

## Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2016 Annual Report

The 2016 Season brought 331 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 2nd and closed on Sunday, November 6th with several special openings. On March 9th our Historian spent the day with Brian and Nancy Vawter and their photographs of Portsmouth, N.H. The Vawters are film makers from Atlantic Media Productions. They are interested in the Noyes Academy Story. In May a group from the Boston area visited the Museum and Old Meeting House. They were also looking for information on Noyes Academy and the Underground Railroad in Canaan. On Friday, June 3rd, we had 67 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spend the day at the Museum and Old Meeting House in observance of New Hampshire Historical Day. This is a re-enactment of the Colonial Days and the students dress for the occasion. They are very interested in the artifacts 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. New Hampshire History Day began at the Canaan Elementary School in May of 1984. This is the 25th year the event has taken place in the Canaan Historic District. Our summer program was held at the Old Meeting House on July 13th with a presentation on the history of "Stone Walls" by Canaan resident Bill McDonald. It was an interesting evening with a large crowd. We were open for the free cookout held at the Old Meeting House on July 16th. This was co-sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was plenty of good food and a real turn out.

The Museum was open on August 6th and 7th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his excellent display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday. We also had a display made by Bill Spaulding of West Canaan. This exhibit was of the Brown Company of Berlin, N.H., depicting logging life along the Androscoggin in the 1800s. We had a total of 70 visitors to the Museum over the weekend. 224 The Museum and Old Meeting House were open in October for classes from Cardigan Mountain School. These students studied our historic artifacts and articles and put together their own scavenger hunt at the Museum. Our historian, Donna Zani-Dunkerton compiled a calendar for 2016 using photos of old Canaan businesses from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. All 135 Calendars have been sold. Again this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following Donors: John Roberts, Jr. The Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society, Mark Torrey, Leona Fiske, Brian Robbins, Daryl Robbins, Vivian Hadley and Barbara F. Steward. A special thank you to all these people.

On September 7th, Judge Daniel W. Fleetham, Sr. our long-time President, passed away. He devoted over 25 years to giving leadership to the Historical Society and will be sorely missed. 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 contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton at 603-523-7960 for more information and to purchase the book. We are open from July to November. Please stop by and visit us

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham Jr.-President

Ann Wadsworth, Vice-President

Vacant, Secretary

Reggie Barney, Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary