

~ Historical Society and Museum- Annual Report 2006

The museum opened the 2006 season on Saturday, July 1st and closed on Tuesday, November 2nd with several special openings. The summer brought nearly 300 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad. On Friday, June 2nd, we had the fourth grade classes from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers. The group spent the day at the museum and meeting house in observance of New Hampshire History Day. This is the 15th year this event has been held in the historic district. The students were 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. In August and September we had four other special openings for families from Arizona, Washington, Florida and Texas. On Tuesday, November 2nd, a group of home schooled children and their parents braved the cold for a history lesson with our historian. They were interested in pictures and information on Noyes Academy. The group toured the Street going to the Museum, Meeting House, North Church, Canaan Street Cemetery, Currier House, Currier's store and the Howe House where the black students boarded.

Again this year several items were presented to the society. A Bicentennial plate from 1961 was donated by Sue Marcoulier of Vallville, Texas, (formerly of the Street). Two Canaan Fire pictures from June 2, 1923, were given by the daughter of Olivine Hardy-Cummings. Shirley Dean Kem of Newark, New York, (formerly of Grafton) donated a century old photo of the Oscar and Fannie Rand Home now the Tower House Inn in Canaan village. She also gave us some 4-H ribbons from the 1950's and a small wooden toy made by her father, Frank Dean. Numerous old photos were brought to us by Jeanie Ritchie from the Perry Baldwin collection. These are very old names on the Street. More than a century ago their south end family home was know as "Gazebo" A. granite memorial was donated to the museum by Charlie and June Elliott. In 1948, the grandstand was built at the old Canaan Fairgrounds. The donor for the building was Arthur Williams and the contractor was John Pedersen, both of Orange. The granite memorial was installed in the grandstand that year. It was dedicated in memory of Alton Webster, a Canaan boy who lost his life in the Normandy Invasion.

Our museum historian, Donna Dunkerton has compiled several laser prints of Canaan pictures and other points of interest, which she has added to our books.

On Saturday, August 5th, the Ori Calliope was at the museum. Our visitors were entertained for the afternoon with circus music by Jack Snyder. We look forward to his return in August, 2007. Also, old home day weekend. Ken Gushing of Grafton was at the museum with a very interesting display of photos and information about the Northern Railroad. Now for an up-date on the snow roller. This fall the shelter to house the old roller was completed. Aaron Allen with the help of Tom Dunkerton

constructed the frame and Larry Tibbits and his son, Matt, put the roof on.

Special thanks to these individuals for their time and labor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel H. Fleetham, Ghairman

John A. Ricard. Vice Ghairman

Garol Bergeron. Secretary

Reggie Barney. Treasurer

Donna Zani Dunkerton,

Historian and

Corresponding Secretary