

HISTORICAL RECORDS AND NOTES  
OF  
CANASTOTA, NEW YORK AND VICINITY  
BY DOROTHY P SCHNEIDER

It has been my pleasure and honor to obtain through the courtesy of John Frederick Robertson, Attorney in Canastota, New York, the following old-time records of people and places in and around Canastota.

It is interesting to note that Captain Reuben Perkins, who was credited with the founding of Canastota, was born on November 5, 1763. He married one Anna Stedman on November 23, 1785. Of their marriage they had ten children, one of whom includes Calvin Perkins, born on May 3, 1808, who was the great, great grandfather of John Frederick Robertson. Another descendant of Calvin Perkins was the late Lucy Tibbits Sullivan of Canastota, who was the great great granddaughter of Speedie Perkins, who was born on May 8, 1793. Thomas Perkins came to America on the Mayflower in 1620. Mrs. J. L. Robertson, John Frederick's Mother, belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

John Frederick Robertson and his sister gave the original Surveyor General's map of the Canastota Tract, the center of the Canastota village, to the Canal Town Museum and it is on display there along with a beautiful oil painting of Captain Reuben Perkins. Captain Perkins went to Albany with Yanos to obtain the letters and get the approval of the State of New York giving him the Letters Patent. An old-fashioned chest owned by Captain Perkins had a little cubbyhole on the end and on the back is painted C.R.P. 1806 painted on it. The chest is in the possession of John Frederick Robertson.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad had a bridge across the canal and went down by the football field and then went down across the Lewis Point Road and came out at South Bay, right by the Marina there. The passengers would be unloaded there where there was a turn-around so the engine could turn around and come back to Canastota. There was a boat there run by J. P. Kaiser. He would take the people by boat to the beach because there wasn't any road then where Route 13 is now. You had to go to Oneida Valley to get to the beach by land. He used to take these people back and forth over to the beach. One of the biggest deals in the summertime at Sylvan Beach was the big hop-growing picnic. Hops were a great thing in those days for the manufacture of beer. Every year in July they had what was called a Hop Grower's Picnic. The picnic was held in the park near where the State Police are at Sylvan Beach. It was really quite a deal. The beach would be just packed. Sylvan Beach was quite a place.

About 1926 one of the interesting events was in the wintertime having horse races from the Erie Canal in the center of the village down to what was known then as the Taber farm , down by the Thruway where the Indian gas station is now. They would put special spikes and shoes on the horses to run on the ice. Every Sunday there would be a horse race and they would race from where the Thruway is now at the Taber farm up to the Canal and back. Ed Jones was one of the best racers. He was a painter and Allie Jones was another painter and there were at least six or seven others— three of them were Jones. The people would line the streets on both sides to watch the horses go by on the ice on Sunday. In those days Peterboro Street had the old brick pavement but it was all frozen over.

Canastota had its problems when in 1927 a decision had to be made for the location of a new Canastota High School on Peterboro Street. There was a big hue and cry between the north and the south side where the school would be located. The people on the south side wanted it on the former race track up on the Terrace and the people on the north side wanted it on the north side where the school still is located. The day of the election in 1927 was so heated that the police were out and also a fire truck for emergencies. The election took place in the old Chapel Street School, which later burned. The people on the north side won the vote. The Electioneers and families on both sides opened their houses and spaghetti dinners were furnished. They invited people to share the dinners with them. It was really something.

FROM A NEWSPAPER ITEM DATED April 29, 1932

#### LENOX RURAL IS OLDEST CEMETERY

Lenox Rural, the oldest cemetery in this section has the distinction of being the last resting place of the most distinguished pioneers of Central New York. The names on the stones represent a "Who's Who" of the first families who conquered the wilderness and founded a stable government in this part of the country. The burial place also has the distinction of being one of the best kept and most attractive of the old cemeteries of this locality. At the annual meeting last week a fund of more than \$6,000 was reported in the bank for the perpetual care needs and also a checking account for running expenses.

One of the unusual features of the cemetery association is that the officers and trustees are all representatives in one way or another of the old families of Quality Hill who founded the cemetery. Alfred A. Dew represents the Bruce family, early and

important citizens; William A. Perkins and Mrs. Edna Robertson are descendants of Ebenezer Calkins, one of the first to clear a farm and build a house. Mrs. Cora Taber represents the descendants of Dr. Ashel Prior, the first physician in the settlement, the nearest being at Cazenovia; Mrs. Jennie Stafford, the Bull family; Mrs. Elva Yarnell, the Goodell family, the latter coming to Federal Hill to the east in 1833. Charles Hoffman's ancestors were not first settlers but settled on Quality Hill many years ago buying property of Sylvester Smalley an early magistrate and member of assembly. In the first house on the farm, county court was held and several historic cases tried.

#### LAND BOUGHT IN 1805

The early settlers of Quality Hill and vicinity selected the site of the later cemetery as a burial place some years before it was formally incorporated, probably before 1800 as there are one or two stones dating before this time. The first record of the cemetery is possessed by William A. Perkins, the present secretary. This says that in 1805 a plot of a half-acre of land was purchased of Amos Hill for \$13 and was divided into 80 plots about 19x10 feet. This plot is now the northwest corner of the present cemetery and is the part surrounded by the stone wall. A center alley was laid out 8 feet wide and also another at right angles.

The record of the first lot owners shows the following names: Leon Hills, Moses Cook, Sylvester Smalley, Ebenezer Calkins, William Hallock, Elisha Buttolph, Phineas Cadwell, Ichabod Spencer, Aaron Francis, Orin Palmer, Job Lockwood, Abiel Fuller, Ashel Prior, Jacob Phelps, David Barnard, Samuel Loder, John Lewis, Amos Hills, William Cornwall, Thomas Mann, Robert Scadden.

## MANY SOLDIERS BURIED THERE

The cemetery contains the bodies of soldiers of all wars, including that of one man who fought on the side of the Confederates under Robert E. Lee. This was Gatlette Madison Harlow, who was born in Virginia and died at Binghamton, N. Y. The grave of most interest to local residents is that of Reuben Perkins, the founder of this village, who was a Revolutionary soldier. He died in 1860 at an advanced age. He has a plain and unadorned monument as befitted one who lived in pioneer days. Another soldier monument is that of George W. Northrup, the son of Emily and Whitfield Northrup, who died in 1864 at the age of 28. The inscription says that he “fell leading a charge against Sioux Indians in Dacotah Territory under the command of Gen. Fully. He served his country in the War of the Rebellion for over three years under Generals Grant and Thomas. A correspondent of St. Paul’s Press says of him: ‘In him was modesty personified and courage incarnate’.”

There are many other veterans of the Civil War buried in the G.A.R. circle at the front of the cemetery and also several veterans of the World War, including Charles Miller, son of Harvey Miller of the Homestead, the first Canastota boy to be killed in action and whose name was given to the local American Legion Post.

## GRAVE OF NATHAN ROBERTS

Probably the most distinguished man whose remains rest in the old cemetery was Nathan Roberts, the most eminent civil engineer of his age. Many of the great engineering projects of this state were constructed under his direction. A tall marble spire marks his resting place, which reads as follows: Sacred to the memory of Nathan Roberts who died November 24, 1850 in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of his age. He was born at Piles Grove, N. J. 1776, of parents who were made poor by the War of the Revolution in which his father

served. He raised himself by his extraordinary energy, talents and integrity from a humble condition and became one of the most eminent civil engineers of his age. His affectionate wife and children who revered his virtue have erected this marble over his remains but his noblest monuments are found among the great public works of his country.

Among the older graves are many of the old settlers of Quality Hill and vicinity whose names are connected with the early history of the county and state, Sylvanus Smalley, Ebenezer Calkins, members of the Hall and Lewis families, all of whom were prominent men of their times: Col. Phelps, the Beechers, Clarks, Chapmans and Bruces. These latter fill a large plot and represent one of the great families of early days.

#### SEVERAL QUAIN T EPITAPHS

Visitors to the cemetery are always attracted to the quaint epitaphs on the stones in the old section of the cemetery that are typical of their day. On the stone of one, Fanny TenEyck, is that often seen verse, "Dear friends as you pass by, as you are now so once was I: And every time when this you see, Prepare for death and follow me." On the monument of Olivia, daughter of Col. Phelps, who died in 1816, aged 20, is the verse, "Adieu, my friends, dry up your tears. Here I must lie till Christ appears". The tomb of Lucina, his wife reads: "Friends and physicians could not save my mortal body from the grave; nor can the grave confine me here, When Christ shall bid me to appear".

Nahum Fay, who was well known as a merchant on Canal Street, this village tells the passers by "Death is a debt to Nature due, which I have paid and so must you."

Another epitaph that warns of a sudden end of life is as follows: "Death did to me no warning give, therefore be careful how you live. I had no time to speak my mind, to weeping friends I left behind." There are other inscriptions that tell of tragic deaths. One states, "Killed by the express train" and another, "O, cruel cars."

#### MANY PEACEFUL EPITAPHS

To balance these fearful warnings there are many epitaphs that tell of peaceful lives, especially that of Mrs. Jacob P. Lansing, who passed in 1840 aged 33 years.

"Sincerity, Virtue, Love, Innocence, were the characteristics of Mrs. J. P. Lansing, through a life which has past like the silver stream which never thinks of straying".

Another breathes of resignation and peace is that of Nancy Ann Cobb: "Thus Nancy Ann in peace is gone; Thus flowed the music from her tongue, She closed her eyes in death.

The spirit leaves her house of clay, to realms of bliss she wings her way, where sighs and sorrows cease."

The parents of Sylvester Brown, evidently placed the following inscription after his death in 1849 at the age of 21: "And art thou gone Sylvester, Oh, art thou no longer mine. Then fare thee well, why shouldst I weep, To see thee lie so sweetly asleep. This world was never fit for thee. It was not meant thy home to be, Thus wast to us a season given, But thy abiding place is heaven."

## HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

### CANASTOTA, NEW YORK

The Church of the Nazarene of Canastota, N.Y. was organized Mar 17, 1913 with twenty two charter members, in a hall midway between the canal and Chapell St. The organization was the result of a series of meetings held by Rev. C. E. Roberts and wife and Miss Leonora Taylor. The first business session of the church was held Mar 20; at this meeting steward and several other officers were elected, among these the Sunday school superintendent, Mr. A. H. Anderson who has served faithfully up to the present date.

The church extended a call to Rev. D. Grant Christman as the first pastor. Mr. Christman served until Sept. 7, 1913, then resigned since he felt the call of the Lord upon him to go to P.C.I. North Scituate.

A meeting of the Official Board was held and as a result of this meeting, a call was extended to the Rev. C. H. Strong of Gardner Mass. as pastor. Mr. Strong did not come until the first of Dec. From Sept. 14 to December 1, the church was greatly blessed by the ministry of Rev. W. H. Latimer of Syracuse, N.Y. who supplied the pulpit. The first Sunday in Dec. found Rev. Mr. Strong, the new pastor, in the pulpit. A few months after Mr. Strong's arrival, the pastor, and wife, and the District Superintendent, Rev. J. A. Ward, held a seven days meeting beginning March 15, 1914. This meeting was held in Wilson Mall on South Peterboro Street. (The society moved to this place shortly after the new pastor came). Rev. Mr. Strong's pastorate and work was concluded in Canastota June 22, 1914, since he felt led to another place. The church was helped in many ways by

this true man of God. He preached with unction and power, and was admired and respected by all who were under his ministry.

After Rev. Mr. Strong left, the church was without a regular pastor for about two years. During this time the society remained true to the Faith of her Fathers; and the little flock progressed the best it could without a shepherd. Although there was no steady pastor, each Sunday found some one in the pulpit to conduct the services of the Sabbath. During the month of July, 1914 Augustus Bathke, Rev. E. E. Angell, Rev D Grant Christman supplied.

Rev. Joseph Smith filled the pulpit the four Sabbaths in August while T. G. Gray supplied the church in September, November, December 1914, and January. C. Goodman served as a supply in October 1914. From January 1915 to July the church had as supplies, Mr. Hinman and T. G. Gray. Rev. C. Goodman again supplied for the church until February 1916.

After this a very successful campaign was held by the Rev. E. E. Curtis. When the meetings closed, the members of the church were so well pleased with Mr. Curtis' labors that they extended him a call to come here to serve as regular pastor. Communications between Mr. Curtis and the Church Board were very favorable and Rev. Mr. Curtis accepted the call. Arrangements were immediately made for the moving of his family. Suddenly all plans were defeated and Mr. Curtis decided not to come. This was a great disappointment but our disappointments are His appointments, so all said "Amen" to God's will.

In June 1916 Rev. Paul S. Hill, District Superintendent, held a profitable ten days campaign in the church. After the District Superintendent left, he made arrangements

with Mr. Frederick Kopfman to come here as pastor. Mr. Kopfman came in October 1916. This young man stayed only six months, until the Assembly convened in April 1917. While he was in Canastota, he made many friends. He has since taken a pastorate in the Methodist Church.

In April after the annual District Assembly at Brooklyn, N. Y. E.D. Judd came to the church as the pastor. He remained here two years. Mr. Judd did not have an opportunity to do the work of a pastor, as he desired because he worked outside in order to make expenses. During the two years no new members were taken into the church but a few were given letters at their own request. At the close of the assembly year in April, the Board decided not to call a pastor for the time being so the church was without a shepherd again.

The following summer, the church continued worshipping without a pastor. In the Fall Mr. T. G. Gray came to supply for a few months. He supplied until the next District Assembly, at which time the church called him as regular pastor. During the time Mr. Gray acted as a supply, the location of the place of worship was changed from Wilson Hall to the Woolsey Block on North Peterboro Street. The new location was down stairs and much more comfortable in every way. Mr. Gray served as pastor a few months over a year.

In the summer of 1920 new members were added to the church by letters; special street meetings were held; and special help from surrounding towns was secured to assist the pastor. During the winter of 1921 a special series of meetings was held in the church

by evangelist Rev. I. D. Archibald of Mass. As a result of these meetings the church members took on new enthusiasm and three new members were added to the church. S

Beginning June 5, 1921 Rev/ G. Howard Rowe, New York District Evangelist, began a series of special meetings, closing July 3. These meetings began in the church, continued in the Grange Hall. The meetings soon adjourned to a tent on the terrace. On the last Sunday morning of the meetings, approximately \$3,000. was raised toward a new church building to be erected very soon. These meetings were very helpful to the church in many ways and shall be remembered by all who attended. Interest in the church by the people of the town was much more manifest than at any time before. About a week before the close of the meetings Mr. Gray left to accept another call. A new pastor, Rev. Lloyd B. Byron of Lynn, Mass. was summoned. He is now on the field and doing excellent work.

This church has been privileged during its eight years of existence to hear some of the best preachers in the country. And, too, the different District Superintendents, Messrs. Hill, Marvin, Ward and Angell have made frequent visits to the services and have blessed the church. At no time during the history of the church has it been in better condition than now.

## CANASTOTA INDUSTRIAL SURVEY

Made by

CANASTOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 1934

Captain Reuben Perkins, who came from Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1805, was the founder of the Village of Canastota, New York. He purchased a tract of land from the Indians in about the year 1807. In 1810 he obtained Letters Patent of the tract from the State of New York, which became known as the Canastota Reservation, and then consisted of 329.2 acres of land. On this reservation the Village of Canastota was founded.

The name "Canastota" is derived from the Indian word, Kanista" signifying "cluster of pines" and "stoat" meaning "still, silent, motionless". The Indians were heard to bid their dogs be still by saying "stoat, stoat", or be still. Both the ideas, the cluster of pines and the still waters, are intended to be conveyed in the word Canastota.

The Erie Canal, which ran through this tract, was completed in 1825, and its completion meant much to the early growth and prosperity of the place. In 1835 the village was incorporated. In 1840, the New York Central Railroad was built through the village and this gave still further encouragement to growth. Later, the Lehigh Valley and West Shore Railroads were completed. The Erie Canal and these three railroads have played an important part in the development of the village and have been the means of encouraging industrial development.

Canastota has two grade schools, a Junior High School and a most modern High School, the latter of which was recently constructed and equipped at a cost of about

\$175,000. The High School contains a fine auditorium, study rooms, classrooms, gymnasium and laboratories. There are about 1,200 pupils in attendance at these schools. It is efficiently supervised and has an excellent corps of teachers and instructors.

Canastota has the following churches: Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, St. Agatha's Catholic, Episcopal and Nazarene. It is understood that all of these churches are free from mortgage debt. All are well attended and have able men in their pulpits. These churches, as well as our schools, serve the rural district in each direction from the village.

The First National Bank is the only bank in Canastota. It has a capital stock of \$50,000, with \$50,000 of surplus, and undivided profits amounting to \$16,967.62. It receives both time and interest deposits and is a member of the Federal Reserve. It has always served with a high degree of efficiency.

Canastota is also proud of its Savings & Loan Association. It has now been in existence over 40 years. In all of that time its losses have been negligible. It has been, and is of great assistance to the wage earner who is seeking to own his own home. It also encourages and stimulates the thought of thrift and saving. Its resources are \$404,178.10 and its surplus has nearly doubled from 1929, when it was \$11,000. to the present when it is \$20,000. It is managed by a group of men of sound judgment and business ability.

Among the show places of the village is its Carnegie Library. This is a substantially built structure and houses many thousands of volumes, which adequately meet the demand of the reading public. It is open daily to serve the public needs and is capably managed.

Canastota Memorial Hospital, which has been recently enlarged to care for its patients, is well known throughout central New York. It is favored with a very excellent staff of nurses and is managed by a careful and prudent Board.

Among others, there are the following lodges: The Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star Lodge, Odd Fellows Lodge, Rebecca Lodge, Lenox Grange, Loggio XX September and Italian American Citizens Club.

The Canastota Bee Journal is its only local newspaper and this is issued once a week and serves not only the people of the village but those who reside in the rural sections. There are also morning and evening daily papers published in nearby cities, which carry local news, and these are available and distributed.

It may be said that this village can boast of one of the best volunteer fire departments in the State of New York. Never have any of its firemen been paid a salary. When occasion has arisen its members have never refused to face danger in an effort to protect life and property. Owing to the excellent equipment of the fire department and the efficiency of its members, Canastota enjoys a very low underwriters rating.

Canastota has always had reason to feel proud of its police force and the present members are no exception to the rule. Its members are courteous, but can be firm when occasion requires. The Streets are patrolled day and night and ample protection is afforded both person and property.

The citizens and property owners of Canastota enjoy a healthful and wholesome soft water supply. This supply is taken from the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. The water pressure is 95 to 125 pounds, depending on location in the village. This supply may be supplemented in case of an emergency for fire protection, by an additional

impounding reservoir located about 2-1/2 miles south of the village. However, this will only be used in case of an emergency or in case of devastating fire. The following is an analysis of its water:

Total hardness, 33.8; bicarbonate alkalinity, 00; carbonate alkalinity, 32; sulphates-chlorides-nitrates, 78; chloride, 2.0.

This village is favored in that it is located in the midst of a very productive agricultural section. It has two large milk receiving plants at which is received milk in sufficient quantity produced by farmers within Canastota's trading area, so that about \$800,000. are paid out annually to the farmers delivering at these stations. From its fertile and productive garden and muck lands, there is produced annually, lettuce, celery, onions and other vegetables of an estimated average annual value of at least \$500,000.

There are also three canning factories located in the village, to which the farmers in Canastota's trading area deliver many thousands of dollars worth of peas, corn, spinach and other vegetables for canning. The goods canned at these factories are of the best and find a ready market in all parts of the country.

According to the last census, Canastota had a population of 4,250 people. However, the people residing in the village and within the trading area constitute a population of about 6000. It has been said that Canastota is a community of homeowners, since more people in proportion to its population, own their own homes than in any other village of its size in the State of New York.

The laborers of Canastota represent about all trades since the village has been known as one of diversified industries. There are from 100 to 200 male laborers who are now available in the woodworking industry; 50 to 100 who would be available in a silver

plating industry; 25 to 50 who are available in the molding industry; from 50 to 75 machinists; 25 to 50 carpenters; at least 100 who could adapt themselves to most any industry, besides many others who have followed various other trades and occupations. It is safe to say that there are at least from 100 to 300 female workers who could be employed at occupations suitable for female employees. Canastota has no labor unions and has never had any labor trouble.

The total assessed valuation of the village is \$2,736,129. It has always been the policy of its people and officials to maintain a low assessed valuation. The valuation just given will not exceed 65% of the actual value of the property in the village, and in some cases it may not equal that percentage. In fact, it has been the practice of the assessors to favor factories and industries with an exceptionally low assessed valuation. The rate for the year 1933 per hundred was \$1.44, for the year 1932 per hundred was \$1.44 and for the year 1931 per hundred, was \$1.60. The bonded indebtedness of the village is \$53,000. exclusive of the water bonds and the unpaid water bonds amount to \$126,000.

The New York Power & Light Corporation serves the village and inhabitants with electric current and gas. Just east of Oneida there is a large substation and into this come the transmission lines of the following companies: The Niagara Falls Power Co., the Salmon River Power Company, the Trenton Falls Power Co., the Associated Gas & Electric Co. and hydraulic power companies from the east. Canastota receives its electric current through this substation. By reason of these various transmission lines coming into the substation east of Oneida, it makes it possible to receive an uninterrupted service. The current available in this locality would be 3 phase or poly phase. Lighting would be single phase. Power is three phase or poly phase. All current is regulated. The foregoing

current would be 60 cycles, 110 and 220 volt. Residential rates are based on counted rooms; costs per kilowatt are 3-1/2 cents. Commercial rate may be as low as three-fourths of a cent per hour.

Gas is now being supplied from the City of Utica, but as there is a high-pressure line running from Utica to Syracuse, and there are valves in that line which may be opened west of Canastota, gas could be furnished from either end without any trouble, and this would give a continual and uninterrupted service of that commodity.

For residential and/or space heating use.

	Gross	Net
First 372 cu.ft. or less used per month.....	\$1.00	\$0.95
Next 2049 cu.ft. used per month, per MCF....	1.63	1.58
Next 14,579 cu.ft. used per month, per MCF..	1.00	0.97
Next 23,000 cu.ft. used per month, per MCF	0.80	0.78
Next 460,000 cu.ft. used per month, per MCF	0.67	0.65
Next 1,000,000 cu.ft. used per month, per MCF	0.595	0.58
All over 1,500,000 cu.ft. used per month, per MCF	0.525	0.51
Minimum Charge	1.00	0.95

Local freight may leave over the New York Central Railroad for the east at 3.30 P.M. and for the west at 2.30 P.M. These are on the main line of the New York Central.

On the West Shore, local freight leaves for the east at 9:30 A.M. and for the west at 3 P.M. Freight may be shipped out of Canastota either east or west on any of these trains, even though there is not sufficient for a car lot. When it reaches either Utica on the east

or Syracuse on the west, it is then transferred or made up into car lots with other shipments whose destination are in the same direction.

There are several trucking companies, which serve New York City and the New England States on the east and Rochester, Buffalo, Chicago and Detroit on the west. One or the other of these truck companies may ship out articles in the morning in either direction and in the afternoon in either direction,. These trucking companies also have connections with the Universal Carloading & Distributing Company, Acme Fast Freight, Inc., Overland Package Freight Service, Inc. and others who furnish through freight service on less than car load shipments. There is also a local truck service between Canastota and nearby points. The usual LCL time to New York is 12 to 15 hours and from Canastota to Chicago from 30 to 35 hours.

The following is a schedule of the arrival and departure of mails, in effect Jan. 31, 1934.

From	Arrival		For	Departure
E&W	7.00 A.M.	Heavy, Letters only	E	7.00 A.M.
“	7.20 “	“ “ and Parcel Post	W	9.00 A.M.
E	9.00 “	Medium	E	10.00 “
W	10.20 “	Light	W	10.45 “
S	10.30 “	“	E	11.25 “
E	11.00 “	Medium	W	4.40 P.M.
S	11.30 “	Light		
W	12 N	Medium		
E	12.10 P.M.	Light		
W	1.00 “	“		

E	5.00 “	Medium
E	6.50 “	Light
W	7.15 “	Medium
S	8:30 “	Light) Placed in Lobby during the night
W	11,30	Heavy) for early morning work.

Both the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Postal Telegraph Company maintain offices in the village. The New York Telephone Company also maintains an office in the village. This has contractual relations with the farmers’ telephone line.

Unlike most villages, Canastota is the owner of a 190-acre airport, which has been pronounced by men familiar with airports to be one of the best in the State. It has been recognized by the United States Government, which is now maintaining a beacon light on it, rendering service to those engaged in air travel. Its elevation is such that it makes the landing and taking off of planes a matter of ease in all directions. There has been a recent appropriation by the government of about \$18,000. for further improvement.

The merchants of Canastota carry on their shelves and in their displays all kinds, classes and qualities of goods and merchandise to suit the needs and demands of the public. They are always ready to render courteous and efficient service.

The physicians and dentists of Canastota are all competent and capable men in their profession, always ready and willing to serve wherever and whenever duty calls.

The members of the legal profession are men of calm and sober judgment, who are experienced in all of the courts and command the confidence and respect of the people in the community.

The Village of Canastota has been one of diversified industries. Among others, it has had the following: harness factory, sawing mills, shingle mill, brick manufacturing plants, flour and feed mills, foundries, glass blowing factory, knife factory, rake factory, farm implement factory, furniture factories, casket factory, chair factory, knitting mill, couch factory, match factory, moulding tool factory, factory for manufacture of motor boats, machine shops, cider mill, skate factory, coaster cart and flexible sled factory, box factory, mutoscope and motion picture factory, Watson dumping wagon works, Diemoulding, manufacturing bakelite and beetle ware products, creamery equipment manufacturing plants, cold storage plant, ice manufacturing plant, motor bus manufacturing plant.

There are now in operation in Canastota three canning factories, a cut glass industry, novelty manufacturing plant, the said Diemoulding industry manufacturing bakelite and beetle ware products, furniture manufacturing plant, box factory, cold storage plant, creamery equipment plants, motor bus industry, two large milk receiving stations, machine shops and moulding plant.

Canastota also has the reputation of being one of the largest vegetable, hay and grain shipping stations, anywhere to be found in the State of New York.

While about 40% of Canastota's population is of Italian extraction, nevertheless, the major portion of this Italian population is now American, either by birth or naturalization, and is Americanized. These Italian-Americans are largely interested in the fertile muck lands and have also become homeowners in the village. Many of them own business places in the village. They have taken an active part in the growth and development of our village.

There are now three manufacturing plants in Canastota which are available for purchase or rent, sketches of which are hereto annexed marked Exhibit "A", "B" and "C" respectively, and a fourth plant marked Exhibit "D", which is for sale and a large part of it for rent, to wit:

Exhibit "A" is a fair representation of the plant known as the Ideal Cut Glass Plant. For many years this plant has been used for the manufacture of cut glass. The size of the main buildings is shown on the sketch, Exhibit "A". There will also be found on the exhibit other information of value. As is shown by the exhibit, there is a substantial piece of land with this property and more adjacent can be acquired at a nominal price if desired. There is a great deal of machinery and equipment now in this plant, which has been used in the production of cut glass. There are also electric dynamos. This plant has a sprinkler system and is heated.

Exhibit "B" is a fair representation of the plant known as the Sherwood Plant and now owned by the Madison Trust & Deposit Company of Oneida, New York. This plant is a one-story building and built of concrete blocks. It has a concrete floor throughout its entire length. It is well lighted. There is a fine two-story office building with large basement. It has a dry kiln and boiler room detached. The building is equipped with a sprinkler system, also piped for heating. The assessed valuation of this property is \$10,000. There are railroad sidings as are shown on Exhibit "B". The property consists of about 2.28 acres. It is located adjacent the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The Lehigh Valley freight house is across the main line from the main building.

Exhibit "C" is a fair representation of the plant known as the Lenox Shops. This plant is located on East Center Street. It comprises about an acre and half of land.

Railroad sidings lead in and across the property as shown on Exhibit "C". The main building, marked #2, is a five story brick building and there re17 windows in each story. To the west is the office building, which is also a five-story brick building and attached to the main building, the lower story being used for office purposes and all above that used in connection with the main building for manufacturing. It has six windows in each story. To the east is a large shipping room. This is designated, as building #3, is one story in height and of frame construction. To the north of building #2 is the boiler room, engine room and storage room. Immediately north of that is a railroad siding and immediately north is building #5 known as the coal bins. Still farther north of the railroad sidings are the dry kilns. This building is equipped with a sprinkler system and also a complete heating system. The main building has two large elevators as indicated on Schedule "C". It is located across the street from the New York Central freight housed. The main brick building, or #2, is about 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width; the office building about 50 x 40; building #3, 40 feet in width and 50 feet in length. This property is known as the Lenox Shops and is owned now by the Elgin A. Simonds Company, Inc.

Exhibit "D" is a representation of the plant known as the Rex-Watson Corporation plant. It is located at the west end of West Center Street as shown on Exhibit "D" The land area of this plant comprises about 6 or 7 acres. The main buildings, as indicated on Exhibit "D" are of brick construction and very substantially built. The most westerly storage building is of brick structure. The dry kilns are all substantially built. This property has about three miles of railroad sidings. There are at least four dry kilns. There are three elevators. The main office building is shown on Exhibit "D" and is 30 x 75 feet. This is an attractive office building, built of pressed brick, two stories in height with

basement. It has a large garage at the rear. This plant has complete sprinkler system and is equipped with a full heating system. There is a 200 H.P. engine and large boilers in a separate building. This plant could easily be adapted to the installation of most any industry and sufficiently large so that with some industry there might be employed as many as 500 or 600 people.

Canastota also has a Chamber of Commerce, which was organized in February of 1929. It has an active membership, which is always ready and willing to cooperate in every effort to obtain legitimate enterprises for the village of Canastota. Its officers all serve without any salary. It is interested in the civic betterment of the village as well as being interested in its social and industrial growth and development. In this endeavor, it has elicited and won the interest and cooperation of a large number of citizens and business people of Canastota.

There are homes in Canastota well located, having all modern conveniences, which can be purchased at a reasonable price and which are suitable for factory owners, factory managers, foremen and employees. Homes can also be rented at a reasonable rental. The available houses and apartments now in Canastota could easily house from 50 to 75 families.

The blue prints hereto annexed were made and furnished through the courtesy of Messrs. Norman Stafford and Donald Dew of the Diemoulding Corporation of Canastota, New York.

This survey, if it may be called such, has been prepared in January 1934, by the Chamber of Commerce of Canastota, New York.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF CANASTOTA, N.Y.

BY John L. Robertson, President.

CANASTOTA, N.Y. MEMOIRS

BY EDWIN FARR

1860

In writing these memoirs I have confined myself as closely as possible to the year 1860 in order to give this younger generation an idea of the location of the buildings, their owners and the residents of Canastota at that time.

Many of these buildings are still in existence and these I have mentioned, and some still stand on their original locations and others have been moved. There are many buildings and streets now, which were not in existence in 1860 and for that reason I have not mentioned them.

This narrative has been compiled entirely from memory so there may possibly be omissions and a few errors as one's memory sometimes plays tricks on them. If there are any such errors or omissions I should be pleased to have them called to my attention and I will endeavor to correct them.

I wish to thank Mr. John Wilson, Mrs. Willis Phelps, Mr. A. E. Dew and Mr. Frank Souter for their assistance in helping me recall certain persons and places, which I have either forgotten or over-looked.

At the time my parents arrived in Canastota, in the year 1849, the population was about 1600 and I have lived to see the village grow to its present population and today I cannot recall but 9 of my school chums that are living in the village. The present population according to the 1930 census was 4,235.

1934 by Edwin Farr

This takes me to the north side of the canal, Northeast Canal Street.

The building of this corner of North Peterboro and Northeast Canal Street was occupied as a general store. On the east end of this lot was a dwelling occupied by two families and several years after the above date it was moved to North Peterboro Street and occupied by the family of Mr. Timothy Cook and later occupied by Mrs. Charles Lewis until her death. Mrs. Lewis was a daughter of Timothy Cook. William Ingraham, who carried on a blacksmith business and resided in a house in the rear, owned the next house. The house is now owned and occupied by Andrew Farnish. His son has since built a bungalow on this lot. Across Mechanic Street on the corner was a large barn that was used for canal horses to navigate boats. Augustus Marsh's dwelling was east of this barn. Mr. Marsh had charge of this barn and horses. Some distance east a family by the name of Lappin owned the next house; there was a large family of boys and girls. A family occupied the next residence by the name of Shaw; he was a shoemaker and worked for Hamilton Beecher.

#### NORTH DIAMOND STREET

At the corner of North and East Canal Street was a building, which I think was occupied by some member of the Travis families as a wagon shop. The first house going north of the east side of Diamond Street a Mr. Durfee resided in; next was a double house

owned by Richard Olds, occupied by Mr. Olds and Mr. Ford. Mr Olds owned the next house; Mr. Smith occupied this residence I think. He operated a line of stagecoaches from Canastota to Hamilton. In the next house Gould Lewis resided and it was in this house that his daughter met a tragic death.

On the west side of Diamond Street going north were two dwellings erected By Mr. Cornell. John Cellers purchased one and moved it to Mechanic Street and remodeled it for a house. The other house was moved to North Peterboro Street and now is owned by D. F. Wallace. There were no more buildings except the wooden wagon shop buildings of Phillips, Madison & Ford. They occupied the space from Diamond Street to North Peterboro Street. The small residence in the triangle of North Peterboro and Diamond Street is one of the oldest residences in the village, and at the present time I think is over 100 years old.

#### EAST CHAPPEL STREET

Oscar Travis occupied the first house on the south side. Eliphalet Sweet, father of Royal Sweet occupied the next house. On the corner of East Chappel and Mechanic Street David Kimball resided, he is the only police officer that there was in the village for some years. He was a fearless officer. There were no other buildings on the north side of the street. East Chappel Street only extended to Mechanic Street. Perkins Clark, who was a dealer in all kinds of stock, owned a large tract of land east of Chappel Street. There were three large barns at the end of East Chappel Street. The first circus that I can recall was on this lot. Daniel Rice was the owner of the circus and the entrance fee was 10 cents for children. Dan Rice gave a street parade riding a beautiful white horse.

## NORTH PETERBORO STREET –EAST SIDE      The first

buildings were the wagon shops of Phillips, Madison & Ford. They were destroyed by fire and this firm built the present brick buildings. After Mr. Phillips' death the business gradually declined and finally closed up. The Smith family who built the residence, which they occupied, owned all the property from Chappel Street to the Powers south line. The first one to occupy this property after the Smith family was Mr. Baker. He operated a store on South Canal Street. Several years later Caleb Teller purchased this property. After his death his wife and son, Frank Teller, purchased this property. After his death his wife and son, Frank Teller, came in possession of it and occupied it until sold to Clarence Farr. The first public fair in this section was held on this lot. There was a large orchard on this lot. Mrs. Teller sold the corner lot to R. D. Robinson who built the brick house on the corner. She then sold to George Robinson who built the brick house on the corner. She then sold to George Robinson, who married May Hitchcock, another lot and built a residence, now owned by Mrs.

S. M. Wing. John Garlock also purchased a lot and built a fine residence. Next we come to the Powers house which of late years was owned and occupied by John Montross's family. Next was Mr. Arkenburg who owns a double house and occupied one half of the residence, the other half being occupied by Andrew Menzie. The last two buildings were sold and moved to Clark Street to make room for the new school building. The dwelling on the next corner was owned and occupied by Barney Miller for several years. This building was also sold and moved to make room for the new school. George

Bligh occupied this building until his death. He was the only ice dealer in town and was a truck man who collected and delivered express freight. Now we cross to Roberts Street. On the corner was a small one-story house occupied by Mr. Murray. On this corner later a fine residence was built by G. M. Tackabury and now owned by his nephew H. L. Bauder. Going north to the south side of the greenhouse, W. T. Northrup resided here. Now we go to the residence occupied by Charles Teller. This residence and farm was the property of George Menzie and about 1862 was purchased by James E. Bauder, father of H. L. Bauder. There were two small houses north of the Menzie residence. Mr. Fowler, a retired minister, and one by Mr. Gillett, occupied one. No more buildings on this side of the street.

Now we cross to the west side. The first residence built by Abe Stoors and now occupied by William Thayer. Next is a gothic house owned and occupied by Jesse Ball. It was located on the lot where Dr. Hemstreet lived. On the corner of North Peterboro and Chappel in the residence now owned and occupied by M. E. Davis, George Burlingame resided. This lot extended to the east line of the brick house on Chappel Street now owned by Mrs. Kieber. John Miller erected this brick house. Now cross Chappel Street. On the corner of North Peterboro and Chappel Street William Goodell built this brick residence. Mr. Goodell, who was a lawyer, while on his way home one evening was very nearly assassinated by having a knife thrust in his back. The next residence was the Delano homestead, the home of Milton Delano and Mrs. Irvin Saultsman. This residence was also destroyed by fire. The next residence was the Montross house and was occupied by John Montross, Senior, after he sold the hotel. Later this was purchased by John Duigman, Senior, and removed to Chappel Street where it was remodeled into a dwelling

and occupied until death by John Duigman, Junior. Now we come to the large hotel, The Montross House, situated on the corner of North Peterboro and North Canal Street. This hotel and large barn occupied all the property to the north line of the knife factory.

Several years ago a company was formed to manufacture pocket cutlery; they purchased this lot and constructed a building now occupied by Strough's Garage. In the triangle of Diamond and North Peterboro Street the town pump was located. After the waterworks was installed this pump was put out of commission. Opposite this well the north end of the Peterboro Plank Road started.

#### DUTCH SETTLEMENT now called ROBERTS STREET

At this time Owen McCabe occupied the only residence on the south side until you come to the extreme east end of the corporation where there is a residence occupied by Ira Kimball and his family. This residence has recently been remodeled. There were no buildings on the north side of the street.

Now we go to Chappel Street, south side, going west. On the Goodell lot, west end, there were two houses. I cannot recall who occupied these houses. On the corner of Sowter Street a Mr. Sowter resided, he was a jeweler. Mrs. Gillett, daughter and grandson, now occupies this residence. On the east side of the creek a cooper shop was operated by Mr. Coller, who resided on the west side in a small house on the lot where now stands the Pearot residence. At Mr. Coller's death this property came into the hands of G. F. Ballou, a stepson. He erected the house now occupied by Pearot and the one west now occupied by Ballou, who resided there until his death. The next residence was the Miller property; he also owned the tannery in the rear. This tannery was built by Mr. Cole and was operated by the Miller Brothers, John, and Alec. and Ed. John Miller married

Miss Anna Hatch, niece of Capt. Daniel Lewis. George Perkins, father of William Perkins married Mr. Cole's daughter. Mr. Cole lived on the southeast corner of New Boston Street and North Main Street. Next is the Duigman home, which was removed from the Montross lot, north of Strough's garage. On the corner of North Main and Chappel Streets was a small house occupied by George Green and family. Now we cross the street. On the corner of Chappel and North Main Street, where E. J. Clark resides, was a double house plastered on the outside, and Mr. Burdick lived in the west end, and this building was moved to South Park Street. Now we come to the dyke that furnished water to operate the sawmill owned and operated by Mr. Hitchcock. This mill was located in the rear of the Bemis lot.

The water to supply this mill came from the Canastota creek and passed down this dyke to the mill. The outlet was a short distance north of Lewis Street bridge. The present residence now owned and occupied by Fred Johnson is where the dyke was located also the Duigman residence. The next house was Mr. Beecher's, next the Farr homestead, the home of the writer, who was born in 1851, next Orville Bell, next Trueman Bell. Now we come to the school property. At this time all such property was the lot where the old school building was located. In 1861, I think, Daniel Peckham built the White Building, so called. These buildings were occupied. Several years later, about 1875, the Chappel Street School was erected after a heated debate and G. F. Ballou was the inspector. Next was a brick house, which was erected by John Miller. I think after the Chappel Street School was built Capt. Daniel Lewis was the owner of the land on the east side of Spencer Street to Lewis Street and east of the creek. He offered this piece of land to the district for \$1000. The resolution to purchase this land was carried but three of our

enterprising “kickers” claimed that this resolution was not legal and circulated a petition for a new election and this was defeated. If this resolution had been carried the school district would be the owner of all the land west of Spencer Street from Chappel to Lewis Street and east of the Canastota creek, which at that time was a large hickory grove. Later the school district paid Mr. Lewis \$500 for about one third as much land as he offered for \$1000.

#### SPENCER STREET

In 1874 there were only three houses on this street, all on the west side. The Griffin Brothers for James Duffy constructed the residence owned by Mrs. James Acker and the one on the corner of Spencer and Lewis and the residence of Dr. Germer. One of the Griffin Brothers is a prominent citizen of Syracuse. Only three houses on Lewis Street.

#### SOWTER STREET

Not much changed. Two houses on the west side have been constructed.

#### NORTH MAIN STREET

East side going north, John Conley as a residence occupied the building on the corner of Canal and North Main, he also had a large barn located where the grocery store operated by Carmen Cerio now is. Next to the E. J.

Clark house was a small occupied by Jacob Coon and later sold to Barney Austerman. Next was the Hitchcock residence, which was moved to Stocking Street, and Edgar Skelton erected the residence now occupied by his daughter Miss Clara Skelton. Next was the residence erected by Prof. Alfred Harrington, which during a severe storm was demolished but rebuilt. Now we go north to the residence of Mrs. Royal Sweet

occupied by Mr. Dew. Next Mr. Tompkins, whose wife raised geese and it was the delight of the boys to torment these geese so they would chase the boys. From Lewis Street to Wilson Avenue there were only three houses, Alfred Gleason and two houses south of Wilson Avenue.

Wilson Avenue was not used as a street. All the property north of Lewis Street to the present Wilson Ave., was used for mill storage. From Main Street to the creek there was a sawmill on the west bank of the creek owned and operated by Capt. Daniel Lewis, Mr. Rose and Daniel McPherson. Mr. McPherson was an uncle of William McPherson. All the land that I have mentioned was used for storage for logs and lumber. About 1876 adjoining the south end of the Mt. Pleasant cemetery was a heavy timbered lot, which was sold to Walrath Brothers of Chittenango. When they cleaned this piece of land there was no snow until the first week in March. A heavy snow storm made good sleighing and Walrath Brothers had a large force of men and teams and worked night and day and succeeded in drawing the logs to the Lewis saw mill. Mr. Warren occupied the last house on the east side of the street. Now the west side of the street, coming south. The first house was occupied by Mr. Leander Brown, father of Frank Brown; next house was occupied by Chester Fancher; next corner of North Main and West Lewis, John Fancher, next residence built by William Pettys, now owned by Homer Chadwick, next Ed Beckley, now occupied by Charles Hoffman, next Frank Peckham residence, now owned by Preston Campbell estate. Next Fred W. Dew now owned by Albro Strough residence. Next residence was Joseph Skelton, corner Lewis and North Main. Mr. Skelton was a builder-contractor and employed quite a force of men. He was the father of Frank Skelton. Now across the street to the opposite corner Daniel Peckham built his residence

and occupied it for several years. Next is the Duffy house now occupied by Dr. Germer. Next Ed. Roberts, his father built this house; next house was occupied by William Mattison, next was the residence occupied by Mr. Sturdevant and family. I cannot recall who built this residence. Next is William Wiemmer, this house was built by John A. Wilson and he occupied it until he moved to Herkimer. Now we come to the Methodist Church; this has been described several times so I will pass it by. Crossing New Boston Street, the corner of New Boston and North Main, the Rev. Mr. Rogers occupied this house to the best of my memory, next Aaron Brush, grandfather to Frank, Arthur and Miss Aggie Reynolds, next John Corson, this house has been remodeled and later was occupied by Mr. Clough, grandfather to Frank Clough, next corner was occupied by Mr. Roach, he was a blacksmith and had a shop on the west end of the lot.

#### STATE STREET

This is about as it was in 1860. Several houses have been remodeled.

#### CATHERINE STREET

There were four houses on this street.

#### CAROLINE STREET

Michael Wallace, John Feary and two small houses owned by Moses Chadwick. On the east side of this street corner South Park and Catherine Street was a large square house owned by Ed. Feary, next south was John Sheldon. On the corner of State and Caroline John Van Derwacker. Corner of West Park and State Harvey Putman resided. On West Park Street there were three houses, I fail to recollect who built them. Corner State and Catherine Street George Castle had a blacksmith shop and there was a suite of rooms on the second floor occupied by Theodore Lane who married E. A. Haines sister.

She was working around a stove when her clothing caught fire resulting in her death. I was a witness to this tragedy.

#### NEW BOSTON STREET

Now we come to Capt. Lewis farm residence. The west line of the M. E. Church property was the east line of the Lewis garden at this time and was the most productive garden in the village. He had an extensive flower garden on the west side of his residence. The vacant lot between the residences of Alonzo Campbell was a fine orchard; Capot built the next residence. Lewis west of the Campbell residence about 1845 and the parents of John H. Wilson and his sisters were married in this house and continued to reside here until they built the stone house, which has been the home of the Wilson children since. Theodore Wilson was a farmer and owned a hundred acres situated on both sides of the road. Capt. Lewis owned all the property from Chappel Street north to about 20 rods of the south line called the Ball lot now owned by Arthur Hess. His land extended west to Main Street and South to Chappel Street except a row of village lots on the north side of Chappel Street and as far east as North Peterboro Street. The west side of Main Street his property extended nearly to the M. E. Church. In this section he was the owner of nearly 400 acres of land. The park bounded north by New Boston Street, east by Caroline Street, south by South Park Street and west by West Park Street; Capt. Lewis planted this park to Maple trees and offered it to the village free. But the same element of "kickers voted against the proposition and it was defeated, claiming the village did not want a park out in the country. Now we come to the south side of New Boston Street: Colonel Lamb and his family occupied this large farm. Orville Lamb peddled silk for several years. Next house was the one occupied by Sylvanus Swart,

father of Charles Swart and they occupied this house for several years. The house corner of Caroline and New Boston was occupied by Thomas Wood, next one was the corner of New Boston and Catherine Street, was occupied by Mr. Walker. Across the street on the corner, as I remember, was occupied by various Methodist Church ministers,. West Lewis Street was only a lane used by Peckham and Skelton to their house and also the Dew residence.

#### NORTH CANAL STREET between the bridge going west.

Where the building now occupied by Frank Waldrow is located there was a store occupied by Delano and Simpson, crockery and groceries. Where the American House is now located was the site of the Sayles Hotel which was destroyed by fire. Between this hotel and the building where Delano and Simpson was located there was a meat market operated by a Mr. Wheeler, the next store west was occupied by Robert Stebbins, next by Mr. Fay, he also had a store on the opposite side of the canal. He had an overhead footbridge to cross the canal. There were no more buildings until you come to the large building now owned by the Spadafora estate. Lewis Sowter as a furniture store occupied one half of the front of this building and he manufactured furniture in the rear, Truemen Bell occupied the other half of this building. There were a number of flats in this building used as tenements. There was a small building on the corner of Sowter Street which was used for a barber shop, next George Hovey had a bakery, next Harry Tryon conducted a shoe store and had a dwelling in the rear, next to Tryon was a drug store, next was a small building, Mr. Hinnaman lived here and manufactured soft drinks, next two buildings were occupied by several families, Morris Lewis lived next, he was grandfather to Fred Lewis, he had a harness shop on the creek bank and manufactured harness. Now

across the street, John Duigman, Sr., had a blacksmith shop, the next was a large barn, the property of Mr. Conley and was used for canal horses and was called a line barn

#### SOUTH MAIN STREET –SOUTH SIDE

Where the feed and gristmill now is there were two houses and in the rear of these houses the large building now owned by A. E. Dew and Sons, which was, a general store occupied by Mr. Hill. A. E. Dew & Sons on the same premises now occupied a lumberyard owned by T. N. Jarvis. Henry Wolf owned and occupied the dwelling next to the lumberyard office and Michael Hichman built a residence on the south side of the street and resided there several years. The dwelling on the corner of South Main and Lumber Street, the first family I can remember occupying this house was a Mr. Hosley, next George Gates, Clinton Colton next. Where the public library is now located was a double house occupied by Mr. Rose and Daniel McPherson, uncle to William McPherson. Next a large and beautiful residence was erected by Clinton Colton, father of LeGrand Colton who occupied it for several years and which was later sold to M. D. Woodford, one of the Canastota firebugs. Now we come to the large dwelling of Thomas Barlow; on the south side of this dwelling was a large room, which contained one of the largest museums in Central New York consisting of animals, birds, insects, etc. Now we cross the railroad. Dr. Jarvis was the owner of all the land between the New York Central Railroad and James Street as far west as Stroud Street. He owned the fine residence of the corner of South Main and James Street; there were two large barns in connection with the dwelling. A large orchard west of the barn extended nearly opposite Stroud Street and between the residence and the New York Central Railroad was a fine small fruit orchard and a handsome flower and vegetable garden. On the north end of Stroud and across

James Street was a house occupied by a Mr. Thompson who made and peddled molasses candy. Now across James Street was the residence of Sylvanus Swart, now occupied by his son Charles. Coming east is the residence of James McPherson, now occupied by his son and family, William McPherson, next is a residence, If I am correct, built by Garrett Sayles; Charles Guinow residence was next and later occupied by Dr. Robert Mason. Next John Duigman, Senior's residence which was sold to Henry Jarvis. Garrett Sayles built the large dwelling now owned and occupied by the A. E. Cronk estate. No more houses until you come to a small house and this was called the Jarvis homestead. Now comes the large residence of Milton Jarvis with his beautiful garden of flowers of all kinds and descriptions, he also had a greenhouse on the south side of one of his buildings. South Main Street only extended to the south side of James Street, at the south end of Main Street was a large barn and the basement was used for a cider mill. The barn was later moved to a distance west of James Street and was used for the same purpose. Where the Lehigh Valley freight house is located Mr. Warrick built a residence and resided there several years. Where the Lehigh Valley tracks are there was quite a raise of ground and this was enclosed by a high fence and was used as a public pound to confine cattle, etc., found wandering the streets. Gideon Codner was the sexton and his salary was what funds he collected. All the land between South Main and James Street was the property of the New York Central Railroad and on the east end of this lot was a cattle yard for the storage of cattle to be loaded in cars. Perkins Clark was a large dealer in stock and a large shipper by the New York Central Railroad. On the south side of the railroad tracks and quite a distance from South Main Street was a large freight house and it was a busy place in these days. There was a large foundry and machine shop at Eaton and they

manufactured engines on trucks. They were all brought here and shipped by New York Central Railroad. This company also drew all their freight from here to Eaton. Peterboro and Munnsville also had a large business to and from this freight house. Harvey Woodford finally purchased this building from the New York Central; he moved it to the east side of the village and used it for hay storage. This later was sold to Bridge and Sowter and is now owned by the Smith-Canastota Company. Now across the railroad where there was a large woodshed, and in those days the engine burned wood. This building was destroyed by fire.

T. N. Jarvis, I think, was the owner of all the property west of the west line of the house on the west wide of South Main Street. From Lumber Street to Judge Barlow's property, if I am correct, Judge Barlow and Mr. Buck jointly gave Barlow Street to the village. All the Buck property was sold to Mr. T. N. Jarvis and as soon as the glass factory was started building on this street started with a rush. As I remember there were only three houses on this street, William Campbell built the one on the north side. On the corner of Buck and Barlow Street was the Buck residence, on the south side farther west Mr. Northrup built his dwelling. Now we will go back to the railroad, east side. First dwelling was the Rowe property. They owned the property to a private road on the south side of this lot, this road was used for benefit of a sash and blind factory located on the creek bank, and owned by Cyrus Chapmen, next the dwelling now occupied by Dr. Barton built by Alonzo Campbell. Now come the schoolhouse and the blacksmith shop next to the schoolhouse then J. C. Warrick residence and the residence of Cyrus Chapman. Going across the creek we come to the Stebbins residence, next was Dr. Hemstreet. Across Mill Street on the corner Douglas Lansing lived, next Dr. Mason, next

Oliver Ames, next E. T. Frederick. The first telephone was located in the east side of the E. T. Frederick building, and Mary Northrup was the operator. Lewis Sowter had a dwelling on the east side of the lot where the McMahon block now stands which was destroyed by fire. Now we go back to South Main from Center Street to the canal. On the corner of South Main and Center was the Franklin Colton residence, Dr. Knapp purchased the large lot in connection with this residence and constructed the building now occupied by the Canastota Memorial Hospital. Now we go east to the north side of Center, Dr. Adams, and next William Plank. Now across the creek E. R. White, the next was the Hoag residence, then the William Stone residence, now we come to a vacant lot between the Stone residence and the church building, now the Grange Hall. Herman Taddene purchased this lot; he was a cabinet manufacturer and had a shop on the southwest corner. E. A. Haines purchased this vacant lot and built the block now occupied by William Guest. He sold the vacant lot east to E.G. Childs who erected the block now occupied by Guy & Company. M. D. Robbins purchased the next vacant lot, he also built the block and he was the editor of the village paper. At this time we come to the Free Church, Norris Chapman next; the next was a wooden building and in this factory was manufactured the telescope by Charles Spencer. Now we go to East Center Street on the north side. On the corner of Diamond and East Center was a large barn owned by Harvey Woodford. Going east was a coal and lumberyard owned by Mott & Roe, this property was later sold to a Mr. Mix from Camden who built the present buildings, which are now occupied as a canning factory. Going east was a brick residence built by M. M. Hess. On the south side coming back west was the James Carroll residence, George T. Smith next, then the Municipal Building. On the end of this street

was a large tract of wild land called the "Goose Pasture" and was a great place for game of all kinds, and also a great resort for sportsmen. Now we go to James Street. On the south side of this street Hamilton Beecher residence now occupied by Fred Hayes. Mr. Beecher operated a tannery where the fire station and two houses are located. The tannery was partially destroyed by fire and Mr. Beecher abandoned this tannery and erected the two houses. Now we go back to South Main, the house that was on the corner I cannot recall its builder or who resided there. Miss Hannah Palmer was the first one that I can remember residing there. The next is a brick house built by John Reece, he was a railroad engineer. The next building was used as a carpenter shop, next Samuel Shone, next the Sowter residence, this was sold and removed to West James Street and located the first house west of the McPherson house, next was George Vedder, this residence was moved down the railroad tracks opposite the location where it now stands on the terrace. It was a great sight to witness this building being moved down opposite where it was to be located and then raised on scaffolding level with the terrace upon which it now stands. It proved to be a great curiosity to folks of the surrounding territory to see this piece of work done. Next a log house on the bank of the creek. Gideon Codner occupied this house. Now we come to the sawmill property. There was a large pond there used for storage to supply this sawmill, where the West Shore Railroad is was about the location of the sawmill. Mr. Sowter was the owner of this saw mill and all the land from James Street nearly to the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks and east of where the present creek is and this was used for storage for water to supply the sawmill. Mr. Sowter had a shop north a short distance and when the Lehigh Valley Railroad was built this building had to be moved to make room for the Lehigh Valley tracks and Mr. Sowter sold it to Patten & Stafford and moved it to

that property. Now we go to Hickory Street. I cannot recall when South Main Street was extended to Seneca Turnpike. Hickory Street was opened I think about the same time as South Main Street was, I think the first house that was erected on Hickory Street was built by Mr. Shultes and now occupied by two of his daughters. Jerry Eiseman was the first one to live in this house as I remember situated on the corner of Main and Hickory Street. George Mott built the house and occupied it for several years. The two brick houses, I think, were built one by Mr. Booth and one by William McPherson. Samuel Shone built a house on the south side of this street and I cannot locate the present owner but I think it is the first residence west of the Eiseman house. I fail to recall any more houses on this street that were built about 1860 except the house built by Mr. Burdick but I cannot locate which house it is.

#### STROUD STREET

The house on the north side of this street, west side, the Starr family owned, now owned by Hessler estate. Daniel Peckham built the residence now occupied by Mr. Decker and his family (occupied it for several years). Next house was built by Joseph Swart; next house Seward Stroud, Next Charles Stroud, father of Seward Stroud. On the corner of Hickory and Stroud Seneca Swart built this house and occupied it for several years.

#### SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM JAMES STREET SOUTH

South Main, west side, Byron Clough occupied this residence. Corner of Pleasant and Main Street across the street on the opposite corner Cyrus Bolster built this residence and occupied it and A. E. Ball built the next I think. I don't think there were any more houses until you come to the house that Byron Gleason built and owned and later

occupied by John Phleiger. No more houses on the west side of this street. Crossing over to the east side of this street, corner of Main and Rasbach, was a brick house built and occupied by William Reece. Now we will go to South Peterboro Street, west side going south from the railroad. The first building was the Dutch Reformed Church, the railroad encroached upon this property so that they were compelled to dispose of it, the building was purchased by Dr. Jarvis and removed to North Main Street south of the State Ditch on the west side of the street. Several years after this building was demolished by a severe hurricane, the old willow tree is now standing which was located near the southeast corner of the church building. Loren Fowler occupied next house, and Dr. Smith, if I remember, occupied the next house. Now we come to the building on the corner of James and South Peterboro Street occupied by Miss Hannah Palmer. This I have located as being on James Street. Across the street is the residence of Elijah Prout; this residence was located on the southwest corner. The lot from residence to James Street was a fine vineyard and the boys were very much acquainted with this vineyard. Edgar was one of the boys. The next residence was R. H. Avery. Mr. Avery was the revenue collector and had his office over the store now owned by Clarence Farr. The next house now occupied by Mr. Schirmer, I think was called the Palmer house and later was bought by John Allen. George Nair occupied where William Fowler resides. The property extended west of the Canastota creek. The opposite corner, Mr. Reeder built this house if I remember correctly. Mr. Reeder moved a large building from Morrisville and constructed a gristmill having purchased the sawmill property, which was operated by Mr. Palmer. The storage of water to operate this saw mill above the A. J. Warner residence came to Peterboro Street, south of Rasbach Street nearly to the Lehigh Valley

east line. George Gates the next south, he was a shoemaker by trade and erected a shop a short distance west of his residence. Seward Stroud purchased this property and lived there until his death. Reeder reconstructed the building he brought from Morrisville and converted it into a gristmill using the same waterpower that was used for the sawmill. On the east bank of this millpond was a large double house. The Warner residence, so called, built by William Pettys who sold his residence to Judson Fields on North Main Street purchased all the land on the west side of south Peterboro Street to Rasbach Street. Mr. Pettys raised these lots with earth from the sawmill pond, these lots sold quick and had fine residences built on them. The house now owned by Mr. Newbury was built by E. A. Haines, the house occupied by Dr. Olcott was built by Delos Ellis, the balance of the residences were built considerably later. The fine residence now owned by A. E. Dew; the first family to live in this residence, as I remember, was a Mr. Woodruff. I cannot remember who built this residence. Now across Peterboro Street to the east side coming North from Rasbach Street: I cannot recall only four houses, the house now occupied by Mrs. McMahon was built for Rev. Mr. Winnie, an Episcopal minister. Mr. Green built where the Ingraham sisters live. The residence now owned by Mrs. Ed Brown was built by Nelson Beebe and sold to H. C. Brown; Mr. Booth built the brick house south of the Baptist Church. Now we come to East Hickory Street, south side. James Morrison built the house on the corner of Hickory and South Peterboro now owned by Howard Gleason, he was the New York Central ticket agent and telegraph operator. At that time the ticket office of the New York Central was located in the west end of the Tobey house. Going east on Hickory Street the next house was on the corner of East Hickory and Prospect Street built by Daniel Peckham, on the opposite corner was the residence of Watkins

Steel. Now we will cross the street and around the corner on Hickory Street was a double house, which was erected by Charles Crouse. Daniel Peckham for William Anderson built the house on the corner now occupied by Mr. Yarnell. Now coming west on the north side, Mr. Anderson built this house west of the Yarnell house. Now we come to the brick house built by Mr. Booth. Now to Prospect Street on the east side going south. Mr. Rasbach built the two houses south of the Watkins Steel house. The next house, as I remember, formerly the residence of Milton Delano was the Deacon Green residence. On the west side of this street I cannot recall a single residence. East of Prospect Street including the Homestead Edition was all farm property. D. H. Rasbach built the last house on the east side of Prospect Street. Now we will go back to the canal on the east side of Peterboro Street going south to Hickory Street. The brick store now owned by Clarence E. Farr was built by John A. Wilson and occupied at that time by Wilson and Woodford. They did a large business and dealt in wool, this business carried them into bankruptcy. South of this block there was a vacant lot on which was a residence occupied by John A. Wilson. After he built the house on North Main Street he moved to this new home and sold this house and lot to Aaron Brush. Brush raised the house to the street level and remodeled it into a store and it was occupied by Brush and Bell as a clothing store, next was Orville Bell as a boot and shoe store, the next was a large two story wooden building and occupied I think by William Anderson as a commission merchant. Next was the residence of William Fisk. Mr. Fisk and son were bankers and insurance agents. Mr. Gay owned the next two houses; he occupied the north one and Mr. Eastman the south one. Mr. Gay was a cabinet manufacturer and had a store on South Canal Street. Mr. Eastman was a locksmith. Next was the Harvey Woodford residence on the corner of

South Peterboro and East Center. Across East Center there was a one and a half story building owned by Mr. VanHuesen. The next home was Mr. VanHuesen's residence, the next was owned and occupied by Perkins Clark, this house was moved to East Center Street near the New York Central freight house and is in use now. When the 157<sup>th</sup> Regiment left Canastota the train which was to carry the boys was switched along the south side of the Clark property. The Clark premises and the house were elaborately decorated. It was a great day for the residents of this village and the surrounding country. The boys came in wagons from Hamilton and when they arrived a great supper was ready for them. The tables were located on the land where the West Shore Railroad is now located, east of Peterboro Street. I also remember the passing of the Lincoln Funeral Train. There were two large fires made out of boxes on the south side of the track and everything that would burn. It was early evening. Now crossing the New York Central Railroad; there were only two tracks at this time. Daniel Crouse was the owner of all land from the railroad company to the Anderson house. Mr. Crouse erected this fine residence and lived here several years until he moved to Utica. He had fine stables and horses and kept the grounds beautiful. Mr. Anderson was next. Now we come to the corner of Hickory and South Peterboro. Ephriam Richardson resided here.

The installing of the electric lights in the village in order to get them in so that the tax payers could see how they would work out, Barney Austerman, who was the Mayor, and one of five tax payers signed a note for \$500 to make good to Patten & Stafford in case the proposition was defeated. After thirty days trial the vote was carried and the note was cancelled.

Now we will start on the west side of Peterboro Street from the canal and go south. There the Austerman residence is now was a vacant lot and used by Crouse Brothers as a feeding space for farmer's teams that brought produce for the Crouse Brothers, they had a large wooden storehouse on the canal west of the vacant lot. They occupied the stores where Kieber and Auquino now stand, next south the first to occupy this store, now the Wilson Block, was Delano and Simpson, as I remember. They moved from across the canal. Now we come to the Young property, Mr. Young had a drug store to the north store. Mr. Jssler who manufactured hoop skirts occupied the next store in this block. The next was a vacant lot. Now we come to a double store, which was occupied, on the north side by Richard Olds as a men's furnishing and custom tailoring establishment. Mr. Richardson occupied the south half for a boot and shoe store. This building was about four feet from the ground and the basement was divided into two compartments, one side by E. A. Haines and G. F. Ballou the other side. Now we come to the Nair building and was occupied by Norris Chapman as jewelry store, Charles Spencer was his assistant. In the rear of this building was a family flat where the writer was born Sep. 6, 1851. Now we come to the large Spencer residence which occupied nearly all the lot; across the street was the Canastota National Bank Building, this building was not as large as the present one, next was the Sowter property, it extended from the bank building to the Spanner restaurant. W. H. Plank, stoves and hardware occupied the first store, Ephriam Richardson had a furniture and undertaking establishment in the other part of this building, next Cyrus Hoag had a harness shop, and Thomas Barlow owned the two next stores. I cannot recall who occupied them. Now we come to the Tobey House

operated by Charles Tobey. In these days it was the headquarters for the stagecoaches that operated from Canastota to Peterboro and Hamilton.

### SOUTH CANAL STREET

Located between South Main and South Peterboro Street. The large building located on the corner of South Main and South Canal Street was owned and occupied by J. W. Conley and was operated as a canal grocery store and several years later the Lawrence Brothers established a malt house and did an immense business there. November 18, 1880 or thereabouts the canal froze over solid and there was an immense fleet of boats frozen in extending from the cider mill to the Lehigh Valley trestle, and several boatloads of barley was unloaded in the Lawrence Brothers malt house. A large portion of these boats was unloaded and the grain was drawn to the New York Central freight house and Judson Fields and Jay Conley had charge of the unloading. Now we will cross the creek and the building located here was owned by C. O. Chesley in which he carried a large stock of groceries and dry goods. His residence was on the opposite side of the street. He also had a large storehouse on the canal bank. On the east side of the canal basin Mr. James lived. He was a farmer. Now we come to the grocery stores, E. A. Haines, Mr. Baker and Mr. Gray, next was the largest storehouse owned by Crouse Brothers. September 17, 1871

There were three weddings on this day, Mr. J. C. Rasbach to Miss Belle Moot of Clockville, Mr. Ernest Lansing to Miss Emma Clow and Mr. Darwin Peckham to Miss Gertrude Hubbard.

I think I have located the first family of Italians that first came to Canastota. It was a family named DeBarber. They sold their business to Gasper Sevasco.

I will close by mentioning a story about two of our young men, both have since passed away. Soon before the Federal Hill School was consolidated with School District No. 9 these two young men attended the Federal Hill School. One day a rap came to the door and the teacher answered the call. One of the boys who were on the platform took his seat until the teacher returned. The teacher had asked him what the Capitol of the United States was, so he whispered to his chum and asked what to say, the chum whispered back say Atlantic Ocean. The scholar was again called to the platform, Mr. ----, the trustee Mr. Eiseman is here and I wish you would inform him and the Scholars what the Capitol of the United States is--- he yelled the Atlantic Ocean. The two boys were W. H. Fancher and Isaac Steel, and this is a Fancher story.

THE END

#### MEMOIR OF M. E. DAVIS

The story of Ed Farr in the history of early Canastota relative to tragic death of Imogene Lewis, daughter of Gould Lewis, as was told to M. E. Davis by Mrs. Mina Lewis, who formerly lived on James Street near N.Y.C. depot. Mrs. Mina Lewis relates the story as follows.

There was a man living in the Lewis home and Imogene needed something done to a hanging lamp, which were common at this time. The man got a ladder and climbed the ladder carrying a pistol in his pocket and while doing the work, the pistol dropped from his pocket and in falling struck the ladder, causing the pistol (to) to off, the bullet hitting Miss Imogene, causing her death. This part of story was given me by Mrs. Mina Lewis, Mother (of) Frank Lewis and she was familiar with all the parties and remembered it in detail when told to me.

(Hand written by)

M. E. DAVIS

#### CANASTOTA FIRE OF APRIL 19, 1873,

The Largest Fire that ever occurred in Canastota

to this Date.

Last Saturday evening, the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, about half past nine o'clock, an alarm of fire was heard in our streets, and it soon became known that the livery barn in rear of the Pratt House was on fire. The fire company reached the scene in time, but by reason of lack of discipline, water was not passed through the hose until the barn was enveloped in flames. The Pratt House soon caught fire, as also the shed and small buildings east of the barn, which led the fire in the direction of Peterboro Street. The barn of Lewis Sowter, north and adjacent to the hotel barn also took fire, which communicated with Sowter's workshop, and caught, in Mr. Sowter's dwelling. At this stage of the conflagration the

line of flame seemed moved by a slight change of the wind, from a northeasterly to an easterly course, and was rapidly destroying the entire square. The fire spread through the Pratt House, the Post Office, the Barlow building, Sowter Block (all wood buildings) and the Bank, (brick) and the people were in hopes its progress would then be stayed. In the mean time, a telegram was sent to Oneida asking for help, which was responded to about eleven o'clock. The Oneida engine soon got a stream going, but not until the fire had crossed Peterboro Street into the mansard roof of Doolittle Block, (brick) upwards of fifty feet from the ground, and was readily fed in the barrels and rubbish of the garret, and by the scenery of the hall. From Doolittle Block a shower of cinders fell upon the wooden dwelling of Hiram Lewis and the saloon building, and the Blacksmith and repair shop east, which soon blazed into flame, and with all the buildings named were entirely destroyed.

With the first alarm the occupants of the hotel and business places adjoining, commenced removing their effects, so that by the time the flames had reached the stores, a greater part of the goods had been removed. The boarders in the upper part of the hotel lost nearly everything, yet a great deal of property was saved considering the rapidity with which the fire spread. The mails and fixtures of the Post Office were secured and carried to Mr. Chapman's house. Chas occupied the Barlow building on the first floor. VanAlstine, grocer, and the upper story as a law office by Barlow & Son, and by E. G. Barlow as an artist's studio. Nearly all the groceries below and the entire library, papers and paintings in the upper story were saved. E. A. Haines occupied the first of the stories (one story) in the Sowter Block as an oyster and refreshment saloon, --he saved nearly everything. The next was the office (one story) of Dr. H. F. Adams, who saved fixtures

and other effects. Next was the harness shop (one story) of Chas. Nash who got out nearly everything. Then came the furniture and undertaking establishment of E. B. Richardson, who occupied rooms on the first, second and third floors, and had a large stock of goods on hand, a small portion of which was saved. The last store in the Block was occupied by Wm. H. Plank, tin, stove and glass ware, nearly all of which was saved; much of it in a damaged condition. On the second floor were rooms occupied, one by Chas. J. Thirll as a barbershop; the other by James Hare as a billiard room. Mr. Thirll lost nearly all his fixtures, as also did Mr. Hare. On the corner of Peterboro and Center Streets stood the Canastota National Bank, a one-story building from which the furniture and fixtures were removed in good time. In Doolittle Block were two stores, one of them filled with furniture, while the upper portions were finished into a fine hall with excellent scenery etc. The furniture was all burned, although it might have been saved by even ordinary exertion, but it seems that no one felt inclined to save it.

This furniture composed the stock of H. P. Bender who had previously made an assignment, and consequently proceedings in Bankruptcy had been instituted against him, which were pending.

The stock was not in possession of U. S. Dept Marshal Kimball, as has been reported, but was controlled by Bender's assignee.)

The stock was insured for about \$4000.

Hiram Lewis saved all of his furniture and household goods much of which is damaged. Mr. Sowter saved nearly all of his household goods.

It is difficult to estimate the real losses by this fire. We feel safe in giving the figures by market valuation, at \$75,000. to \$80,000. The Pratt House was built in 1869, was luxuriously furnished and valued at over \$20,000. —Insured in several companies for \$14,000. Mr. Sowter had \$1,500 insurance on residence and \$6,000. On stores; he will lose heavily. F. A. Doolittle built his block in 1867, at a cost of \$20,000., which was insured in several different companies at an aggregate of \$14,000. The Barlow building was not insured. The insurance on Mr. Plank's stock had expired but a few days previous to the fire; he will lose considerable. Mr. Hare had no insurance on his property. Mr. VanAlstine was insured sufficiently to cover losses. The Bank was not insured; the vault proved fireproof, and yielded readily to the keys, Sunday morning. The loss of Waller & Walter, who occupied the blacksmith and repair shop in rear of Doolittle Block was \$300, their insurance having expired a few days previous. Henry Phelps saved all his household goods and saloon fixtures. Many of the boarders at the Pratt House lost heavily; among them W. S. Coman, whose loss in clothing, furniture etc. is \$1,800.; insured in the North American for \$1000, and J. C. Rasbach, who had an insurance up to a few days since, of \$300 on furniture etc., valued at \$500. Mrs. Allen and daughter stopping at the Pratt House lost about \$100 worth of clothing. M. S. Roe, who was out of town, also a boarder, lost about \$1000 in clothing, on which there was no insurance. C. J. Thirl lost something.

There were two billiard tables in Mr. Hare's room, both of which were burned: his loss is not stated. M. M. Hess, produce dealer, who occupied the basement under the Doolittle Block, lost property to the value of \$1400; insured in Lycoming Pa. Co., on farm produce alone—consequently he will receive nothing on fixtures, tubs, barrels and other articles not produce. In the case of Mr. Hess, the company through D. H. Foster,

their agent, allowed about \$400. which Foster cashed by draft at a shave on near \$100. Mr. Foster appears to be a square man, but the Company he represents cannot gain patronage by discounting their own risks. Mr. Hess was much in need of money, to be sure, but it would appear better had the agent allowed the shave to come from another. Mr. Hess loses about \$900.

The A. & P. Co. lost but a trifle. The young operator, Master Eddie White, saved nearly everything. Next morning Ed. could be seen busying himself, preparatory to starting again, but as yet the line has not been repaired, nor do we see any efforts being made to that end. So far as known there were no lives lost, although many men risked their lives to save property. Very good order was maintained in the multitude attracted by the fire; the efficiency of our village officers prevented disturbance, and thieving to any extent.

The fire was discovered, as stated, about 9 ½ P.M., and by 1 A. M. Sunday, there was nothing but ruins left of these buildings which have been so long an important auxiliary to the progress of this village. Of the Pratt House we can say, it was an ornament to Canastota, and was conducted in a manner worthy of the best patronage.

At one time it was very doubtful whether Beecher Block would be saved, but the constant exertions made by people on the roof saved it. The barns of V. W. Mason and E. T. Frederick in Depot Street, were at one time in imminent danger, and were saved by men with pails. The Reformed Church was somewhat scorched but not burned. The Clark dwelling, occupied by Alex. Shipman, although directly opposite the Pratt House, and in the track of the wind was not materially injured—the occupants, however, cleared the house of furniture etc. The barn of Hiram Lewis was burned, but the one on the Clark

estate was saved, principally through the firmness of Geo. Johnson, who appeared made fire-proof, as the showers of sparks and cinders fell around him on the roof.

There are many instances wherein individuals distinguished themselves, both men and women, by their presence of mind in saving property. And, too, there are many instances in which men appeared upon the scene—able-bodied—but as spectators of this expensive fire display. In one case we heard: “There is a merchant in this village who coolly put his hands in his pockets and looked on. If that man’s store gets on fire tonight, I will see it burn him poor before I will lift a thing for him,” and the speaker wiped the perspiration from his face—a man who had worked himself out to save others property, although he had none himself. (We detest the spirit in an able bodied man, who will stand idly by and see his neighbor’s house destroyed; such men think it hard if they find no one to help them when it comes their turn to pack and dig.)

The cause of the fire is not known. It started in the hayloft. One man says that he saw a suspicious-looking person hanging around the hotel barn, but a short time previous to the cry of fire. Of course we go in for detecting such offenders by means of a large reward, but we would much rather have such sum expended toward procuring an efficient fire apparatus of some kind for use in this village in place of the unwieldy squirt-gun so misnamed. There has been a feeling existing in the management of the Clark Engine Company—a real bitter feeling, a feud—which has died out in the annihilation of the company, and as a result, the engine has been neglected. The people of Canastota should discountenance all such feuds: they are as much out of place at a fire as at a funeral.

Canastota people should not be forgetful of their obligations toward Oneida, for this occasion was not the first when they have sought aid of Oneida's fire department. Protection No. 2 is manned by a good lot of men, and would have proved it in the occasion of this fire, had there been sufficient unanimity of spirit among our firemen. In the first place, the Oneida boys dragged their engine through the mud to the canal where the water was too shallow and it clogged, consequently, with mud. Next, the Oneida boys were allowed to drag No. 2 round the streets in search of water, the foreman asking of bystanders the best place to set the machine—all of whom spoke at once and each differed from the other. Third, after their patience and promptness, they were allowed to tire themselves out completely at the brakes and go home hungry. Too bad, too bad. But we are thankful that such is not a rule among Canastota people—simply an oversight on the part of the authorities.

Quite a cruel joke is going the rounds at the expense of our "Mayor." It seems he was at home resting sweetly in oblivious slumber, and naught disturbed the quiet of his dreams. Though not indifferent like Nero at the burning of Rome, he unconsciously escaped the horrors of that fearful night, and slept while Canastota burned. Nor did he know how vast was the destruction, until Sabbath morning, when with book in hand (we hope it was a prayer-book) he dutifully wended his way to church, and on approaching the site of the Pratt House he suddenly beheld how fearful had been the ravages of the fiery visitant." What!" said Gat to his wife, "I believe there's been a fire."

Henry Phelps has opened a Saloon under the Woodford Block

The office of Barlow & Son, for the time being will be at the rooms occupied by the HERALD. The business of the Canastota National Bank will be conducted in

Brown's Store, until the completion of their new building. The Bank people are clearing away the ruins and preparing to build again. We do not learn as to Mr. Sowter's plans. Mr. Hale would like to build again as soon as possible. Mr. VanAlstine has rented the Brush store and is again set up. W. H. Plank occupies the old Curtis store, and is prepared for business. Chas. Nash is preparing for business again over Austerman's market. N. P. Chapman is putting up a new office building in his dooryard, and for the time being has his office at his residence. Waller & Walker are preparing to build on their old site.

#### INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE

After the Pratt House became enveloped in flame, the Reformed Church was in danger. A one time it seemed as if nothing could save it. Dr. Loomis, who occupies the building next south of the church, removed his goods. A cinder from the Pratt House fastened in the coping of the belfry floor, far up beyond the reach of the engine, and soon sent up a blaze promising a speedy destruction of the edifice. But for the promptness of Mr. Kirkpatrick, maltster for Geo. Lawrence & Co., the church might have burned. Kirkpatrick climbed to the belfry, and leaning over the low railing he filled his hat and swung water underneath, until the hat was beaten to shreds, and the flames were extinguished. Prof. Evans, the phrenologist, also aided in saving the church.

When it became necessary to clear the Pratt House, Mr. Hale, the proprietor, seized a small tin trunk of valuables and handed it to a person to take care of. After the fire Hale inquired for the box, but could learn nothing of the person to whom it was handed. Monday the box was found near the racecourse, open, minus the small amount of money in it when the thief obtained it. Mr. Hale had valuable papers in the box, which were returned to him.

When the fire was at its height, several young men were seen skulking in rear of the stores on Peterboro Street, evidently intent on mischief. They were strangers, but made themselves very familiar. Several persons were watching for such chaps, who would have been saluted with lead upon the first discovered move they might have made either to break into or fire a building.

A rumor was abroad Sunday morning that a sheet was found jammed into the hose in the Clark engine; that it had been put there to render the engine useless. Such rumor was founded on the fact that a sheet was placed in the engine to stop leakage, and in working the valves was forced into the hose.

Mr. Hare estimates his loss at \$1000. No insurance.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the village of Canastota, held April 23d 1873, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That we as the representatives of the people of Canastota, hereby tender our heartfelt thanks to the Firemen of Oneida, for the timely assistance rendered our village in the late conflagration. And should a similar occasion require the services of our Fire Department in Oneida, we will cheerfully render such assistance as lies within our power.

F. C. Fiske.

G. A. Forbes

Clerk

Prest.

- - -

## Card of Thanks

The undersigned sufferers from the late conflagration hereby express our appreciation of the services rendered us by many of the people of this and other villages, in their efforts to save our property and effects from destruction.

C. H. Hale	F. W. Doolittle
Canastota Bank	E. B. Richardson
Barlow and Son.	J. C. Rasbach
W. H. Plank	R. C. Nash
Hiram Lewis,	N. P. Chapman
Lewis Sowter	Thomas Waller
William Walker,	W. S. Coman
D. D. Loomis,	E. A. Haines
L. M. VanAlstine,	M. M. Hess

## INCORPORATION OF CANASTOTA

The Village of Canastota, New York, was first incorporated under a special act or statute passed by the New York State Legislature on April 28, 1835, being Chapter 166. The State Constitution of 1846 required the Legislature “to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages.” Accordingly, a general act for the incorporation of villages was passed in 1847, being Chapter 426 of the Laws of the State of New York.

In May and June of 1850 the Village of Canastota took the necessary steps and proceedings to come under this general act and the matter was brought before Honorable James W. Nye, County Judge of Madison County, in the month of June, 1850, and notice and certificates were recorded in Madison County Clerk's Office June 28, 1850, in Book 2, relative to incorporations, at page 32.

In 1870, the General Village Law of 1847, under which the Village of Canastota was then functioning, was revised and reenacted (see Laws of 1870, Chap. 291) and the Act of 1847 was repealed, except as to villages incorporated under it. The Village of Canastota having been reincorporated under the Laws of 1870, the Act of 1870 apparently did not therefore repeal the incorporation of the Village under the Laws of 1847, but permitted it to take the necessary steps and proceedings to be incorporated under the Laws of 1870, Chapter 291.

In the month of April 1871, the Village of Canastota took advantage of the Laws of 1870, Chapter 291, and reincorporated under the General Village Law, and the necessary papers therefore were recorded in Madison County Clerk's Office at Wampsville, New York on April 14, 1871, in Book B, Misc. 159.

The constitutional provision prohibiting the incorporation of villages by special act was not adopted until November 3, 1874, taking effect January 1, 1875. Since January 1, 1875, all villages have been incorporated pursuant to the general law.

There are thus three classes of organized villages in this state:

First, those incorporated under special laws prior to the amendments of the Constitution, and which have not reincorporated under a general law;

Second, those incorporated under and subject to the General Village Law of 1847; and,

Third, those incorporated under and subject to the General Village Law of 1870.

The body of the Village Law was enacted by the Legislature in 1897, Chapter 414. By this enactment all prior general laws relating directly to villages were repealed. A complete chapter was evolved in which the entire law on the subject was embodied. Since that date there have been many changes and amendments. The present village law was enacted by the State Legislature in 1909 and is known as the consolidated laws of 1909, Chapter 64. Since this enactment many new or amendatory laws have been passed relating to villages and many of the original sections of the 1909 law have been repealed.

At a Special Meeting of the electors of the Village of Canastota, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 1871 at the Village Hall in said Village pursuant to the following notice.

Corporation Notice. A special Meeting of the electors of the Village of Canastota will be held at the Village Hall in said Village on the 12 day of April at one o'clock P.M. The following resolution will then and there be submitted to the qualified electors of said Village for their action thereon.

Resolved that the Village of Canastota heretofore incorporated on the 25 day of May 1850 under and by virtue of the act entitled an act to provide for the incorporation of villages. Chapter 426 laws of 1841, and the amendments thereto become and the same is declared to be a corporation under the provisions of the act entitled an Act for the incorporation of Villages passed April 20, 1870 laws of 1870 Chapter 291. The polls of said election will be open at one o'clock P. M. and close at 4 o'clock P.M. of the same day. N. B. A copy of the act to be voted on at this meeting may be found at the Canastota National Bank for examination Dated March 27, 1871. D. H. Rasback, A.B. Brush, Geo. C. Mott, E.E. Rose, A.B. Clark, Trustees, Fred C. Fiske, Village Clerk, which said notice was printed and posted in six public places in said Village for ten days previous to said meeting for the purpose of voting for the adoption or rejection of the resolution contained in said notice. Trustees D. H. Rasback, A. B. Brush, Geo. C. Mott, E. H. Rose, & A.B. Brush and Clerk Fred C. Fiske were present at said meeting and acted as inspectors. The polls were opened at 1 o'clock P. M. and closed at 4 o'clock P. M. Ballots were deposited as follows: Whole number of votes cast 74. For the resolution,53; against the resolution 21. The resolution was declared adopted. We, David H. Rasback, Aaron B. Brush, George C. Mott, Emery H. Rose, Asa B.Clark, Trustees of the Village of Canastota, and Inspectors of Election do hereby certify that the above return is correct and the proceedings and result is therein fully set forth.

David H. Rasbach

George C. Mott

Emery H. Rose

Asa B. Clark

STATE OF NEW YORK

MADISON COUNTY

Subscribed and sworn and certified to by the above named Trustees the 13  
Day of March 1871. Before me, W. E. Fiske, Notary Public.

Recorded April 14, 1871 at 2 P. M.

A.D. Kennedy, Clerk

STATE OF NEW YORK, MADISON COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE,ss:

SEAL I, W. W. LYON, Clerk of said County, and of the Supreme and County  
Courts therein, the same being Courts of Record, DO HEREBY CERTIFY  
THAT

I have compared the annexed Copy of Corporation Notice of Village of  
Canastota, with the record of the original, as recorded in book B of Misc.  
Page 159 in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and  
of the whole of such record.

IN TESTIMON Y WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
affixed the seal of said County and Courts, at the village of Wampsville,  
in said County, this 26 day of June 1940.

W. W. Lyon, Clerk

By Aristen C. Parkhurst Deputy Clerk

### CORPORATION NOTICE

In pursuance of an order of the Court of Sessions of the County of Madison made and dated on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1850. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Electors of the Territory described in such order will be held at the house of R. White in said Territory in the Town of Lenox in said County on 20<sup>th</sup> day of June next for the purpose of determining whether territory shall be an incorporated village by the name of the Village of Canastota. The Polls will be opened on the said 20<sup>th</sup> June at ten o'clock in the forenoon and be kept open until four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day when they will be closed.

Dated Canastota May 29<sup>th</sup> 1850.

John H. Rose,

Robert B. Tolles,

Joshua Duncan,

Inspectors of Election.

State of New York)

Madison County) SS

Robert B. Tolles being duly sworn deposes & says that on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May last he posted copies of the within notice in at least ten of the most public places in the territory mentioned & described in the order of the Court of Sessions of Madison County made & granted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May last incorporating the Village of Canastota in said County: This deponent further says that on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May last or since that time there was no newspaper printed in said Territory & further saith not.

Robert B. Tolles

Subscribed and Sworn to

Before me this 20<sup>th</sup> June

1850

Loring Fowler,

Justice of the Peace.

The undersigned inspectors of Elections in & for the Town of Lenox in the County of Madison hereby certify that pursuant to an order made and granted by the Court of Sessions of the County of Madison on the twenty seventh day of May A. D. 1850, a copy of which said order is hereto prefixed marked A. The undersigned caused a

notice of which the notice hereto prefixed marked B is a copy to be given at least three weeks previous to the time of holding the meeting therein mentioned, by posting copies of said notice in at least ten of the most public places in said territory mentioned in said order & that no newspaper is printed in said territory. The undersigned further certify that said meeting was held at the time & place mentioned in said notice & that the whole number of ballots cast, & given at said meeting was sixty one of which fifty nine had thereon the word "yes" and Two had thereon the word "No". Dated Canastota June 20 1850.

Joshua Duncan

J. H. Rose

Robert B. Tolles

Inspectors of Electors

I hereby certify that I have examined the within order, notice, Afft, & certificate of canvass and am satisfied that all the proceedings in respect to notifying & holding the meeting mentioned in the within notice & papers, canvassing the votes given thereat & making said certificate of canvass are legal.

Dated June 1850. James W. Nye, County Judge of Madison.

Recorded on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 1850.

L. D. Dana, Clerk.

STATE OF NEW YORK, MADISON COUNTY CLERK'S

OFFICE, SS: I, W. W. LYON, Clerk of said County, and of the

Supreme and County Courts therein, the same being Courts of Record, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT

I have compared the annexed Copy of Corporation Notice Village of Canastota. With the record of the original, as recorded in book #2 of Rel. Incorpor. Page 32 in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of such record.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County and Courts, at the Village of Wampsville, in said County, this 25 day of June 1940.

W. W. Lyon, Clerk

By Aristeon C. Parkhurst, Deputy Clerk

CHAP. 166

AN ACT to incorporate the Village of Canastota.

Passed April 28, 1835.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1. All that territory in the town of Lenox, in the county of Madison, described as follows, to wit: Being one mile square, lying equally on each side of the Erie canal, the center whereof shall be the north end of Young's bridge across the basin in Canastota, shall hereafter be known and distinguished by the name of "The Village of Canastota;" and the freeholders and inhabitants residing within the limits aforesaid, are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of "The Trustees of the Village of Canastota."
2. The said corporation shall enjoy the privileges, and be subject to the restrictions contained in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes, so far as they may be applicable to such corporation.
3. It shall be lawful for the taxable inhabitants of the said village, qualified to vote at town meetings, to meet on the first Tuesday of May next, at the house of Joseph C. Spencer, in said village, at one o'clock in the afternoon of that day, and then and there to elect five trustees thereof, three assessors, one treasurer, one collector, and one constable who shall serve process in said village only, who shall be residents and freeholders therein: and a chairman to be chosen at said

election, and declare the persons having the greatest number of votes duly elected to the several offices aforesaid: and in like manner, on the first Tuesday of May, in each year thereafter, there shall be an annual election of the officers of said village above specified: and the trustees for the time being, shall notify the time and place for holding such meetings, and shall preside at the same; and the several officers aforesaid shall hold their offices until the first Tuesday of May next after their election, and until others shall be elected in their stead.

4. The officers mentioned in the third section, and all other persons elected or appointed to office by the board of trustees, shall, within ten days after each and every election and appointment, and before they proceed to execute the duties of their respective offices, give notice in writing of their acceptance, and take the oath of office required by the constitution; those first elected, to the chairman who presides at the meeting, to be by him filed with the clerk, and all others to the clerk of said village.
5. The treasurer, collector and constable shall, before they enter on the duties of their offices, respectively give such bond, with such sureties, to the trustees of said village, for the faithful performance of the duties of their respective offices, as the said trustees shall deem sufficient.
6. The trustees of said village, within ten days after their election, shall choose one of their number to be president of the said board of trustees; whose duty it shall be

to preside at the meetings of trustees; to order extraordinary meetings of said trustees whenever he shall think proper; to receive complaints of any breach of the laws; to see that the by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances are duly executed and observed, and to prosecute in the name of the trustees of the village of Canastota, all offenders against such by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, and to do such other acts and things as may be proper for him as such president to do.

7. The said trustees shall, within ten days after their election, appoint some proper person to be clerk of said board of trustees; whose duty it shall be to keep a record of the doings of said board of trustee, especially in the passing of by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, put up in three public places in said village, a copy thereof. It shall be the further duty of the clerk to keep a faithful record of all the doings and votes of the inhabitants of said village provided for that purpose; and the said clerk shall hold his office till another be appointed and qualified.
  
8. . In case of a vacancy of any of the officers elected, chosen, appointed or otherwise created by virtue of this act, it shall be the duty of the board of trustees, by a warrant under the hand of the president thereof, to appoint some suitable person to fill such vacancy; and the person so appointed shall have like powers, and be subject to the same restrictions, as if elected or appointed in the manner aforesaid.

9. It shall be lawful for the said trustees to appoint, under the hands of the president and clerk of the board of trustees and seal of said corporation, not exceeding fifteen firemen to each fire engine belonging to and kept in repair in said village; and a hook and ladder company, not exceeding ten in number for each engine, and to appoint a captain of said companies; and to remove the same at pleasure, and others to appoint in their stead; and it shall be the duty of the said firemen, under the orders of the said trustees, acting as fire wardens, to have the management, working and use of the engines belonging to said village, and the other implements for extinguishing fires; and the members of such companies shall be free from the performance of military duty, (except in cases of war, insurrection or invasion,) and also from serving as jurors, except in justices' courts; and the official certificate of membership of the clerk of said village, dated within two months of the exhibition thereof, shall be sufficient evidence of such exemption in all courts and places.
10. It shall be lawful for the trustees of said village, to make and publish such by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as they may from time to time deem proper, in relation to nuisances and obstructions in the basins, creeks, highways, streets, lanes, and side walks of said village, and the streams, creeks and ponds in the same, and to nuisances generally; to firing guns and fire-works in said village; to running or dangerous driving of horses in the same; to restraining of swine, and all kinds of animals from running at large in the streets; to erecting, keeping and regulating hay-scales, and the price and manner of weighing hay; the safe deposit

of ashes; to regulating the construction and keeping in safe repair of fire-places, chimneys, stoves and stove pipes; to keep fire buckets, hooks and ladders, and assisting to extinguish fires; to restraining any riot, rout, noise, disturbance or disorderly assemblage in any street, house or place in said village; to lighting the said village; to the construction of scuttles in the roofs of houses and other buildings, and stairs or ladders to approach said scuttles; to the regulating of markets in said village, and limiting the number thereof; to the establishing of wells, pumps and reservoirs in the streets of said villages; to erecting, establishing and regulating a public pound in said village, and appointing a master thereof, and to purchase and hold land whereon to erect said pound, and a fire engine house; to the removal from the side-walks of the streets of said village of any wheelbarrows, carriages, carts, lumber, wood, stone, or other obstructions of materials whatsoever; to the restraining of disorderly and gaming houses, billiard tables, and other instruments and devises used for the purpose of gaming; but no such by-laws shall regulate the prices of any articles sold in said village. And the said trustees shall have power, by such by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances to require the owners or occupants of houses and lots in said village to construct and make suitable sidewalks and railings opposite and adjoining to such houses and lots, situated on any street, lane or alley in said village; and in case such owner or occupant shall not construct such side-walks and railings when so required, within the time and in the manner limited and prescribed in such by-law, then the said trustees shall have the power to construct such side-walks and railings, and to cause the expense thereof to be collected from such owner or

occupant, by warrant under their hands and seal, directed to the collector of said corporation, commanding him to collect the same, with five per cent addition for his fees and charges; to prevent the riding, driving, or otherwise occupying the side-walks of said village, with horses, oxen, or cattle of any kind, or by sawing or cutting wood thereon, or in any other manner whatever; and generally to make all and any such other by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances for the good government of said village, as may be necessary to carry into effect the objects above mentioned: but no tax shall be assessed and collected, nor by-laws or ordinances for the improvement of side-walks and railings made, without the consent of the freeholders and inhabitants authorized to vote, being first obtained at a regular village meeting; and that no such tax to be assessed and collected in any one year, shall exceed the sum of eight hundred dollars.

11. All taxes in said village shall be assessed upon the property liable to pay the same, by the assessors of the corporation before mentioned, and collected by the collector of the corporation, in like manner as the taxes of counties and towns are collected, by virtue of a warrant to the said collector directed by said trustees; and no purchase or sale of any real estate shall be made, and no public building erected or disposed of by the said corporation, without the vote of the said inhabitants at their annual or other legal meeting; and in case they shall vote to raise any money for any of the purposes authorized by this act, it shall be specified for what purpose such sum or any part thereof, shall be appropriated, as far as may be convenient; and the assessors, in assessing the same on the

inhabitants and property of the said village, shall apportion the same, in a just and equitable manner, in proportion, as near as may be, to the advantages which each shall be deemed to have received by the purchase to be made with such money, or the objects and purposes to which it shall be applied when collected.

12. The lands comprehended within the bounds of said village, and which are reserved as wood lands, meadow lands, arable lands, pastures, orchards, and in general all such as are kept and improved as farming lands, with their appurtenances, (dwelling-houses, mills and buildings excepted,) shall not, as long as they are so reserved, kept or used, be taxed for the benefit of the village.
  
13. The said assessors, when they shall have completed any such assessment, shall give the like notice of the same, as assessors of towns are required to do; and any person feeling aggrieved thereby, may appeal from the said assessors to the trustees of the village who shall hear such appeal, and do justice in the premises; and then, in case either party shall conceive his or herself aggrieved by such decision of the trustees, it shall be lawful to appeal to the next court of common pleas in and for the county of Madison, giving three days' notice of such appeal to the opposite party; and the decision of the court of common pleas shall be final in the premises. Every assessment shall remain a lien on the premises described therein for one year. In case of non-payment, the premises may be sold at any time within the year, and after nine months from the filing the assessment roll with the treasurer. Before any such sale an order shall be made by the

trustees, which shall be entered by the clerk at large in the records of the village, directing the collector to sell, and particularly describing the premises to be sold, and the assessment for which the sale is to be made, and a copy of which order shall be delivered to the collector. The collector shall then advertise the premises to be sold for six weeks, in the manner required in the case of mortgage sales, and the sale shall be conducted in the same manner. The proceedings may be stopped at any time by the owner by paying to the collector the amount of assessment, interest and expense of advertising. All sales in such cases shall be made for the shortest period for which any person will take the premises and pay the assessment, interest and expenses. Affidavits of the advertisement and sale shall be made as required in the case of mortgage sales, and filed in the office of the clerk of the village, and stating precisely the amount of assessment, interest and expenses for which the sale was made. The money in case of redemptions may be paid to the purchaser, or for him to the clerk of the village. The trustees on the day of sale shall make a declaration in writing under the corporate seal, containing a description of the premises, the fact of the assessment, advertisement and sale, and the time for which the premises were sold, and deliver the same to the purchaser, which declaration shall be evidence of his right to the occupancy of such premises for the said period from day of sale. All buildings and other fixtures put on the premises in the exercise of such right of occupancy during the period may be removed at the expiration thereof. The person or persons in possession of any real or personal estate in said village, at the time any village tax shall be assessed, shall be liable to pay the amount thereon: and in case such

person or persons are not bound by contract or otherwise to pay the same, he or they may recover the same, or a part thereof, in an action for money paid, of and from the owner of such estate, or such other person whose duty it was to have paid said tax, or a part thereof.

14. The collector shall, with such time as shall be specified by the by-laws of such corporation, next after the receipt of his warrant for the collection of any tax which may have been ordered to be raised, collect and pay over the same to the treasurer of the corporation: and all moneys in the hands of the treasurer shall be liable to be drawn out by the trustees, and used and applied by them for the benefit of said village, according to the provisions of this act. And it shall be lawful for the said trustees to issue new warrants, or to renew those already issued by them, or their predecessors, for the collection of any taxes imposed by virtue of this act from time to time, so often as such warrants shall be returned uncollected, in whole or in part, during the time prescribed by law, or the by-laws of said corporation, and at their discretion to remit any penalty or forfeiture incurred by reason of the breach of any by-law or ordinance of the said corporation.
15. The said trustees in their by-laws may ordain and provide such reasonable fines, forfeitures and penalties as they shall deem proper, upon the offenders against any such by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as shall from time to time be made by virtue of this act, not exceeding ten dollars for any one offence, to be sued for and recovered before any justice of the peace, or court having cognizance of the same, by the trustees in their corporate name, to and for the use of the said corporation; and in all cases it shall be deemed sufficient for said trustees, in any

- suit to be brought for any such fine, forfeiture or penalty, to declare generally in debt, and under such declaration to give the special matter in evidence. No inhabitant of said village shall, for that cause, be disqualified from being a justice, juror or witness, or acting as constable on the trial of any such cause.
16. The clerk, treasurer, assessor, collector and constable, shall be allowed such reasonable compensation, as a majority of the said trustees shall provide by a by-law for that purpose.
  17. Any person who shall be elected or appointed to any office, created by this act, and shall refuse to accept the same within the time above limited, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars, to be recovered and applied as other fines are by this act to be recovered and applied.
  18. All fines, forfeitures and penalties, and all moneys obtained for said corporation in any manner whatsoever, shall be paid into hands of the treasurer for the use of said corporation: and the treasurer shall annually, at the time and place of holding the village elections, exhibit an account of all moneys received into or paid out of the treasury during the preceding year, specifying the several objects and purposes to which the same shall have been applied.
  19. The legislature may at any time alter, modify or repeal this act.

(From Newspaper clipping about 1930)

CANASTOTA TRINITYCHURCH ERECTED

SUMMER OF 1885

Exact Date of Founding of Organization Not Recorded in History

Canastota, May 16.

The exact date of the founding of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Canastota as a mission is unknown, according to the present pastor, the Rev. George L. Gurney, who asserted that no one seems to know just when the first services were held in the village.

It is known, however, that the first gatherings of Episcopalians were held at the home of a Dr. Taylor in South Peterboro Street, and later in Beecher Hall.

In May 1885 Trinity was incorporated under the Free Church Act, and on July 7 of the same year the cornerstone of the present church edifice was laid by the Rt. Rev. Dan Huntington, first bishop of the Diocese of Central New York.

The building was not completed until January 1886. Dedication followed 15 days later, Bishop Huntington again officiating. However, a debt amounting to \$1,000 remained to be paid before it could be consecrated. That ceremony did take place five years later, May 29, 1891. Bishop Huntington officiated for the third time. The last ceremony was performed during the incumbency of the Rev. Abram Ebersole.

Trinity Church is a Diocesan mission, with the title to the property vested in the Diocese. Inasmuch as it is not a parish in the legal sense of the word, her clergy have no right to the title "Rector," but are appointed by the Bishop and are properly title "Priest-in-Charge."

The lay governing body of the organization is an executive committee, nominated by the congregation and appointed by the Bishop to serve one year, from Advent to Advent. Financially, the church is entirely independent, receiving no aid from Diocesan funds.

Since its first founding, the congregation has grown to such an extent, that in 1934 the present priest-in-charge became its first resident pastor, coming here from Sherrill at that time. St. Pauls Church of Chittenango is now served from Canastota.

Clergymen serving, to date, include the Rev. Frederick P.O. Winne, dates unknown; the Rev. Abram Ebersole, who came as a layman and was ordained to the Diaconate in this church, dates unknown; the Rev. Charles Tindall; the Rev. George H. Ottaway, 1904; the Rev. J. C. Munson, 1904-21; the Rev. S. G. Sherwood, 1921-25; the Rev. Henry S. Sizer, Jr. 1925-28; the Rev. S. C. Cole, 1928-30, and the Rev. George L. Gurney, present pastor, who came in 1930.

By Mrs. Clark Roberts.

The first meetings of Episcopalians were held in the old Chesley Block on South Canal Street and the society was organized by Dr. William Taylor who came to Canastota, a young doctor, who had served in the Civil War. As the membership grew, the meetings were held in the Beecher Block on Peterboro St.

A Mr. Hawkins was another one of the early ministers here during the early '90's.' The present Priest-in-Charge is the Rev. Ian A. R. MacDonald.

During recent years a new entrance has been erected, also a belfry with a bell

## ADDRESS ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF CANASTOTA AND IT'S FOUNDER

Delivered July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1910

By J. L. Robertson

We are met today, one hundred years from the founding of our beautiful little village, to recount matters of history and commemorate its birth. We are at the close of the first century of its history, and as we review some of the events of the century closing we wonder what the century opening holds. The thought is food for reflection: to many the occasion may be one of little interest, while to others; it is one of great importance. You and I cannot join those who meet hundred years hence to commemorate the occasion, but we can do our part today that the event may not fade from the pages of history.

The founder of our Village was born in Litchfield, Litchfield County, Connecticut, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1763. His early education was received in the common school and the school of experience. His father was a native of Wales and his mother a native of France. We are safe in ascribing to his parents those characteristics, which were to be found in the sturdy New England people of that time. They were a hardy people owing to the hardships, which were theirs to encounter.

At the time when the founder of Canastota was a young lad, the great west was practically unknown and this section of the country was a vast, swampy wilderness

inhabited by the Indians. Those who are familiar with history will recall of reading of many battles fought between the whites and the Indians to gain possession of various sections of territory. Be it said to the credit of Captain Perkins however, that the acquisition of the "Canastota Reservation" was accomplished without the shedding of blood.

The Captain was born prior to the great fight for independence, which has gone down in the history as the "Revolutionary War", and may it be said to the honor and credit of the founder of Canastota that he was a veteran of that war and fought bravely and heroically to aid in establishing the independence of our county; at first entering the army as a mere lad running away from home, being too young to enlist. The Captain was many times heard to tell of having held General Washington's horse while in battle. Later he enlisted and had many soldiers under his command. He was at the battle of Saratoga and Still Water and came through the war without a scar or wound. He was granted a pension by the government, which was paid him down to the time of his death April 22, 1854.

On November 23, 1785 he married his first wife, Anna Stedman, and to them were born ten children; two sons and eight daughters. For his second wife he married a Miss Chapman and of this marriage there were no children. Two sons and six daughters came to mature years and made their home in and about Canastota and contributed much to its progress and prosperity.

It is said that the Captain was a tall and well-proportioned man, weighing about 200 pounds, of a kindly disposition, friendly nature, honest and upright. In his youth he was shrewd and sagacious but in his later years he lost much of it.

One of the great achievements of his early days, and the one in which we are interested at that time, and have come together to commemorate, was the founding of our village. In the year 1805, he moved with his family from his home in Connecticut and settled in a log house on the now "Orange Smith Farm" west of Quality Hill. The log house was located near the present residence upon that farm. It was during his residence there that he made the acquaintance of "White Daniel" the half-blood Indian who later greatly aided in the consummation of the purchase of this tract of land.

At this time there were no streets in Canastota and no roads leading to it. There was an Indian Trail leading north to Oneida Lake crossing the big swamp as this section was then called. It was a vast swampy wilderness and the forest abounded in wolves, bears, deer and other wild animals. Where today we hear the hum of the wheels of industry, at that time the stillness of the dense forest prevailed, except for the howl of the wild animal, or the Indian war cry. What a change time has wrought.

Soon after making the acquaintance of White Daniel he began negotiations for the purchase of "Canastota Reservation", which was a part of, and reserved from the "Canastota Tract", when that tract was purchased from the Indians only a few years before. The "Canastota Tract" extended from the south shore of Oneida Lake south to the Seneca Turnpike, including "Canastota Reservation" before it was reserved. The reservation consisted of 322 and 2/10 acres of land. In 1814 the Captain sold the east 100

acres to Ephraim Sherman, and in 1822 sold the balance to Thomas Hitchcock and Thomas N. Jarvis, and in 1824 the Jarvis part was conveyed to Milton Barlow.

In the spring of 1807, Captain Perkins donned his Revolutionary uniform, mounted his faithful horse and with his bodyguard of about 30 Indians started enroute for Albany. On arriving at his destination the title to the "Canastota Reservation" was formally placed in the name of the State of New York. Many of these Indians who accompanied him were interested in the Reservation and aided in the transfer of the title to the State. White Daniel was one of the Indians who accompanied him to Albany. At this time there were several Indian families living in log houses upon the Reservation, among who were White Daniel, who lived with his family in a log house west of the old Jarvis House which stands on the corner of South Main and James Streets, Hon Yost, who lived with his family upon the east bank of the Canastota Creek, north of Norman Stafford's barn, in James Street, John August, who lived with his family north of the present old malt house, where the Erie Canal now runs through.

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1810, about three years after the State had acquired title from the Indians, Letters Patent bearing the signature of Daniel D. Tompkins, then governor of the State of New York, were delivered to Captain Perkins in accordance with Legislative enactment and he then became the owner of the "Canastota Reservation" under legal title. It remained to gain possession. This he soon accomplished by paying White Daniel and other Indian occupants a reasonable sum. On obtaining possession the Captain moved with his family to the log house formerly occupied by White Daniel. This was soon enlarged to accommodate his family. A little later when the Captain removed with his

family to a new house, this log house, formerly occupied by White Daniel, became the first schoolhouse in Canastota, and Mr. Dea Cadwell became the first teacher.

Governor Tompkins was interested in a little incident, which occurred at Quality Hill during the war of 1812. Lieutenant Bruce and Captain Jennings, with others, raised a company of horse artillery. They were in need of two field pieces. The question arose as to the form of the order that should be sent to so dignified a gentleman of the Governor. During the course of the heated discussion, Judge Hopkins walked to the desk, seized the pen, and forthwith produced the following:

“Great Daniel D., we send to thee  
For two great guns and trimmings;  
Send them to hand, or you’ll be d—d,  
By order of Captain Jennings”

The derivation of the name of our Village is of interest. It is said that the name “Canastota” is derived from the Indian word “Kniste” signifying “Cluster of pines” and “Stota” meaning “still, silent, motionless” which has yet greater significance. The lands were low, the stream sluggish. To the swamp north of the Village the Indians gave the name “Still Water”. Col. Cadwell said, “I have many times heard the Indians bid their dogs be still by saying “Stota!” “Stota” or “Be Still” Be Still”. Undoubtedly both ideas – that of the “Cluster of Pines” and the “Still waters” are intended to be conveyed in the word “Canastota”. There has been much speculation as to the location of the three pine trees, two of which stood upon one bank of Canastota Creek and the other one upon the opposite bank with its top leaning across into the tops of the other two. Within the shade

of these trees, and underneath their over hanging boughs, the Indians used to meet in their pastimes in the summer to enjoy themselves. Certainly, these trees were located somewhere along the Canastota Creek between Wilson Avenue on the north and James Street on the south. Logically, and on the best authority obtainable, their location was between Center Street and the south line of the New York Central. Probably in the vicinity of William Barret's work shop. Immediately south of that location the creek widened and was not rapid and at the point where the trees stood it narrowed and immediately north cut its way through a deeper channel. The water there flowed slow and sluggish beneath the trees. The present topography of that section given evidence of these former conditions, and it will be recalled that the bed of the creek has been lowered in order that the Creek may pass under the canal. In recent years the creek has been confined to a narrower channel and the waters flowing in it have become less owing to the fact of the cutting off of the forests to the south.

As I have already stated, the first schoolhouse was the old log house occupied by White Daniel and later by the Captain and his family. Subsequently there was a schoolhouse located on South Main Street, but its exact location I am unable to give. Then was built the red schoolhouse, which stood on the south side of Center Street opposite the present residence of C. N. Cady. In about the year 1845 or 1846 a schoolhouse was built on or near the site of the present High School. This was a wooden building of two rooms. The old bell hanging in the belfry of our present High School has, for 63 years, called the youth of our Village to their studies, a noble work. There are those with us today who remember the hanging of the old bell. May that bell continue to peal out its call to our youth, that their minds may be broadened, their field of action

enlarged, and higher education prevail and our educational development keep pace with the progress and prosperity of our Village.

The first frame house was built by Thomas Menzie, son-in-law of Captain Reuben Perkins, and was located where Dr. Knapp's residence now stands at the corner of South Main and Center Streets. At that time Canastota had not assumed the proportion of a hamlet. In the spring of 1817, a noble wheat field flourished upon the side of the southern portion of our business and residence section, and there was then only four frame houses to grace the landscape, the one of Thomas Menzie, already mentioned; the residence of Captain Perkins; the old Graham House situated at the corner of North Peterboro and Canal Streets, where the Barber shop now stands, which later became known as the "Montross House" and which was destroyed in the great fire of 1873. The other house was located further south on Peterboro Street.

There is much that could be said of Captain Daniel Lewis, who came to Canastota in about the year 1812, a barefooted boy, and entered the employ of Captain Perkins. He purchased Lot 78 and a part of Lot 81 of the "Canastota Tract". His education was obtained in the stern school of necessity. He attended school in the first schoolhouse, it being the log house. His painstaking and care soon won him positions of trust. He was given a place as foreman on the canal works, and soon became superintendent of this division. His home was near the M. E. Church. It was he who caused the beautiful triangular park to be laid out in front of the church. He covered it with trees, and planted most of the beautiful maples on North Main Street.

Then Governor Clinton began the realization of his dream of 1817, regarding the “Big Ditch”, new life was brought to our Village. This section of the Erie Canal was laid through at that time and this brought hosts of men, employers and employees. Captain Perkins was superintendent of this section of the Canal. Reuben Hawley built his first store near where the present “Austerman Block” now stands and the Crouses commenced business in it in 1817. Stores of all kinds were opened and various craftsmen sought and found employment, and large numbers of them built homes and many of their descendants are with us today.

This section of the Erie Canal was the first section opened and this enterprise gave our Village an impetus, which has been unequalled in its history. A line of packets was at once established making regular trips between Syracuse and Utica, stopping at all intermediate towns. These packets were named Andrew Jackson, George Washington, Victoria, Yates, Cazenovia, Commerce and Chittenango respectively. Trade at once sprang up between Canastota and other Villages along the line of the Canal and soon ours was one of the foremost villages of Central New York.

At this time the Canastota Creek did not go under the Canal but was one of its feeders and between the old “Malt House” (now Lindley’s Boat Factory), on the west, and the Austerman property on the east was a “Wide Water” extending south across South Canal Street, and in one place, reached nearly to Center Street. The first Canal Collector’s Office was located where the present residence of Mrs. Hemstreet stands on North Peterboro Street and across the street stood the first “Town Hall” and north of it near the present residence of John Montross stood “Tyron Hall”. The Canal Collector experienced much difficulty in collecting the tax or toll. Boatmen would pass without

heeding the collector, and finally, in to circumvent them he strung a heavy rope across the canal. Undaunted by this, on approaching the rope they would hurry their horses to get momentum and when the boat came in contact with the rope the result was that the rope was broken and the boat in many instances passed on without paying the tax.

At an early date there was a sawmill on the east bank of the Canastota Creek where the stone house of Mr. Rouseau now stands, and another on the west bank of the Creek below Lewis Street, and later, the last one was changed to a steam saw-mill. On the location of the first sawmill was built Reeder's Gristmill, being the first gristmill.

Aleazer Lewis brought the first manufacturing establishment. In about the year 1810 he removed from Quality Hill and began the manufacture of harnesses. In about the year 1814 a brick manufacturing plant was established south of the brick house occupied by William Wilder. In 1822 A. D. VanHoosen entered the manufacturing business on the location of the present "Doolittle House", and in 1823 Spencer began the manufacturing business. It can be said that Canastota has the honor of being the place where the celebrated Hamilton College Telescope was made by the firm of Spencer & Eaton, mathematical instrument makers. The cost of the telescope complete was \$10,000.

During the years 1833-4-5 the Dutch Reform and Methodist Churches were built, which were the first churches in Canastota. The records on file in the Madison County Clerk's Office, Wampsville, show the Methodist Society incorporated in 1835. Prior to that time the Methodists had held meeting in various halls. The house now occupied by William Wilder was an Academy and it was used by the Methodists as a place for holding services for some time before their Church was built.

Canastota was incorporated as a Village in 1835 at that time having a population of about 425.

In the early history of our Village salt water was discovered to exist in the vicinity of Canastota and it was thought it sufficient quantity to be manufactured into salt with success and profit. It was undertaken on two or three occasions but without material success. The last time a company was organized in 1867 was under the General Mining and Manufacturing Laws of the State of New York with a capital of \$100,000. The company contracted with Daniel Lewis for 50 acres of what is now known as the "Salt Farm". The enterprise did not prove a success and was soon abandoned.

In 1840 the Central Railroad was built and this gave Canastota a still further impetus. The track was of crude construction. At first wooden rails were used, and later strips of iron spiked on wooden ties.

Adversity and calamity have too often visited our Village for it to become a city. Again and again it has been swept by devastating fires. Only a few months ago we were awakened to find some of our best business blocks falling into ruin. Nevertheless, discouragement has not overcome hope, and we trust history will repeat itself and soon will disappear the evidence of the last conflagration and Canastota will continue its growth and prosperity.

Like all other Towns and Villages ours contributed its share of youth and bravery to the Civil War. There are those with us today who can remember when the 157<sup>th</sup> left for the front, and many of those brave boys who went at their county's call did not return. Of

those who did return, each year witnesses the thinning of their ranks and only a few years remain before they shall all have passed to their reward. To those who fell in battle and received a common sepulcher, unknelled and uncoffined, but not unmourned; to those who fought bravely and were returned to their friends and kindred to be buried or have since passed away; those who remain with us today, may it be said of them all, that they were the best of America's blood, and that their heroic deeds shall not pass from history but ever remain, that their deeds of heroism may be a continuing lesson to the youth of our country.

It is fitting and proper that we meet upon this occasion and briefly review some of the events of the century closing that we may with clearer vision pass through the open door of the new century. Time erases all things, but may those who meet one hundred years hence to commemorate the founding of our Village find this event written upon the pages of our history.

There is a little poem, which suggests itself to me, the author of which I do not know, and I believe it contains a few thoughts in line with my subject.

All day, all night, we can hear the jar  
Of the Loom of life; and near and far  
How it thrills with its deep and muffled sound,  
As tireless wheels go round and round.

Busily, ceaselessly, goes the loom  
In the light of day and the midnight's gloom,  
The wheels are turning early and late,

And the woof is wound in the warp of fate.

Click, Clack, there is a thread of love woven in

Click, Clack, there is another of wrong or sin

What a checkered thing this life will be,

When we see it unrolled in eternity.

Time with a face of mystery,

And hands as busy as hands can be,

Sits at the loom with the warp outspread,

To catch in its meshes each glancing thread.

When will this wonderful web be done?

In a thousand years, perhaps, or one,

Or tomorrow, who knows, not you or I?

But the wheels turn on and the shuttles fly.

Ah, sad-eyed weaver, the years are slow,

But each one is coming nearer the end, I know,

And some day the last thread will be woven in,

God grant it be love instead of sin.

A TALK GIVEN BY JOHN FREDERICK ROBERTSON  
TO THE CANASTOTA ROTARY CLUB

It is a pleasure to meet today with the Canastota Rotary Club. My topic will be a brief introduction into the early history of our Village. Michael Perretta hailed me one day recently on Peterboro Street and asked if I would relate some information to Rotary regarding the early beginnings of Canastota. Due to time limitation, my remarks will be rather brief but hopefully of interest. I have been fortunate to live in our Village throughout my lifetime except for a few years while away at school and during military service. During my years in the Village I had the unique opportunity to discuss early Canastota with people who were keenly interested in the Village and its early history.

Our Village is only one example of the many communities whose early beginnings have contributed much to the development of our County and the growth of its people into a free and independent Nation. Canastota, along with the City of Oneida and other Communities nearby was originally the home of the Oneida Indian Tribe, a major part of the Iroquois Indian Nation. One of the main routes of transportation from the east coast of our country into the then vast wilderness to the west passed by a trail immediately south of our present Village in the general area of St. Agatha's Cemetery. Another major route to the west was from the city of Rome area by way of the Mohawk River to its meeting with Wood Creek and into Oneida Lake. There was a portage between Wood Creek and Fish Creek. The remarks I make here today are based

completely upon early historical accounts I have obtained through research and reading. I do not believe they are fiction.

Many battles were fought in the surrounding areas between the early settlers moving from the east to the west, seeking new lands and new opportunities. It can be said of Captain Reuben Perkins, credited for having been the founder of the Village of Canastota, that the acquisition of the “Canastota Reservation” was accomplished without the shedding of blood.

Captain Perkins was born near Litchfield, Connecticut on November 5, 1763. This was prior to the great struggle of the Colonists for complete independence from England, known as the Revolutionary War. History indicates that he was a veteran of that war, fighting bravely with many others to aid in the establishment of our independent nation. He lived near Litchfield, Connecticut as a boy and we are told that he ran away from home at an early age to enlist in the Army. His military record indicates that as a Captain he had a large number of men under his command. He was involved in the battles of Saratoga, Oriskany and Stillwater. We are told that to his good fortune he survived his military experience without injury. After being mustered out of military service he was granted a pension, which the government paid to him until his death on April 22, 1854 at the age of 91 years.

On November 23, 1785 he married for his first wife, Anna Stedman. Born to this marriage were ten (10) children, consisting of two sons and eight daughters. He married a Miss Chapman for his second wife and there were no children born of the marriage. His

children all made their homes in the Canastota area. One of these children; namely, Calvin G. Perkins was my great grandfather.

It is my understanding that the Captain was a tall, well-proportioned man, weighing about 200 pounds, of a kindly disposition, friendly in nature, honest and upright. In the year 1805 he moved with his family from Connecticut to the Canastota area. At that time he settled in a log house on what is known as the Smith farm on Quality Hill, just west of the Village. During his residence there he became acquainted with one “White Daniel”, a half-blood Indian who later assisted him in completing the purchase of the Canastota Reservation.

At this time there were no streets in the Village and no roads leading to the area. There was a well-traveled Indian Trail leading north through the “Big Swamp” to Oneida Lake. The swamp area later became a part of the Canastota muck lands, so important to the economic growth of the area through the growing of onions, celery, carrots and other vegetables. This was a vast swampy wilderness and forest, abounding with wild life. Time and people have made a great change, for today we see industry, housing developments and major highways where forests prevailed.

After making an acquaintance with “White Daniel”, he began negotiations for the purchase of the Canastota Reservation, part of the Canastota Tract. The Tract extended from the south shore of Oneida Lake to what is now Seneca Turnpike or Route #5. The Canastota Reservation consisted of 329.2 acres of land. In 1814 Captain Perkins sold the easterly 100 acres to Ephraim Sherman. In 1822 the balance of the Reservation was sold to Thomas Hitchcock and Thomas N. Jarvis. In 1824 the part owned by Jarvis was sold to

Milton Barlow, father of Thomas Barlow, an important land surveyor in this area for many years.

In the spring of 1807 Captain Perkins mounted his horse and with a bodyguard of about 30 friendly Indians went to Albany. At that time title to the lands known as “Canastota Reservation” were formally placed in the name of the State of New York. Many of the Indians who accompanied the Captain were interested in the Reservation and aided in the transfer. “White Daniel” was one of the members of the group. At that time there several Indian families living on the Reservation in log houses. The house of “White Daniel” was located to the north of the present Ball Funeral Home on the corner of Main and James Streets.

In March 1810 about three years after the State had acquired title to the lands from the Indians, Letters Patent bearing the signature of Governor Daniel D. Tompkins were delivered to Captain Perkins. In accordance with Legislative enactment he became owner of the Reservation under legal title. It remained for him to gain actual possession of the Reservation. This was accomplished by paying “White Daniel” and other Indian families on the Reservation a reasonable sum. The Captain moved his family to the log house formerly own by “White Daniel” and some time later to a new house on the Reservation. This log house became the first schoolhouse and a Mr. Dea Cadwell became the first teacher.

Captain Perkins died in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. Unfortunately age and health had taken its toll and during his last years he lost all of his mental powers and died in poverty. I would point out that my family line of descent through the Perkins family is not the only

surviving relation to Reuben Perkins. One of his daughters; namely, Speedee Perkins, married Warren Colton December 13, 1817. Through that marriage there is living near Canastota "Sis" Sullivan Merrill", whose mother, Lucy Tibbitts Sullivan and I bore the same degree of relationship to Reuben Perkins.

The derivation of the name of our Village is of some interest. It is said that the name "Canastota" is derived from the Indian word "Kniste" signifying "Cluster of Pines" and "Stota" meaning "still, silent, motionless" which has a greater significance. The lands were low, the stream was sluggish. The swamp to the north of the village the Indians named "Still Water". There has been much speculation as to the location of the three pine trees, two of which stood upon one bank of Canastota Creek and the other on the opposite bank with its top leaning across into the tops of the other two trees. It is said their meetings of the Tribe were held in that area.

When Governor Clinton's "Big Ditch" (the old Erie Canal) was constructed around 1817 and completed in 1825, new life was brought to the village. This section of the Canal was the first section opened and gave the village an impetus unequalled in history. A line of packet boats was at once established, making regular trips between Syracuse and Utica. Some of these Packets were named the Andrew Jackson, George Washington, Victoria, Yates, Cazenovia, Commerce and Chittenango. Canastota soon became one of the foremost villages in the central New York area.

There has been much speculation as to the reason for selecting the site of the village. Waterpower was furnished by Canastota Creek, which was then quite large. There were dense pine and hardwood forests and fertile soil. These conditions contributed greatly to making the area popular.

The Village is located in the Town of Lenox, by act of the State Legislature passed on March 21, 1806. Madison County was formed from Chenango County. By similar action the Town of Lenox was formed from the Town of Sullivan on March 3, 1809 (54,500 acres). In the year 1896 the Towns of Oneida and Lincoln were formed from the Town of Lenox. It is to be noted that Canastota was first incorporated in 1835.

I have given you a very small part of the early beginnings and history of Canastota and its founder. The history of the Village that has followed until the present time is rich in human endeavor and relations. As in all areas of our great country, many of us have seen the change from dirt roads with the horse and wagon to the man on the moon.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that Canastota enjoys a rich history in the contributions made to the community by those of Italian-American descent. Commencing in the late 1800's and with the construction of the railroad through this area, many people of Italian descent seeking a new life and adventure settled in this area raising families and contributed extensively to our growth and heritage. This is a story by itself.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity of presenting to you a brief introduction into the early history of Canastota and its area. There are many artifacts and objects of historical value to be seen at the Canal Town Museum, which I urge you to visit if you have not done so. The museum already holds many irreplaceable reminders of our past and it is important to our children and future generations that these artifacts and memories be preserved. Hammond's 1875 History of Madison County is an excellent

reference to the early days in our county, giving many details of interest. Thank you for your kind attention and the opportunity given to me of bringing to you this evening a small part of our past. It has been a pleasure meeting with you and if you have any questions and time permits following the meeting, I will attempt to tell you what I know.

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#### FAMILY TREE OF JOHN FREDERICK ROBERTSON

Reuben Perkins was born November 5, 1763 - Died April 22, 1854 (91 years)

(John's great, great grandfather)

Married Anna Stedman on November 23, 1785

Their children:

- 1.Polly Perkins born July 25, 1786
- 2.Anna B. Perkins born June 20, 1788
- 3.Loïs Perkins born September 25, 1790
- 4.Speedee Perkins born May 8, 1793
- 5.Betsy Perkins born February 3, 1796
- 6.George Peese Perkins born June 25, 1798
- 7.Reuben Stedman Perkins born September 12, 1801
- 8.Laura Perkins born June 1803
- 9.Electa Perkins born January 27, 1806
- 10.Calvin Perkins born May 3, 1808 - (my great grandfather)

Married Caroline Genette Pinney in 1834

Their son: Frederick Smith Perkins born February 22, 1847

(John's grandfather)

His daughter – Edna Eloise Perkins Robertson born Oct 15,1881

(John's Mother)

Her son - - - John Frederick Robertson born October 13, 1918