



# Spring Newsletter

## April Meeting Scheduled for 7:00 PM Tues. April 26th at the Museum.

The April meeting of the NVHS will be moved to the fourth Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the scheduling convenience of Lee Mauck. Mr. Mauck will be giving a special program on the work, life and family of Jan Bothwell and her dedication to the endeavors of the Bowers Foundation. There will be calls through the phone tree to alert the membership well in advance of this

change. Jan was the driving force in the acquisition of our museum and in the procurement of exhibit materials and manpower for assembling them into the professional displays as we see them today in our cherished building. Lee Mauck, a long time family friend has been the executor of her estate and has worked tirelessly in assembling and organizing information and archives of the Bowers family's legacy.

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Text provided by  
Sandy & Ken Rozek

Newsletter edited by  
Anita & Dick Shipway

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As Ken Rozek prepares to turn in his volume of "Robert's Rules of Order" we want to thank him for educating us in his own version over the past few years. Our meetings have definitely taken on a new twist, and we will require that they continue to do so even under new leadership. We, the membership can surely see to that, as we never stop putting in our

"two cents" Thanks, Ken, for all your work and time, and all of the officers who have and are working so well together.

A slate of officers for the current year has been drafted by the nominating committee and election will take place at the April meeting. At that time nominations will also be received from the membership.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

April 25<sup>th</sup> - House cleaning day at the museum 9:00 AM  
For information call Alice Hopkins at 862-3635

May 21st - 1:00 PM at Maine Memorial School  
WWII Memorial Dedication

April 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM at the museum  
Presentation by Lee Mauck on Jan Bothwell's contributions to the community and her involvement in the Bowers Foundation

June 21<sup>st</sup> - 6:00 PM at the museum  
Annual picnic - bring a dish to pass and table service.

May 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM at the museum  
Memorial meeting for Janet Bowers Bothwell - a time of sharing our personal memories of Jan in the social and historical community to which she dedicated her whole life.

July 10<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - 4:00 Maine by the Yard

- Picnic places at home
- Backyard croquet tournament
- Red Hat Society visitors
- Contact Ken Rozek at 862- 9480 or Nancy Berry at 862-4527 to be included in this Event.

## GRANT ACQUISITION

During the past several months, the gods have truly smiled upon the reconstructive and restorative efforts of our organization. Due to the skill and perseverance of one of our members in pursuing opportunities to avail ourselves of the charitable funds of several organizations, the NVHS has been the fortunate recipient of four grants totaling \$17,000 designated for use in the work in progress on the Norton carriage barns. Thanks to Joanne Weir, our resident grant writer, we have received gifts from the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program (The Paradigm Char-

itable Fund), The Bowers Foundation, the Decker Foundation and the Ahearn Foundation. We must never underestimate the time and effort that goes into acquiring such funding, as it is an academic task with very exacting requirements. Thank you to all who have provided these organizations with the necessary documentation and correspondence. Photographs have been sent as well, to those responsible for these grants, in order to apprise them of the needs and progress of the work on these two historic buildings and their present contents.



**The Norton Carriage  
Factory Buildings**

## MAINE MUSICAL MEMORIES: JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2005

Never underestimate the spirit of our community when it comes to supporting projects of immense proportions. Never in our wildest dreams could an undertaking of the magnitude of our Maine Musical Memories come through with a three times filled auditorium in the month of January. A rousing tribute to our dear late Bob Griffin, this production encompassed more than any of us thought possible. The show was an overview of all the community musical adventures that have taken place in our busy town over the past three decades, and the response from residents who wanted to participate and initiate their children into the ways of our illustrious past ventures was overwhelming. Over 45 children and adults were involved, voices from the past and voices of the future alike, and in spite of numerous missed rehearsals because of weather and last minute changes (some of which actually worked), all three audiences expressed excitement at being able to once again be spectators at one of our "Maine Events."

Those newcomers to our adventure had a taste of what our "seasoned" participants have held in our hearts for years. They now know what it means to combine the cooperative talents and enthusiasm of a town united by the desire to hold onto and share the past and present and experience the satisfaction of finishing what we start, even when it seems nearly impossible. The cast, directors, accompanists, and rehearsal helpers came out of this happening talking about ways to make it better the "next time." The public was impressed, all enjoyed the performances, and Bob's memory will be further immortalized by the scholarship created in his name. Part of the proceeds from this event will also be used to place a permanent means for displaying memorabilia from the various productions that have taken place in the Maine Memorial auditorium over the years. If you wish to contribute to this fund, you may send contributions to PO Box 75 for inclusion in the proceeds from this benefit.



**The Necessary  
House**



**Schoolhouse No. 4  
1845**



## WW II Memorial Dedication of Maine, NY

Dear Historical Society Members, Town of Maine Residents and friends,

During World War II the Honor Roll across the street from Harvey's Store had a listing of 142 men and women from Maine serving in the military as of June 23, 1944. The list of names was never updated to include those enlisted or drafted until December 31, 1946. The armistice was signed September 2, 1945. Postwar hostility was designated by Congress to be until December 31, 1946.

After three years of research, the list has grown to 274. Of that total, 9 never returned. Every effort has been made to make the list (Honor Roll) complete. Researching 60 year-old history is dependent on the recollections and memories of family members, neighbors and local townfolk who contributed names and current information.

A bronze plaque commemorating those who served, will be placed on a granite monument. More than 40 of those veterans (WW II) are still with us and hopefully most can join us for the memorial dedication on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 21, at 1:00 PM at Maine Memorial School.

A program is planned to honor those who died in the war and all who served. A reception with light refreshments will follow, in the school auditorium. We plan to take a group photo of the surviving veterans in attendance.

\*We are asking the surviving WW II veterans, families and friends of WW II and other conflicts to join us in commemorating all who served or are serving our nation. Our veterans must never be forgotten!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Kotasek

\*Committee Members: Waneta Griffin, Don Olson, Arlene Niemeyer, Jim Zimmer, Gary McManus, Nancy Rutkowski, Dottie Winans, Treasurer, Tom Kotasek, Chairman

NOTE: Anyone wishing to make a donation may send a check, payable to WWII Vets. Memorial Fund of Maine, to WWII Memorial, PO Box 81, Maine, NY 13802.



## SPRING SCHOOL TOURS

Already planned is an afternoon-long field trip to our museum complex by the fifth grades from MM to enjoy lessons in the one room school house, tours of the museum, and a visit to the mill. This will be a kick-off of "school tour season" as our list of over 20 volunteer guides will start marking their calendars

with dates for manning their posts at the various stations in and around the museum. We have such an eager group of educators, past, present and future, and all who participate really enjoy sharing our heritage with the wide-eyed energetic visitors. We have shared our enthusiasm with all ages of children, from

home-schooled infants and preschoolers through high school students from neighboring communities. If you are interested in adding to our force of helpers or wish to schedule tours, please contact Sandy Rozek at 862-9480.

## PHONE TREE

Our phone tree has been useful in getting out meeting information in the past couple of years. However, we have discovered that many of you who have given us e-mail addresses use them only minimally. As a result,

some of you have not received information in time. In order to phone the whole active membership, even those to whom group e-mails have been sent, we will need to enlist more contact people to keep the bur-

den light. If you are interested in being a caller to contact a list of members each month by phone, please contact Sandy Rozek at 862-9480.

## MILL TOURS/VISITORS (submitted by Tom Kotasek)

Roberta Rittenhouse and her 7th grade Science Class (18 kids) from Maine Endwell Middle School were given a tour. It was a cold Saturday in February (27th). They checked out the shaft speed, pulley ratios and gear ratios to turn the 50" diameter millstone at 80 revolutions per minute. After about an hour or better, it was time for hot chocolate and doughnuts, provided by their teacher. This was her 3rd year of

exposing her students to a piece of history and practical labor saving devices to give the study of mechanics (mechanical concepts) a "hands on" perspective. The kids asked good questions and enjoyed the tour--- especially the hot chocolate & doughnut holes! By this time they were feeling the cold. I took photos of the class on the mill dock and sent them copies for each to have a memento.

Pat Kollar's 5th grade class from Maine Memorial School will be visiting the mill for a tour on May 6. This is the 2nd year of her class coming to the mill. The kids enjoy the experience and come up with good observations and questions. They come on a school day, by bus. I am honored to have them come. It's a credit to our Historical Society. Maybe, one day, some of them may join our Historical Society.

## MUSEUM REPAIRS (submitted by Tom Kotasek)

The side entry door of the museum is a bit safer to use. A totally new stoop with sturdy wrought iron hand-rail has been installed. The pressure treated stairs and deck are stained with exterior oil stain. The iron railings, purchased from salvage, were reworked to fit. The railings were scraped, wire brushed, properly primed and painted to match the

green museum trim. The door had a large air gap under it, allowing the cold air to blow in and rob a lot of heat. A tapered piece of wood was fitted and fastened to the inside edge of the existing threshold. With that in place, a new door sweep was installed on the door, sealing against the extended threshold. A new set of doorstops with vinyl seals will be

installed against the exterior door face. This will keep our museum warmer and save on the cost of heating.

The 220 volt range outlet in the kitchen has been installed. The electric range can now be used!



# MEMORIES OF JAN BOTHWELL IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It has been nearly a full year since the passing of Janet Bothwell Bowers. Over the past months much thought has been given to ways in which to pay homage to a family and person whose attention to history and detail have been so instrumental in the acquisition and development of this wonderful facility. Our museum and our organization are a true source of pride to the whole community and a means by which to perpetuate knowledge of the history of our area. Her interest in using the museum as a hands-on teaching monument for the chil-

dren of our schools and neighboring schools is the legacy to which we have been entrusted as we continue to pass down the traditions and history of growing and living in decades and centuries gone by. Her connections with the professionals of the area have given us opportunities to create and maintain a unique setting for education and recreation shared freely with many. The regular May meeting will be an opportunity to remember the many ways in which Jan participated in the founding, exhibition building and life of The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society and

its museum. Her painstaking efforts in publishing our "Cooking up the Creek" cookbook have given an almost universal reference book to our community, and it has been circulated to many who pass through as a souvenir of our life in this valley. If you have a copy of this cookbook, you might want to bring it to this memorial meeting to follow along as we read together some of Jan's written observations from the book. We hope you will come to this meeting prepared to share some of your personal memories of Jan over the years.

## WANDERING VIDEO TAPE

Long long ago, Anita Shipway showed a tape on which she had copied all the local scenes that were shown in the movie Liebestraum, which had been filmed in Binghamton. She also brought a Video Tape of the whole movie for all interested people, to borrow and look at.

Does anyone know where the movie one ended up?  
Let Anita know at 785-9207

## 2005 DUES ARE NOW DUE

Dues for the year 2005 are now due. Please refer and use the dues return slip below. On the top of the address label is printed your dues Due/Paid status for years 2004 and 2005. Your dues may either mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting.



Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s):    **2004**    **2005**

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

Please Mail Returns to: Treasurer  
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society  
P. O. Box 75  
Maine, NY 13802

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:**    \$6.00 Single     \$10.00 Family     \$25.00 Patron     \$25.00 Business

## LATE MAPLE SYRUP SEASON

One of our more predictable events in this part of the country is the tapping of the sugar maples and the boiling of sap into maple syrup, one of our favorite breakfast delicacies. Equally predictable is the fourth grade pilgrimage from Maine Memorial School every pre-spring as the sap flows from the trees in front of the museum and Jo Childs arrives with her traveling truckload of sugaring memorabilia ready to share for the enjoyment of these students as they learn the ins and outs of drilling, gathering and carrying sap, tending smoky fires, skimming foam and sampling their first taste of the syrup of the new season. This year's syrup season gave us a scare, as the days before Easter vacation were fleeting and the weather had not yet come through with its cold nights and warmer days. In the nick of time, the plan was made with only three days to spare - a season of a little over a week which would be well past by the time vacation was over. Needless to see, having made the plan only two days ahead of time, the seven inch snowfall the night before gave pause and momentary thoughts of cancellation, but the bus garage came through, the students were driven to the museum, the demonstrations went off without a hitch, and the syrup was probably the tastiest it has been in years. Thanks Jo and Sandy, and thanks to the fourth grade staff for being so flexible.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MUSEUM ARCHIVING ACTIVITIES

Sue Lisk is looking for volunteers to assist in the museum's archiving activities. Please contact Sue at 862-9705 for more information and to volunteer.



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## NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 75  
Maine, NY 13802