

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2023 Annual Newsletter



Message from the president

The Wilmot Historical Society is vital to the town of Wilmot. At this time there is no other town organization dedicated to the preservation of and access to the last 215 years of our town's life. At this point, the greatest need the Society has is for a space large enough to accommodate our one-of-a-kind artifacts and records as well as adequate workspace now and for the future. We appreciate very much the support we've received from our residents and friends in the past and ongoing. Our collection exists and continues to grow through the thoughtfulness and generosity of people who realize the importance of preserving history. We thank you all!

Today's events are tomorrow's history, and today's families are tomorrow's ancestors.

Yours for preserving Wilmot's history, *Liz Kirby*

Programs

The first program we sponsored in 2022 was on May 8. Dr. Lourdes Aviles from Plymouth State University described the Great Hurricane of 1938. She had many stories and photos about that storm that seemingly came out of nowhere and wreaked destruction on many towns in New England.



The second program was presented at our annual meeting on October 30. Dr. Robert Goodby, an archaeology professor at Franklin Pierce University, gave a fascinating history of what NH was like 12,000 years ago.

Acquisitions Committee Report – Catherine Stearns

At the beginning of the year the volume of artifacts and records in our collection overwhelmed the space in the history room, so we rented a climate-controlled storage unit, especially for larger items, and to make the displays manageable. This year's donations and acquisitions include:

- Dozens of photos and postcards;
- A framed Linda Peterson print showing Wilmot buildings;
- A large collection of Tomie dePaola books;
- Wilmot's Boston Cane holder Walter Walker's collection of Fred Goodhue glass negatives of scenes from the early 20th century.

(Walter acquired the negatives from Fred LaJoie after he found them in an old chicken coop!)

We would like to express our gratitude to New London's archivist Jim Perkins for assisting us with digitizing and securing the Goodhue glass negatives in an archive environment.

The History Room in the Town Office was open to the public every Saturday morning from July through September when the Farmers' Market was open (9:00 to 12:00). We helped new residents research records of who owned their property 100 years ago and advised visitors from out of state where there were good hiking trails. Sometimes there were as many as 15 or 16 visitors a day.

We have a complete set of Wilmot town reports since 1890 when vital records and other genealogy records were first published. Family history records from 1916 on have been digitized and are accessible on our computer.



Bill Chaisson, Catherine Stearns, Bruce Sanborn and visitor in History Room on Saturday.

Genealogy Committee

The Genealogy Committee of the Wilmot Historical Society strives to be a dynamic resource for people in pursuit of Wilmot related genealogical information. They have assembled an informational packet, which is available in the History Room, to help guide those who are new to genealogical research. The packet includes a list of online resources, a list of physical resources available in the Wilmot History Room, and information about creating a family tree.

Other

In addition to public programs, we provided a meal at the band concert on August 20. We supported the restoration of the North Wilmot Church by funding the repairs to the Palladian window over the front entrance. We continue to support the restoration of the Wilmot Town Hall and have pledged a sum of money for this purpose. In addition, a number of members attended workshops and seminars relevant to our goals and visited other historical societies in the state. Casper LeVarn's The Early History of Wilmot, New Hampshire is being prepared for republishing.

Wilmot Historical Society Board: Liz Kirby, president; Catherine Stearns, vice president; Mary Fanelli, secretary; Heather Mather, treasurer; Nola Aldrich, Marc Davis, Judy Hauck, Julie Morse, Fred Ögmundson, Carolyn Rayno, and Bruce Sanborn.



Wilmot Historical Society
PO Box 97
Wilmot, NH 03287

Presorted STD
US Postage Pd
New London, NH
Permit #11
ECRWSS

Postal Customer

Wilmot, NH 03287

WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2023 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!