

Kanestio Historical Society Times

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

Fall 2016 kanestiohs@gmail.com Gail Davis, Editor

In Our Collection by George Dickey

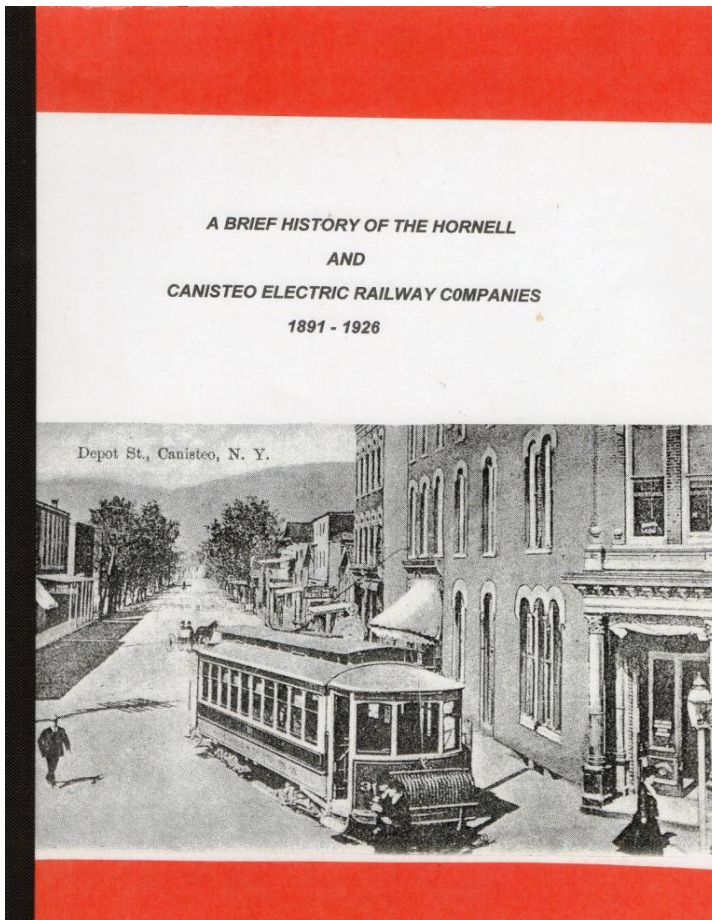


In a previous issue of the newsletter I discussed the Diary of Allison Laine. This time let's take a look at another item from the Laine family. Clarissa (or Clara) Laine Bartlett was Allison's step sister. Clara was an artist of some skill painting in what is referred to as the Hudson River style of landscape painting. The picture in the collection of the Historical Society is a view of the village of Canistota as seen from a position near the north end of Ordway Lane. The painting was probably done around 1870. Clarissa came to Canistota in the early 1860's when her father became pastor of the Presbyterian Church here. The Academy was completed in 1871 and is not shown in this painting. The painting was found in a closet at the high school and has sustained some minor damage over the years. It is the hope of the Society that we eventually can receive a grant to have the painting restored.

Trolley Cars in Canisteo

July 26, 2016 was the 90th anniversary of the last trolley car service between Hornell and Canisteo. As the clock neared 11:20 PM on that day, the streetcar began moving out of the four corners in Canisteo on its way back to Hornell for the last time. Passengers, mainly from Hornell, witnessed history being made. While the car rolled over the tracks in Greenwood Street, behind were left fond memories of many years of the electric railway service to the entire area soon to be gone forever.

Our own Jose Huerta has written a book entitled "A Brief History of the Hornell and Canisteo Electric Railway Companies 1891-1926." The 112 page book details the Electric Railroad history which is illustrated with dozens of pictures. The book is on sale at the Historical Society for \$20. If you order by mail shipping and handling charges will be added.



Canisteo Trolley Drama

(from the Canisteo Times - 1909)

Just a few minutes before eight o'clock on Friday evening April 21, 1909, Arthur B. Conklin, a well known young man, stepped up behind his wife and, holding a .22 caliber revolver just below her ear, fired. He said to her at the moment of the shooting: "I'm on to your racket; I'll fix you."

The tragedy was enacted on the cement sidewalk just above The Times Building alongside of the W.S. Meeks hardware store. The shot was heard by members of the staff of this newspaper and by a large crowd of people on the street, many of whom were waiting on the corner for the street car to attend a theatrical performance in Hornell.

Mrs. Conklin was going toward the post office at the time. She walked along the street, staggering slightly. A few drops of blood trickled down and left their mark on the walk as the bystanders ran to her assistance. She was taken to the office of Dr. O.K. Stewart for treatment. The wound was not necessarily fatal, nor even very serious, and barring the development of septic poisoning there was every indication that the woman would soon recover.

Meanwhile, Mr. Conklin, almost a boy in years, being but 24, and his wife 19, started down Depot Street on the run with a crowd at his heels in hot pursuit. Conklin gained rapidly on his pursuers and was leaving them in the rear, being an expert bicycle rider and baseball player, when he saw the street car approaching. When exactly opposite the plant, now occupied by the Canisteo Wooden Ware Co., Conklin ran into the street and threw himself under the moving car between the forward and rear tracts. The rear trucks (wheels) struck his body, raising them from the track, breaking the circuit and sending the high voltage through his body. He was instantly electrocuted and "never know what killed him" as those at the spot first say.

The Conklins had been married three years and had an eighteen month old son.

2016 Garden Tour

The temperature was in the 90's and the humidity was high but garden lovers still turned out for our 2nd annual garden tour. Thanks to Sue Kothen, Pam Brown, Phyllis Covell, Bruce Morse, Jim Quagliana, Lisa Wall, Chris Thomas, Rita Jean Thomas and Tom and Lee Gramley for inviting us into your gardens. Special thanks to our musicians: Michelle Iannucci, Suzanne Miller, John Neff; our artist -Betty Merring, and to the volunteers who sold tickets, served refreshments and acted as greeters in the gardens.

If you missed the tour, or had to abort due to the heat, you will have a chance to meet our garden hosts and view a Slide Show of all the gardens at our September 20th meeting. Betty Merring's water color of the Gazebo on the Gramley property, painted tour day, will be on display. The meeting will be at 7:00 at the Historical Building. Refreshments will be served.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 20 - 7:00 Garden Tour Slideshow
- Oct. 18 - 7:00 - Jim Pomeroy, Genesee River
- Oct. 23 - 1-3 PM - Halloween Tea - Reservations required.
- Nov. 8 - 9-12 - Pie Sale & Yesterday's Treasures Sale
- Nov. 15 - 6:00 - Harvest Dish to Pass Dinner
- Nov. 25 - 6:00 Christmas in the Village
- Dec. 10 - 9-12 Cookie Sale
- Dec. 20 -7:00 Christmas Program

Dedication of Canisteo Living Sign

On Saturday October 1st, Homecoming weekend, a Dedication Ceremony will be held at the Elementary School with an assortment of activities planned. The public is cordially invited to attend. Hikes up to the sign are planned plus ATV rides. Tables and booths will be set up around the bus drop off driveway including local business displays, food vendors, and a Kanestio Historical Society tent with a TV showing a slide program on the sign's 83 year history. We will have a variety of local history books for sale as well as postcards of the brand new "Living Sign." An 8 x 10 inch canvas print will also be raffled off.

Fairview Place Cemetery

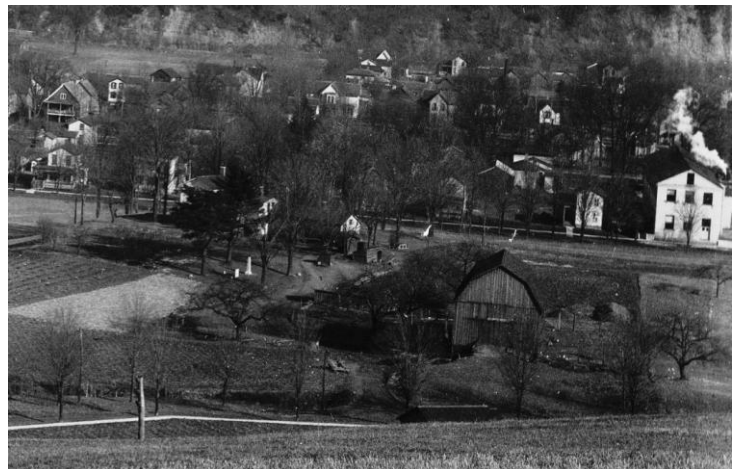
by Steve Cotton

An old cemetery on the Hitchcox farm along what is now Fairview Place was discovered on Tuesday December 10th 1991 in the village of Canisteo. The village highway department was working on water lines just off the macadam to the east of the drive in front of house number seven when the remains were unearthed.

As per protocol when any human remains are discovered authorities were notified. Investigators from the village police department were assisted by the Steuben County Sheriff's department. New York State senior investigator Edward Hann from the Department of Burial and Cemetery was called in. The law dictates that exhuming human remains can only lawfully take place if foul play is suspected. The remains were discovered accidentally.

In this case two skulls and a portion of a leg bone were unearthed along with what appeared to be remains of a casket and brass tacks. The burials appear to be that of an adult and young child.

Following the completion of work on the water line the remains were placed back where found and covered back up. 24 years later this photo of the cemetery has surfaced. Headstones are visible to the left of the barn. One can only assume that the headstones were moved over to the Pioneer or Hillside Cemetery in the village.



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.

Application for Membership 2016

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.

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
Canistota, NY 14823

Donations gratefully accepted toward operating expenses.

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