

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
www.kanestiohistoricalsociety.com

Vol. 1 - Winter 2020 kanestiohs@gmail.com Gail Davis, Editor

2019 in Review

January is the perfect time to update our members on our activities for the last year and acknowledge our volunteers. It was a year of long hours and hard work for our volunteers. First, a big thank-you to our Wednesday, Thursday and Friday volunteers - George Dickey, Jose Huerta, Shelly Florence-Glover, Sue Babbitt, Margaret Stephen, Betty Merring and myself. We are open 1-3 on these days and often find ourselves here 2 or 3 days a week covering for illness and our snowbirds. If you have a couple hours free and could help cover those hours you would be most welcome.

Special thanks to Sue Babbitt for proof reading the newsletter. Sue is also responsible for booking programs at our at our monthly Tuesday night meetings and doing our advertising. Much of this takes place from Florida, as she and John are among our snowbirds.

Our January meeting was a brainstorming session for increasing interest in the Historical Society. Toni Stevens-Oliver agreed to increase our face book presence by introducing special postings for each day of the week encouraging our viewers to identify photos and share information. This has been a big success and we thank Toni (and George for helping her find photos) for all their time put into this project.

Betty Merring continues to hold water color paint classes on Tuesday afternoons. She will be headed for Florida during January and February but back in March anxious to resume classes. If you are interested in these classes please let us know.

Our March meeting was a sharing of memories from the 1950's as we recognize the fact that we are starting to lose our community members from that period and we need to start gathering their recollections before they're gone. We've had a few articles in the newsletters on businesses from the 50's and hope to continue those this year.

Speaking of the 1950's - Do you remember these CCS employees?



Seated is Betty Caple - 4th grade teacher. Standing: Margaret Stephens - our dental hygienist and Martha Cardman - Kindergarten teacher. We were recently honored to have all three visiting during our Election Day Pie Sale.

In March we submitted a grant application to the DHPSNY for an Archival Preservation Evaluation. Shelly Florence Glover and Gail Davis spent many hours preparing the application. We were awarded the grant and thus began the preparation for the July site visit.

Shelly, George and Gail have spent many hours working on an inventory and data base for the physical items and numerous research materials at the Historical Society. Although we have much left to do the majority of boxes in the archives have been input as well as the research notebooks and files from George's office. If someone comes into the building looking for genealogy information, photos or information on a business, etc. we can go to the data base and pull up a list of what we have along with the exact location and information about the donor, etc.

Toni Stevens-Oliver spent many hours of her summer vacation from school as a 4th grade teacher, entering information from Canisteo families into Ancestry.com

The Class of 1969 held their 50 year reunion with many of the alumni stopping in to check out our school memorabilia for their class. (We'd love to do a display for your next reunion if you let us know in advance.)



A new fund raiser this year were rag rug workshops. We emptied our linen closets of all the old sheets, as well as finding every Salvation Army Thrift shop between Rochester and Elmira, and learned the lost art of twining rugs raising over \$600 for the Society.



Our group was very well represented at the Second Annual Steuben County History Days with several agricultural displays. Steve Cotton, with help from Ron & Virginia Putnam, did a display on chicken hatcheries in Canisteo. Steve also did a display on the Atherton's Ayrshire Dairy and Haying in the Canisteo Valley. George Dickey did a storyboard of old farm photos as well as working on the school tours held throughout the week.



Our Annual Election Day Pie and Yesterday's Treasures Sale bought in \$1,000 for the Society. We had almost 50 pies donated, oodles of stuff for Yesterday's Treasures and many generous monetary donations. A big thank you to everyone for your support.



Phyllis Cassidy and Betty Merring - Volunteers

A question I often get is do we have a special project that we're raising money for. Our fund raisers are used to pay for insurance, utilities, office supplies, preservation supplies and the bare necessities that keep our doors open to the public and allow us to continue to collect and preserve our Canisteo history. In a good year we might make a couple hundred extra to put away in our rainy day fund. Unlike many of the local Historical Societies, we own our own building. Our predecessors built our building from the ground up with the help of many local craftsman and the generosity of the community. There are no paid employees - we are staffed totally by volunteers. So again -- thank you to all who support us.



Christmas in the Village was a great kick-off to the holiday season where we had our own "Hallmark Channel Christmas Celebration." Local businesses decorated Christmas trees on the Main Street side of the parking lot. Santa arrived and listened to everyone's wish list while Mrs. Santa and her helpers read stories to children. There was a live nativity outside Somer's Hall courtesy of Katie's Mercantile. Sugar Plum Fairies from Miss Lisa's Artistry of Dance performed on stage with beautiful costumes and special lighting. Josh Wightman sang Christmas Carols in the Band Stand. There was face painting at Annie's Restaurant resulting in the cutest band of reindeer running around the village. There were vendors and crafters set up at the Town Hall, other Christmas Activities at LoX Salon and the always popular horse drawn wagon rides by Doug Lawrence.

The Historical Society served hot chocolate and Christmas cookies to help warm those coming in from the cold. The second floor museum was open and fully staffed allowing parents to reminisce with their children about the businesses and sights and sounds of Canisteo when they were growing up. Yearbooks are always a popular item during this event where kids love looking (and laughing) at old school pictures of their parents. Our Yesterday's Treasures Christmas Sale and a display of vintage animated Christmas figures added to the festive Christmas kick-off.



Volunteers at Work
Sally Florence and Margaret Stephens

Finding their way back home



A few items that had gone out of state with their owners found their way back to Canisteo this summer. The Canisteo Firemen's Drum Major's baton shown above is pictured in the framed newspaper article from a Firemen's parade in Addison, NY. The baton was donated by Charlie Wilder's daughter, Linda Bennett.

This silver tray, pitcher and chalice engraved, "Presented by teachers and pupils, Canisteo, NY 1897", was given to departing Principal Walter Hood. His grandson, Roger Herman, brought the items to us from Pennsylvania. Below is a picture of Mr. Hood and his wife, Cora, who taught "elocution" at the Academy. Elocution, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, is the art of careful public speaking, using clear pronunciation and good breathing to control the voice. The picture is from tin type shortly after their marriage in August 1895.



Do you have items of Canisteo History in your family that the younger generations don't quite know what to do with? Think about donating them to the Historical Society and keep your Canisteo history alive in our museum.



March 1937 - Barker Drug Store has been sold to Ed Beaver. Mr. Barker came to Canisteo in 1894 as pharmacist for George T. Reed. The Reed Pharmacy at that time was located on Depot Street on the Canisteo Times Site. In 1900 the E. C. Barker Pharmacy moved to its present Main St. location. Ed Beaver had been affiliated with the Harvey and Carey store in Hornell for 10 years.

Our annual Harvest Dinner was held at our November meeting and the annual election of officers took place during the business meeting. Officers and directors are listed on the back page.



The final fundraiser for the year was our Christmas Cookie Sale. A big thank you to all who baked and bought cookies. We made \$447 from the sale.



The Yesterday's Treasures Holiday Sale that starts with our Election Day Pie Sale netted us another \$550.

It's been a busy and productive year for the Historical Society. Volunteers have logged a lot of hours but there's still so much we want to do. If you haven't visited our museum in a while, please stop in and check out the changes and let our volunteers know you appreciate what they do.



Jim Dineen helps set up our Christmas Display

Coming Events - Save the Dates 2020

- Jan. 21 - 7:00 - Business & Planning Meeting for 2020
- Feb. 18 - tba
- Mar. 17 - tba
- Apr. 21 - 7:00 - Women in the Civil War - C. Braack
- May 19 - 7:00 - Flight of the Vin Fizz - John Babbitt
- June 16 - NYP Railroad Stories
- July 21 - Annual Picnic 6:00
- August 18- Field Trip
- Sept. 15 - tba
- Oct. 20 - tba
- Nov. 3 - Election Day Pie Sale - Yesterday's Treasures Sale
- Nov. 17 - Harvest Dinner - Election of Officers
- Nov. 28 - Christmas in the Village
- Dec. - 19 - Cookie Sale
- Dec. 15 - no program

Thanks to C&N Bank , those of you who receive a paper copy of our newsletter will now be receiving a professionally printed document with color photos. We had previously printed them in-house and were only able to print black and white photos of very poor quality. We are so thankful to C&N for their donation allowing us to distribute a more professional newsletter.

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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

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.

2020 Officers

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

Directors

Stan Arthur	2020
Jose Huerta	2021
Gail Davis	2022
Jerry Bush	2023
Sue Babbitt	2024