

Canaan Historical Society and Museum Report 2008

The 2008 season brought 367 visitors from the area across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened Saturday, July 5th and closed on Sunday October 26th with several special openings. On Friday, June 6th, we had 91 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers. They spent the day at the Museum and Meeting House in observance of New Hampshire History 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 early settlers. Several of these young people are descendants of Canaan's first families and are eager to learn about our town's history.

On June 30, twenty-five Mascoma Senior Center adults visited the Museum; They enjoyed a tour of the building and ate lunch at our picnic tables. The Museum was open for the day on Sunday, July 13th for the Cardigan Mountain Art Association; This was for their 2nd Annual "Garden Tour" of homes on Canaan Street. Tuesday, July 15th, the members of the Outdoor Recreation for Seniors spent the morning touring the street visiting the Museum, Meeting House and at lunch on the beach.

In September and October we had special openings for families from Maine, Massachusetts, Washington, Arizona, Florida and West Virginia.

Again this year we had numerous items presented to the Society: Shirley Dean-Kim of New York brought us a chalk board and some books for our schoolroom. These things belonged to her brother Bert and are from the 1940's. Ruth Tucker gave us two pairs of old eye glasses. A button hook and a candle snuffer were donated by Leela Tibbits. Some old photos and post cards were brought to us by Jeanie Ritchie from the Perry Baldwin collection. A few pieces of silverware and some old photos were given by Lena Tucker-Thayer family and several old photos were brought to us by David Webster from the old Mill House in Canaan Village. A Bicentennial plate from 1961, 2 small dishes and a tooth pick holder with Canaan scenes, a 1923 newspaper, a 1894 photo of Shackfords Mill, a 1965 photo of John and Jim Ricard, some postcards and several Canaan Town Reports were given by Karen DeWolf Ricard. A bench from the little church in West Canaan, an old travis and some genealogy information on the Barney family was donated by Elsie Smith-Wilson.

A small ash shovel painted by Louise Stark was given by Nancy Snyder and some town reports were brought to us by Kathy Hill. A commemorative plate with St. Mary's and St. Helena's Churches on it and some small snap shots of the Canaan Fair from 1939 and 1952 were given by Myrtle Cooper.

Our Museum Historian, Donna Zani-Dunkerton has compiled several laser prints of Canaan pictures and other points of interest which she has added to our books. Our collection of art work is on display at the Canaan Town Library during the winter months and we hope to add more pieces when we open the 2009 season.

On Old Home Day weekend, Ken Cushing of Grafton was at the Museum with a very interesting display of photos and information about the Northern Railroad.

Now for an update on the snow roller-This fall another much needed coat of sealer was sprayed on the roller by Ken Lary and the fence around the shelter added to finish the project. Linda, Cindy, Amanda, Matt and Leela Tibbits constructed the fence in sections and installed it around the shelter. Special Thanks to these individuals for their time and labor. Also there was a nice article in The Laker about Dan Fleetham Sr and Donna Dunkerton-Zani and the Museum. There was a second article in The Laker of August by Kathi Caldwell-Hopper on Canaan's Noyes Academy. Finally we had a great article in Upper Valley Life on Noyes Academy written by Andy Diehn.

Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman
Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman
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