

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

2021 Vol. 3- Summer kanestiohs@gmail.com Gail Davis, Editor

Canistota's Oldest Business



According to the August 26, 1954 *Canistota Times* Newspaper Article we ran in our last newsletter our current Town Hall on South Main Street was the oldest house within the current Village limits and the building on the corner of South Main and Greenwood Street was the oldest business structure. The buildings were thought to have been completed in 1828. The photo above is from either the 1887 or 1898 Firemen's Carnival. We cannot make out the entire sign on the front of the store but it appears to contain the words William Taylor.

An article in the March 31, 1887 *Canistota Times* announces that F.D. Clossey is renting the store from Henry Taylor. Articles continue that year that say Clossey has moved his groceries to the more commodious quarters and he's brightened the store with new paint. In April of 1896 Clossey changes the name of the business to "Park Store" but ads continue with the F.D. Clossey logo. The store sells everything from shoes to bicycles, lawn swings and hammocks.

C. M. Crandall buys the business from Clossey in August of 1900 and builds a new store front.



A *Canistota Times* article from February 1903 reveals that Canistota Mercantile is established by C. M. Crandall and Shaut & Ridell consolidating into 1 big store. The Miller & Crozier Sign goes up in March of 1903 and a new "Feed, Seed & Flour Warehouse" is erected on its lot facing the park.



Photo from 1916 Flood

Fred Williams buys the property in January 1928 to expand his Funeral Home business but by April has converted the building to a high end furniture store. In 1948 ads start running as "Richardson Furniture (successor to F.E. Williams)." Richardson is William's son-in-law.



Tom Smith will purchase the building from Richardson in 1963 and open Smith's Furniture Manor.



Tom retired in December 2001. In 2003 Black Bear Outfitters occupied the space. Valerie Steinman had a gift shop named Pizzazz for a while and more recently Mike Palmer purchased the store and leases the space to Invenergy: Canisteo Wind Energy Center.

The Annex 4 South Main St.



The Annex built in 1903 as a feed, seed and flour warehouse has had multiple owners and uses over the years.

1939 - Radio Repair shop that also sold hearing aids.

1941 - Carlton Brooks Flower Shop

1946 - Angelo Caforio Shoe Repair Shop

1946 - Wendall Wilkins Key and Bicycle Repair

1989 - Kanestio Laundry Mat

2000 - 2020 - Valley Salon/ELaura Beauty Shop

Do you know other businesses that occupied this space? There's quite a gap between 1946 and 1989.

*The following article is from
the October 7, 1903 Times Republican
J.C. Latham, Owner and Editor*

THE GROWTH OF A CANISTEO STORE

THE TIME REPUBLICAN today presents views of one of the largest and most complete mercantile establishments to be found anywhere in this section, the store of the Canisteo Mercantile Co. The evolution of this store during the past three years has been as wonderful as it has been rapid. Change has followed change, improvement has followed improvement. Not only has the policy of progress permeated to every nook and corner of the store and its interior arrangements, but it has also effected the stock in like manner, so that the present store is as new and different from the old store as money and ingenuity can make it.

(Continued on page 5)

Have you visited your Kanestio Historical Society lately?

During Covid we were forced to close for several months and when we re-opened it was at reduced hours. We are now open our normal hours: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1-3 PM.

The Historical Society is a great place to visit and bring guests. We added many new items and refreshed our displays this past year.



We have a large display of items from Canisteo businesses dating back to the 1800's.



Do any of these items from our Boy Scout display bring back memories of your scout leaders and camping trips?



We have displays of antique farm and carpenter tools. For the ladies there is a display of early kitchen utensils.



We have a large library containing genealogy information as well as dozens of binders compiled by our volunteers on local history.

The Historical Society is your place to buy local postcards and books on local history. Dozens of photographs are displayed of Canisteo through the decades.

Yearbooks dating back to 1899 are a great resource for pictures of your parents, grandparents and businesses in operations during those years.

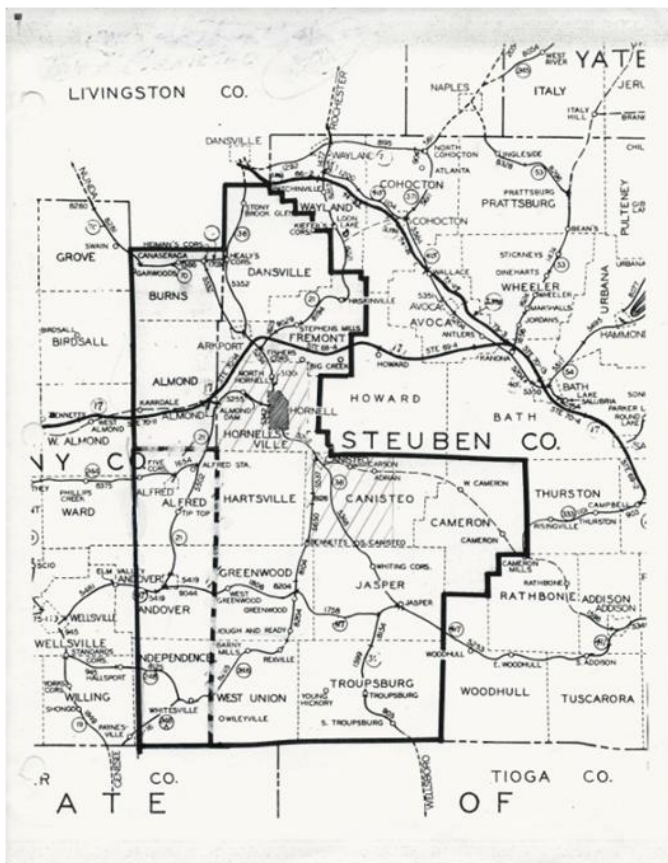
If you're planning a visit to Canisteo, please stop in and share your memories with us. If your visit doesn't coincide with our hours we're happy to arrange special tours.

Changes in the Boundaries of the Town of Canisteo over the Years

When the Town of Canisteo was formed in 1796 it included most of the Southwest Corner of Steuben County (bold outline on the following map.) As the population increased new towns were formed from Canisteo. The first change occurred in 1808 when the townships of Burns, Almond, Alfred, Andover, and Independence were added to Allegany County.

Next, in 1820 Hornellsville was created as a separate town. At that time it included what would become the Town of Hartsville in 1844. In 1827 the southern portion of the town was separated and the Town of Greenwood was created from parts of Canisteo and Troupsburg. In 1845 Greenwood was divided when West Union was created.

The final changes were made in 1872 when a small area in southeast corner was annexed to the Town of Cameron.



Any idea what these tractors are doing lined up in front of the Canisteo Times Building?

If you guessed some kind of farm show you're wrong. These were the first rubber tire tractors sold in Steuben County. According to Jon Armstrong, Greenwood native and current member of the Newfield Historical Society: "the tractors, Allis-Chalmers, were delivered in 1936 to Canisteo by the Erie Railroad and then sold at his grandfather, Jay Armstrong's, farm equipment/service station/diner/lumber/trucking/guest cabins business in Greenwood. The tractors were unloaded in Canisteo and then my grandfather, my father and some community members from Greenwood drove them to Greenwood.

Left to right: unidentified man standing, Orry Freeland (seated on tractor in foreground, Gordon Pease, Jesse E. Armstrong (my grandfather) standing on the tractor, Jay D. Armstrong, (my father), Stanley Murray and Matt Brundage."



The Greenwood business was located at the site of the current Veteran's Park.

Mr. Armstrong also brought us a binder of information on the Canisteo Pageant of Bands held between 1966 and 1976. If you were a band member during those years you remember 8th period marching band practices with Mr. Thurkins and the excitement of competitions.

A "CORNER" IN DRY GOODS (continued from page 2)

The change was begun when C. M. Crandall came here from Richburg. He immediately began many improvements on the interior which made a marked change in appearance. Paper and paint were applied freely, new store front and fixtures were added and in a great many ways the store was made inviting and attractive. The building, which is 125 x 25, is not only the largest in Canisteo devoted to merchandise, but it's among the largest in the county. Mr. Crandall constantly improved his stock and added thereto a complete line of dry goods, until he had one of the finest and best assortments of general merchandise, groceries, feed, farming implements and shoes to be found. His business also grew.

Last March the project came up of consolidating the large and popular grocery business of Shaut & Ridell with the Crandall store. The people of this region are too well acquainted with the great success of Mr. Shaut in the grocery business to need any facts that we may give. He conducted business in a pushing, energetic, down-to-date (sic) manner and worked up a grocery trade that was a marvel. He not only carried all the staple goods, but made a specialty of the finest and choicest fancy goods in the market and his business increased steadily.

The project of combining these two stores was quickly consummated. A stock company under the name, CANISTEO MERCANTILE CO, was organized with a capital stock of \$25,000, and duly incorporated. Among the prominent Canisteo men identified with the company are: Marshall M. Burell, L.J. Simpson, Dr. S.C. Williamson and R.P. Thatcher. But when the change was made, another, and more marked change was made on the interior of the store. From one end to the other the building was remodeled, the latest and most approved counters, shelving and store furniture were procured, the store was renovated and handsomely decorated, a fine oak stairway was built in, large arc lights were put in to make it as light at night as in the day time, a new plate glass front was added on the Greenwood street side opening into the grocery department and from one

end to the other the store was made attractive and inviting.

The stock is complete in every department. The line of dry goods is extensive and comprises the best the great city markets afford. The grocery department is filled to repletion with every possible article in that line while the line of shoes is one of the largest to be found anywhere outside the large cities. To make room for increasing business a large feed store, 22x60, is now being built in which the feed, seeds, salt, and other heavy goods will be kept. In fact, the store is absolutely complete in arrangements and stock and a credit to Canisteo.

Donation Thank You

Many of you continue to send donations and words of appreciation for the work of our volunteers along with your dues. We have seen an increase in membership which is very gratifying. Thank you to the following for your donations and continued support:

*Dana & Maggie Aultman

*Tom & Phyllis Cassidy

*Rodney Teribury

* David & Kathy Greenfield

* Martha and Steve Thompson

* Bonnie and James Thies

*Jon Armstrong

* Many others who said " keep the change" when making purchases from our book store.

Upcoming Events

July 20 - Dish to pass Picnic at Rotary Park - 6:00

August 18 - (Wed)- Outing to Rexville Historical Society and Slate Creek School - Lunch at Pflums at 11:00 (on your own). Hist. Soc visit 12:30. Slate Creek School follows.

September 21 - 7:00 NYP Railroad - John Babbitt

October 19 - 7:00 Pictures around Canisteo- Steve Cotton

November 2 - Election Day Pie Sale and Yesterday's Treasures sale. 8-12 AM

November 16 - 6:00 Dish to pass Harvest Dinner and Election of Officers

December 18 - 9-12 - Cookie Sale

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23 Main St., P.O. Box 35
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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
Canisteo, NY 14823

Donations gratefully accepted toward operating expenses.

2020-2021 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