



Report for 2018

Among the many “FIRSTS” for the Wilmot Historical Society in 2018 were:

- providing an awesome gourmet meal at the Wilmot Bandstand Concert in August;
- designing T-shirts and a new logo;
- staffing a tent at the Andover Historical Society’s Old Time Fair;
- setting up a table at the Wilmot Farmers Market; and
- actively seeking a new home for our collection.

With reference to the last item, we appreciate having a room at the Wilmot Town Office, but it is much too small to house and display our collection. We desperately need a building with space to achieve our goals of education and preservation.

T-shirts with a new logo were designed by local artist and board member Sue Finney. An outline of Wilmot on the back shows the location of some of our historic sites.

Video stories of Wilmot’s past as told through the eyes of its long-time residents may be seen on our website, wilmothistoricalsociety.org. Last year six oral histories were posted making a total of nine on the “Memories of Wilmot” page. This ongoing project, as well as audio tape transcriptions, are rescuing our past realities from extinction.

Our tremendously popular “Curiosity Shop” at the Wilmot Farmers Market is one of our major fund providers for these projects. We also have books about Wilmot’s history and a DVD recording of Donald Hall reading his poems for sale in the history room, which is open during the summer Farmers Market. Docents are always on hand to assist visitors.

Our May program, featuring Andrew Cushing of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, was held in the 110-year-old Wilmot Town Hall. The timely topic of historical building restoration was the subject of Andrew’s presentation. In September, Paul Wainwright from the NH Humanities Council spoke about Colonial Meeting Houses at the North Wilmot Church.

Our annual meeting in October was again held in the Town Hall where we elected board members, gave reports of activities, and ratified bylaw revisions. The program that afternoon was a Cracker Barrel led by Fred Ogmundson, who told tales of Wilmot’s cemeteries.

The Veterans Memorial on Village Road is owned by the Town. However, the Historical Society has assumed responsibility for maintaining the planter and the landscape plantings. Many thanks go to the Wilmot Garden Club for assisting with this task. Sadly, it was necessary to remove the stately old maple tree at the edge of the road this year, but the replacement tree is thriving. The Monument celebrates 100 years in 2019.

Book Club Activities - The WHS History Book Club met quarterly. Participants (open to all) select choices ranging from biography to historical fiction. In 2018 the group read:

March: *Changes in the Land* by William Cronon

June: *Galileo’s Daughter* by Dava Sobel

September: *Mount Kearsarge – History, stories, Legends and Folktales* by Larry Sullivan

December: *In the Enemy’s House* by Howard Blum

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Kirby, president