

# 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

January 2016 [kanestiohs@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kanestiohs@gmail.com).

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

## *2nd Floor Exhibits:*

The pictures above are from our second floor exhibit. The colorful gramophone was a donation from Rev. Karle of Adrian and the colorful pipe organ is from the home of Dr. Paul Vickers Gardner of Canistota. There are many more antique and vintage items on display on our upper level. Our volunteers have been hard at work putting together displays that tell the history of Canistota and give a peek into the life in the olden days. Special thanks to volunteers Jerri Darley and Betty Merring for their help with these displays.

## **Dues for 2016 are now due.**

Individual membership	\$10.00
Family membership	\$15.00
Lifetime member	\$150.00

There has been a small increase in dues this year to help cover our costs and to bring us more in line with other local Historical Societies. Your dues help to cover the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter as well as helping cover the costs of programs and office supplies. We are very fortunate to have our beautiful building on Main St. to house our vast collection of historical memorabilia. Money for utilities and insurance comes from our fundraisers, donations and dues. We do not receive any outside monies or support. If you are a lifetime member, please consider a charitable contribution.

## From Canisteo to Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Paul Gardner was born Aug. 31, 1908 in Castile NY, the son of a minister and his wife. Paul's father at one time had a pastoral assignment in Canisteo where he met his wife. Although his obituary in local papers stated he graduated from Canisteo Academy, papers found in the organ donated from his home show that he graduated from high school in Nunda, NY. His mother moved back to Canisteo after his father's death but, apparently, Paul stayed behind with friends to graduate with his class. He furthered his education at the NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University.

While in his senior year at Alfred University he was recommended for an apprenticeship with Frederick Carder of Steuben Glass fame. He worked with Carder at Steuben Glass and later at Corning Glass on the development of Pyrex ware. He authored several books on Carder and Steuben Glass.

Paul enlisted in the US Navy in 1942. After the war he became the first Curator of Ceramics at the Smithsonian Institute and later Curator of Ceramics and Glass for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington DC. During his years in Washington, Paul drove to the family home in Canisteo every weekend to visit his elderly mother and play organ in the United Methodist Church. His mother, Anja Vickers Gardner, was a kindergarten teacher in Canisteo. In addition to the organ shown on the front page, we also have a working Victrola and large selection of Gardner's phonograph albums.

Dr. Gardner died on April 1, 1984. He maintained a home in Canisteo his entire adult life.

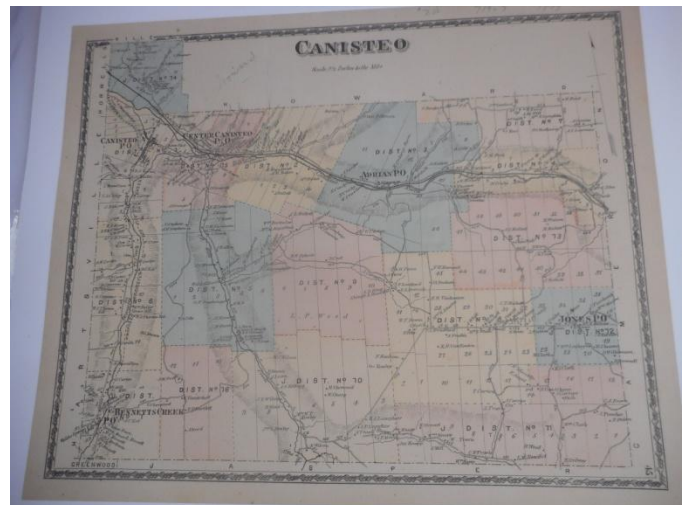
Google Paul V. Gardner for more information on this "famous" Canisteoan.



### Prints for Sale

Would you like a 11 x 14 copy of this iconic photo of the bridge at the end of Ordway Lane? Stephen Thompson, a professional printer and husband of local native, Martha Travis, has reproduced beautiful prints for us to sell. Price \$7.00 plus postage.

Steve has also made 16 x 13 prints of an 1873 map of the Town of Canisteo. For those of you receiving the black and white mailed copy of our newsletter the map is in color. Price \$12.00 plus postage.



These are beautiful prints suitable for framing. Your humble Newsletter Editor's photos in no way do justice to these items.

## Historian's Corner

George Dickey, Town Historian

### MYTHS AND LEGENDS

We have all grown up with stories about Canisteo but how true are these stories? Let's take a look at some of these stories and try to determine how true they are. Perhaps the oldest of these legends is that of the French visit to Canisteo in 1690. When I went looking for more information on the subject I was surprised by what I found. The earliest mention of this story seems to be in a History of Hornell by Irving Near, everything else appears to be a copy of Near's story. Then I found the following in a booklet by James Folts entitled "Indian Trails of Steuben County". I should establish Jim's credentials as a Historian before quoting him. He is a professional rather than an amateur like myself. He has college degrees in history and works for the State Archives in Albany. This is Jim's take on the story of the Deville's visit to the Canisteo Valley.

"Irving Near's account of a French expedition against a purported Indian stronghold at Canisteo in 1690, is a pure fabrication. There was no town at Canisteo that early. The story first appeared in Near's Early History of Hornellsville. It is repeated in his History of Steuben County and Its People, and also in William Stuart's Stories of the Kanestio Valley. Stuart does express healthy doubts about the story's authenticity. Near obviously modeled his story after the published accounts of the Denonville invasion 1687, which burned the main Seneca towns near Victor and Honeoye Falls. None of the printed sources available to Near makes any mention of any expedition in 1690 against the Iroquois."

Elsewhere in 'Indian Trails' Folts states that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the hill country south of the Finger Lakes was a no-man's land frequented by hostile war parties. Between 1634 and 1675 the Iroquois entered into a series of wars called the "the Beaver Wars." Several tribes allied with the French were defeated. Furs that were going to the French were now being diverted to the English at Albany. This had resulted in the Denonville Expedition against the Seneca in 1687. Retaliatory raids by the Seneca had driven French settlers from much of New France. It seems unlikely that the French who were struggling to hold on to the territory there could have spared forces and men for another large expedition into Seneca country. The

final Battles of the Beaver Wars had been against the Andastes near Waverly and with their defeat in 1675 the valleys of the Chemung, Canisteo and Cohocton were to remain unoccupied until the 1740's when the Delaware and Fox tribes were permitted to settle there by the Senecas.

Next time a look at Montour's burning of Canisteo.

### Thank you to our Volunteers

As we reflect on 2015 we need to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers. We continue to scrub, clean and sort items that were in storage from the fire so that we can get them back into displays. This is dirty work but the end is in sight! These same volunteers are the people that vacuum, mop, dust and clean the toilet.

These are the people that keep the doors open to the public Wed., Thurs. and Fri. or whenever we get a call that someone would like to visit. They arrange for programs, prepare floor displays and windows. They plan the fund raisers and do most of the heavy lifting for these events. They handle the finances, write thank you notes, handle publicity, and furnish refreshments for programs.

A big thank you to these volunteers: George Dickey, Jose Huerta, Sue Babbitt, Margaret Stephens, Sally Florence and Gail Davis. Martha Cardman has recently joined our volunteers and Phyllis Cassidy has helped with the cleaning and sorting. Special mention to Larry Stephens and Jeanne Gore for phenomenal refreshments.

We can always use more hands. If you are able to volunteer, please join us on a Wed, Thurs or Friday and share in the camaraderie. We work hard but we also laugh a lot. Getting to handle and explore items from our history is unbelievably rewarding.

# 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.

## 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. We've had \$720 in memorial contributions this year.

Kanestio Historical Society  
23 Main St., PO Box 35  
Canistota, NY 14823

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## Fall Fund Raisers

A big thank you to all who baked and purchased pies and cookies for our Fall Bake Sales. We raised \$515 from our Election Day Pie Sale and \$480 from our Christmas Cookie Sale. The accompanying Yesterdays Treasures Sale yielded \$536. We served hot chocolate and cookies to 100 kids and parents during Santa's visit at Christmas in the Village. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked these events.

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

**Please check the date above your name on the address label below. If it doesn't read 2016 it's time to pay this year's dues.**