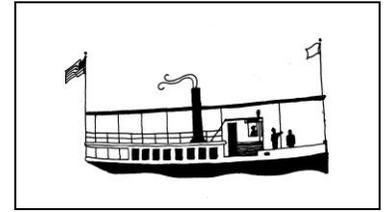


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
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sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
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603-763-9872
Winter 2020



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This month marks one year that we have owned the Old Abbott Library building, now known as **Sunapee Archives**, and we are still thrilled to have that space for year-round use. We are especially pleased to remain debt-free and to have raised enough to tackle some needed renovations. **THANK YOU!** to everyone who donated so generously.

So what changes are we working on? A new HVAC system has been designed and will be installed in the spring once having heat is no longer so important. On top of that, we will install a new display case and glass doors over some of the shelving and repair some masonry. We're also contemplating purchasing UV-protectant shades and new interior lighting. New computer equipment has already been purchased.

We continue to help folks with family research and other questions and look forward to any visitors who stop by on Monday afternoons (1-4). Please come see us!

Barbara is still researching the histories of the historic buildings in Sunapee, and you can expect Volume 2 of her book to be available in the spring. Who knew that so many old buildings remain?! Each article about an old house is much more than a list of owners and does much to document town history—a true labor of love!

At this time of year, we step back a bit and reflect on the year just past and what's coming up. Thanks to the New

London Inn and their Thursday Child dinners, we can relax with friends over a wonderful dinner. This year our turn is coming up on **30 January**. Please see the box below for more information.

We're beginning to think about summer! Tentative dates for our 2020 History Cruises are 29 June and 10 August. Thursday programs will happen on 9 and 23 July and 6 and 20 August. You can expect a program in late April, too, and one with our annual volunteer appreciation pot luck supper in October (dates tbd). Our April issue of this newsletter will have the full schedule.

Train buffs may be interested to know that one program will be about the coming of trains to Sunapee—what it took to get them here and what they did for our economy. This will be one of a series of exhibits and programs put on by MUSE (MUSEums Sharing Experiences), a consortium of groups like ours. Check the website (nhmuse.org) to learn more.

We know a lot about our early settlers, but have you ever wondered about the indigenous people who were here first? We have some lore to relate (please see page 2), but know very little else. How many were here? Were they transient hunters or did they live here? Where were their settlements? If you have any solid information, please share it. Thanks!

Becky Fitts Rylander

*Enjoy a luscious dinner at the New London Inn
While supporting the Sunapee and New London Historical Societies*

*Call the Coach House Restaurant at 603.526.2791
To make reservations for our Thursday's Child dinner on 30 January.*



Thank you!

Did you know...

I think we all know that Native Americans lived, fished, and hunted in this area before the European immigrants arrived. But just what do we know?

The late Howard Sargent (archaeologist, educator, brother of Babe Sargent) found several sites in the area that are evidence that Paleo-Peoples once lived here (6,000 to 3,000 years ago)—in Newbury and especially in Georges Mills about where Sunapee Cove is now. They were followed about 3,000 years ago by Woodland Peoples. A wigwam site in Georges Mills dates to about CE 1200 and may have belonged to ancestors of the Abenaki peoples who greeted the European settlers.

But what do we know of the more recent tribes beyond the fact that they were decimated by small pox and gradually moved north into Canada? Sunapee residents have long been enchanted by the thought of the Native Americans who were once here, so we have a variety of poems and stories to relate, but not much in the way of solid facts.

How did the Indian Cave get its name? As the story goes, a young Mohawk brave who had joined the local Penacooks to hunt came down with small pox and was set adrift on the lake. But the Penacook chief's daughter had fallen in love with him and determined to nurse him back to health. She slipped away from her tribe, found him, and took him to a cave high above what is now Sunapee Harbor. Unfortunately, both died there, and their bones were found by hunters many years later. The cave was reportedly named "Indian Cave" by a group of "excursionists" from Peabody, MA who explored it in 1878.



Son of Sunapee and Governor John Henry Bartlett wrote a narrative poem, *The Legend of Ann Smith*, about a young girl lost in a storm and rescued by (usually fierce) Chief Sootanore, thereby inspiring peace in the area. Governor Bartlett subsequently gave a statue of Chief Sootanore to the town, and it graced the playground at the school from 1931 until it disappeared, perhaps during WWII. The plaque dedicating it to the memory of the early settlers survives, but the statue is gone. You can see a photo of it on the back page of this newsletter.



More recently, Abenaki Louis Watso and family came to this area to sell their baskets. They lived for a time around 1900 at Blodgett's and ultimately moved to Claremont. Here's a photo.

My own dad, writing in his "Winnowings" column for the *Argus Champion*, imagined the Penacook braves paddling their war canoe north in the middle of the lake, emerging from the mist between the islands and continuing past the tribal camps to mark ice-out and the coming of spring—an earlier version of Richard Osborne, who does that job today in his motor boat! As Dad said, "The early Penacooks must have noticed the coming and going of the great sheet of ice (followed, no doubt, by the coming and going of the blackflies)."

Jane White wrote an excellent article on the Abenaki way of life for the Winter 2006-2007 *SooNipi Magazine*. We can imagine the Penacooks (the Abenaki tribe in this area) camping near the lake to hunt and fish and farm a little. But now my questions are more specific. Has anyone discovered campsite locations or found artifacts? Perhaps they "left no trace" as we are schooled to do when we hike in wilderness, but I'm curious. Do you have artifacts or knowledge? Please let us know! My next stop? The Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum—a place I should have gone to ask these questions long ago.

Note: Our own dugout canoe is thought NOT to have been created by Native Americans, judging by the tools used.

We are saddened at the passing of our new neighbor, Leena Mark. She served her town in many ways and included working as docent at our museum among her volunteer activities. Her enthusiasm for her new home next to the Archives was infectious, and we were all looking forward to getting to know her better.

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

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Sunapee Cruises
Osborne's Marine
Muller Boatworks, Inc.

Dunnells Plumbing & Heating
Dexter's Inn
Lake Sunapee Insurance Agency
Sunapee Seniors Thrift Shop

Harbor Light Realty
Barton Insurance Agency

**SUNAPEE
★CRUISES★**

We will send a separate membership and contributions reminder letter in a month or two. This form is here for those of you who would like to help us sooner. Those who renewed late in 2019 are set for 2020, though contributions are, of course, welcome at any time!

2020 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 Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 501
Sunapee, NH 03782

Thank you!

Contributions of **time and talent** are also welcome. Please let us know if you'd like to tackle any of these jobs:

Docent at the museum: Welcome visitors from around the world. Training provided; three-hour stints.

Programming

Transcribing diaries and other documents

Organizing/providing refreshments for programs

Gardening and/or lawn care

Research

Publicity

Building maintenance

Housekeeping

Fund raising

Acquisitions: policy and cataloging

Scanning

Organizing digital files

Writing articles

Recording oral histories

Planning and mounting displays

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Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

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