

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

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2010 Annual Report

The 2010 Season was a busy one at the museum. We opened on July 3 and closed on November 3, with several special openings. Our visitors from the area, across the country and abroad numbered 276. On Friday, June 4, we had 74 fourth graders "from Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers participate in our local observance of New Hampshire Day at the museum and the Old Meeting House. New Hampshire Day is a re-enactment of Colonial days where the students dressed for the occasion; They were 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. Our historian, Donna Zani-Dunkerton had another busy year doing research for families from West Virginia, Arizona, California, Washington, Texas, Florida New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She also put together copies of old photos and genealogy on Alton Webster, who was killed during the D-Day Normandy Invasion during World War II. Copies of old photos and genealogy were also prepared for Shirley Morrison of Clinton Connecticut. She is 86 years old and is the grand daughter of James Strain who owned large holdings of mica interests in Grafton, Groton and Orange. Mr. Strain also owned and operated the Canaan Inn from 1917 to 1940. The inn burned in 1977 and was located where the Canaan Post Office is today. Last spring two pillars were replaced on the front of the museum building along with a new floor for the upstairs porch. We owe a special thanks to historic society member John Bergeron for his efforts in coordinating this important project.

On July 19, the society presented a program on the Northern Railroad by Ken Cushing of Grafton with over 65 people in attendance. This program presented the early history of railroading in the area. Thanks also goes out to Dan Fleetham Jr. for producing and distributing an excellent flyer for the event. During the 2010 season our historian and secretary undertook a lengthy project. Donna Dunkerton and Carol Bergeron inventoried the entire collection of artifacts in the museum. We all owe a very special thanks to them for their many hours contributed to this undertaking. Again this year the society was given several items. A very nice display was brought to the museum by Stephen and Carolyn Freese.

The Norman Neily family donated another display case and numerous odds and ends of glassware. We received from the Brownell family of Danbury, NH a small souvenir booklet from the Canaan Center School. The booklet is dated 1921-22 and lists Irene Lynch as the teacher and our historical society president Dan Fleetham Sr. as one of her students. Our historian has compiled numerous clippings, laser prints of Canaan pictures and other items of interest which have been added to our archives. The year 2011 is important to Canaan and 11 other Middle Grant Towns in the Upper Valley. We were all chartered in 1761 and this summer we will celebrate 250 years in coordination with the Upper Valley 250 (UV 250) celebration. It was in August, 1911 that the old photos of our town fathers were placed in the entry of the Old North Church. They have hung there for almost a century and will have a fresh face for our 2010 Old Home Days.

It is hard to believe it has been 50 years since the Centennial in 1961. It was at that time the Historical Society and Museum were organized. The present Old Home Day Committee began their career in 1981 with a Street Dance on Depot Street that lasted all night! The music was provided by Charlie and the Tuners, who played on the porch of the former Roger Remacle home. Wouldn't it be great to hear Charlie and the gang again after 30 years? Although the New Hampshire History Day first began in May of 1984 at the Canaan Elementary School under the direction of Nancy Snyder, the 2011 event will be the 20th year the fourth graders have held their Colonial Reenactment Day in the Historic District at the Museum and the Old Meeting House. And it has been nearly 20 years since the Canaan High School Alumni Association was formed under the guidance of Gracie Stebbins and her merry band of helpers... Yes! Canaan will celebrate this summer. Come join us!

Respectfully submitted, Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman Carol Bergeron, Secretary Reggie Barney, Treasurer Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary

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

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2012 Annual Report

The 2012 Season was a busy one at the museum. We opened on Saturday, July 7, and closed on Sunday, October 27. Our visitors from the area, across the country and abroad numbered 336. On Friday, June 1, we had 69 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. We had several other special openings for families from New Hampshire, Maine, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, South Carolina and Texas seeking information and burial sites of their ancestors. On Monday, July 30, the society sponsored a program at the meeting house on the street. Author Marge Whittaker read excerpts from her book, "A Far Way Home", a novel set in the Mascoma Valley. The program was very well attended. The Museum was open on August 4th and 5th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday afternoon. We had more than 80 visitors during the weekend. Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Carol Bergeron and Carolyn Barney put in more than 200 hours this summer working on the Museum inventory. In addition, Donna spent many additional hours cleaning and scrubbing the cupboards and shelves.

Again, this year several items were presented to the society. Nate Harpootlian brought us a framed copy of an article on the Canaan Fire from June 1923. Pat Cutter of the Potter Place Museum donated a ribbon from Canaan's Indian River Grange dating back to the early 201 1900's. Ruth Carlson-Conwell gave us an old photo from the 1930's of Canaan High School entertainment and a C.H.S. newspaper called "Mt. Cardigan View" from 1935. The Larry Tibbits family donated a photo of the Canaan High School graduating class of 1930. The Canaan Historical Society president, Dan Fleetham, Sr., is pictured in the photo. The Tibbits family also gave us a wooden sign that came from "The Shoppe" of Carrie Miller; She was a dressmaker in Canaan during the 1880's. Tom Geoghegan made and donated a very nice display of 2 Bell Rope pulleys used in the Meeting House from 1851 until 1893 when the clock was installed. The clock was from the E. Howard Co., Boston-NewYork. It came with a 5 year guarantee and cost \$519.38. The Dorothy Chase family brought us a large Holy Bible, a Grafton County Gazetteer dated 1886, a Sears and Roebuck catalog 1886-1986, an old pair of eyeglasses, a Canaan bottle from 1906 and some grocery receipts from Eggleston's Store at Canaan Center. Effie WatsonBachand donated 2 eight oz. glasses which were given away by Vic Corno's Oil Co., in the 1950's Sharon of Crescent Campsites brought us a 2 by 3 foot shadow box and a box of Canaan Town Reports were given by Mark Torrey. All of these items have been added to our collection. It is interesting to know that we have more that 1,700 pieces of artifacts in our main room alone. The middle room is filled with historical articles and Canaan photos and our back room is the school room and art gallery. We are open from July-October. Please stop by and visit us during 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman

Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman

Carol Bergeron, Secretary

Reggie Barney, Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2013 Annual Report

The 2013 season brought 402 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the museum. We opened for the Summer on Saturday, July 6 and closed on Wednesday November 13, with several special openings. On April 13, a family from Warner, N.H. came to the museum looking for information on the Snow Trains from the 1930's and 40's and for photos of the train wreck of September 15, 1907. A group of students from Cardigan Mountain School along with their teachers visited us on May 18. We opened on Saturday May 25 for the Broadly Wedding held at the Meeting House. Fifty people signed our guestbook. On Friday, June 7, we had 78 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spend the 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. Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. It was Nancy B. Snyder who organized the first New Hampshire History Day held at the Canaan Elementary School on May 16, 1984. She taught in the local school district for over 40 years. We were open on Thursday, July 4, for the free cookout held at the Meeting house sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School.

On Tuesday, September 17, a group of Cardigan Mountain School students along with their advisors and other observers visited the museum. These young men received a history lesson from none other than our Town Administrator Mike Samson. On Saturday, September 21, a party of 9 Beacon Hill Scholars from Boston, MA spent the day with our historian, complete with a tour of Canaan Street. We had several other openings for families from Vermont, Arizona, Florida and California looking for gravesites and information on their ancestors. The summer program we sponsored in conjunction with the Canaan Town Library on Sunday, July 28 with Dan Billin of Lebanon giving a very interesting presentation on Noyes Academy. The program held at the Old Meeting House was attended by 75 people. 219 The museum was open on August 3rd and 4th for Canaan Old Home Days; Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his excellent display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday afternoon. We had more than 80 visitors during the weekend. Several ladies of the historical society spend countless hours again this summer working on the inventory.

The process of computerizing the Museum's collection has taken two years and is nearing completion. Again, this year several items have been presented to the Museum: A spinning wheel was given to us by the Marge Whittaker Family. The wheel belonged to Ruby Powell who lived on the "Height of the Land" for fifty years. Numerous town reports, 3 booklets on Camp Calumet, a booklet on Aircraft Recognition and a small dish with a Canaan scene were donated by Leona Fiske. Two very interesting signs were brought to us by the Roland Lemieux Family. One is a Canaan Fair sign and the other hung out in front of Eggleston's Store for more than 50 years and says "Canaan Center Post Office." The Eggleston family came here from Vermont in 1909 and purchased the store at Canaan Center. Another Canaan Fair sign was given to us by Johnny Thompson, a former Canaan boy 90 years young, who now lives in MA. Ellen Williams donated two photos of the Maurice Barney family and a picture of Kenny Watson. Several Canaan College booklets dating back to the 1960's, two photos of the Dane-Welch family and an old coffee pot were donated by the John Q. Adams family. Bobbie and Sherry Leonards of "Stone House" on Sawyer Hill donated two plows dating to the 1870's or earlier. It is interesting to know that we have more than 1,700 artifacts displayed in the main room or the museum. The middle room is filled with historical articles and Canaan photos and the back room is our school room and art gallery. We are open from July-October. Please stop by and visit us during our 2014 season.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel W. Fleetham Sr., Chairman
Edward Lary, Vice-Chairman
Carol Bergeron, Secretary
Reggie Barney, Treasurer
Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary

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

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2015 Annual Report

The 2015 Season brought 364 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 4th and closed on Sunday, November 1st. On May 20th a group from Vermont visited the museum looking for information on the Underground Railroad. On Friday, June 5th we had 73 fourth graders from Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spend the 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 at 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. To help celebrate the event this year the students were treated to a wagon ride from the museum to the Old North Church and back by Richard Vincent and Leroy Neily. The wagon was drawn by two Belgian work horses named "Red" and "Dolly". These beautiful animals and the wagon belong to Mr. Vincent. This was the highlight of the day and we would like to thank Richard and Leroy for their time and generosity. We were open for the free cookout at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was plenty of good food and a great turn out.

The Historical Society hosted two summer programs, both of which were held at the Meeting House on Canaan Street: On July 22nd Steve Taylor of Meriden spoke on "New Hampshire's Love-Hate Relationship with it's Agricultural Fairs. On August 19th, Bill Spaulding of West Canaan gave a talk on "The Glory Days of Logging on the Androscoggin, Another Time, a Different Era." Both of these programs were very interesting and well attended. We were open August 1st and 2nd for Canaan's Old Home Days. A group of Alumni from the Canaan College days spent Saturday afternoon touring the Museum and Meeting House and enjoyed light refreshments while recalling their college days. The Museum as open on October 6th, 9th, 15th and 30th for classes from Cardigan Mountain School. These students paired together, studied our 217 artifacts and history articles and put together their own scavenger hunt.

We were also open on the evening of October 22nd for Cardigan Mountain School for an event hosted by them at the Meeting House. We had several visitors during the evening. For a fund raiser this year our Historian, Donna Zani-Dunkerton put together a calendar for 2016 using photos of old Canaan business establishments from the 1940', 50's and 60's. They went on sale and 125 calendars have been sold. Great job Donna! Last year John Bergeron and Donna Zani-Dunkerton submitted an application to the State of New Hampshire for a historical marker on Noyes Academy. The marker arrived on October 30th and has been erected near Canaan Street in front of the Museum. Please stop by and see it when you are in the area. Several of our committee members have continued to work with our Historian on cataloging our collection. After 5 long years and the skill of Carol Bergeron and her computer, each artifact in the Museum now has a number. Thank you Carol! Again this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following donors: Sonya Carter, Nancy Loomis, Sue Marcoulier, Swanton Historical Society, Bill Spaulding, Kevin and Ken Lary, Jim and Nancy Dolliver, Wallace Andrew, Francis Taussig, Ellen Williams, Earl "Bucky" Smith, Robert Wotton, Carole and Ted Fontaine, Paula Young, Dan Fleetham Jr. and Shirley Lester. A special thank you to all of these people. We have for sale reprint hardbound copies of the 1910 History of Canaan by J. B. Wallace. Cost is \$76.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Please a contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton for more information and to purchase the book.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham Jr.-President Ann Wadsworth, Vice-President Carol Bergeron, Secretary Reggie Barney, Treasurer Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary We are open from July to October. Please stop by and visit us during our 2015 Season.

Canaan Historical Society and Museum 2016 Annual Report

The 2016 Season brought 331 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 2nd and closed on Sunday, November 6th with several special openings. On March 9th our Historian spent the day with Brian and Nancy Vawter and their photographs of Portsmouth, N.H. The Vawters are film makers from Atlantic Media Productions. They are interested in the Noyes Academy Story. In May a group from the Boston area visited the Museum and Old Meeting House. They were also looking for information on Noyes Academy and the Underground Railroad in Canaan. On Friday, June 3rd, we had 67 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spend the day at the Museum and Old Meeting House in observance of New Hampshire Historical Day. This is a re-enactment of the Colonial Days and the students dress for the occasion. They are very interested in the artifacts 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. New Hampshire History Day began at the Canaan Elementary School in May of 1984. This is the 25th year the event has taken place in the Canaan Historic District. Our summer program was held at the Old Meeting House on July 13th with a presentation on the history of "Stone Walls" by Canaan resident Bill McDonald. It was an interesting evening with a large crowd. We were open for the free cookout held at the Old Meeting House on July 16th. This was co-sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was plenty of good food and a real turn out.

The Museum was open on August 6th and 7th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his excellent display of Northern Railroad photos on Saturday. We also had a display made by Bill Spaulding of West Canaan. This exhibit was of the Brown Company of Berlin, N.H., depicting logging life along the Androscoggin in the 1800s. We had a total of 70 visitors to the Museum over the weekend. 224 The Museum and Old Meeting House were open in October for classes from Cardigan Mountain School. These students studied our historic artifacts and articles and put together their own scavenger hunt at the Museum. Our historian, Donna Zani-Dunkerton compiled a calendar for 2016 using photos of old Canaan businesses from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. All 135 Calendars have been sold. Again this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following Donors: John Roberts, Jr. The Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society, Mark Torrey, Leona Fiske, Brian Robbins, Daryl Robbins, Vivian Hadley and Barbara F. Steward. A special thank you to all these people.

On September 7th, Judge Daniel W. Fleetham, Sr. our long-time President, passed away. He devoted over 25 years to giving leadership to the Historical Society and will be sorely missed. We have for sale reprint hardbound copies of the 1910 History of Canaan by J. B. 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 November. Please stop by and visit us

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham Jr.-President

Ann Wadsworth, Vice-President

Vacant, Secretary

Reggie Barney, Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton, Historian and Corresponding Secretary

Canaan Historical Society, Curators and Museum 2017 Annual Report

The 2017 season brought 342 visitors from the area, across the country and from abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 1st, 2017 and closed on Wednesday, November 8, with several special openings. May 18th, we had a group of home schooled kids looking for information on the Underground Railroad. On Friday, June 2nd, we had 76 fourth graders from the Canaan Elementary School along with their teachers and volunteers spend the 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 at 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. To help celebrate the event this year the students were treated to a wagon ride from the museum to the old North Church and back by Richard Vincent and Leroy Neily. The wagon drawn by two beautiful Belgian work horses belongs to Mr. Vincent. This was the highlight of the day for the kids. We would like to thank Richard and Leroy for their time and generosity. We were open on July 15th, for the free cookout at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. There was a dog show, musical entertainment, good food and a great turn out of people (196).

Our summer program sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities was held at the Meeting House on July 19th. Our guest speaker was Thomas Hubka of Oregon and Maine. His talk on Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn was interesting and well attended. We were open on August 4th, 5th and 6th for Canaan Old Home Days. In spite of the weather we had 62 visitors over the weekend. For the month of August we had a hand carved miniature display made by Bill Spaulding of West Canaan. This exhibit depicts "Logging Life" on the Androscoggin River a century ago. We hope to have it back next season. Please stop by and see this great exhibit. Our Historian was busy this summer assisting families looking for information on burial sites of their ancestors. Several prints and items relating the Canaan history have been added to our binders.

Last winter the Historic Society members agreed to pursue the restoration of all twenty two wood framed windows on the museum building. We have been discussing this since 2010 when the structural work to the front porch was completed. The 12 by 12 sash windows are currently in very poor condition and have seen little or no repair in half a century. John Bergeron, Andrew Cushing and Donna Zani-Dunkerton have been writing grants to fund this much needed project. In October we had two classes from Cardigan Mountain School visit the Museum and Meeting House. Although many of these students are from outside the United States they are very interested in our local history. Historian Donna Zani-Dunkerton and Carol Bergeron continued to work on cataloging our museum collection. The Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan history from the following donors: Robert Switzer, Earl "Bucky" Smith, Orange Historic Commission, Suzan and Chappy Kilgore, Leona Fiske, Donna RicardAllen, the late Dan Fleetham, Sr., Dan Fleetham, Jr., and Phyllis Decato-Lee. A special Thank You goes to all these donors.

It is interesting to know that we have more than 2,000 artifacts displayed in the main room of the Museum. The middle room is filled with 197 historical newspaper clippings and binders as well as Canaan photos. The back room functions as our school room and art gallery. We have for sale a hardbound reprint of the 1910 History of Canaan by J. B. Wallace. The cost is \$75.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Please contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton for more information and to purchase a reprint. She can be reached at (603) 523-7960.

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Fleetham, Jr.- President Ann Wadsworth- Vice-President Tamara Fairbank- Secretary Reggie Barney- Treasurer
Donna Zani-Dunkerton – Historian/Corresponding Secretary The Museum is open from July to November. Please stop by and visit us during our 2018 season

Canaan Historical Society, Curators and Museum 2018 Annual Report

The 2018 Season brought 412 visitors from the area, across the country and abroad to the Museum. We opened on Saturday, July 7th, 2018 and closed on Thursday, November 29th, 2018 with several special openings. The Museum was open both Saturday and Sunday the entire Summer. In May, we had a group from Cardigan Mountain School make a special visit to the Museum seeking information on Cardigan Mountain and the history of the first tower built in 1904. In June two families from Washington and Oregon spent the day with our Town Historian locating gravestones and cellar holes. On Friday, June 1st, 2018 a total of 76 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 the history of Canaan. Next Year, 2019, will be the 35th Anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. It was Nancy-Bailey-Snyder who organized the first New Hampshire History Day on May 17, 1984. She taught in our school district for over 40 years. The highlight of the day is the wagon ride from the Meeting House to the Old North Church and back by Richard Vincent and his two beautiful Belgian work horses. Mr. Vincent will join us next year for the 35th Annual NH History Day. We would like to thank Richard for his time and generosity. We were open on July 20th for the free cookout held at the Meeting House sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association and Cardigan Mountain School. 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 25th, Paul Wainwright of Atkinson spoke on "New England's Colonial Meeting 212 Houses." This program was made possible through a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. On September 5th, Pamela Weeks of Auburn presented a program on "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell." Both programs were very interesting and well attended. On August 4th and 5th we were open for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up his display of Northern Railroad photographs on Saturday afternoon. During the weekend we had 44 Visitors at the Museum. October 18th, a class of 20 students along with their teachers from Cardigan Mountain School spent the morning with our Historian. After a history meeting at the Meeting House, they were the last group to view the Quilt exhibit before it was taken down that afternoon. They also did a scavenger hunt at the Museum, which proved to be very interesting. Considering none of these young men had ever been in the Museum before, they did quite well. Again, this year the Museum was presented with several pieces of Canaan History from the following families: Karen Ricard, Kevin Lary and Jami Wallace. Our window project is well underway. We have twelve windows done and put back in the building with the other twelve being worked on this 213 winter. Some of these came out easy, while others did not and when it came to putting them back well, that's a different story. We would like to thank our contractor, Arch, and John Bergeron for the countless hours they labored on the windows. These men worked on the hottest days of summer and the coldest days of early winter. We are in hopes of having this project completed by June 2019.

The highlight of 2018 was the quilt display at the Meeting House: "And Still We Rise." The 34 quilts in this exhibit were created by the members of the Women of Color Quilters Network. They tell the story of the African-American experience beginning with the arrival of the first slaves in the 1600s, and they depict both celebrated milestones and lesser known faces and facts. The show was originally organized by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum. The Women of Color Quilters Network was founded in 1985 by Dr. Carolyn L. Mazloomi. The average age of the networks' members is 72. It was Karla Hostetler, Director of Peterborough's Mariposa Museum that brought the quilts to New Hampshire. She is managing the New England leg of the tour. 214 It was the history of the Underground Railroad and the story of Noyes Academy, the first upper level co-ed school in the United States to open its doors to African-Americans, that brought the quilt exhibit to Canaan. What better place could there be. We want to thank Karla Hostetler, John Bergeron, Donna Zani-Dunkerton and the many volunteers that made this quilt show possible. Between September 1st and October 18th, a total of 1,088 people visited the quilt exhibit. We have for sale a hardbound reprint of the 1910 History of Canaan by James B. Wallace. The cost is \$75.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Please contact Donna Zani-Dunkerton for more information and to purchase the reprint. She can be reached at (603) 523-7960.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham, Jr. – President

Ann Wadsworth – Vice-President

Tina Lemoi – Secretary

Reggie Barney – Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton – Historian/Corresponding Secretary

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