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Message from the President

In 2016, the Wilmot Historical Society continued steady progress towards enhancing its collections, including recording history in video. At our website, on the Attic page, you can view live interviews with some residents who contributed significantly to Wilmot's history. This fall, Our One-room School House Reunion Cracker Barrel program entertained and educated all attendees. A special thanks goes to Liz Kirby for the time and effort she put into this very successful program. Also thanks to Lindy Heim who coordinates our Curiosity Shop at Wilmot Farmer's Market last summer, which helps to fund our video projects. Community support through contributions of cash, artifacts, and ideas is always welcome. Take time to send in your membership dues today on the form below. We always welcome new members. *Marc Davis - President*

The Life and Times of Loretta Rayno



Loretta Rayno arrived in Wilmot when she was in the sixth grade. Brought up on a farm, she was familiar with agrarian life and helped her step-dad take care of the animals and tend the garden, but she knew from an early age that she did not want to be a farmer's wife!

Right out of high school Loretta enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WACs) and did not come to live in Wilmot permanently until she married Stanley Rayno in September of 1960.

In a video recorded in June of 2014, Loretta relates the fascinating story of her time as a WAC, how she came to work for Freedom Acres, and how she met her future husband at the Wilmot dump! www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org/attic/.

Boston Post Cane Holder Dies

On September 2, 2016, Gerald R. Biron passed away at the home of his son Richard and wife Joan in Wilmot. Gerald was almost 94 years old.



Biron was born on November 10, 1922 in Manchester, NH, where he lived until World War II when he joined the Navy. A member of the launching crew of the aircraft carrier *USS Belleau Wood*, he was designated a "plank owner" of the new ship that passed through the Panama Canal en route to Pearl Harbor.

Over the years Mr. Biron's other jobs included driving a truck throughout the northeast for HP Welch Trucking and serving as a hearse driver and helper for Petit Funeral Home in Pembroke, NH.

Officers: Marc Davis, president; Lindy Heim, vice president; Judy Hauck, secretary; Mary Fanelli, treasurer
Directors: Nola Aldrich, Nancy Bates, Sue Finney, Liz Kirby, Julie Morse, Fred Ogmundson

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2017 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!

Wilmot's One-room School Reunion and Annual Meeting a Huge Success

On Sunday, November 6, the Wilmot Historical Society hosted a well-attended One-room School Reunion at their annual meeting at the Wilmot Community Association Red Barn in Wilmot Flat. WHS board member, Liz Kirby, organized the program and Fred Ogmundson served as moderator. Alumni from most of the five one-room school houses gathered to share stories and memories of their experiences.



Left to right, **Front row seated:** Judy Rayno (Cutler), Jean Amsden (Currier), Sue Keyser (Roberts), Pat Baker (Gross), Frank Baker, Barbara Coward (Stearns), Louise Andrus (Patten), Pat Rich (Glidden-French), Dolly Mailloux (Fowler). **Second row:** Pat Fleury (Evans), Kim Lucas (Keyser), Joyce Rand (Tilton), teacher Posy Chandler (Aldrich), Barbara Sullivan (Aldrich), Helen Courtemarache (Peters), Henry Stevens, Nancy Clark (Stevens), Deb Perkins (Lamson), Nathan Walker, Jim Minard, Darlene Hoyt (Atwood). **Back row:** Eleanor Hazen, teacher Marnie Eaton (Madden), Darlene Delano, Garry Rayno, Lee Stevens, Jim Rayno, Bam Fleury, Wade Walker, Mark Stevens, Charles Thompson, Bob Peters, Liz Kirby (Thompson). There were a total of two teachers and 31 students present at the reunion.

Latest Video Project Completed

The latest video in the *Memories of Wilmot* series is near completion. Funded in great part by the Barnard Foundation of New London, we are most grateful for their continued support.

In a separate video of Loretta Rayno's story, she tells how she came to meet Kay White and Donna Niles and became involved in their world famous jelly business.

The Freedom Acres video should be available on our web site by the end of January. Also on the photo page is a link to our Shutterfly account where you will find many photos of Kay and Donna and their home and business on the Old Winslow Road.

Membership

The membership list is updated regularly. To check if you are current, see the front page of the WHS website <www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org>.

2016 Curiosity Shop

Under the guidance of Lindy Heim, and with thanks to the many volunteers, the 2017 Curiosity Shop had its best year ever. All income from the project supports the digitization of the WHS collection.

WHS Book Group

This group meets quarterly from 10:15 am- noon at the WCA Red Barn on Village Road. Meetings are scheduled for March 11, June 10, and September 9. For more information and a book list, please call Marc Davis at 927-4596.

History Room Hours

Saturdays from 9 – noon from July 1 to Aug. 26
Throughout the year – by appointment only.
The history room is located in the Town Office Building at 9 Kearsarge Valley Road.
Call 927-4596 or 526-2614.

Wilmot, NH 03287

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Bands of the Civil War
Program Feb. 5