

Andover Historical Society Wilmot Historical Society

By Joanna Sumner
Andover Historical Society

Betsy McDonald is this year's winner of our March Raffle. Thanks again to RP Johnson and Son and Country Pine Furniture for donating the prizes. Congratulations, Betsy!

The Andover Historical Society maintains the Potter Place Railroad Station, Emon's Store, the Freight House, and Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse. We raise money through raffles, donations, membership dues, and our annual Old Time Fair. All our fund raising activities and our building maintenance are done by the work of volunteers.

We have 92 volunteers who work as stationmaster at the Railroad Station museum and Emon's Store during the summer months. Every spring the display in the museum and the store is updated and changed to accommodate new donations or to introduce a newly uncovered piece of Andover's history. Approximately 400 visitors come yearly to Andover to visit our museum.

Volunteers also arrange to have the museum open for a visit from the fourth-graders from Salisbury, Andover, and Webster. We plan activities, films, and lectures for that day to help the students

learn about local history.

Another important activity that our volunteers work on is the collection of oral histories. We have now recorded over 50 tapes and CDs. These tapes provide a wonderful personal picture of life in Andover during the last hundred years. People volunteer to tell their stories, a volunteer records them, and then another volunteer transcribes them. Our growing library is an exciting asset for the community.

Our largest fund raiser is the annual Old Time Fair held on the first Sunday in August. Planning the fair and gathering flea market and auction items goes on all year. On fair day, we have 35 volunteers who spend the day working to make it a success. People travel from all over the state to visit our fair.

Plan on coming on the first Sunday of August. And don't forget that we need your flea market and auction items to make the fair a success. For pick up call Bill Cutter at 735-5928, Dennis Fenton at 735-5226, Ed Hiller at 735-5690, Roger Henderson at 735-5551, or Wayne Nicoll at 735-5721.

The Andover Historical Society is committed to the preservation of Andover's local history. Volunteers make it happen.

The Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) will host *A Soldier's Mother Tells Her Story*, a presentation by Sharon Wood, at 2 PM on Sunday, May 3, at the historic Wilmot Town Hall, Route 4A and North Wilmot Road in Wilmot Center.

Through a mother's perspective, Sharon will relate the stories of New Hampshire Civil War soldiers, including some men from Wilmot. A question and answer session will follow the program.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

The WHS was established in 1976. Its purpose is to preserve and maintain items related to the history of Wilmot, promote public education and appreciation of regional history, and foster greater historical awareness among members of the community.

Recent activities include improvements to the Wilmot Veterans' Memorial, a story-telling event, an annual meeting in November, and an historical overview of the Kimball



Sharon Wood in period costume

family in Wilmot by Fred Ogmundson in February.

Membership in the WHS costs \$5 per person a year. More information is available from Marc Davis at 927-4596.

50 YEARS AGO

APRIL 1959

Here's some old news from the Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville "gossip" columns of the Franklin Journal Transcript, selected by Heather Makechnie.

April 16, 1959 – Miss Nancy Burney, a member of Halcyon 4H Club, had the honor to receive a Purebred Registered Holstein calf from the Lions Club of Andover. The first heifer calf that is born is to be given to another person to raise. This calf was from John Thompson's cow. John Thompson received his calf two years ago from the Lions Club. Good luck to you, Nancy!

April 16, 1959 – Clarence Lull of Cilleyville had a surprise birthday party for his 65th birthday on April 8 at Potter Place Inn, given by Mr. and Mrs. Amos Johnson, Mrs. Leah Sleeper, and his fellow workers at Johnson's mill. *This was the first birthday party he has ever had*, and his 87-year-old father, Gene, was also able to attend. Clarence has worked for the same firm for 38 years and is now enjoying semi-retirement.

April 30, 1959 – If you went to see a movie at the Regal Theatre this week, you saw United Artists' *The Vikings*, with Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis, Ernest Borgnine, and Janet Leigh, in horizon-spanning Technirama and magnificent Technicolor.

April 30, 1959 – Back in 1939 a group of citizens in Andover got their heads together and started a practice that has been repeated to the present – setting aside certain days when volunteers from all over the village assemble

with rakes, shovels, axes, trucks, etc., for a general clean-up of the village. This includes brush-cutting, removal of old dead trees, and other projects which need attention. (This two-day event is sponsored by the East Andover Volunteer Fire Department.)

Last weekend, spurred on by the thoughts of a good meal at noon being prepared by ladies of the village at the fire station, volunteers young and old tackled the grounds around the fire station and piles of debris around an old house in the center of the village. Previously a crew had cut all the brush along one side of the Channel, and this too, was burned or removed. A few nights before, the fire company had turned out in force in the early evening and burned-over nearly a mile of grass along the railroad right-of-way as a safety precaution.

Sunday morning another crew took over with trucks, tractor, and chainsaw to cut down and remove three large dead trees beside Route 11.

Still hungry for more, some 15 men and boys tackled the beer bottles and other refuse thrown out along the road from the Franklin town line to Alpine Siding in Andover Plains, a distance of about five miles. Five tons, mostly beer bottles, had been picked up by the time the trucks arrived at the Andover Dump.

"We at East Andover," said Ralph Chaffee, "feel that these spring clean-up projects are well worthwhile, and that our efforts are repaid by the satisfaction of a job well done."

Reminisce!

The *Beacon* wants to publish your memories of Andover in days gone by. Big events or everyday moments, our readers would love to share in your memories.



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