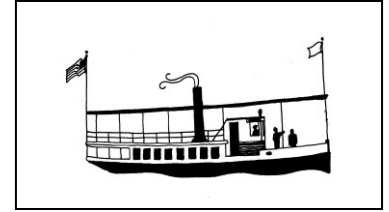


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782  
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org  
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com  
603-763-9872  
Fall 2022



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

If you've passed the Museum late last month, you probably noticed the Woodsum Brothers and Bobby Gould dressed in their ghostly best to wish you a Happy Halloween. Now they are back in their usual places and the Museum is just about put to bed for the winter.

We finished the season with a flourish—a third successful history cruise and Bruce Cronin regaling us at the Museum with stories of his several careers—and capped all that with a tour of Old Eastman

Cemetery on North Road to introduce folks to several of our early residents. Many thanks to our actors, Lucy Mueller, Sandy Alexander, Greg Young, Greg Weiss, and Judy Thackaberry, and to all who helped to make the day a resounding success. Here's Lucy as Mehetabel Brown. Look for another walk in another of Sunapee's cemeteries next year!



As always, a huge thank you goes to our loyal docents without whom we couldn't open the museum as often as we do. Please think about joining their ranks next summer. It really is fun to talk with our visitors!

So what are we doing now? Besides pausing a minute to catch our breaths and attend to other activities, we're beginning to look ahead to next year and our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That's right—our organization was founded in 1973. We've come a long way in 50 years—from being an organization without a home to one with a seasonal presence to one that is available year-round. We'll be mounting a display showing our progress through the years, so watch for that next summer.

Plans are well underway for a big party on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Livery complete with a band playing '70s music, a silent auction, and food. If you'd like to make an extra donation to help sponsor the party, it will be gratefully received. Donations of \$125 or more will receive tickets to the event and those at the \$250 or more level will have their names recognized on a banner that will be in use all

summer. Please mark your donation for our 50<sup>th</sup> so we'll know your intention and know that we'll be working on the banner early in the new year, so will need your donation soon if you want to take advantage of being on the banner. Any funds contributed in excess of what is needed for the party will be put toward a suitable 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial—perhaps a piece of lawn art made from old mill gears or additional display space at the museum. Many thanks to those who have already contributed!

Fay Osborne could be called the father of our museum. We have him to thank for giving us—in 1980—the old Flanders-Osborne stable, built by his great grandfather in 1890. Its location in the Harbor was the perfect spot. So after seven years of having no home and three more years of renovation and refurbishment assisted by Fay, that became our museum. But what else did Fay do? Please turn the page for more on the life of Fay Osborne.

Don't forget—you can visit us on any Monday year-round at Sunapee Archives. We're open from 1-4.

Hope you've been enjoying our lovely fall weather!

Becky Fitts Rylander



Joe Hill, Eileen Stiles, & Linda Gardner receiving the deed from Fay Osborne.

## *Did you know?.....*

So Fay Osborne was a prime benefactor of the Sunapee Historical Society. But what else did he do? Do you enjoy the convenience of brewing your tea packaged in paper tea bags? Fay was a Sunapee boy who became a chemical engineer at the C.H. Dexter Company in Windsor Locks, CT and is credited with developing the process to make long-fiber paper used to hold single-servings of tea inexpensively but effectively. Here's the story!

Fay graduated from Colby Academy in New London and began college at Dartmouth but transferred to MIT. In the summer, he piloted the Kearsarge and Ascutney steamboats around Lake Sunapee. During that time, Elsie Young, an Osborne family friend and housekeeper to A. D. Dexter at his summer residence in Sunapee, suggested to Fay that perhaps he could find a job at C.H. Dexter and Sons, a paper manufacturer in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Fay had long been fascinated with paper-making, having observed the process frequently at the Emerson paper mill in Wendell, and thought she had a good idea. So he talked with A. D., was hired, and after graduating from MIT, began work in 1922 as a third hand at the rate of \$17 for a 48-hour, six-day week.

At his retirement 40 years later, the company presented Fay with a book illustrated with original paintings that outline his professional progress through the years and praise his hard-work, dedication, and all that he brought to the company. We have recently been given this book by Wayne Osborne and draw heavily on it as well as on a book written by Fay, *The History of Dexter's Long Fiber Paper Development*, to tell you the rest of the story.

During his first years at Dexter's, Fay had to win over the entrenched employees while trying to add some science to the process.

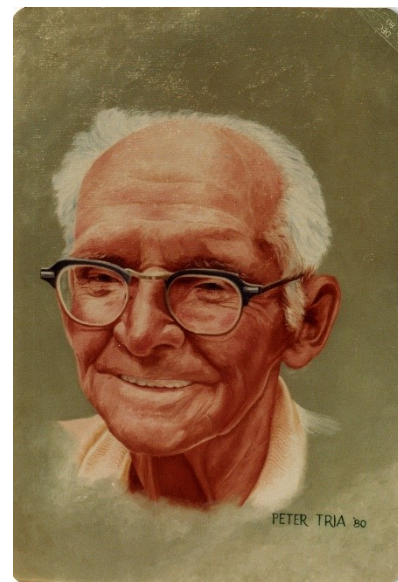


Fay in his lab at Dexter Corp. (from Fay's retirement book)

He would work a normal 8-hour day and then spend 4 more hours setting up his lab and developing tests for quality control and more. After about 5 years of thoroughly learning the business of paper making and applying his technical expertise, Fay was ready for more when he came across a box of cigars, each wrapped in a special tissue paper that was soft, strong, and flexible. Research showed him that it was hand-made in Japan from unusually long fibers at great expense. Thus began the search for an automated process to produce similar papers that would end up useful in many applications, from anti-tarnish paper to meat casings and coffee filters, and most notably tea bags. In 1936, Fay was granted 2 patents for his long fiber process. But that wasn't the end of Fay's research. The company was nearly scuttled by the Great Depression (it was saved by selling the patent to a British firm), and then WW II cut off the supply of fiber from the Philippines extending the research to a synthetic fiber (viscose) with the proper porosity and wet strength for "Victory Tea Bags" (patent granted in 1949). Then came Fay's development of a heat-sealable paper made of hemp and thermoplastic fibers and a patent issued in 1947.

Fay was also involved in marketing. After developing a product that he thought a company needed, he would visit the company and work with it to tailor it more precisely to their application. He was credited with perseverance, independence, and optimism as the keys to his success. After starting as a third hand, he retired from the company in 1962 as senior vice president and had been awarded at least 8 patents.

In retirement, Fay was able once again to spend more time in Sunapee. We will be forever grateful to Fay for the vision he exercised in buying his cousins' shares in the Flanders Osborne Stable and presenting the building to the Sunapee Historical Society to be used as our museum. In accordance with his wishes, we have kept the suggestion of horse stalls in place and left the horses' names on the rafters. We hope he would have been proud of all we've done at the Museum!



The holidays are coming! Please see the attached page for gift suggestions for the Sunapee fans on your list!

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



Dunnell's Plumbing & Heating



Rowe's Plumbing Services

Lake Sunapee Insurance Agency

SUNAPEE  
★CRUISES★

Pennyroyal Hill Land Surveying & Forestry

Dexter's Inn



And when ordering from Amazon, please use the [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) website and list the Sunapee, NH Historical Society as your chosen charity. Thanks!



*We're glad to accept your membership renewal or donations at any time!*

### 2022 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

SHS is a 501(c)3 organization  
02-0338273

Thank you!



***Sunapee Echoes***

Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

---

***2022-2023 Board of Directors***

*Officers:*

Becky Rylander, *President*

Barbara Chalmers, *Vice President*

Lela Emery, *Treasurer*

Lucy Mueller, *Secretary*

*Directors:*

Lois Gould

Jim McGraw

Howard Sargent

Heidi Unger

*Volunteers Coordinator:*

Lois Gould

*Nominations:*

Vacant

*Emeritus:*

Eileen Stiles

Jo Hill

Lois Gallup

Ron Garceau



A painting from Fay Osborne's retirement book, *Dexter Remembers...Fay Osborne*