

Kanestio Historical Society Times

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Gail Davis, Editor - Suzanne Babbitt, Assistant Editor

Restoration Complete



This past year we successfully applied for a grant from the Hudson Heritage Network to have this painting by Clarissa Laine Bartlett restored by the West Lake Conservation Center in Skaneateles, NY. Robert and Allen Childs, grandsons of Clara, were instrumental in the restoration donating money for the conservation estimates and transporting the painting to and from Skaneateles. We believe the painting was done around 1870 depicting a steam engine chugging along the Canisteo River. A team of horses and wagon is crossing the Ordway Lane Bridge.

In the background you can see the village with the steeples of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. The Academy was completed in 1871 and is not depicted in the painting helping us to date the work. Clarissa came to Canisteo in the early 1860's when her father became pastor of the Presbyterian Church here. She taught art at the Canisteo Academy for a short time. The painting was found in a closet at the high school and has sustained some minor damage over the years. It was donated to us after the formation of the Historical Society. The painting received smoke damage in our 2014 fire increasing our desire to have it restored. The painting is one of our most treasured items beautifully depicting the history of our village.

2025 Summer at the Museum

So you think that not much happens at the Kanestio Historical Society in the summer, right? We all take a vacation, close up shop & activities come to a halt! You are soooo wrong. Let me fill you in on "What's been happening at the museum."

Well, first we tend to have surprise visitors: folks come searching for their ancestors, seeking info from our many genealogy records & George Dickey; others drop by when returning to attend high school class & family reunions; sometimes folks visit with their kids & reminisce as we show them old fashioned toys & tools, how people lived life in the 'old days.'

Every July we invite the community to share a dish-to-pass picnic. This year was extra special with a change of venue. As it was an oppressively hot day (we've had a few this summer) & Rotary Park was already being used, we were invited to picnic at the Methodist Church fellowship hall. It was cool & lovely with no bugs & plenty of room for the 18 of us. What great food & conversation! On August 7 we welcomed 13 young people from 8 - 17 along with their teacher from the Concern for Youth summer program in Somer's Hall.

Volunteers guided the kids through the museum on a scavenger hunt of 20 items for them to find & try to figure out how they were

used. Some examples were a card catalogue, a switchboard, a permanent hair-curling device, a railroad lantern, etc., ending their time with a brief power point explaining the way these devices worked. The children showed a good bit of interest & a few talked about coming back sometime to show their parents.

Traditionally August is the time we look forward to visiting an area museum. So far we've been to Canaseraga, Wayland, Jasper, Rexville, & Andover. This year it was Greenwood. On August 19th, 8 history enthusiasts drove to nearby Greenwood to the former Young's General Store, home of the Greenwood Historical Society and Museum.



Notice above the group photo the new logo, created by Boy Scout Owen Williamson for his Eagle Scout project.

Laurie Meehan, museum archivist, was there to lead the tour through the impressive 1906 building. During its long history it was Greenwood's version of Walmart. One photo shows a long counter & walls packed with a vast selection of goods. In 1985 the building was donated to the town coinciding with the formation of the historical society.

Several displays near the front were especially fascinating to us. We saw the progression of early typewriters to fax machines. Another shows a display of railroad spikes beneath a NYP train steaming through the village. The kitchen area shows a beautiful enamel cook stove with accessories.

The town was formed in 1827 & folks are already making plans for their bicentennial. One of the earliest settlers was Levi Davis, with others following behind. By the 1840's many Irish families arrived, some because of the potato famine & some having worked on the Erie Canal &/or the railroad. - SB

**Farewell Canisteo Rotary
1925-2025**
Thank you for your Service



On May 26, 1925, a group of business and professional men of Canisteo met at the Community House to consider the advisability of organizing a Rotary Club in Canisteo. There were Rotarians from Hornell, Wellsville and District Governor John Symes from Lockport present.

At this meeting 23 men representing different classifications signified a desire to become members. On June 3rd the Club held their first meeting in the Community building at 12:15 PM with Fred Schnurle Sr, as president and Guy Beasor as secretary. On Friday June 26th the charter was accepted by Fred Schnurle.

The following were charter members: Joe Aronson, G.M. Beasor, John Burns, H. Perry Carter, G.W. Cheeseman, Harley Chisholm, Kenneth Comfort, Fred D. Crane, H.W. Hollands, Leon Hough, Ernest Jeffers, Azel Kline, Jas. Mitchell, Milton Powell, L.M. Rosenberg, F.V. Schnurle, L.J. Simpson, Lynn Talbot, Thos. E. Tuttle, Wm J. Upson, Colt Wheaton, Geo. C. Whiting, Glen Whiting.

The original club was active in many community projects and events. They prepared a swimming pool and built houses along Bennett's Creek. They furnished transportation for crippled children to and from school, purchased what is now known as Rotary Field and turned it over to the school.

They managed the Children's Home on the South Canisteo Road, purchased band uniforms for the Director and Majorettes, helped maintain foreign exchange student program, exchanged high school students with a school in Canada.

The past years Rotary has been involved in a student dictionary program, provided scholarships to graduating Seniors, maintained Rotary Park, sponsored a Little League Team,

sponsored Ag Day, put on Wild Game Dinners, Coats for Kids and Christmas Baskets

Sadly, in June 2025 after 100 years of service to the community Canisteo Rotary closed due to a lack of membership. - SB

Summer Intern

This summer we got to work with an intern from SUNY Empire's Public History Master's Program. Kevin Earley worked with us putting together a Walking Tour of Canisteo's older houses. We hope to have a Power Point presentation plus access through our website so that you can access the information on your phone as you walk through the village. Kevin has presented programs for us in the past through Alfred University and has indicated he would like to continue to work with us as time permits. It is always rewarding having young people interested in the Historical Society and the work we do. They are our hope for the future of the Society.

From Our Readers

The article on "Poncho's" from our last issue brought up some nostalgic moments for some of our readers.

Jon Roe writes: " Loved this month's newsletter, especially Cousin Connie's story about Poncho's. I don't know if you can add these points, but here are a couple things that could be added to the story.

What a hotbed of activity Poncho's was after sporting events. Home games, for sure, but even after away games, I can remember coming back to the school, either on the squad bus if I was playing or on the spectator busses that returned to Academy Street after the games. Everyone would cross the street and go to the Store. Win or lose what a fun time that was. The other interesting thing, I think, was that Poncho started a billing system for the

students. And what a badge of honor it was to be able to get something at the store and ask Poncho to "put it on my bill." In my dim memory of those times, I remember the older students and better friends of Poncho would almost have carte blanche with their bills. The rumor was that Tom Booth ('68) had the largest bill of all. I know it took me a long time to get on that list and somehow (and I remember this clearly), one day I bought some Hostess Ding Dongs and asked Poncho if I could start a "bill." I was giddy with delight when he said yes the first time. "

Dana Aultman ('67): Your newsletter and picture of a bunch of people on the front of Poncho's has really fired up us all! We're trying to identify everyone in that picture, but what we see digitally is just too fuzzy.

Editors Note: Dana, we felt bad that we couldn't produce a clearer picture but a couple guys in the back row looked suspiciously like you and Andy Crandall?

History Awareness Week 2025

Mark your calendars for this upcoming event: October 11 from 10 am until 3 pm and October 12 from noon until 5 pm. Stop in at any of the 20 town museums to pick up your trail map & guide. This year's theme is one room schools & the influence each one had in educating & enriching our early families. Each museum will have special displays, a scavenger hunt, plus a selection of lessons & games that might have been part of the old curricula.

So bring along friends & family, stop in at the closest museum to collect your map & begin an exciting journey.

Student Corner

The Student's Corner is dedicated to the articles from Mr. Romanchock's HIST 1040 class. As part of their course work, students engage in historical research projects that take them from the neighboring Cemetery where they research the history of a tombstone through visits to the Kanestio Historical Society and to several College and University libraries.

Anstis Emeline Boardman Marsh

by

Logan Slawson & Grace Terwilliger



Anstis Emeline Boardman Marsh was born in Lyndeborough, New Hampshire on the 8th of October in 1834. Anstis had four siblings all around her age. Abby was her oldest sister, Daniel was the second oldest, Langley was the third oldest, and Olive was the youngest. Their parents were Daniel N. Boardman, and Olive Whiting (Dennis). Anstis Boardman married Stephen Marsh on June 17th, 1859. Stephen was born on June 14th, 1830, in Lee, Oneida county NY. Stephen had served as deputy sheriff for twelve years. Since 1883 he had been superintendent of The Hillside Cemetery, and a loyal member of Canisteo's Methodist Episcopal

Church. He was a soldier in the Civil war, serving in the 161st regiment, New York State Volunteers.

Stephen was a regular at church services until his health declined to the point he could no longer make it. Anstis and Stephen had a daughter named Lillian in 1866, they had their second daughter Frances Ervilla on May 14th, 1871. Just before his marriage in 1855, Stephen had bought a farm in Canisteo which he and his bride lived on until 1876 when they moved into the village with their two daughters. Lillian died at 36 years old, 4 days after the birth of her child Robert, Frances died in Hornell at the Bethesda hospital on 20th of May 1936. Anstis is buried in Hillside Cemetery with her husband Stephen and her brother Daniel Boardman. On the 14th of April 1897 Stephen died due to complications with diabetes with which he had been struggling for a couple years prior, for a few weeks before his death he was bedridden. Anstis died on the 22nd of March 1899 due to a disease named nervous prostration which causes those afflicted to lose control of their physical and mental health. Her death certificate listed the cause of death as exhaustion, which was a side effect of nervous prostration.

Oops! - Apologizes to those of you who receive the newsletter by mail for our last issue. We folded and mailed those copies just as they came from the printers without looking at them. I was quite surprised when I did open a copy to find they had been "scrambled" at the printers.

The majority of our newsletters sent via snail mail are printed in black in white. If you have an email address and are willing to receive your newsletter that way, you will get the full color issues and save us time and money. Just drop us an email and we will switch you over.

Canisteo Times - October 25, 1916

A new drinking fountain for horses is to be installed at the lower end of the park. Donated by the businessmen of the village, its solid masonry of handsome design constitutes a \$200 project.

Annual Meeting and Harvest Dinner

November 16 2:00



With fall just around the corner it's time to start thinking about our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for the upcoming year. We know it is impossible for all our members to attend the meeting but we think its important that everyone has input the governing of the Society. Ballots will be either mailed or emailed (depending on how you receive your newsletter) in mid October. They need to be returned by November 14th. The meeting will be Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 followed by our dish-to-pass Harvest Dinner. This is always a fun afternoon and a chance for everyone to meet our officers, directors and volunteers and give input on what you'd like to see from the Society in the future.

Unexpected Expense

The Historical Society has a large storage shed behind our building where we store items too large to display along with seasonal items. This spring we discovered that the back wall supporting the cement floor had eroded putting the building in a position for major damage. We had a new support wall poured and the building is safe but it took a big hit to our building maintenance fund - almost \$5000. We would like to replace those funds if anyone is looking for charitable contributions to deduct for tax purposes.

Mannequin Update

As part of our efforts to change out and refresh our displays our mannequins have been getting a change of clothing. The roaring 20's have been coming to life with some beautiful flapper dresses.

This beaded dress, vintage black stockings with embroidery and high heeled shoes belonged to Mary Whiting who formerly lived at 100 Greenwood St. in Canisteo. They were donated by Mrs. Anna McCormick of Canisteo.

Stop by to check this out and our new displays on the second floor of the Society.



Canisteo Times - November 15, 1905

The Canisteo Silk Co. started operation in its new two story plant on Russell St. The first 3 girls to start work were Nellie & Pearl Stocum and Nellie Harris.

Installing a Milking Machine

Canisteo Times

June 8, 1913

This new plant is made by a Canisteo Inventor and is Noteworthy.

A milking machine outfit is being installed on the Robinson farm near this village. It is run by Deil Allen, Master of the Canisteo Grange. It is a four cow plant and is expected to milk the dairy of 25 cows in less than half the time now required and with less than half the labor.

This milking machine is the invention of Aaron Stephens, a young man who lives near the Center, a short distance from this village, who is of an inventive turn of mind. It has been proved out in successful operation and some points of superiority are claimed for it over other standard and well known makes. Mr. Allen shows his loyalty to Canisteo goods by buying one at home instead of sending away for it.

Milking machines have come to stay. It will be only a few years until they will be as generally used as cream separators and the Babcock test. They are one of the greatest labor saving inventions of the age and a great boon to dairying.

2025 Calendar of Events

Sept. 16 - 7PM - Kirk House - Slavery in Steuben County

Oct. 21 - 7PM Bill Ells - Grandmother's adventures teaching in a 1-room school.

Nov. 4 - 9 AM - Election Day Pie Sale and Treasures Sale

Nov. 16 - Sunday - 2 PM - Annual Meeting & Harvest Dinner

November 29 - 4:30 - 7:00 - X-mas in the Village

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 Membership

Make check payable to:

Kanestio Historical Society

P.O. Box 35

Canisteo, NY 14823

or



You can now pay your dues or make donations to the Society with your PayPal Account. There are links on our website at www.kanestiohistoricalsociety.com

You can also find past issues of our newsletter on the website as well as more information about the Society, upcoming events and books we have for sale in our book store.

***Donations gratefully accepted toward
operating expenses***

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