

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2012 Annual Report

The 2012 Season was a busy one at the museum. We opened on Saturday, July 7, and closed on Sunday, October 27. Our visitors from the area, across the country and abroad numbered 336. On Friday, June 1, we had 69 fourth graders from Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers. They spent the day at the museum and the Old 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 in 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. We had several other special openings for families from New Hampshire, Maine, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, South Carolina and Texas seeking information and burial sites of their ancestors. On Monday, July 30, the society sponsored a program at the meeting house on the street. Author Marge Whittaker read excerpts from her book, "A Far Way Home", a novel set in the Mascoma Valley. The program was very well attended. The Museum was open on August 4th and 5th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday afternoon. We had more than 80 visitors during the weekend. Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Carol Bergeron and Carolyn Barney put in more than 200 hours this summer working on the Museum inventory. In addition, Donna spent many additional hours cleaning and scrubbing the cupboards and shelves.

Again, this year several items were presented to the society. Nate Harpootlian brought us a framed copy of an article on the Canaan Fire from June 1923. Pat Cutter of the Potter Place Museum donated a ribbon from Canaan's Indian River Grange dating back to the early 201 1900's. Ruth Carlson-Conwell gave us an old photo from the 1930's of Canaan High School entertainment and a C.H.S. newspaper called "Mt. Cardigan View" from 1935. The Larry Tibbits family donated a photo of the Canaan High School graduating class of 1930. The Canaan Historical Society president, Dan Fleetham, Sr., is pictured in the photo. The Tibbits family also gave us a wooden sign that came from "The Shoppe" of Carrie Miller; She was a dressmaker in Canaan during the 1880's. Tom Geoghegan made and donated a very nice display of 2 Bell Rope pulleys used in the Meeting House from 1851 until 1893 when the clock was installed. The clock was from the E. Howard Co., Boston-NewYork. It came with a 5 year guarantee and cost \$519.38. The Dorothy Chase family brought us a large Holy Bible, a Grafton County Gazetteer dated 1886, a Sears and Roebuck catalog 1886-1986, an old pair of eyeglasses, a Canaan bottle from 1906 and some grocery receipts from Eggleston's Store at Canaan Center. Effie WatsonBachand donated 2 eight oz. glasses which were given away by Vic Corno's Oil Co., in the 1950's Sharon of Crescent Campsites brought us a 2 by 3 foot shadow box and a box of Canaan Town Reports were given by Mark Torrey. All of these items have been added to our collection. It is interesting to know that we have more that 1,700 pieces of artifacts in our main room alone. The middle room is filled with historical articles and Canaan photos and our back room is the school room and art gallery. We are open from July-October. Please stop by and visit us during 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman

Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman

Carol Bergeron, Secretary

Reggie Barney, Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary