

Kanestio Historical Society Times

23 Main St - P.O. Box 35 - Canisteo, NY 14823
(607) 698-2086 Wed - Fri 1-3 PM Monthly Meetings - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

Spring 2016 kanestiohs@gmail.com Gail Davis, Editor

Would you like to receive your newsletter with color pictures?

Sign up for e-mail delivery at kanestiohs@gmail.com.

This will save the society the cost of postage, printing, etc. and give you the benefit of color.

Spring is here and the Historical Society is busy planning programs and activities for this year. We did not let winter hours go to waste. Picture rails have been installed and framed photos have come off the display tables and onto the walls. A big thanks to Stan Arthur and Gary Davis for this project. Also a big thanks to the Pierce family for all the behind the scene things they do for us.

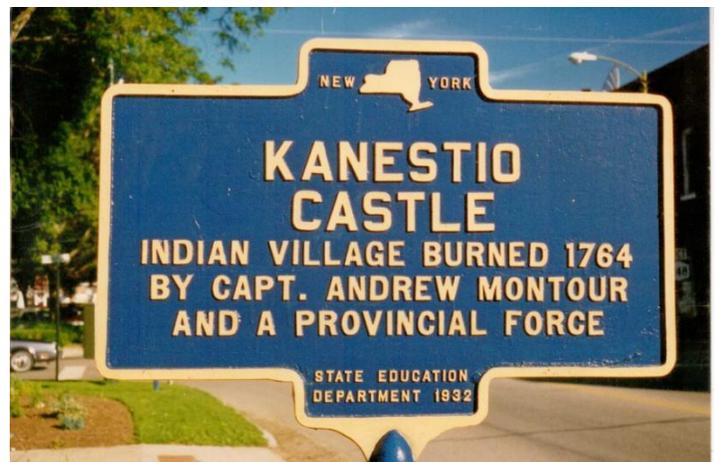
In our last newsletter George's column focused on the Myths & Legends of the French Expedition, the story behind the following marker located in the Park in Canisteo.



In this issue we get the story behind the second marker located on Main St. in our village. I have to confess, I didn't get the connection between the signs (which I've often seen but never paid attention to) until George submitted his column, with pictures, for this issue.

Historian's Corner by George Dickey

The Burning of Kanestio Castle



A second historic marker at Canisteo tells of the burning of the village there by a force of Mohawks under Andrew Montour. While this sign is correct as far as it goes (although it says the force was lead by Andrew Montour rather than his father Henry Montour), here is the back story is what is incorrect. Most of you have heard the story about the murder of two Dutch traders being the reason for the destruction, but there is much more to it than that. The story really begins at the end of the French and Indian War when the French lost Canada and their fur trading post around the Great Lakes. The Indians there wanted the French back and thought if they drove out the English the French would return, having no idea of what this would involve. The Ottawa chief, Pontiac, was able to bring most of the tribes across the area together to attack the English Forts. All were taken but Detroit and Fort Pitt, now Pittsburgh. Most of the Iroquois stayed loyal to the British, but the Seneca and their allies the Delaware joined Pontiac. The Seneca took several small forts between Pittsburgh and Lake Erie and destroyed a small

British force returning from Black Rock (Buffalo) to Fort Niagara. The Delaware ravaged the Pennsylvania frontier and were part of the forces laying siege to Fort Pitt. The fighting continued all summer until the fall when the British were finally able to get a relief force to Detroit and fight their way through to Fort Pitt. The Delaware suffered heavy losses in the fighting near Fort Pitt.

In the spring of 1764 retribution began. Sir William Johnson, Indian agent for the colony of New York, sent out three parties composed of loyal Mohawk Indians and some provisional troops to deal with the Seneca and the Delaware. The Seneca, as part of the Iroquois confederation, would not attack. Punishment there would be diplomatic. The Mohawk Joseph Bryant was sent with a small force to the Seneca towns to tell them not to go to the aid of the Delaware and that they would be dealt with later. A second force was sent to block the Delaware from escaping up the Susquehanna, and the main force, under Henry Montour, was sent to the junction of the forks of the Susquehanna to punish the Delaware and capture two of their war chiefs who had led the attacks. When the force arrived at Tioga, the Delaware fled into the forest but returned the next day to sue for peace. One of the wanted chiefs was captured and sent to Johnstown where he later died of smallpox. The large village at Waverly was burned and Montour proceeded up the west branch of the Susquehanna destroying the Delaware villages along the river as he went. Canisteo was the last of the towns along the river. When Montour arrived at Canisteo, he found the villages deserted. There were actually two villages about a mile apart. The lower village at the mouth of Colonel Bill's Creek was a Delaware village. The second across the river near Doctor Annabel's farm, was a village of Fox Indians that the Seneca had allowed to settle there. Both had been abandoned the year previous when the Delaware there had moved to Kinsua on the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania to be in position to attack Fort Pitt. The empty villages were put to the torch and Montour returned to Johnstown. The report of the raid states that the lower village contained 30 well built log houses some with stone chimneys and the upper village 36 houses. The Seneca, for their part in the rebellion, were forced to cede to the British a tract of land a mile wide on either side of the Niagara River.

2nd Floor Exhibits



There are a number of exhibits on the second floor that you don't want to miss. Pictured above is our farm exhibit of tools used in the late 1800 and early 1900's. Get a close up look at the framing for a barn, a harness bench, milk stool, ox yoke and much more.

The following poem was donated with the barn framing. Having grown up on a farm, and playing in one of the old barns, I can really appreciate the sentiment behind this poem.

Grandpa's Barn

Grandpa said I'll built her straight, and I'll build her well
And I'll build her so she lasts a spell.
Then he sat down when the roof was on,
And read a bit from the Gospel of John.
He made her straight in the morning sun
Never quit, "till the place was done.

When I stand there in the old barn yard,
And think of grandpa as he worked so hard
I'm grateful for a heritage up from the sod
With a place for work and a place for God.

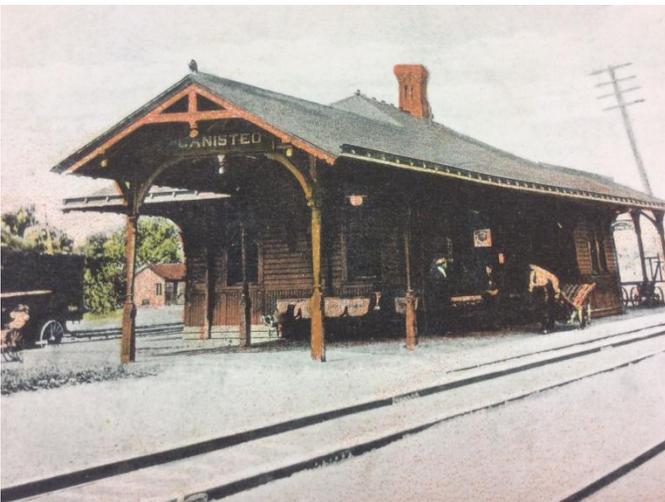
My heart says:
Build her straight
Build her well,
Build it so it will last a spell.

Canisteo Prints for Sale

The Canisteo prints offered in our last issue were so popular that we have decided to offer 2 more prints. These prints are done by a professional printer and are suitable for framing.



Our Canisteo Sign is badly in need of replanting and plans are now underway for this project. Who knows how long it will be before it's restored to its original glory. You won't want to miss out on this print.



Our second feature is a colored print of the Erie Depot at the end of Depot Street.

Thank you to Steve & Martha Thompson for printing these for us.

Prints are \$10.00 each plus \$8 for postage or you can stop at the Historical Society to purchase your copies.

Dress Shop in Somers Hall



A recent visitor to Somers Hall asked the people present if they knew that there was a dress factory in the building during WWII. She began pointing out where different equipment was placed. Inquiries were made to our Town Historian, George, and we gleaned the following photo and information.

The Canisteo Garment Co. began operation in Canisteo on Oct. 11, 1943. The company had lost its base in New York City to War Industry and had come upstate looking for a facility and women workers. It had originally wanted 100 women to sew dresses

On November 11, 1943, the first garments were shipped to retailers. On Dec. 14, 1944, The Times reported that 50 to 60 women were employed with a payroll of \$50,000.

In 1952 the garment factory closed its doors due to the ill health of the owner and a lack of a local plant manager.

Upcoming Programs

April 19 - 7 PM - History of 4 CCC Camps in Letchworth S.P. in the 1930's. Presenter Paul Zielinski will show video of an interview with several workers and their experiences. Paul will then answer questions from the audience.

May 17 - 7 PM - Ron and Virginia Putnam will present a unique program on unusual (mystery) tools from olden times.

June 21 - 7 PM - Craig Braack will bring us a power point talk on the beginnings of the railroad industry in our area.

The Back Page

This newsletter is written in tribute to Virginia Dickey whose dream was a Historical Society to preserve and display local history for future generations.

KANESTIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Do you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter - perhaps an old classmate or out of town relative? For the low cost of \$10 (annual dues) you receive 4 issues per year of our newsletter. Your membership along with the dues and donations are critical for keeping our Society alive.

Application for Membership 2016

Please Print:

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Dues: \$10.00 Individual ** \$15.00

Family**\$150.00 Life

Make check payable to:

Kanestio Historical Society

P.O. Box 35

Canisteo, NY 14823

Donations gratefully accepted toward operating expenses.

2016 Officers

Larry Stephens	President
Sue Babbitt	Vice President
Jeanne Gore	Secretary
Gail Davis	Treasurer
Margaret Stephens-	Corresponding Secretary

Directors

Jose Huerta	2016
Sally Florence	2017
Russell Pierce	2018
Sue Babbitt	2019
Stan Arthur	2020

Memorial Contributions

Memorial Contributions are used to buy the larger ticket items that our operating budget cannot cover. Memorial Contributions cannot be used to pay utilities, insurance or other operating expenses.

Memorial Committee: Tom Kittle, Margaret Koch, Margaret Stephens, Gail Davis

Don't care to receive our newsletter. Just drop us a note and we'll remove you from our mailing list.

Have you paid your 2016 dues yet?

If you have a "post it" note attached to your newsletter that says "2016 Dues", it's time to pay this year's dues. I will send out a separate e-mail to our electronic members. Dues are the primary source of funds to produce and mail our newsletter which we try to mail quarterly. A special thank you to those who have elected to receive their newsletter electronically. This is a big savings to us and helps defray the costs of mailing to our members who do not use the internet.