

Spring 2011 Newsletter

April 2011



Inside this issue:

Museum Happenings	1
Southern Tier Genealogical Society	1
Book of local History	2
Obituaries	2
Book Alert	3
Recent Donations	3
The Maine Community Band	4
Officers & Trustees, Committees, Dues Return Slip.	5

New York State's Heritage Weekend will open the summer tourism season. All our buildings, along with the J. Ralph Ingalls school which is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, will be open **May 14th** from noon until four. The **Antique Tractors** will be plowing at the **Country Wagon** on the morning of **May 14th**.

Please contact Sue Lisk at 862-9705 if you are available to help man one of the buildings or to call other volunteers.

At that time we will be unveiling our new exhibit on the **150 Years of the Maine Community Band 1861-2011**. Refreshments will be served.

Remember that the Historical Society meetings have been changed to the **3rd Monday of the month** for a trial period. The program on April 18 was on the Rozelle Family in Maine and on **May 16th** will be Lucas Kacynski talking about "Strange Farm Tools". **June 20th** will be the **Summer Picnic at the Museum at 6 PM**. Bring a dish to pass and your table service. After the picnic, we will move to Yancy Moore's house where he will give a program on the "Art of Frank Taylor Bowers".

The **Southern Tier Genealogical Society** invites any member of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society to attend its monthly program meetings. They will be usually at the Vestal Public Library at 7 PM:

May 5 – Show and Tell, everyone to bring, for show or swap, favorite sources of information you have used

June 2 – Janet Ottman, Johnson City Historian, will talk about "The Genealogy of Johnson City" and show a virtual tour of the upstairs museum of the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company in the NBT Bank (formerly the home of Mr. Charlie Johnson).

July 7 – Gerry Smith presenting The Irish in Broome Country and also Knives and Forks and Spoons, Oh My. If you missed this talk on the A&J Manufacturing Company when it was given at our meeting, here's your chance to hear it.

August 4 – learn to use a newly available primary resource, NYS Vital Statistics Meet at the Broome Country Library's History and Genealogy Center at 5:00.

Sept 1 – back to the Vestal Library at 7:00 Barb Barno will give a brief history and explanation of evidence analysis and the Genealogical Proof Standard

October 6 – Curtis Hartwig will explain how to use "The New Family Search Website"

Newsletter edited by
Anita & Dick Shipway



The book of local history being compiled by Sue Lisk now has a title. It will be called **Maine and the Nanticoke Valley**. The above picture is from it. It shows Mr. Curlhair and the rig in which he hauled both people and goods from Maine to Binghamton twice a week.

Mr. Curlhair also can be seen on horseback in the cut-out display on the back wall of the Men's Exhibit in the Museum.

The Mourning Wreaths are hanging at the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

We are sorry to report the death of Jennie (Shulman) Eber recently at the age of ninety five. She was a friend to the Historical Society always. The museum has in its collection many interesting items from the office of Dr. Morris Eber her late husband, and she was continually interested in the education phase of the Historical Society's responsibilities.

Another friend died April 15. Betty McGregor came to many many Historical Society meetings, and she gratefully came with others when she could no longer drive herself. She was predeceased by her husband Warren, her son James and her grandson James McGregor Jr. For the last year of her life, she had been living in a nursing home in Owego.

A Book Alert from the Editor:

I enthusiastically recommend the 2006 book called **March Into the Endless Mountains**, by Ray Ward. It is published by Weldon Publications, Waverly, New York. It is a novel which, despite its recent arrival on the scene, reads more like the 1700 writing style of Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales. I happen to like that style, and it lends authenticity to the Revolutionary War era happenings. That need not make a prospective reader concerned about a slow story line however, as I found no lack of exciting action, from the first chapter on.

It has to do with the period beginning around 1778 in the area of the Endless Mountains, which you may recall are all those wrinkled-tablecloth looking hills one travels along going West on new Route 86. This was the time when the Susquehanna River was the official/legal western edge of the colonies. Although I grew up thinking of Cherry Valley as having been the edge of the frontier and take-off place for "going west," I had not known about the Susquehanna being the edge of the map. Of course, the circuitous route it takes to get to the Chesapeake Bay makes that fact not such an obvious one. I'd never thought much about Muncy being the "furthestest north settlement on the Pennsylvania frontier" or other places "too far west from Connecticut." and the fact that one European country or another was best buddy or worse enemy of any individual section of the colonies, on any given day from the 1600s on. It speaks respectfully of Joseph Brant, which is more than school books generally do. (That used to make me surly in grade school) This book is full of accurate historical information but it is not a hard read, and even people who do not subscribe to Historical Society News Letters would probably like it.

Anita Shipway

Recent donations to the museum collections

- Gordon and Shirley Woodward gave us some scrapbooks about the Kiwanas Club and the Town of Maine.
- Bruce Pomeroy gave us a large photo of Janet Whitney and another one of Janet Whitney Bowers and her little daughter (later Jan Bothwell) who became very active in preserving historical places and information in this area.
- From him we also received an old newspaper, 1885 Illustrated History of Broome County and many old post cards of this area.
- Doug Ritter presented us with several old school books and books of poetry.

Many thanks to all of them for these wonderful treasures.

Because of the new coat of paint on the museum, the new roof on the little school house, along with the paint on that, gardening work and weeding last fall, and the "house cleaning" in preparation for the International Dinner we're up and ready to go for the state wide Heritage Weekend. We'll be open on May 14 from noon to four. Please help keep the buildings open, and bring your family and friends to see them. They can come again on one of the Summer Sundays to see what they missed the first time!

The Maine Community Band is Celebrating its 150th Year

That Band was formed in Maine in 1861 and will be holding several special events to celebrate its 150th year of continuous existence. The first event was held on Sunday March 27th @ 3:30 PM at the Maine Memorial in conjunction with the Maine Memorial School Band. A second special concert will be presented at Highland Park in Endwell on Sunday July 24th at 3:30 PM.



Memorial Day - 2009

Baseball was becoming very popular about the same time that The Maine Community Band was coming into existence. Changes have happened over the years to both. Here is a reprint from the Canajoharie Courier:

What was baseball like then? The pitcher's mound was about 45 feet from home plate and the pitcher threw underhanded (more like today's Fast Pitch Soft Ball.) Batters could call for a high pitch or a low pitch, and it took nine Balls for a Walk. A ball was considered fair if it took a bounce in fair territory, even if it rolled foul afterwards.

Fielding gloves first came into use in the 1870's, so most local players would probably not have had them. Balls were handmade (home made) and not very uniform in shape and size or in tightness of winding.

Home runs were rare. Most teams carried just one pitcher, and there were few substitutions of any kind. Scores were high, but there were virtually no pitching changes, and the batters swung frequently. If there was a newspaper box score, it would be simple. Lineups for each team would be listed, but only the numbers of outs and runs for each player were.

Baseball was beginning to be called "The National Game." Clubs were in existence for playing baseball. Club baseball eventually evolved into "town team" baseball and baseball organized around educational "institutes" and high schools, but Organized Baseball has since become a cat of a different color.

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 on-going board coverage.
- Board Members Nancy Berry, Betty Welch, and Sue Hoskins will serve through 2011.
- Board members Stan Lisk, Yancy Moore, and Diane Chianis will serve through 2012.
- Board members Chris Underwood, Janice McKittrick, and Pat Krzyzewski will serve through 2013.

Officers

President: Sandy Rozek
 Vice President: Alice Hopkins
 Secretary: Carla Sullivan
 Treasurer: Sandy Halliday

2011 Dues Are now 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 2009 and 2010. Your dues may either be mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at meetings (in an envelope with your name on it and the dues slip enclosed). **Please note that the dues have increased effective January 2009.**

2011 Committees	
Membership	Dottie Winans, Sandy Halliday
Finance	Dottie Winans, Sandy Halliday
Buildings & Grounds	Tom Kotasek, Stan Lisk
Ways & Means	Nancy Berry, Todd Rose, Sue Lisk
Curator - Museum & School-house #4	Sue Lisk
Curator - Mill & Norton Wagon Shops	Tom Kotasek
Education	Sandy Rozek
By-Laws	Sandy Rozek, Charles Hathorn, Anita Shipway
Video / Audio	Betty and Leo Welch
Town Historian	Nancy Rutkowski
Endowment	Carla Sullivan, Mike McKilligan, Henry Barnaby, Dottie Winans
Special Projects	Stan Lisk, Nancy Berry
Newsletter Editors	Anita & Dick Shipway

Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s): 2010 2011



Note: See address label for your Dues Status.

Please mail returns to: Nanticoke Valley Historical Society
 Attn: Treasurer
 P. O Box 75
 Maine, New York 13802

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: \$15.00 Single \$20.00 Family \$50.00 Patron \$100.00 Business

Did you know that ??????

The sun is never actually directly overhead here?

White cloth that has been pinked is still white?

Sister Kinney was not a nun?

Meredith Wilson was not a girl?

The State of Maine does not have the northernmost point within the contiguous states?

The village of Northeast, PA is not east of the rest of Pennsylvania?

The Wise Men did not come to the manger?

To void a bladder does not mean to draw a line through it?

A millennium is not on a certain day.

Stella Ireland was not a person.

Spring 2011 Newsletter

NANTICOKE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 75
Maine, NY 13802

