

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

Winter 2018 kanestiohs@gmail.com Gail Davis, Editor



Ring in the New Year - Reflecting on the Old

2017 has been a good year for the Historical Society. More than 3/4 of our members live out of the area and are not able to visit our building, attend our programs or take part in our special events, but support us through donations and membership dues. This support is critical to keeping our doors open - paying for insurance and utilities, printing and distributing our newsletters, etc. We gained 14 new members this past year bringing our total membership up to 121.

During the summer we had a dual zone heating and air conditioning system installed to maintain a constant temperature upstairs and down for the preservation of our artifacts. Thanks to Stan Arthur for spearheading the drive to get this done. The "shed", which was the catch-all for the contents of the building after the 2014 fire, was finally sorted, organized and cleaned and many of the items brought back into the building as part of exhibits. Thanks to Steve Cotton for tackling this job. Steve has also been busy updating and labeling the 2nd floor exhibits. Our textile collection was photographed and cataloged so that we now know what is in all those boxes and we hope to see more mannequins dressed and on display.

Our fall season kicked off with our Election Day Pie Sale. We had 30 pies donated and, with generous donations from those members who weren't bakers, raised \$418 for the Society.



Our November meeting was our annual Harvest "Dish-to-Pass" Dinner with 17 attending. Our annual election of officers and directors followed. Thanks to retiring board member, Sally Florence and retiring secretary, Jeanne Gore.

The Friday after Thanksgiving the volunteers decorated the Historical Society Christmas Tree (donated by Larry Stephens) in preparation for Christmas in the Village. Youngsters joined us after visiting Santa or enjoying the hayride for hot chocolate, Christmas Cookies and shopping at our Yesterday's Treasurer Sale. Thanks to all the generous donations for our sale we raised over \$600 to put towards insurance and utilities.



Our Cookie Sale was held on December 9th. Again, with the generous donations (and purchase) of homemade cookies from our members and friends, we made over \$400 toward our expenses.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support. We look forward to an even better year in 2018.

We had several requests for more information on Richard Call after the last issue article on the orphan train. Thanks to Sue Babbitt for researching his life for us.



The Life and Adventures of Richard Call

by Suzanne Babbitt - 2017

So what kinds of excitement and adventure are to be found in the small corner of

Steuben County called Hartsville? Well, they started for Richard H. Call before he even had that name. Born on February 28, 1922, to an impoverished woman unable to care for him, he soon made the journey from an orphanage in NYC on the Orphan Train to upstate New York to be adopted by William & Isabelle Call from Hartsville.

Learning the work of dairy as well as chicken farming alongside his parents, Richard graduated from the Canisteo Central School class of 1941 with a record of the following high school activities: FFA treasurer, First Aid Club, & Senior Play. His classmates jokingly voted him most likely to become "The Mayor of Hartsville." Little did they know....

His next adventure led him to serve as a medic in the US Army for 12 years during both WW II and the Korean War, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major. After returning home he worked for the VA Center in Bath and Canandaigua over the next 34 years. Immersing himself in area civic causes, Richard became a member of the Bath Masonic Lodge, was a life member of the Grange, a founder and member of the Hartsville Historical Society, as well as a member & past president of the State Historical Society.

After a few years a cousin, Randy Webb, joined Richard in the 1822 homestead that included a number of farm buildings as well as the Purdy Creek School which had been in his family for generations. The two men had a vision (some might call it an eccentric one) to turn their place into a museum. Having a love of family and area history, he began to collect relics related to farming life in Steuben Co. as well as documents & stories of area people & events from the past. He became a notable genealogist.

Retiring in 1976, Richard could now devote time to developing & adding buildings to house & showcase the eclectic collection. Just to mention a few, it included 17 organs & pianos, 20 wedding dresses, a complete blacksmith's shop, several cases of Indian arrowheads - thousands of items from floor to ceiling, each with a history to tell. All were put on public display starting in the '70's.

Giving back to his beloved community was a huge part of Richard Call's life. In the early 1970's he instituted the Richard Call Senior Awards of \$40 for a Canisteo Central School student in each of these areas: agriculture, art, mechanical drawing, service to school, technology, vocational boy & vocational girl. After his passing on December 7, 2000, money from his estate was left to carry on these awards which are still being presented yearly, 17 years after his passing.

As the predicted "Mayor of Hartsville" passed, a Board was set up to run & manage the property, an overwhelming task. In 2016 the N.Y.S. Department of Education gifted the property, contents & some funds to the Steuben County Historical Society, which in turn opened it up to any town historical group to view items & claim anything that belonged to their specific village. Many pieces were distributed to localities from which they had originated. Richard would have approved!

Kirk House, director of the Steuben Co. Historical Society, spoke of the surprising announcement and affirmed the "commitment of the SCHS to maintain the name & legacy of Richard Call, who first saw Steuben County through the windows of an orphan train. In Hartsville he found a home, a family, & a community, & his generosity will continue to bear fruit through the years to come.

Thank you, "Mayor Call."

Sources: Hornell Evening Tribune obituary
"A Country Museum The Call Homestead" article by Donovan A. Shilling
"My Story" ... article by Richard H. Call
Kirk House article from SCHS Newsletter

Daughters of the American Revolution by Toni Stevens-Oliver

The Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in Washington, DC in 1890, as a lineage society for women who wished to celebrate patriotism and the history of the founding of our nation. The objectives of the DAR haven't changed in the past 127 years - patriotism, education and historic preservation. The Kanestio

Valley Chapter was founded in 1897, to primarily serve the communities of Canisteo and Hornellsville. If you've been to the Armory on Seneca Street in Hornell, you might have noticed the large rock outside with a plaque on it. This was placed there in 1902 by the chapter and lists the men (many of whom founded this area) who served in the Revolution.



The DAR demonstrates patriotism by providing more than 200,000 hours of volunteer time annually to veterans' organizations, supporting active duty military with cards of encouragement and other needed items, sponsoring events during Constitution Week and participating in events like Wreaths Across America. The National DAR supports six DAR schools that provide an education for children with significant special needs. The DAR provides educational materials about our flag, the Constitution and the path to citizenship. They also provide several scholarship opportunities and DAR members volunteer in their local schools. Historic preservation includes the restoring and preservation of historic sites, cemeteries and buildings around the country, contributing to major national renovation projects (i.e. the Statue of Liberty) and the preservation of genealogical records. Our local chapter works to support these objectives in our own communities.

While membership requires proving one's ancestry from a person who is deemed to have been a patriot during the Revolutionary War, this does not mean just descendants of soldiers. A patriot is anyone who is documented to have helped the war effort, male or female. If you think you might have a patriot in your family tree (And if your roots are deep in this area, you likely do!), please contact us at kanestiovalleydar@gmail.com and we'd be happy to help you find out. We are always looking for new members.

We are also looking for ways the Kanestio Historical Society and the Kanestio Valley DAR could partner together, as we share the goals of historic preservation and education; together we could perhaps find more ways to serve our community and increase membership.

Do you remember?

It always amazes me how simple inquiries from visitors or members develop into a research project or story at the Historical Society. For the past year or so Stan Arthur has wander through the building asking if anyone remembered "Scuzzie's Bar & Restaurant" or had any information on it. Evidently it was a popular hangout in Stan's late and post high school years and not impossible for an underage person to be served. Little by little information was accumulated and Stan submitted the following story for our newsletter.

Fuller's Restaurant

by Stan Arthur

I should begin by thanking Don Merring, for without his help, the newspaper clipping that answered my question on whatever happened to "Scuzzie's" would have remained out of reach. Don knew the date of the fire because it happened near the end of his first year with the Canisteo Fire Department and he was on the scene. He mentioned that the weather was very cold that late night in January 1961.

I knew nothing about the fire because I was in the US Navy and stationed in Newfoundland but I'll jot down some of my memories.

Fuller's was also known as the "Half Way House" since it was halfway between Hornell and Canisteo on the old road beside the river. The restaurant/bar was also called Scuzzie's, which was Mrs. Fuller's husband's nickname.

Being close to the "Old Road" along the River, parking out front was limited. The rear of the building was very close to the Canisteo River. In those days Morton Hill Road extended diagonally down a very steep incline and Fuller's was at the bottom of that road. Presently that road stops at the four lane road between Canisteo and Hornell. I was surprised to learn that the Canisteo/Hornell Trolley line ran close by the restaurant. Fuller's had a reputation of serving very good spaghetti dinners, among other choices. It was also a good place to stop for a cool drink in the daytime or evening. Dancing to a juke box was available. There were many area residents that patronized the Half Way House. The tradition was sadly ended by the fire and total loss in January of 1961.



Evening Tribune Photo

Additional notes: A recent search through files for something totally unrelated produced several "Evening Tribune" newspaper clippings adding to our information on the restaurant. When Mrs. Hattie McMahon purchased the property in 1886 it was known as the Car-View Hotel for the street cars which ran past there. Mrs. McMahon changed its name to Jack's Place (her husband's name) and they ran a restaurant for 38 years. She sold the property to Mrs. Fuller, who operated the restaurant for 31 years, selling in 1955 to Harold

West, who owned the restaurant at the time of the fire.

Another article we found tells of a raid by Federal Agents in June of 1929. The article states that Federal Agents swooped down on the establishment of Harry C. Fuller and succeeded in finding alleged beer, wine, gin and whisky, or wet goods, as they were referred to during prohibition in NYS (1920-1933).

. Coming Events - Save the Dates

January 16 - Planning for the upcoming year and our future goals and endeavors.

February 20 - Power Point from our Archives

March 20 - Richard Warriner - Civil War Letters

April 17 - Dick Welles - Ice House Fire

May 15- tba

June 19- tba

July 17 - Annual Picnic - 6:00

July 21 - Garden Tour

August 21 - Outing

Sept. 18 - tba

Oct. 16 - tba

Nov. 6 - Election Day Pie & Treasure's Sale

Nov. 20 - Harvest Dinner & Election of Officers

Nov. 24 - Xmas in the Village

Dec. 15 - Cookie Sale

Dec. 17 -tba

Looking for a unique gift? We have a large selection of books filled with pictures and stories of Canisteo history for sale at the Historical Society.

Library Card Catalog

On display upstairs is the card catalogue from Canisteo's Wimodaughsian Library. You may think this is not old enough to be considered "historical," but for over 20 years Steuben County libraries have been on line with their card catalogues, making this piece of furniture obsolete. Kim Lindsay, librarian at that time, called and asked if the KHS would be interested in having it.

Of course we would, and now it is part of our second floor museum displays.

A card catalogue is a register of all books to be found in that library. Information about each book is printed on an index card. Each fiction book and biography has 2 cards - one alphabetically by author's last name and a second alphabetically by book title.



However, nonfiction books are arranged using the Dewey Decimal System, invented in 1879 by Melvil Dewey. In earlier times books were arranged by height and by the order of when they were acquired. (That may seem strange, but I suppose it worked when there were only a few volumes.). Dewey divided the nonfiction volumes into 10 categories as well as many subcategories. Each book might have 2 or 3 cards in the catalogue if it touched on different subjects- say "science," "astronomy," and "space." These index cards were also arranged alphabetically.

And so for anyone under the age of 25 coming to see our historical displays and viewing this piece of lovely oak furniture, he might well ask, "What is that?"

And those of us over 25 will be able to show what a valuable purpose it served.

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

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 2018

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.

2018 Officers

Larry Stephens	Co- President
Sue Babbitt	Co - President
Toni Stevens-Oliver	Secretary
Gail Davis	Treasurer
Phyllis Cassidy -	Corresponding Secretary

Directors

Russell Pierce	2018
Sue Babbitt	2019
Stan Arthur	2020
Jose Huerta	2021
Gail Davis	2022