

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2015 Annual Report

The 2015 Season brought 364 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 4th and closed on Sunday, November 1st. On May 20th a group from Vermont visited the museum looking for information on the Underground Railroad. On Friday, June 5th we had 73 fourth graders from 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 was drawn by two Belgian work horses named "Red" and "Dolly". These beautiful animals and the wagon belong to Mr. Vincent. This was the highlight of the day and we would like to thank Richard and Leroy for their time and generosity. We were open for the free cookout at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was plenty of good food and a great turn out.

The Historical Society hosted two summer programs, both of which were held at the Meeting House on Canaan Street: On July 22nd Steve Taylor of Meriden spoke on "New Hampshire's Love-Hate Relationship with it's Agricultural Fairs. On August 19th, Bill Spaulding of West Canaan gave a talk on "The Glory Days of Logging on the Androscoggin, Another Time, a Different Era." Both of these programs were very interesting and well attended. We were open August 1st and 2nd for Canaan's Old Home Days. A group of Alumni from the Canaan College days spent Saturday afternoon touring the Museum and Meeting House and enjoyed light refreshments while recalling their college days. The Museum as open on October 6th, 9th, 15th and 30th for classes from Cardigan Mountain School. These students paired together, studied our 217 artifacts and history articles and put together their own scavenger hunt.

We were also open on the evening of October 22nd for Cardigan Mountain School for an event hosted by them at the Meeting House. We had several visitors during the evening. For a fund raiser this year our Historian, Donna Zani-Dunkerton put together a calendar for 2016 using photos of old Canaan business establishments from the 1940', 50's and 60's. They went on sale and 125 calendars have been sold. Great job Donna! Last year John Bergeron and Donna Zani-Dunkerton submitted an application to the State of New Hampshire for a historical marker on Noyes Academy. The marker arrived on October 30th and has been erected near Canaan Street in front of the Museum. Please stop by and see it when you are in the area. Several of our committee members have continued to work with our Historian on cataloging our collection. After 5 long years and the skill of Carol Bergeron and her computer, each artifact in the Museum now has a number. Thank you Carol! Again this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following donors: Sonya Carter, Nancy Loomis, Sue Marcoulier, Swanton Historical Society, Bill Spaulding, Kevin and Ken Lary, Jim and Nancy Dolliver, Wallace Andrew, Francis Taussig, Ellen Williams, Earl "Bucky" Smith, Robert Wotton, Carole and Ted Fontaine, Paula Young, Dan Fleetham Jr. and Shirley Lester. A special thank you to all of these people. We have for sale reprint hardbound copies of the 1910 History of Canaan by J. B. Wallace. Cost is \$76.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Please a contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton for more information and to purchase the book.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham Jr.-President Ann Wadsworth, Vice-President Carol Bergeron, Secretary Reggie Barney, Treasurer Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary We are open from July to October. Please stop by and visit us during our 2015 Season.