

## Canaan Historical Society, Curators and Museum 2018 Annual Report

The 2018 Season brought 412 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 7th, 2018 and closed on Thursday, November 29th, 2018 with several special openings. The Museum was open both Saturday and Sunday the entire Summer. In May, we had a group from Cardigan Mountain School make a special visit to the Museum seeking information on Cardigan Mountain and the history of the first tower built in 1904. In June two families from Washington and Oregon spent the day with our Town Historian locating gravestones and cellar holes. On Friday, June 1st, 2018 a total of 76 Fourth grade students from Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spent the day at the Museum and the Meeting House in observance of New Hampshire History Day. History Day 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 the history of Canaan. Next Year, 2019, will be the 35th Anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. It was Nancy-Bailey-Snyder who organized the first New Hampshire History Day on May 17, 1984. She taught in our school district for over 40 years. The highlight of the day is the wagon ride from the Meeting House to the Old North Church and back by Richard Vincent and his two beautiful Belgian work horses. Mr. Vincent will join us next year for the 35th Annual NH History Day. We would like to thank Richard for his time and generosity. We were open on July 20th for the free cookout held at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was plenty of good food, music, a dog show and a great turnout. The Historical Society hosted two Summer programs, both of which were held at the Meeting House on Canaan Street.

On July 25th, Paul Wainwright of Atkinson spoke on "New England's Colonial Meeting 212 Houses." This program was made possible through a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. On September 5th, Pamela Weeks of Auburn presented a program on "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell." Both programs were very interesting and well attended. On August 4th and 5th we were open for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his display of Northern Railroad photographs on Saturday afternoon. During the weekend we had 44 Visitors at the Museum. October 18th, a class of 20 students along with their teachers from Cardigan Mountain School spent the morning with our Historian. After a history meeting at the Meeting House, they were the last group to view the Quilt exhibit before it was taken down that afternoon. They also did a scavenger hunt at the Museum, which proved to be very interesting. Considering none of these young men had ever been in the Museum before, they did quite well. Again, this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following families: Karen Ricard, Kevin Lary and Jami Wallace. Our window project is well underway. We have twelve windows done and put back in the building with the other twelve being worked on this 213 winter. Some of these came out easy, while others did not and when it came to putting them back well, that's a different story. We would like to thank our contractor, Arch, and John Bergeron for the countless hours they labored on the windows. These men worked on the hottest days of summer and the coldest days of early winter. We are in hopes of having this project completed by June 2019.

The highlight of 2018 was the quilt display at the Meeting House: "And Still We Rise." The 34 quilts in this exhibit were created by the members of the Women of Color Quilters Network. They tell the story of the African-American experience beginning with the arrival of the first slaves in the 1600s, and they depict both celebrated milestones and lesser known faces and facts. The show was originally organized by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum. The Women of Color Quilters Network was founded in 1985 by Dr. Carolyn L. Mazloomi. The average age of the networks' members is 72. It was Karla Hostetler, Director of Peterborough's Mariposa Museum that brought the quilts to New Hampshire. She is managing the New England leg of the tour. 214 It was the history of the Underground Railroad and the story of Noyes Academy, the first upper level co-ed school in the United States to open its doors to African-Americans, that brought the quilt exhibit to Canaan. What better place could there be. We want to thank Karla Hostetler, John Bergeron, Donna Zani-Dunkerton and the many volunteers that made this quilt show possible. Between September 1st and October 18th, a total of 1,088 people visited the quilt exhibit. We have for sale a hardbound reprint of the 1910 History of Canaan by James B. Wallace. The cost is \$75.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Please contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton for more information and to purchase the reprint. She can be reached at (603) 523-7960.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham, Jr. – President

Ann Wadsworth – Vice-President

Tina Lemoi – Secretary

Reggie Barney – Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton – Historian/Corresponding Secretary