

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2014 Annual Report

The 2014 season brought 389 visitors from the area, from across the country and from abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 5th and closed on Friday, November 7th, with several special openings during the year. A group of students from Cardigan Mountain School along with their advisors visited us on May 18th. On Friday, June 6th, 72 fourth grade students from Canaan Elementary School with their teachers and volunteers spent a day at the Museum and 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 year marked our 30th anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. It was Nancy Bailey-Snyder who organized the first NH History Day at the Canaan Elementary School on May 16, 1984. She taught in our local school district for over 40 years. Cooking 1991 "Sara" 1983 Candle Making 1991 Games 1991 Calligraphy 1991 254 Students 1993 Quilting 1994 Calligraphy 1996 Scavenger Hunt 2004 To help celebrate the event this year the students were treated to a wagon ride from the Meeting House to the Old North Church and back by Richard Vincent and Leroy Neily. The wagon was drawn by two Belgian work horses named "Annie" and "Dolly". These beautiful animals and the wagon belong to Mr. Vincent. This was the highlight of the day for the kids and we would like to thank Richard and Leroy for their time and generosity. We were open on Friday July 4th, for the free cookout held at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. We had 40 people visit the Museum that day.

The Historical Society hosted two summer programs, both of which were held at the Meeting House on Canaan Street. On July 23rd, Stephen Taylor of Meriden spoke on New Hampshire's One Room 255 Schoolhouses. This was made possible through a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. On August 17th, Robert Terhune, A Society member, gave a talk on 200 years of Medical Practice in Canaan. Both events were very interesting and well attended. The Museum was open on August 2nd and 3rd for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his excellent display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday afternoon. We had 68 Museum visitors during the weekend. The Museum was also open on October 2nd, 7th and 15th for classes from Cardigan Mountain School. These students paired together, studied our historic articles and artifacts and put together their own scavenger hunt at the Museum. We had families from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Connecticut, Massachusetts and from Canada looking for gravesites and information on their ancestors.

Our Historian had a very busy year. Again, this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan history. Two very interesting framed pictures of Harry Cole were given by Richard Pusey. A small photo of Bunky's Lunch was sent to our Historian by Louise Jacob of Boscawen, N.H. This building stood on Main Street back in the 1940s and 50s. Several old Canaan Town Reports, 3 photos of the Maurice Barney family, an 1896 flood picture and 3 other flood postcards were given by Ellen Williams. A small cup and saucer with a Canaan scene on it was donated by Carole Brown of Epsom, N.H. An old harrow dating back to 1870 or earlier was given by Janice Staggs. It belonged to her Great Grandfather Carey Leeds who lived on Canaan Street over 150 years ago. A small framed picture of Canaan Street and a baseball uniform belonging to the late Edward Lary were donated by his sons Kevin and Kenny Lary. The Lisbon, N.H. Historical Society sent us a brochure advertising the Lucerne Inn on Canaan Street; It was sent to Mrs. George Currier who lived on Canaan Street in the 1880's and 1890's and is dated 1909. A Knights of Pythias program was given by Dan Fleetham, Jr. It had belonged to

Maude Whittier and is dated May 14, 1901. It reads: "Fifth Annual Concert and Ball of the Mt. Cardigan Lodge No. 31 K. of P. at Milton Hall, Canaan, N.H. Music by Blaisdell's Orchestra of Concord, N.H." Milton Hall was lost to the Great Canaan Fire of June 1923. Maud owned and lived for several years in the Mill House at the foot of Grist Mill Hill Road. 256 Our longtime President of the Historical Society, Dan Fleetham, Sr. retired this past fall and his son Dan Fleetham, Jr. was elected to serve for 2015. A special thanks to Dan Sr. for his many years of leadership to society. We have for sale reprint hardbound copies of the 1910 History of Canaan by 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 October. Please stop by and visit us during our 2015 Season.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham Jr.-President

Ann Wadsworth, Vice-Chairman

Carol Bergeron, Secretary

Reggie Barney, Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary