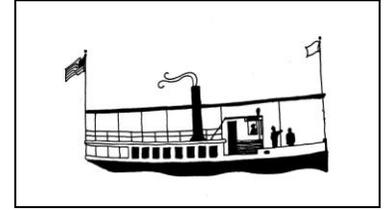


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782  
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e-mail: contact@sunapeehistoricalociety.org  
603-763-9872 or 8809



Winter 2017

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**At the Museum (and elsewhere).** It's a little chilly at the museum right now, so not much is going on there, though we hope you liked our holiday decorations. We're still busy, however, planning our programs for next summer, researching various topics, and planning the capital campaign that we will undertake once the town has agreed to our lease-purchase proposal for the Old Abbott Library.

**Sunapee Archives at the Old Abbott Library.** We continue to work toward acquiring the old Abbott Library to provide a better and year-round accessible space for our fragile artifacts. As I write this, we are in the middle of the hearings required by law when a town wishes to sell a public building. First, we briefed both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board, neither of which raised any objections or suggested any alterations to our plan. Next, the first public hearing, held on 9 January, attracted a crowd of about 30 supporters (thank you!), all of whom were enthusiastic about the prospect of our preserving both the building and significant artifacts while housing the Thrift Shop—now in need of a new home—in the lower level. Special thanks to James Wassell for the sketches he provided!

The second public hearing is scheduled for 23 January at 7pm at the Town Offices. Please come and make your support known. If you are unable to come, a letter in

support to the Select Board would be appreciated. You can find addresses, both snail mail and email, on the town website: town.sunapee.nh.us. The Select Board will vote on our proposal at 9am on 30 January.

We are excited to think that we may finally be able to do a good job of preserving our most fragile artifacts and serve the public better by welcoming them to do research or learn from our displays year-round. We are counting on your support. Remember: we need to **Preserve the Past to Enrich the Future!**

**Sunapee's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** The town's Sestercentennial Committee has been hard at work. They have chosen the weekend of 17-19 August 2018 for most of the festivities and have launched a logo design contest.

**New Regatta! Book.** Barbara Chalmers has put the finishing touches on Volume 1 of a two volume series on the Regatta and it is now available. Please see page 3 for details, and please let us know if you have photos of the Regattas held from 1947-1957—we have almost none!

We hope you're staying warm and healthy this winter!

*Becky Fitts Rylander*

### **Thursday's Child Dinner** **At the Coach House Restaurant, New London Inn** **9 February 2017**

This year, we will join with our sister organization, the New London Historical Society, as we gather with friends for a yummy dinner, some of the proceeds of which will come to our organizations.

Mark your calendars now and don't forget to make a Reservation: 603-526-2791.

### **PLEASE JOIN US FOR A THURSDAY'S CHILD DINNER!**

**Thursday, Feb 9th, 2017**

*A shared event to benefit both the  
New London & Sunapee Historical Societies*



A percentage of the profits of this Thursday's Child Dinner goes back to benefit these two local historical societies. An enjoyable way to support these wonderful organizations! Bring some friends! Thank you.

*Please join us for a cozy evening with friends  
in the historic New London Inn's Coach House Restaurant*

**Call 603-526-2791 for reservations.**



SunapeeHistoricalSociety.org ~ NewLondonHistoricalSociety.org

## ***Did you know...***

It has become our habit in this winter issue to look back at what was happening in town, mostly as revealed in the *Annual Report*, one hundred years ago. In this case, I'm looking at the Annual Report for the year ending February 15, 1917.

**Warrant Articles.** Town meeting was to discuss the usual array of funding requests, but there were several articles relating to the buildings formerly used to make hames (part of work horse harnesses)—would they sell any building not needed for town use, would they use the office for the public library, and would they remove or replace the smokestack? Those buildings—except for the office, now the Lake Sunapee Insurance Co---were finally removed in the 1970s, so we can only assume that the discussion went on for some time. The voters favored using the office for the library and left the other Hame Shop issues to the selectmen.

One other article concerned a sewer line: would it run from a property on Lake Ave near the Harbor to the river or to the Flanders sewer at a point near the Woodsum Steamboat Landing? Aren't we glad that sanitation standards have improved since then! Note: the voters decided to "pass over" this article.

**Fire Dept. Report.** One serious fire—in A.R. Randall's blacksmith shop with several automobiles; \$10,000 loss.

**Health Officer's Report.** No deaths from contagious diseases, but 80 cases of measles.

**Schools.** The new superintendent (shared with New London and Newport) reported that the Central schoolhouse was in good shape, but the district schools in Wendell, Georges Mills, and South Sunapee needed some renovations including to their outhouses. He pleaded with parents to ensure their children were present and on time for school, ending by saying "We know of nothing more valuable that a parent can give to his child than an education and it is becoming more valuable and essential every year."

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## ***History of the Sunapee Historical Society***

Perhaps, as we are poised to expand into the Old Abbott Library, you'd be interested in learning something of our history. Here's an article written by Lois Gallup covering our history from 1973 to 1990.

*The Sunapee Historical Society was organized on January 24, 1973. At that time several artifacts had been acquired through purchase and donation and it became quickly evident that a permanent museum where records and artifacts could be safely stored was needed. The first suggestion was the land at Dewey Woods. The Society worked with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to establish a ten acre tract opposite the Rogers' Farm as a Historical Park. The long range plan was to acquire and preserve buildings pertinent to the history of Sunapee.*

*In January 1975 the Historical Society voted to act as coordinator for the Bicentennial '76 celebration. Also during 1975 we held the first of many very successful Antique, Craft and Flea Market Sales under the expert help of Mrs. Victor Laro, Sr. Our collection of artifacts continued to grow.*

*In 1976 we coordinated activities of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We collected more than 1,200 signatures on a special scroll which was taken to Valley Forge, PA via the NH Conestoga wagon. With the cooperation of various Sunapee organizations, we earned the status of an official Bicentennial town.*

*In 1978 we were successful in the completion of the work necessary to become an incorporated non-profit organization. Through the generosity of The Sunapee School Board we were given the use of a portion of the old Industrial Arts room in the elementary school for storing and exhibiting many of our artifacts.*

*The donation of the Butter Building (originally used, we believe, to manufacture butter tubs) by Eileen Stocker Stiles and her sons William and Brent Stocker was the beginning of the Historic Park. However, our main focus was changed when Mr. Fay Osborne offered the Flanders-Osborne stable to the Society to be used as our museum. Being located in the center of the Harbor area, it was an ideal location for a museum. The summer of 1980 saw the start of restoring the stable to become a museum.*



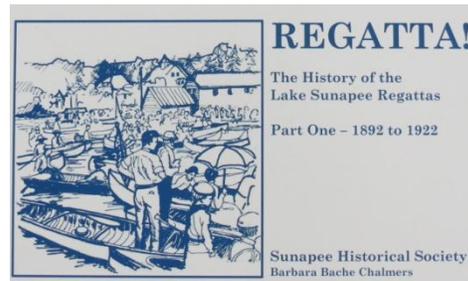
By 1983 we had progressed enough with the museum to be open for a series of programs. During the eighties many fine artifacts were donated to the museum including the pilot house of the steamboat Kearsarge donated by Sydney Crook. Also, during this time the museum was open to the public during the summer. The open hours were gradually increased to our present schedule. 1989 saw the return of the dugout canoe from Fort #4 to the museum where it remains today. Each year we have gained in our journey from stable to museum.

We have welcomed visitors to the museum every summer since. Our collection has expanded thanks to many donations, and we have presented many programs on Sunapee history. The logical next step is to find a way to do a better job of preserving part of the collection, and the Old Abbott Library is the perfect solution—a historic building in need of preservation located in the center of town that will be accessible to all year-round.

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**Now available: *Regatta! The History of the Lake Sunapee Regattas, Part One – 1892-1922***  
By Barbara Bache Chalmers

The Lake Sunapee Regatta Association held competitions in all sorts of water sports nearly every August for more than 60 years, drawing competitors from all over and thousands of spectators. This book is the first comprehensive exploration of our lake's regattas and follows the rise of the Lake Sunapee Regatta Association as the area evolved into a summer resort. Part Two is expected to be available by Summer 2017, but we need photos especially of regattas from 1947-57 and hope you will share if you have some.



\$20 for members; \$22 for non-members. Add \$5 for shipping if we need to mail it to you. Send a check made out to Sunapee Historical Society to PO Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782 to order or phone or email if you're nearby.

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**WWI Anniversary.** As you probably know, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I is upon us. At least 17 Sunapee men saw action in 1918. We will do our best to tell you about them next year. If anyone has photos of any of these, we'd much appreciate hearing from you: John Rowell, Jack Whitney, Jack Matthews, Ralph Cooper, Ray Cooper, Lester Welsh, Earnest Derry, Harry Sanborn, William Warren Hayes, Martin Sargent, Robert Hayes, William Koob, Irving Young, Willie Hoyt, and John Brown.

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**2017 MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS – CONTRIBUTIONS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK MEMBERSHIP TYPE:**

\$15 Individual     \$25 Family     \$50 Business     \$100 Patron     \$300 Sustainer

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_     I wish to remain anonymous

**NEWSLETTER**

Send future newsletters by e-mail  
 Send future newsletters by postal mail

**Please make checks payable to:**

Sunapee NH Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782

Thank you!

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***Sunapee Echoes***  
**Sunapee NH Historical Society, Inc.**  
**PO Box 501**  
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*Sunapee Archives at the Old Abbott Library (prospective)*