

Kanestio Historical Society Times

23 Main St - P.O. Box 35 - Canisteo, NY 14823
(607) 698-2086 - Thursday & Friday 1-3 - Monthly Meetings - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM
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Gail Davis, Editor - Suzanne Babbitt, Assistant Editor

Peace on Earth - Good Will Toward Men

This early picture of the Presbyterian Church and Manse is one of our favorites
and exemplifies our message



Our Newsletter

This is the 28th consecutive year that the Society has printed its newsletter. The first issue was dated Oct-Nov-Dec. 1996 and was mailed early in 1997. Steve Cotton was the creator and inspiration behind the newsletter. He stated that his goal was to develop it into a quarterly newsletter over the next year and, with few exceptions, the newsletter has been produced on a quarterly basis every since. Steve, along with John and Sue Babbitt took turns editing the newsletter through 2015. After our fire in 2014 and the tremendous amount of hard work to bring us back from the ashes it was time some of our members needed a break and I decided to give the newsletter a try. My first newsletter came out in 2016 and has continued for the last eight years.

Each time I finish an issue I wonder what will I ever find to put in the next issue and I start sorting through files at the Society hoping for inspiration. I would not be able to do this job without the help of others. Sue Babbitt, our retired English teacher and Society President, has been instrumental in proof reading, correcting my punctuation and spelling and providing articles and inspiration. I could not do this without her.

George Dickey, the Town Historian, gives me at least one article for each issue. Chris Romanchock, 10th grade history teacher at Canisteo Greenwood CSD has submitted articles from his history classes and we're hoping this becomes a regular feature. Jose Huerta, along with other members occasionally submit articles for which I'm always grateful. Articles from our readers are always welcome as are ideas for future issues.

Our original newsletters were printed on the Society's copy machine. This involved a

certain amount of cut and paste as well as the challenge of getting the paper into the feeder to print the second side. We eventually switched to our ink jet printer that allowed us to print in color but we were still faced with the problems of printing on both sides of the paper. (For some reason this simple task messed with my sanity at every printing!) Eventually we were gifted a laser printer that would print on both sides. This made the job easier but we were not able to print in color. We sought out a sponsor to help cover printing costs and were finally able to have the newsletters professionally printed. This not only gave us color but the newsletters came back folded and stapled. This was a big time saver.

Printing and attaching mailing labels as well as postage is another task involved with the newsletters that our volunteers fulfill. We are still mailing 45 copies each quarter to some of our more senior members that do not use the internet or prefer to have the written paper in their hands to read. 120 copies of the newsletters go out by email. This is a big savings to us both in time and cost. Our newsletters go to 19 states - AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, LA, KY, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, OK, PA, SC, TX, VA, VT & WA. Back issues of the newsletters are also posted on our webpage - no need for you to save the individual issues. We have copies of all the old newsletters on file at the Society. John Babbitt has compiled an index of articles before 2016 and there is an index on our website of articles after that.

We always appreciate your feedback. If you have ideas for articles or suggestions on how to improve the newsletter we'd love to hear from you.

Bench Sitters Hope for Sunny Weather Canisteo Times - May 16, 1953



"We'll get the 20 park benches placed this week, for the convenience of our patrons..." street superintendent Henry G. Austin announced Monday - "if good weather continues."

The Canisteo coterie of the "Spit 'n Whittle" association greets the proclamation with enthusiasm for there's no substitute for a comfortable, shady park bench in May. The benches have been repaired and refinished and their reappearance will be definite indication that spring is here to stay.

Most of the park bench boys have endured the fall-winter absence of their resting places without complaint. Some have remarked to Ye Ed. that the Manwell House steps, the window ledges in front of Wambold's store and the Canisteo Savings & Loan building are all right "after they've been sun-warmed" but there's less chance of catching cold from a park bench.

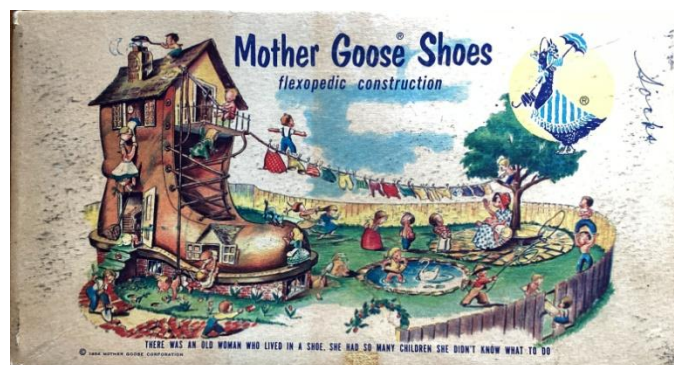
The new benches installed in the green space between the parking lot and the curb harkens back to our historic past although I doubt we will see our elders sitting on the benches whittling and spitting tobacco!

Note: If you receive your newsletter by email you can enlarge the park picture and see the benches throughout the park.

Cleveland's Store

If you grew up in Canisteo chances are you remember Cleveland's store. No matter what you needed Mrs. Cleveland would find it for you in her store, packed from floor to ceiling with merchandise. From baby bonnets to farm boots, wool socks, long johns, winter coats and snowsuits, Mrs. Cleveland stocked it.

We recently received this very colorful "Mother Goose Shoes" box with a note inside.



This Mother Goose Shoe Box came from Mrs. Cleveland's store on Greenwood Street in Canisteo, NY. Mrs. Cleveland stored socks in it at the time. My mother, Betty McChesney, was buying socks for at least 8 of the 11 of us kids. Mrs. Cleveland just added the larger socks on top of the ones that Mom was buying and gave her the box to carry them home in.

Mom liked the box and kept odd things in it over the years, then gave it to me one day when I mentioned the time she obtained it.

Marla McChesney Drake



The sides of the shoebox had illustrated nursery rhymes. The bottom of the box was a letter to parents.

Dear Mom and Dad:

When you purchased this pair of **MOTHER GOOSE SHOES**, you both - in addition to a pair of high quality shoes - peace of mind in knowing that your boy or girl will be walking in footwear especially designed for growing feet. Mother Goose shoes are made of fine materials by skilled shoemakers in our modern factory using advanced technical methods. This pair of shoes will allow your child's feet to develop correctly the way nature intended. Proper foot growth will result in correct posture, natural walking habits and body balance.

You will notice that your child walks with complete ease in these new shoes, almost as if barefooted for tender young feet.

We could point out many more advantages in **MOTHER GOOSE SHOES** but we prefer that you judge for yourself. And when "baby needs a new pair of shoes," always remember

MOTHER GOOSE

The shoe box makes me think of the little white walking shoes that were always the first purchase for our toddlers when they were growing up. My Dad took great pleasure in taking his grandkids, nieces and nephews to the barn in these shiny new white shoes and letting them step in cow plops! We didn't think it was funny at the time but how I treasure that memory now.

If anyone has memories of shopping at Cleveland's, or any other Canisteo stores, we'd love to have you email those to us and we'll print them in future issues.

End of Project Celebration



On Saturday, September 21, 2023, the village of Canisteo celebrated the completion of the 2 year DOT street & sidewalk renovation along with wrapping up of the village's sesquicentennial. Katrina Oliverio, village clerk & secretary, presented a time capsule containing a drone recording of the parade, recent KHS newsletter, 2023 school yearbooks, John Babbitt's sesquicentennial postcards, & Ms. Sirianni's kindergarten class book. The capsule will be placed in a secure spot in the Kanestio Historical Society building & will be opened 50 years from now (2073). In addition there was free cake & ice cream served by the Presbyterian Church folks, music in the gazebo by Brad Ordway, plus many merchants on Main & Greenwood Streets had vendors & displays of their merchandise on their sidewalks. Village restaurants offered special treats to customers. The Historical Society had an open house with some 30 visitors, many of whom took the guided tour of the museum! Villagers were encouraged to walk along Greenwood & Main Streets noticing the buildings with signs out front noting their historic significance.

Students Connections



On Friday October 27 th elementary students from the Community Tours Genius Hour group visited the Kanestio Historical Society. Students participated in a scavenger hunt as they explored the artifacts from long ago. They made predictions about the artifacts and how they were used. They also learned about Canisteo's interesting and unique history. Students had fun working together to discover information about the past. We appreciate the time volunteers spent exploring with our students as they learned about the Kanestio Historical Society and the information they have to share with the community.

Mr. Romanchock's 10th Grade Global Studies Class Visit



Old Yearbooks are always a favorite of students



Orpheus Goff

By Ryan Morling and Parker Dodge

Research project from Mr. Romanchock's 10th grade
Global History Class Cemetery Visit



Orpheus Goff was born in 1845 on November 20th and died on March 21st 1937. He lived to be 92 years old. Orpheus survived to be Canisteo's oldest Civil War veteran. As a child, Orpheus lived in Howard and enlisted when he was only 16, he had to run away from home to do so, signing up in Elmira. He served with 161st regiment for three years. he fought in the war for 3 years. During his service in the Civil War, he said he was never afraid of being hit by a bullet despite fighting in 16 battles and throughout those 3 years he said he was never wounded or had to be excused from a day of duty in the army. He also said that during one of the battles they left 7000 dead bodies on the field.

Later in life, he made his career working on the Erie railroad, beginning as a trainman, later a freight conductor, and finally a pensioner of

the same company. He was very active during these days keeping himself in shape. He owned a car and aside from being deaf to a certain degree, he had strong physical and mental health. He went into other hobbies such as cooking, sharing both his mistakes and triumphs with neighbors and friends.

In 1910 he sold his house in Canisteo and moved to Hornell. During his lifetime he had five wives and one son, Murray with his first wife, Jennie. Those five wives were Jennie Goff, Jessie Waters, Eloise Goff, Jane Goff, and Ervilla Goff. Murray was his only son who lived past the age of 3. At the age of 81 Orpheus had to pay his wife Mrs. Eloise H. Goff alimony amounting to \$3 a week pending trial from her separation action. Eloise filed for separation based on allegations of inhumane treatment and cruelty after only being married for 3 years.

In his later years of life, there were many celebrations to commemorate his longevity of life and his years as a civil war veteran, most of the celebrations were held at the Canisteo American Legion. During his final years, he lived alone but still lived life to its fullest. All of Canisteo was said to be hopeful for Orpheus to make it to 100; sadly, that did not happen.

The Canisteo Post Office

by George Dickey

Sometimes a question can lead to more than one expects. In this case the question was: How long has the Post Office been at its current location on Depot Street? Simple, a search of the "Times" showed that it moved there in October of 1933, 90 years ago last October.

This, however, led me to wondering where else it had been located. An article by Bill Stuart stated that the first Canisteo Post office had

been established in 1807 in what is now Hornell; George Hornell was appointed the first Post Master. At that time Canisteo and Hornell were part of the same Township. In 1823 a new Township of Hornellsville was created and the Post Office there was renamed to reflect that. A new Canisteo Post Office was created in 1827 to serve the remainder of the Township. The new post office was located in what was then called Canisteo Center, what is now known as Carson. The first Post Master was Charles Moore. I'm not sure when the post office was moved to the present village, perhaps in 1829 when Philander Hartshorn was appointed Post Master. In those days it was the responsibility of the post master to provide a location for the post office; frequently it was in his home or place of business.

The first solid location we have for the post office is the 1857 map of the village that shows it located on Main Street in the store of E. Waldo and Company. In 1861 Dr. George Riddell was appointed post master and the Post Office moved to his Drug Store on Greenwood Street. A photograph exists of that location with the Post Office sign over the door.



The 1873 map of the village shows the post office back on Main Street in the store of

William Riddell. In 1887 Mortimer Allison is appointed Postmaster and the Post Office is moved to the corner of Main and Depot Street to the building that formerly housed the Allison bank that had closed.

An article in the "Times" announces that the Post Office Department has leased part of the Manwell Block as a Post office and moved there from its location in the Meade Building on Main Street. It will remain there until 1933 when it moves to its current location.



Besides the main post office in the village there were a number of smaller Post Offices scattered around the Town of Canisteo. There was one at Bennett's on the Greenwood Road near the Town Line, one at Adrian, one at Carson and another at South Canisteo. There was also the Jones Post Office on the Swale; this one was part of the Cameron Post Office and people living in that part of the Town still have Cameron addresses rather than a Canisteo address.

Canisteo was also the beginning of two Star Routes. Star Routes moved the mail from Post Offices located on Rail lines to Post offices without Rail service. One route went from Canisteo up Colonel Bill's Creek to South Canisteo, to Jasper and Troupsburg, the other up Bennett's Creek to Greenwood, Rexville and Whitesville.

Kanestio Historical Society
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.

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