



WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Holiday Membership Newsletter



Message from the president

When it is safe for all of us to be together, we look forward to seeing you again. Thank you for your continued membership and support. Please send in the form at the bottom of this newsletter to renew for 2021.

Yours for preserving Wilmot's history, *Liz Kirby*



Annual Meeting Postponed

Because of COVID19, the annual meeting of the Wilmot Historical Society is postponed until such time as it is safe to meet in person. Meanwhile, we thought we would catch you up on what has happened during 2020.

Curiosity Shop Report – Lindy Heim

Lindy Heim continues to store treasures in her barn for each year's Curiosity Shop staged at the Wilmot Farmers Market. On a lovely Saturday in September 2020, volunteers assisted with setting up the Shop and serving our loyal customers. We netted over \$1,000 just in that one day. The total, so far, for the year is \$1210. These monies are put towards digitizing our collection and especially supporting our video interviews that are posted on the Memories of Wilmot webpage.

Boston Post Cane

History: In 1909, Mr. Edwin A. Grozier, publisher of the *Boston Post*, gave to the Board of Selectmen in 700 New England towns (no cities included) a gold-headed ebony cane. He requested that it be presented with the compliments of the *Boston Post* to the oldest male citizen of the town to be used by him as long as he lives (or moves from the town). At the recipient's death, the cane, which would still belong to the town, would be handed down to the next oldest citizen.

In 1930, after considerable controversy, eligibility for the cane was opened to women as well.



Sadly, our Boston Post Cane holder, Ann Davenport, (above) passed away last spring, and we are currently trying to identify the oldest person living in Wilmot who would like to receive this honor.

Acquisitions Committee Report – Catherine Stearns

In 2020, we started a project of "virtually cataloging" all of the objects in our historical collection. Each piece will include a photo accompanied with its description and available history. We started photographing and labeling the collection last March. In addition to the online information, we are creating an information box of written cards to benefit those visiting the History Room. Similar to the rest of the country we shut down the project when the Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic forced the Town Offices to lock down. Our plans include continuing our project as soon as we are safely able to do so. Our goal continues to provide ease of access online for all those interested.

Membership

Anyone sending in their membership dues before the end of December will automatically be paid up for 2021. We are considering moving the membership year to start on January 1 each year and go through December 31 of that year. This would have to be done through a change in the by-laws to be official.



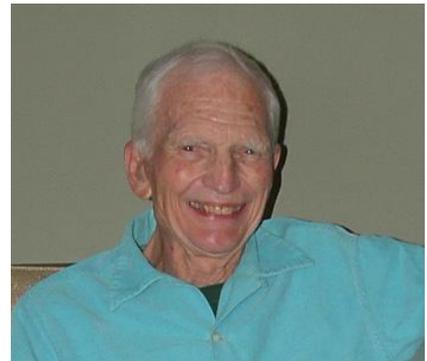
Driving Tours

Four 2007 Wilmot Bicentennial **town driving tours (North Wilmot, Wilmot Center, Wilmot Flat, and Mt. Kearsarge)** have been updated and posted on the front page of our website for friends and family to download and enjoy. Kearsarge Mountain and North Wilmot both had very early settlements. However, the swift-running streams in Wilmot Center and Wilmot Flat were able to power mills, and they became the centers of population. The tours and their maps are posted on the front page of our website ready to be downloaded and printed at **wilmothistoricalsociety.org**. While on the Wilmot Center tour, stop

in the Bunker Hill Cemetery. You will see why this particular grave marker (at left above) is unusual. Check it out and have fun.

Historical Interviews Report – Lindy Heim

Almost all our original audiotape oral histories and program recordings have been transcribed, making them available for research purposes. WHS volunteers Jim Rayno and Fred Ögmundson helped with the transcription part of the project. Next year our transcriber Kim White plans to finish the six-year-long project. Check out these interviews at <wilmothistoricalsociety.org> using the *Attic* and *Memories of Wilmot* tabs, bearing in mind that this is still a project in progress. One of the more recent video interviews is with Walter Walker (right).



In 2020 we were able to complete recording Liz Thompson Kirby and her brother, Chuck Thompson while they told the history of the Thompson family. That project is now in the hands of our video production company which will produce several 20-minute-long enjoyable segments.

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Annual membership is \$5 per person

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ membership(s)

I am also including a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____.

Please make check payable to: Wilmot Historical Society, P.O. Box 97, Wilmot, NH 03287

Thank you!