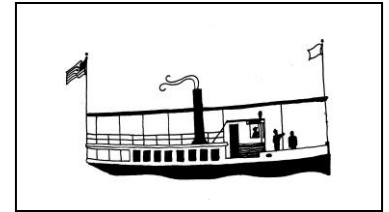


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
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603-763-9872
Fall 2021



What's Happening?



Happy Halloween!

We had a great summer and hope you did, too. Our loyal docents, under the leadership of Lois Gould, enjoyed hosting more than 3200 enthusiastic visitors at the Museum. Switching our open hours to longer, weekend days seemed to be popular, and visitors appreciated our new art gallery and our revamped exhibits. Thank you, all!

Our programs proved to be popular. In a departure from our usual format, Astrida Schaeffer, clothing historian, came from Maine to give an illustrated talk for 100 people at the Livery on the evolution of bridal gown customs, using Susan Stocker's purple gown as the focus. In September, Astrida returned to look at other clothing in our collection. She both dated those items for us and advised us on their care and storage. All of her consultation was supported by a grant from NH Humanities and the National Endowment.

It may have been a rainy summer, but we had great weather

for three sailings of this year's History Cruise aboard the MV Mt. Sunapee. Keep your eye on this space for word of next summer's schedule, and make your reservations early!

Artifacts. We are grateful to all of you who continue to donate a rich and varied collection of Sunapee artifacts for our collection. Thank you! Recent items are too numerous to mention all but include a golf club from the Granliden, the Covell sisters' (owners of the Granliden Hotel) silver tea pot, and trinkets made by a Sunapee soldier while imprisoned during the Civil War. See page 2 for his story.

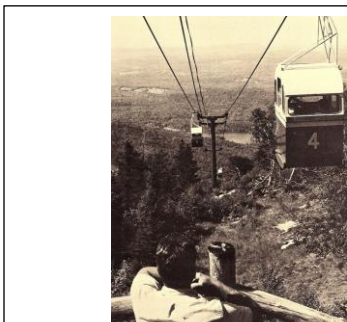
Mt. Sunapee Gondolas. For about 10 years, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, the chairs on the lift at Mt. Sunapee were replaced in the summertime by 4-person gondolas to carry visitors to the top of the mountain. One of those gondolas has now been installed harborside opposite the museum, preserving that bit of history and providing a great photo op.

Watering Trough. Have you heard about plans to move the granite trough at the foot of Alpine Court? Read its history on page 2.

Our wish-list. We're in need of a 6- or 7-foot aluminum stepladder for the Archives. If someone has one that's no longer needed, we'd be pleased to have it for occasional small repair jobs. That would save our having to lug one from home. Thanks!

Enjoy the rest of fall and the holidays. We'll be back in touch in January. Please stay well!

Becky



Did you know? ...

For safety reasons, plans are afoot by the town to modify the 5-way intersection of Main Street, High Street, Central Street, and Alpine Court. Those plans include moving Sunapee's 1902 watering trough, possibly to a new, small park on the opposite corner (corner of High and Main). Other modifications to improve safety are not yet clear, but we hope they will be available before the voters are asked to approve funding for the project next March. Barbara has written a short history of Sunapee's watering troughs and this one in particular. Here's some background and what we know about this one.

From our town's earliest days in the 1760s into the 1920s, people and goods moved by horse and ox-drawn wagons. Road-side drinking water for these animals was essential and was a town responsibility. By the 1850s, the town paid local farmers 2 to 3 dollars annually to maintain a watering trough. The town paid to maintain 6 to 8 troughs located throughout town along the main roads. They were usually made of a section of hollowed out log with constantly running piped spring water, but thanks to our local granite industry, Sunapee had two hand-carved granite troughs.

The trough at the bottom of Alpine Court was one of those granite troughs. It was a gift from home works owner George H. Bartlett in 1902 and was located where it stands today in what was then known as Post Office Square. Until the 1950s it had constantly running water piped directly from the river above the High Street dam. The granite urn that you see sitting on top in this circa 1910 photo split in two and is now missing. Today this trough is our last. It has been an important feature of the town's square for 120 years.

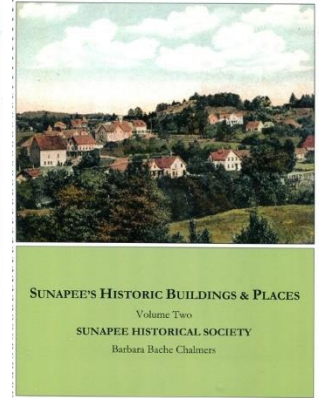
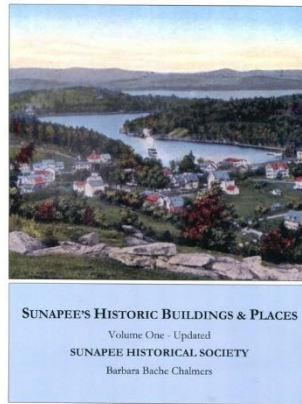


Alfred C. Davis (1836-1913) a farmer from Sunapee, served in Company H of the 9th Regiment of the NH Infantry in the Civil War from August 1862 to the end of the war. On 12 May 1864, he was captured at Spotsylvania Courthouse and spent the next year a prisoner of the Confederate army. While incarcerated, he carved these items: a carved bone ring and a wooden belt buckle with a carved bone hymnal decorating it. On his return to Sunapee after the war, Alfred gave these things to Solomon Bartlett, and Bartlett descendants have now given them to us. In 1866, Alfred moved with his wife, Carrie Abbott, to Wisconsin and lived there until his death in 1913, suffering from chronic diarrhea, eye disease, and partial paralysis.



Barbara's research tells us the sad story of Alfred's family history: His father died very young, his mother married her abusive brother-in-law and had more kids before divorcing him. The children from her first marriage, including Alfred, were all farmed out to live and work with other families. Alfred lived with the neighboring Perkins family and with the Solomon Bartlett family. One brother died during the Civil War. His brother Seth Davis served and returned to farm on today's Avery Road. Alfred's eldest sister Betsey married Edwin Stickney and lived on the farm at the head of the lake in George's Mills, starting a summer boarding house there called Solid Comfort, that became Lake View House and then Russell's Inn (today's site of Sunapee Cove.) The Davis family originally farmed from the late 1790s on Perkins Pond Road and Dodge Pasture Road.

Gift-giving time approaches! As the holidays near, we'd like to remind you to think of Sunapee history-themed items for the Sunapee-lovers in your life. We have a variety of books, ornaments, wine glasses, and more. You can see them on the "Our Store" page of our website and can purchase them either in person at Sunapee Archives on Mondays (1-4) or via mail by simply emailing (sumapeehistory@gmail.com) or phoning (603-763-9872) us. **And new this year:** our books and ornaments are also available at the **Harborside Trading Co.** Rhonda Gurney plans to have her shop open on weekends through the end of the year. We'd be glad to help you with your shopping!



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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

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1902 Watering Trough, Sunapee Village