

Wilmot Historical Society

By Lindy Heim
Wilmot Historical Society

The Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon, November 6, at 1:30 PM with a fun Cracker Barrel program to follow at the Wilmot Community Association red barn on Village Rd. next to the Wilmot Post Office in Wilmot Flat. The election of officers will take place at 1:30 PM followed by a refreshment break. The cracker barrel program, "Pictures and Stories from Old-time Wilmot" will begin about 2 PM and be hosted by Wilmot's own history buff Fred Ogmundson. Other folks will be sharing tales and projected images from

Wilmot's past.

The Townsend Howe oil painting donated by the Decato-Baker and Howe families will be dedicated just before the program begins. There will also be artifact displays, a demonstration of the digital collection, WHS membership opportunities (for new or renewing members), live music and refreshments. Bring your old photos for scanning and projecting if you like. The popular Curiosity Shop will be open for business as well.

Both events are being offered at no charge and are open to the public at large. For more information, call Marc at 927 4596 or e-mail him at marcsdavis@tds.net.

Andover Historical Society

By Pat Cutter
Andover Historical Society

Eastman's History of Andover tells us, on pages 253 to 262, about the militia in Andover. An act of the New Hampshire Legislature, passed in 1792, established that the towns of Boscawen, Salisbury, Andover, New London, and Kiersarge Gore shall form a first battalion of the 21st Regiment. The towns of Hopkinton, Warner, Sutton, Fishersfield, and Bradford formed the second battalion. In 1808, that changed and Salisbury and Andover were the second battalion and Boscawen and Hopkinton the first still in the 21st Regiment. Eastman lists the officers and members and gives further history of the organization. Musters, held in May and September, were gala occasions where rival companies held competitions; there was food, frequent entertainment, and amusement.

All this came very much alive for me when I opened the "treasure box" that Marj Roy had given to me for its historical value. It had been discovered in a lower cabinet in the vestibule of the Andover Library. At first glance it was a dirty cardboard box full of crumpled newspaper but that newspaper turned out to be well over 100 political broadsides for elections held in the late 1800s with lists of candidates. Under the newspaper was the treasure. The oldest being a hand written list of Andover men present at a muster on September 23, 1829, where each paid the sum of 31 cents to the town and signed their name. Listed were Tuckers, Benjamin, Moses, and William; Cilleys, Ebenezar, and John; and Emery's, Elias, and William. There were 32 names on the list and monies collected amounted to \$9.92.

There were 27 documents where Andover men swore allegiance to the State of New Hampshire, the oldest being 1840. Again there were familiar Andover names of that time: Emerson, Cilley, Bailey, Huntoon, Philbrick, Sanborn, and Gove. Since names appeared

twice or more it appeared that perhaps they must have had to swear every year. Each document was signed by a Justice of the Peace or in some cases the Board of Selectmen.

The majority of the papers were Company orders to gather the Militia at a specific place at a specific time in September and May, the first to be a gathering at the Andover pound on Tuesday the ninth of May, 1837. William Huntoon Jr. was given a hand written list of men to be summoned, so no one was excused without a "Surgeon's certificate". Again familiar names appear on the list: Cilley, Elkins, Ordway, Sanborn, Brown, Merrill, Greeley, Pevere, Severance, and Scribner. The last muster document was issued in May, 1850 to John C Tucker to summon the men to muster at the West Meeting House in Andover on Tuesday, the 21st of May.

There are 15 documents where Andover citizens had a substitute serve for them during the Civil War. Each one is witnessed and signed by the Captain and Provost Marshal of the First District of New Hampshire. Lastly, there were two lists of Andover men liable to military service, one dated 1864 and one dated 1872. I took the 1864 list to the New England Document Center in Andover, Massachusetts to be encapsulated and preserved. It is then protected and could be displayed. These last lists are important as during the Civil War each state had a quota of volunteers to fill. It was important that each town kept a list of eligible men who could serve. The first national conscription law was enacted in 1863 as the Enrollment Act. There was machinery in place for enrolling men between 20 and 45, quotas were assigned to each state, and deficiencies in volunteers were required to be met by conscription.

We now have a wonderful visual record of a part of Andover's history in the handwriting of those who lived it.

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Andover Historical Society 2012 Calendar



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