

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2020 Annual Report

Due to Covid19 concerns, we were not able to access the History Room in the Town Office building this year, so we created a fun way to safely experience our town history. The 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 *wilmothistoricalsociety.org*. Most can be taken any time, but for some roads and walking segments in North Wilmot, it would probably be best to wait until after mud season!

There were a number of disappointments in 2020 one of which was the postponement of a “birthday party” for the **Soldiers Monument** at our Veterans Memorial on Village Road that was originally dedicated on May 29, 1920. We had planned to combine the 100th anniversary (May 20, 2020) of the dedication with last year’s Memorial Day observance. Our new plan is to combine the celebration with Wilmot’s next Memorial Day observance on May 29, 2021.

Another disappointment was not receiving a grant to **restore the Town Hall**. We continue to support the restoration and stand ready to assist as we can. The Facilities Committee will reapply next year.

The **Annual Meeting**, usually held in late fall, was postponed until it is safe to gather and vote at a meeting of the membership. The present members of the board of directors and officers agreed to continue in their current positions.

Lindy Heim stored lots of treasures in her barn for the **Curiosity Shop** awaiting the Wilmot farmers market venue. On a lovely Saturday in September several volunteers assisted with setting up tables and serving loyal customers, netting over \$1000. These monies support the digitizing our collection and the production of video interviews.

Almost all **historical audiotapes** (oral histories and program recordings) have been transcribed to make them available for research purposes. WHS volunteers Jim Rayno and Fred Ogmundson helped edit the transcripts. This six-year-long project, being transcribed by Kim White, should be finished in 2021. Recently, we have been concentrating on **video interviews** and several are on the Memories of Wilmot webpage. The most recent one is with long-time resident Walter Willis Walker.

On December 22, 2020, with his family in attendance, Walter, who turned 90 in October, was presented the **Boston Post Cane** by WHS president Liz Kirby. Walter’s ancestors, the Langley’s, settled in Wilmot between 1820 and 1830 and though he was born in Danbury, he still lives in Wilmot where he built his own home, and where he and his wife Judy raised their four children. Sadly, the previous Boston Post Cane holder, Ann Davenport, passed away last spring.

Though we are constantly reminded of the inadequacy of our space in the History Room and the need to expand, we are thankful for the generous donations of artifacts related to Wilmot’s history. Within the next few months we hope to have the **collection** catalogued and available for digital viewing.

All in all in has been a challenging year for everyone, but thanks to technology, the Historical Society board has been able to meet regularly on Zoom and carry on business of the organization. When it is

safe for all of us to be together again, we look forward to seeing you enjoying the treasures in the History Room. In the interim, please check out our website *wilmothistoricalsociety.org* and thank you for your support. Anyone wishing to become a member should go to the front page of the website and download an application. We always welcome new members who are interested in Wilmot's past and future. Remember, the stories of our lives and times in 2020 will be history in 2021 and may be forgotten in 50 years unless you share your stories with us.

President Liz Kirby

Vice President Catherine Stearns

Secretary/Treasurer Mary Fanelli

Nola Aldrich

Marc Davis

Judy Hauck

Lindy Heim

Julie Morse

Fred Ögmundson