

## Canaan Historical Society 2019 Annual Report

The 2019 Season brought 293 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, June 23, 2019 and closed on Sunday, September 15, 2019 with several special Openings. The Museum was open both Saturday and Sunday the entire Summer and oftentimes during the week. In May, we were open for families from Iowa and New Mexico searching for information on their ancestors. They spent the day with our historian and were pleased to visit grave sites and cellar holes. On Friday, June 7, 2019 a group of 74 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 our town's history. This year we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. It was Nancy Bailey-Snyder and other fourth grade teachers who first organized the New Hampshire History Day on May 17, 1984. Nancy taught in our school district for over 40 years. We were open on Saturday, July 20th for the cookout and dog show held at the Meeting House; This event is sponsored annually by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was an interesting display of photos and information on Canaan Street 202 Lake. 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 24th, The White Mountain String Band with Dale Barney and Friends played to a packed house! 175 people enjoyed an evening of Classic Bluegrass, Folk and Pop Music. This Reunion Concert was a fundraiser for the Canaan Historical Society with donations used towards painting the interior of the museum. We would like to thank Dale, the band and anyone who participated in the event as well as the generous people who attended the concert. On August 21st, we had our second program with Adair Mulligan of Lyme who spoke on "The Connecticut, New England's Great River". Her talk was interesting and well attended. The program was made possible through a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. We were open on August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his display of Northern Railroad photographs on Saturday afternoon. The Northern Railroad ran the route from Concord, NH to White River Junction, VT. The photos showed stations, train wrecks, floods etc. along the train route. We had 50 visitors for the weekend. Again, this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following families: Kevin Lary, Lorraine Goodman and Keith Batten. Thank you !

Our window project that has been in progress since 2017 has finally come to an end. The last of our windows were installed in May. What a lot of work and a wonderful job done by our window contractor "Arch". We closed the museum on September 15th to get ready for the painters. The following week John Bergeron and Donna Zani-Dunkerton packed and cleaned out the museum. Kurt Devold of Devold's Painting of Quechee, VT began work on Monday, September 23, 2019 and finished on Saturday the 28th. They had a crew of three painters. Ceiling, walls, floors and shelves of all three first floor rooms and the main entry hall were painted. Most lightweight items had been moved to the second floor before work

was started. The painters moved the heavy pieces like the safe, showcases and piano so that the walls and floor were painted near those items. Only the roll top desk and the two movie projectors were not moved, so the floor under those items was not painted. Kurt and his painters did a first-class job and we are very pleased with their work. When we open for the season in 2020, the Museum will have a fresh new face...Stop by and visit us. We no longer will be selling the hard cover reprints of the 1910 History of Canaan by J.B Wallace due to the increase in cost of the book from the Higginson Book Company. They will not be available from the historical society.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham, Jr. – President

Ann Wadsworth – Vice-President

Tina Lemoi – Secretary

Reggie Barney – Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton – Historian/Corresponding Secretary