

Wilmot Historical Society Annual Report for 2013

The Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) achieved its 2013 objectives.

The fundraising arm of the Society, the Curiosity Shop, set up a booth this summer at the Wilmot Farmers Market where Lindy Heim and her team of WHS volunteers engaged the public on Saturday mornings to sell community donated and de-accessioned items of historical interest. The funds garnered through this effort support the preservation of the Society's collection. In addition to adding to the coffers, the team enjoyed its interaction with the general public.

All summer the History Room activities in the town office overlapped with the Curiosity Shop's hours. The winter re-organizing of the collection by Mary Fanelli and Judy Hauck permitted the casual Farmers Market purveyor to view the re-labeled and displayed items from Wilmot's past and watch a slide show on the desktop computer in the room. A special training class early in June armed new docents with knowledge to guide folks through the collection. Our visitor count increased from previous years. Those interested in viewing materials in the History Room during the winter months may contact Marc Davis to set up an appointment.

At the annual meeting in October, the organization reviewed the draft of our collection policy that allows for the de-accessing of items and artifacts that are not relevant or "directly related to Wilmot, (or) its current or former residents." A revised donation policy is also being drafted for approval.

Mary Fanelli and Marc Davis with stage curtain

The Town's stage curtain project, carried over from 2012, successfully concluded in 2013. Using Moose Grant funds from The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Curtains Without Borders, a company specializing in stage curtain restoration, completed their work on the town hall stage curtains. Ms. Chris Hadsel, president of Curtains Without Borders, presented an informative lecture illustrating the history of our curtains and efforts to preserve them. Special thanks go to Connie Jordan and John Monto for their assistance in finalizing the completion and hanging of new side drapes that enhance the look of the entire project.



The Wilmot Veterans' Memorial Committee, chaired by Liz Kirby, completed its work on the Memorial's landscape project this fall. A large red maple tree was purchased and then planted at the inner drip edge of the existing old sugar maple tree by the road. Additionally one of the recently planted copper beech trees was moved several feet to separate it from the Memorial's other copper beech. As the new maple continues to grow it will replace the existing aging maple and the beeches will create a beautiful backdrop for the Memorial in years to come.

The Wilmot Garden Club maintains the flower beds fronting the memorial, and their volunteers help annually with the fall cleanup.

The historical society sponsored three programs in 2013:

February – Lizzie Borden “came to life” at the First Congregational Church of Wilmot when we learned the truth and fiction of the infamous murders of her mother and father.

May – Jeff Warner entertained the Town Hall crowd with his musical history of the “Songs of Old New Hampshire.” These tunes from the past illustrated what our grandfathers heard before I-tunes.

October – Chris Hadsel captivated the audience with her lecture on the history of our recently refurbished stage curtains. Fred Ogmundson and Ed Weaver also discussed the history of the Bond/Pedrick farmhouse, and a model reproduction was on display.

The **Wilmot Historical Society’s History Book Club** met quarterly. Participants select choices ranging from biography to historical fiction. This year the group read:

March	<i>The Burger-Meister’s Daughter by Steven Ozment</i>
June	<i>A Book Forged in Hell – Spinoza’s Scandalous Treatise by Steven Nadler</i>
September	<i>Travels With MYSELF and Another by Martha Gellhorn</i>
December	<i>The Great Influenza by John M. Barry</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmot Historical Society Board of Directors

Marc Davis, president

Mary Fanelli, treasurer

Susan Finney

Rosanna Dude

Esther Grace

Janet Howe, past president

Lindy Heim, vice president

Judy Hauck, secretary

Fred Ogmundson

Nola Aldrich

Julie Morse

In June 2013, Clara Langley accepted the Boston Post Cane as Wilmot’s oldest resident

