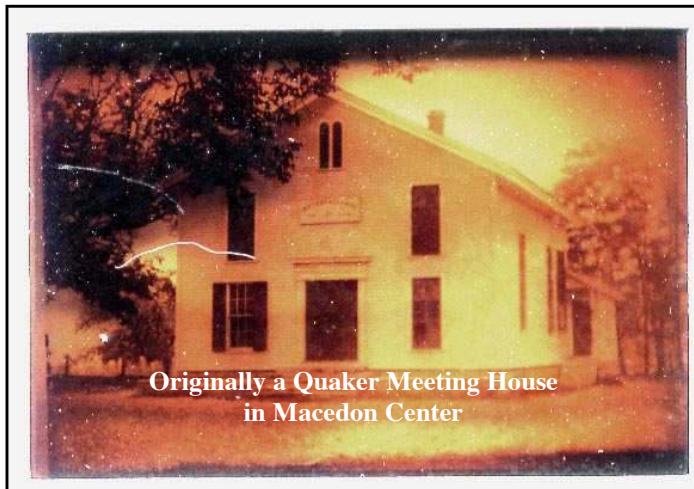
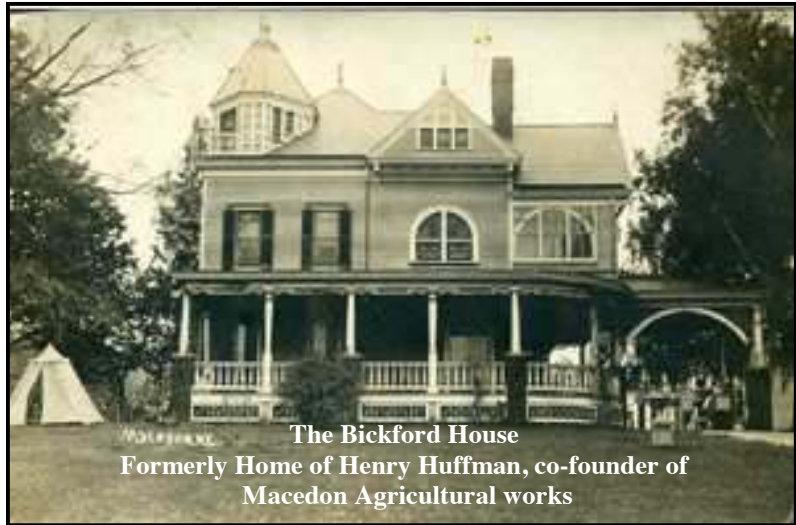


**Self Guided Driving Tour**  
*200 Years*  
*of Macedon Town History*  
*26 Mile Tour*



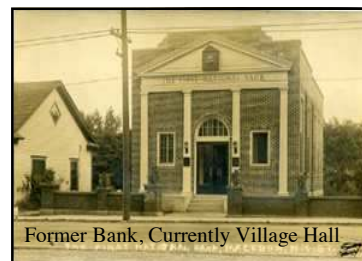
Compiled with, but not limited to, the assistance of  
Macedon Town Historian, Helen Burgio  
Macedon Historical Society, Dave Taber, President  
William Rider, Sally Millick  
and Sandy Pagano  
Updated from the 1970's version.  
*April, 2009*

Please use caution and courtesy when touring the area. Use flashers and please do not interrupt home owners. This is a driving tour. Every attempt has been made to validate the accuracy of this information. If you have information regarding Historical Homes and Sites in Macedon, please drop a note to the Macedon Historical Society, PO Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502 - The Historical Society would be glad to hear from you and add your information to the collections. For more information go to [www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org)

Start the tour in Macedon Village. Drive safely; you may want to put your flashing lights on when slowing down to view the stops.

- **From the intersection of Routes 350 and 31, turn south on Erie Street:**

1. The **Macedon Village Cemetery** began at this site in 1851, a gift of two acres from John Lapham. As was the Victorian rural cemetery fashion, cemeteries were located away from the centers of population, had a hilltop view, and were landscaped with natural plant materials. Families were buried together, often with a central family monument surrounded by individual gravesites. Before town parks were established, cemeteries were a place to visit, picnic, and bring out of town guests. The earliest burials were on the west side of the cemetery.



- **Bear left on Lawrence Road. Around the bend of the road, there is a large white farmhouse on the right:**

2. The house was built in 1813 by Ephraim Lapham, and soon became **Lawrence Farm**. Walter Lawrence Sr. had moved his family to Farmington from Mt. Pleasant, NJ, where he'd made his living as a carpenter. They traveled by open wagon. Soon he moved to this site in Macedon where he took up farming. Walter Lawrence Jr. was the sixth born, and continued the family farm. The 89 acres were planted with fruit and hops. On the left side of the road was an apple dry house and a hop drying shed. Drying was the primary means for preserving food; the canning process wasn't discovered until 1865.

- **Turn left onto Magog Road at the end of Lawrence Road, and drive east:**

3. The **Magog** area has Macedon's most productive farm land. Rich muck land lies to the west and in smaller pockets. During Macedon's early days, the Magog muck land grew large quantities of celery, potatoes, onions, and other root crops for shipment, mostly to New York City.

- **Turn left on Alderman Road:**

4. Down the hill on the left side, the small stucco-faced house that sits close to the road, was **District #1 school**. The one-room school was built of stone in the mid-1800s.

5. Almost a mile further north on Alderman Road, there is a **cobblestone home** on the right in Greek Revival style. It was built in 1832-34 by David Warner. The house originally had 5 fireplaces. The barn is original, with hand-hewn beams, rough timbers and wide plank floors.



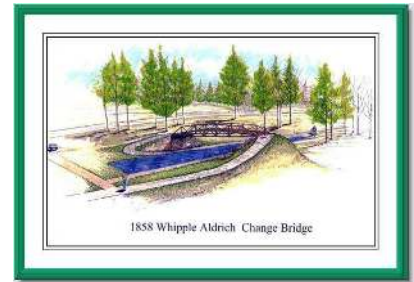
6. Across the street from the cobblestone house is a large brick **Federal style house** up on the hill. It was erected by Jonathan Briggs as an inn around 1840.

- **Turn right onto Rte 31 going east. At this point Rte 31 is following the path of the old Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern line, which took passengers between towns and to Rochester. Then, the primary east-west highway was Quaker Road, which is later on the tour.**

7. Just before approaching Yellow Mills Road, on the right, sat the "**Yellow Mill**". It was the site of several grist mills over the years. The first was erected about 1795 by General John Swift. Early millers were Aaron Reed and John Willits. The mill was painted yellow and built out over the creek, which supplied water to drive the vertical water wheel. The dam was on the east side of the bridge. The mill burned to the ground July 19, 1929.

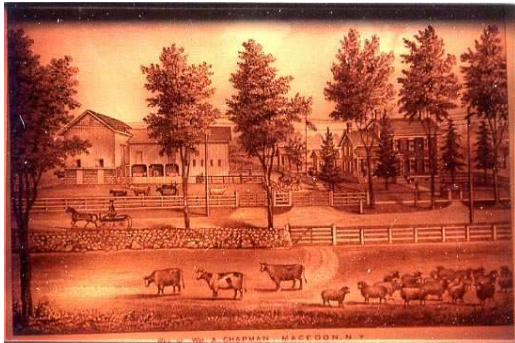
- **Continue on Route 31. Turn left across Route 31 into Aquaduct Park. Park your car in the lot to the right:**

8. Dating from 1858, the **Aldrich Towing Path Change Bridge** is the oldest iron bridge in New York State, and one of only two bridges known to survive from the first enlargement of the Erie Canal. The bridge has a fascinating history, first serving the Canal in one location, then being moved when the canal was expanded. From 1915-1970, it was used by a local farmer to cross Ganargua Creek, and ultimately collapsed. It was restored and moved to this location in 2004. There is much more information about the bridge on the kiosks around the park.



- **The stone aquaduct is on the west side of the park, and accessible on foot:**

9. The **Stone Aquaduct**, was built in 1856 as part of the expansion of the Erie Canal. It carried the Erie Canal over Ganargua Creek, locally known as Mud Creek. The arches carried the towpath, still in use today as a trail. A wide wooden trough (a “canal prism”) supported by the still-visible pillars of granite blocks, contained the water. The Barge Canal (the current Erie Canal) opened in 1918, and made this area into a spillway for Lock #29.



- **Driving out of the park, turn right/west on Route 31, then right at the next intersection, onto Walworth Road. Over the one-lane bridge, turn right onto Quaker Road, and look to the left after a half mile:**

10. **Tamerlayne** is a classic cobblestone house in the Federal style. The right side of the house was built in 1827; the left side in the 1840s. The English style barns and homestead still appear as they did in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it was a

working farm belonging to William A. Chapman. The farm was known for its sheep.

- **Return back to Walworth Road, and turn right/north, stopping at the second house on the left, with the historical marker in front:**

11. This building was **District school #6**, a one room schoolhouse, subsequently became a private dwelling. Prior to this, between 1809 and 1835, the Macedon Baptist Church was located on this site, before the church building was moved to Macedon village in 1835, and still stands as an active church.

Behind this house are the **“Baptist Burying Grounds”**, which are maintained by the town. Access is on a path leading from the historic marker.



Buried here are four pioneers of note: Hannah Harwood, d. April 14, 1815, the first woman to brave the Macedon wilderness with her husband, Webb; Lemuel Spear, d. Aug 3, 1809, who was the founder of the Macedon Baptist Church; Anna Wilcox, d. Dec 28, 1813, and her husband David Wilcox, d. Aug 23, 1828. Anna and David Wilcox were the great, great-grandparents of Winston Churchill, prime minister of England during WWII.



12. Across the street from the schoolhouse, on the east side of Walworth Road, is an **Italianate brick house** built by James Kent around 1870. It is still a single family residence.

- **Turn around, and go right/west on Quaker Road. There is a house with front pillars close to the road:**

13. This house was built by **Abraham Spear** in the early 1830s, and was used as a **taavern** in the days when stage coaches traveled Quaker Road east and west as the main highway, long before Route 31.



- **Proceed to #2398, you will see a blue and gold marker on the left:**

14. To this site **Lemuel Spear**, with his wife Ruth and nine children, came by covered sleigh from Cummington MA in February 1790. They purchased 500 acres from Isaac Hathaway for 20-25 cents per acre. They brought 2 oxen along with some cows and sheep. They lived in the sleigh and a small hut until a log house could be built. Later, around 1800, the frame house of 17<sup>th</sup> century New England pioneer chimney design was built. This house remained until 1981.



The first meetings of the Macedon Baptist Church took place at the Lemuel Spear home, until a meetinghouse was erected on the site of District School #6.

15. **Historic Quaker Road**, also known as the “road to Rochester”, was the location where our first pioneer family, Webb and Hannah Harwood and their children, settled. There is a historical marker in front of the Harwood site further west on Quaker Road; none of the structure remains.

- **Take Quaker Road to O’Neil Road. Quaker Road was rerouted with the expansion of the plant, and picks up again off Rte 350. Across O’Neil Rd, sections of the old canal bridge are visible before turning left onto O’Neil Rd. Go over the bridge, and turn right onto Rte 31 going west.**

16. **Gravino Park**, on the left side of Rte 31. Joseph Gravino, spearheaded the development of this park in the early 70’s. Joe felt there was a strong need in the community for a place for families to go and socialize. The Park was originally named after Howard Samuel, President of Kordite that is now Pliant. Mr. Samuel pledge to donate money for the Park, so it was named after him. When Mr Samuel died the Park was named after Joe Gravino for his dedication to the community and country. Joe Gravino owned and operated a grocery store in the village in the building that is now the American Legion Hall. Mr. Gravino was one of the most decorated WWII veterans in New York State.

- **Turn right onto Rte 350:**

The first (small) bridge spans the original Erie Canal bed, from around 1823. The stone sides of the old canal can still be seen.. The second bridge is over the present, or Barge Canal, dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 1918 at latest. The Barge Canal was subsequently renamed the Erie in honor of the previous canals.

- **Crossing the railroad tracks of the old West Shore RR line (which are still in use), there is a small sign, “St. Patrick’s Cemetery” on the corner of the side road on the right. Turn right.**

17. **St. Patrick’s cemetery** dates from 1855. It is Macedon’s best example of that Victorian rural cemetery style, with Catholic families of St. Patrick’s interred in a terraced, park-like setting up into the woods.

18. At the end of the road to St. Patrick’s cemetery, there are rail facilities which were formerly the **Macedon Terminal of the West Shore Railroad**. The passenger station is closest to you, and the freight house in the rear.

- **Up to Macedon Center Road, and turn left. This intersection was known in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as “Cator Corners”, as the Cators owned the house on the northeast corner.**



- **Entering Macedon Center, once known as Macedon Centre, proceed up the road toward the intersection at the top of the hill.**

19. On the left, before the intersection with Canandaigua Road, is the only surviving **Quaker Meeting House** left in Wayne County. This was the second home to the Orthodox Quakers, built in 1863. The old Quaker Burying Ground is just to the east of the building. The first burials were made around 1820, and include pioneers of Macedon such as Jonathan Ramsdell (1781-1862), Alexander Purdy (1801-1873), and Philander Packard (1797-1857).

The Macedon Grange #326 bought the building and met here for about 70 years. On the corner of the lot is the **Temperance Monument**, originally erected at the Macedon Center and Canandaigua Roads intersection on July 4, 1845. Ira Lapham had ordered a marble monument which was brought from Connecticut. The Temperance movement was an anti-alcohol movement, and the monument is inscribed "Total Abstinence, 1845". This is the second monument, the original being buried beneath the relocated replacement, after being destroyed by a car running into it at the intersection.



- **Proceed north on Canandaigua Rd to Macedon Center Cemetery**

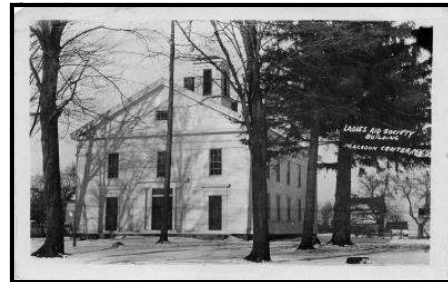
20. **Macedon Center Cemetery** was begun as a half-acre burial ground on the farm of Granville Wolsey around 1851, and Mrs. Wolsey was the first interment. The oldest section lies to the north. In 1850, the state passed a law prohibiting burial on farms. Ardenas Ward, d. Feb 12, 1825, and a few others were removed from the burying ground on the Ward farm to this site.

The nearest burial ground had been at the Friends (Quaker) Church at Macedon Centre. In February 1863, the Macedon Centre Cemetery Association began, by acquiring the Wolsey Burial Ground. The association added adjoining land, and saw to its maintenance. The association is still active and maintaining the cemetery. Walking around the cemetery, note the circular arrangement of the family plots of the Durfees and the Carmens, as well as some of the detail of the 19<sup>th</sup> century stones and monuments.

- **Turn back up Canandaigua Road, and turn right/west on Macedon Center Road:**

21. On the right is the **Macedon Academy**, currently home to the Macedon Historical Society. The Society dates back to 1894, when it was organized by Charles Packard.

The Macedon Academy was formed to serve an intermediate level, between the common school and the college, for "the education of both sexes", says its 1842 Charter. More than 3000 students, local and from out of town, attended the school between 1842 and 1891.



The original school building had been the Macedon Centre House, sometime referred to as the Hollister House, on the northwest corner of Route 31F and Canandaigua Road. It was used by travelers passing through this area until the Erie Canal opened, and Macedon Centre was bypassed. The Temperance movement had reduced the use of alcoholic beverages, and the tavern became available.

An act of the legislature incorporating the Academy was passed April 11, 1842 through the influence of Durfee Osband, who had been a member of the New York State Assembly, and a Macedon Centre resident. The school operated in the tavern room the first year. The present building was erected in 1853.



22. Across the street and just west of the Academy, is the **United Methodist Church**, on a site donated by Durfee Osband, and funded by money raised by subscription to the congregation. Built in 1847, the church was remodeled in 1881.

- **Proceed west to the brick house on the left, Alpco Recycling:**

23. This **Italianate brick house** was built in the 1860s by Steven Durfee.

- **Continuing west, turn left onto Wayneport Rd:**

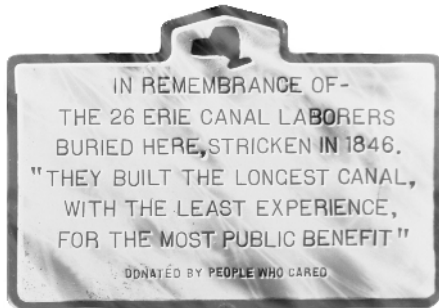
24. The **Packard Valley Farm** lands are to the right, and have been farmed by the Packard family since 1825. The farm was awarded Century Farm status by New York State in 1977, for having been in the same family for over 100 years. Their ancestors arrived in Macedon in February 1792, and pioneered their first farm south of here.



- **Turn right on Quaker Road, and then left on Wayneport Road:**

25. On the right, there is a fenced-in cemetery, the **Wayneport Union Burying Ground**, with a historical marker by the road. In 1833, a half-acre was deeded for \$12.50, and this cemetery served West Macedon. The marker reads: 'In remembrance of the 26 Erie Canal laborers buried here, stricken in 1846. They built the longest canal, with the least experience, for the most public benefit'.'

That quote is from the Erie Canal opening celebration remarks in 1825, but was used aptly for this marker. During the construction of the Enlarged Canal, there was a smallpox epidemic; some historical accounts say that these victims were predominantly Irish immigrants. It is the only known site where canal laborers were buried in a mass gravesite. The actual mass gravesite is unmarked, but this marker, "donated by people who cared", remembers this event.



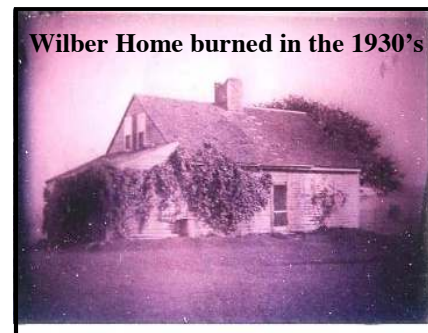
26. **Wayneport**, once known as West Macedon, stretched between the burying ground and Route 31. Its center was the canal and the railroad. The West Macedon Post Office opened in 1856, and burned down Nov 15, 1902.

The New York Central Railroad (NYCRR) had a large refueling area here for steam engines. It was the main fueling area between New York City and Chicago. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited was the elite express train between these two cities. The train didn't stop in Rochester – but it always stopped at Wayneport for fuel. There was a passenger station for West Macedon.

The NYCRR iced and re-iced refrigerator cars here as well. For example, celery was raised on the Magog muck lands, harvested into field crates, and transported to the packing house. The packing house washed, trimmed and packed the celery in shipping containers. The crates of celery were loaded into railroad cars, which had ice bunkers in each end of the car. The doors for the ice were on the top. During travel the doors were held open at an angle. This scooped air down through the ice bin, forcing the refrigerated air through the stacked celery, preserving its freshness. Most of the cars used locally were owned and maintained by the Merchants Dispatch Company in Buffalo, NY.

- **At the intersection of Wayneport Road and Route 31, turn left on Route 31 and pull over:**

27. The **first frame house in Wayne County** was built on a site immediately behind the building on the southeast corner, by Henry Wilbur III some time after 1800. Wilbur operated a grist and saw mill on Ganargua Creek across the county line in Farmington. The house burned in the 1930s



- **Continuing east on Route 31, past Wal-Mart on the left:**

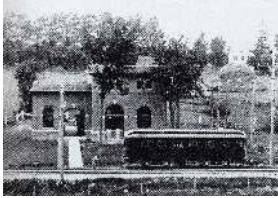
28. At #815 Route 31 sits the **Beal house**. The house, of Greek Revival style, was built in 1847-50 from timber cut on the farm. It is still occupied by descendants of that family.



29. Next door at #873 is the **Delano house**. It was built in 1850 by the Beal family on a 5 acre plot taken from their farm. It sets back from the road, and has white siding on the front.

- **Turn right on Beebe Road:**

30. **Beebe Road** was a portion of the right of way for the Rochester Syracuse and Eastern Railroad. The road was named after Clifford D. Beebe, the owner of the Trolley, who built a syndicate of 12 transportation lines. The "Trolley" as it was called, provided a double-tracked interurban service between Rochester and Syracuse. The road opened in sections, with the 12 mile section between Newark and Macedon on July 2, 1906. At the end of the road on the right, the brick substation, designed by Scheaff & Jaastad of Boston, reduced 33,000 volt AC 3 phase 25 cycle power to 550 volt DC. The railroad ceased operation in 1931 due to high operational losses (and perhaps the Depression!).



- **Return to Route 31, turning right/east. Turn left on Canandaigua Road, and drive about a half mile:**

31. The **Charles H. Bullis** house was built in 1839. It is a cobblestone house with brick corners, on the left side of the road in an old time setting. A previous Macedon historian, Mildred Airy, had said that the wooden addition in the rear was originally built for a labor camp during the digging of the Erie Canal, and later moved to this site. Bullis Park, immediately next door, was donated to the town by the Bullis Estate.

- **Turn around at Bullis Park, and drive south on Canandaigua Road, to Route 31. Turn left on Route 31, and slow down before Victor Road on the right, before McLouth Chevrolet. Turn right onto Victor Rd:**

32. Just past the right at the corner of Route 31 and Victor Road is a **red barn**, which was part of an early foundry on the site. This foundry was the beginning of what was to become the famous Bickford and Huffman Company, known nationally for their innovative grain drills. This area was known as "The Huddle" and was the center of Macedon commerce until the Erie Canal opened here in 1823. Businesses then wanted to be near the canal locks, and as they moved closer, Macedon village was formed.

***For an optional stop at a unique cobblestone home (stop #33), continue on Victor Road and turn left onto Canandaigua Road, at the flashing red light and drive 2 miles, to where Magog Rd meets Canandaigua Rd. Otherwise turn back on Victor Rd and proceed into the Village on Rte 31.***

33. The house at **#815 Canandaigua Road** is a cobblestone with a unique gable front, built in 1847-50 by John and Elizabeth Baker at the cost of \$2000. The cobblestones were hauled from Lake Ontario by ox cart. It remained in the Baker family until 1943. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places. After viewing this stop, turn back Canandaigua Rd toward the village/Rte. 31.

- **Proceed on Rte 31 toward the village. The village was incorporated in November 1856. Enoch Gannett and Abiatha Powers had paid 18 ¾ cents per acre for the land, and in 1828 they sold it to William Willits, Alexander Purdy, and John Lapham.**



34. On the left just before the corner of West Street is the **John Lapham house**, it can be imagined how grand this house and property must have been. The house dates from the 1860s.

35. On the left, **St Patrick's church**, built 1957, though the congregation was begun in Macedon in 1856. Their first church building was further east in the village, and in 1877 it had over 700 members.

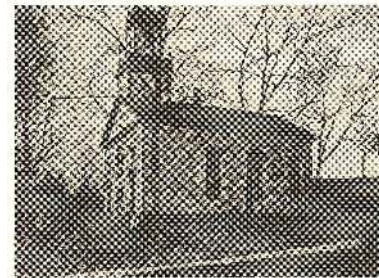
36. Also on the left, the grand **Bickford Home**, built in 1867. Now a veteran's home, was actually the residence of Henry Huffman, co-founder with Lyman Bickford of the Macedon Agricultural Works, which became Bickford and Huffman Co.



37. Next to the Bickford Home is the **Macedon Baptist Church**, which was moved from the site at Quaker and Walworth roads in 1835, and celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2000. This 40' by 50' church building was originally built at the corner of Quaker and Walworth Roads in 1809 (historical marker). It was "pulled down" in 1835 and moved to Macedon Village, where today the hand-hewn beams of old hold it up. The church body itself was formed nine years earlier at the home of Lemuel Spear on



Quaker Road (historical marker). For 209 years, the membership has experienced many triumphs and several failures, and continues to be justifiably proud of its heritage. The rich history of The First Baptist Church of Macedon is captured in a book published for the bicentennial, **A HISTORY OF THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS**. It is available in the public library as well as the church



First Baptist Church, Macedon N.Y. Founded 1800

**We hope you have enjoyed this Driving Tour, and that it has sparked some deeper interest in Macedon history. Any questions or comments can be directed to the Macedon Town Historian at 315-986-5932 or [www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org). Do you own a Historical Home in Macedon? The MHS and the Town Historian would like to learn about your home.**

**There are many more homes in the Macedon Township that are over 200 years old. Another segment of the Driving Tour will be available this summer and will be available at the Macedon Village and Town Halls, Macedon Public Library and the Historical Macedon Academy. You will also be able to download a version at the website, [www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org).**

**The Macedon Historical Society is always looking for new members. Please send a note to MHS, P O Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502 and an application will be sent to you. MHS is always looking for more history of our community. Please send it along.**

*Special Thank you to The Town of Macedon Historian and Waste Management of NY for assisting in defraying the cost of printing.*



