

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2011 Annual Report

The 2011 Season was a busy one at the museum. We opened on Saturday, July 9 being the 250th Anniversary of the signing of Canaan's Charter in 1761. Our visitors from the area, across the country and abroad, numbered 384. On Friday, June 3, we had 76 fourth graders from Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers. They spent the day at the museum and the Old 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 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. This is the 20th year this event has been held in the Historic District. We had several other special openings for out-of-state families seeking information and burial sites of their ancestors. The first project for the 250th Anniversary began with the cleaning and reframing of 31 photographs and prints that have hung in the Old North Church on the street for the past century. The pictures were placed there in August of 1911 by the Church Committee including Ella R. Currier and her son, John P. Currier. The men in the 31 photos and prints shaped our town more than 100 years ago. Some of them were ministers, lawyers, judges, selectmen, blacksmiths, storekeepers and abolitionists. Gary Hamel along with the assistance of Donna ZaniDunkerton helped these men of Canaan "receive a fresh face" and their pictures and prints were restored in time for the Annual Service at the Old North Church on July 31st.

On Monday, August 1st, a Photograph and Newspaper Exhibit "Disasters in Canaan" was presented at the Meeting House on Canaan Street. On Wednesday, August 3rd, a live presentation "A Tour of Canaan A Century Ago" was held at the Cardigan Mountain School Humann Theater. This was narrated by Gary Hamel and written by Donna Zani-Dunkerton. Approximately 140 people enjoyed the show. On Thursday August 4th, a presentation was given by Sara Dunkerton on "Noyes Academy, A Dream Too Soon" was held at the Cardigan Mountain School Humann Theater with over 100 in attendance. 195 The Museum was open on August 6th and 7th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday afternoon. We had more than 100 visitors during the weekend. Again, this year several items were presented to the society. A creamer, sugar bowl, a tea cup and three saucers were given by Elsie Wilson. Katie Eaton of Etna brought us a banner and several pictures of Camp Wattaunoh in 1920. This camp was located on the back side of Canaan Street Lake, and then known as Crystal Lake. The "Main Lodge" as it was called was built in 1908 and burned in the mid 1980's. It was Camp Calumett in the 1930's and in 1940, Al Lawrence, a school teacher from Metuchen, New Jersey bought the property and it became Camp Crescent. One of our society members, Dan Fleetham Jr., attended Camp Crescent in 1955. Today the property is the Crescent Campsites and celebrated its 10th anniversary in August.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman

Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman

Carol Bergeron, Secretary

Reggie Barney, Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary