

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 2014

2013 was a good year:

MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE YEAR

60 LIFE MEMBERS

47 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

21 FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Hope to see you in the coming year:

IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO SEE NEW FACES AT OUR MEETINGS.

COME OUT AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AND MEET A NEW FRIEND.

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATFULLY APPRECIATED.

Many thanks to John Babbitt, Russell Pierce and
Jose Huerta for their help with this newsletter.

2013 – Listed here are our major income and expenses for this past year:

Income:

Chicken & Biscuit Dinner	712.00
Yesterday's Treasurers	310.00
Craft Sale	408.00
Pie Sale	484.00
Cookie Sale	523.00
Rotary Lunches	751.00
Dues	853.00
Donations	1,634.00

Expenses:

Gas	966.00
Electric	604.00
Phone	551.00
Insurance	1,725.96

2013 Yearly Total Income: 6,772.00 Expenses: 6,386.00

This year we were able to purchase two cabinets to keep supplies in behind the front desk.

We bought two more shelving units for our second floor store room.

We were also able to purchase a large fire proof safe to store irreplaceable items.

Upcoming Programs: (All programs begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.)

- Jan. 21. - A 1930's Canisteo House that arrived in a boxcar. By Steve Cotton
- Feb. 18. - Planning Session for upcoming fundraisers. (A dinner is being planned for March 8th this year.)
- March 18 - What's Available for research at the County Clerk's office; by Judy Hunter; Steuben County Clerk.
- April 15. - The Story of Mary Jamison, White Woman of the Genesee, by Kay Bennett and Bill Heaney
- May 20. - Bob and Pat Krein dismantled and moved a one-room school which is now their summer home on Stone School Road. Come and see and hear how they did it.
- June 17. - Chris Green from Andover will bring several of his "talking machines" and give some history along with a demonstration.
- July 15. - Annual picnic held at Rotary Park at 6:00 pm.
- August 19 - Field Trip (a mystery trip is being planned – watch for details.)

Looking to make a memorial gift in the coming year - our society has a memorial fund.

Current Officers:

President: George Dickey
Vice President: Sue Babbitt
Secretary: Jean Gore
Treasurer: Steve Cotton

Board Members:

Tom Kittell 2014
Margaret Stephens 2015
Jose Huerta 2016
Sally Florence 2017
Russell Pierce 2018

Erie RR History – did you know?

(Taken from a book by Timothy Starr titled "Railroad Wars of New York State")

Organized in 1832 the first section opened in 1841 from Piedmont to Goshen and went bankrupt shortly afterwards. The track was completed under re-organization after the state forgave a 3 million dollar mortgage. It was built using "broad-gauge" while other railroads were using "standard-gauge". The difference in the two gauges; "broad-gauge" spaces the track 6 feet apart – while the "standard-gauge" is only 4 feet 8 ½ inches apart. Thus freight and passengers would have to be transferred on connections to other locations in the rail web that had begun connecting the region together. As a result the company again went bankrupt in 1857.

This time coming out of bankruptcy the original 6 foot width iron rails were to be replaced with steel rails. To remedy the problem of the narrower standard-gauge while equipment was being modified a third rail was placed so both gauges would run on the Erie and up the Canisteo Valley.

To lessen financial burden instead of replacing the "iron" rails which were wearing on one side with newer steel rails the workers simply turned the rails around. The "iron" rails rusted easily therefore the public referred to the Erie as "two streaks of rust". It wasn't until new management in 1868 and 10 million dollars in bonds were issued that the board decided to upgrade the infrastructure.

The beginning of the Great Railroad Stick began on July 20th 1877 in Hornellsville. To block trains from leaving Hornellsville the stickers "soaped" the tracks just past West Street. Rewards were offered in the amounts of 500 dollars if a person was arrested and convicted who obstructed movement. The offender would be sentenced to 10 years in prison and up to a 1,000 fine.

The 54th Regiment military from Rochester was called to Hornellsville on July 21st along with the 110th Battalion from Elmira. Forming a line the troops they were to drive out the crowd. The stickers stood firm despite the presents of the troops. The Erie decided to load 40 troopers on a train attempting to leave Hornellsville. Soaping the tracks was effective and the train was unable to "gain traction" and leave. Guards were forced off the train and the stickers were able to board the train and apply the hand breaks. Then the cars were sent back into the station yards and a switch was thrown just in time to keep them from colliding with another locomotive.

Train Number 7 then tried to leave for Buffalo and was forced to go back to the yards. Another train was at the station and the steam was blown off and the fire extinguished. July 22nd brought 1,500 troops from the Brooklyn's Twenty-Third Regiment. They stickers were outnumbered and gave into the terms. Taking a 10 percent cut in pay and no one would be discharged for sticking unless they were engaged in the damage of property. The workers discharged were re-instated but with no seniority.

Corning was the next city to strike and the troops were board on a train for Corning.

Rotary Club – July 17, 1929

Speaker A.B. Stebbins

(These are his notes for the speech.)

I came to Canisteo in April 1879 and bought the photography studio of J.L. Seeley, Sr. that was located in the Consolas Block where William's Funeral Parlors are now.

We had at that time the following places of businesses:

1. Wood Saw & Stave Mill
2. Charter's Foundry and Machine Shop
3. A.B. Voorhis Sash and Door Works
4. Flohr's Grist Mill and Tannery
5. Allison's Boot and Shoe Factory
6. Shaut's Tannery which was built in 1880

The leading Merchants were:

1. Wm. Riddell – Dry Goods
2. T.K Brownell
3. W.B. Taylor
4. O.O. Laine
5. L.A. Waldo
6. A.B. Laine
7. Scott Graham, Furniture
8. J.H. Stewart, Music
9. D. Langley, Dry Goods
10. M. Allison, Banker
11. John Q. Stephens, Booze Shop
12. Sol. Bennett, Hotel – sold whisky
13. Huggens
14. Wilder Rice
15. McCaig Bros, Druggist
16. Dr. Lee Riddell, Druggist
17. J. B. Hargraves, Prof. of Academy LaMonte of school
18. Chamberlain, Riddell, Ellison, Physicians
19. Two Burrells & Soules, Lawyers
20. Phin. Stephens, Justice of Peace
21. Jenkins, Editor (Canisteo Times)
22. Obe Stephens, L.A. Waldo, Jer. Baker, Joshua Stephens, Politicians
23. A.B. Voorhis & Lawrence Allison, Manufacturers
24. Stevens, Postmaster (no relation to the Stephens)
25. Mathew Hart, Blacksmith on Depot Street
26. Geo Cooper, Blacksmith on Main Street
27. Henry & Luther Whitwood, Blacksmith
28. Bateman McKean, Jewelry
29. James Hall, Harness
30. Mrs. Whitwood, Green House

In 1880 or 81, I started a movement to bring O.H. Bunnell here to buy out the Times. Mr. Bunnell gave his note of \$1000.00 which was endorsed by the following ten men:

1. W.B. Taylor
2. L.A. Waldo
3. M. Allison
4. L. Allison
5. T.R. Stephens

6. Myself (A.B. Stebbins)
7. And others

By the way when the note became due, T. R. Stephens and myself (A.B. Stebbins) were the only endorsers not bankrupt.

1. Voorhis failed in Oct. 1883
2. W.B. Taylor
3. M. Allison
4. L. Allison
5. L.A. Waldo
6. L. Davison
7. And other –

While they did not go into bankruptcy at one (time) they all eventually failed. This was great in those days. The sum involved I do not know. About \$500,000.00 perhaps, but Dave Langley after a meeting of the creditors boasted "By heck, Five Hundred Million Dollars."

Societies were:

1. W.C.T.U.
2. I.O.G.T.
3. R.T. of Masons
4. Empire State Order Knights of Labor
5. Church and Literary Societies

Canisteo was very wet, given too much brawling. The Shoemakers of Allison's factory always had a champion, so when the Hadley's of Adrian and Shermans of Milwaukee came to town, many were the bloody contests.

In the same year I came to town the Steamer Company, the Waldo Hose and Voorhis Hose were organized. I joined the Steamer Co., and when Shaut's Tannery was burned shortly after, I was so tired after the long run up Maple Street through March mud that I was glad to sit down on a stump on the banks of Bennett's Creek. The engineer said, "Here you, take the oil can and grease her."

Of Tom Deremus, Chief, Jean Hall, Asst., and the host of others I have the most pleasant memories. After the first engineer left George Sherman took over as engineer, and I served as assistant for many years and many fires. Harve Bennett was the faithful stoker. We had a LaFrance Steamer which we three kept in good shape and ready to run.

There were three churches, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist. Of the pastors I only remember Rev. Mr. Laine and D.W. Gates.

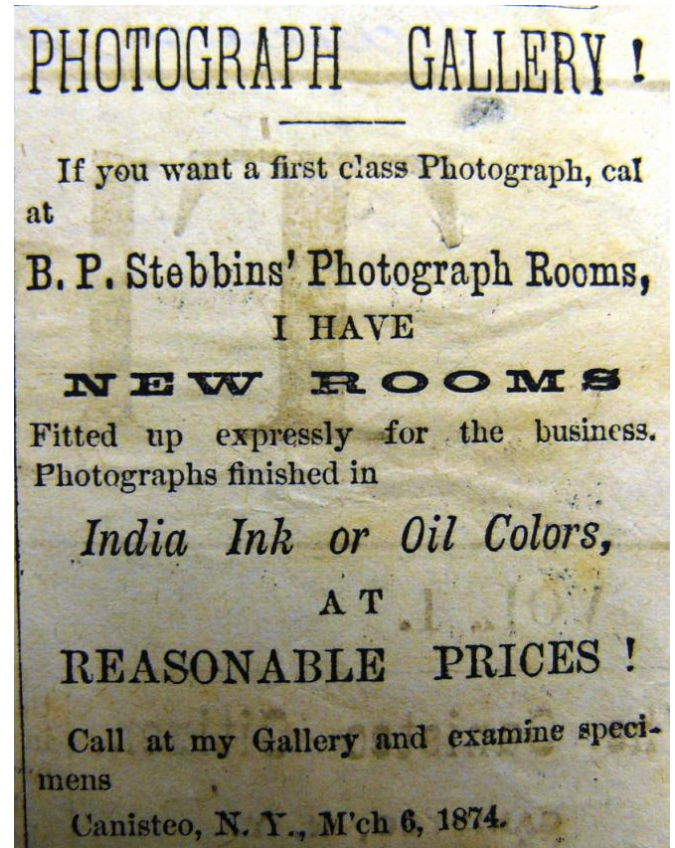
While Nick and I have not grown fat, we have lived well and have been well treated. I have the kindest feelings toward Canisteo and her people. There are none but with I remember pleasure. Having saved all the photographic literature which accumulated during my life I was able to send the Smithsonian institute 1,550 pounds of books,

publications, magazines, etc., for which I received a very flattering letter of thanks.

I think you one and all for the courtesy and honor you have given me. Wishing you all the same treatment you have extended me. Again thanks.

Editor's Note:

While A.B. Stebbins mentioned in his notes that he came to Canisteo in April 1879 and bought the photography business of J.L. Seeley Sr., the Stebbins name was known to Canisteo as seen in this March 1874 newspaper advertisement. B. P. Stebbins was A.B.'s photographer father.



Here at the Kanestio Historical Society we have one paper in our archives that dates back into the 1870s.



Known as "The Canisteo Citizen" Volume 1, No 2 was dated March 11, 1874. Volume 1 --- means that this was the first year this paper was in production and this was the second issue (or paper).

The proprietor of the paper was J. S. VanAlstin. Mr. J.S. VanAlstin was a "Short-Hand Reporter" for both Canisteo and Perry, NY. Terms = \$1.00 a year in advance. This paper is very fragile and has some great advertisements from 1874 as seen in the Photograph above.

RECENT AQUISITIONS

William B. Stuart Estate

- The Guns of Chippewa – Novel by Bill Stuart
- Early photo of the Cameron Band
- Photo Album of Stuart's Grandchildren
- Testimonial Book from Stuart's retirement from the Legislature
- Numerous Legislature documents, scrapbooks and letters
- Coast Guard History by Bill Stuart 7 related documents
- Numerous letters of correspondence
- Halninen Family Genealogy
- Letters from Archie Stuart
- The Phantom Mail Car Story by Stuart
- Books (3) – History of Presbyterian Church
- Books – "The Ancient Scottish Family of Stewart or Stuart"
- Photo of Stuart Home at 26 East Main Street
- Helen Stuart Grade School Class Photo
- Early Teacher's Certificate – Edna Almy
- Order of Eastern Star material (1923)
- Notebook of Letters relating to Postmaster job and school board
- Misc Masonic items and scrapbooks
- Early Canisteo Times Newspapers
- Numerous unpublished stories written by Stuart
- Several Stuart Family Scrapbooks
- Humphrey Family photos
- Music book – Stuart Family
- Will of Samuel Stuart
- Family deeds, tax receipts and mortgage documents
- Testimonial dinner programs (1952)
- Research file – "Shay's Rebellion"
- Commemorative envelope 150th yr purchase of Canisteo (1940)
- Stories of Gun Runners and the Coast Guard
- Draft – "Who is Who in Steuben County"
- How Postmasters are appointed (1922) – written by Stuart
- Service or Spoils – written by Stuart
- "In the Days of '76" – written by Stuart
- Newspaper Clippings from the 50's
- Research File – Winfield Scott Hancock
- Stories of the Stuarts in Cameron

- Research paper of Winfield Scott and Marinos Willett
- Personal notebook diaries

Other Acquisition:

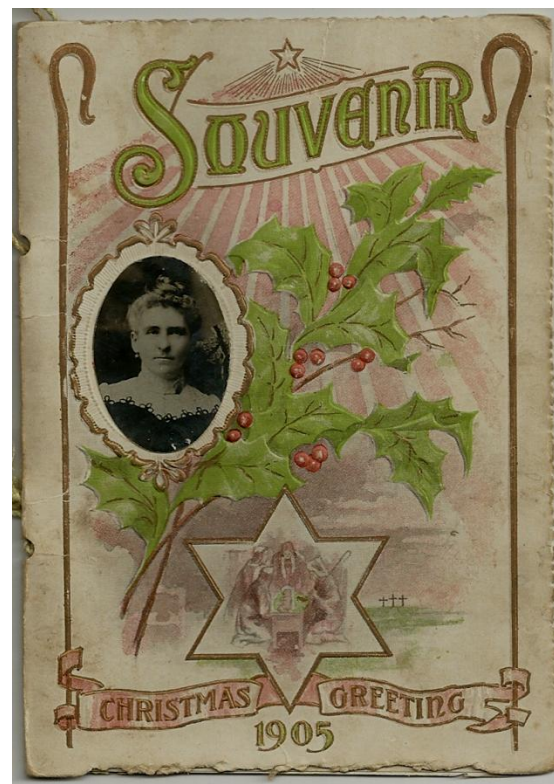
- Early oval picture of Cupid (found under the attic floorboards at 16 East Main Street) Copyright 1897 - Ursula Smith
- Large wooden sign Fred Hale's Garage (Auto Repair Shop) on West Main Street, early glassware from Canisteo businesses - Pat Hale
- Old subscription books from the Canisteo Times (1890's – 1900's) - Joe Latham
- 1941 Map of Steuben County – Pub by W.B. Thrall Map and Survey Co. Perry, New York – Estate of Walter Bob
- Small glass Listerine bottle, pair of hair clippers, misc shaving items and shaving mugs - Dale Carney
- Marlatt Family Photos and Souvenir Folders Swale School (1906 & 1922) - Shirley Marlatt



New Traffic Signals Downtown:

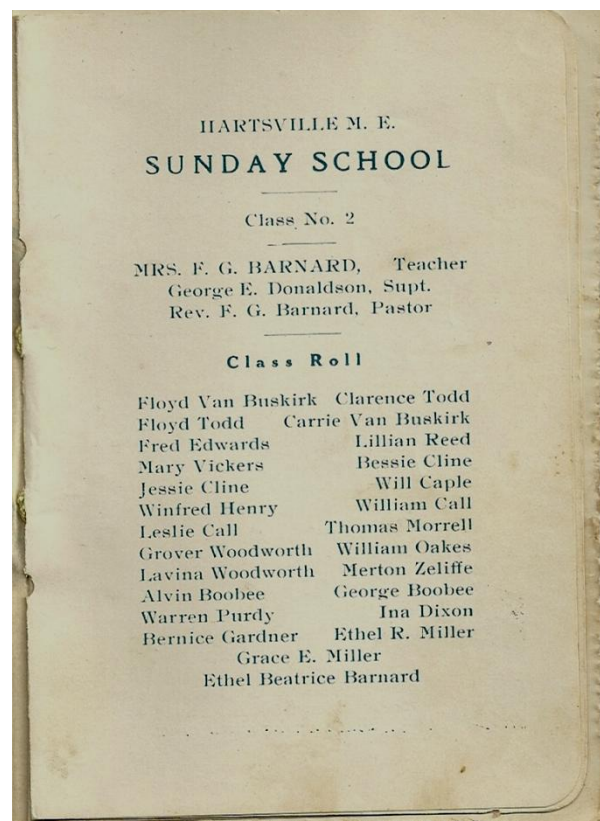
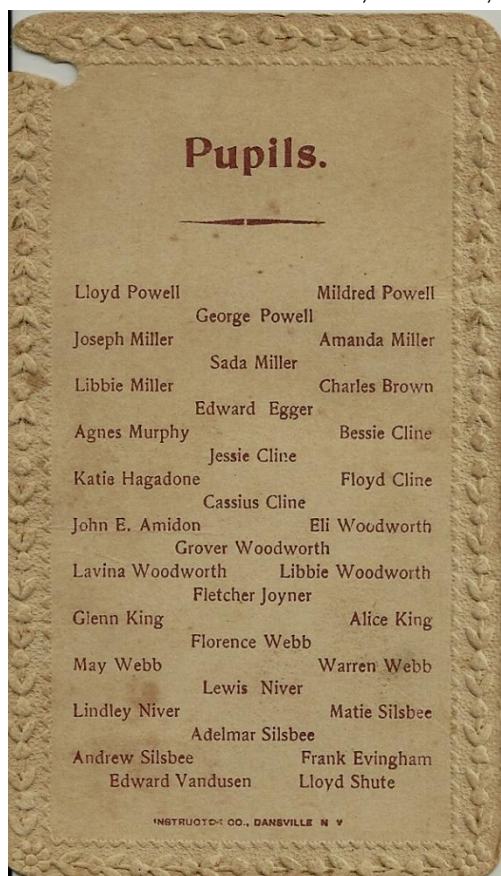
The traffic signal at the intersection of Main and Maple has been replaced with a stop sign at the end of Maple Street.

The Main, Greenwood, and Depot Streets intersection now has new electronic signals with walk lights.



Here is a tradition you no longer see, souvenir given by the teacher to their students at the end of the school year. This one presented to her 34 pupils by Lena Bassett from School District No. 1, Hartsville, in 1900.

This souvenir booklet is a rare one. Given out at Christmas time by the Sunday School at the Hartsville Methodist Episcopal Church in 1905. Class Roll for Class No. 2 consisted of 26 pupils; this booklet also included a story titled "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night".



Looking for a way to get involved; here are some suggestions:

- Window Display
- Participate in one of our fundraisers:
 - Crazy Daze yesterday's treasurers
 - Christmas Crafts Sale
 - Election Day Pie Sale
 - Christmas Cookie Sale
 - Winter Dinner
- Volunteer to do a presentation (program)
- Come and greet visitors during the Alumni Weekend event or while we are open during Christmas-in-the-Village
- Help the kitchen staff or wait tables at one of our Rotary Luncheons
- Help man the "Store" – help the volunteers during Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday while we are open

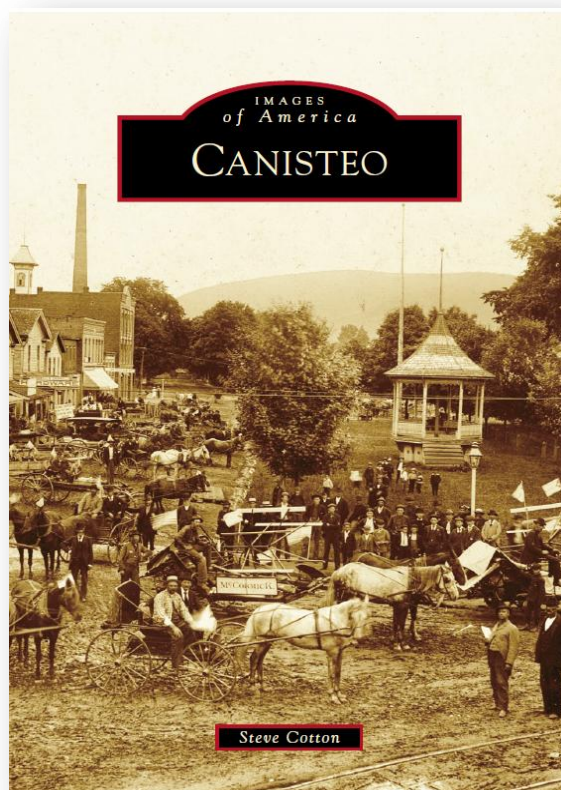
-OR- sometimes it's just fun to come in and browse through our files and displays.

It's time to pay your 2014 Dues. If the date on your mailing label reads 2012 or 2013 – you need to pay your 2014 Dues.

\$ 7.00 Single	Mail to:
\$ 10.00 Family	Kanestio Historical Society
\$100.00 Life	PO Box, 35
	Canistio, NY 14823

We are now accepting donation of items for our "Yesterday's Treasure" sale that we hold during Crazy Daze each year. (No clothing please.)

Kanestio Historical Society
Steve Cotton, Editor
PO Box 35
Canistio, NY 14823



Steve still has books available. He also has a few of John & Sue Babbitt's books available – stop by the society or contact Steve for details.

Check us out on Face Book.

We have 445 "Likes" on our page so far.

Some of our photo's get over 1,000 views in the first 24 hours after uploaded.