

WELCOME



The Old North Church

Canaan Street
Canaan, New Hampshire



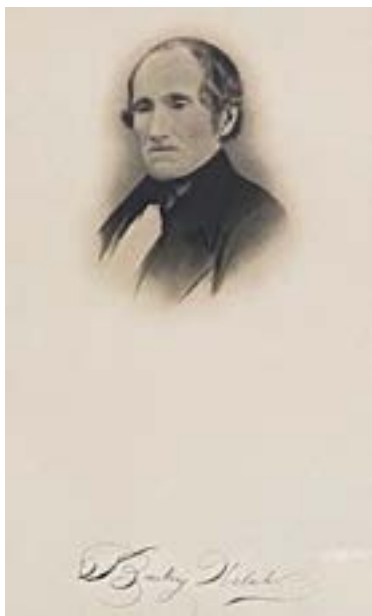
The Old North Church is a home for worship, marriage, and wonderful musical performances. While having no electricity, heat, or restrooms, it continues to offer a wonderful space for special services.



Rev. Amos Foster appears to have been the most popular minister for the Church. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he preached from 1825-1833. It soon became evident of the need for a dedicated church building – not one shared with other groups in town. “The house was built in 1828 and dedicated in January, 1829”. “The church was paid for from the sale of the pews, as the Baptists had done.”* Foster attracted approximately 88 members. The Church was built in 1828 by Bailey Welch, who was paid \$100 for his services. By an act of the State Legislature, the First Congregational Society of Canaan was incorporated June 20, 1829. The congregation went through several visiting and hired ministers. Because they were a small group, it was difficult to attract and pay a decent salary to a minister.

In 1904, having been closed for 35 years, the interior of the present building was restored. In August of that year, and each year since, an annual service has been held in the building. To conform to the requirements of the State Legislature, the First Congregational Society of Canaan was dissolved, and The Old North Church of Canaan, New Hampshire was incorporated July 16, 1975. *

**Selected excerpts borrowed from: The History of Canaan New Hampshire, by William Allen Wallace*



Picture of Bailey Welch,
A builder of the Church

William Wallace, in his book *The History of Canaan New Hampshire*, wrote that Bailey fell from the church steeple and lived for many years after!

Several founding members of the Old North Church were also founders of The Noyes Academy – the first secondary school in the U.S. open to African American students. Notable founders: Nathaniel Currier, George Kimball, Samuel Noyes, John Harris, and George Walworth.

Please view the historical marker located in front of the Canaan Museum to learn more about The Noyes Academy and its students.



The Sanctuary of the Church



A Board of Church Directors meets to continue maintenance of the church building, and to continue the annual service held the first Sunday of August, coinciding with Canaan's Old Home Days.

Directors of The Old North Church

Richard & Charlotte Abington

Roger & Susie Baldwin

Dale & Bobbi Barney

Patricia Brown

John & Elizabeth Jutila

Nancy Loomis

Joanne Miller

Bob & Susan Nero

Ken Munsey

Mike & Keith Roy

Pam Webster