



CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

News and Updates

The bell is home! At the old historical society building a large bell sat out front on the lawn for many years. The bell had originally hung in the Universalist Church before being moved to the ground when the belfry was removed. Since the church was torn down and the old Grange / Mason Hall was moved onto the site, the bell has been stored by Board members Julie Martin and Mac Ray, at different points. This summer Rene Ouellette, husband of CHS President, Phyllis Ouellette, built the new gazebo on the side of the historical society. On June 12th, the bell was returned and a small gathering was held to celebrate the return of the bell. Pictured are President Phyllis Ouellette speaking with Doug Culver, as well as Vice President Rob Marshall, Board member Mac Ray, and members of the community who attended the event.



Members of the historical society have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Bicentennial celebrations from August 5th to August 8th. See the schedule of events at their website here: [https://www.1821canton2021.org/.](https://www.1821canton2021.org/)

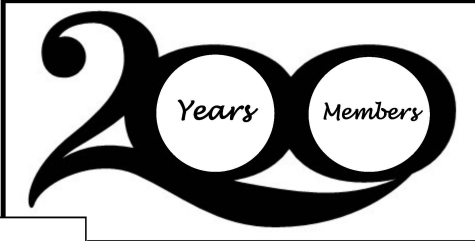


The Historical Society will be open from 11:00AM to 5:00PM on Friday and Saturday, and from 10:00AM to 3:00PM on Sunday. On Thursday, August 5th, the Bicentennial Committee will be hosting a Founders' Dinner, which will feature a presentation of historical items assembled and researched by the Historical Society. On Friday our very own Rob Marshall and Sam Howes will be tour guides on trolley tours around Canton. The Museum at the Historical Society will feature some special displays, including those items presented at the Founders' Dinner. We hope you can join us for this special celebration!

The Country Store will be featuring special items for the Bicentennial weekend, and we will be selling raffle tickets for a special quilt featuring historic images of Canton made by a Canton resident. Pictured on the left is a sneak peak of the quilt.

Membership Drive

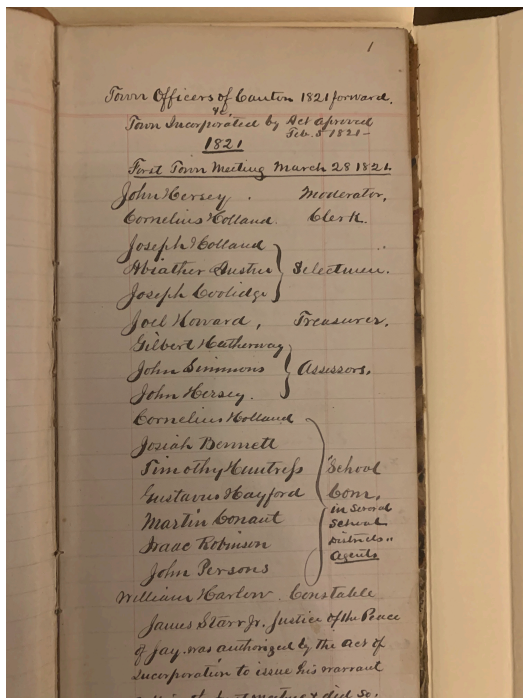
What does membership mean? Becoming a member is as simple as sending in your \$10 dues, but after that membership is what you make of it. \$10 a year is helpful in supporting our mission to preserve Canton's history, and if that's all you can do, that's great! There is also plenty of opportunity to become 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 July 2021, we have 101 members, 50% 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 and pay online.



First page of Canton town record abstracts, 1821, showing the first elected officers.

From the Collection

CHS recently received a generous donation from a former Canton resident that included many old ledgers and record books. The majority of the books were from Hiram A. Ellis and Gideon Ellis, both Canton residents. Hiram Ellis served as town clerk for many years, and one of the projects he worked on was creating an abstract of town records from 1821 to 1883. This book documents a number of town meetings, elections of town officers, and information about roads and school districts. It's a great record full of information!

Also included in the gift was a rather unique record book from the Jay Point Social Library. The book shows records of who checked out certain books, when they were returned, and even when they were fined for late returns. The book starts in 1819 and continues through the 1820s.

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Find us on  Canton Maine Historical Society