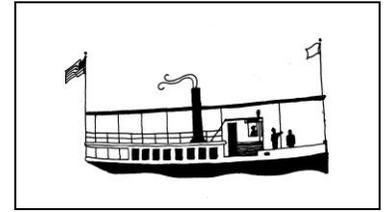


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
603-763-9872
Spring 2021



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The ice is out of the lake (as of April 9th) and summer is coming! We are now open again at Sunapee Archives on Monday afternoons, 1-4, and are prepping the museum for reopening on Memorial Day Weekend. The big change there will be an **art gallery** in the small room that was an office. We're adjusting our hours at the museum and will be open Friday – Saturday – Sunday and holidays, 10-4, and by appointment. We continue to require masks despite the ending of the Governor's mandate and hope that everyone is getting the vaccine.

Documenting COVID. Has the Corona-virus changed your life? We are collecting memorabilia—photos, items, journals, etc—to help document our year of pandemic living for future generations. Was the year a total disaster for you? Or did you find a silver lining or two? How did your life change? Please let us know!



Old clock has come home. Our circa 1805 Sunapee-made grandfather clock is now in residence at Sunapee Archives! It stands there proudly for all to enjoy. Huge thanks go out to all of you who made the purchase possible with your generous donations! Please come visit.

Another new book! Some of you may remember Paul Rheingold's talk on early photographers a couple of years

ago. Now he has expanded that into a delightful book: **Take Home a Souvenir: The Early Photographers of Lake Sunapee**, available soon.



Summer 2021 programs schedule. At the moment, History Cruises are scheduled for July 5th and August 9th, both Monday evenings. We'll explore the west shore from Burkehaven to Job's Creek. If you want to sign up for one of them, we'd be glad to put you on the list (first-come-first-served). Just send an email or phone. You can wait to pay once we know how many we can accommodate and what other COVID restrictions will apply. We expect to require masks, won't serve food, and we hope you're all able to be vaccinated!

Programs are set for July 8th and 22nd and August 5th and 19th with a fall program in early October (date TBD). We'll see what COVID allows. See the attached schedule or our website for more details.

Instead of a spring program, we plan to post another video on our YouTube channel by the end of April. This one will tell the backstories for the squares included in the quilt made for the town's 250th anniversary.

See you in June!

Becky

The Sunapee Historical Society is proud to announce the publication of

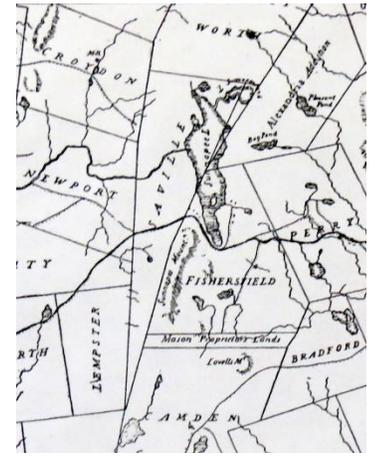
Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places, Vol 1 (updated) and Vol 2 by Barbara Bache Chalmers

These two volumes embody Barbara's extensive research—with a third and final volume due out by the end of 2021—and trace Sunapee's history from 1768 on. In discussing the histories of 240 sites, Barbara reveals an intricate web of family ties. Please see the "News" page of our website (SunapeeHistoricalSociety.org) for more detailed information. There you will find a list of the properties in each book and an addendum of information added to earlier editions of Volume 1 for this third edition.

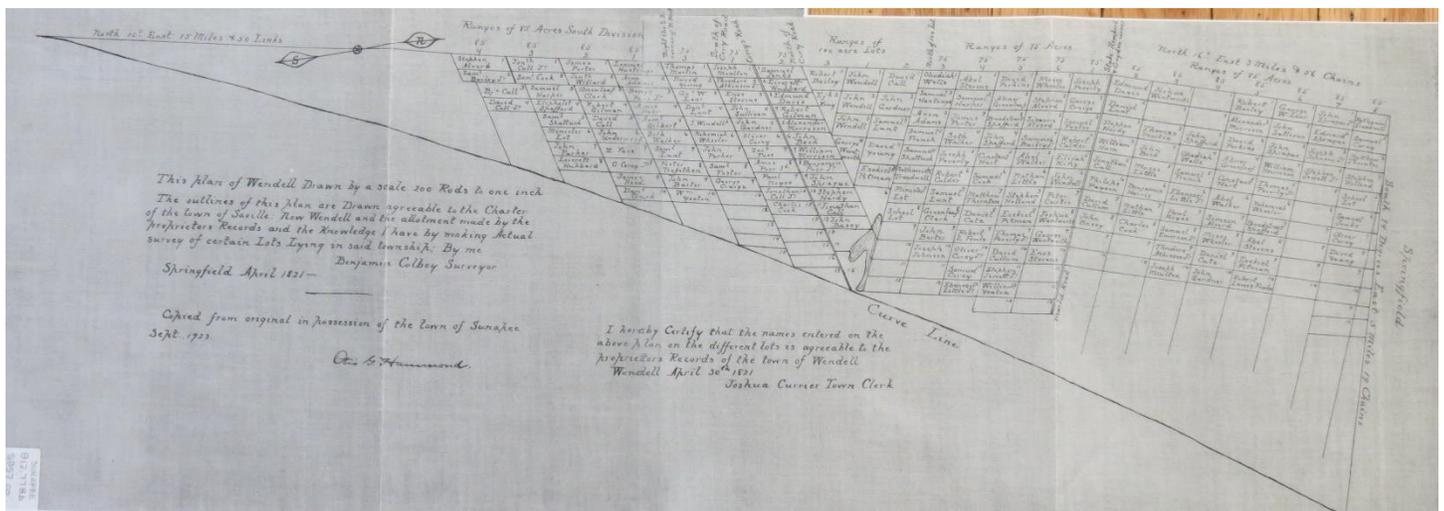
The books can be obtained at Sunapee Archives (open on Monday afternoons, 1-4, or by appointment) or by mail. Please either email us (sunapeehistory@gmail.com) or call (603.763.9872). \$48 each for non-members; \$43.20 for members; \$5 for postage.

Did you know?.....

Although most towns in New Hampshire are rectangular in shape, Sunapee is a little different and, originally, it was even more so. In 1768, when our town was formed as a proprietary under King George, the southern end was pointed and the northeastern corner included most, if not all, of Little Lake Sunapee. Here's a map. It's dated 1784 but still carries our town's first official name, Saville. You'll notice also that Newbury was "Fishersfield," Sutton was "Perry," Springfield was "Protectworth," and New London was combined with Wilmot and Andover.



The land was divided up into 75-, 85- and 100-acre lots that were identified in "ranges" or rows and by number. It's interesting to note that some of the original lot boundaries can be seen on the current tax map and that some of our roads—Trow Hill Road, North Road, Ryder Corner Road, Winn Hill Road, Stagecoach Road, and perhaps others—are straight because they ran between lot lines. This map—with north to the right—shows the lots with their original owners named, very few of whom ever lived here.



In 1790, the southern end of town was sectioned off to form part of Goshen, probably because the people in that area were too far from the center of town commerce and government to get there easily. Fifteen families became Goshen residents at that time, leaving a population of 267 in 36 families in Wendell, as we'd been known since the town was incorporated in 1781. In 1804 and 1817, sections in the northeast corner were transferred to New London, presumably for the same reason.

So why does the eastern border curve and why does it cut across the lake? That line, known as the Masonian Curve Line, delineates property to the east—everything within the curve that extended in an arc 60 miles from the sea—that was given to Capt. John Mason in 1629, land that was eventually divided up and sold off.

Our town slowly developed and gradually coalesced into four villages centered around grist and sawmills—Upper and Lower Main Street, Wendell, and George's Mills. One of the rituals of New Hampshire town government is perambulation of the town boundary lines to inspect and renew the markers and record any disagreements. This action was mandated by the State in 1791 to take place once every seven years and is to be done by selectmen from adjoining towns or their appointed representatives. If we uncover information about Sunapee's history of perambulations, we'll publish it here in a future issue.

Thanks to our friends and benefactors! We are beholden and ever grateful to our many friends, some in families who have supported our efforts to highlight Sunapee's history for generations. The Kidders are one such family. Bill Kidder loved the lake and the steamboats and was an avid collector of items from the Armenia White when she was scrapped. Some of those brass fittings passed down to Dave Kidder, who used them to decorate his office. Now they have





come to us—brass lanterns, the bow plate, the plate from the control mechanism, and a wheel—and we will proudly display them at the museum this summer.

About 20 years ago, Bill Kidder teamed up with Syd Crook (our president from 1999 to 2002) and David Coffin to ensure that a replica of the original eagle was installed on the pilot house from the steamship Kearsarge. Thanks to the Kidders and all our other supporters!

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

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And when ordering from Amazon, please use the smile.amazon.com website and list the Sunapee, NH Historical Society as your chosen charity. Thanks!



If you've already renewed your membership or contributed for this year, thank you!

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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society
PO Box 501
Sunapee, NH 03782

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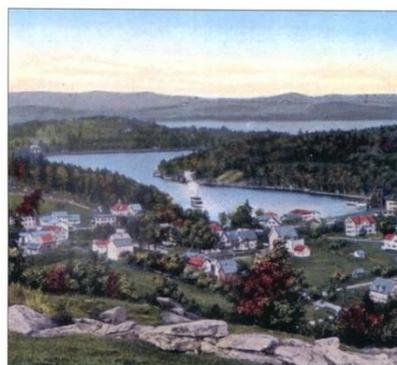
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