 23 Main Street. Students came to Maine from as far away as Owego to attend this institution. According to descriptions, Professor Gates seems to have been an able man and interesting character. A Baptist clergyman by profession and a graduate of Pompey Hill Academy, he was a classical scholar and familiarized himself with eight languages. He is described as a tall man of striking appearance, born at Hooper in 1795 and living to the ripe old age of 86 years. In 1852 he left Maine and moved to Whitney's Point. While Maine Academy was in existence, young people who wished to pursue further studies after completing grammar school could be tutored by the old Professor in the languages, mathematics and the textbook "science" of that day. Professor Gates must have had a very strong character, since he had the courage to remain a "copperhead" in this strongly Abolitionist territory throughout the time of the Civil War. His belief in slavery was supported by his thorough study of the Old Testament, and he would argue with anyone on the subject.

Chester Marean, born in Maine in 1815, was an excellent singer and led the choir in the Baptist Church. He also taught singing in Ketchumville, Lambs Corners, Glen Aubrey, Union Center and Finch Hollow Schools at \$2.00 per pupil per term.

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

District	No.	Pupils 5-21 Yrs	Daily Attendance
Maine Village	1	85	53,785
North Maine	2	51	18,557
Gates District	3	16	7,842
Allentown	4	40	14,221
East Maine	5	45	19,350
Curtis District	6	24	11,555
Mt. Ettrick	9	38	18,335
Brougham	10	33	17,114
Brockett Hollow	11	34	11,150
New Ireland	13	33	7,150
George Kelly	14	16	7,507
Union Center	15	88	38,714
Totals	12	555	248,795

By the 1930's the Maine School Districts decided to centralize. The territory called the Maine Central School District comprised of eleven school districts set apart in 1938 to form one district. The units, which combined were the four room school in the village of Maine, the four room school at Union Center, and the one room schools at Bowers Corners, Tiona, Gates, Allentown, Mt. Et trick, East Maine, Brockett Hollow, Pol-lard Hill and Brougham- town. The original committee on centraliza- tion consisted of Wellington C. McIntyre, Ralph Young, Harry D. Woodward, Dr. Clement G. Bowers and Linneus West. The building project got under way in 1938, and the dedication of this system was held at Maine Village on Friday, May 29, 1940.

The centralization provided for education of pupils in the kinder- garten through the 9th grades in two schools; one located in Maine and one in Union Center. Pupils of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades were transported to Union-Endicott and Vestal Central High Schools.

On March 22, 1957, Maine Central School area centralized again with the common school district of End- well. The principle reason for enlarging the district was that each area was growing fast, and a

building program was needed. Nei- ther district had a Senior High School, which was needed very badly. Two High Schools, a Junior and a Senior High, were built in Endwell, which Maine students now attend.

In the 1880's the village school was under the principalship of Pro- fessor Wilcox, a graduate of Cor- nell University. Kasson Beilby was the district superintendent for all Maine area schools in the 1930's, and he coordinated the school ser- vices. All 8th grade pupils and 7th grade geography pupils were subject to take New York State Regents, and the Regents were only given in the Maine and Union Center Schools.

Architecturally, Maine's crowning achievement is the modern central school building, known now as the J. Ralph Ingalls School. Dedicated May 24, 1940, the plant and equip- ment cost \$30,000. The architects, Messrs. Conrad and Cummings, have worked it out in terms of modern streamlined efficiency to meet all the requirements of a highly techno- logical age, and yet they have pre- served a large share of the charm, dignity, and elegance of Early America.

Many of the homes and businesses in Maine were constructed between 1820 and 1860 and followed the New England type of early American ar- chitecture. While modest and largely utilitarian, they still possess, when not obstructed by modern porches, the attractive doorways and pleasingly simple lines of early American architec- ture. To fit into this picturesque setting, the Board of Education de- cided the new school would be built on the Classic Revival, or early American, type of architecture in- troduced by Thomas Jefferson, blended with modern, efficient streamlining. Wall colors are mainly adaptations of colors found at Williamsburg. For example, the

blue of the wainscot in the audito- rium was copied from the blue in the Apollo Room of the Raleigh Tav- ern, where Phi Beta Kappa, America's oldest scholastic frater- nity, was organized. Colonial de- sign was followed in the design of desks, chairs and other fixtures. A center of interest, and fittingly traditional is the grouping of an armchair and four side chairs placed on the stage. The armchair and three of rthe side chairs, of early Victorian design, are about 125 years old and were formerly used in the Congregational Church. Recently these chairs were returned to the Federated Church. and the youth are renovating them.

The Maine Memorial School was built in 1960 on the site of the 1876 Agricultural Fair Grounds and was dedicated April 18, 1961. It is composed of two basic units. One unit houses thirteen classrooms. The other unit contains the gym, cafeteria, kitchen, assembly, util- ity and at the end, four class- rooms. Built primarily as a kinder- garten through 8th grade school, it f can be expanded. Perkins and Will of White Plains, New York, were the architects.

J. Ralph Ingalls was President of the School Board at that time; Wil- liam A. Anderson, Supervising Prin- cipal of the District; Frank T. Stevens, Principal of Maine Memo- rial with Esther Frazier as Vice Principal. After one year Esther Frazier became Principal of J. Ralph Ingalls and Union Center Schools. Mrs. Blanche Stoklas is now the Principal of J. Ralph In- galls and Union Center schools, and Michael Schafer is the present Principal of Maine Memorial.

In 1969 an addition was made add- ing three science rooms, class- rooms, music, and shop. The school now houses third through sixth grades.

NVHS Newsletters via E-Mail

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, in keeping with the up to date as well as the historical, is considering offering the choice of Newsletters by mail or by e-mail. They could be read on screen and saved, or printed out on your printer to look just like the mailed ones. In fact, color could be added to e-mailed ones which would not be on the mailed copies because of financial restraints. Please note that the Newsletter would be distributed as a xxx.PDF file. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to read, display or print the file. This is a free Program which can be downloaded from the internet.

At our house, we already receive several different regular newsletters via e-mail and have bought ourselves a box of colored printer paper to print them out on. That way the hard copies don't get mixed in with all the other printouts around the house.

If you would like to receive your next newsletter by e-mail, just send an e-mail to that effect to: **NVHistoric@verizon.net** Please tell us too what your mailing address is, so we don't go ahead and send it by mail too. We'll give it a try and see how it goes.

Officers

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

2008 Dues Are Due

Check the address label to verify that your dues are up to date.

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:	_____	Amount Enclosed
Street Address:	_____	\$ _____
City/State/Zip:	_____	
Phone: (Home)	_____ (Work) _____	
Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Single <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Business		

Business Membership Drive

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society launched a fall drive to recruit members for the new category of Business Membership. (See the membership form in this news letter) Initial response is very positive. Please support member businesses, and please consider the Business Membership for any business you may be connected to.

Welcome Business Members!

Country Wagon
Our Country Hearts
Art Therapy/Thumb Print

Our Place
Lori Baerman, hair

NBT Bank
Alpaca Fantasy World

Business Memberships will be listed quarterly in the Historical Society Newsletter. Though memberships will run by the calendar year, those joining now will be considered members from the time they join through the end of 2009.

Member businesses will be given first opportunity to promote themselves by sponsoring any Historical Society program or event.

Businesses will have an opportunity to participate in the newly established Business Round Table. Business Round Table members will work with Historical Society people to plan community events that will attract visitors and potential residents to the area.

**NANTICOKE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 75
Maine, NY 13802

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