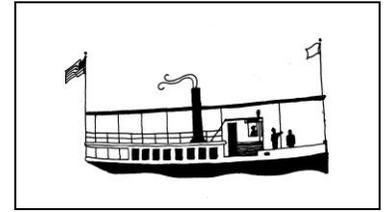


# Sunapee Echoes

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



Fall 2019

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

After another busy summer and early fall, the museum is now closed for the winter. Our life-sized Woodsum brothers and Bobby Gould figures donned their ghost costumes for Halloween and now are tucked safely away for a long winter's nap. The big barn door is closed!

But Sunapee Archives remains open on Monday afternoons from 1-4. We welcome guests and would love to have you stop by to see our exhibits of Sunapee's past, ask questions, and see what we're up to. If Monday afternoons don't work for you, we'd be glad to meet you there at another time. Just let us know.

Our **summer history cruises** continue to be a big success and were over-subscribed. Big thanks go to Barbara, Midge, and Nancy for their stories of lakeshore development, to Captain Kara and Sunapee Cruises for another great cruise, and to the SHS board members and friends for the delicious food they provided! We've covered the entire shoreline in four years and will start around again next summer, adding new information as we go. We'll try to publish the 2020 cruise dates in our next newsletter so you can mark your calendars.

We all enjoyed varied and fascinating programs, thanks to Barbara Chalmers (Sugar River industry), Paul Rheingold (early photographers), Jolyon Johnson (the Angell farms), Bo & Kathy Muller (restoring the *Nancy Jane*), Greg Weiss and Barbara Chalmers (Gov. Cross), Bruce Cronin (*Bruce & Babe*). Now we're beginning work on our 2020 offerings.

**Our latest ornament** came in late for summer but is now on hand for the holiday season. It features the Lady Woodsum (1876-1912), the Woodsum Company's first steamboat on Lake Sunapee.



You can purchase it for \$22 (or \$20 if you are a member) at Sunapee Archives or by mail. Please add \$4 for mail orders for postage and handling. And please see page 3 or visit our website ([sunapeehistoricalsociety.org/our-store](http://sunapeehistoricalsociety.org/our-store)) for more gift suggestions for the Sunapee-lovers on your list.

Our friends further south think life here in winter must be boring, but we all know that there's plenty going on. You can plan now to brighten the dark days of January and benefit the Sunapee and New London historical societies by planning to attend our annual **Thursday's Child dinner at the New London Inn on January 30<sup>th</sup>**.

And, finally, some things are universal. On a recent trip to Japan, I visited the Hokkaido Museum near Sapporo and, sure enough, found some familiar items—an old sewing machine and some old telephones complete with a child learning how to dial, just the way they do at our museum!



Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Becky Fitts Rylander

## *Did you know...*

As you may know, the Town of Sunapee is now in the throes of debating how best to provide a modern facility for its grade school students. But did you know that Sunapee once had nine one-room schoolhouses, six of which remain standing as houses or offices? The following is condensed from an article on the history of Sunapee Central School done by Barbara Chalmers for the not yet published Volume 2 of her *Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places* books.

From the early decades of the nineteenth century, Sunapee's nine district schools were run by local families, each responsible for hiring, paying, and boarding the teacher, maintaining the schoolhouse, and providing supplies like firewood, water buckets, and books. Teachers were paid \$5 to \$10 per week and hired by the term with three 10 to 12-week terms per year. Schools closed frequently to control infectious diseases, and attendance was spotty. Teachers were generally inexperienced young people, usually women, teaching grades 1-8. Son of Sunapee John Henry Bartlett, who later served as governor of New Hampshire, taught for a term at school #4 (near Brown's Hill) in Sunapee before finishing at Colby Academy and going off to Dartmouth.



Old North Rd Schoolhouse and its replacement

In 1885, the New Hampshire legislature abolished the old district system and required each town to have a school board to oversee all schools. Awareness was growing that Sunapee needed to add high school grades to its curriculum to serve the students who were attending Colby Academy in New London and other similar institutions at town expense. In 1901, construction began on a new central school, located about where the Sugar River Bank now stands, to consolidate three district schools in one. The building was outfitted with electric lights, central heating, piped water, and toilet rooms for boys and girls in the basement. From its opening in 1902, the number of students and the grades offered gradually increased. In 1914 a high school curriculum with all four grades was finally added. Consolidation continued: by 1916, four district schools were still operating; by 1928, only two.

In the early morning hours of 28 May 1928, fire broke out in the Central School, and it was a total loss. Within two weeks, construction of a new school had been authorized. Land was purchased, the architects hired, and ground was broken in August. The new Sunapee Central School opened on 12 January 1929—less than eight months after the fire!



The first Sunapee Central School

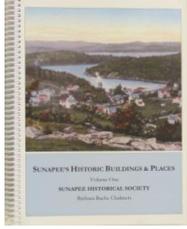
1916



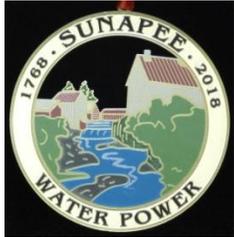
1928

The two remaining district schools closed with the opening of the new school. Over the years, a number of changes or additions have been made: a playground and outdoor speaker's platform funded by Gov. Bartlett in 1941, an addition to the south end in 1953, a third story addition to the south wing for science classrooms in 1959, a separate gym with stage and locker rooms in 1960, a separate middle-high school in 1973 to accommodate a growing school population, and renovations suitable for the remaining elementary school students in 1986. That's the school that still stands proudly on the hill today. You'll find an architect's drawing from 1929 on the back page of this newsletter.

**The holidays are coming!** As you contemplate your gift list, don't forget our selection of Sunapee things. Here are a few. More can be found on our website ([sunapeehistoricalsociety.org/our-store](http://sunapeehistoricalsociety.org/our-store)) and at Sunapee Archives. See below for ordering information.

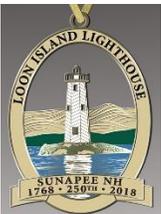


**Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places, Vol 1**, by Barbara Chalmers, \$45/\$40.50 for members. This volume documents over 120 historic properties and the families that lived in them. Photos of each building are included. Look for Volume 2 by next summer. Thank you, Barbara!  
Add \$5 for mail orders.



**Water Power Ornament.**

This ornament commemorates the water power provided by the Sugar River—a source of energy vital to industry in town. \$22/\$20 for members.  
Add \$4 for mail orders.



**Loon Island Lighthouse Ornament.**

This ornament commemorates one of Sunapee's three lighthouses, built originally by the Woodsum Steamboat Co. and now maintained by the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA). \$22/\$20 for members.  
Add \$4 for mail orders.



**Regatta! Volumes 1 and 2.**

Books by Barbara Chalmers documenting the history of the Lake Sunapee Regattas, Sunapee's long-lived summer celebrations. Vol. I covers the early years (1892-1922) and Vol II the remaining years (1923-1957). Vol I: \$22/\$20 for members; Vol II: \$30/\$27 for members; the 2-volume set: \$50/\$45 for members.  
Add \$5 for mail orders.

**To order by mail:**

Choose one of the following methods:

- Send us a check (Sunapee Historical Society, PO Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782)
- Call (603-763-9872) with a credit card to charge via our Square account.
- Use the "donate" button on our website being sure to use the comment field to tell us who you are, what you want, and where to send it.

Thank you!

When you use their services, please thank these businesses for their support:

Hope Damon & George Chait  
Sunapee Cruises  
Osborne's Marine  
Muller Boatworks, Inc.

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust  
Dexter's Inn  
Lake Sunapee Insurance Agency  
Sunapee Seniors Thrift Shop

Dunnells Plumbing & Heating  
Harbor Light Realty  
Barton Insurance Agency

**SUNAPEE  
★CRUISES★**

**A note on Board Changes:**

By vote of our Board of Directors, two have traded places: Lucy Mueller is now our secretary, and Lois Gould will be our decent coordinator next summer. We expect to ask the membership to ratify that change at our next annual meeting.

***Sunapee Echoes***

Sunapee Historical Society  
PO Box 501  
Sunapee, NH 03782

---

***2019-2020 Board of Directors***

*Officers:*

Becky Rylander, *President*  
Barbara Chalmers, *Vice President*  
Lela Emery, *Treasurer*  
Lucy Mueller, *Secretary*

*Directors:*

Sandy Alexander  
Lois Gould  
Gail Bosse  
Patricia Halpin  
Rosemary Gates

*Docent Coordinator:*

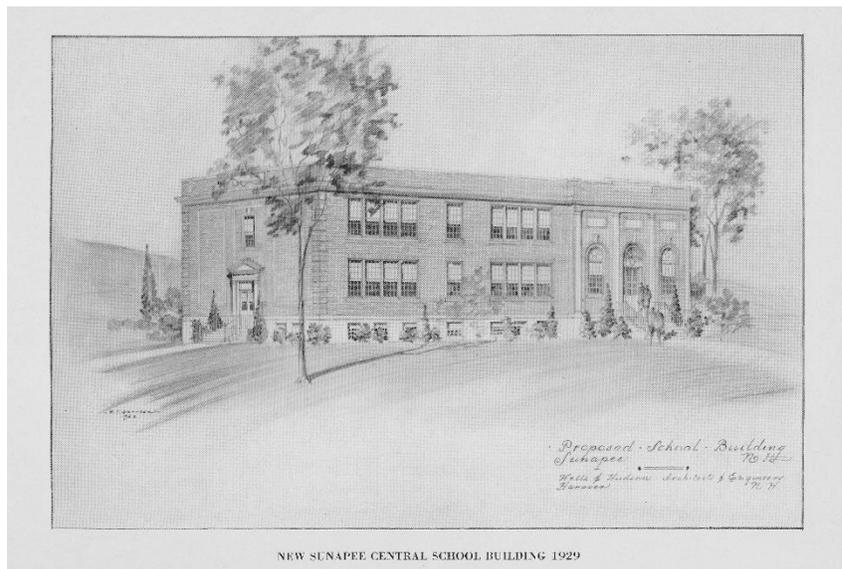
Lois Gould

*Nominations:*

Vacant

*Emeritus:*

Eileen Stiles  
Jo Hill  
Lois Gallup  
Ron Garceau



NEW SUNAPEE CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING 1929