

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2013 Annual Report

The 2013 season brought 402 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the museum. We opened for the Summer on Saturday, July 6 and closed on Wednesday November 13, with several special openings. On April 13, a family from Warner, N.H. came to the museum looking for information on the Snow Trains from the 1930's and 40's and for photos of the train wreck of September 15, 1907. A group of students from Cardigan Mountain School along with their teachers visited us on May 18. We opened on Saturday May 25 for the Broadly Wedding held at the Meeting House. Fifty people signed our guestbook. On Friday, June 7, we had 78 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 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. Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. It was Nancy B. Snyder who organized the first New Hampshire History Day held at the Canaan Elementary School on May 16, 1984. She taught in the local school district for over 40 years. We were open on Thursday, July 4, for the free cookout held at the Meeting house sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School.

On Tuesday, September 17, a group of Cardigan Mountain School students along with their advisors and other observers visited the museum. These young men received a history lesson from none other than our Town Administrator Mike Samson. On Saturday, September 21, a party of 9 Beacon Hill Scholars from Boston, MA spent the day with our historian, complete with a tour of Canaan Street. We had several other openings for families from Vermont, Arizona, Florida and California looking for gravesites and information on their ancestors. The summer program we sponsored in conjunction with the Canaan Town Library on Sunday, July 28 with Dan Billin of Lebanon giving a very interesting presentation on Noyes Academy. The program held at the Old Meeting House was attended by 75 people. 219 The museum was open on August 3rd and 4th for Canaan Old Home Days; Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his excellent display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday afternoon. We had more than 80 visitors during the weekend. Several ladies of the historical society spend countless hours again this summer working on the inventory.

The process of computerizing the Museum's collection has taken two years and is nearing completion. Again, this year several items have been presented to the Museum: A spinning wheel was given to us by the Marge Whittaker Family. The wheel belonged to Ruby Powell who lived on the "Height of the Land" for fifty years. Numerous town reports, 3 booklets on Camp Calumet, a booklet on Aircraft Recognition and a small dish with a Canaan scene were donated by Leona Fiske. Two very interesting signs were brought to us by the Roland Lemieux Family. One is a Canaan Fair sign and the other hung out in front of Eggleston's Store for more than 50 years and says "Canaan Center Post Office." The Eggleston family came here from Vermont in 1909 and purchased the store at Canaan Center. Another Canaan Fair sign was given to us by Johnny Thompson, a former Canaan boy 90 years young, who now lives in MA. Ellen Williams donated two photos of the Maurice Barney family and a picture of Kenny Watson. Several Canaan College booklets dating back to the 1960's, two photos of the Dane-Welch family and an old coffee pot were donated by the John Q. Adams family. Bobbie and Sherry Leonards of "Stone House" on Sawyer Hill donated two plows dating to the 1870's or earlier. It is interesting to know that we have more than 1,700 artifacts displayed in the main room or the museum. The middle room is filled with historical articles and Canaan photos and the back room is our school room and art gallery. We are open from July-October. Please stop by and visit us during our 2014 season.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman
Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman
Carol Bergeron, Secretary
Reggie Barney, Treasurer
Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary