

Kanestio Historical Society Times

23 Main St - P.O. Box 35 - Canistota, NY 14823
(607) 698-2086 - Thursday & Friday 1-3 - Monthly Meetings - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM
www.kanestiohistoricalsociety.com

2023- Winter kanestiohs@gmail.com Gail Davis, Editor

The Spotlight Is On...

by Suzanne Babbitt



Steve Weed who passed away on September 30, 2022 at the age of 72 was much loved by many folks in Steuben County, especially those in the communities of Canistota & Hornell. We recently came across a 1991 article by Wendy Sherman from The Evening Tribune (Canistota Times) which we will reprint portions of here.

He's a man of many hats who enjoys working with children, but he saved his best for his wife & children. Steve Weed at various times has been president of the Canistota school board, a 20 year Canistota fireman, has coached midget football, umpired Canistota Little League, & been caretaker of Hillside Cemetery, along with being a full time fireman for the Hornell Fire Dept.

At age 21 Steve joined the Canistota Volunteer Fire Co. He said, "I wanted to be a part of the action. I've made a life of helping people, & joining Canistota was just the beginning." Later, joining Little League was a family idea. "My wife Sally was equipment manager, so I got involved. I never do anything without my family. I may be very busy but they always come first."

Finally for about a year he was involved with very few activities. "Then problems started in the school district. I could see they needed somebody with strong common sense & somebody who was strong willed, so I decided to run for school board." Weed ran a write-in campaign & tallied 900 of the 1200 votes cast. "Canistota Central School has always been known as the best place to get a quality education in this area. That is one reason I serve on the board because I want to see the kids get the best education they possibly can."

As far as his profession goes, Steve is proud to be working for the Hornell Fire Department. "There is a certain amount of prestige to being

a professional fireman. Hornell has a super fire department & they do a super job."

But his chief pride & joy is his family - wife Sally, son Jim & daughter Amy.

"I know I sound like I'm blowing my own horn, but a man could not be more proud of his wife & children than I am," he said. Weed said he has made a life of helping people & plans to continue in that manner. "I enjoy helping people & working with kids. During my life I've delivered babies, seen people die, & just kept going. I just enjoy life period. I've preached for years to the kids I worked with that if you feel you've done your best at any given thing you do - then you did. I think that's how I live. I believe I give my best to everything."

Recent Acquisitions

Our collection of Canisteo Central School award letters continues to grow. We recently received the following two letters from Debbie and Steve Zeltwanger that had belonged to Bonnie Wood. These were both new to us and sent us scrambling to the old yearbooks to see what we could find.



Bonnie graduated with the class of 1958. The white "C" has the letters GAA (Girls Athletic Association.) Girl's sports at that time included bowling, volleyball, basketball and cheerleading.

The second letter from Bonnie was this artist palette from the year 1955. We found a picture of the "Art Club" in the yearbook and are curious to their activities. Can anyone help us with that information?



Other items donated by the Zeltwangers included playbills from the Plaza Theatre on Greenwood Street and several CCS Handbooks from the late 50's. The highlight of the donation was the top of an old Hoosier Cabinet. You might ask what's so exciting about the top of an old Hoosier Cabinet - the answer was on the back. When we started cleaning the cabinet we found the Brasted & Jeffers Store label on the back and the Hoosier Label on the front. (continued on page 7)



Upcoming Events

Next year downtown Canisteo will be getting new sidewalks and Route 36 going through Canisteo will be replaced. This will likely force us to close while work is being done in front of our building.

We will not have programs in January or February but the museum will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 1-3 or by appointment. Our volunteers will continue to work to answer your questions and do research.

We are very excited about a book reading and signing jointly sponsored by the Wimodaughsian Library and the Historical Society. Save the date - Sunday, June 4th, 2:00 at the Canisteo American Legion.

Cynthia G. Neale is the author of *The Irish Dresser, A Story of Hope during The Great Hunger (An Gorta Mor, 1845-1850); Hope in New York City, The Continuing Story of The Irish Dresser; Norah: The Making of an Irish-American Woman in 19th-Century New York; The Irish Milliner*. Ms. Neale has also written a dessert and essay book, *Pavlova in a Hat Box, Sweet Memories & Desserts*. In addition to these works, Ms. Neale writes plays, screenplays, short stories, and essays. A screenplay, *The Irish Dresser Series*, adapted from her four novels is currently being pitched to producers. She holds a B.A. in Writing and Literature from Vermont College. Ms. Neale enjoys Irish set dancing, ballroom dancing, reading, painting, hiking, and kayaking. An accomplished baker, she also enjoys creating events for food, dance, and fund raising.

Catharine, Queen of the Tumbling Waters, by Cynthia Neale, author of *The Irish Dresser* series, is being released by Bedazzled Ink Publishers in April 2023. Catharine

Montour, an Iroquois and French woman lived in Pennsylvania, Kanestio (Canisteo), and Montour Falls, New York during the French and Indian War and American Revolution. Juxtaposed between her powerful grandmother and colonial interpreter, Madame Montour, and her uncle, Andrew (Sattelihi) Montour, a colonial diplomat and interpreter, Catharine only desires a simple life. However, as she is thrust into the conflicts and violence of the times, she becomes a woman of valor who leads her people to safety during General John Sullivan's campaign to destroy all Iroquois villages and later becomes a quiet, yet powerful voice in the construction of a new country. The monumental struggles between colonials and natives and one woman's quest for peace will forever be etched in the minds of readers.

We look forward to the release of Ms. Neale's book and learning more about her research and how she obtained her information about Kanestio in the years when it was known as a refuge for outlaws and renegades.

2023 Schedule

March 21 - TBA

April 18 - 7pm - Students from Alfred Univ presenting their history research projects. This is the 2nd year for this program that was a big hit last year.

May 18 - 7PM

June 1&2 - Village Yard Sales

June 4th- 2:00 American Legion - Book Signing

July 18 - 6PM - Picnic at Rotary Park

August 15 - Field trip TBA

Sept. 19 - 7PM - Craig Braack - Washington, DC's Air Force & Pentagon Memorials

October 17 - TBA

Nov. 7 - Election Day Pie Sale

Nov. 21 - 6 PM - Harvest Dinner & Election of Officers

Dec - no program

Student Visits - Mr. Chris Romanchock, high school history teacher at Canisteo-Greenwood Central brought a couple classes to see our museum and do research for class projects. We saw Mr. Romanchock a few weeks later at the History Awareness Week tours held at the Boat Museum in Hammondspont. The Kanestio Historical Society as well as other Societys and Historians prepared impressive displays of transportation history in Steuben County. We applaud Mr. Romanchock for giving his students these opportunites to experience and learn about history outside of the classroom.



William R. Laine

Mr. Romanchock's 10th grade college-level Global History class visit the cemetery around Halloween each year to hone their historical research skills and enjoy the spectacular fall colors in the Canisteo Valley. This year students selected several headstones to research and write about, we hope that you enjoy this one, the first in a series of their reports we will run.



Authors: Kassidy Gardner, Alison Mills, and Mya Rexford

William Richard Laine was born December 30th, 1843 to parents Reverend Lewis Flanders Laine and Vesta Richards Laine in Portland, Chautauqua County, New York. William was a Union Soldier who bravely risked his life during the Civil War, until he was killed in action during The Battle of Cold Harbor (a two-week engagement between the Union and Confederates) on June 1, 1864 under the command of general Ulysses S. Grant. His time in this specific battle was short, ending one day after it began and eleven days before it ended,

making him one of the more than 18,000 soldiers that were either, killed wounded or captured during the battle.

He had enlisted on August 9th, 1862 in the 112th New York Infantry "Chautauqua Regiment" at Portland, New York for a three year term. He was 18 years old.

Laine was killed in Hanover County Virginia during the bloody battles of the summer of 1864 at the age of 20 and is now buried on the field at Cold Harbor, Virginia. He has an ornate cenotaph constructed at the Hillside Cemetery in Canisteo, New York (section OM-B), near those of his father Rev. Lewis Flanders Laine and three of his siblings. His mother is buried in Chatham Township, Medina County, Ohio and sister Narcissa who is buried elsewhere.

William was the type of person to never give up. He will always be remembered as a great man who influenced many people during his lifetime. Information is shown about how confident and helpful Laine was during war; he helped his friends a lot and helped them have the courage to not back down. William died when a bullet hit his head, as he was trying to help his comrades, telling them to keep going. He was fearless and made a big impact to many people in his life.



It's a Small World

Dan Jones, class of '67 and resident of Denver, North Carolina, recently sent me the picture of the Canisteo sign on page 5. He had goggled Canisteo and saw this picture advertising a new luxury home subdivision in Weddington, NC - 10 miles south of Charlotte.

He reached out to the developers and learned that the land was sold to them by Susan Tolan under the condition that the subdivision must be named for the village where the Tolan's first met...Canisteo, N.Y.

Joe Tolan and Susan Hall were married on December 28, 1991 in Canisteo. They relocated to North Carolina in 1996.

From Our Readers

Dear Ms. Davis,

I am writing to say thank you for my two sisters, Fran Bloom and Linda Norton and myself regarding the nice photo of us along with the article, regarding the parody I had written for the Kahoco organization in the previous issue. I'd had no idea the Historical Society printed a newsletter so after receiving that one in the mail, I immediately signed up to make sure my name is on the mailing list for any upcoming issues. As soon as this new one appeared on my computer yesterday, I printed it and then had to wait until my husband, Carl, had finished reading before I could have it. We both enjoyed the pictures of the town and valley and especially the articles. Well done! I've happily lived in Henrietta, a Rochester, NY suburb, the better part of my adult life but am pleased to say that Canisteo will always be "home". I miss the fun and camaraderie of Kahoco.

Sincerely,

Dora Lee (Snyder) Alexander

Thank you to our Supporters

We have had many donations this year - some adding an extra \$5 or more to their dues payment up to the individual who handed our cashier a \$100 bill at our Pie Sale. If I try to give credit to these individuals I'm bound to leave someone out so just know how much these donations help. I do want to acknowledge a donation from Irma Ficzeri in memory of Pat Hale. Pat Hale grew up and graduated from Canisteo. She retired in Arizona but brought Irma "home" with her to spend summers in Canisteo. They were both active members and supporters of our Society and we appreciate that Irma continues to donate in Pat's name. These donations have been life savers in a year where we have been unable to hold our usual fund raisers due to the construction and restricted parking on Main Street.

Donation

Recently we ran a story on Tom Wood, our local barber who passed away last winter. His wife Carolyn has donated his first barber chair to the Society giving us another piece of Canisteo history. Dale Carney, a local collector of barbershop memorabilia, has also donated a few items he received from Tom.

KUDOS to our Volunteers

OMG. I can't believe it. I assist a historian who is currently revising a previously published book. I have called, written and emailed a number of agencies and historical societies for information. I have never had such a timely response to an inquiry.

You made my day. We are so looking forward to obtaining this book. I will mail out a check this week. Have a good day.

E. Ainsworth

(Continued from page 2)



Brasted and Jeffers was a furniture store in Canisteo in the late 1800's early 1900's. Its original store was on Main St. At first glance we thought these were metal signs but when we started cleaning we discovered they were paper. We were amazed that the labels were still intact. Based on the tracks for slatted doors we date this to about 1921.



At some point the store moved to Greenwood Street. We have this picture of 2 loads of Hoosier Cabinets being delivered by horse and wagon to the store.

We are assuming the cabinets were delivered by train and then transported to the Greenwood St. store by horse and wagon. There are big signs on each wagon that read Hoosier Cabinet Company

From the internet we learn The Hoosier Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1899 in New Castle, Indiana. They were turning out baking cabinets at a rate of about 600 units per day during the height of their popularity, and they were said to save the American housewife 1500 steps every day.

We found a couple advertisements from Braisted's for the Hoosier cabinets. One was dated 1908. The other ad (included with this article) was not dated but we found the idea of the furniture club quite unique. Was this perhaps the forerunner of Smith's Furniture Store club that many of us remember?

An Automatic Kitchen Servant

"It Seems to Hand Things to You."

14 of the 25 Hoosiers ARE TAKEN

Only 11 more women can join the Hoosier Club and have one of these famous Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets delivered immediately at the Club rate of

ONE DOLLAR A WEEK

There isn't a housewife in Canisteo that wouldn't like to own one of these great labor-saving devices, because they reduce greatly the time spent in the kitchen.

As one woman said, "WHY, IT FAIRLY SEEMS TO HAND THINGS TO YOU JUST WHEN YOU WANT THEM."

The Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet is a genuine automatic servant that works without wages. It saves hundreds of steps and many times its trifling cost.

So when we announced that we would start a Hoosier Club, thereby affording every housewife in Canisteo an opportunity to buy one of these famous cabinets at the club rate of One Dollar at the time of purchase and

ONE DOLLAR A WEEK FOR A FEW WEEKS

it was only natural that women should be eager to join the Hoosier Club. Seven entered their names yesterday, the first day.

The Club Plan is simply this: Every woman upon entering her name and paying One Dollar is entitled to the immediate delivery of the Hoosier Special Cabinet, the balance to be paid in weekly dues of One Dollar each week for a few weeks.

THE CLUB SHOULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, as it is under the direct supervision of the Hoosier Manufacturing Company, largest manufacturers of Kitchen Cabinets in the world.

The Club is open to membership **THIS WEEK ONLY**, and is limited to 25 members. After Saturday the regular price and usual rate of payment will prevail, so if you want to secure the cabinet at the club rate and save \$2.50 as well, you must join the Hoosier Club before it closes or the membership list is filled.

If you wish to know more about the Hoosier Cabinet or Club Plan, we will be glad to give you all information. Come in and ask questions. You will not obligate yourself in any way whatever.

One Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet free Saturday Night at 8 p. m.

AT BRASTED'S Furniture Store

The Old Way

HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINETS

CANISTEO, N. Y.

The New Way

Kanestio Historical Society
23 Main St., P.O. Box 35
Canisteo, 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

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.

2023 Officers

Sue Babbitt	President
Toni Stevens-Oliver	Vice President
Gail Davis	Secretary/Treasurer

Directors

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Sue Babbitt	2024
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