

Wilmot Historical Society Town Report for 2014

The Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) realized several achievements during 2014. Among them our Curiosity Shop succeeded once again in providing loads of fun for the Wilmot community. Also the Curiosity Shop's earnings supplemented grant money the WHS used for the digitization of our archives. Furthermore, we established a partnership with Keene State College's archives department to digitize diaries from Wilmot's past.

Several families donated personal diaries to the WHS this year. Numerous diaries now are available to view on our website. For those who wish to read documents generated by our Wilmot forebears you may find the texts at <http://www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org/>.

Margaret Campbell and Fred Ogmundson



Bequeathed diaries include Isaac B. Youngman (1811-1892) who lived on Teel Hill and then in Wilmot Center. A farmer, Mr. Youngman served the town as a selectman during his long life. Margaret Campbell donated the diaries to the WHS.

The Thompson family lent the Arthur Thompson (1867-1928) diaries to the WHS. Arthur Thompson, who lived and farmed on Cross Hill road, maintained a diary during the last decades of the 19th century. Keene State College Archives scanned the first two of several of Mr. Thompson's diaries.

Louis "Ray" Morgan's diary covers the early 1940s. The Morgan family resided in the Morgan-Chandler-Thomas farm on Kearsarge Mountain Road. Her descendant, Zachary Cupo, provided the WHS with a digital copy.

Sue Severance Finch from Athens, N.Y., donated two diaries from the 1840s. Using a grant from the Barnard Foundation, these diaries were digitized this year. Ms. Finch, who died earlier in the year, was descended from the Bean family of East Wilmot. She included family photographs with the diaries.

Interestingly, Ms. Finch's donation tied in with another Bean relative unknown to her. Tim Bean, a recent Wilmot visitor from Hampshire, Ill., was thrilled when we shared his previously unknown family material with him!

The WHS sponsored three programs in 2014:

February – The annual *Cracker Barrel* Program about Wilmot life gathered a room full of folks interested in sharing their favorite Wilmot stories and pictures. Moderated by Fred Ogmundson, everyone who wanted had his chance to participate.

May – The New Hampshire Humanities' Steve Taylor brought *One Room School Houses in New Hampshire* to life. Known for his wonderful lectures, he regaled the well-attended gathering with stories about one room schools and why they prevailed well into the 20th century.



November – Jack McAuliffe, former long-time resident, visited the overflow crowd at the Wilmot Community Association's Red Barn to talk about his adventures living in Wilmot. He related several wonderful stories and answered questions for as long as anyone wanted.

Jack McAuliffe

The **Wilmot Historical Society's History Book Club** met quarterly. Participants select choices ranging from biography to historical fiction. In 2014 the group read:

March	<i>The Greater Journey - Americans In Paris</i> by David McCullough
June	<i>The Beauty and The Sorrow – An Intimate History of the First World War</i> by Peter Englund
September	<i>Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a First Lady</i> by Sylvia Jukes Morris
December	<i>Pericles of Athens and the Birth of Democracy</i> by Donald Kagan

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmot Historical Society
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Museum hours:

Saturday 10:00 to Noon from July through September
Or
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