

### Message from the President

In 2019 the Wilmot Historical Society continued to sponsor successful programs, including "World War II in New Hampshire"—where we highlighted native WWII Veteran, Florence Gove. "New Hampshire Roads Taken ... or Not" and the Cracker Barrel discussion were also hits.

Three successful Curiosity Shops at the Wilmot Farmers Market and the Bandstand Supper greatly enhanced our treasury. Displays of Wilmot artifacts gave us some visibility and caught interest at the Andover 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, the Andover Old Time Fair, and Salisbury's Old Home Day.

Three new videos were uploaded to the website under the "Memories of Wilmot" tab where you can also enjoy stories told by Barbara Sanborn and May Jones and get a peek at "earlier days" through a conversation with Tyler and Esther Grace. Sadly, Esther died in Dec 2019. She was a charter member of WHS.

The History Room was open to the public during the Wilmot Farmers Markets this past summer and visitors dropped in from many surrounding areas. We continue to seek a home adequate to protect and store the treasures in our collections.

2020 offers a unique opportunity. The Soldiers Monument at the Veterans Memorial will be 100 years old on Saturday, May 30, and a plan is in place to honor this anniversary in conjunction with the Wilmot Memorial Day observance on that day. Another memorial to be mentioned is Billy Buskin's grave that was rehabbed this year by Judy Hauck and Nancy Schlosser.

We have had many inquiries regarding the history of homes in Wilmot. In the future, we hope to assist homeowners with research to answer these questions. Meanwhile, we will continue to bring the past to life through audio and video documentation and fulfill our mission to stay connected to the people and timeline of our history.

*Elizabeth "Liz" Kirby*



Officers: Liz Kirby, president; Catherine Stearns, vice president; Mary Fanelli, secretary; Nancy Bates, treasurer

Directors: Nola Aldrich, Marc Davis, Judy Hauck, Lindy Heim, Julie Morse, and Fred Ögmundson

### Book Club News

The WHS book club, open to all, focuses on historical reads. They meet quarterly: March, June, September, and December. A recent selection was: *To Set the Record Straight*, the history of the Watergate trials by John Sirica. Books are selected each quarter. The group meets at the WCA at 10 a.m. except in December when they meet at someone's home. Call Marc for more information—526-6960.



Sue Finney, Julie Morse, Catherine Stearns, and Mary Fanelli mix coleslaw for the Historical Society's Bandstand supper last summer.

### Summer Curiosity Shop

Congratulations to all who supported the Wilmot Historical Society's effort to reach out to the community, raise funds in a fun way and help preserve the WHS collection and ongoing oral history projects. In terms of income, the Curiosity Shop grossed \$1,831.71 as of Oct. 31, 2019, with post-season additional sales of \$86.70 that will be credited to the 2020 Curiosity Shop. This summer we will be open three weekends—TBA.

## WHS News

### WHS Needs a New Home

For the past few years, we have been struggling with the issue of space in the history room located in the Town Office. Many items in our collection are stored off site and not easily accessible.

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.

Please feel free to contact us either by email at [info@wilmothhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wilmothhistoricalsociety.org) or in person with any suggestions you may have. Board meets the third Friday of each month in the Town Office.

### Property at 14 N. Wilmot Rd.

After much discussion and fiscal consideration this beautiful historical building across from the Town Hall and Library was razed and the property cleared of all debris.

The Select Board accepted the offer of Kenny Clarke to clear the property. With the help of the Highway Department, he later removed all debris from the cellar hole and graveled and graded the property to serve as a temporary parking lot until a decision is made as to the final use of the area.

Some of the ideas are to make a park, a playground, and parking for the Town Hall and Library—to be explored after the Town Hall rehab is completed.

### Acquisitions Committee

A new member of the acquisitions committee, Al Price, an enthusiastic student of history, will assist other committee members in retagging items in the WHS collection and documenting them on the computer.

Other members of this committee are: Marc Davis, Julie Morse, and Catherine Stearns. Please contact one of them, or any board member, if you would like to donate items to the collection or to the Curiosity Shop. Their contact information is on the website.

Also on the site are both video and audio interviews of local people relating their stories about the Wilmot of past times and other historical information.

Wilmot Historical Society  
P.O. Box 97  
Wilmot, NH 03287

Pre-sorted STD  
US Postage Pd  
New London, NH  
Permit #11  
ECRWSS

Join the  
Wilmot Historical Society

Postal Customer

Wilmot, NH 03287

**Our May 30 Program will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Wilmot Soldiers/Veterans Memorial.**

## WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2020 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!**