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Gilmanton Historical Society announces 2020 summer programs

May 14, 2020

GILMANTON — Gilmanton Historical Society offers programs on local and regional history for its 2020 summer series. The programs, free and open to the public, are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, May through September, beginning at 7 p.m. at Old Town Hall in Gilmanton Ironworks.

The initial program on The New Hampshire Primary, scheduled for May 26, has been canceled due to the virus lockdown. The Society hopes to welcome members and friends for the remainder of the series.

June 23 — Music in My Pockets. Portsmouth musician Jeff Warner uses “pocket instruments” like spoons and dancing puppets to show us how American families, before the advent of electricity, gathered around the hearth and entertained themselves with songs and stories.

July 28, 5-6 p.m. — The Society offers an opportunity to tour a vintage Gilmanton barn. Meet at the former Twigg barn on Meetinghouse Road at 5 p.m. for a tour of the barn and a chance to see the adjacent flax-retting pond - a relic of former agricultural operations. Program to follow at 7:30 at the Old Town Hall.



July 28 — The History of NH Agriculture as Told By Barns. Barns can tell us a great deal about the history of agriculture in New Hampshire. John Porter describes the progression of barn styles that evolved to handle increased productivity and respond to changes in society caused by the advent of the railroad and the Industrial Revolution.

August 25 — History of Gilmanton's Kitchen Family. Wendy Berlind, a descendent of the Kitchens, will tell us about this family and how it helped shape the history of Gilmanton Corners beginning in the late 1800s. Coming from East Orange, NJ, the Kitchens were one of the first families who helped make Gilmanton a destination for summer visitors.

September 22 — History of Jones' Mill. Jim Garvin, retired NH Architectural Historian, will present some new research on the history of the Jones family and the amazing mill complex that they developed on their property at the junction of Loon Pond and Meadow Pond Roads. With multiple dams and many buildings, the Jones family produced a wide variety of products from shingles to wooden clothes driers.

The Society's museum, located in the basement of Old Town Hall, is open during June, July and August from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday morning.