

## A Smile For Santa Brings Joy To All

JANUARY 4, 2012



In a touching role reversal, 11 year old, Taryn Breton captured a wonderful moment when she snapped this photo of Danny Webster upon Santa's lap. For all present, it was a moment that put a smile on everyone's face and the joy of the season in everyone's heart! Danny Webster, a lifelong Gilmanton resident has been attending the annual Christmas service at the Lower Gilmanton Church since 1937.

## History Interests Daniel Webster

By GAIL MANYAN

GILMANTON — It's not surprising to learn that Daniel Webster is interested in history.

Webster, an accountant with the public health division of the N.H. Department of Health and Welfare, said he thinks he is related to his better-known namesake, but after checking genealogy books he's not sure.

"There are so many Websters with the same name," he discovered, "that it's impossible for me to determine."

Webster, 45, is the fifth generation of his family to live in Gilmanton and he wants to help preserve the past.

The Gilmanton Historical Society was formed in 1968 and Webster joined two years later. "It's something that I always found fascinating," he said of studying the way things used to be. "Our current goal is to print a picture history of the town." He is the society's treasurer.

One society project Webster became involved with last year was a road-naming committee in Gilmanton. "Some people had forgotten the names of roads and some roads never did have names," he commented. His committee submitted to

selectmen names for the roads and all were approved. "Eventually we'd like to erect signs, but we can't get too many projects going at once."

Webster shares another characteristic with the 19th century, Franklin-born statesman — an involvement in politics, although on a smaller scale.

He has served four years on the Gilmanton budget committee and is beginning his sixth year as trustee of trust funds for the town. He was also a member of a building study committee last year, appointed by selectmen to review the uses of town-owned buildings.

In addition, Webster is vice president of the Gilmanton Old Home Days Association and a past commander of the town's American Legion post.

In spite of his interest in historical places, Webster's house on Frisky Hill is fairly new. "I'd always admired it for the magnificent view," he said, "and one day there was a 'for sale' sign on the lawn."

Asked whether as a child he took a lot of joking about his famous name, Webster said, "I still do."

But it was probably worse for his grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Webster.



Daniel Webster