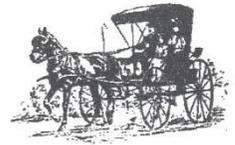




# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
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Summer 2013

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Hallelujah! The Old Information Booth has been restored!! Huge thanks to Gene Hall for spearheading this project!!!

In coordination with the Sunapee Harbor Riverway, we finally tackled the job in late spring and were amazed at how quickly Gene and his team made progress. In addition to Gene, thanks go to:

- Eileen Stiles – his right hand assistant, especially for scraping, painting, and clearing brush.
- Sandy Alexander – painting.
- Trow's Mill – siding.
- Biron's Flooring – carpeting.
- Pat Hall – interior décor.
- Baker Boyce – landscaping.
- Bill Stocker – granite steps.
- Peter Hill – trucking gravel and fill.
- Donna Gazelle – rocking chair.

Interior decoration includes the old desk used by Jean Putonen at the Town Office, a couple of period chairs, and photos of Sunapee of yore.

Please see before and after photos below. It's located on the old foundation of the Harbor House Hotel at the beginning of the River Walk. Check it out!

The building is currently locked, and we have not yet determined how we will use it, though we are hoping to open it during special Harbor events. If you would like to help as a docent at those times, please let us know.



by Bickford

### ***Coming up – annual meeting and elections.***

We will meet on Monday evening, August 5<sup>th</sup>, to elect a few officers and conduct any other business that needs to be attended to. We don't expect that to take long. Then we'll adjourn for a program on local artist Sid Bickford.

Here's the slate of candidates:

#### *Officer:*

Lois Gould to fill an unexpired term as secretary (expires 2014).

#### *Directors:*

Ron Hand to a 3 year term (expires 2016).

Adele Warner to fill an unexpired 3 year term (expires 2015).

Eileen Stiles to a 2 year term (expires 2015).

Bob Blakley to a 1 year term (expires 2014).

#### *Nominations Chairman (1 year term):*

Jo Hill

We hope to see you soon!

*Becky Fitts Rylander*



## ***Herbert Welsh (1851-1941)***

Sunapee owes a huge debt of gratitude to former summer resident Herbert Welsh for working to preserve the beauty of Sunapee. And to Barbara Chalmers for bringing him to life for us.

As mentioned in our spring issue, Welsh was THE early advocate and leader of conservation efforts for Mt. Sunapee and the Dewey Woods, long-time president of the Sunapee Chapter of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Indian rights activist, philanthropist, and artist. Among his claims to fame is the fact that he walked from his home in Philadelphia to Sunapee (over 350 miles) and home again at least 13 times while in his 60s and 70s. I thought you might like a sampling from his book, *The New Gentleman of the Road*, written in 1921 to relate the stories of his 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> walks in 1919 and 1920. If you're interested in reading more, you can find the book in its entirety on Google Books.

In 1919, Welsh left Philadelphia on May 19<sup>th</sup> carrying some 23 pounds of baggage. He caught up with mail and additional clothing at various post offices along his route. Here's what he has to say about the pleasures of his long walk: *The especial charm of a long walk like that upon which I have now embarked is that the unexpected always happens in it. And with me it is usually the pleasant-unexpected. So I try never to be in a hurry and never to worry in the slightest degree if plans—tentatively made—must be abandoned or greatly modified because a wholly unlooked-for chance to do something worthwhile presents itself.* He visited with friends, family, and new acquaintances along the way, enjoying conversation and good health.

The tug of Sunapee seems to increase as he nears the end of his journey. After spending a night at the Moody House in Claremont, he reports that *On the morning of June 16<sup>th</sup>...I breakfasted at 7.30. Heavily laden and light of heart, my bill paid and free of all cares, financial, legal, theological, or metaphysical,—yes, and physical, too,—I started on my last lap in the walk of 1919 for Sunapee and its lovely lake.* He passed through Newport, stopped to pay his respects to Mrs. Hardy and her family in Wendell, and...*By 4 in the afternoon I was at the post office, receiving from Mr. Perkins' friendly hand a great batch of mail. And now I am at Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Flanders' white cottage, just opposite the Ben Mere Inn, and the blue waters of Lake Sunapee, shining and glinting in the sun, are right under my eyes—never more beautiful. And finally...That night surely was the happiest of all during the journey that had preceded it, for the pleasures and perils of the road safely passed, alone and unattended, prepared by myself I ate my frugal supper. I slept the sleep of perfect contentment and external peace in my own bed, under the hemlock-shaded roof and by the gently lapping waters of Lake Sunapee.*

The following year, his assistant accompanied him on the walk, and they arrived in Sunapee on June 14<sup>th</sup>, looking forward to continuing work on his many interests: *That day the long walk was done, and I found myself, at set of sun, a solitary resident of the little cottage by the quiet and beautiful lake that has been the modest, happy seat of my family for more than twenty-five years. My young friend, Dorothy Whipple, in a state of equal physical health and contentment with myself, found her accustomed lodging-place in Sunapee. And there we made ourselves ready to begin—I as employer and director, she as secretary and helper—a summer campaign, the activity and interest of which we could neither of us then anticipate, for the rights of the North American Indians; for the control and, let us hope, elimination of the White Pine Blister rust, the menace of New Hampshire; the acquisition of an additional tract of land to be added to the public park already established on Mount Sunapee, and other things that need not here be specified for the general public good and that of men and women, rich or poor, high or low, white, black, or yellow, who compose the great human family.*



HERBERT WELSH IN WALKING COSTUME

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, we helped to dedicate the Herbert Welsh Trail and enjoyed its Nature Art Walk. Much of the forest that Welsh worked so hard to preserve was devastated by the 1938 hurricane. But we learned that a section of old growth forest remains on the northwest side of Garnet Hill where those trees were sheltered by the hill from the southeast winds of that storm 75 years ago. The images that Barbara has posted along the trail beside the Rogers Brook Marsh and on Garnet Hill will remain in place through the summer. They can also be viewed at our museum. We hope you will enjoy them in one place or the other.

As Herbert Welsh closed all his letters...*for a more glorious Sunapee!*

## August 2013 Programs

Monday, August 5, 7pm

### **Annual Meeting and Program – Sidney Bickford, Artist: His Life and Art.**

Come and learn about this prolific local legend. Bickford enjoyed painting wildlife, especially fish, but his subjects were varied. View our collection and learn about his life. Free; refreshments following.



Thursday, August 15, 7pm

**Island Hopping on Lake Sunapee.** Great Island, Little Island, Emerald Island, Star Island, and Burkehaven Island are the largest islands on Lake Sunapee, each with at least one cottage. Great Island once sported a bowling alley and a church was planned but never built because someone stole the money! More history and lore of the islands (with photos) will be the topic of a Cracker Barrel Talk. Free; refreshments following.



**Dues and Donations.** *If you haven't already this year, please use the form below to renew your membership and/or make your donation for 2013. Please remember that our operating budget is dependent on you. An "(L)" following your name on your mailing label denotes life membership and membership renewal is not required, but we will, of course, welcome your donation.*

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### Sunapee Historical Society 2013 Membership, Renewals, and Contributions

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

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

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Yes, please send future newsletters by email.

No, I'd prefer to continue to receive newsletters by mail.

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***2012-2013 Board of Directors***

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Lois Gould, *Secretary Pro-tem*

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*Docent Coordinator:*

Priscilla Sargent

*Nominations:*

Jo Hill

*From our files: Harbor Scene by Sid Bickford*

