

Canaan Historical Society, Curators and Museum 2017 Annual Report

The 2017 season brought 342 visitors from the area, across the country and from abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 1st, 2017 and closed on Wednesday, November 8, with several special openings. May 18th, we had a group of home schooled kids looking for information on the Underground Railroad. On Friday, June 2nd, we had 76 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spend the day at the Museum and Meeting House in observance of New Hampshire History Day. This is a re-enactment of Colonial Days and the students dress for the occasion. They are very interested in the articles at the museum used by our early settlers. Several of these young people are descendants of Canaan's first families and are eager to learn about our town's history. To help celebrate the event this year the students were treated to a wagon ride from the museum to the old North Church and back by Richard Vincent and Leroy Neily. The wagon drawn by two beautiful Belgian work horses belongs to Mr. Vincent. This was the highlight of the day for the kids. We would like to thank Richard and Leroy for their time and generosity. We were open on July 15th, for the free cookout at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was a dog show, musical entertainment, good food and a great turnout of people (196).

Our summer program sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities was held at the Meeting House on July 19th. Our guest speaker was Thomas Hubka of Oregon and Maine. His talk on Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn was interesting and well attended. We were open on August 4th, 5th and 6th for Canaan Old Home Days. In spite of the weather we had 62 visitors over the weekend. For the month of August we had a hand carved miniature display made by Bill Spaulding of West Canaan. This exhibit depicts "Logging Life" on the Androscoggin River a century ago. We hope to have it back next season. Please stop by and see this great exhibit. Our Historian was busy this summer assisting families looking for information on burial sites of their ancestors. Several prints and items relating the Canaan history have been added to our binders.

Last winter the Historic Society members agreed to pursue the restoration of all twenty two wood framed windows on the museum building. We have been discussing this since 2010 when the structural work to the front porch was completed. The 12 by 12 sash windows are currently in very poor condition and have seen little or no repair in half a century. John Bergeron, Andrew Cushing and Donna Zani-Dunkerton have been writing grants to fund this much needed project. In October we had two classes from Cardigan Mountain School visit the Museum and Meeting House. Although many of these students are from outside the United States they are very interested in our local history. Historian Donna Zani-Dunkerton and Carol Bergeron continued to work on cataloging our museum collection. The Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan history from the following donors: Robert Switzer, Earl "Bucky" Smith, Orange Historic Commission, Suzan and Chappy Kilgore, Leona Fiske, Donna RicardAllen, the late Dan Fleetham, Sr., Dan Fleetham, Jr., and Phyllis Decato-Lee. A special Thank You goes to all these donors.

It is interesting to know that we have more than 2,000 artifacts displayed in the main room of the Museum. The middle room is filled with 197 historical newspaper clippings and binders as well as Canaan photos. The back room functions as our school room and art gallery. We have for sale a hardbound reprint of the 1910 History of Canaan by J. B. Wallace. The cost is \$75.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Please contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton for more information and to purchase a reprint. She can be reached at (603) 523-7960.

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Fleetham, Jr.- President Ann Wadsworth- Vice-President Tamara Fairbank- Secretary Reggie Barney- Treasurer
Donna Zani-Dunkerton – Historian/Corresponding Secretary The Museum is open from July to November. Please stop by and visit us during our 2018 season