

Canton Church Restoration

2021 Seventh Grade History Field Trip

The 2021 Seventh Grade History Field Trip was the 4th annual event (2020 was cancelled due to Covid 19) starting in 2017.

Canton Church Restoration, Inc. invites the seventh grade students to a history field trip at the Canton Church because the seventh grade students are studying Montana history.

History Teachers David Lawson and Mara McDonald accompanied the students along with Townsend Schools superintendent Susie Hedalon. Over 40 students made the trip.

The students were given a short presentation on the history of the Canton Church then a presentation on the history of Broadwater County focusing on the historic Communities and Towns in Broadwater County.

Afterwards Canton Church Restoration fed the attendees a hamburger/hotdog and chips, cookies and water lunch outside. The students then visited the historic Saint Joseph Cemetery (the original Canton Valley Cemetery).

On the way back to town the students stopped at the historic Centerville Cemetery.

Mr. Lawson asked the students for a write up on what they learned on the field trip. Below is a picture of the students and the 22 responses he received.



The Townsend Schools 2021 Seventh Grade Class Accompanied by history Teachers Mr. David Lawson, Mrs. Mara Macdonald and Townsend Schools Superintendent Susie Hedalen.

Thank you

Caleb Swanson

I learned a lot on that field trip. I really liked the church and the glass. The fact that a city had 10,000 people in it at that time was really cool to me. I learned a lot about Canton. Thank you for the burgers and hotdogs. I really enjoyed the hotdogs the 3rd time I went through the line! My dad is writing a story about cowboys and stuff and he said he'd like to have it so that the cowboys could help build the church and everything. He also said he would like to talk to you guys about the history of this area and stuff. His name is Cory Swanson, you might know him he's the county attorney for Broadwater county. Thank you so much for letting us come I really enjoyed it.

Thank you

I learned that it is a very old church and has gone through a rough time and that diamond city is no longer standing.

Dear Canton Church Restoration Foundation it was a pleasure to be there to learn about the church and more of Montana history. I did really enjoy being there learning more about your county and the church. Some examples of things that I learned was that there was a town named cantan where the lake covers. Also I didn't know the back area was where the priest lived when he was there.

I can't believe that the church would have been flooded and destroyed if we the people back then didn't move it. It was a privilege to learn more about this. So Thank You for teaching me and the other 7th graders more of Montana history and the history of the cantan church. Also another thing thank you especially for cooking us lunch, the burgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, water was really good. Not much people that have presentation that I have been to cook us lunch so thank you for everything so much.

Some things I learned at the Canton church was that Radersburg used to be the state capital. That diamond was a humongous town and that more than 10,000 people lived there and then it was a ghost town and completely abandoned. When people visit there you can't even tell it was a town where absolutely nothing is there. There is tons more that I learn but these are the top 2 and that I love to learn about. Thank you for giving us your time and for teaching us a lot of things. There are more things that I learned. The youngest person who died in the cemetery was less than a day old. It was sad but also interesting.

Things I learned from your great presentation was that Diamond City used to be a city. I always thought that there was only a cemetery and that was the name only. Apparently it used to be a city with almost 10,000 people. If it was still here today it would be the 10th biggest city in Montana. Also that some people got drunk and everything and they were Radersburg. So everybody was saying that it was a fine city, with very fine people, so they said let's make Radersburg the capital. The next day they just went on their way to make Helena the Capital. So that is some things I learned for your presentation. Thank you for inviting us and feeding us and showing us things about our community that we didn't know about.

Dear Canton Church Restoration Foundation it was a pleasure to be there to learn about the church and more of Montana history. I did really enjoy being there learning more about your county and the church. Some examples of things that I learned was that there was a town named cantan where the lake covers. Also I didn't know the back area was where the priest lived when he was there.

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Dear Canton Church Restoration Foundation on the field trip to The Canton Church I learned alot about the history of the church, Montana history, and the history of Broadwater County. I learned that the town Canton was flooded by the lake and it was never an actual town. I also learned that there was a town called diamond city that had a population of around 2,000 to 10,000 people. I also learned a lot about the history of Broadwater County. I would also like to thank you for the opportunity to see the church and learn about its history. I would also like to thank you for the food that you provided.

Sincerely,
Justis Moran

Thank you

For teaching us all about the church and the old towns like hogem, cheatem and beatem.
And I want to thank you for the burgers and the hot dogs and cookies. I want to irradiated thank
you for that and all the information on diamond city and radersburg and canton the city and
church.

I learned that the canton church was moved from Canton to where it is now before the town was flooded. A bunch of the people moved from other places to Montana because of the gold. I also learned that diamond city was huge but only lasted a couple of years because there was no more gold, and that Townsend was built here because of a railroad. I also learned that Townsend had a circus and a shoe store. Thank you for bringing me to the canton church. I learned a lot about the history and provided me with lunch. It was very fun, and I learned how valuable the church was.

Some of the things I learned is that the population of diamond city used to be higher then Townsend at a whopping 10,000 people. While Townsend is only around 2,000. I also learned that raidersburg used to be the capital of montana. Also that we were home to a lot of gold. I also learned that the canton got swept away because of a flood but the church was preserved. Also thank you for all the food the scavenger hunt and letting us use the church I hope you guys do this again.

What I learned was that there has been a charity for rebuilding the church, and as the years go on the church will get older and older but the reason why I am writing about things is because it probably meant a lot to you guys and as the years go on it will be a better place. Who knows it might attract some people who come to our town

And it will bring a lot of people to our town and who knows maybe we will add more buildings. So as the years go on maybe people will stop vandalizing the church. And when the signs get rebuilt maybe we can have a contest of who can draw it better and we get candy for the winners.

I learned about so much stuff I didn't know. One was the history of Hassel and how the name was a draw and the last voter went against his own friend. Also the History of Canton was really interesting and how the church will be 150 in 2025. It truly was a really good subject talking about Winston and the back to back earthquake. Thank you for teaching us all about Montana History in depth. Thank you From Pierce.

Dear Cantin Church,

Thank you so much for teaching us about the churches history and Broadwater county's history. I learn so much about it. I learned that I live where cheat ' em I believe was. I've only lived in townsend for a year on November 1st. I love history. Centerville (where it used to be) is like not very far from my house along where Springville used to be. I didn't know that so many towns where gold mining towns. I knew that Cantin was in the lake but I didn't know it affected so many people. I learned so much. Thank you for feeding us and every thing else you did too.

- Ava Tiffany

To: Canton Church

I learned a lot from what you were saying in the church. I thought it was really fascinating when you told us that the colored glass windows were originally built with the church but I still had one question. If you guys put boards around the other windows that didn't have color so people didn't try to break in easily then why don't y'all put boards around the colored windows? But yeah I thought what y'all talked about was really fascinating and the fact that a drunk guy said radersburg was the capital of montana for a night I thought that was kinda funny.

Something I found really interesting was how people would come and try to steal something, but the thing is it was a little weird how no one tried to steal the floor boards or the seats in the Canton Church. Normally in something abandoned someone would try to steal seats or glass from windows or even the floor boards. I am very thankful for all of you guys working together to feed me and the other 7th graders. Thank you for letting us go up to the sematary. I thought it was really fascinating but also sad that there were a lot of people that died. I think in the sematary someone from world war 2 got buried in the sematary.

Thank You, Maddie

Dear Canton Church board

The other day I learned alot about the county I live in. I didn't know that our country had one of the biggest cities in the U.S. That is awesome. I didn't know that Radersburg was big enough to have suburbs. I found the whole field trip to be amazing. I hope we can come back when it gets a little warmer.

Thank you

Sincerely, Carver

P.s. friends call me cramer.

Dear canton church

I learned alot from what you said yesterday. I did not know Diamond city was once the largest city in Montana. Also I learned that the dam caused the church to be moved up the hill. I also didn't know that winston had a cemetery. I learned that the cemetery is also moved up with the church so graves didn't get washed away. I also want to thank you for the cheeseburger, chips, cookies and water. What you taught me will help me alot over the next couple years.

Landen

The canton church came from the town of canton. Canton itself is now flooded from the dam that was built. Canton wasn't the only town in Montana that has ended. Centerill decided to disband when the railroad was making a station in what is townsend. Many gold rush boom and bust towns shaped Montana as well one being the huge Diamond city with a possible 10,000 citizens. While the miners were glorified, the one that really brought in money were the ones that equipped the miners with gear.

Thank you for the opportunity to let us go to the canton church and learn all about the history of Montana and broadwater county. My favorite historical story would probably be about how people came to know radersburg was the capital of Montana without any historical record of it being so. I'm very grateful for the cheeseburgers and chips. They were delicious as well as the cookies. So thank you for this opportunity and I hope you will be able to do it again next year.

Canton Church Restoration Foundation-

Thank you for hosting 7th grade at the Canton Church and teaching us all about the church and Montana. Also, thank you for giving us food afterward. The hamburgers and hot dogs were delicious!

I learned about topics from the flooding of Canton and the creation of Townsend, to Diamond City and the Gold Rush that constructed and destroyed towns. Also, I learned about weird town names like: Hog'em, Beat'em, and Cheat'em. I learned so much, thank you!

-A 7th Grade Student

The field trip i did on the history of the church and the history of broadwater county.This field trip i learned about the towns like diamond city radersburg centerville and how the capital was chosen for montana.it was cool because i got to learn that townsend was made pretty much from the railroad and townsend cool facts like the first hotel,all the buildings that are there. And how the whole towns and montana were started by gold mining.we got to go to a old canton church and to learn the history on it was cool like it was vandalized a lot but they continued to remodel and make it nice,also they moved the church from canton because they dam made the valley flood creating canyon ferry lake.

This was a really cool field trip not including the delicious burgers and hot dogs they kindly served us,but the cool history of where i live and the canton church.

Thank you for inviting us to the Canton Church and teaching us about Broadwaters history. It was interesting that Raidersburg used to be the capital of Montana. Also thank you for feeding us.

Canton Church Restoration Foundation,

Thank you for the amazing opportunity to visit the Canton Church and the delicious food. I learned a lot about the church such as it was originally a community center, The priests would stay in the back of the church and that some of the things in the church were original to the church. I also learned what counties Broadwater countie came from. I also learned that most of main street hasn't changed much. I didn't know that the railroad decided for Townsend to be a town or that Winston was a major town that was very interesting to learn.

- Sarah

Hello and thank you for having us it was a lot of kids so what i learned from the field trip was that greedy people wanted gold so everyone when to get the gold and left when they couldn't find it but there was a town canton and people build a dam flooding canton and then they move most of the building higher up and that is how the church got there and the cemetery canton was left forever and now there is nothing left of it at luach the food was delicious and i mean it after lunch we went to the cemetery and the youngest was a day old when we were done with the cemetery we went to the canton town there was really nothing there but then we went to another cemetery and the youngest was die at birth and she was a twin and he bie at a day and thay had an older brother he die at six and that is sad but it is history and that what counts dut thank you so much for having us feeding us and teaching us.