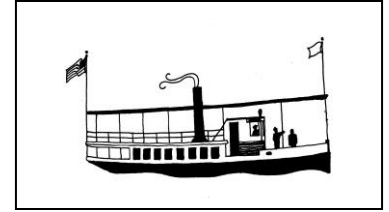


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
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sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
603-763-9872
Winter 2022



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Although the museum is closed, we're already busy planning for the coming summer season. As always, the Archives remains open on Monday afternoons. Come see us!

History Cruises. We've scheduled three evening *history cruises* (same route each time). This year we'll cover the development of the shore from Gardner Bay to Georges Mills. Here's the schedule, all Mondays:

27 June, 5:30-7:30

25 July, 5:30-7:30

15 August, 5:00-7:00

Please note that the August cruise will sail just a bit earlier than the others since the days will be getting shorter by then. As usual, we'll offer snacks and a cash bar. Tickets will be \$40 each. You're welcome to make a reservation anytime (email sunapeehistory@gmail.com) to ensure a spot on your favorite date. We'll record your reservations on a first-come first-served basis and will collect your money when the time gets closer.

Programs. We're also working on four programs for Thursday nights, 7 & 21 July and 4 & 18 August. They will include an introduction to Vol 3 of Barbara Chalmers's *Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places* with its glimpses of Sunapee history, Bruce Cronin on his fascinating career as magician (starting at age 12!) and film maker, and an exploration of noted Broadway producer Ned Wayburn's career in New York and his summers in Sunapee, staying at White Shutters (then known as Under Pines) in the 1920s and 1930s. During three summers in the mid-1930s, Wayburn helped the Yacht Club stage musical revues. We have some posters, programs, and photos of the casts, but would love to see more. *If anyone has artifacts of those shows (a script, photos, videos?) or memories of Wayburn's imprint on our town, please let us know!*



Building Improvements. With deep thanks to Greg Young for his masterful carpentry, we're glad to report that the siding on the front of the museum has been patched along the bottom where it had been rotting. Next summer, we'll apply some stain, and the patch will be barely noticeable. At the Archives, we've recently added some

UV-blocking shades to afford better protection for the items there, especially our antique clothing. Thanks to all of you who donated so generously and made that purchase possible! This year, we're hoping to re-shingle the roof at the Archives. *If anyone knows a good roofer, please let us know.*

New Exhibits. Recent donations have us planning new exhibits for the Museum. Thanks to Greg Lennox, a suite of furniture from the Ben Mere Inn will be the foundation for a sample hotel room of yesteryear. *What we need now is a wash bowl and pitcher to sit on the wash stand. Does anyone have a set we could borrow?* Jim and Liz Woodley have provided a collection of blacksmith tools, among other items, so we may create a smithie's corner, too.

Other items. We're grateful for a steady stream of other artifacts coming our way: a personalized tool chest owned by Frank Howard Davis, proprietor of the Burkehaven Hotel around 1900 from his great grandson, Rob Davis; a couple of old photo albums; some antique postcards; an ice fishing outfit; and more. *If you're wondering what to do with Sunapee things in your collection, please think of us!*



Thinking ahead. 2023 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Sunapee Historical Society, and we've started planning some suitable events to celebrate. *If you'd like to help, please let us know.*

Special thanks and a plea. Thanks so much to those of you who responded so promptly to our request for a 6' step ladder! Here's another request: Does anyone have a copy of the 2019 or 2020 Town Report that he/she is willing to part with? We don't need more than a few, but our collection for the most recent years is a bit thin. Thanks!

Stay warm. Spring is coming!

Becky Fitts Rylander

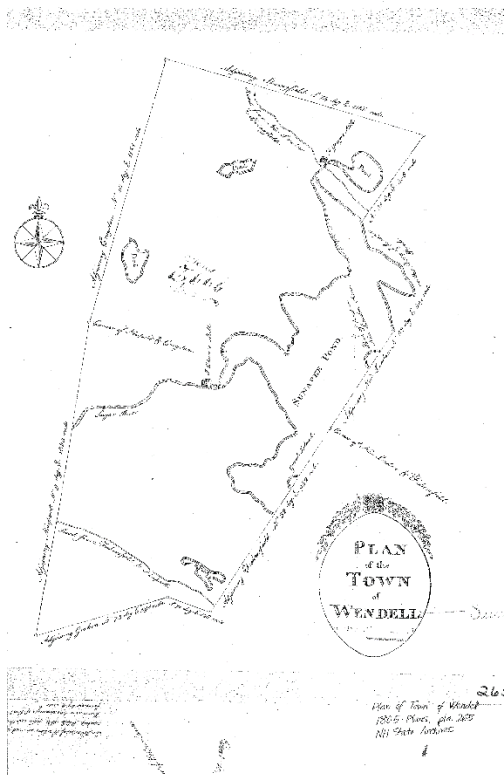
Did you know?.....

Last spring, we wrote a bit about town boundaries and the periodic “perambulations” of them mandated by the State. Now Barbara’s research in town records has turned up more information. But before we talk about Sunapee’s boundary perambulations, perhaps you’d like to know more about the requirement’s history.

In 1651, the Massachusetts Bay Colony, under which this region was then governed, legislated that all towns were to select people to perambulate their boundaries once every three years. By 1701, we were our own colony with our own government, and the General Court mandated annual perambulations. That requirement was returned to once every three years in 1719. Following the American Revolution, the cycle was changed to seven years and the duty was assigned to the selectmen or those appointed by them—a tradition that remains in place today. One town reportedly asked the legislature to abolish the requirement in 2005, saying that boundary disputes had long since been settled and perambulations were no longer needed. BUT they experienced a boundary dispute with one of their neighboring towns the following year! (From a chronology by Brian Burford, NH Archives)

So, what has the record of Sunapee’s perambulations revealed? Barbara’s research in town records through 1871 shows us that perambulations were carried out quite regularly from 1799 on, usually by two selectmen from each town. Most often, they were done in the fall. Few, if any disputes arose, though a discrepancy in the Croydon line was corrected in 1814. Perambulations with New London seem to have gotten off to a slow start, the first one noted in 1820. That may be because the border was in question until two parcels lying between Georges Mills and the Masonian Curve Line, our original eastern border, were sectioned off to New London in 1804 and 1817.

The boundary with Newbury (then named Fishersfield) was also determined by the Masonian Curve Line, and disputes with the remaining Masonian proprietors about its location were settled about 1785. The line, forming an arc 60 miles from the mouth of the Merrimack River, marked the western edge of the land given to John Mason in 1622 and subsequently divided. It was surveyed in 1751 by Joseph Blanchard and his crew. They marked the line through swamps and over mountains to the west of Mt. Monadnock and Mt. Sunapee, and crossed Lake Sunapee on a raft in order to survey the line across Great Island, to the eastern shore and on to Newfound Lake. In a perambulation reminiscent of Blanchard’s trip, the selectmen of Sunapee and Newbury crossed over to the island in order to check that part of the boundary in December 1850 (and perhaps other times). A discussion of the Masonian Curve Line can be found in the *Granite Monthly*, Vol 52, available in Google Books.



The boundaries were marked on trees, rocks, and granite posts, now supplemented by iron pins. Where the line crosses water, the property-owner’s deed often says that the line is marked at the water’s edge by a boulder marked with “T.L.” and sometimes also with initials and dates. In recent years, Selectman Fred Gallup with local surveyor Clayton Platt has been in charge. The total length of the boundaries to be walked is 17 or 18 miles.

This 1805 map shows the boundaries as they are today except the second chunk had not yet been ceded to New London. Along each border is written the compass heading and length in rods. Note: from 1781 to 1850, Sunapee was known as Wendell after John Wendell, the man most instrumental in settling our town.

In Memoriam. We lost a staunch supporter when Ellie Goddard passed away in January. Though perhaps known best for her gardening abilities, her love of all aspects of Sunapee life was unequalled. She could often be seen working in the Hames Park gardens or at library and church events with Walt. She was always interested in what was going on with us at the Sunapee Historical Society. She will be missed by many!

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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!



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

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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

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Fun in the snow on Sunapee's Ski Tow Hill