

# KANESTIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIMES

23 Main Street – P.O. Box 35  
Canisteo, New York 14823  
(607) 698 2086 Wed-Thur-Fri 1-3 PM  
Monthly meetings - Third Tuesday 7:00 PM

## January 2012

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### Upcoming Fund Raisers:

March 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 5:00 – 7:30pm Somers Hall

Chicken & Biscuit w/ Gravy; mashed potatoes, vegetable, tossed salad, cake, and coffee, tea, milk, hot chocolate.

\$8.00 eat-in or carry-out 12 & under \$5.00

We will be holding a 50/50 raffle and Jose Huerta will be hosting a book signing.

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> 2012

Craze Daze Flea Market Sale – please start bringing in items for our sale.

**Meetings:** Held 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm

Exceptions – July – Summer Picnic @ Rotary Park 6:00 pm

Harvest Dinner – November 6:00 pm

At our monthly we have light refreshments between the program and meeting; if you're willing to furnish the refreshment please contact one of the officers.

**February Meeting** will be Collections & Hobbies... if you have a collection and/or hobby you would like to share please bring it to the meeting at 7:00.

Do you have a topic and willing to do a presentation? Contact one of our officers for details; as we love to have member's involved.

Do you have a collection you would like to display for the public's viewing? Please sign up for a window display. We are always looking for new and interesting material to display in our main street windows.

### Election of new officers:

This past fall we held elections for our new officers – those elected were:

John Babbitt – President

George Dickey – Vice President

Stan Arthur – Recording Secretary

Sue Babbitt – Corresponding Secretary

Steve Cotton – Treasurer

Jose Huerta – Board Member 2016

Margaret Stephens – Board Member 2015

**Your remaining board members are:** Sally Florence, George Dickey, and Tom Kittle

### DUES:

It's time to pay your 2012 Dues – Please check your mailing label – if it doesn't say 2012 then please submit your dues to the society – either pay in person or mail them to the address on the front of this newsletter.

\$7.00 individual -- \$10.00 family or you can become a lifetime member for \$100.00

### Passing of two members:

**Larry Wells** – whom had been treasurer for over five years passed away on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Larry with his brother Ron operated the Wells Bros., Inc Sign Company. With his wife Sandy they had operated the Good Times Café, he was a member of the First Baptist Church where he served as Deacon, Trustee, Financial Secretary, Moderator and Choir Member. He was a Lay Pastor at the Hornell Gardens. He played Trumpet in a jazz band and for the Hornell Symphony and Alfred Community Bands. Honored with the Paul Harris Award presented by the Canisteo Rotary Club he also enjoyed camping and hiking; he was active since 1952 in the Boy Scouts.

**Kay Bancroft** – was our president during the construction phase of the historical society and one of our founding members; she served also as Treasurer and on our Board of Directors. Active in Kohoco and the Hornell Lyons Club where she was made an honorary member; she was a 50 year member of the Presbyterian Church where she served as Deacon, Trustee and Sunday School Teacher. Kay was a member of the Bennett's Creek Leftovers Lady's Club. She was a 1937 graduate of the Canisteo Academy and Highland Hospital School of Nursing and was employed as a Public Health Nurse in Steuben County for over 35 years. We lost Kay on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Our society was honored to have her knowledge and dedication over the years.

### Stop by to see what's new!

The Memorial Committee purchased five new display cases: These cases are large enough to display manikins so we can share some of the textiles that had been donated to us over the years. Please thank Sally Florence for her hard work in putting together a wonderful display in the two cases on the first floor. The three on the second floor can house smaller items; as the shelves are adjustable to display larger items in the future.



### Fall 2011 Fundraisers:

This past fall's fundraisers were a success;

Pie Sale        \$410

Craft Sale     \$411

Cookie Sale    \$438

**Glass Slide Negatives:**

Monies were donated which allowed us to purchase an Epson Scanner and Photo Shop Software. We can now scan glass slides and enhance photos. Here are two examples of photos we didn't know we had until we were able to use this new equipment. We now need volunteers that want to learn how to operate the computer and scanner to help in the process of archiving our glass negatives into digital images.

**Photo above –**

Photographer  
A.B. Stebbins

**Photo to Right—**

Looking up Greenwood  
Street toward Depot &  
Main Street intersection;  
about 1880.

**Volunteers:**

We want to take time to thank our Volunteers that help keep our doors open. Besides the officers and Board members many of you help in other ways, in donations; baking cookies, pies, and cakes for our fundraisers along with the many donated items. It takes the dedication of some to keep our doors open during regular business hours. We can always use your help... if you can spare a few hours please raise your hand and let us know.

**New Acquisitions:**

Over the past year we have received many new acquisitions; please stop by and see what's new!

**Maintenance:**

The carpets have been shampooed, tiles installed on the bathroom floor, and the Walnut tree behind our shed taken down. The Fire Escape has been reinforced and sealed.

## LEVI S. DAVIS SHOE FACTORY TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE – JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1892



Photo - Davis Shoe Factor (from the Kanestio Historical Society's Files)

Canistota Times – January 7, 1892

Hardly had the inhabitants of this place become wrapped in slumber from the ushering in of a new year by the ringing of bells, before the alarm of fire was given, which proved to be the factory of Levi S. Davis. The fire was discovered about three o'clock Friday morning, and when the alarm was given, many people and firemen thought it was the ringing of the bells on account of the new year, and did not respond. Owing to this fact it was a long time before the department responded and got to work, by which time the fire had spread to the three stories of the building, and nothing could be done more than keep it confined therein. Four powerful streams were kept upon it for nearly six hours. The firemen fought bravely through the entire siege. The electric light plant which joins the factory was saved without scarcely a dollar's worth of damage. The factory was one of the finest buildings in town, and by its burning thirty-five people were thrown out of employment. It had been shut down for a short time to make some needed repairs and put in some new machinery, and it was Mr. Davis' intention to have started up Monday.

There was \$16,500 insurance on the building, stock and machinery, and Mr. Davis estimates his lost over and above this to be about \$5,000. He is yet undecided whether to rebuild or not. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Davis as he is an active, enterprising citizen, and Canistota can ill afford to lose a valuable acquisition from its list of valuable industries. This we believe, is the third loss of a serious nature which he has sustained within the past year, namely, his house across the river, a valuable thoroughbred running horse besides the factory.

Mr. Davis is a man that the reverses of life cannot easily discourage, and it is hoped that he will see his way clear to rebuild on a larger scale than ever.

Much praise is manifest by the firemen toward John Dickey and his family for the hot coffee passed among them, it was indeed a thoughtful act on the part of the family and will long be remembered by the fire department.

This was the hardest test given the water works since they were put in, and shows that the supply is ample for any configuration, which may occur. With the four streams for nearly six hours the pressure was lowered by five pounds.

The Canisteo Times – January 7, 1892

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Canisteo Valley Electric Railway Company has applied by its petition in writing to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Canisteo, for the consent of said Board to build and maintain a street surface railroad, and to operate the same by electricity as a motive power, upon the streets of the Village of Canisteo, upon the following routes; Commencing at the Erie crossing of Depot street to Main street in said village, thence on Main street to Greenwood street, thence on Greenwood street to Ninth street in said village, with branches extending from the line aforesaid easterly on Main street and westerly on Hornellsville street to such points as may be deemed advisable to be built. Also with branches on Maple and Ninth streets in said village, or upon portions of the street hereinbefore named on such a continuous route as shall be deemed proper, upon any or either of said streets or such portions thereof as shall be deemed proper and that such application will be first considered by said Board of Trustees at a special meeting thereof, to be held at the council rooms in the Village of Canisteo, N. Y., on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 1892 at 7 o'clock p.m.

Dated, Canisteo, N. Y., Jan. 4, 1892

The Board of Trustees  
Of the Village of Canisteo

By E. Sweet, Jr. Clerk

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**Street Railway in Canisteo**

By reference to notices elsewhere in these columns, it will be learned that a franchise has been applied for by the company to build a street railway in this village. The streets to be covered by this franchise will be found in the "NOTICE" elsewhere. The company has been formed, and they have received their charter under the head of the Canisteo Valley Electric Railway Company, with a capital stock of \$20,000. The company is composed of some of our most enterprising men, and from information gained from them we lean is an assured fact, and work will be commenced sometime next summer.

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**Stage Coach**

Clark who runs the stage between this place and Hornellsville realizes the importance of a comfortable and neat conveyance, and last week turned out with a new rig complete. It is a slick one and shows commendable enterprise.

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The Canisteo Times – January 14, 1897

**RAILROAD RUMORS**

The Elmira Advertiser says: There are rumors that a new line of railroad will be built through Steuben County by the Buffalo and Susquehanna railroad company. The projected system is to extend the New York and Pennsylvania railroad from Canisteo to Bath and from there to Savona. Then follow the old roadbed of the Corning and Sodus Bay road through Sonora, Bradford, Tyrone etc., to Penn Yan. This system would open a new shipping territory and would be inexpensive as about twenty miles of the proposed roadbed is already graded. The road would connect with the Lehigh Valley and New York Central lines, giving the owners of the Buffalo and Susquehanna an outlet for the New York market.

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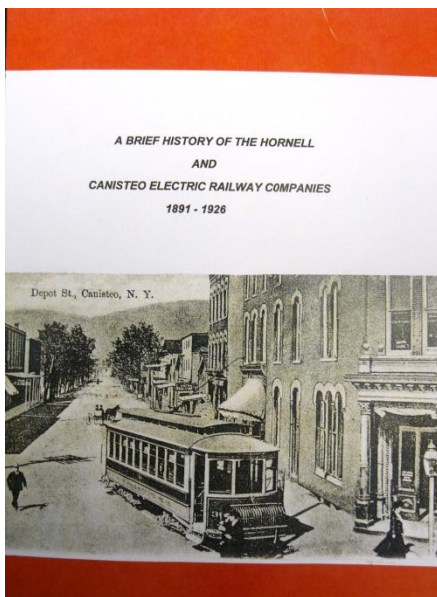
**ELECTRIC ROAD**

An adjourned meeting to the citizens of Addison, Tuscarora, Woodhull and Jasper was held at Addison, N.Y., on Monday evening, Jan. 4, 1897, for the purpose of discussing and taking such actions as thought best in the promoting and constructing an electric railroad from Addison to Woodhull and Jasper. A company was formed of leading citizens of the above towns.

E. D. Hilborn of Jasper, a civil engineer, was engaged to make a preliminary survey of the proposed route.

Committee were appointed on right of way, survey and on organization, who are to report at the meeting to be held in Woodhull at 2 p. m., Monday, January 18.

Why cannot this road be continued from Jasper to Canisteo?



### **New Book for Sale:**

A Brief History of the Hornell & Canisteo Electric Railway Companies 1891 – 1926 by Jose Huerta

The Kanestio Historical Society has published a new book; this book gives the history of the Electric Railway Company. This book includes many photos of the trolley line and cars between Hornell and Canisteo. The first printing sold out and the second printing will probably sell fast so stop by and pick up your copy for \$20.00.

Jose will be signing books at our Chicken & Biscuit Dinner on March 10<sup>th</sup>. So stop by and met the author and enjoy the dinner.

### **The Telegram Newspaper; May 30, 1909**

Submitted by Jose Huerta

**CANISTEO – There Is A Most Encouraging Prospect For Another New Industry In That Place.**

Canisteo, N. Y., May 29 – It is learned here to-day that there is an excellent prospect of Canisteo securing a new industry, one that would place the village in the very front rank of the manufacturing centers of western New York. It is rumored that this same company had considered seriously a proposition to locate in Hornell, but has of late become impressed with the superior advantages offered by a location in this village, and may abandon their intention of going to Hornell. The concern is said to be a large one, and one that should be worked hard for. At the present rate of growth of this village and with the prospects ahead it will not be more than a year or two before Canisteo will have to be considering the prospect of annexing Hornell as part of the village.

Kanestio Historical Society  
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