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Guy Stephenson

Steve Connor



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Annual Report & Newsletter to Members --- June 21, 2006
(Since the last Annual Meeting on June 15, 2005)

About us The Wilmington Historical Society, now almost 3 years old, is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization having received its New York State Provisional Charter in 2003. The current officers are: President ---Karen Marshall Peters, Vice-President--- Merri Carol Peck, Treasurer--- Robert Cressey, Secretary--- Nancy Cressey, Trustees--- Doug Wolfe, Guy Stephenson, and Steve Connor. *The mission of the Wilmington Historical Society is to collect, preserve, display and interpret the documents, photographs and artifacts that tell the unique story of how the people of this remote, mountainous small town with big ideas have adapted and survived in the harsh yet beautiful environment of the Adirondacks.* We meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm at the E.M. Cooper Memorial Library. Members and the general public are encouraged to attend.

Website Thanks to our webmaster, Patrick McIntyre, our website is growing. On our website, wilmingtonhistoricalsociety.org, you will find old Wilmington photos, a brief history of Wilmington, our schedule of upcoming events & discussion topics, historical society news, information on purchasing the “Town of Wilmington” Transcribed Serial Records books, membership information, minutes and agendas of our meetings, links to related institutions, and much more. Our “research” link to RootsWeb has all of the Wilmington Cemeteries on it, thanks to the work of our Trustees, Bob and Nancy Cressey. Another useful link for Wilmington history researchers is the Northern New York Library Network’s **Northern New York Historical Newspapers**. Put us on your web browser’s “favorites” list and check it often.

Wilmington books available for purchase The “Town of Wilmington” Transcribed Serial Records, by Harold E.Hinds, Jr. and Tina M. Didreckson and published by Willow Bend Books are available for purchase through the Wilmington Historical Society, with a 10% discount to Wilmington Historical Society members. At the time of this writing, volumes 2-4 (Census Records 1850-55, 1860-65, and 1870-75, Emma Hind’s Scrapbook, and Dr. Robinson’s Receipt Book are available, all related to people of the 19th century living in the Town of Wilmington, Essex County, New York. These records extend over a period of time and capture a significant portion of the population. These volumes allow genealogists and family historians with Wilmington ancestors to reconstruct a fuller portrait of their ancestors. You may download an order form online from our website wilmingtonhistoricalsociety.org or you may call Merri Carol Peck at 946-7627 for information.

Affiliations of the Wilmington Historical Society

Through our affiliations with these organizations, we are a part of a larger network of communication, receiving the benefits of training, discounts on materials, technical support, participation in forums, and grant information. We are also able to participate in local, regional, and national historical preservation efforts.

E. M. Cooper Memorial Library

Whiteface Resource and Preservation Association

Whiteface Mountain Regional Visitors’ Bureau

Northern New York Library Network

Essex County Historical Society

New York State Archives – Region 4

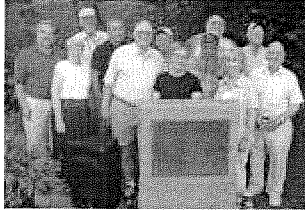
North Country Underground Railroad Heritage Trail

Upstate History Alliance

American Association for State and Local History

Educational Outreach Programs The Historical Society continues to make history-related programs available to the public. Our programs since the last Annual Meeting in June 2005 were:

- *July 1* --- provided part of the program for the *Wilmington Dam Re-dedication*.



- *July 14* --- "*The History of Fly Fishing in the Adirondacks*" speaker Fran Betters.
- *August 6* --- "*Whiteface Historic Iron Mine Tour*", led by Guy Stephenson.
- *August 24* --- revised version, and back by popular demand, "*Electronics, Whiteface Mountain and the 1980 Winter Olympic Games---Getting the Program out to the World*", speaker Douglas Wolfe.
- *August 27* --- The Wilmington Historical Society presented "*Classic Films on the AuSable*".
- *Sept 17* --- educational booth, displays and fundraising at the *Festival of the Colors*.



- *October 15* ---The Old Photo Meet and Slideshow, "*Wilmington: Then and Now*".



- *Saturday, May 6*--- "*Stephenson Range Iron Mine Tour*" by Guy Stephenson.
- *Saturday, June 17*--- 10 am -12 noon. "*Scrapbooking Your Family Photos*" by Susan Conway.

Other Projects In a project with *The Cornerstone Gift Shop*, the Wilmington Historical Society provided historical photos of Wilmington for postcards. Currently, the historic postcard of the Wilmington dam is now available for sale for 50 cents. 50% of the profit from the sales of these postcards will be donated to the Wilmington Historical Society.

In a project initiated and sponsored by Charles Haselton, and in cooperation with the Town of Wilmington, the Wilmington Historical Society mapped the cemetery and provided the locator grid for a *sign erected at the entrance of the Haselton Cemetery* as a gravesite locator.



Other accomplishments:

- We have received accessions of objects such as the cymbals from the Wilmington Town Band, a school bell from the Haselton School, and a cannon ball found under the Warren Family porch. We also received the daily weather records of Earl Warren, kept from the 1970's.
- The Society has submitted articles for the Wilmington Town Newsletter, as well as press releases and articles for the Community Calendars of the Plattsburgh Press Republican, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, the Lake Placid News, and the Essex County Free Trader.

- We continue to organize our archives, with everything now filed or labeled in boxes, and much of it now catalogued in the Past Perfect computer archive program.
- We approved 5-year long range plans for the Wilmington Historical Society, extending from detailed plans for 2006 through more sketchy plans for 2011.
- Karen Peters attended the Essex County Regional Roundtable in September.
- Karen Peters, Bob Peters, Nancy and Bob Cressey attended an archive workshop in June 2006 presented by the Northern New York Library Network.

Old Town Book

The Wilmington Historical Society assisted the Town of Wilmington in writing a NYS Local Government Management Fund grant to conserve the oldest Wilmington Town Record Book, which dates back to 1821. Working on this project was Gerald Bruce, Ed Hood, Merri Peck and Karen Peters, with the assistance of NYS Archivist for Region 4, Dave Lowry. As of this writing, we have not received word of the results of this effort.

More Programs to Come:

We are looking forward to another year of educational programming for the public. *Please add these to your calendar.* Keep your eye out for further details and updates about these and other programs and visit our website at www.wilmingtonhistoricalsociety.org :



“The History of Santa’s Workshop---the Early Years”

Friday, July 7---6 pm, join us for a buffet dinner at Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard in Santa’s Workshop on Whiteface Highway followed by a lecture given by Robert Reiss, son of the originator of “Santa’s Workshop, North Pole, NY”. This will be the first in a planned series of “The History of Santa’s Workshop” lectures sponsored by the Wilmington Historical Society. Mr. Reiss is providing the dinners at no cost to the Wilmington Historical Society, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. A suggested donation at the door of \$7.00 for adults and seniors and \$3.00 for children under 12 is requested as a fundraiser to support the work of the Wilmington Historical Society. Due to the limited capacity, reservations are required by June 30. To make a reservation, please call Nancy Cressey at 946-1227.



“Editing Mary MacKenzie”

Friday, August 4 --- 7 pm, at the Wilmington Volunteer Fire Hall, Lee Manchester, writer for the Lake Placid News, will be the guest speaker. Lee is the editor of the soon-to-be released collected historical writings of Mary MacKenzie, long-time historian for North Elba and the Lake Placid Village until her death in 2003. He also has edited a collection of 150 poems published last year that were found in Mary’s desk after her death, which she had written in the 1930’s as a young woman. Copies of the books may be available. Refreshments will be served.



“Wilmington Historical Society at the Festival of the Colors”

Saturday, September 16--- Watch for new displays at Wilmington’s 2006 Festival of the Colors.

We Can Use Your Knowledge

We have had several requests for historical information. Can you help? If so, please contact us by email at whs12997@hotmail.com or call Karen Peters at 946-7586 or Merri Carol Peck at 946-7627. Here’s what we need help on:

1. Paul Johnson of Jay is working on a cookbook based on our local area, which includes Wilmington, and has requested our help in locating photos of local restaurants and people eating in them. His book will cover the time period back as far as the fifties.
2. Bob Hockert who is working on the renovation of the West Branch Apartments, site of the old Olney Hotel, has asked us for information about the hotel and also provided us with information he had already found. He is especially looking for photos.
3. Guy Stephenson, the representative for the WHS on the AuSable Sustainable Communities Waterfront Project, is looking for input on the history of the river including past activities and how it was used.

Open discussions

Our "Open Discussions" take place after the business portion of each meeting. We expect the business portion of our meetings to last about 45 minutes. We invite attendees at our meetings to relate stories, bring news articles, photos or artifacts related to the topic of each meeting. Or... you can just come to listen! We record the "Open Discussions" so that the information and stories gleaned can be put in digital form for researchers, topic by topic. We would appreciate your contributions to the preservation of Wilmington's history. Below is the list through the rest of 2006:

July 19: "Military History and Wilmington"

August 16: "Tourism in Wilmington"

September 20: "Churches/Religion in Wilmington"

October 18: "Roads in Wilmington"

November 15: "Skiing in Wilmington"

If you have something to contribute to the discussion, but are unable to attend, please call, write or email us with your information. Phone: 964-7586 (Karen Peters) or 946-7627 (Merri Carol Peck). Address: Wilmington Historical Society, P.O. Box 172, Wilmington, NY 12997. Email: whs12997@hotmail.com.

Finances

The current balance of the Wilmington Historical Society is **\$4,485.88**. A copy of this year's budget is enclosed.

*****2006 Membership Drive*** Have you become a 2006 member yet?**

Our 2006 membership drive is still underway. Thank you to all of you who have sent in your tax-deductible membership for 2006. Your membership assists the Society in copying, cataloguing, and preserving the Town of Wilmington's records. It also helps to support our educational outreach programs, creating displays & exhibitions, training & conferences, and purchasing archival-relevant books such as the 'Wilmington Series'. For those of you who have not yet sent in your membership dues for 2006, we look forward to receiving your support. If you have not received the **Wilmington Historical Society 2006 Membership Brochure**, please contact Karen Peters at 946-7586 or Merri Carol Peck at 946-7627, email us at whs12997@hotmail.com or check out our website at wilmingtonhistoricalsociety.org (you can print out a membership application and mail it in)

Our total membership for 2005 was 118 paying members.

What our membership looks like so far in 2006: As of the end of May 2006, we have an official paying membership of 121. Members are in each of the following levels:

- 4 @ Benefactor (\$250.00 +)
- 7 @ Patron (\$100.00)
- 11 @ Sponsor (\$50.00)
- 9 @ Contributing & Sustaining Patron (\$20.00)
- 3 @ Institutional/ Business/Corporate (\$20.00)
- 16 @ Senior Citizen (\$5.00)
- 0 @ Student (\$2.00)
- 54 @ Family (\$20.00)
- 17 @ Individual (\$10.00)
- 121 Total members**

Volunteers

We have the fortune of having many wonderful volunteers in many areas of expertise, about 40 in all. They have freely given of their time and services to help advance the mission of the Wilmington Historical Society. They have done baking, collecting money, parking cars, and set-up for the Films on the AuSable, set up and take-down for the Festival of the Colors, assisted at the "Old Photo Meet", assisted in the set-up of our temporary storage & display trailer, volunteered to do landscape assistance at the storage trailer site, given of their time in preparing educational programs, created and maintained our website, contributed art expertise, organized groups and made phone calls, volunteered to write grants, volunteered to create a Haselton Cemetery headstone map, researched topics of historical interest to Wilmington, copied photos, created CD's and searchable archival material, and helped to organize our archives. While our volunteers are too numerous to mention here by name, we would like to thank them all----**Thank you, thank you, thank you! You are such a valuable asset!**

In Our Plans

Building

- Obtain land to construct a new building to house the Wilmington Historical Society's archives and collections
- Open building fund account
- Begin fundraising & looking for grants
- Learn about searching (marketing) for endowments & long term support for a building
- The temporary housing of our archives in the Wilmington Town Hall, with research hours for the public

Educational programs

- Continue lecture series & educational outreach
- Creation of a self-guided Wilmington History Tour brochure
- Participation in the WMRVB's Festival of the Colors

Training and Conferences

- Members and trustees attend regional roundtables for training
- Members and trustees attend relevant conferences for training and information

Recruit new members

- Encourage attendance at meetings with a new meeting format which includes discussion on a wide range of relevant historical topics
- Display mission statement and membership brochures at all meetings and events
- Encourage attendance at programs and events through personal contact and publicity

Archives, Preservation & Conservation

- Archive photos that we already have obtained & seek more photos of Wilmington
- Get all records on Past Perfect, a standardized computer software program
- Conserve documents by purchasing appropriate acid-free and archive safe storage materials
- Look into conservation of materials which need professional conservation
- Conserve 1980 Olympic film footage by getting them placed on appropriate reels

Projects / Displays

- Further our Website development
- Develop timeline for long term planning
- Continue making available & selling the "Wilmington books"
- Create a Birding map
- Interview seniors for their historical knowledge & create digital voice recordings
- Create new display for 2006 Festival of Colors

Research

- Assist in inquiries from the general public regarding Wilmington's History
- Historical research support for town wide and other projects such as the Wilmington Waterfront Revitalization Plan
- Provide support for genealogy researchers

Special Message to Members & Supporters

You are the Wilmington Historical Society! It is through your ideas, your volunteer efforts, your attendance at meetings & programs, your donations of photos and artifacts, and your financial support that the Wilmington Historical Society exists. Thanks to all of you for helping to preserve the past of this small, unique Adirondack town.

Wilmington Historical Society 2006 Budget

Approved 1/18/06

Categories	Item	Amount
INCOME		
Earned		
	Memberships	\$1,600.00
	Sales	\$50.00
	Publications	\$500.00
	Promotional Items	\$50.00
	Admissions	\$100.00
Total Earned Income		\$2300.00
Contributed		
	Donations	\$200.00
	Non-Restrictive Foundations	0
	Non-Restrictive Local Gov't	0
	Matching Funds	0
	Local Government	0
	Foundations	0
	Grants	\$300.00
	Rebates/Refunds	\$50.00
Total Contributions		\$550.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$2850.00
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EXPENSES		
Office Expenses		
	Office Supplies	\$100.00
	Postage/Box Rental	\$400.00
	Equipment	\$500.00
Total Office Expenses		\$1000.00
Financial Expenses		
	Bank Charges	\$10.00
Total Financial Expense		\$10.00
Facilities Expenses		
	Utilities	0
	Maintenance	\$50.00
	Repairs & Improvements	\$50.00
Total Facilities Expenses		\$100.00
Merchandise		
	Publications	\$615.00
	Promotional Items	\$50.00
	New York State Sales Tax	\$40.00
Total Merchandise		\$705.00

Memberships		
	Upstate History Alliance	\$50.00
	American Association for State and Local History	\$75.00
	Whiteface Mountain Visitor's Bureau	\$50.00
Total Memberships		\$175.00
Programs		
	Invitations & Programs	\$40.00
	Special Events	\$90.00
	Special Projects	0
Total Programs		\$130.00
Hospitality		
	Special Event/Exhibition	\$50.00
	Program Refreshments	\$25.00
Total Hospitality		\$75.00
Publicity		
	ISP/Web Hosting	\$30.00
	Website Maintenance	0
	Copying/Printing	\$100.00
	Advertising	\$25.00
	Total Publicity	\$155.00
Education		
	Training, Travel, Lodging, Registration	\$100.00
Total Education		\$100.00
Archives		
	Library, Collections, & Archives	\$300.00
Total Archives		\$300.00
Rebates/Refunds		
	Rebates/Refunds	\$100.00
Total Rebates/Refunds		\$100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2850.00
Surplus/Deficit		0