

## **Wilmot Historical Society Annual Report for 2011**

In 2011, the Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) continued its efforts to conserve, preserve, and catalog its collection. We owe the Town of Wilmot and its select board a great deal of gratitude for their support and generosity in sustaining our long-term project. At Town Meeting, the Town provided the Society with \$3,500 in seed money to purchase the equipment it needed to support the next step of digitalizing our collection. Items purchased included a computer, printer, scanner, camera, software, and office supplies to ensure the proper organization and preservation of our collection. Thank you Wilmot!

Led primarily by Lindy Heim, Mary Fanelli, and Judy Hauck, the Society met weekly during the summer of 2011 to organize and determine which materials should be held in the collection. Those of you who visited the room this summer saw their efforts. Duplicates and non-related collection items were put aside and sold at the Wilmot Farmers' Market. Perhaps you saw or even purchased one at our Curiosity Shop.

The Curiosity Shop provided Wilmot with an opportunity to purchase items culled from the History Room. Lindy Heim, the Curiosity Shop founder, and several board members also uncovered articles in their homes to include with the treasures for sale and donated the proceeds to benefit the WHS. Please note, during the 2012 Farmers' Market season, the Curiosity Shop gladly will accept appropriate items in good condition from people wishing to donate the proceeds to the WHS. Thanks for all the fun, Lindy!

Lindy Heim also donated her time and efforts to digitalizing the audio tapes recorded by Wilmot citizens from years past. With the assistance of Charles Thompson, Lindy interviewed and recorded two venerable Wilmot residents, Walter Walker and Esther Grace. Our hope is to interview as many Wilmot residents, or former ones, as possible. Any suggestions of people, young or old, would be well received.

The Wilmot Historical Society also sponsored four programs in 2011:

- **February** – A grant from New Hampshire Humanities Council allowed the Historical Society to present Adam Boyce who provided an enthralled audience with the history of fiddling in New Hampshire. Wilmot's own Dean Hughes brought along his fiddle and shared his expertise to the pleasure of all (more than 75 folks) who attended this lively and entertaining program at the Wilmot Community Association's Red Barn.
- **May** – Donald Hall of Wilmot, former Poet Laureate of New Hampshire and the United States, read poems and short essays from his life time collections to an overflowing crowd at the Wilmot Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Wilmot Center. Mr. Hall allowed the WHS to record his presentation on DVD for a fund-raising effort.
- **August** -- The Wilmot Historical Society, in conjunction with the Old Home Day Committee, offered those interested an opportunity to research their Wilmot home's history using materials from the WHS collection in the History Room.



*Adam Boyce, left, and Dean Hughes demonstrate their skills as musicians.*

- **November** – Our annual meeting saw some WHS board changes. Janet Howe left her long-time post as secretary. However, she will remain on the Board to replace Charles Thompson, who resigned. New Board Members elected include co-secretaries Mary Fanelli and Judy Hauck. Fred Ogmundson gathered several current and former Wilmot residents to another well-received Cracker Barrel Afternoon. Participants shared lots of pictures and stories to the enjoyment of the crowd. Mary Fanelli demonstrated the WHS's new computer and scanner by scanning photos – on the spot – that were projected on the big screen during the program at the Wilmot Community Association's Red Barn.

The Wilmot Historical Society's **History Book Club** met quarterly. Participants choose the books. Thus far, the choices have ranged from history, biography, memoir, or historical fiction. Selections also may include plays or subjects not normally considered historical such as natural science or environmental topics. This year the group read:

<b>March</b>	<i>West with the Night</i> by Beryl Markam
<b>June</b>	<i>The Five of Hearts</i> by Patricia O'Toole and <i>Passing Strange</i> by Martha Sandweiss
<b>September</b>	<i>The Negro President</i> by Gary Wills
<b>December</b>	<i>Founding Gardeners</i> by Andrea Wulf

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmot Historical Society  
Board of Directors

Marc Davis, president  
Mary Fanelli, co-secretary  
Judy Hauck, co-secretary  
Fred Ogmundson  
Nola Aldrich  
Liz Kirby

Lindy Heim, vice president  
Julie Morse, treasurer  
Janet Howe  
Rosanna Dude  
Esther Grace