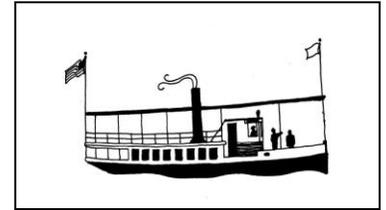


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782  
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org  
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603-763-9872 or 8809  
Summer 2019



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We're off to a busy start this summer:

The weather was perfect for our *History Cruise* along the Newbury shoreline on July 1<sup>st</sup> and Nancy, Midge, and Barbara kept us entertained with lots of interesting facts and stories. If you missed it, no worries—we still have a few seats available on our second cruise running along the same route on **August 12<sup>th</sup>**. Email us today if you've been meaning to sign up. ([sunapeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:sunapeehistory@gmail.com)) Next year, we'll start around the lake again.

Last week we learned about Sunapee's early photographers from Paul Rheingold and had fun meeting folks at our Open House at Sunapee Archives, celebrating our purchase and thanking all our donors who made it possible.

There's a lot more coming up! Programs at the Museum will be:

- July 25<sup>th</sup>: Dr. Jolyon Johnson on the **Angell farms and farming in NH** at 7 pm.

- Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>: Annual meeting at 6:30 pm followed by Bo & Kathy Muller on **restoring wooden boats** at 7.
- Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Greg Weiss portraying **CT Gov. Wilbur Cross** talking about his summers at Sunapee at 7 pm.
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Methodist Church: Our volunteer appreciation pot luck supper at 5:30 and program **Bruce & Babe** by Bruce Cronin on the movie-making collaboration of that famous duo at 7 pm.

**Annual Meeting:** It's that time of year again! On August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, we'll meet for a brief annual meeting before our program. You will be asked to elect directors:

Patricia Halpin for a 3-year term

Gail Bosse for a 3-year term

Rosemary Gates for a 1-year term

And join us in thanking Ron Hand, now retiring from the Board, for his years of faithful service!

We'll also be asking you to ratify one small change in our by-laws pertaining to the frequency of our meetings/programs. Please see page 3 for the current and proposed language.

Keep cool!

*Becky Fitts Rylander*

## RESERVE YOUR SEAT

PARTICIPATE IN THE ANTIQUE BOAT PARADE ON LOUIS EDMONDS' REPLICA STEAMBOAT  
6 SPACES AVAILABLE



**Sunapee Zephyr**

DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019  
 TIME: 12:00 PM  
 PLACE: GEORGE'S MILLS DOCK  
 COST: \$200 PER PERSON / INCLUDES LUNCH  
 PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
 SUNAPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RESERVATIONS: CALL (603) 763-1129 EVENINGS

CRUISE THE FULL PARADE ROUTE AROUND LAKE SUNAPEE ENJOYING LUNCH, FRUITS, SNACKS AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, WITH A RETURN TO EITHER THE GEORGE'S MILLS DOCK OR A DOCK OF YOUR CHOICE ALONG THE WAY!

TO BENEFIT THE SUNAPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Now is your chance to participate in the Antique Boat Parade on Love Your Lake Day! Seats are still available on the Sunapee Zephyr. Call Louis today (763-1129) to reserve your spot and support the Sunapee Historical Society.*

*Thank you, Louis!*

## *Did you know...*

As you are probably aware, the train was vital to early tourism as well as to the economic life of this area, bringing vacationers from Boston and New York and taking goods to market. Here are a few more details that I've recently gleaned from a chronology gathered from the local newspaper archives by G. Birse in 1993.

The proposed rail route between Bradford and Newbury Harbor was surveyed in May of 1869 and work on that segment of the Sugar River Railroad began a year later, employing 125 men, 45 horses and carts, and 12 teams of oxen. The main task was to excavate a cut in the rock (the famous "Newbury Cut") 52 feet deep and 300 feet in length. In the fall of 1870, two steam drills were added to hasten the job. They could drill holes nine feet deep and two and one half inches wide in fifty minutes.

Work continued through the winter, and according to a report on 31 December 1870, "A couple of railroad employees from the Summit (the Newbury Harbor end of the cut), under the influence of cheap whiskey sold to them by a 'vendor of the ardent' broke the bonds of friendship on Thursday last and had a pugilistic encounter for which they were put in the Newport lockup until sober."

By April of 1871, the contractor in charge of the excavation had quit with the job 80% completed, but work continued, and by June they were laying rails while blasting continued "day and night" at the Summit. Rail traffic from Concord to Newbury finally began in September of 1871, to Newport by November of that year, and through to Claremont in September 1872 to much celebration: "Scores of Newbury residents gathered at the town's two railroad depots to cheer the first run of a through train between Concord and Claremont. The packed coaches were bedecked with bunting, and the trains stopped at both Newbury Harbor and Edgemont to take on passengers for Claremont."

In 1873, the Sugar River Railroad was absorbed by the Concord and Claremont Railroad, and that subsequently became a division of the Boston and Maine Railroad. Beginning in 1877, steamboats met the trains from May through early October.

Train travel was not without its peril! Trains derailed several times in the early years, mostly because of drifting snow. In February of 1873, the afternoon train was stopped by a driving snowstorm and the crew and passengers, including the president of the railroad spent the night in the train. Sunapee Lake Station was burglarized a couple of times. In October 1917, the 2:00 train ran over and killed a cow owned by Mr. Perkins of Mt. Sunapee.

Tourism picked up once through train travel came to the lake, especially once the Lady Woodsum (1877) and other steamers were available to deliver passengers to their destinations:

- July 1877: 10 passenger cars filled with Sabbath school children accompanied by a brass band.
- Aug 1877: reduced fares for those attending a Temperance meeting at Blodgett's Landing.
- Sept 1882: estimated 2500 attended a GAR encampment at Blodgett's Landing.
- Aug 1883: 20 bands coming to Blodgett's. Railroad and steamers, half price.
- Summer 1886 & 1887: special "Sunday" trains coming from both directions with reduced fares.
- 1887 & 1888: Spiritualist meetings at Blodgett's attracted crowds estimated at 5,000, many coming by train & steamer.

So business was good for several decades and Sunapee Lake Station (near present-day Davis Cabins) was built and rebuilt and improved upon several times. But train travel gradually dropped off: Lake Station was sold and torn down in 1934, passenger service was discontinued in 1955, and the tracks were removed in Newport (and perhaps the entire line) in 1967.

Luckily, we have many photos documenting the train and steamboat era, and the local newspapers are available on line, thanks to Newport's Richards Free Library ([Richards.advantage-preservation.com](http://Richards.advantage-preservation.com)).



The Newbury Cut



Sunapee Lake Station

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***In Memoriam:***

We are saddened by the passing of Kurt France. Kurt and Carol came every summer from California to enjoy their place in Georges Mills and usually stayed well into the fall. In recent years, Kurt helped us in many ways—as docent, as master woodworker, and as general supporter of our programs and activities. His passing in May came as a shock and we miss him.

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We are truly grateful to all our members, donors, and volunteers, not only for the monetary donations that made purchase of the Old Abbott Library possible, but for your support of our day-to-day operations. We also thank our business members and sponsors whether they have donated to our Fund for Sunapee Archives, to our general operating fund, or in kind. We hope you will use their services and thank them on our behalf:

Burkehaven Boatworks	Hope Damon & George Chait	Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Sunapee Cruises	Sugar River Bank	Dexter's Inn
Osborne's Marine	Ostrom Builders	Lake Sunapee Insurance
Belletete's	LaValley's	Harbor Light Realty
Sunapee Mutual Fire Ins. Co.	MJ Harrington Co.	Claremont Savings Bank Foundation
Harbor Light Realty	Kearsarge Magazine	Lake Sunapee Manor
Sunapee Seniors Thrift Shop		

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**SUNAPEE  
★CRUISES★**

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***Proposed By-Laws Change to Article VIII, Meetings:***

The proposed change is to align our by-laws with our current practices.

The by-laws now read as follows:

*Section 1. There shall be a minimum of four stated meetings each year in the months of January, April, August, and October. The August meeting will be considered the Annual Meeting.*

To be replaced by:

*Section 1. There shall be a minimum of four general meetings/programs each year with the August meeting considered the Annual Meeting.*

Note: Our current habit is to schedule four meetings with programs in the summer, two each in July and August, as well as one each in April and October.

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**For any who have missed the opportunity:**

**2019 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:**

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P.O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782   Thanks!

***Sunapee Echoes***

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PO Box 501  
Sunapee, NH 03782

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***2018-2019 Board of Directors***

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Thanks to all our donors who made Sunapee Archives possible!