

Canaan Historical Society and Museum Report 2009

We opened on Saturday, July 4, 2009 and closed on October 24, 2009 with more than 300 visitors for the year. On Friday, June 5, we had 72 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers visit the Museum. They spent the day at the Museum and Meeting house in observance of New Hampshire Day. This is a re-enactment of the Colonial Days and the students dress for the occasion. They are very interested in the articles in the Museum used by our first settlers.

Several of these young people are descendants of Canaan's first families and were eager to learn about our Town's history. This year marked the 25th anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. The first one was held on May 16, 1984 at the Canaan Elementary School. Monday evening June 22, 2009, the society presented an outstanding program put together by our historian Donna Zani-Dunkerton. It consisted of a presentation and video on logging by Bill Spaulding; a presentation on local saw mills by Ed Lary and experiences of growing up in a lumber camp by Kit Hewes. Over 80 people crowded into the Mascoma Senior Center to hear details and stories of logging days as well as view an extensive display of books, old photos and a small model of the Brown Co. operation named "Pondy". During the season we had numerous groups seeking information on the George Kimball project and the story of Noyes Academy. On Tuesday, August 4, several members of the Outdoor Recreation for Seniors visited the Museum while on their outing at Canaan Street Lake. On August 18, we opened for families from New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts who had relatives that lived in Canaan from 1910 through the 1930's and operated The Lucerne Inn on Canaan Street. We had another special opening on Tuesday, October 13, for the Bird and Garden Club. These ladies braved the cold for an interesting afternoon of history.

Again, this year we had several items presented to the Society: An old photo dating back to the 1920's of the inside of Elsenia Eastman's Stove and Tin Shop was sent to us by Norma Bushman of Franklin, New Hampshire. A pipe wrench was donated by Esther Bruce. It is interesting to know that Canaan is the birthplace of the pipe wrench. Before 1850, a man by the name of Stillson invented it here. It was first manufactured at the old hammer shop in Canaan Center when it was known as "Factory Village." Adele Dillion of Atkinson, N.H. sent us a small autograph book which belonged to her father-in-law, Henry Wilkinson, who received his education at the Canaan Union Academy on Canaan Street in the 1880's. Some small books, two holy Bibles, a number plate and other tid bits of interest were given by the Norman Neily family. An old wooden ice box was brought to the Museum by George Smith; the box came from the Doris Davis farm on Grist Mill Hill. Several postcards, some old photos, newspapers, town reports and matchbook covers were donated by Karen DeWolf-Ricard.

Our museum historian has compiled several laser prints of Canaan pictures and other Points of interest, which she has added to our books. Our Museum has a bench from the old Canaan Train Station, the bells from the Canaan Center School and the Canaan High School, projectors from the old Canaan Movie Theater, school desks that pre-date the Civil War and lots more....Come visit us this summer. We open the first Saturday in July.....
Respectfully submitted Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman Edward Lary, Vice- Chairman Carol Bergeron, Secretary Reggie Barney, Treasurer Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary