

## WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

One of the highlights of 2019 was the acquisition of several artifacts relating to Wilmot history from the estate of local poet Donald Hall. The purchased items, which were underwritten by friends of the WHS, were added to a dedicated Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon display in our history room at the Wilmot Town Office.

In keeping with our Mission Statement, we continue to update our website, <wilmothistoricalsociety.> with stories, videos, and historical documents. Two more videos of interviews with Wilmot residents were added to our "Memories of Wilmot" web page this fall: a 2011 interview with Esther LaJoie Grace; and a recent interview with Barbara Sanborn and May Jones. Sadly, Esther, a lifelong resident and charter member of the Wilmot Historical Society, died on December 28, 2019, shortly after the video was completed.

The three programs we sponsored in 2019 were: "New Hampshire Roads Taken Or Not" in February; "World War II in New Hampshire" in May (including remarks by member, Wilmot native, and WWII veteran Florence Clarke Gove); and the traditional "Cracker Barrel" in November led by Fred Ögmundson.

Many thanks go to the Wilmot Garden Club for maintaining the landscaping and flower beds at the Veterans Memorial on Village Road. Originally called the Soldiers Monument, it was dedicated on May 30, 1920. Plans are in place to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication on May 30, 2020.

Thanks also to Nancy Schlosser and Judy Hauck who have assumed maintenance of the grave of "Billy Buskin" on Village Road near Chase Pond. "Billy Buskin" was a horse who served with his owner in the Civil War.

One of the major sources of funding for our video projects is the Curiosity Shop at the summer Farmers Market. Coordinator Lindy Heim and her crew had three very successful events. Thank you to all who donated items and who helped set up each time for this very popular event.

Other doings:

- During July, we set up a display of historical artifacts in the W.O.W.-sponsored Post Office window.
- Catherine Stearns, Fred Ogmundson and Liz Kirby set up exhibits of historical items at three events this summer: July 4th the Andover Hub; and in August at the Andover Old Time Fair and Salisbury Old Home Day.
- On July 27 we provided a delicious box supper at the Bandstand concert featuring Beer Brats that sold out!
- The WHS History Book Club (open to all) met in March, June, September and December. This year the group read: *American Road - The Story of An Epic Transcontinental Journey at the Dawn of the Motor Age* by Pete Davies; *Blood and Thunder- The Story of Kit Carson* by Hampton Sides; *Madison's Gift, The US Constitution* by David O. Stewart; and *America's Favorite Holidays - Candid Histories* by Bruce David Forbes.

All in all, it was a very productive year. In 2020 our focus will be to support efforts to preserve the historic Wilmot Town Hall that is now listed on the State Historic register.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Kirby, president

Board of Directors: Nola Aldrich, Nancy Bates, Marc Davis, Mary Fanelli, Judith Hauck, Lindy Heim, Elizabeth Kirby, Julie Morse, Fred Ögmundson, and Catherine Stearns.