

## Nassau Village Timeline

Originally prepared by Kurt Vincent for a 1994 Nassau Village 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary observance booklet, the material has been gently updated with minor corrections in 2014 for the Nassau Free Library website.

- 1609/Sept/18 Exploring for the Dutch, Henry Hudson's ship *The Half Moon* arrives at the present site of Castleton. The first Europeans set foot on what will become Rensselaer County.
- 1637/Apr/23 Dutch Patroon Kiliaen Van Rensselaer extends his land holdings along the Hudson River including the present-day site of Nassau.
- 1704 Travelling up the Valatie Kill, explorers reach a place called by the Indians "Ontekekomack."
- 1756 Thomas Pownall draws one of the first maps showing the Valatie Kill and Kinderhook Lake, called "Fish Lake." North of Fish Lake he noted "The Land here but Indifferent, Hilly and Stoney, producing White & Black Oak. And Ash and Hickry in Valleys."
- 1760/May/16 Indian chief Keshomack conveys to Hugh Wilson and Joseph Primmer land north and south of present-day Nassau Lake. Popular legend has it Joseph Primmer was shanghaied as a boy and forced to serve on a British Navy vessel. He eventually reached America where he became involved with Hudson River shipping, making Schodack Landing his base of operations.
- 1770s Thomas Hicks established the first tavern in Nassau Village.
- 1775 Jonathan Hoag finds Nassau "in a state of nature." with only a tavern and one or two houses.
- 1777/Summer Andreas Wilson (son of Hugh Wilson) and Joseph Primmer jailed for pro-English sympathies.
- 1786/Spring Jonathan Hoag and partner Moses Vail build a store on the corner of Church and Elm streets. (The present Young's Antique Store.)
- Moses Vail builds his house. (31 Elm Street.)
- The name "New Stores" is adapted to Nassau.
- 1787 A "Free Church" is established on Chatham Street and used by the Presbyterians, Dutch Reformed and Lutherans.

- 1788/May/9 While travelling through Nassau to Albany, John McClellan of Woodstock, Connecticut noted "A place called New Store Land seemed pretty good."
- 1790/June/25 Hoag and Vail lease a sliver of swamp adjoining their property for the purpose of building a dam across the Valatie Kill.
- 1792 Hoag builds a dam near the old "Beaver Dam" forming a large pond covering old swamps and meadows. (Present site of Nassau Lake.) The dam and pond are followed by a grist mill.
- 1795/Aug/7 French noblemen La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt passes through Nassau and writes "the medium price of land here is from five to eight dollars an acre."
- 1798 Jonathan Hoag serves as a member of the New York Assembly.
- 1798/Jun/6 New Stores is renamed Union Village.
- 1798/Oct/11 Visitors report "about thirty houses" in the village.
- 1800 Hotel built on corner of Albany Avenue and Elm Street by Jacob Witbeck. Long the centerpiece of Nassau's social life, diner guests included Governor Dewitt Clinton and former President Martin Van Buren in the 1840's. The hotel was demolished in February 1955 for the present gas station.
- 1806/Mar/31 Township of Nassau formed from parts of Petersburg, Stephentown and Schodack. Population of the Town of Nassau is numbered at 2,501.
- 1808/Jan Application made to the State Legislature for incorporation of a turnpike to extend from the Village to the state line in New Lebanon.
- 1808/Apr/6 Name of Union Village changed officially to Nassau.
- 1809/May First school organized in Nassau.
- 1811 Village post office established.
- 1812/Feb/5 Jonathan Hoag dies.
- 1818 John Griswold born in Nassau. He moved to Troy in 1835, served as a Congressman during the 1860's, equipped a regiment of cavalry at his own expense, called the "Griswold Cavalry", was nominated as Republican candidate for Governor (defeated), and was involved in the construction of the Civil War warship "Monitor".
- 1819/Mar/12 Village of Nassau incorporates. Population reaches 300.

- 1820 French General Lafayette visits resident General John Ellis Wool. Tree is planted by Lafayette in front of Wool's house (7 Church Street.)
- 1830/Dec Dutch Reformed congregation builds their own church on upper Church Street.
- 1821 First district school house built.
- 1825 Marquis de Lafayette visits Nassau.
- 1833/Fall Methodist Church building on Church Street dedicated.
- 1835/May/11 Nassau Academy incorporated.
- 1837 Dam on Hoag's Pond bursts, carrying away bridges, and destroys considerable property.
- Frederick Frickinger builds a piano factory on Bunker Hill. The factory is subsequently acquired by Gorgen & Grubb. In 1899 Albrecht Kosegarten with brothers Otto and Charles purchased an interest in the concern and with Jacob Grubb operated the firm under the name Kosegarten and Grubb. After a 1905 fire, the factory is rebuilt in Nassau and reorganized as the Kosegarten Piano Action Manufacturing Company.
- 1848 Nine local by-laws are established. They include: the prohibition of horses, sheep, hogs or geese from running at large; residents shall place all stones, dirt or other filth in the center of the street each Saturday for collection; horses and cattle are not permitted on the sidewalks; each owner or occupant is requested to keep on premises a ladder of sufficient length to ascend the roofs of their buildings.
- 1850 Nassau Academy become a "Young Ladies' Institute" operated Rev. Salmon Hatch.
- 1850/Dec The newspaper *Nassau Gazette* started by J.M. Geer, but is short lived.
- 1851/Apr/9 Nassau Turnpike abandoned by the owners and declared a public highway by an act of the Legislature.
- 1852/Aug/30 Founding of St. Mary's parish in Nassau. Property was purchased to the east of the Library for a house of worship. In 1854 17 baptisms were registered. The first Mass held in what is now the Grand Hotel on Albany Avenue.
- 1855/Feb/25 Nassau, Schodack and Chatham Mutual Insurance Association formed. By 1879 the property of 997 members are insured.
- 1862/May/28 Annual report for the year 1861 shows a Village deficit of \$5.78.

- 1866/May/26 Village appoints a committee to study possible sites for an Engine House (Fire House,) and agrees to tax residents \$800 for the purchase of a Fire Engine and apparatus.
- 1867/Apr/28 Village annual report shows a balance of \$137.98.
- 1868/Jan/9 Nassau Academy reincorporates.
- 1880 Census shows population of Village at 449.
- 1880/May/4 Village tax rate \$1.00 for each \$700 assessed value. The next year the rate is \$1.00 per \$600.
- 1881 Nassau Library organized. First space was upstairs over Clapper's Meat Market at the corner of Malden and Church Streets. \$25 a year was charged as rent. Five years later the library moved into the Husted Building at the corner of Elm and Church Streets.
- 1882 Village sets pay scale for laborers at 12 1/2 cents per hour, for a 10 hour day. Checks are to be used for payment of salaries and are to be obtained in the amounts of \$1.00, 50 cents, 25 cents and 12 1/2 cents.
- 1892 Rensselaer County Agricultural and Liberal Arts Society leases land to operate a yearly fair. The Nassau Fair is born. Annual event continues until 1944.
- 1893/Feb/9 Nassau Library incorporated and moves into current building on Church Street. The structure was purchased from the Reformed Church for \$200. The collection numbers 425 books and a circulation of 1,650.
- 1896/May At the request of local merchants, peddlers are prohibited from selling their wares without first obtaining a license from the Village President or Trustees.
- 1897/Oct/4 In the case of arrest, Village Police are entitled to one half of any fine imposed.
- 1899/Apr/18 Village annual report shows a balance of \$92.43.
- 1899/Oct/13 Greenbush & Nassau Electric Railroad merges with the Albany & Hudson Railway & Power Company to form the Albany & Hudson Railroad Company. By 1901, 376,745 passengers were riding the line annually reaching top speeds of 60 mph on the 37.25 miles of track. By 1902 the number of passengers had risen to 1,055,175 annually.
- 1900/Dec/28 Reformed Church building burns after a spark from a neighboring building is carried by the wind and lodges in the church spire.

- 1901/Apr/21 Village Board contracts with Joseph Lennon to light kerosene street lights at 75 cents per night. Lights to burn until 10 pm, 11 pm on Saturdays.
- Committee appointed by Village to investigate where and at what cost electric street lights can be found.
- Village budget for the year - \$560.
- 1901/June 20 Franchise granted to the Hudson River Telephone Company to run a telephone line through the Village.
- 1901/July/23 Lyons Pond (Lake) considered as a possible source of Village water supply. A survey estimated it would cost \$14,600 to lay 8 inch pipe to the Village.
- 1901/Aug/21 Cornerstone laid for a new Reformed Church building after the December 1900 fire. This building is demolished in 1990 due to the congregation's lack of funds for upkeep and repair.
- 1901/Sept/20 Village adopts laws pertaining to bicycles - must have a light visible at 200 ft., must have an alarm bell or whistle audible at 100 ft., cannot meet or pass pedestrians or other vehicles at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour, bicycles cannot be ridden on the sidewalk - except during the months of November and March, no coasting or force by inertia with feet off pedals, no child under the age of 5 years carried on a bicycle.
- 1902 First telephone service is extended to Nassau from the east by the Columbia and Rensselaer Telephone and Telegraph Company. Seven subscribers are listed in that year's directory.
- 1902/June/18 Special election held to decide if Village should borrow \$13,500 to establish a system of water works. Voters say yes.
- 1903/Feb Nassau Hose Company #1 formally organized with 26 members.
- 1903/May/20 While work is being done to expand the railway service in Nassau, the Village Board agrees to supply contractor with water for laborers at 8 dollars per month, payable in advance.

The following rates set for water use:

Ordinary Family Use	\$ 6.00
Sprinkling Lawn or Street	6.00
Bath Tub	2.00
Water Closet (one each)	2.00
Both Bath Tub & Water Closet	3.00
Add'l Bath Tub or Water Closet	1.00

Barn Alone (2 cows or 2 horses)	6.00
2 Cows or 2 Horses for Home Use	2.00
Stoves	6.00

1904/Jul/25 John Street dedicated by John Van Valkenburgh.

1905 The piano action factory burns on Bunker Hill and is relocated to John Street. As an incentive, Village agrees to waive corporation taxes for a period of ten years and provide drinking water and three fire hydrants for fire protection.

With their own spur of the rail line direct to the factory, coal and lumber is shipped in and completed piano actions shipped out. As many as 160 workers are employed by the firm with up to 35,000 piano actions produced per year. The factory steam whistle served as the fire alarm for the Village.

With the invention of the phonograph and radio, demand for pianos plummeted. The firm is liquidated in 1929.

1905/July/8 Post Office burglarized. A detective is sought.

1905/Nov/20 Albany & Hudson Rail Road given permission to erect electric light poles on the east side of Malden Street provided no trees are injured.

1906/Feb/19 Herbert Best of Schodack is granted permission to maintain and operate a telephone system in the village. In exchange he will install a telephone in the fire house and maintain it free of charge. A call from Nassau to Albany will cost 10 cents. Subscribers will be entitled to free use of the system within a ten mile radius.

1906/Mar/19 Village agrees to pay for an electric light in the room of the Nassau Hose Co. not to exceed \$12 per year, providing the Hose Co. pay expenses of wiring and fixtures.

The following ordinances are approved:

1. Speed limit for automobiles and motorcycles set at 15 m.p.h.
2. Playing ball in streets, lanes or highways is prohibited.
3. No one shall maliciously or wantonly cut down or injure any trees growing in the Village.
4. Electric light wires shall not be fastened to any ornamental or shade trees.
5. Fowl will not be allowed to run at large.
6. Open air fires will not be allowed to dispose of combustible materials.
7. Electric light wires will be maintained safely.

1906/Nov/27 Albany & Hudson Railroad Company requests permission to distribute electricity for public and private use.

1907/Jun/11 Village Bandstand wired for electric light.

- 1907/June/17 Tax rate for the year set at 69 cents per \$100 assessed value.
- Village residents complain about the condition of sidewalks in the vicinity of the Methodist Church.
- 1907/Oct/17 Hudson River Telephone Company seeks permission to offer residential phone service in Nassau.
- 1908 Nassau Hose House - located near the intersection of Malden and Griswold Streets is moved to 2 Malden Street.
- 1908/April/18 Village makes it unlawful to leave on Village streets any steam roller, traction engine, portable engine or stone crusher without the written consent of the village President.
- 1908/May/19 Citizens petition Village to construct a street connecting Malden Street with Church Street. After much discussion, both for and against, it is decided to construct the street. Mrs. Nancy Tift and George Stickles dedicate "Griswold Street."
- 1908/May/29 Tax rate for the year will be 72 cents per \$100 of assessed value. As has been the custom, a poll tax of \$1 is collected for each vote cast. Tax rate later reconsidered and raised to 74 cents per \$100 for the year.
- 1909/Apr/12 Debate opens with the State of New York Department of Highways regarding the paving of Route 20 (Albany Avenue and Church Street.) At question - who will pay for the work?
- 1909/Sep/14 The Albany & Hudson Railroad Company merges with the East Albany Gas Light Company, Rensselaer Lighting Company and Jansen Electric Power Company to become the Albany Southern Railroad.
- 1910/Apr/18 Water rates set to reflect the number of horses or cows kept in village barns. Over two, a 50 cent charge will be collected.
- 1910/Jul/3 Double tracking of the Albany Southern Railroad is completed between East Schodack and Electric Park at Kinderhook Lake. Double tracking existed between Rensselaer and East Schodack since 1900.
- 1910/Aug/15 First traffic signs are ordered for Nassau. Automobiles and other vehicles warned to slow down to a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour.
- 1910/Oct/19 New York Telephone Company conducts a survey of independent companies using their circuits for toll calls. The Nassau operator answers simply with the word "hello." The quickest answer is received in four minutes; one call required 36 minutes before an operator answered.

- 1911/Feb/20 The Electric Lighting Department of the Albany Southern Railroad approach the Village with a proposition for lighting the streets of the Village. A contract for five years calls for the annual cost for each lamp not to exceed \$13.20 per year.
- Once again, the Village Board discusses the need to increase the Village water supply.
- 1911/Apr/5 Paving of Albany Avenue and Church Street planned.
- 1911/Aug/11 After a billing dispute, Grubb and Kosegarten Bros. write to the president of the Columbia and Rensselaer Telephone Company stating that their “telephone was an aggravation, of very little use to us.”
- 1913/Apr John Street extended 700 feet south of the Grubb & Kosegarten Bros. Piano Works, and Kosey Street established.
- 1913/Jun/9 A committee of the Village Improvement Society complains to Village Board “of the lawlessness and lounging on street corners,” and asks for action to be taken to suppress it. Board to post a notice on street corners warning loungers that all lounging would be prosecuted.
- 1914/Dec/14 Twenty-five taxpayers of the village petition the Village Board to consider purchasing the mill property of Joseph L. Roye and water rights to Nassau Lake for the purpose of a municipal water supply. Luckily, the proposal does not win support.
- 1915/May Village Board approves funding for annual shade tree trimming and spraying for summer season. A routine action for the period, Nassau’s many trees were much loved and appreciated by the community.
- 1916/Aug Developer Thomas R. Greenman connects Malden and Chatham Streets by public highway. The new street is named “Union Street.” This allows development of “Greenman Terrace,” later to be known as The Terrace. In 1934 the name will be changed to Kaunameek Street after some disagreement by neighbors over the intent of the original name.
- In the wake of record reporting of infantile paralysis, admittance to State and County fairs to all children under the age of 16 years is prohibited.
- 1918/Apr Village sets hourly wage for manual labor at 30 cents per hour, 60 cents per hour for man and team.
- 1918/May A flag pole presented to the Village upon the successful fund raising campaign of the Third United States Liberty Loan with a United States flag presented by the alumni of the Nassau Union Free School is erected at the Band Stand square.

- 1918/June/10 The Nassau Automobile Club meets at the Hose House.
- 1918/Jul/19 The Village water supply runs dry and water from the Valatiekill is pumped into the mains. Residents are instructed to boil water for drinking or cooking purposes.
- 1919/Jul/1 The 100th Anniversary of the Village of Nassau takes place. A highlight of the celebration is the welcome home of World War I soldiers and sailors.
- 1920 Census shows 655 residents.  
Nassau Synagogue organized.
- 1920/May/5 Village contracts with Albany Southern Railroad for electrical power for new pump house.
- 1920/June Troy shirt maker Cluett, Peabody & Company opens a factory in Nassau.
- 1921/May Village police officers to be paid 50 cents for each arrest made. This will remain in effect until 1933 when police officers are paid a salary for the first time.
- 1922/June/14 Eight taxpayers ask Village Board to contact meat markets and grocery stores requesting them to close on Sundays.
- 1922/Nov Building Code goes into effect. Plans and specifications to be submitted to Village President (Mayor) and Foreman of the Hose Company for approval. Violators will be fined \$100 and charged with disorderly conduct.
- 1923/June Louis Swadelson opens new store on Albany Avenue. To be known as Delson's New Economy Market, the store would be a Nassau landmark for decades to come.
- 1923/Aug/2 Land for the present St. Mary's Church purchased for \$4,270. The cornerstone was laid in July of 1925 and the first Mass was celebrated in the structure on May 30, 1926.
- 1925/Dec/1 Elm Street and Lake Avenue graded and paved.
- 1926 Village tax rate set at \$1.00 per \$100.00 assessed value.
- 1928 For the first time, a mayor is elected in the Village. Formerly, the term "corporation president" was used.
- 1928/Nov Nassau's first motorized fire engine is purchased for \$7,000. The American LaFrance vehicle would serve for thirty years.
- 1929 First Nassau Fire Department "tag day" held during the Nassau Fair.

- 1929/July/16 Roster of Nassau Hose Company members numbers 28.
- 1929/Dec/22 Final run of the Albany Southern Railroad.
- 1930/May/5 A committee of tax payers appeared before the Village Board and complains about loitering on street corners and the use of indecent language. The Board moved that this would be attended to in accordance with Village Ordinance No. 1.
- 1930/July Nassau Home Bureau begins organizing a drive to erect a war memorial on the Village Square.
- 1930/Sept Citing the new pavement on Church Street and Albany Avenue as the cause of excessive speeding and reckless driving, citizen's demand protection for their school-aged children in crossing the street.
- 1931/Mar/17 Village elections bring out 318 voters. Frank Roshirt edges Christopher Ogden by 33 votes.
- 1931/Dec The defunct Roshirt Bottling Works behind Albany Avenue is purchased for use as a firehouse. The station would remain in use until 1943 when the former school house was purchased for \$1 from the Nassau Union School and converted into its present use.
- Again the Village Water Reservoir runs dry and creek water is pumped into the mains. The Hose Company pumper is dispatched and 50 cents per hour is paid to stay with vehicle while in operation.
- 1932/Feb/27 Ladies Auxiliary of the Nassau Hose Company established.
- 1932/June/25 Nineteen taxpayers petition the Village Board to abolish the Village Board of Assessors and adopt assessment role of the Town of Nassau. When put to public vote, it is defeated.
- 1933/April Hose Company will answer fire calls up to one half mile from village.
- 1933/April/3 Village Board agrees to reimburse Police Justice 40 cents per meal and \$1.00 per night when lodgers request overnight accommodations at the Village Jail. In the parlance of the day, these "kings of the road," are called "bums."
- 1933/May/8 Nassau Chamber of Commerce organized. Membership fees are \$2.00 and annual dues \$1.00. There are 15 charter members.
- 1933/May/11 Having fallen on hard times because of disuse, the Village Bandstand is in poor repair. In a public vote it is decided 7 to 30 to remove the structure from the Village Square. A rock garden replaces the structure.

- 1933/July/14 Put to a public vote, it is decided by a 4 vote margin that residents be assessed no more than 25 cents per week for garbage removal. The annual trash removal contract will cost the Village \$398. The Village Clerk will be paid \$20 per year to compensate for the record keeping needed to administer this activity.
- 1933/Aug All vehicles are directed to come to a full stop when approaching the intersection of the Albany and Pittsfield highway (Route 20) and the North Chatham and Elm Street Highways.
- 1934/Aug/16 69th Annual Rensselaer County Fair sponsored by the Rensselaer County Agricultural and Liberal Arts Society runs Tuesday through Friday. Horse races are featured each day, with a top purse of \$150.
- A surprise occurs when one of a contingent of gypsy fortune tellers gives birth to an infant girl. Dr. Max Panitch and Mrs. Charles Andros assist in the delivery, but the mother, citing ancient custom, refuses to leave the Red Cross tent for the hospital. Unable to locate milk for the baby, it is taken from a Farm Bureau display.
- 1934/Nov Nassau resident Herman Kobbe runs unsuccessfully for the office of New York Lieutenant Governor on the Socialist Party ticket.
- 1935/Mar/21 *The Chatham Courier* reports ice fishing may be banned on Nassau and Tsatswasssa Lakes. It is feared fish are being caught in such large numbers they are in danger of being exterminated.
- E.B. Sheldon advertises Ford Sales and Service with prompt delivery on all models, and open evenings. Phone Nassau 14.
- 1935/June/29 Hose Company holds their annual Field Day at the Fairgrounds and request homeowners on Malden Street to decorate their houses. A prize is awarded for best decorations.
- 1935 Dog racing operates during in the summers of 1935 and 1936 at the Fairgrounds. While not legal in New York State, the management would go to court and argue that it was unfair to outlaw dog racing when horse racing was legal.
- They would obtain a 90-day injunction while the court considered the question and during that time the races would be run.
- In the travel guide "*New York - A Guide for the Empire State*", the following single entry hoped to lure vacationers to the village: "Nassau, Pop. 670. When legal obstructions can be circumvented, greyhound races are run at the Rensselaer County Fairgrounds, sometimes with monkeys astride the dogs."
- 1936/Jan/7 It is reported for the year 1935; \$29.00 was collected in traffic fines.

- 1936/Oct/5 Village Board meets with Nassau School Board to discuss the possibility of a new school building.
- 1936/Dec Nassau Chamber of Commerce builds an ice skating rink at the Fairgrounds for use by Village children and families.
- 1937/Dec Village Board receives request for the construction of an automobile “lubritory” (a grease pit) on property next to the Village Hall. The matter is tabled until the possible fire hazard could be better considered.
- 1938/Jan/3 Village agrees to purchase property to locate a storage tank for the improvement and enlargement of the village water system.
- 1939/May/22 At a special meeting residents vote 18 to 7 to pay 80 cents each for 200 trees in the village to be sprayed with fungicide to prevent disease.
- 1939/Oct/28 Cornerstone laid for Nassau School - later to be known as Donald P. Sutherland School - after a long-time principal. Initial concern regarding the close proximity of the building and the Village water supply pump house is voiced, but later discounted.
- 1940/May/6 Citizen’s petition Village Board to request State Police to station a trooper in village.
- 1940/Aug/5 Village Board minutes read: “The Village Board decided to put a stop to the habit of people walking the Streets of the Village improperly dressed.” The following summer improperly dressed is defined as wearing extreme shorts or bathing suits.
- 1941/April/20 Parking on Route 20 is no longer permitted. This is to be debated far into the future - in 1953 a plan to prohibit parking is tabled due to inadequate parking facilities and parking lots.
- 1941/Mar/18 Voters asked whether former school house should be purchased for use as a fire house. Proposal defeated 35 votes to 13.
- 1941/May/13 Signs are considered at the village entrances reading “Approved Water Supply.”
- 1941/Dec/9 Under the existing state of war it is decided to discontinue the practice of lighting the streets with Christmas lights. Air raid and all clear signals are established and special police are appointed for the duration of the war.
- 1942 Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands passes through Nassau while on tour of the U.S.
- 1942/Apr/17 Special wartime ordinances are passed including blackout rules and air raid procedures. 36 whistles and 30 Special Police badges are purchased to equip the newly sworn police.

- 1942/June/8 Citizens rally and organize a first aid station on Church Street. Garbage pickup is reduced to twice a week (Tuesday and Saturday) for the duration of the war.
- 1942/July/6 Citizens volunteer to pay half of the telephone bill for the newly constructed air raid lookout tower in Central Nassau.
- 1944/Nov/6 Nassau Hose company reports 20 active firemen, with six men in the armed forces.
- 1945 With the War over, pent up demand for affordable housing soars. The Eisenberg Brothers purchase Charles Kosegarten's dairy farm for the future Westbrook Drive development. Houses were preassembled at the former piano action factory and moved to the building site for completion.
- 1946/Apr/11 Frank Seldman, owner of the buildings and grounds of the former Fairgrounds announces midget auto races will take place over the summer. The former dog track, built inside the earlier harness track will be increased in size for this purpose. By August of the year night racing is featured with 15 racers under the lights. 11 Nassau men are appointed as helpers at the race track.
- When it is announced races would be held on Sundays in addition to Saturdays, a public meeting is held. Residents vote 56 to 7 to prohibit racing on Sunday.
- 1946/July Village speed limit set at 25 mph.
- 1946/Jul/22 Maple Street, Howard Street and a yet unnamed street leading to the Village pump house are planned.
- 1946/Aug/1 After Bill Hilton, manager of the Nassau American Legion baseball team, writes a letter to *The Chatham Courier* accusing the local Chatham team of giving him the "run around" when asked for a game, the Chatham team manager replies not only will they play Nassau, but beat them.
- A series of three games are set. The Nassau team wins 10 - 5, 8 - 5 and 8 - 1. Bill McKeever and Leslie Hanson are credited with the wins.
- 1946/Nov/4 Permission sought to supply Village water to 20 new houses being built at the end of Chatham Street. Initial reaction is to deny water privileges, but is later reversed. This development to be known as "Orchard Park."
- 1947/Oct/6 Nassau PTA request a stop light be installed at the intersection of Albany Avenue and John Street. A counter proposal is to have a police officer during school hours to help cross children across at the Village center. Salary is not to exceed \$15 per week, for three hours a day, five days a week.

- 1947/Nov/3 A delegation of Nassau business and religious leaders request something be done about “junior delinquency.” Suggestions include movies, dances or other kinds of amusements.
- 1948/Feb/24 Village records show the following receiving special water rates: a fur shop, ice plant, slaughter house, hen house, bakery, auto body works, dress shop, cider mill, barber shop, post office, Masonic Temple, 3 stores, 4 filling stations and 4 hotels.
- 1948/Feb/9 Annual budget for the Village set at \$6,300. For the first time, budget estimates include a Police Department.
- 1948/Jun/14 A meeting is held with representatives of the Village, Town, community organization and religious groups to discuss the possibility of a site for a community project.
- 1948/Nov Methodist Church Youth Group plans a village-wide Christmas lighting contest with prizes awarded for best decorations.
- With the hopes of a presidential victory for NYS Governor Thomas Dewey, plans are made for a reception and parade for Nassau resident Lt. Gov. Hanley should he ascend to the governorship. Dewey is defeated by Truman.
- 1948/Dec/31 Five inches of rain descend on Nassau in what is called “the heaviest storm of the present generation.” The rain is followed by sleet, then snow. Major power and telephone outages occur along with severe flooding.
- 1949 A telephone is installed in the Village Hall for the first time. The number is 8-5172.
- 1953/Apr/6 Nassau Ambulance Emergency Squad established.
- 1954/Dec/6 Residents of Orchard Park petition Village to be annexed.
- 1949/31/Mar The Eisenberg Brothers come before the Village Board to enlist support for their plan to develop the Tremont Farm (site of the current Town Hall,) into a residential housing area.
- They expect to erect 50 houses, at least 25 in the year 1949. Operating as the Biltbest Construction Company, the development will be known as “Elmwood Acres.”
- Designed to be affordable to families with an income of \$65 per week, the houses will be priced at \$7900.00. The 24 x 32 foot houses will feature a living room, two bedrooms, utility room, kitchen & bath. Lots to be 64 x 105 feet.
- 1949/Apr/14 A plan to stable horses at the old Fairgrounds is proposed.

- 1950/Mar/9 A serious flood takes place in the new development known as Elmwood Acres. Two occupied houses flood and sewage systems fail. It was determined there had been an error and several of the homes had not been built at the proper grade. Further construction was temporarily halted
- 1950/Apr/3 103 votes cast in Village election.
- 1951 Columbia and Rensselaer Telephone Company adopts dial service for Nassau. Customers must now dial their own calls without the assistance of an operator.
- 1951/Aug/6 Village agrees to purchase the car of Ethel L. Ogden for \$350.00 for be equipped as a police car. Mrs. Ogden was the wife of the mayor.
- 1951/Oct/15 Citing liability concerns, the Village initiates plans to trim and remove tree branches over streets and sidewalks. This is the “beginning of the end” for the much admired canopy of trees gracing most of the Village’s streets.
- 1951/Dec/3 Tremont Drive and Philips Street opened by the developer for public use.
- 1952/Oct/6 Nassau Hose Company lists 57 active members.
- 1952/Nov/3 Village Board agrees to charge \$2 per year in additional water usage fees for homes with an automatic dish washer.
- 1953/Feb/2 The Village Board receives a petition from sixty Elm Street residents complaining about drainage problems caused by the new Elmwood Acres development.
- 1953/Feb/23 Number of Village Trustees rises from two to four.
- 1953/April/6 Representatives of the Nassau Civic Counsel asked the Village Board to do something about increasing village police protection.
- 1953/May/13 A committee is established to consider zoning. Committee disbanded in November due lack of interest.
- 1953/Aug/12 Village asked to check the condition of a “swamp” between Maple Ave., Richards Drive and Westbrook Drive in regards to stagnate water and sanitary conditions. Reported back “was dry and very little rubbish or litter found.”
- 1953/Sept/18 Citizen’s concerned about the speed of trucks on Route 20 and suggested a full time police officer.
- A tree branch lands on a parked car on Elm Street. The accident is settled for \$3,200 and further warnings are made concerning the Village’s liability for overhanging trees on sidewalks and streets.

1953/Nov/7 After much discussion and debate, a consensus is reached between the Village, Town and two veterans groups to erect a permanent Veterans' Monument at the current Village Square.

1953/Dec Speed limit set at 25 mph on all village streets.

Compiled by neither professional historians nor trained researchers, this time line is intended to provide a starting point to help trace Nassau's development and change over the years. Due to space limitations, not all significant and memorable events have been included. Nassau's early development and rich industrial heritage for the turn-of-the-century will provide fertile grounds for future historians (both trained and amateur.) The 40 year gap between the end of the timeline and today is intended to allow tempers to cool and egos to deflate.

Special Thanks to Village Clerk Margaret VanDeusen and Assistant Clerk Marcia Valenty, Carolyn Sherman, Librarian, Nassau Free Library and *The Chatham Courier* newspaper for their help.