

Wilmot Historical Society
Sunday, November 2, 2014
Draft Annual Meeting Minutes
1:00 PM

Lindy Heim called the meeting to order at 1:14 PM, welcomed the 37 members and guests present, and reviewed the agenda.

Secretary's Report

Judy Hauck presented the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes for acceptance. Minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Fanelli presented the 2013-2014 Treasurer's Report and information about changes to the handling of the War Memorial Fund. That fund paid out \$2462.00 last year, and the money remaining in the fund totals \$4627.47. (See full report for 2013/2014 attached.)

Election of Board Members and Officers

Lindy Heim presented the slate of board members and officers, and the entire slate was accepted.

Board Members (three years):

- Marc Davis
- Mary Fanelli
- Judy Hauck

Officers (one year):

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| • President | Marc Davis |
| • Vice President | Lindy Heim |
| • Treasurer | Mary Fanelli |
| • Secretary | Judy Hauck |

New Business

Fred Ogmundson announced a recent gift to the Historical Society from Margaret Campbell, who has donated the 1863-1865 journal of Isaac Youngman, a former Wilmot selectman who lived "about two-thirds of the way up Teal Hill" in North Wilmot. Isaac's wife donated money and land to set up the Kearsarge School of Practice.

Program

Responding to questions about old Wilmot, Judy Rayno told several fascinating stories about the Wilmot Flat store and post office owned by her parents Frank and Elma Cutler between 1948 and 1958.

Fred also asked questions about some early 1900s photographs of Sutton Mills. One of them was identified as being of Fred Goodhue selling gravestones in Sutton Mills.

Memories of Old Wilmot

Fred introduced the afternoon's program: "Memories of Old Wilmot" and its presenter, Jack (John) McAuliffe, a resident of Wilmot from 1930. Jack lived in the original Tewksbury Farm (of which Fred showed a photograph) and he owns a part of that farm to this day.

Jack described the Tewksbury house as one house that was entirely built around another. Its granite foundation stones were split in North Wilmot, and three circular cutouts show that three old millstone

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halves were used as well. One half, under the fireplace, was found when the house burned and was eventually used as a doorstep. Several of the granite steps “grew legs” at the same time.

The house also had a windowless room known as the “borning room.”

Jack’s first grade teacher, who taught grades 1-8 together in one room, was Annie Whittemore. Transportation to school for students who lived more than two miles away was by “bus,” and individuals contracted for this job using their own cars (roadster with rumble seat, etc.). The transportation morphed into horse-drawn sleds in winter. During mud season Jack remembers riding in a Model T Ford. In 1937, during the depression, the family moved from Wilmot but came back after a month. Jack then went to the North Road School, where his teachers were Marjorie Pennard, Bernice Follansbee, and Lorna Tibbett; each for one year.

At this time, the Garnet Mill was still in production, where garnet was mined and crushed to be used as an abrasive.

Four teams of horses pulling a big plank plowed roads. The horses themselves often had to be shoveled out. Eventually, the town paid \$5,000.00 for a tractor and \$3000.00 for a plow that was driven by a five-man crew; later reduced to three men. Homeowners offered coffee to the crews as they passed by. Even this machinery was unable to plow up steep hills, so a back road was created for them to get to the top by roundabout ways,

During the Hurricane of ’38 the wind came from the east, and their farm being on the west side of the hill was left undamaged.

During the depression, there were few, unpredictable jobs, many of which paid as little as \$.30 an hour, and Jack’s father, who was an artist, luckily found a job with the WPA, which required him to produce a certain number of paintings a month, which were sent to decorate public buildings.

After the meeting refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Hauck, Secretary

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