

# WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2018

9 Kearsarge Valley Road, PO Box 97, Wilmot, New Hampshire 03287    www.wilmothistoricalociety.org

## In this issue

- Liz Kirby, new president of WHS
- New Boston Post Cane holder
- Membership renewal form
- 2017 programs in review
- Curiosity Shop report
- Latest projects
- Acquisitions
- WHS book club meetings
- Special Meeting April 15

## Message from the President

I am honored to take up a new challenge as president of the Wilmot Historical Society. Many thanks to Marc Davis who filled this role for the past 11 years. Under his leadership we made great strides in expanding the horizons of the organization, especially in digitizing our collection.

The energy, imagination, and motivation of this group assures me that in the coming year we will see continued growth and expanded horizons.

Please support the efforts of the WHS by sending in your dues, visiting the History Room, and attending our programs. Thanks to all who helped make this year a great success.

*Liz Kirby, president*

## Liz Kirby Takes the Helm



With much enthusiasm and support, Elizabeth (Liz) Kirby of Wilmot was elected president of the Wilmot Historical Society on Sunday, October 29, at the Society's annual meeting in the historic Wilmot Town Hall in Wilmot Center.

Bringing much personal interest and experience to her new position, Kirby is well-qualified for her job. She has deep roots in Wilmot, being the fifth generation living on property that has been in her family since the 1800s.

Her paternal ancestors were dairy and sheep farmers and businessmen. All held town offices and many were representatives to the state legislature, including her great grandmother. Her mother taught in one-room schools in both Wilmot and Danbury and her father was very active in Wilmot community affairs.

## New Boston Post Cane Holder

Born on June 27, 1923 in Boston, MA, Ann Winifred Davenport accepted the Boston Post Cane as Wilmot's oldest resident at a small ceremony at her home in North Wilmot on March 31, 2017. Joining her for this honor were daughters Debbie Bartzak (below) and Sandy Hurst with husband George, plus some nearby friends and neighbors.



Ann attended grammar school in Alston, MA and went on to Girls High School in Brookline, MA. She married Franklin Davenport in March 1948 in New Hampshire.

The couple made their home in Massachusetts for many years and spent weekends with their five children and assorted animals in the North Wilmot house lending a hand to his parents. When retirement time came in the mid 1980s, they returned to the family home in Wilmot to enjoy country living.

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

## WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2018 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 and send to P.O. Box 97, Wilmot, NH 03287

*We keep the membership fee low to encourage all to join. Feel free to enhance your membership with a donation!*

2017 Programs



February – Steve Gasiorowski of the 12<sup>th</sup> NH Regiment Serenade Band (left) told us about Civil War band music and instruments that provided entertainment for the troops, played for the wounded in hospitals, serenaded the officers at night, and participated in military functions. A video of this program is posted on the WHS website on the Attic tab.

May - Jo Radner, (right) the quintessential New England storyteller, presented the program "Yankee Ingenuity: Stories of headstrong and resourceful people" to the delight of a large audience. She invited the audience to share their own stories.



October – Following the annual business meeting, our own history buff, Fred Ogmundson, (left) presented "A 1976 Bicentennial Retrospective." Fred reconstructed the impressive chain of activities organized by the Wilmot Bicentennial Committee of 1975-76 that lead up to the celebration itself. An important outcome of this Committee was the establishing of the Wilmot Historical Society as a non-profit organization in 1976.

Latest Projects

In 2017, the WHS video team continued its efforts to preserve stories of Wilmot’s past. Clayton Nowell, long-time resident, spoke about farming, his life, and his interests.

An inveterate skier, dry stone wall builder, and skilled farmer, Clayton has been a careful custodian of his land in North Wilmot for decades.

In addition to video, an effort is being made to bring past audio interviews to the public through transcription. The results of these efforts continue to be posted on the Memories of Wilmot page on our website [www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org).

Acquisitions

This year we were pleased to acquire two very interesting painted wooden signs. Seth Goodhue’s 15’ “Undertaker” sign, painted on an old board, was acquired from the Forsham estate this summer. It is now on loan with the Wilmot hearse at the New London Historical Village.

Walker Walker (below) presented the WHS with a sign from the Cash Store in Wilmot Center. On the right is a photo of the building with the sign on the front.



Walter Walker with Keith Cutting



Wilmot Cash Store, 1935

Curiosity Shop Report by Lindy Heim

The large turnout of shop volunteers and shoppers on September 2nd, the shop's last day, resulted in a record-setting \$996.25 worth of treasure being sold!

The Curiosity Shop volunteer team is most grateful to its twenty-four donors. The season's net profit of \$2184 was possible due to their generosity.

Shoppers appreciated the wide variety of mostly vintage items offered for sale at “easy on the budget” prices.

Another big “thank you” goes out to the twenty volunteers who schlepped, helped display and sell, and closed up on three market Saturdays. The team is looking forward to four Saturdays in 2018.



Wilmot Historical Society Book Group

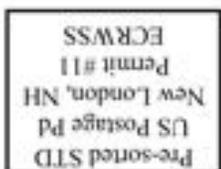
The book group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month three times a year—March, June, and September. To join and/or to get a book list, please call Marc Davis at 526-6960.

A SPECIAL MEETING will take place at 1 p.m. on April 15 at the WCA Red Barn to solicit input from the members about owning property to provide a future home for the Wilmot Historical Society. All members in good standing as of 2016-2017, plus any new members as of March 13, will be asked to vote on this question.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING April 15, 2018 at the WCA Red Barn

Wilmot, NH 03287

Postal Customer



Wilmot Historical Society  
P.O. Box 97  
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