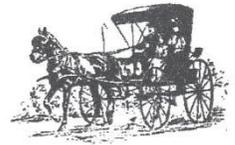


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782  
www.sunapeehistoricalociety.org  
e-mail: [sunapeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:sunapeehistory@gmail.com)  
603-763-9872 or 8809  
Summer 2015



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Happy summertime to all!

Did you see us at the **Newport Farmers' Market** on July 10<sup>th</sup>? We'll be there three more times this summer (31 July, 7 & 21 August), so please be sure to stop by and say "hi."

We've added **T-shirts** to our line of items for sale and they're going fast! We have men's and women's (slightly fitted, slightly lower neckline) styles in large and extra-large, light blue for the women and a deeper blue for the men.



They are \$15 each. If you'd like one but can't get to the museum, we'd be glad to send it. Please just send a check to the address above, adding \$5 for postage. Thanks!

We launched our summer **programs** on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and had great fun reliving our youths by remembering favorite activities of yesteryear. All sorts of boating, of course, but how about Bonner's roller rink, band concerts when the band sat on the roof of the harbor rest rooms, and so much more? Don't miss our other programs (see photos elsewhere in this issue) on 23 & 30 July, 6 & 20 August.

Sunday afternoon, **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the date for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Open House**. Bring a friend and come on down between 4 and 7pm. We'll have the Woodsum machine shop running, and it will be a great time to see our latest addition—the restored Bowdish sailing skiff, generously on loan from Bo and Kathy Muller. *The Lotus*, as she's named, will also be the subject of a program on August 6<sup>th</sup> along with other personal watercraft. Don't miss either event!



If you'd like to help with refreshments for the open house, please let us know.

We continue to wait for court approval of the Town's plan for obtaining relief from the stipulations of the bequest that created the **Original Abbott Library**. In the meantime, we are working to enhance our visibility and are relying on you to talk up our plan for protecting that building by creating a historical library and archive there.

**Elections** are coming up at our (brief) annual meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 2 for our roster of candidates. And huge thanks to Eileen Stiles, Adele Warner, and Jo Hill for all their work over their years as directors!

See you at the museum!

*Becky*



**Lake Sunapee Board of Trade**  
7pm, Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Museum

From the 1920s to the 1970s, this was the organization that promoted our area. A slide show by Ron Garceau will present photos, brochures, booklets, and promotional items from this era.

Everyone is welcome.

As always, the program is free and refreshments will be served.

Bring a friend and enjoy!

## *A Link to the Old Country...*

I had the pleasure of spending most of May traveling in Scotland. Part of my itinerary included a few days in Aberdeen, a city I had long wanted to visit in order to scope out the birthplace of one of my great great grandfathers nearby. As I prepared for the trip, I contacted a local historian, Jim Fiddes, Chairman of the Skene (that's a town—or parish in British parlance) Heritage Society. Jim was most helpful in helping me locate my ancestor's birthplace, sending photos of the house where my triple greats lived later on, providing directions, and more.

So after my wonderful day of exploring in the parishes of Skene and Echt (where my gg was born), I wrote to thank him and sent him a link to our website, thinking he might be interested. *Here comes the interesting link to Sunapee.* Back came an offhand question. Did we by any chance have a granite quarry nearby? It seems he's writing a book about granite workers who emigrated from Scotland to northern New England to work in the granite quarries. Of course I answered "Why, yes! And a press report from 1891 tells us that one of our granite workers, a William Abel, was traveling back to Aberdeen—his birthplace—for a visit."

The Stockers and their Sunapee Granite Works are the latest in a long line of granite workers in Sunapee. In the 1880s and 90s, granite mining and carving was an especially thriving business in Sunapee. Did you know this:

- We have photos of teams of oxen pulling cartloads of granite slabs.
- A.J. Dingle, another Brit but evidently from southern England, was hired as stone sculptor and turned out many life-size statues.
- The Civil War memorial statue in Cornish Flat, NH was carved here in Sunapee. Check it out next time you travel that way.
- In 1890, Sunapee was shipping granite to Washington, DC for use in the "new large library" there. Perhaps that was the Library of Congress, built during the 1890s? I've asked them and will report if I hear anything.



*Becky*

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### ***In Memoriam:***

We've been saddened recently by the passing of several good friends.

*Bob Porat*, with his wife Flo, was an avid and active member while they lived in Georges Mills. We have Bob to thank for the beautiful restoration of our magic lantern projector and much more. In recent years, following their move to Bow, they continued to visit the museum and we so enjoyed seeing them there.

*Rodney Chandler*, lifelong Sunapee resident and man of many talents, was well known and loved by many around town. Weekends at the museum were always more fun when Rodney stopped in for a chat while doing his foot patrol of the Harbor area.

*John Halsted* with his wife, Betty, volunteered many hours at the museum.

*Sonny Abbott*, life-long Sunapee resident, was well-known around town.

We will miss them all!

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### ***Elections:***

At our annual meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, we will elect a few new members of the Board of Directors. Our slate of candidates is as follows:

Barbara Chalmers for a 3-year term      Lucy Young for a 2-year term  
Tony Bergeron for a 1-year term      TBD for Nominations Chairman

Your officers (Becky Rylander, Sandy Alexander, Lois Gallup, and Lois Gould) remain in place for another year; Ron Hand and Bob Blakley continue as directors with Ron Garceau as Programs Chairman and Lucy Young as Docent Coordinator.

All members are eligible to vote and we promise to keep the business meeting brief!

## ***Raising Our Profile***

Your officers and board of directors are working hard to make the community more aware of all we have to offer—the museum with its extensive collection, our programs, our research, and our plans to preserve the original library building and create there a historical library and archive where our research materials will be much more accessible. You'll see us proudly wearing our new T-shirts and hear us talking about our activities. Some of our efforts involve increasing expenses. This year, we have an ad on the Anchorage placemats (\$240) and are placing ads for our programs in the Kearsarge Shopper (\$52 each). You'll also see our programs listed in more of the local community calendars.

*What can you do to help?* Visit the museum often and attend our programs. Let us scan any photos you may have of life in Sunapee. Be a docent (training is provided; it's easy and fun!). Bring along friends who may not be aware of the fun we have exploring Sunapee's rich and varied history. And talk about what excites you most about what we have or what we're doing, especially our plan for the original library building and the role that can play in preserving Sunapee's sense of place. If you'd like to underwrite any of our advertising expenses, please let us know. And don't forget to visit our website and "like" our FaceBook group page.

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*Frank Morse's Water Ski School and Show.* Program July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. From 1948 to 196\_, many of our friends learned fancy water skiing skills and could be seen performing in shows in the Harbor. Photos, videos, and stories from some of the participants.

*A word about membership renewals:* Renewals are not due at any specific time of year, so we include the form below in every issue of this newsletter. We simply hope that you will remember to renew or send a contribution at a time of your choosing during the year. If you forget that you've already done it, or if you are a life member who sends in a renewal, we will be glad to consider it a donation. We deeply appreciate your support. Thank you!

### **Sunapee Historical Society**

#### **2015 Membership, Renewals, and Contributions**

\$15 Individual     \$25 Family     \$200 Life Individual     \$350 Life Family  
 \$50 Business or Professional     Other Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send future newsletters by email.

I'd prefer to receive newsletter by mail.

Please make checks payable to:  
Sunapee, NH Historical Society, Inc.  
PO Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782

Thanks!

***Sunapee Echoes***

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**PO Box 501**

**Sunapee, NH 03782**

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***2014-2015 Board of Directors***

*Officers:*

Becky Rylander, *President*

Sandy Alexander, *Vice President*

Lois Gallup, *Treasurer*

Lois Gould, *Secretary*

*From our files:*

*Directors:*

Adele Warner

Ron Hand

Bob Blakley

Barbara Chalmers

*Programs Chairman:*

Ron Garceau

*Docent Coordinator:*

Lucy Young

*Nominations:*

Jo Hill



*Regatta! Program August 20, 7pm. For over 50 years crowds gathered to watch all sorts of water sports competitions. Photos, stories, results and more. Do you have memorabilia to share?*