

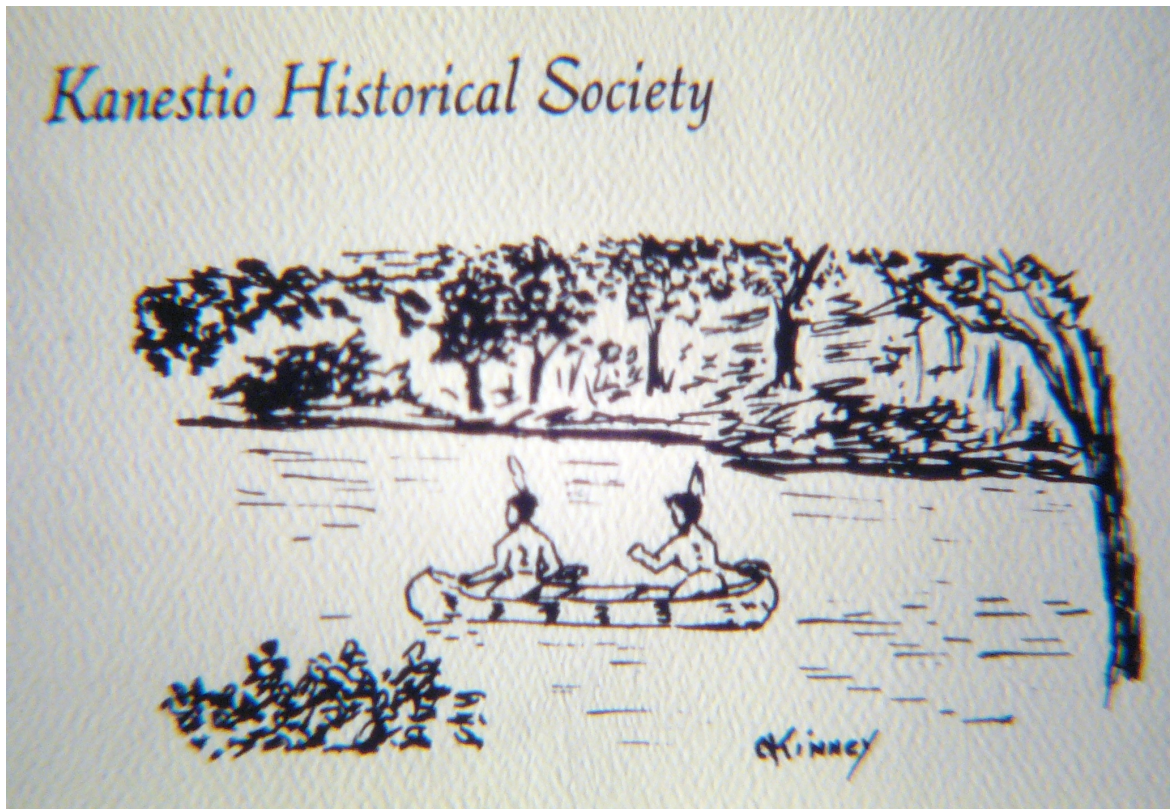
# The Kanestio Historical Society Presents

THE CANISTEO OF THE 1890'S

Researched by Virginia Dickey

Funded by a grant from the N.Y.S. Council on the  
Arts Decentralization Program.

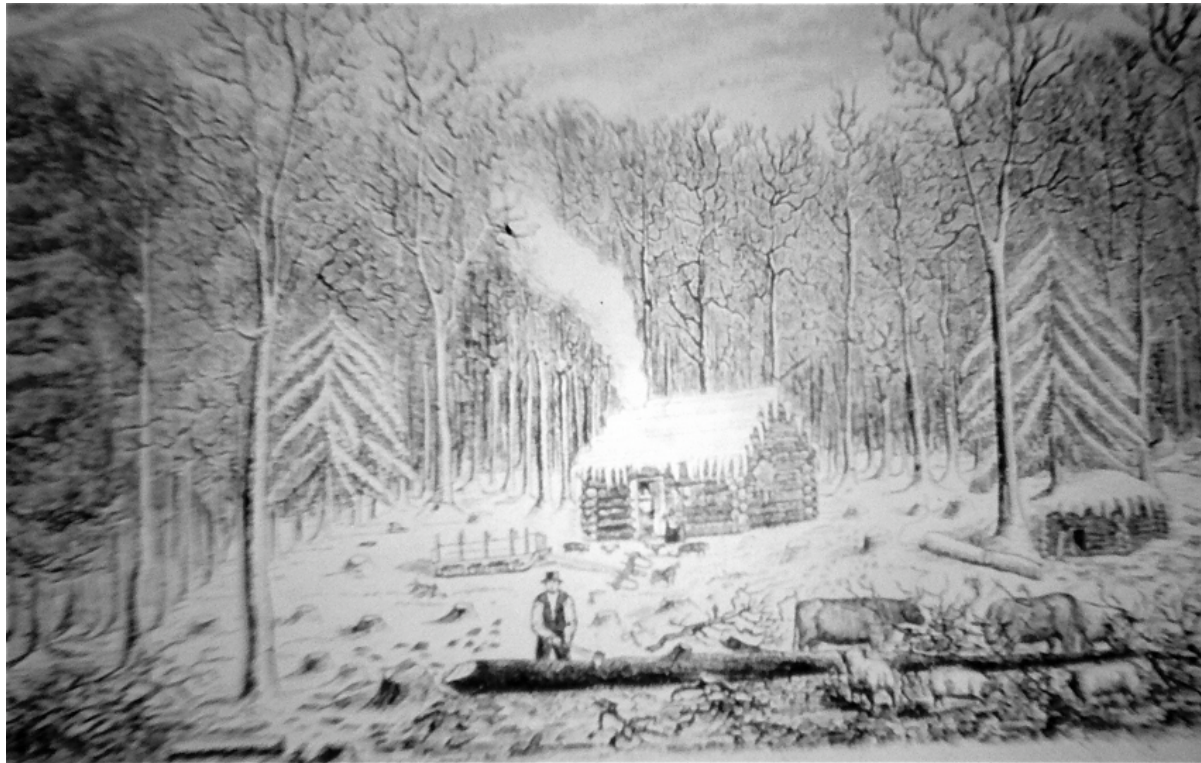
# Our first slide program “Castles in the Wilderness” tells the story of the finding and settling of the Canisteo Valley



This is the story of the Canisteo of the late 1800's



**The first settlers arrived in the Canisteo area on Christmas day in 1789. They, and those who followed, settled in the area between Willow Bend and Obe's Glenn – which they called Center Canisteo.**

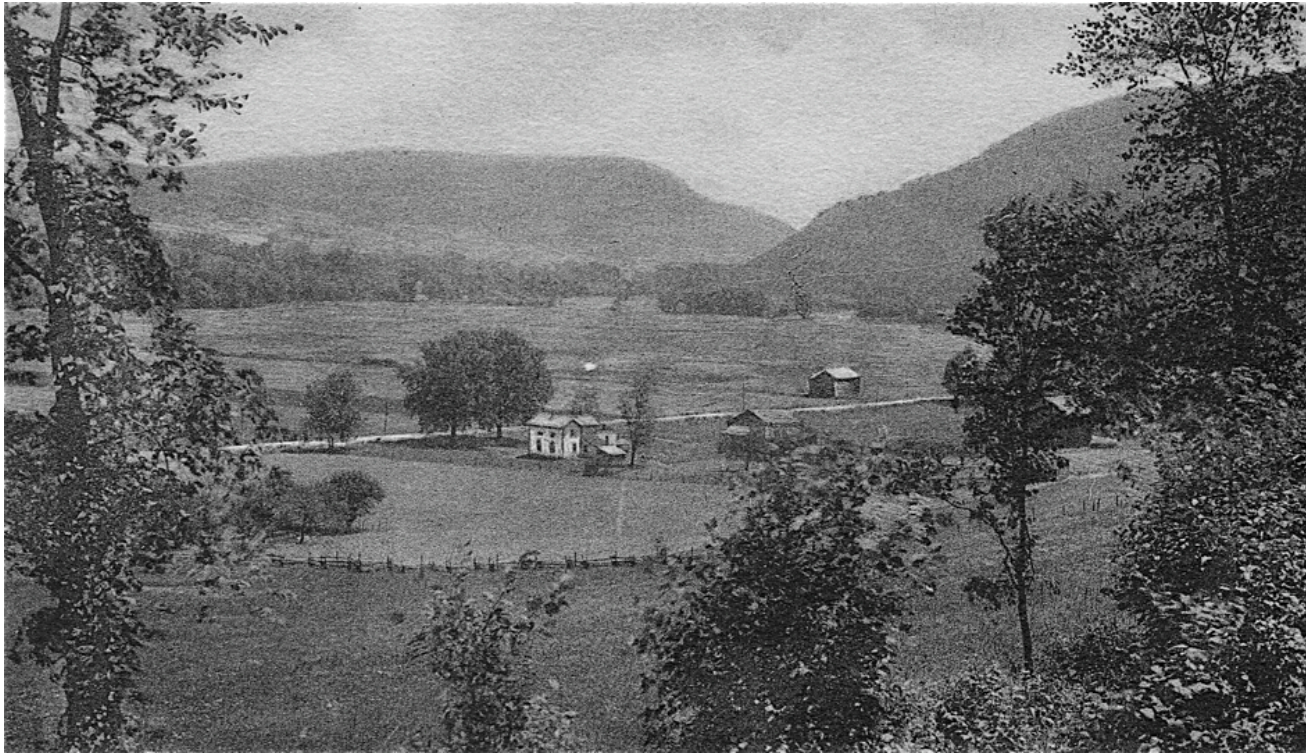


**They were people who, after years of war, were trying to find a place to call home**

**They built log cabin homes, cleared the land for farming, established saw mills and rafted their lumber down the river to large cities**



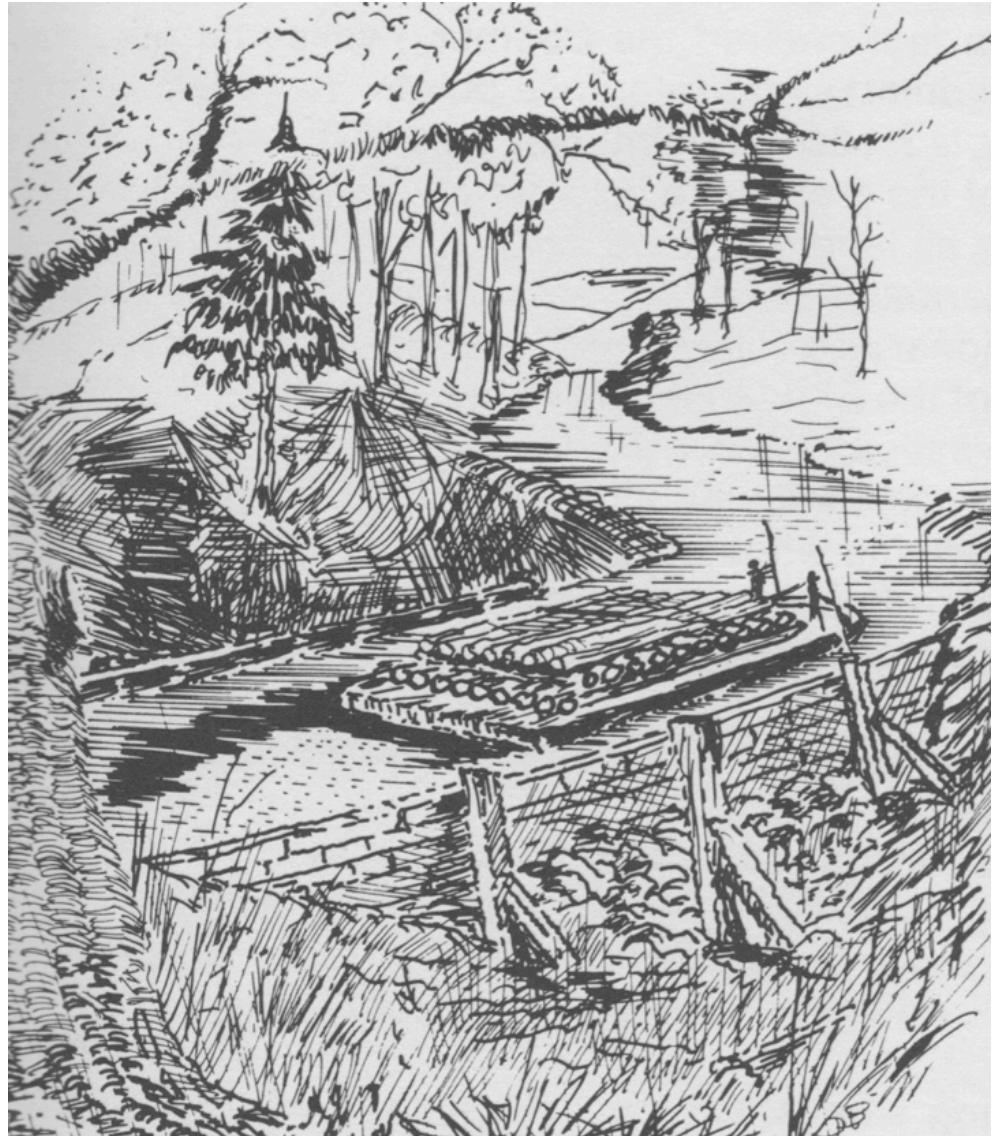
**The growth of agriculture and lumbering brought about the need for many things. The settlers looked toward Bennettsville, as Canisteo was called, as a service center**



**Feed mills, milk plants, lumbering mills and manufacture of farm equipment became an important part of the economy**



**The river was used for travel and the transportation of freight. Once they reached their destination the “arks” would be dismantled and sold as wood**



**When the Railroad was in the planning stages, rivalry was keen between Center Canisteo and Bennettsville over which one would be the station for the railroad. Bennettsville won and the decline of Center Canisteo dates from that time**

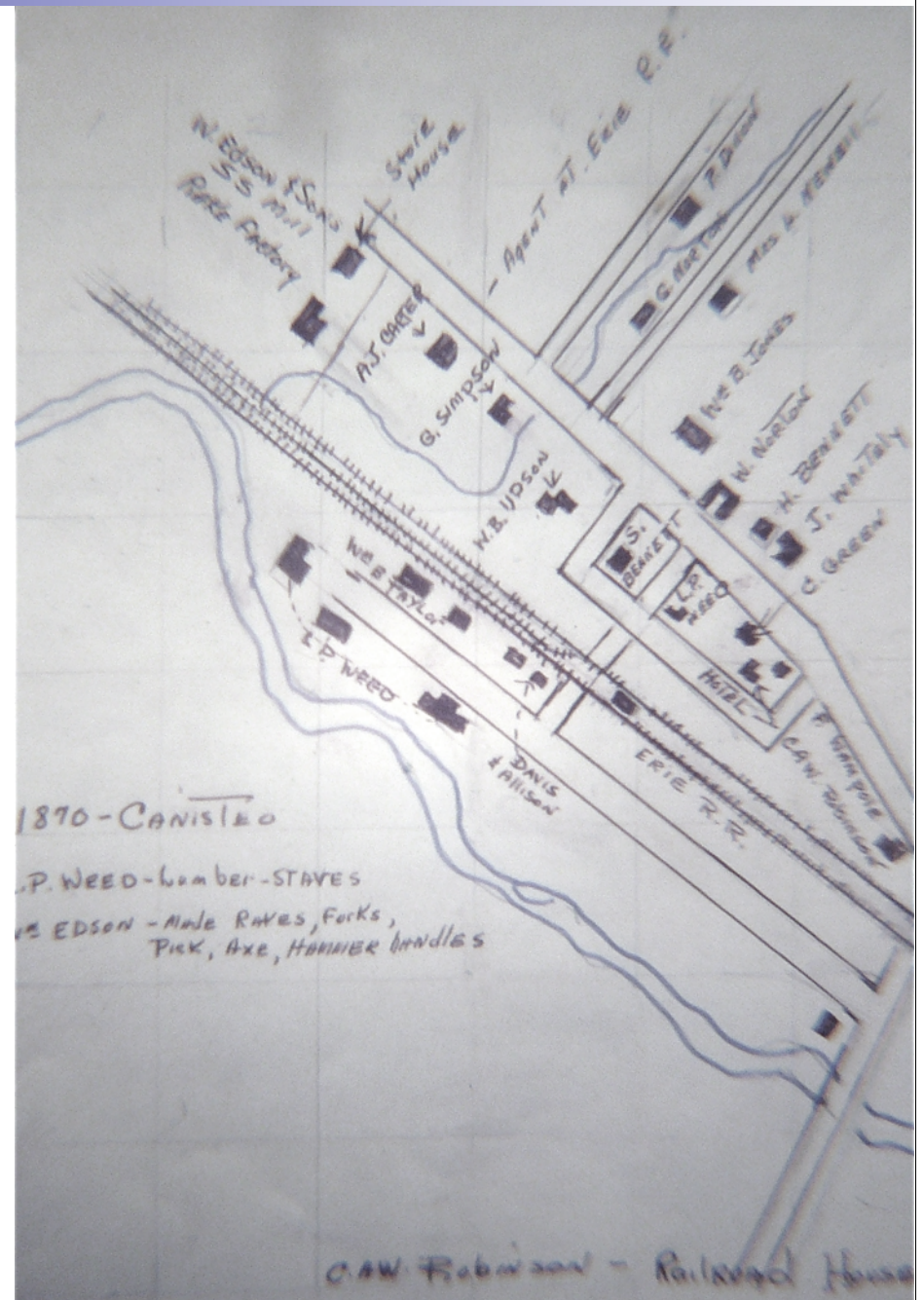


**When the Erie Railroad arrived in 1850, the village of Canisteo became a station on the through line between New York City and Dunkirk.**

**With the advent of the railroad, new settlers joined the first wave – Irish, Italian joined the English and Germans as they began this new era.**



**A fairly large settlement  
grew up north of the river.  
The RR Station was further  
west. There was Daniel  
Upson's Hotel, the SS  
Bennett Store, Horlick's  
Feed Mill, a planing mill  
operated by L. Davison,  
Weed's Steam Saw Mill,  
and the Seeley Hose Co.**



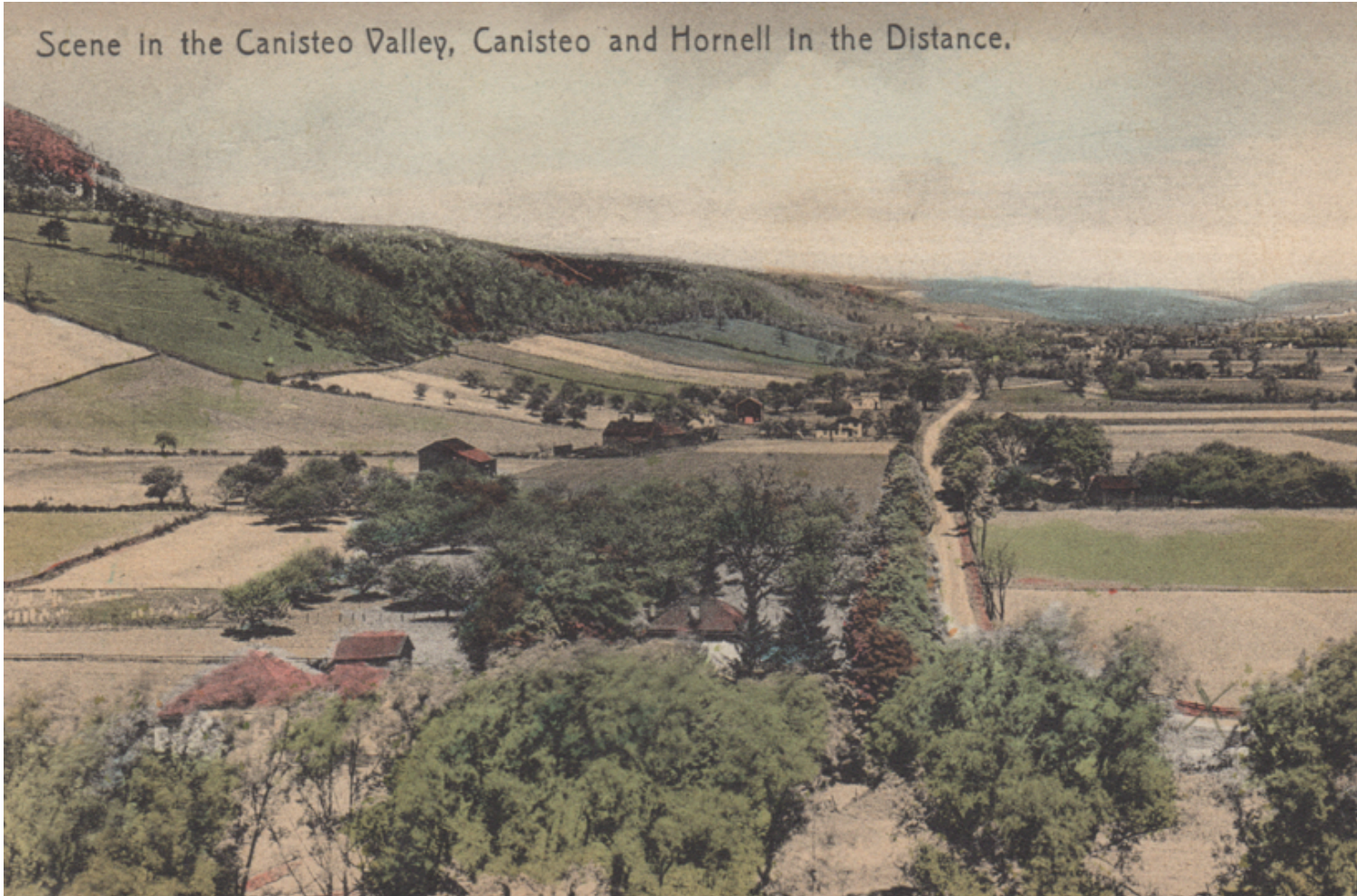


**After staying overnight at the Col. Bill Stephen's Tavern at Willow Bend, we hitch "Old Beauty" to the buggy**



## and head for Canisteo

Scene In the Canisteo Valley, Canisteo and Hornell In the Distance.





**We pass the Jamison farms on both side of the road,  
and a beautiful mansion, recently built, on our left, now  
the site of the Gerald VanWie Farm**



**Next, we come to the John Stephens and Mead farms**



**Soon we cross Bennett's Creek and come to the site of a cheese factory at the entrance of the village across from Ordway Lane**



**The house in the background is the original Enoch Ordway home. This old wooden bridge was one of the first bridges built across the Canisteo River. It is reported to be a covered bridge at one time**

**By now, Canisteo is a flourishing hamlet and the many new industries have let to a building boom and population explosion.**



**In 1790 census, there are 168 people in Steuben County and 1/3 of them lived in the Center Canisteo area. In the year 1890, the Canisteo township has a population of 2,350. (2000 of whom lived in the village.)**



**There are many new homes – some are beautiful brick homes. The streets dirt and the side walks, if any, are board walks**





**This was the Stewart Hospital operated by Dr. O.K. Stewart – it is presently owned by Mrs. Leon Roe**



Canisteo, N. Y.

The Stewart Private Hospital.

**As we travel up East Main Street, we come to the large Flohr Tannery and Feed Mill.**



**The 110 foot tall chimney will be a land mark for years and will be taken down in 1944**



**There is also another large tannery, Shaut and Richardson's, near Bennett's Creek at the upper end of what will become Maple Street**



**On our left is the new New York and Pennsylvania Depot. The NYP was built in 1895**



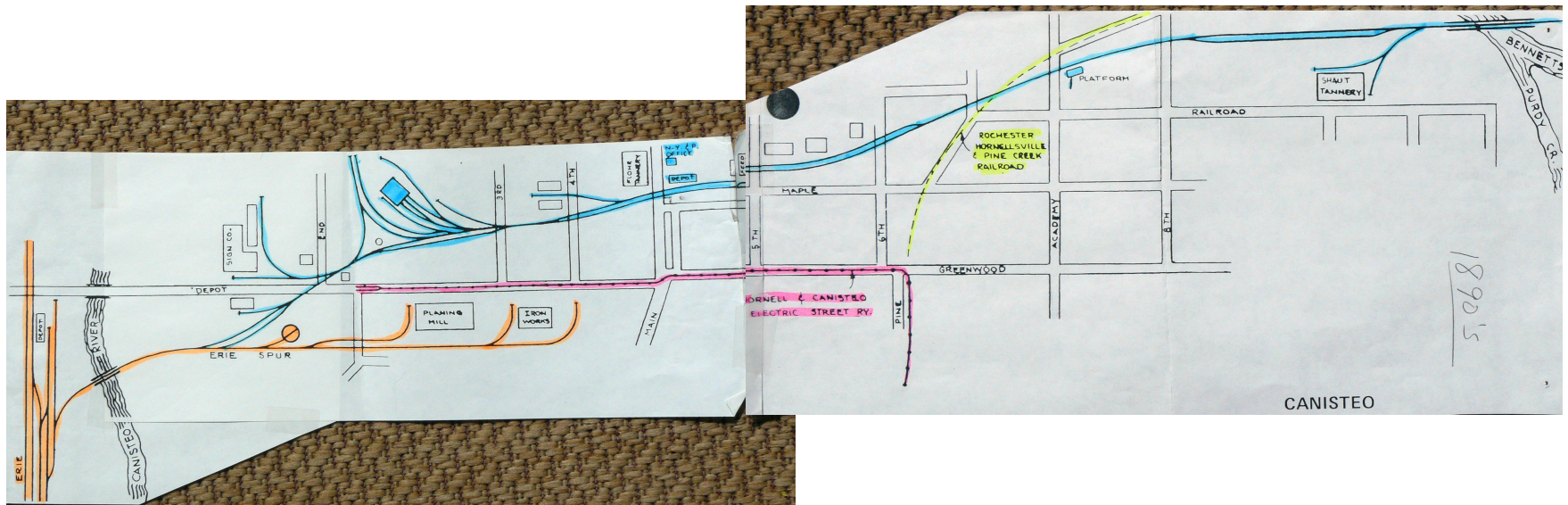
**Canisteo is excited to have another RR Station.  
In the background we can see Union Free School**





**The first excursion from Canisteo to Greenwood occurred in 1896**

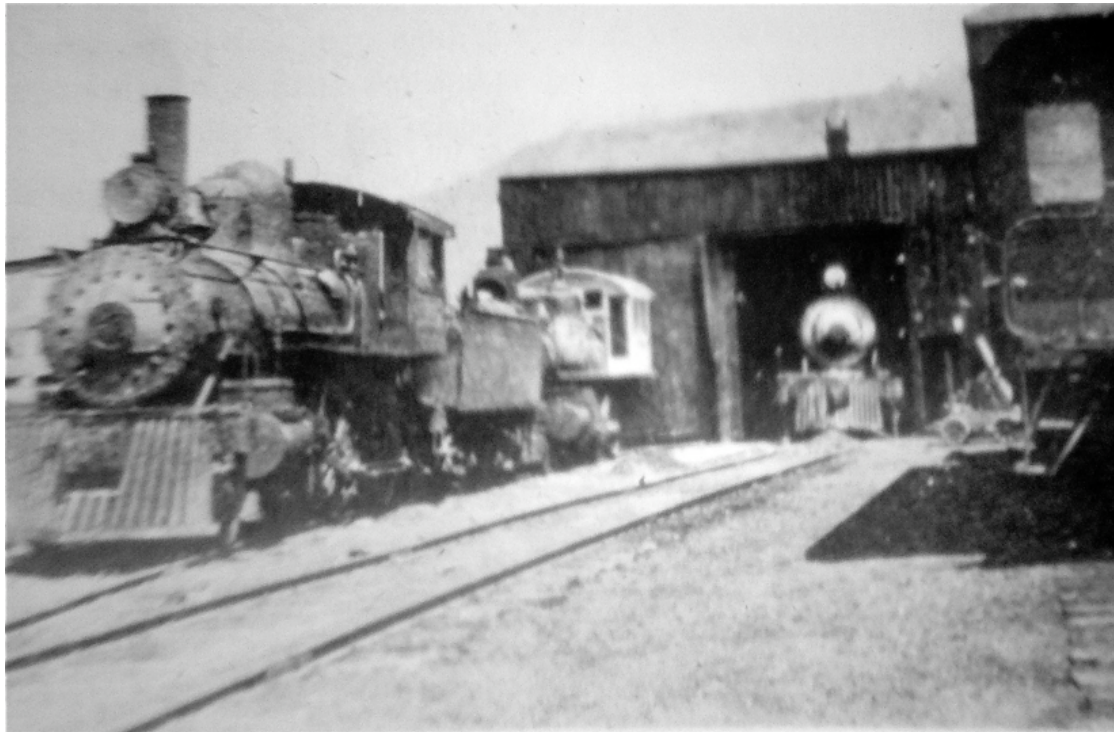
**This map shows the route of the NYP through Canisteo. On the right is the trestle across Bennett's Creek.**



**The tracks continue down and cross Main Street, ending with a connection to the Erie RR.**



## **The Engine House was located between Second and Third Streets**



**Since ours is a timber region, the RR is important to the tanneries, lumber mills, sash and door works, and furniture factories on Depot Street. With the need for shipment of hay, milk, potatoes, and fertilizer, it is the farmer that really keeps this railroad going.**

**In 1935, a terrible flood will wash out the trestle over Bennett's Creek and bring about the end of the NYP.**





**The Union Free School, built in 1868. This will become the site of Strait's Milling Company.**

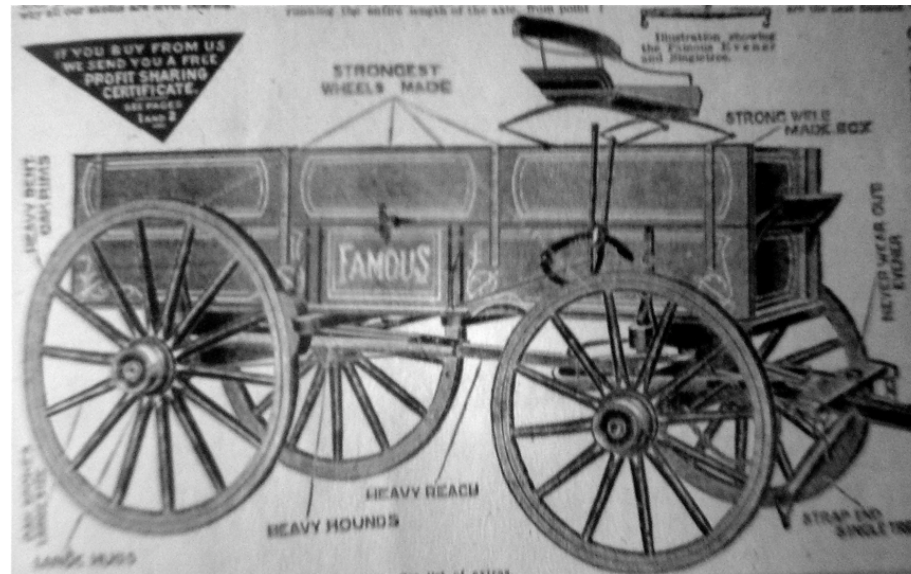


**Just across the tracks, near the Depot, is the  
Slawson Brothers Wagon Business**





**Later the sight of the Venor Shoe Factory. During WW II, Dr. Leon Roe, Roy Rogers, Leslie Schnurle, Rober Miller and Rev. O.G. McKinley will operate a Box Factory here.**



**They will manufacture boxes for U.S. Army 20mm cannons and machine guns. In 1948 this will become the site of the Home Builder's Store.**

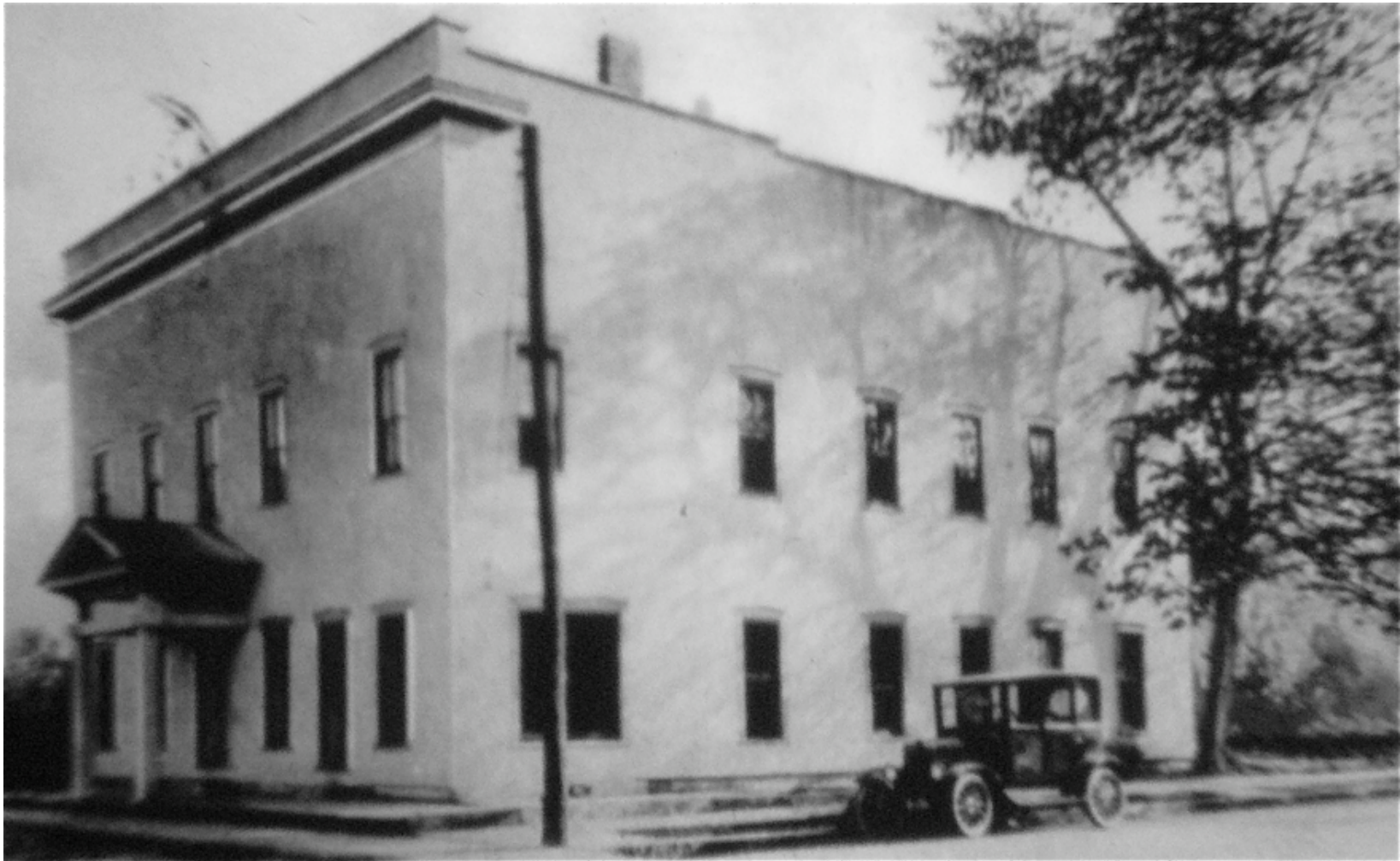
**Next to the Slawson Bros. Wagon Business is Lennie Young's Blacksmith Shop. The blacksmith shops will one day be replaced by garages.**

**Next we come to the Commercial House or Park Hotel. The building on the left is Lennie Young's Blacksmith Shop**





**The hotel will one day be occupied by the Grange and later as a warehouse for Home Builder's**



**We have stopped at the watering trough by the Park. As our horse is drinking, we see the Presbyterian Church on our left. (shown on the right in this photo.) The Presbyterian Society was formed in 1836. This is the first church in Canisteo, Dedicated in 1853, with the steeple and bell added in 1856.**



**In the Center background is the Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1856.**



**It was enlarged in 1875 with a Sunday School addition in 1911**



**The First Baptist Church, built in 1880, was originally built with two towers, but one was destroyed by lightning. The front window, installed later, is one of the most beautiful around.**





**St. Joachim's Church,  
also built in 1880, was  
named in honor of St.  
Joachim, Father of  
Mary, the Mother of  
Jesus.**



**St. John's Episcopal Chapel will be built in 1900 and closed in 1940.**





**The Wesleyan Church, organized in 1928, was built in 1934, under the leadership of Rev. O.G. McKinley, They purchased the old Allison Boot and Shoe Building on the corner of Main and Depot.**



**They tore the Boot & Shoe Building down and used the material to build the church. Salvaged oak finishing material was used in the Sanctuary.**

**The Presbyterian Manse, located next to the Church; was built in 1859. In 1923, a large building, known as the Community House, will take its place. Many school activities will take place here.**



**When the new Central School is built, this building was renamed Somers Hall and will be used by the church or Sunday School class rooms and many other church and community activities.**



**This scene shows the Park with the watering trough and gazebo.**



**The Green. Canisteo, N. Y.**



**As we look towards Main Street, we see the  
Fire Hall and LOCK-UP**





**These are the Main Street stores in the early 1900's.  
There is the Hall Harness Shop, Jimmie Stewart's Music  
Store, Grocery Stores and even a Tobacco Factory.**



**The inside of a Main Street store, believed to be Aronson's.**



**Later became Gardner's Clothing Store and now is Valley Grill Cafe**



## The inside of the John Stephens Grocery Store.



**Believed to be the site of B. K.'s Boutique.**

**This is the Village Square in Winter, about 1880.**





# A McCormick Deering Farm Show in the early 1900's



## **The Band Stand with the Band Members.**



**Now we will tie our horse in front of the Brownell Building and get out and walk around.**



**This beautiful three story building was built by the Allison's in 1874 for a bank.**



## **The Main Section was destroyed by a fire in 1883**



**At the time of the fire, President Powell, as the mayor was called, telegraphed to Hornellsville for aid, saying “send us help, our town is burning up”. A flat care and switch engine were procured and the Silsly Steamer loaded on. It was manned by two policemen , practical engineer and accompanied by the Maple City Hose Company. The fire was under control before they arrived, yet our citizens owed them a debt of gratitude for their prompt response and their work after they did arrive. At least 12 businesses were destroyed in this fire.**



**The building was restored as a 2 story building with stores on the first floor and offices on the second.**



**The corner has just been purchased by Jimmy Mitchell for a drug store. In the future, it will be known as Mitchell's Corner and, as the Canisteo Savings and Loan building.**



**Across the street, on the corner, is a large building known as the Canisteo House. This is the oldest structure in the area that is still standing.**



**It was built by Solomon Bennett in the 1870's first as a log house.**



**It was replaced by his son, William Bennett in 1826. It served as the first hotel and store in the village. Originally built with 2 stories, it was about half the size it is today. It was the first brick building in the county.**



**When remodeled in 1870, by John Carter, the third story was added along with the half to the west.**

**The stage leaves here at 10 am and 5 pm for Hornell. The fare is 25 cents.**

**The Station Hatch is in front of the hotel.**



**In the early 1900's this building will be sold at foreclosure auction to Linderman and Powell Realty Co. Thus the name – Manwell Block.**

**In the 1930's, it will house the Canisteo Post Office, Canisteo Savings & Loan, Wambold's Clothing, Ed. Crandall's Jewelry and Dr. Comfort Dentist.**



**This is a view of the Canisteo House taken around 1884 from Depot Street before the American House Fire. The Hose Cart belongs to Vorhis Company #1**



**This is a later view of the Canisteo House after the two parts were connected.**





**Here comes the Trolley car up Depot Street. The first Street Car came into Canisteo on the day before Christmas 1892. It runs from Walnut Street, through the four corners, up Greenwood Street to Fifth Street and West over Pine St.**



**Going North to Glenwood and on into Hornell.**





**Glenwood is a park of 33 acres with a large Pavilion. The Trolley makes 20 trips a day to Glenwood at a cost of 5 cents**



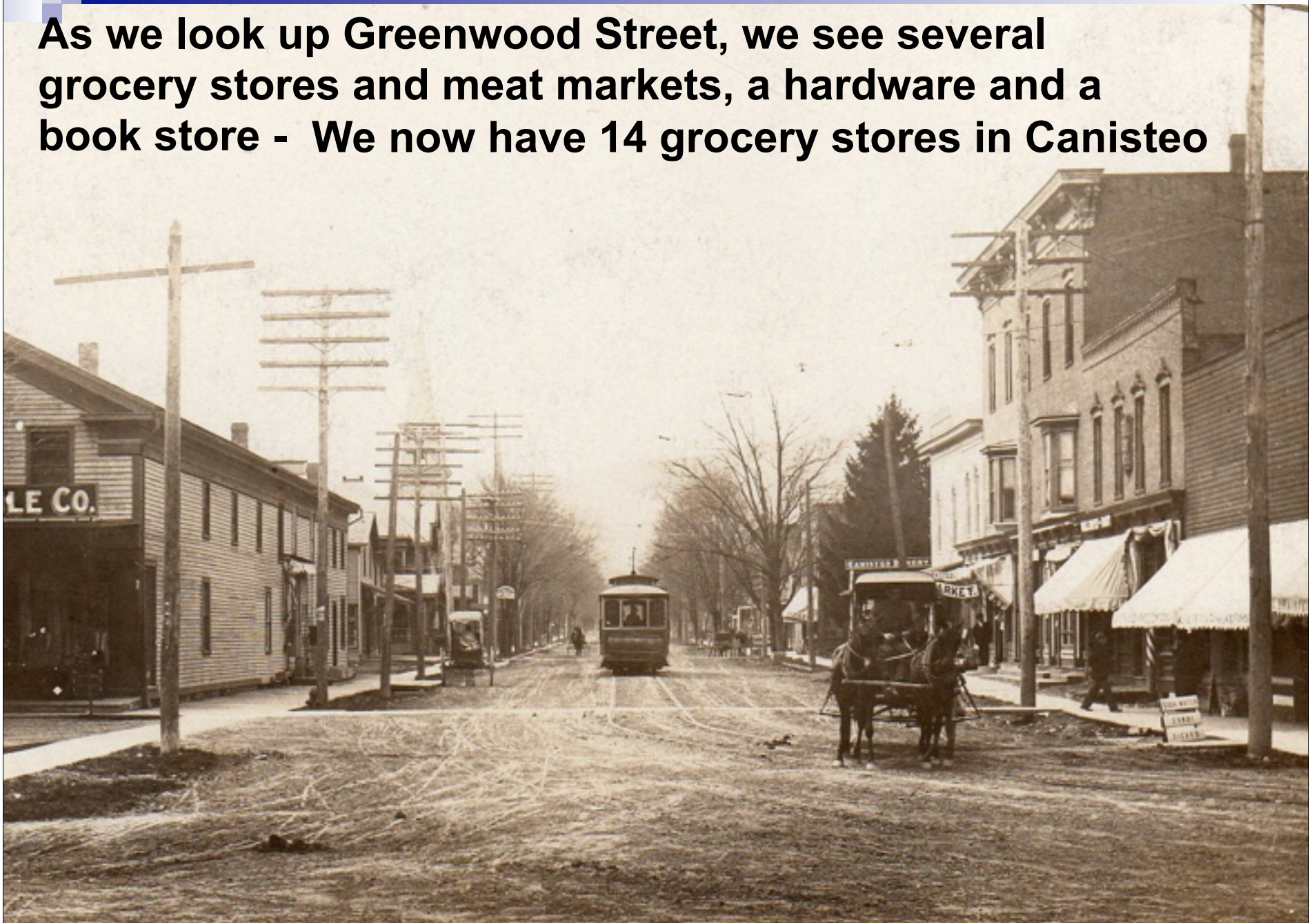
**Glenwood will be destroyed by fire in 1923 and the Trolley will be replaced by busses in 1927.**

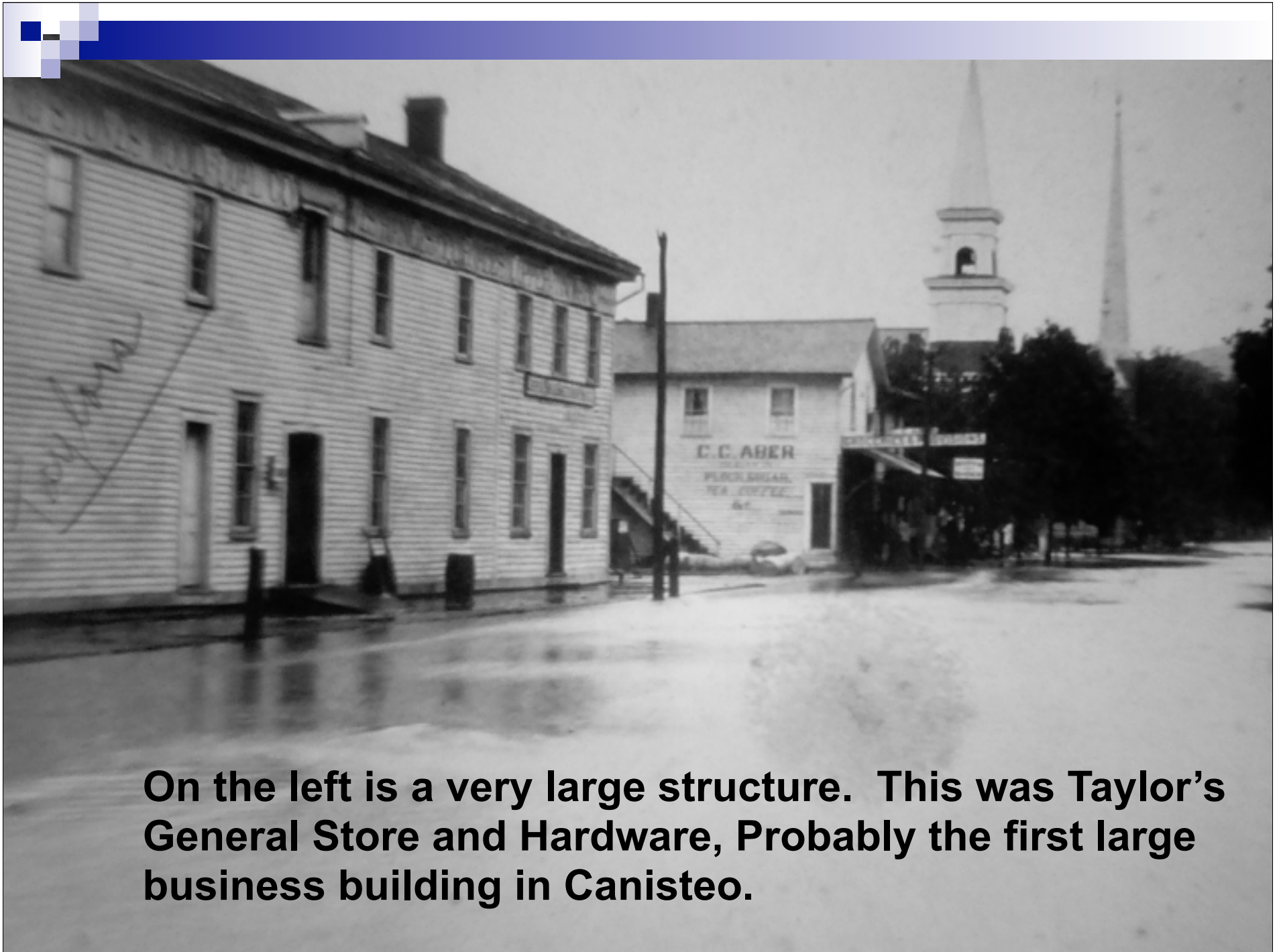
**A view up Greenwood Street. The three story building was known as Riddell Hall.**





**As we look up Greenwood Street, we see several grocery stores and meat markets, a hardware and a book store - We now have 14 grocery stores in Canisteo**





**On the left is a very large structure. This was Taylor's General Store and Hardware, Probably the first large business building in Canisteo.**



**It was known as the Canisteo Mercantile, it is now Miller and Crosier. In the future, it will be Fred Williams Furniture... and then Smith's Furniture.**

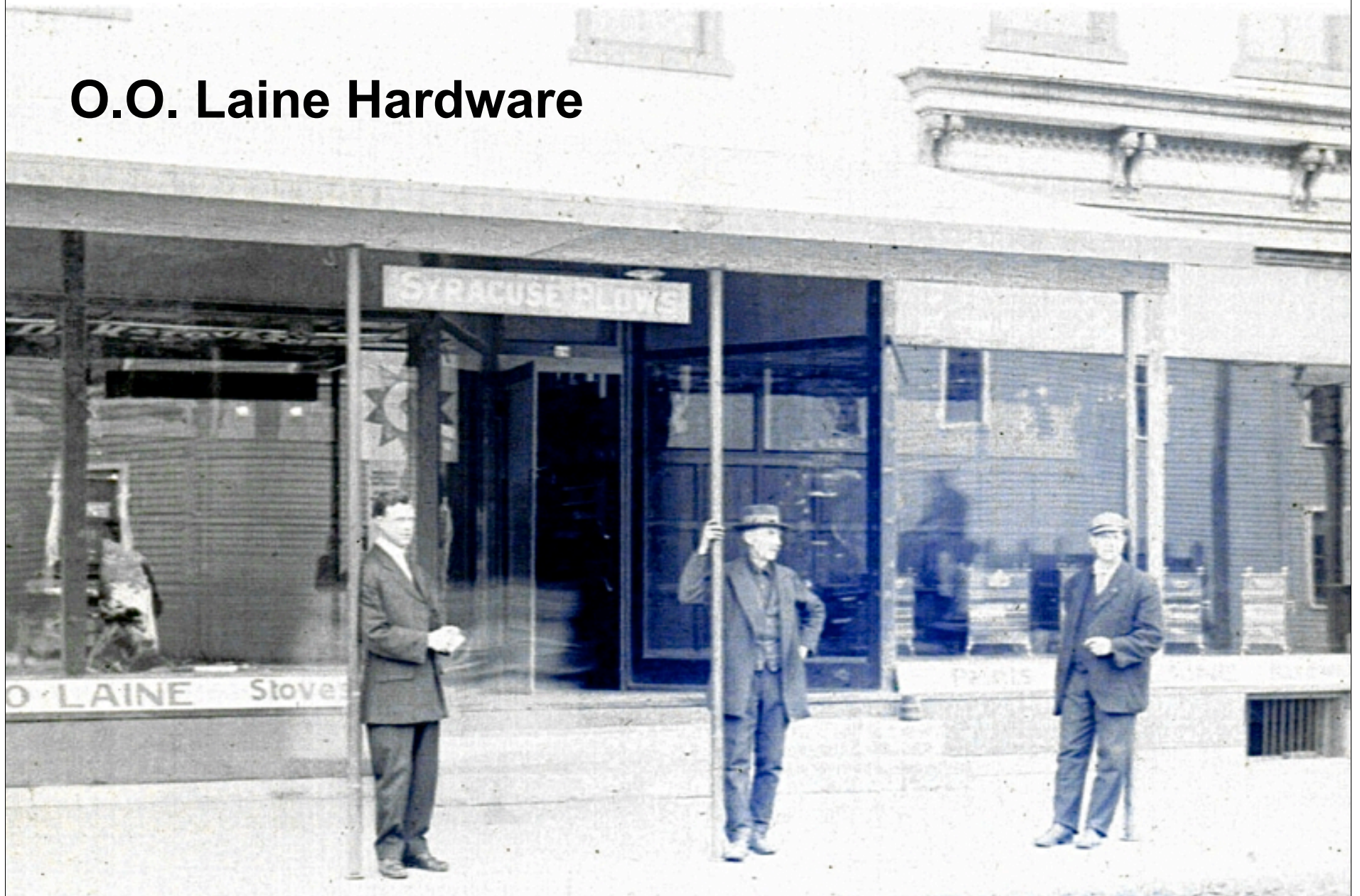


# George Walker's Grocery Store on Greenwood Street.





# O.O. Laine Hardware



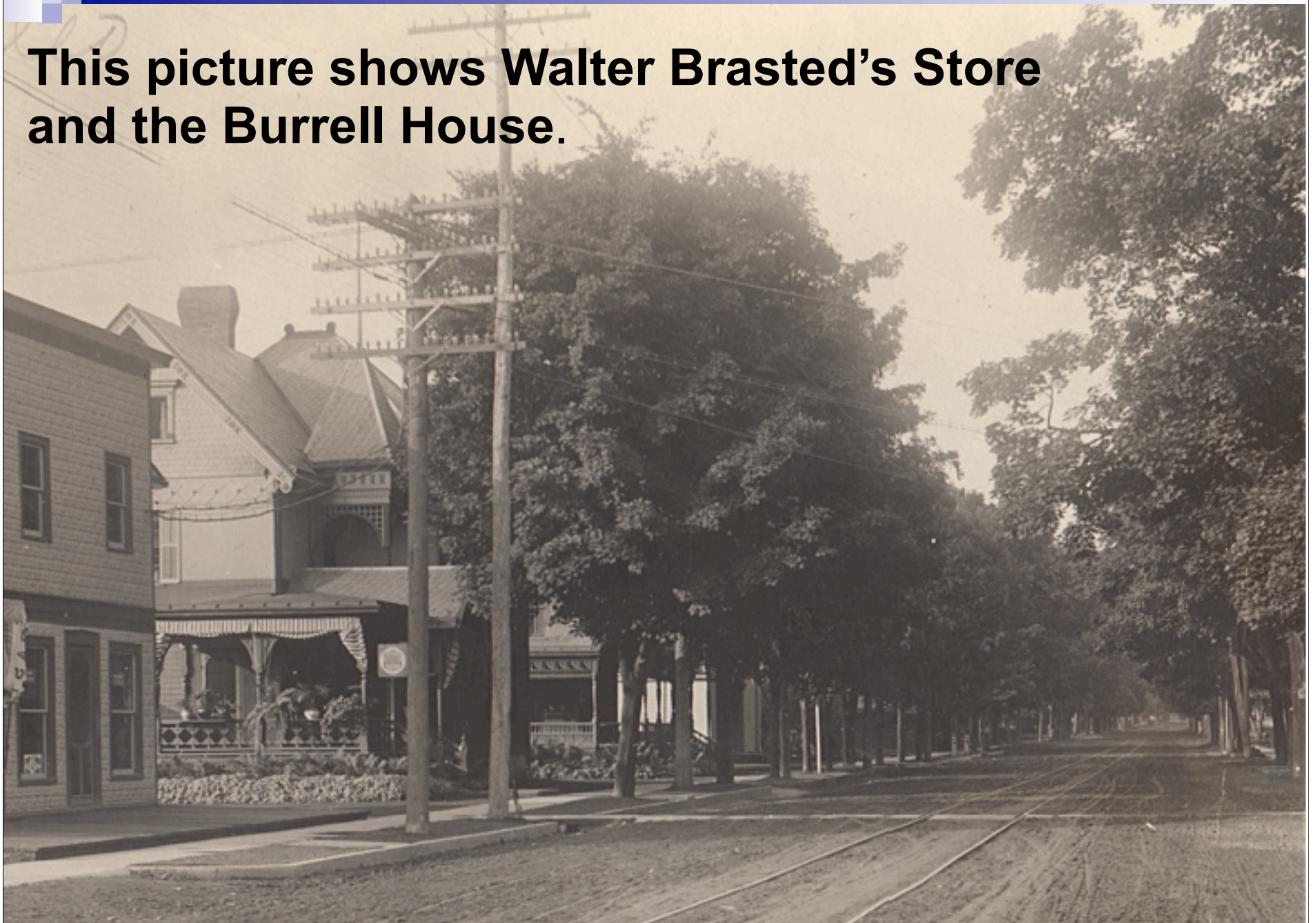
## **A window display in the Laine Hardware.**



**O.O. Laine was known as the father of the Canisteo water system.**



**This picture shows Walter Brasted's Store  
and the Burrell House.**





**If we were to continue up Greenwood Street, we would come to the Academy, which opened in September 1871 and graduated its first two students in 1880.**

**It also became the Teacher's Training School.**

**Young people came on the NYP from as far away as Genesee, Pa. to obtain a high school education or to attend the Teacher's Training Glass.**





# The Elementary School Building will be built around 1914

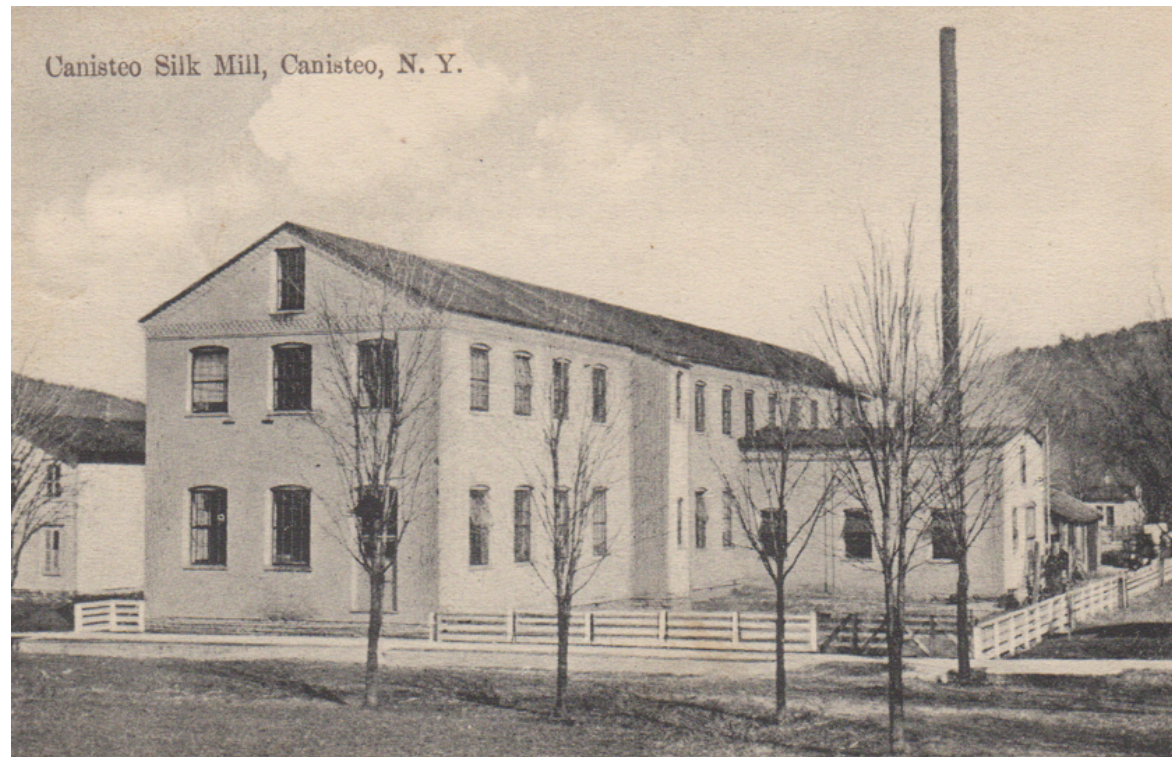
Free Academy and Grades School. CANISTEO, N. Y.





**Here we meet Jean Rafford who came to Canisteo from France to supervise the Canisteo Silk Mill on Russell Street. It began operations in November 1905 and in 1916, it was the only business of its kind in America.**

**In the 1920's, the mill will employ as many as 200 people, mostly women. They spin raw silk into material. Their payroll will amount to a quarter million dollars.**



**In the 1930's, the government will take silk off the market except for parachutes. The mill will then work on nylon. It will be the last industry of any size in Canisteo.**



**Now we'll get back in our buggy and head for the really busy section of the village – Rail Road Avenue or Depot Street.**



**This slide shows the Depot Street side of the Allison Building.**



**The third floor of this building was used for the manufacture of woman's and children's shoes.**



**Next is the Buck Shoe Store with the Manson's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. In December 1884, a fire destroyed the Shoe Store (\$8,000 inventory.)**

**Mr. Buck lived on the second floor and lost all of his household goods.**

**The Masons lost all of their furniture.**



**In the future, this will house Bush's Variety Store and a Confectionary Store.**

**Still later, the U.S. Post Office will be there and the Mason's will be on the Second and third floors.**

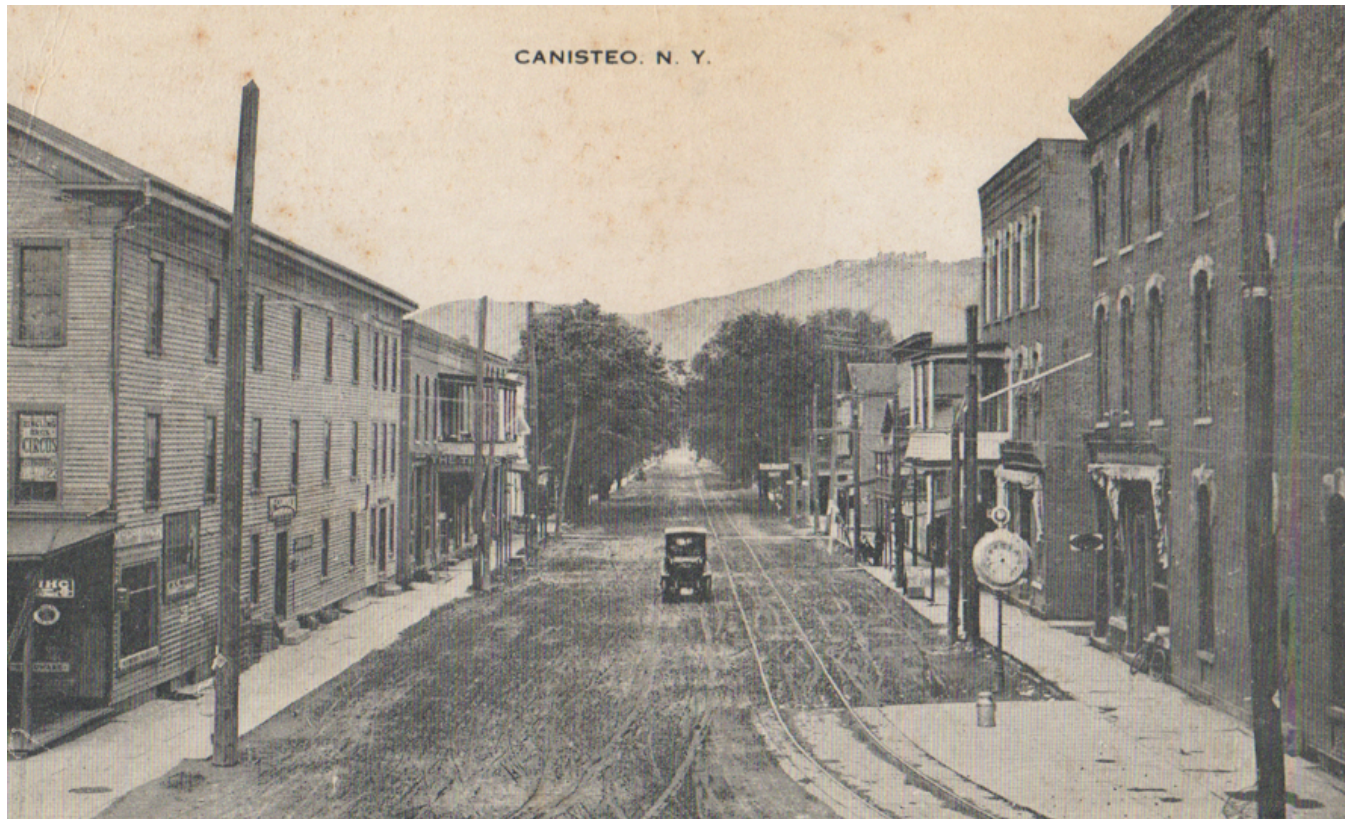




**This is the P.K. Restaurant.**

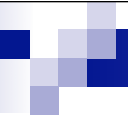


**This very large three story structure on the left is the Laurence and Isaac Allison Boot and Shoe Company.**



**It contributed much to the early growth of the town. The Erie Railroad and two large tanneries in the community contributed to its huge success. When the Allison's move out of Canisteo in 1895, it will be a great blow to the community.**





**The building will be purchased by Fred Williams in 1909 to house a furniture store and undertaking business.**

**It will become the site of the Goff Hardware for 30 years.**

**Then Omer (Dish) Cornish will use it for a restaurant and pool hall.**

**During the early 1920's, the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be rented to the school for a basketball court.**

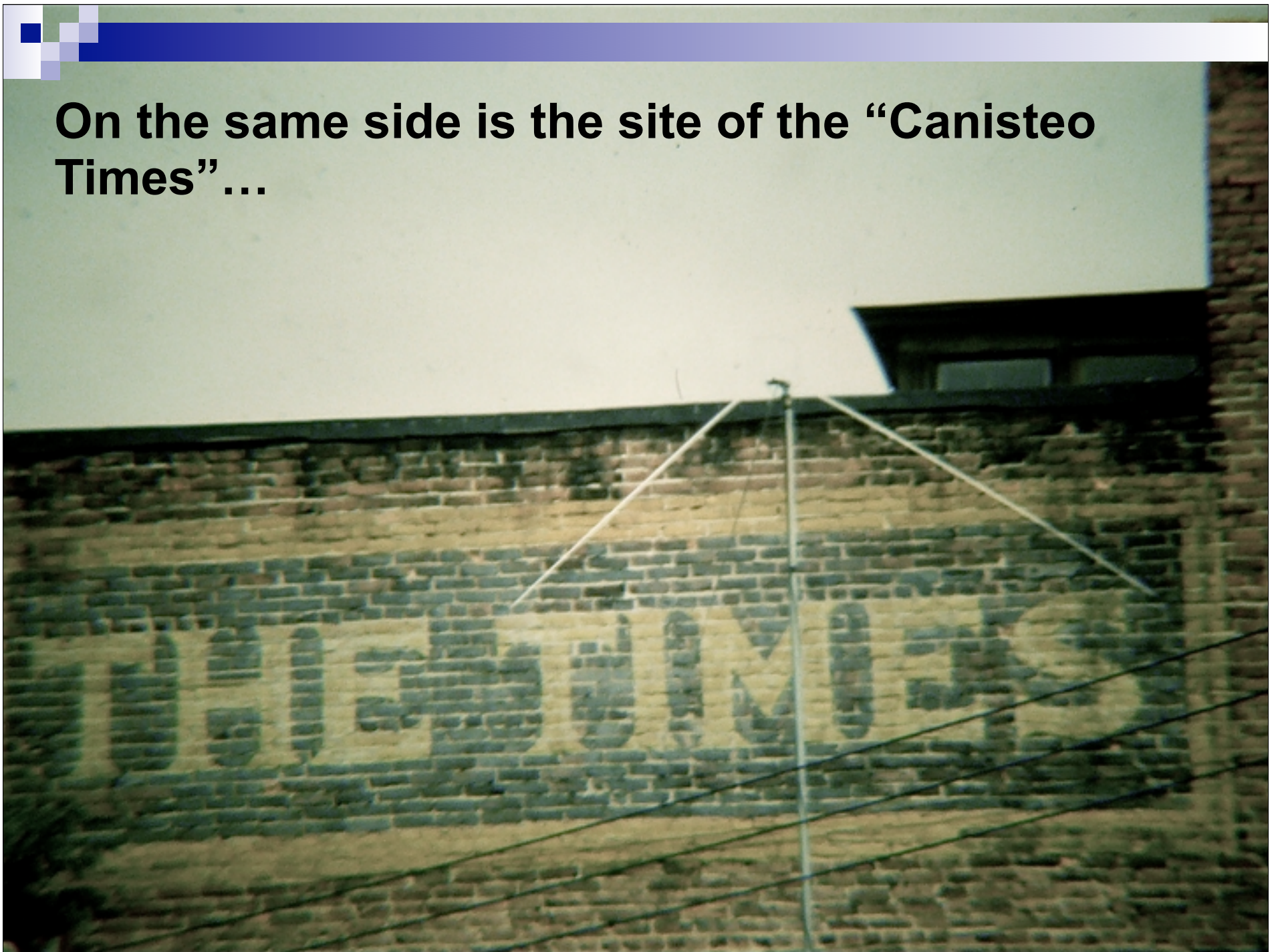
**IN 1935, Cash Horton will buy the building located on the right in this picture.**



**The old building will be town down and much of it's lumber will be used to build the Wesleyan Church. The site will later be known as "Pfitzy's" gas station.**



**On the same side is the site of the “Canisteo Times” ...**





**The Hallett and Clute Hardware Store and the American Hotel. There are businesses on all three floors. – including Spafford and Company Clothing, Jeffers Gracery, Kern's Tin Shop and the Maltby Billard Room.**



**On the left in this view, you can see some of the buildings that were destroyed in a fierce fire in February 1885.**

**The fire was reported to have started on the third floor, in a vacant room. The third floor was also the home of the Masons. Who offered a \$500. reward in an attempt to locate the arsonist.**



**When rebuilt these buildings were only two stories. The Allison Shoe Factory was saved by a brick wall and the fact that there was no wind that night.**

**At the corner of  
Depot and Fourth  
Street is the Hall  
Harness Shop.**





**As we cross Fourth Street, on the corner is the Central House, then a bowling alley, skating arcade and pool rooms.**



**In later years, the two buildings past Central House will be storage for used cars and all but the Central House (which will later be known as the Gillis Hotel) will be destroyed by fire in October 1930.**

## Across the street is the Porter Davis Bank (1883 – 1896)

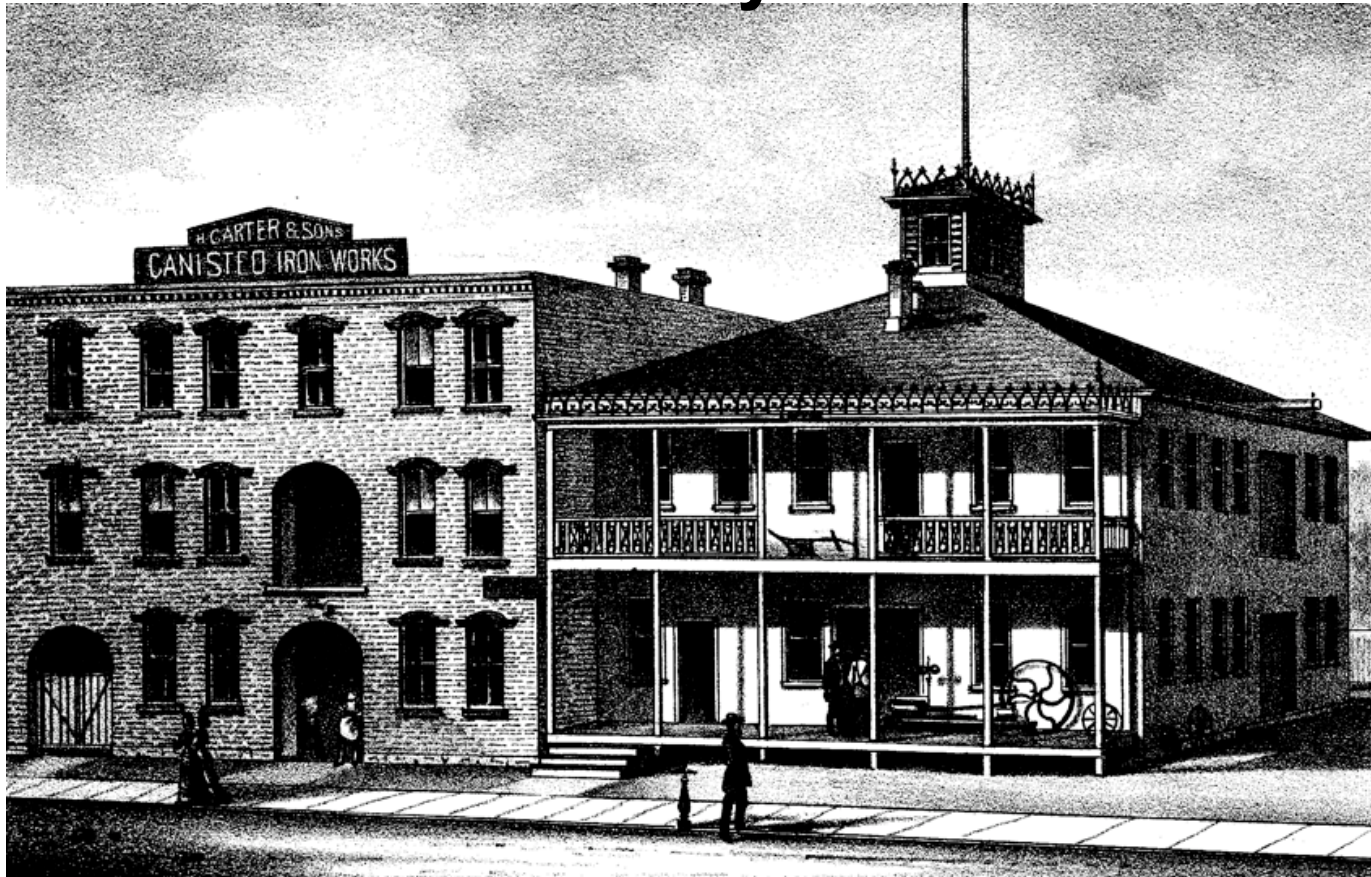




**It will later  
become the First  
State Bank and  
move to Main  
Street.**



## This is the Carter Foundry.



In farming, there is a great need for tools like plows, cultivators, land rollers, sleighs, post mauls, stump machines, iron kittles, etc. They also manufacture a steam engine, somewhat like a locomotive steam boiler. Store fronts that use glass, common in both Canisteo and Hornell, are made here. The Foundry will be destroyed by fire in 1923.



**This is a picture of the Carter Brothers Gas Station around 1925.**



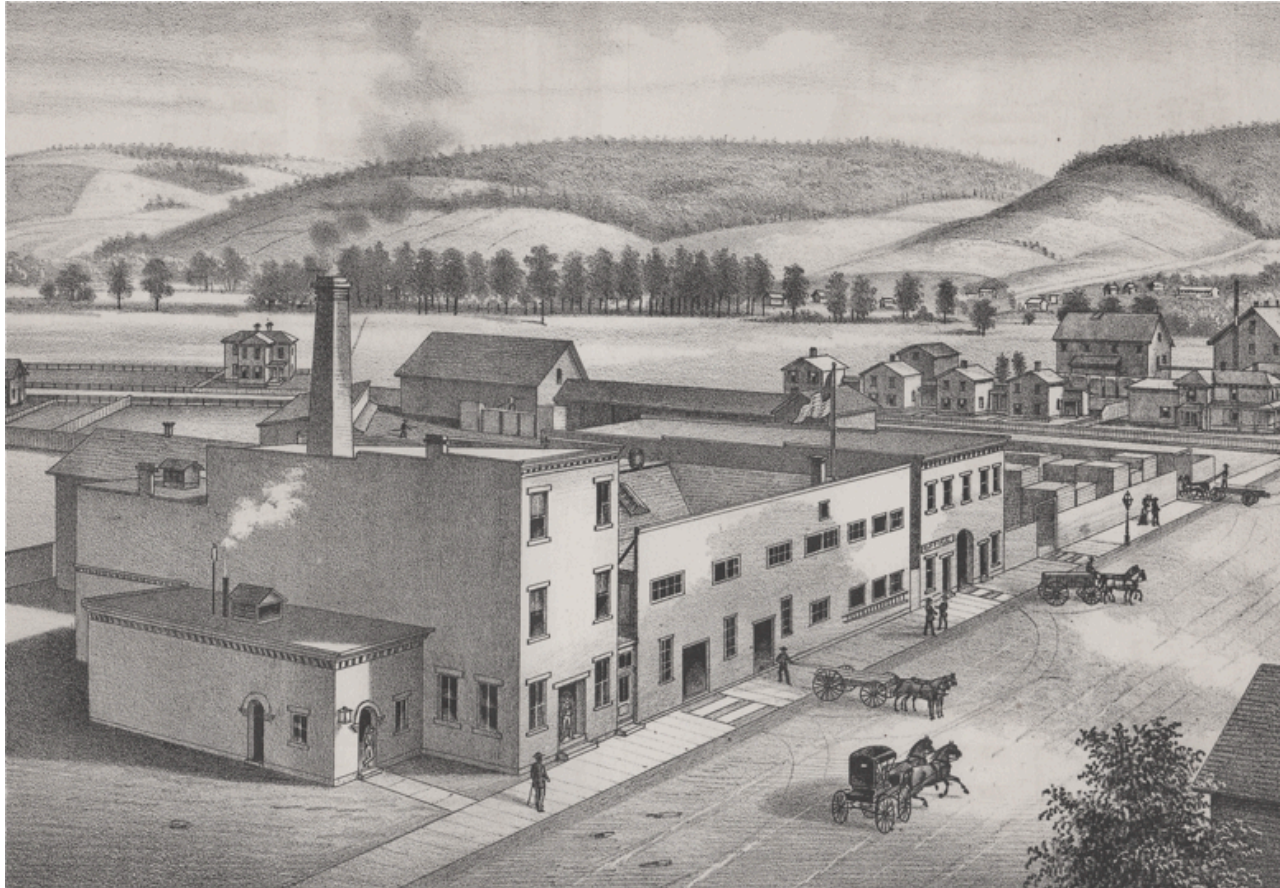
**Next door is a very large complex of buildings. It was originally the site of the A.B. Voorhis Planing Mill, built in 1868.**

**This business and the Boot and Shoe Factory are most responsible for the rapid growth of Canisteo.**



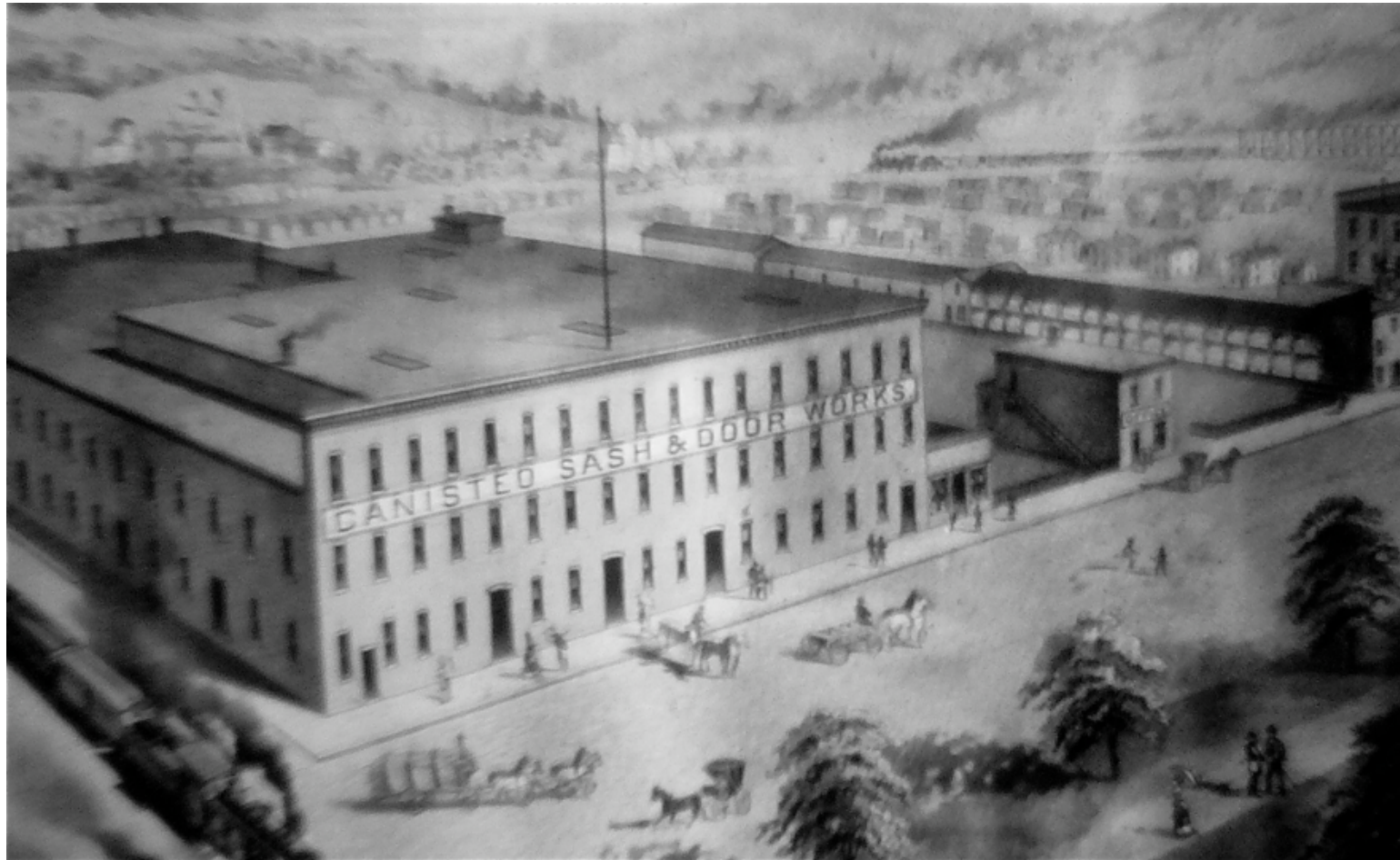


**They manufactured doors, window sash, moldings, etc. With all the lumber mill so close, houses appeared almost like magic.**



**This factory became the second largest business of this kind in the state.**

**In 1885, it was sold in bankruptcy to F.G. Babcock of Hornell, and was known as the Canisteo Sash and Door Works.**





**In 1901 after being idle for several years, it will be sold to a Miss Clara Kellogg, whose 9 months career with it will end in bankruptcy.**





**In the spring of 1902, the large mill is in operation again – This time under the name of “The American Cabinet Company.”**

**With orders for 30,000 chiffoniers per year – or 1000 per week. Great things were to occur – the plant was expected to turn out not less than a car load a day.**

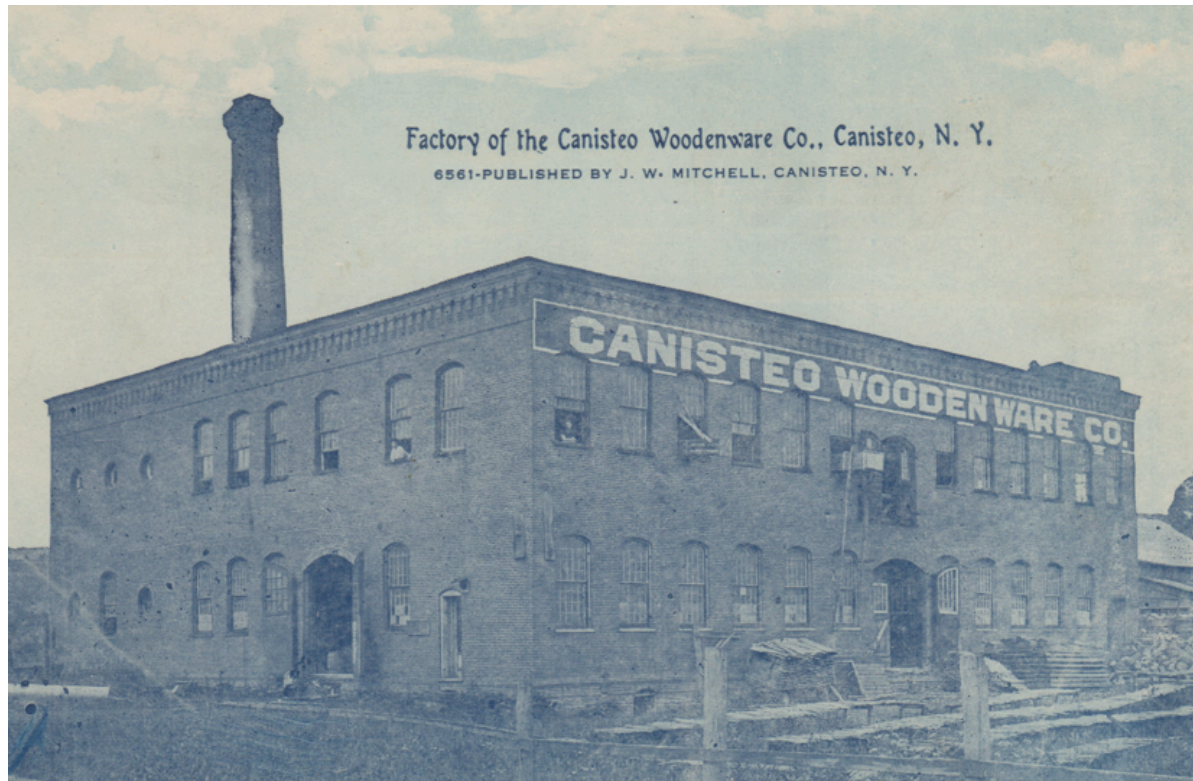
**This meant big business for Canisteo.**

**But, with the American Basket Company, the Canisteo Table Company, The W.E. Mitchell Button Factory and the Canisteo Wooden Ware all running at full capacity, there was a great scarcity of help and, unless local help was made available, it would be necessary to import labor to relieve the pressure.**

**By September 1903, The American Cabinet Company was in Bankruptcy.**



**In January 1909, fire will destroy another leading business, The Canisteo Wooden Ware.**



**With a \$30,000 loss (a very large loss in those days.)  
They will lease the old Sash and Door Works buildings  
and resume business here, the largest basket  
manufacturer in Western New York.**



## A crew employed at the Canisteo Wooden Ware





**This huge coal basket will be used on the Battleship Maine.**





## **In 1910, The Superior Register Company will purchase the Canisteo Woodenware Buildings.**

**They will make registers for use in stores for holding change accounts. Here, O.E. St.John will invent a braiding machine that will do the work of 12 men. A good basket weaver could make 75 a day. Automatic machines turned out 800 dozen a day.**

**In 1916, they will start the manufacture of butter dishes. They will receive one order for 10 car loads, 60,000 to a car, or 600,000 dishes.**

**In 1919, James Anderson and Howard Cobb will lease the large building, containing over 1 acre of floor space, to expand their sign business.**



**In 1921, these buildings will be destroyed by fire in the fiercest conflagration ever to visit Canisteo.**





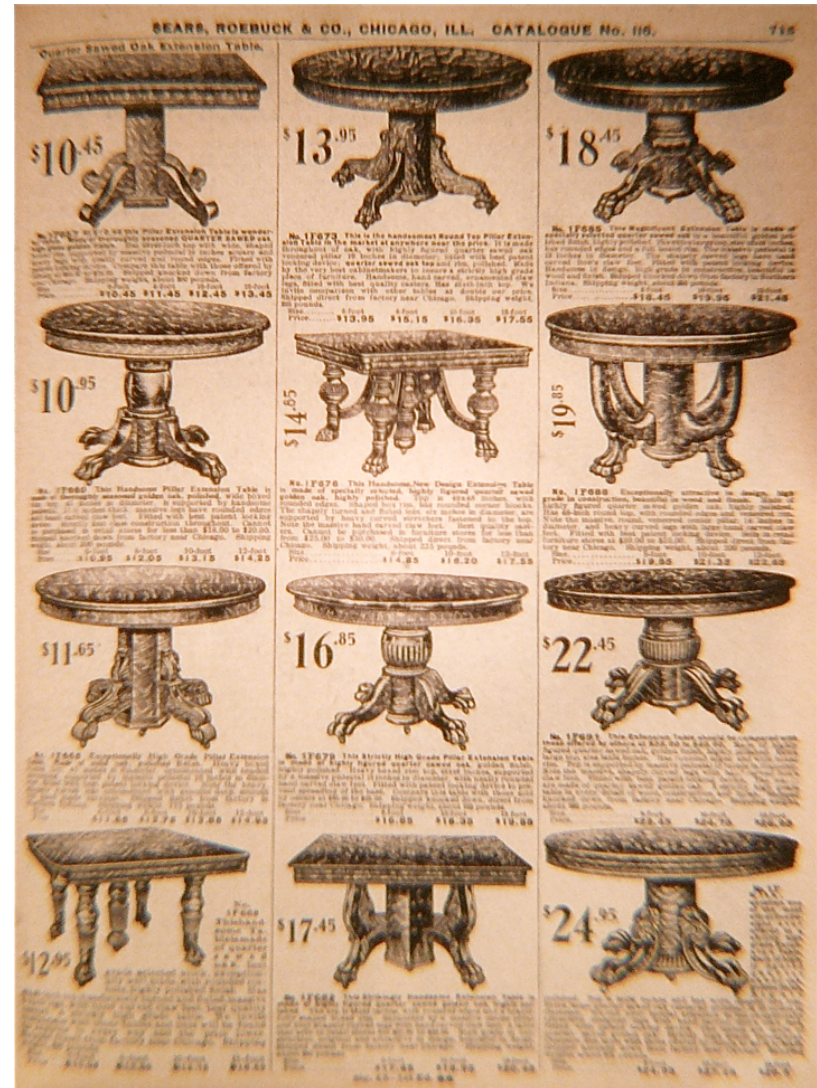
**Across from here is a large three story brick building, built in 1897 as the Canisteo Table Company.**





In 1906, They will receive orders from Sears and Roebuck for 5,000 extension tables.

This same year they will contract to refurbish the Sherwood Hotel in Hornell.





**The Table Company will operate under the name of Steuben Lumber and Furniture Company and Model Furniture.**

**Run by several local business men, including Floyd Cross and Richard Thatcher.**

**In 1908 Floyd Cross will be named manager under the name of Steuben Lumber and Furniture Company.**

**In 1913, they will ship another car load of extension tables to Oregon.**

**In 1916, it will be sold in bankruptcy to a Brooklyn furniture company.**





**In 1918, this building will be purchased by E. Mayette, who will have various businesses in Canisteo.**

**In 1901, he will be the owner of a basket factory.**

**In 1907 he will invent a process of making splint furniture.**

**In 1915, he will have a business under the name of Oriental Furniture on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor over the Thomas Spring and Gear Works.**

**He will make splint suite pieces including tables, porch swings and other furniture**

**When he purchases the Table Factory Building, the Oriental Furniture Company will be one of the largest wicker ware concerns in the East.**

**He will also have a business known by the name, "The Novelty Fibre Furniture Company" which will turn out baby bassinets (also Wicker).**

SEE INDEX, PINK PAGES 603 TO 610, TO FIND WHAT YOU WANT. Ten.

**ODD CORNER PIECES AT EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES.**

Our \$2.85 Turkish Divan. No. 17488. This Turkish divan is one of the light and substantial pieces of furniture that is so popular in our stores. It is made of the finest wicker and is upholstered with a soft, comfortable material. It is a perfect piece for the living room or the study. Price, \$2.85.

Fancy Reed Reception Chair. No. 17489. This chair is made of the finest reed and is upholstered with a soft, comfortable material. It is a perfect piece for the living room or the study. Price, \$3.85.

Exceptional Value in Reception Chair or Garden Chair. No. 17490. This chair is made of the finest reed and is upholstered with a soft, comfortable material. It is a perfect piece for the living room or the study. Price, \$3.95.

Our New Reception Chair, Very Stylish and Only \$4.95. No. 17491. This chair is made of the finest reed and is upholstered with a soft, comfortable material. It is a perfect piece for the living room or the study. Price, \$4.95.

**OUR SPECIAL REED PARLOR SUITE.**  
CONSISTING OF SETTEE, TWO CHAIRS AND TWO ROCKERS.

No. 17492. Complete Suite No. 17492. Price, \$12.00.

**PRICES:**

No. 17492	Settee for parlor.	\$ 8.00	\$ 1.00
No. 17493	Chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17494	Chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17495	Rocking chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17496	Rocking chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17497	Rocking chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17498	Rocking chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17499	Rocking chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00
No. 17500	Rocking chair for parlor.	3.00	3.00





**In 1920, he will pay out over \$61,000 in wages and will transact over \$180,000 in business.**

**He will close the plant in 1927 and move to Penn Yan – after being in business here for 26 years.**

## **Next to the Table Factory is the Taylor Brothers Chair Factory and Bentwood Works.**

**They employ 40 people and, in 1878, their sales were reported to have reached one million dollars.**

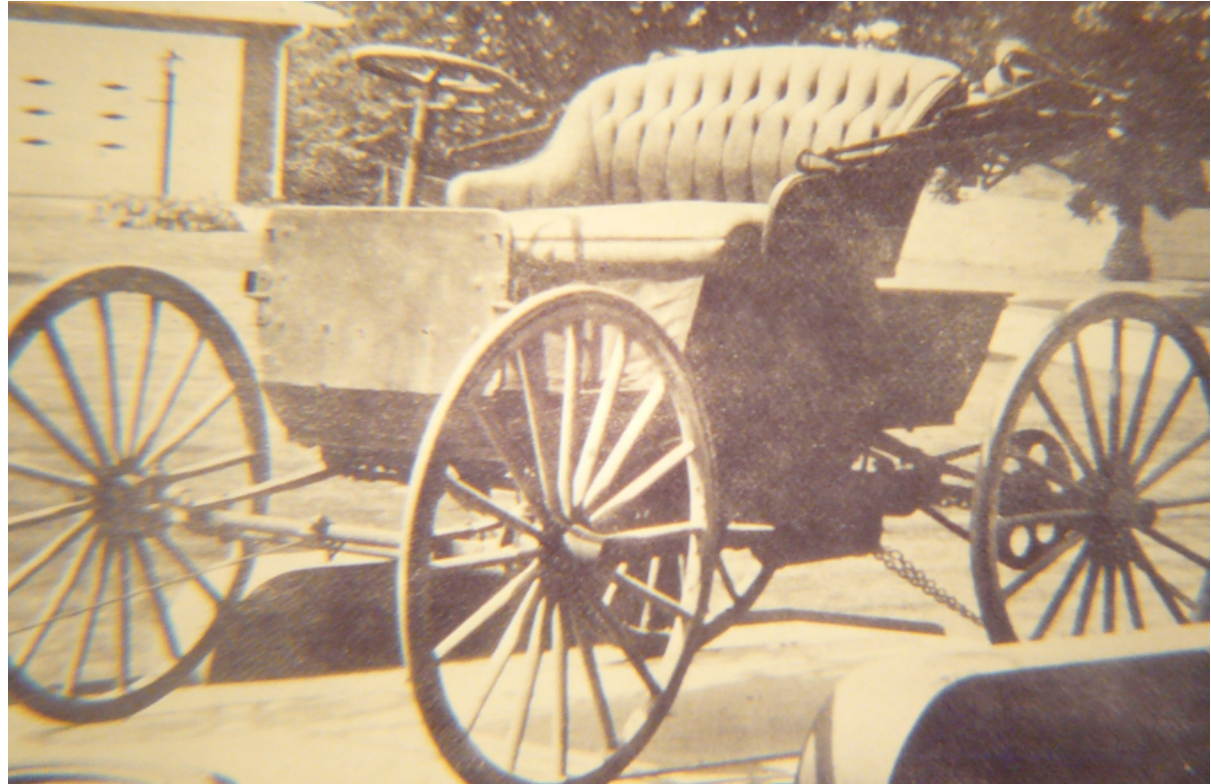
**The NYP tracks will be built over the site.**





**Across the street, on the old Tucker Button site, will be the Thomas Spring and Gear Works.**

**They will make a new type of spring for wagons and buggies.**



**They will also build one of the first cars – with hard tires, patented Thomas auto springs and a new type of Kerosene burning engine. It is said they will make springs for the Ford Motor Company.**

**The large building in the center of this picture is the American Lace and Thread Company.**



**We have no other information regarding this business. In an earlier picture, the sign on this building reads Sash, Door and Blind Works.**

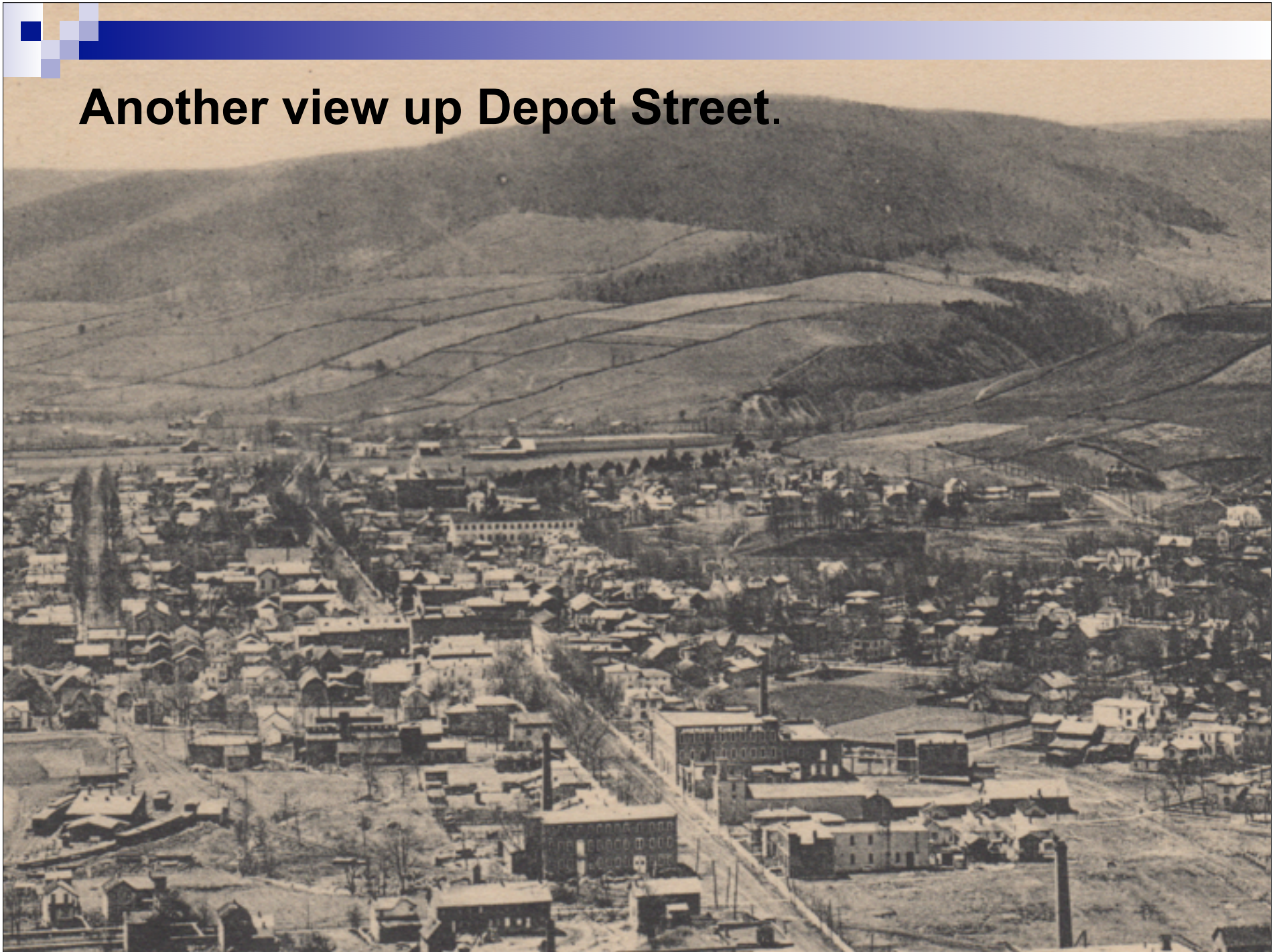


**A scene up Depot Street from Indian Ledge.**





**Another view up Depot Street.**





**Isaac Allison is building another shoe factory on lower Depot Street.**



**The Up-to-Date will come here in 1908 and locate in the American Basket Company Plant.**



**By 1915, it will have 60 traveling salesmen in all parts of the world.**



**In spite of the depression, it will enjoy a large and prosperous business.**



**In 1917, a new office will be built across the road and several new additions will be made. It will become one of the largest private plants in Western New York.**

**In 1919, James Anderson and Howard Cobb will lease the large Superior Register Company Building.**



**They will make metal signs by a rubber plate process in size from 5 to 10 inches to 18 by 36 feet.**

**Later signs will be made by a silk screen technique.**



**The large building was destroyed by fire in 1921.**



**In 1922, they will purchase the Table Factory Building for \$9,000. and move there Ruler Plant there.**



**In 1923, they will ship 6 car loads of signs to the U.S. Rubber Company in California. The plant will receive a \$30,000 grant for enlarging when the 1935 flood will strike and the sign plant will be ruined.**





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**The plant will receive a \$30,000 grant for enlarging when the 1935 flood will strike and the sign plant will be ruined.**

**The factory will be sold to a Rochester junk dealer in 1939.**

**Across the Canisteo River Bridge, the large Newark Milk and Cream Company will be established in 1906.**

**A Dairyman's League Plant will open on Fifth Street in 1937.**



**These two plants will pay \$75,000 a month to area farmers.**



**This creamery on Sixth Street was operated by George Folger from 1897 to 1930.**



## **Thus, we come to the end of our tour of Canisteo of the 1890's.**

**Today, another 100 years have passed. Canisteo is no longer that bustling industrial village.**

**There are numerous factors for the change which come about slowly and made us a residential area, with farming remaining a major occupation.**







**The Newark Milk and Cream Company building will house the Welles Brothers Sign Company in the future.**

- **Across the street and behind the Erie Depot and late Agway now stands an area called Prosperity Road.**
- **This farmer's market and stock yard was 1/2 mile long.**
- **Farmers from as far away as Cares, Pa. would put on drives and bring their stock here to be sold for shipment.**
- **Familiar names connected with the pens and building were Jimmy Wilson, who traded in cattle; Tom McMinn, in the seasonal sale of potatoes and George Whiting, who bought and sold hay.**

**The hills, as they surround this lush valley, attracted the pioneers.**

**But the geography of this region did not lend itself to expansion.**

**As the center of activity moved from Center Canisteo to Canisteo Village, it moved then to Hornell where the Erie Shops located.**



**Other causes for the decline of industry were financial mismanagement, depression, scarcity of raw material, transportation expense, fires, insufficient work force and competition with manufacturers in larger communities.**



**We are thankful to the settlers for many things  
– Our schools and churches have survived and  
improved.**

**Those who  
leave to live  
and work in  
other areas,  
return home  
to retire.**



**May our pride in our community live on in generations  
to come.**

**Thank you.**









**Today the Canisteo Living Sign is on the National Historic Register**

Presentation was  
converted from slides to  
this power point  
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