

Canaan Historical Society

2021 Annual Report

The 2021 season brought 189 visitors from the area, across the country, and abroad to the museum. We opened on Saturday, July 3rd and closed on Friday, October 15th, with several special openings.

This year the Society requested that masks be worn in the museum. We had masks available for our visitors that needed them.

In May we were open for a group from the Boston Area. They were seeking information on the Underground Railroad and the Noyes Academy.

Due to Covid-19 the fourth graders from Canaan Elementary School were unable to celebrate New Hampshire History Day this year at the museum and the Meeting House in June. Our historians compiled 30 old photos, and information on Canaan, for the students as one of their projects for the day. They were sent along to the teacher Kim Harvey at the Canaan Elementary School for a most interesting event. This year marks the 37th anniversary of New Hampshire History Day. Let us hope the fourth grade class can join us next June.

Also due to Covid-19 the students from Cardigan Mountain School did not visit the museum this summer.

We were open for the events held at the Meeting House that were sponsored by the Canaan Street Lake Association. There were several entertaining things and a great turn out for their annual dog show.

We had numerous people visit us this summer that had recently moved to Canaan. They were looking for old photos and information on their newly acquired property.

We were open August 6th, 7th, and 8th for Canaan Old Home Days. Ken Cushing of Grafton set up a display of the Northern Railroad photographs on Saturday afternoon. The Northern Railroad ran the route from Concord, New Hampshire to White River Junction, Vermont. The photos showed stations, train wrecks, floods, etc. along the route. The first train that passed through Canaan on Monday, November 17th, 1847 carried famous politician Danial Webster.

We were open on October 2nd, for a professor and several of his students from Dartmouth College. They were looking for information on the Underground Railroad and the Noyes Academy. They got a history lesson

from our historians at the Meeting House, visited the Museum, got a tour of the street, and went to the old North Church with Sara Dunkerton.

We were open October 4th for 20 members of the Pillsbury family who had come from 5 states to have a family reunion. They were here nearly 20 years ago and had returned to celebrate the 77th birthday for Homer Pillsbury. They visited the Meeting House, the museum, the Canaan Street Cemetery, and the West Canaan Cemetery where they have family buried before 1800. The highlight of the day was going to the old North Church where they got to sit in the Pillsbury pew with the family name on the pew doors.

On October 15th, we were open for our town administrator Mike Samson and his college friend Chris from Cincinnati, Ohio who had not been back to Canaan for more than 50 years.

This season the historical society did not sponsor any programs due to Covid-19.

Please stop by and visit us next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fleetham, Jr. – President

Ann Wadsworth – Vice-President

Tina Lemoi – Secretary

Deb Tenney – Treasurer

Donna Zani-Dunkerton –

Historian/Corresponding

Secretary

