

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Due to Covid19 concerns, we were not able to access the History Room in the Town Office building this year, so we created a fun way to safely experience our town history. The four 2007 Wilmot Bicentennial town driving tours with maps (North Wilmot, Wilmot Center, Wilmot Flat and Mt. Kearsarge) have been updated and posted on the front page of our website *wilmothistoricalsociety.org*. Most can be taken any time, but some roads have no winter maintenance.

One of our disappointments in 2020 was the postponement of a “birthday party” for the **Soldiers Monument** at our Veterans Memorial on Village Road, which was originally dedicated on May 30, 1920. The plan to combine the 100th anniversary with the Memorial Day observance is now on track for May 29, 2021.

Although the grant for the town hall restoration was not received this year, we continue to support this project as the Town resubmits their application in 2021.

The fall **Annual Meeting** was postponed until it is safe to gather but the board has met regularly via Zoom to transact the business of the organization. The present members of the board of directors and officers have agreed to continue in their current positions until a meeting can be held.

On a lovely Saturday in September several volunteers assisted with setting up the Curiosity Shop at the Farmers market. We netted over \$1000 that day. These monies support the digitizing of our collection and the production of video interviews.

Almost all **historical audiotapes** have been transcribed and are on the website. This six-year-long project should be finished in 2021. Recently, we have been concentrating on **video interviews** and several are on the Memories of Wilmot webpage. The most recent one is with long-time resident Walter Willis Walker.

On December 22, 2020, with his family in attendance, Walter, who turned 90 in October, was presented the **Boston Post Cane** by WHS president Liz Kirby. Walter’s ancestors, the Langley’s, settled in Wilmot between 1820 and 1830. He was born in Danbury but he built his home in Wilmot where he and his wife Judy raised their four children. Sadly, the previous Boston Post Cane holder, Ann Davenport, passed away last spring.

Though we are constantly reminded of the inadequacy of our space in the History Room and the need to expand, we are thankful for the generous donations of artifacts related to Wilmot’s history. Within the next few months we hope to have the **collection** catalogued and available for digital viewing.

When it is safe for all of us to be together again, we look forward to seeing you enjoying the treasures in the History Room. Meanwhile, please check out our website *wilmothistoricalsociety.org*, There is a membership application on the front page. We always welcome new members who are interested in Wilmot’s past and future. Remember, the stories of our lives and times in 2021 will be history in 2022 and may be forgotten in 50 years unless you share your stories with us.

The WHS board would like to thank the Town of Wilmot and all those who have supported our efforts to preserve the Town’s history.

WHS Board: Officers Liz Kirby, Catherine Stearns, Mary Fanelli and members Nola Aldrich, Marc Davis, Judy Hauck, Lindy Heim, Julie Morse, and Fred Ogmundson.