

Wilmot Historical Society Town Report for 2015

The Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) enjoyed a good year in 2015. Our membership numbers remained steady as we strode forward with the digitizing of our collection. Lindy Heim captained another fine year at the helm of The Curiosity Shop. It remains a popular attraction at Wilmot's Farmers Market and raises funds for our organization's needs.

Again this year, the Thompson Family permitted the digitizing of several more family diaries from the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. Keene State Archives assisted us with the scanning the material to which we are extremely grateful. Additionally, the Thompsons contributed family photographs towards the WHS long term project of recording current generations living in original Wilmot homesteads.



February program, Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett

Betsy Forsham enlightened the audience at this year's annual Cracker Barrel with readings from her grandmother, Edith Campbell's family history. The history reached back several generations of Wilmot's past and thoroughly delighted the audience. During the year, Betsy worked with members of the WHS to review and catalog her family's extensive collection of pictures and other ephemeral. The WHS is working with her to distribute material to other family members or to the appropriate historical society. We applaud her efforts.

Also at the annual program, our slide show of Walter Walker's new pictorial history book of Wilmot illustrated several photographs from his extensive collection. His books sold out.

Any serious student of Wilmot history would enjoy its scenes from yesteryear, along with Walter's interesting comments.

Kathy Sterns approached the WHS and permitted us to review and scan several letters and pictures dating back to the middle of the 19th century. The correspondence among family members includes material from the California gold rush days. Extensive genealogy background of the Sterns family allows those interested to learn from where and how settlers arrived here.

Clara Langley, Wilmot's *Boston Post Cane* holder, died on December 20, 2015. The long time teacher will be missed by Wilmot's residents. At the year end, the WHS is seeking to determine who the next *Boston Post Cane* holder should be. The oldest Wilmot person residing in town is eligible to the honor.

The WHS sponsored three programs in 2015:

February: *Music of the Civil War* by musicians and historians Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett.

May: *Eleanor Roosevelt*, the first lady, as portrayed by Elena Dodd enlightened the audience to Mrs. Roosevelt's fascinating life, post her husband's presidency.

November: *The Goodhue Family of Wilmot*, excerpts as read by Betsy Forsham of the family's history written by her Grandmother Edith Campbell.



The **Wilmot Historical Society's History Book Club** met quarterly. Participants select choices ranging from biography to historical fiction. In 2015 the group read:

March: *Unbroken – A World War II story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand

June: *Operation Mincemeat* by Ben Macintyre

September: *Oak – The Frame of Civilization* by William Bryant Logan

December: *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman

May program, Elena Dodd, as Eleanor Roosevelt

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Respectfully submitted,

**Wilmot Historical Society
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Saturday 10:00 to Noon from July through September
Or
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