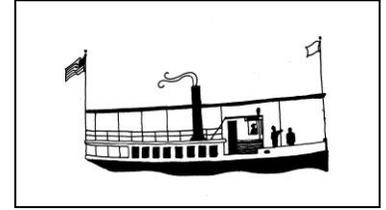


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
603-763-9872
Summer 2020



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Museum and Sunapee Archives remain closed because of Covid 19, but we would be glad to meet you at the Archives for a properly distanced and masked visit. Just contact us for an appointment.

Our Museum. The museum may be closed, but we hope you've discovered our rotating displays, strategically placed just inside the big glass doors. We've been changing them every few weeks and are presenting photos and artifacts from our history: Woodbine Cottage, schools (in honor of our graduating seniors), and water sports. Most recently, we've turned to the trains that brought so many visitors to us and transported goods both to and from this area. Please stop by frequently to enjoy our focus on these items.



History Cruises. We have reluctantly canceled our history cruises for this summer. Now that it is clear that the virus will not be leaving us any time soon, we believe this step is necessary to keep us all safe. We look forward to welcoming you all aboard next summer!

Programs. Our programs, too, have been postponed, canceled, or altered. At 7 pm on 23 July—the time originally set aside for our program on the train (*The Train Comes to Lake Sunapee: What it took and what it did for our economy*)—we will post a video on that subject on YouTube with links on our website and FaceBook page. It will remain available on YouTube.

Our *annual meeting* on 6 August will be held via Zoom at 7 pm. **If you'd like to attend, please send us an email.** We

will provide the details as the day draws near. The annual meeting will be a quick powerpoint review of the past year and the current state of our finances. Our program that evening will be a video about the history of the elegant Granliden Hotel.

Our 20 August program on *antique clothing*, including the elegant purple wedding dress and undergarments, is postponed to next year when, presumably, it will be safer to gather.

Sunapee Archives. Burpee Hill Construction is planning to begin work on our new HVAC system and associated projects on or about 14 September. That should give them time to complete the project before heat is needed. Meanwhile, they are working on a handsome display case that we will use at the Archives to show off and protect the purple wedding dress and other gems from our collection.

Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places. Barbara is in the final throes of preparing Volume 2 of her book for publication along with a fully-indexed reprint of Volume 1. We'll let you know when it is available for purchase.

We hope you are enjoying summer in spite of the virus!

See our virtual program online!



The Train Comes to Lake Sunapee:
What it took to get it here and
What it did for our economy

*On the Sunapee Historical Society
facebook page*
Thursday, 23 July - 7 pm



OR



*On our YouTube channel
via a link on our website homepage*
SunapeeHistoricalSociety.org

Did you know?.....

Do you know what is meant when a farm is referred to by range and lot number? When Barbara Chalmers researches the historic properties of Sunapee, she goes back to the beginning—to the founding of the town in 1768—and, in her writeup, gives the original identifying reference for the property in question. When the town was granted status as a proprietary under King George, the land was divided up into rectangular lots, some of 75 acres, others of 85 acres, and a few of 100 acres, north and south of the center. Some of those lots can still be seen on the tax map, even when they've been divided.

That brings us to one of Barbara's research subjects: to Lot 3 in the 2nd South Range of 100-acre lots, given originally to Samuel Lunt from Newburyport, MA—and the property on which the house at 28 Bradford Road was built, probably circa 1780 by Robert Woodward or his sons. The family came from Smithfield, RI and traveled back and forth several times before settling in Wendell (as Sunapee was called then). By 1800, the extended family in Wendell comprised some 34 people. Elder Nehemiah Woodward, the eldest son, was the congregationalist minister of south Wendell. But the Woodwards did not stay long, and the entire family moved to Vermont and Canada early in the 19th century.

Thomas Pike purchased the property in parts in 1803 and 1806 and lived there for 20 years or so before moving to High Street in the village. He served as Wendell's first representative to the state legislature and as Justice of the Peace.

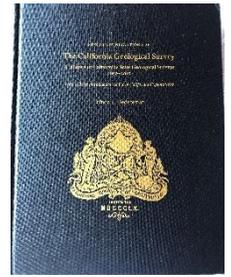
Hazen Crowell bought this and other property in the area in 1829, married into the Angell family, and lived there for 56 years. Considerable change came to the neighborhood during that time. In 1832, the South Meeting House was built near the east side of the Crowell farm, and Hazen sold to the church trustees land for expansion of the burial ground several times over the years. The meeting house is long gone, but the cemetery remains—a lovely, peaceful spot on Harding Hill Road. More significant change was brought by the train. The Concord to Claremont rail line was laid in the early 1870s, and Crowell, along with ten of his neighbors, was forced to sell land for the right of way that bisected his farm. He was allowed one at-grade crossing and had to install fencing on both sides of the track to keep his farm animals from being hit by the trains. Trains, beginning with two daily in each direction, ran through the area from 1872 to 1955.

Following the deaths of both Hazen and Celia Crowell, the property has had 13 owners, a mix of local people and out-of-staters. Finnish immigrant Lauri Fredrik "Fred" Alto and his family of 12 lived in the farmhouse. He farmed and logged the property for about 20 years but left after the State's realignment of Route 103 in 1948 further divided his fields.

All of this will be carefully documented in much more detail in Barbara's *Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places, Volume 2* along with the histories of scores of others, a true labor of love that combines building history with genealogy and weaves together Sunapee history. Volume 2 will be printed this summer. Barbara's research has been so successful that Volume 3 will follow eventually.



Congratulations! Our hearty congratulations go out to Trinda Bedrossian, a geologist with the State of California and one of our members, on the publication of *The California Geological Survey: A History of California's State Geological Surveys, 1850-2015*.



Trinda has spent the past five years researching and documenting the history of geology in California. Her finished product is impressively detailed and interesting.

In her biography of noted geologist Josiah Dwight Whitney (1819-1896), Trinda reveals his link with New Hampshire and Lake Sunapee. He was born in Northampton, MA, trained at Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, and with several renowned scientists in France and Germany. He helped the Geological Survey of New Hampshire briefly before sailing for Europe. After working in the mid-west and becoming well-known nationally, Whitney was appointed State Geologist and director of the Geological Survey of California in 1860 and served there until 1874. Then he returned to Harvard, spent the rest of his career as a professor, and died in 1896 while on vacation at Lake Sunapee.

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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society
PO Box 501
Sunapee, NH 03782

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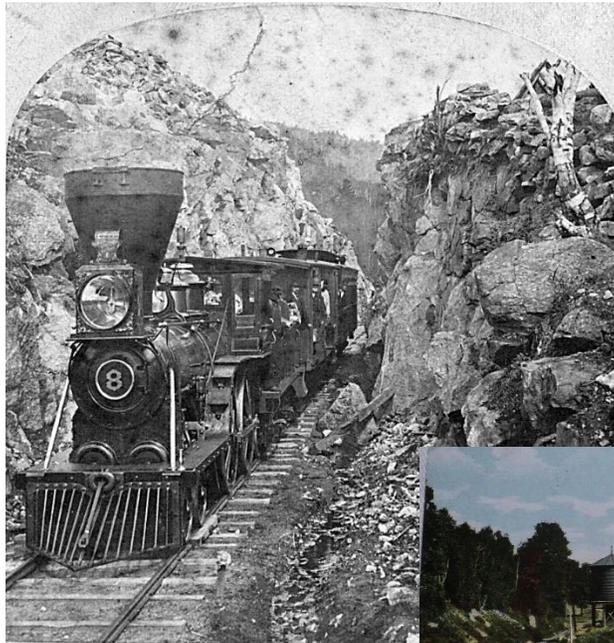
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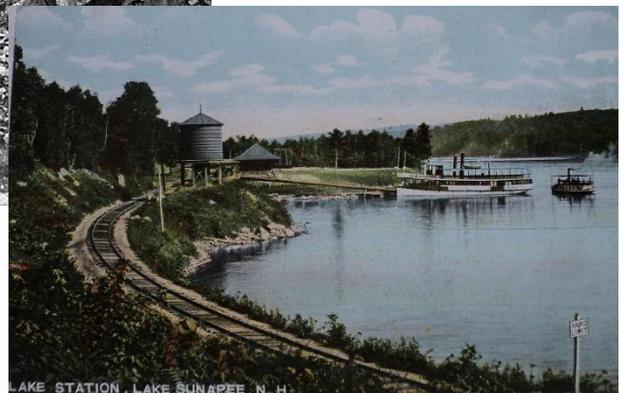
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*Through the Newbury Cut to
Lake Sunapee*



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