

# 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  
[www.kanestiohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kanestiohistoricalsociety.com)

2019 Vol. 2 - Spring [kanestiohs@gmail.com](mailto:kanestiohs@gmail.com) Gail Davis, Editor

## School Colors

We recently received this blue and white "patch" in an assortment of school award letters from the family of Robert (1945) and Jacqueline Erick Wallace (1947).



We have in our collection a blue and white pennant which we know was designed by Pat Hale in 1945. She took the design and dimensions with the approval of the school principal to Ed Crandall (a local jeweler) who had the pennants produced for sale.



My curiosity was aroused and I began searching through old school newsletters and yearbooks to see if I could find anything about why the colors blue and white were chosen instead of red and white and when the Canisteo Redskins became our mascot.

The use of school letters, for other than athletics, was started in 1931 based on the following article from the Canisteo Academy newsletter "The Totem."

### HONOR LETTERS

*Another innovation, which, however, is not strictly athletic, is the 25-point honor letters. These letters are based on scholastic honors and extra-curricular activities. Heretofore the only letters given in the school were those for athletics. This letter makes it possible for the outstanding student to wear the insignia of the school as well as the athlete.*

*Points for honor marks in the final examinations, class offices, athletic letters, participation in school plays, debates, speaking contests, departmental clubs and the staff of the school paper are given the number of points for each being based on its importance and the amount of time required for it. When a total of 25 points have been earned the letter is to be awarded.*

*To date two of these letters have been earned by Kenneth Harvey and Paul Stephens, although several more are expected to appear in the near future. It seems to be the desire of everyone in school to wear one judging from the scramble for points.*

**We have a collection of these letters depicting the different clubs and organizations through the years. You can find them on the shelf with the yearbooks when you're visiting. I'm sure you'll find them quite interesting.**

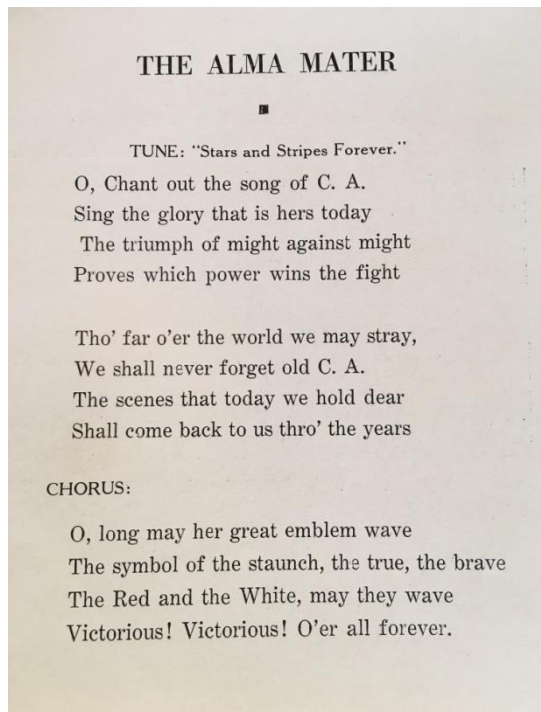
Before the centralization of the school district and the opening of the new Canisteo Central School in 1938 we see reference to class colors - not school colors. The class of 1912 chose green and white as their colors. Another year chose orange and black. We've had quite a discussion amongst the researchers on this project as to why class colors would be different than school colors. We found in the 1945 yearbook that the Class Motto was "Dum vivimus, vivamus - While we live, let us live." Class Flower: American Beauty Rose. Class Colors - Blue and White so the practice was still going on at this time.



In our collection of award letters is a burgundy music award. The CA insignia tells us this was from the Canisteo Academy Music Department. We don't know what year.

The 1940 yearbook cheerleaders page states that the '39-'40 year new

uniforms would be red corduroy skirts and white satin blouses. Starting in 1951 the yearbook covers are consistently done in red and white and school colors seem to be locked in.



After all our weeks of research looking through old yearbooks and school newspapers, I received an e-mail from Shelly Florence-Glover with a copy of our school song from the 1937 - 57th Alumni Banquet Program. How many times had I sung this song during my years at CCS yet the words never came to me during our research? "The red and the white may they wave - victorious! victorious! ore all forever.

What started out as a half column article has now spread onto three pages. I'm satisfied that red and white were always meant to be our school colors. I don't understand the desire for the classes to have different class colors. I do wonder who wrote our school song and when it was first introduced but that's a project for another time as I still have the story of our search for the history of our school mascot to tell.

One more note on the school song - did anyone ever stop to question what C.A. meant when we were singing our alma mater? Obviously it was Canisteo Academy and amazing to me that after the formation of the Central School System the song continued without alteration until the consolidation with Greenwood. But then, why mess with something that works!

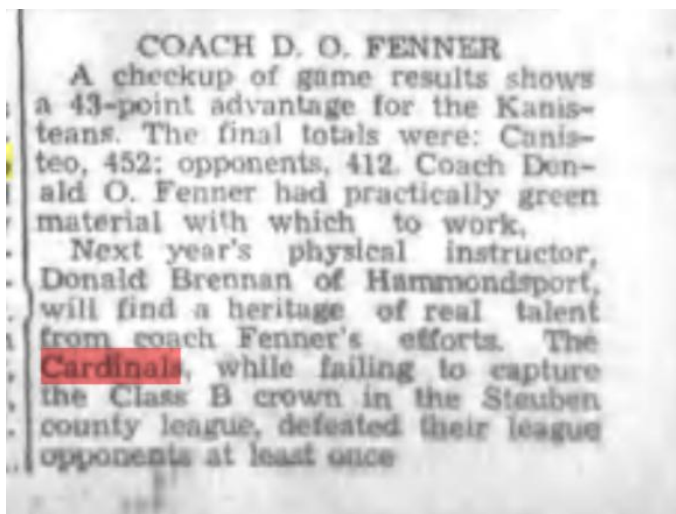


The origin of the Redskin Mascot appears to begin with the consolidation of the schools into the Central School District in 1938. The January 18, 1938 issue of "The Totem" records "The Canisteo Redskins trounced Dundee Central School 21 to 8 on the local court".

(I know there is a lot of controversy surrounding the use of the name but in all the articles we've read in our research there is nothing but pride and accolades for our Indian heritage and the symbol is meant as one of respect.)

In our research we discovered that the Canisteo Academy Sports Teams were called "Cardinals" from 1935 to 1937. We do not have any yearbooks or school newspapers for these 3 years to glean any more information as to why this was chosen. (Also a mystery is why there weren't any yearbooks for these years.)

Special thanks to Shelly Florence-Glover who found numerous articles in the 35-37 issues of the "Canisteo Times" referencing the Cardinals. It is hard to get good quality prints from the internet copies of the articles. The following article from March 17, 1938 had a picture of Coach Fenner which I've cut due to the poor quality but in this short article you find a reference to Kanisteads, Canisteo and the Cardinals.



We're at a loss at this point for any explanation as to why the Cardinals were chosen or why the switch to the Redskins. We would love to hear from our readers if anyone knows the details on this.

A final thought: The volunteers at the Society are such a special group of people who are always willing to jump in and research a new topic. Actually they seem to thrive on it. It's so rewarding when someone comes in with a question and you see the team of volunteers go to work, digging and searching for more information. As a result we have a true treasure trove of information available at the Society. The public is encouraged to stop in and explore our binders full of information on a variety of subjects.

## Time to pay your 2019 dues

It seems like I'm always reminding everyone that it's time to pay dues. If you receive your newsletter by mail the date on left side above your address shows your membership status. Unless it says "Life" or "2019" it's time to renew your annual membership. Your dues cover the cost of printing and mailing newsletters to our more senior members who don't use the internet. We mail 70 copies each quarter. Any extra money from dues and your generous donations go to pay utilities, insurance, supplies, etc. We receive no outside funding. Our operating budget comes solely from dues, donations and our fund raisers. There are no paid positions at the Society - Volunteers keep our doors open and maintain the displays and building. (Thank you to those who have all ready paid)

### Dues Schedule

Individuals - \$10  
Family - \$15  
Lifetime - \$150

Thanks to all for your generosity and continued support.

Would you like to receive you newsletter with colored photos and save the Historical Society money?

Sign up to receive you newsletter by email by notifying us at [kanestiohs@gmail.com](mailto:kanestiohs@gmail.com). You will receive your newsletter in a PDF format that allows you to print or view it from your own computer which is a big savings in both time and money for the Society. This issue is one you definitely want to view in color.

Check out the new weekly challenges on our face book page:

Test your skills in identifying old photos and unique items from our collection.

## Arkport Pack 16 Visits



We recently had the pleasure of a visit from these 6 young scouts from Arkport: From the left, Easton Stauring (Lion Den), Carson Smith, Matthew Spoth, Parker Wilson-Ross, Jacob Miller and Remington Stauring (the 5 on the right are Bear Den members).

**We love to have comments from our readers,** especially those of you who have moved out of the area and want to share memories of growing up in Canisteo. Following is a note from Marilyn Losey Mitchell:

*"I love getting the newsletter. I keep hoping I will see a name I recognize but at my age (86) I realize most of my classmates and friends have already died. I lived in Canisteo (5 Prospect St.) from 1932-1949. I lived in many states and countries (Germany) since then but when someone talks about home, Canisteo is what I think of. I started kindergarten at CCS and was in the graduating class of 1950. The last time I was in Canisteo was Memorial Day weekend in 2005. I'm hoping I get to visit one more time."*

**Ed. Note:** The diary that starts on the next page contains several footnotes references with more information on individuals mentioned. If you would like these footnotes or can fill in some of the ? marks please e-mail us.

## High Banks or Dead Man's

by George Dickey, Town Historian

If you were a kid in Canisteo in the 50's the ultimate swimming hole was High Banks or Dead Man's. Located in Bennett's Creek, a short distance downstream from the Silver Bridge, most of our parents considered it too dangerous for swimming. It was called Dead Man's because someone had drowned there, or at least that was the story, but no one seemed to know who or when this happened.

Here is the story of the dead man from the Canisteo Times of July 28, 1938. Merlin Still, age 22 of Hornell, was wading in shallow water with his girl friend when he slipped into deep water. The after effects of polio left him weak. Neither he nor the girlfriend could swim and she was unable to pull him back to shore.

Apparently they were there alone, as she had to run back up stream near the bridge to the Grif Jack home for help.

This hole washed out in later floods and is not the same as the current swimming hole. It was closer to the highway. You could not see the pool from the road, but you could see divers on the top of the bank.

## May Aurora Clark Smith - 1896 - 1980

by Shelly Florence-Glover

May lived at Bennett's Creek, Canisteo from 1915 to 1925, moving to Hornell for 12 years in the East Avenue area. After marrying Richard Smith (1882-1986) they moved back to Canisteo in 1937 renting at 27 Russell Street. By 1945, they buy the house next door, where she would live until 1976 and affectionately became known as the Cat Lady of 29 Russell Street.

Though May resides in Canisteo, she works, shops, goes to East Avenue Methodist Church, in Hornell. She is a supervisor at Merrill Hosiery and often recruits her Canisteo neighbors and girls from church to work with her at the factory. Her work, social life, cats and church activities are recorded in diaries spanning some 15 years. Some entries are hard to read. I have taken my best guess at illegible words.

May does it all. She works, sews, cleans, cooks, sells gadgets, serves on church boards and committees; and collects cats in need. Her friends frequently

receive cards, letters and sometimes cakes or meals. She visits those in the St. James hospital, conveniently located across the street from where she does laundry at the former Loohn's on Canisteo Street.

This month's entry is "Spring Doings." Mizpah is a church group meeting in different homes. Alpha is also a church group, Alpha Baraca. The abbreviation ss is Sunday School; Ch is church; R is her husband Richard;

The year is 1962. John Glen becomes the first American to orbit the moon. The Beatles record "Love Me Do". The first of the James Bond movies "Dr. No" is released to great success. Eggs are 32 cents a dozen and gas is 28 cents a gallon. The first Wal-Mart Store opens in Arkansas.

**4.1 Sunday** About three inches wet, mushy snow. To S.S. & Ch. Ironed. Wrote to B. Quay<sup>i</sup>. At hospital a few minutes

**4.2 Monday** Stopped at hospital a few minutes with Pearl.

**4.3 Tuesday** Ask Frances Crossman about 1960 tax refund request.

**4.4 Wednesday** Mama Schaffes<sup>ii</sup> cat had a baby in PM black and white tabby died March 17, 1966. Sent request letter for refund 1960 tax. R & I took Mabel Keeler<sup>iii</sup> to Elmira Hospital to see Clarence<sup>iv</sup>. Nice night. Mama Schaffe's cat had one baby in PM Named "Taffy."

**4.5 Thursday** Elizabeth<sup>v</sup> went on inspecting & pairing all day. I to hospital Elmer<sup>vi</sup> & Pearl<sup>vii</sup> home. Nice day. Hair do.

**4.6 Friday** Got groc & home. Did wash at Loohns

**4.8 Sunday** Took birthday cake to Leo S.<sup>viii</sup>

**4.9 Monday** Rose & I alone. R & I took ashes away. Rained some off & on all day.

**4.10 Tuesday** Nice day. Took Smokey to Dr. Beyer for spaying operation cost \$7.

**4.11 Wednesday** We took ashes away and home.

**4.12 Thursday** Brought Smokey home from Beyers for operation at noon hour in PM & Eve rain turned into snow.

**4.13 Friday** Busy day. Got groceries lost of Bds not much greigr work(???)

**4.14 Saturday** Got groceries Canisteo & Hornell saw Olive?Alice<sup>ix</sup> (?) about Mizpah refreshments.

**4.15 Sunday** Palm Sunday. Snowed off and on all day stayed home. To S.S. and Ch. Had Palms Alpha bought as a memorial to M Plass<sup>x</sup>, E Taft<sup>xi</sup> H. Stone<sup>xii</sup>

**4.16 Monday** B Kellogg<sup>xiii</sup> & E Avery<sup>xiv</sup> birthday. Letters from Avon<sup>1</sup> & Income 1960 May get it in 30 days. Guild Supper.

**4.17 Tuesday** Took Smokey back for stitches to be taken out.

**4.18 Wednesday** Mizpah meeting at Lillian's instead of Helen Green's<sup>xv</sup> Olive and I were on refreshments 10 members present. Myna<sup>xvi</sup> rode home with me.

**4.19 Thursday** Felicia Grillo<sup>xvii</sup> Birthday April 19. Liz<sup>xviii</sup> came to work after being off for two days. Rode up town with Nel (?) I not to Ch service Maundy Thursday.

**4.20 Friday** Got permanent. Got groc. Nice day, but cool.

**4.21 Saturday** Nice day. Turned out all gas fires. Had door opened. Cleaned vestibule & front rooms. Move plants into vestibule.

**4.22 Sunday** Easter Sunday. To S.S. & Ch. Chippy gone all day. We took trash away. Chippy was out back of house when we came home. Hot day. 80 degree temperatures here. Home all day.

**4.24 Tuesday** Had H. Keeler<sup>xix</sup> to see about clogged drain from sink. Took R there after work to get pipe disassembled. Cool air

**4.25 Wednesday** Warm day 82 degrees in Mill. Took R to Howard morning. Keeler in with pipe for sink, but we not at home.

**4.26 Thursday** Liz<sup>xx</sup> rode up to town. I got groc. Back to church for Alpha Meeting. 2 men Travis<sup>xxi</sup> & Lockwood<sup>xxii</sup>; Dora,<sup>xxiii</sup> Myrtle, Hilda<sup>xxiv</sup>, Helen<sup>xxv</sup>, Cora<sup>xxvi</sup>, Mrs. Reichert<sup>xxvii</sup>, Laura<sup>xxviii</sup>, May

**4.27 Friday** Got groc took trash away. To Andover no one home.

**4.29 Sunday** To S.S. & Ch. Then to Andover in Evening. Hot day & rained at night. Started green Dress machine set up.

**4.30 Monday** Cloudy but warm. High water in the river. R cashed refund \$25.00 check for 1960. Paid J.V. \$20.00 kept the rest for cat food.

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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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$10.00 Individual \*\*    \$15.00 Family\*\*  
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Sue Babbitt	Co - President
Toni Stevens-Oliver	Secretary
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Sue Babbitt	2019
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