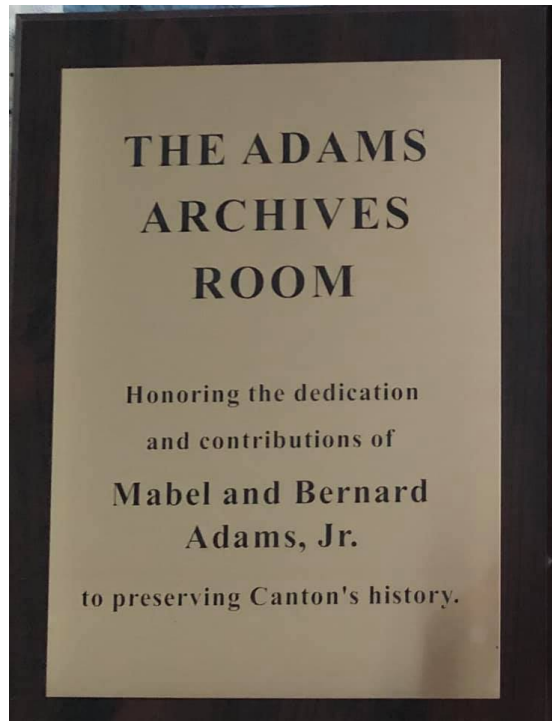




# CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

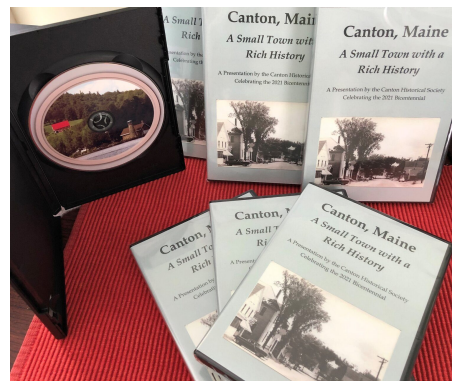
## News and Updates

In December 2020 the Historical Society lost two of its long serving members, Bob and June Stevens. Bob and June had served on the board for many years and were instrumental in preserving the history of Canton. A plaque was installed in the entryway of the Historical Society in their memory.



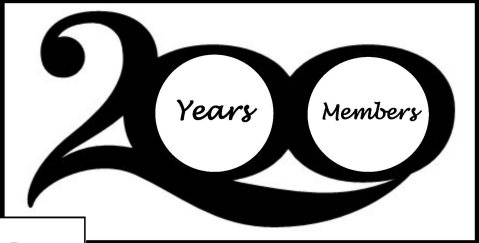
A plaque was also installed honoring Mabel and Bernard Adams, Jr for their contributions to honoring Canton's history.

The Canton Historical Society has released its new DVD, *Canton, Maine: A Small Town with a Rich History*. Members of the society spent over a year working on this project. It can be purchased from the online store, where other products from the Country Store can also be purchased. Check out the store here: <https://www.cantonmehistory.org/shop>. The Historical Society has also re-opened to the public, so come in and see us on Saturdays, 12-4!



## Membership Drive

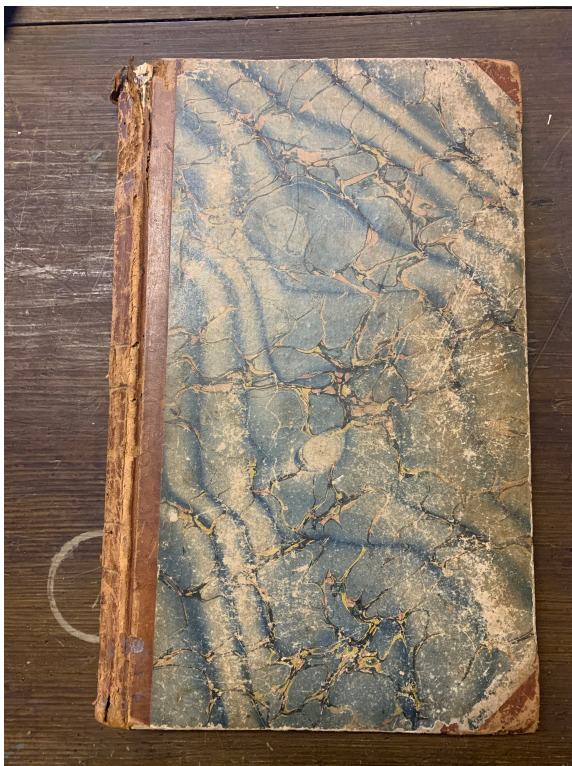
What does membership mean? Becoming a member is as simple as sending in your \$10 dues, but after that membership is what you make of it. \$10 a year is helpful in supporting our mission to preserve Canton's history, and if that's all you can do, that's great! There is also plenty of opportunity to become involved. You can attend monthly meetings, volunteer on the Collections Committee to work with the collection, work in the Country Store, and serve on the Board of Directors. More information about membership can be found on our website here: <https://www.cantonmehistory.org/join-us>. As of April 2021, we have 96 members, 48% of our goal.



As the Town of Canton celebrates its 200th year, the Historical Society wants to commemorate Canton's history, by having 200 members by the end of the year—one for each year of Canton's history.

Becoming a member is as simple as sending in dues of \$10.00. By doing so you are helping support our mission to preserve Canton's history.

A check payable to Canton Historical Society can be mailed to P.O. Box 605, Canton, ME 04221. Or visit us at [www.CantonMEHistory.org](http://www.CantonMEHistory.org) and pay online.



Ira Reynolds' ledger and diary, 1848-1869

## From the Collection

This ledger kept by Ira Reynolds provides insight into the daily lives of Canton residents in the mid-19th century. The beginning is a diary kept by Reynolds where he documents the events around town and nationally, including the weather, town meetings, and the results of the presidential election. Later, the ledger turns into a cash book documenting financial transactions with people around town.

Ira was a farmer who lived on what is now the River Road, not far from the town line with Peru. He was born in 1807, when Canton was still part of the town of Jay, and was the grandson of Peter Austin, an early settler of Canton. His wife, Nancy, was a member of the Coolidge family. He eventually moved to Dixfield to live with his daughter, dying there in 1898 at the age of 91.

You can read more about Ira on WikiTree here: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Reynolds-2480>. And come in to see the ledger on Saturdays, 12-4.

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Canton Maine Historical Society