

Message from the President

Among the new activities of the Wilmot Historical Society in 2018, we served up a Beer and Bratwurst dinner at the Bandstand Concert; were invited to participate in the Andover Historical Society's Old Time Fair in August; and co-sponsored a program on Colonial Meeting Houses with the North Wilmot Church in September. This summer, the wildly popular Curiosity Shop was open during three of the Farmers Markets, and the Historical Room in the Wilmot Town Office was open to visitors on Saturday mornings in July, August, and September.

People continue to be generous in donating Wilmot-related artifacts to us. We have an immediate need to provide a safe home for these treasures, which is a challenge that must have highest priority in our future plans. Per the mandate of the membership in April of 2018, we must create a business plan and launch a fundraising campaign before taking steps to secure a space. There are many people reading this newsletter with knowledge, skills, or experience in these projects, and we would welcome their expertise.

Plans are also in place for a Bandstand Concert Dinner, programs, and other activities in 2019. If you would like to share your talents and learn more about Wilmot's past, please get in touch. Go to our website wilmothhistoricalsociety.org for contact information and get in touch with any of the Board members, who will be happy to hear from you. By clicking the Memories of Wilmot tab, you will be able to view previously recorded interviews of Wilmot residents, an ongoing WHS project to preserve Wilmot's oral history. This ongoing video history project has been very successful.

Thank you for your support and interest in preserving Wilmot's history for the future. **Liz Kirby**

**WHS Needs a New Home**

The good news is—we have acquired many new artifacts: photos, letters, diaries, and other historical items that are important to Wilmot's history.

However, when items were moved out to make way for a new rug, it was discovered that the space was too tight to hold the collection properly.

In the next few weeks WHS members will be sorting and making decisions about what to keep in the history room at the town office and what should be temporarily stored elsewhere.

Not only does the Historical Society need more space, but the selectmen's office is overcrowded as well.

With the coming renovation of the Town Hall, the Town archives that are kept in the safe at that site will also have to be moved and stored.

Some of these issues were discussed at a short meeting before the February 24 program. It is important that we solicit input from our membership when dealing with these issues. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions. <info@wilmothhistoricalsocietyorg>

Wilmot Town Hall and Public Library Achieve State Historic Site Designation

In consideration of the upcoming renovations that will be required to preserve the Town Hall, the Wilmot Select Board successfully petitioned the State of New Hampshire to put the 1907 building on the list of historic places in New Hampshire.

The Wilmot Public Library, formerly the Wilmot Center Schoolhouse, was also included because of its proximity and importance. This designation will be helpful in acquiring grants from both the State and private foundations to underwrite the cost of the project. Additionally, an engineering study is in progress.

Jeff Gill, a retired engineer and project manager, has taken on the oversight of the study and the rehabilitation.

Historic Brady House Razed

Coincidentally, the house across the street at 14 North Wilmot Road was condemned and razed this past fall. This vacant property will be included in any future plans for utilizing town property in the area.

Officers: Liz Kirby, president; Lindy Heim, vice president; Judy Hauck, secretary; Mary Fanelli, treasurer

Directors: Nola Aldrich, Nancy Bates, Julie Morse, Fred Ogmundson, Catherine Stearns. Past president: Marc Davis

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Annual membership is \$5 per person

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ membership(s)

I am also including a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____.

Please make check payable to: Wilmot Historical Society, P.O. Box 97, Wilmot, NH 03287

Thank you!

Digitizing Wilmot’s History

In the past couple of years, the Wilmot Historical Society has made great strides in digitizing local lore. First, we edited, enhanced and remixed previously taped interviews of Wilmot residents, and now, we are videotaping new ones.

Lacking the space to expand our physical collection, we are forging ahead, in an area that requires no physical space, making sure that Wilmot’s oral history is preserved.

Kim White has been transcribing our audio tapes.

Our video crew, working with the oral history committee, has recorded several new interviews.

With the help of our talented film editor, Theresa Chamberland of Story Catcher Studios, many of the interviews have been professionally edited and added to the “Memories of Wilmot” page on our web site *wilmothistoricalsociety.org*.

Among them are: Jack McAuliffe, Loretta Rayno, Clayton Nowell, George Gove, and Clara Langley. Others on that page such as Thelma Minard and Donald Hall, have been reworked from former interviews and all are fascinating to watch. Transcripts are provided with most of them so you can download and read them your leisure.

Curiosity Shop

Our tremendously popular Curiosity Shop (CS) at the Wilmot Farmers Market is one of our major fund providers for the WHS. Included are books about Wilmot’s history and a DVD recording of Donald Hall reading his poems. The CS is open three to four times during the summer. Those dates will be posted on our website as summer draws near.



Board member Catherine Stearns and president Liz Kirby promoting the WHS at the 2018 Farmers Markets.

World War II in New Hampshire, May 19 at 2 p.m. in the Town Hall

Our presenter, John Gfroerer, is a documentary producer and owner of Accompany, a video production firm based at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. He has produced over 40 documentaries and his work has been aired on public television stations, The History Channel, and many other venues.

This documentary tells the story of life in New Hampshire during the Second World War. Through interviews, historic news film, photos, and radio reports from the battlefields, this presentation and discussion chronicles how a nation, a state, and the citizens of New Hampshire mobilized for war.

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at 1:30.

Wilmot Historical Society
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Book Club News

The WHS book club, open to all, focuses on historical reads. They meet quarterly: December, March, June, and September. Some of the recent selections have been: Galileo’s Daughter, Mt. Kearsarge History, In the Enemy’s House, and American Road: The Story of an Epic Transcontinental Journey. . . . For more information, please call Marc Davis at 526-6960.

February Program

On February 24, renowned storyteller Steve Taylor presented a program on NH Roads—Taken or Not! In his talk, Steve reviewed some of New Hampshire’s most significant highway choices in the 20th century, followed by discussion of the economic, social, and cultural changes that followed decisions to build or not to build. Our next program will be held on May 19 in the Wilmot Town Hall and features WWII in NH.

Summer Activities

At the 2019 summer Wilmot Farmers Market, the ever-popular Curiosity Shop (CS) will be open four weekends throughout July, August, and September. Check our web site for more details.

Last year, the CS raised over \$2600 including the sale of local history books, Donald Hall DVDs, and our new T-shirts. If anyone is interested in purchasing books, DVDs, or T-shirts please call Liz Kirby at 603-496-4883. Thanks to all who participated, either by donating, working, or purchasing.

Bandstand Supper a Huge Success

In the spirit of cooperation, WHS members gathered in the WCA kitchen and cooked up a gustatorial treat of Brats in Beer, slaw, and hand pies that were very well-received at the bandstand dinner in August.