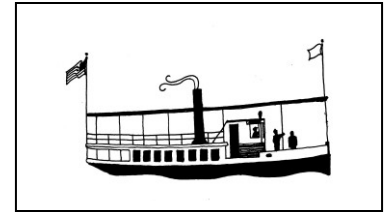


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
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sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
603-763-9872
Winter 2025



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Here we are at the end of January, hoping for more snow, but looking forward to spring. After all, what good are cold temps without snow?!

We're working on the lineup of **summer programs**. They're not quite set yet, so watch for the complete list in the Spring issue of this newsletter. Here's a preview:

- History cruises covering the shoreline from Burkehaven to Jobs Creek on 7 July and 4 August.
- Lafayette in America in honor of his farewell tour in 1825 on 11 June and Late in Coming about rural electrification in the early 20th century on 7 August. Both of these are Humanities-to-Go programs, thanks to NH Humanities.
- July programs on the 10th and 24th will be on industry along the Sugar River (by Barbara Chalmers) and, perhaps, something about the less obvious tools and machinery in our collection.
- A second date in August is in flux at the moment, but will be decided soon.
- And we're considering another *Stories from the Grave* cemetery walk, perhaps in the late summer.

Before you know it, we'll be getting ready to open the **museum** for the summer, and Lois Gould will be busy rounding up docents to welcome our visitors. If you get one of her emails, please consider helping out. And if you're not on her list yet but would like to spend a couple of hours at the museum once in a while, please let us know. Thanks!

It turns out that the **Marquis de Lafayette*** was an interesting character. He came to America in 1777 at the age of 19 to support our cause and was appointed a Major General in our Continental Army. He served with distinction in a number of battles and is credited with rounding up more French support and helping us win our independence. He fought for democracy both here and in Europe.

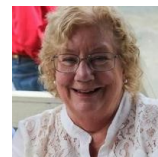
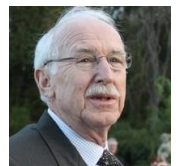


President Monroe invited Lafayette to visit the US in 1824. He arrived in August 1824 with his son, Georges Washington Lafayette, intending to visit the 13 original states, but his tour ended up taking 16 months and covered all 24 states then in existence.

Toward the end of his tour, he traveled north from Boston to Concord and then west through Hopkinton, Warner, Bradford, and Wendell (as Sunapee was then named) to Newport and on to Claremont and Vermont, all at the astounding speed of 11 mph. Although he did not stop in Wendell, his route seems to have been lined all along the way with cheering citizens giving him a hero's welcome. So perhaps the people of South Sunapee turned out. We just don't know. On 27 June, Newport will be hosting a celebration to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's stops there. Look for more on that in our Spring issue, too.

We are sorry to report on the passing of two friends:

Walt Goddard, a genial gentleman who did so much for our town.



Sally Putonen, lifelong Sunapee resident who worked at the polls for years. (She and I waitressed together at the Ben Mere during our college years.)

Stay warm while the winter winds blow, and if you're bored, come see us on Monday afternoons at Sunapee Archives!

All the best!
Becky Fitts Rylander

*Lafayette Portraits:
In his MGen uniform by Charles Willson Peale, c. 1779-1780
In 1824 by Ary Scheffer

Did you know?.....

Beginning in the 1930s and extending into the 70s, housekeeping cabins or cottages were a popular and economical way for families to enjoy a summer vacation. Last fall, Barbara Chalmers and I were invited to visit one. It had been moved into the woods with the intention of repurposing it some years ago, but was about to be demolished.

That got us thinking about all of the establishments in this area that offered this kind of accommodation—nearly 20 in Sunapee and Georges Mills and more around the lake.

In Georges Mills alone, there were at least 10, all either on the water or within easy walking distance to either Georges Mills Harbor or Otter Pond! Sargents' Cabins were located behind the house and marina along the original Lake Avenue. Nearby, Crandlemere Cabins (the Goodhue property) faced Route 11 opposite the Georges Mills store and gas station. Next door to the east, the Nicholse ran a tourist home with 3 cabins. Hutton's Cabins became Sunny Knoll, Russell's Inn (the Sunapee Cove property) built and rented 6 cabins on the lakeshore in the 1950s, Chases' on Otter Pond became the Daniel George Cabins and are now Georges Mills Cottages. Then there were also Avery's on Lake Ave, Collins' Cabins on Otter Pond on the Springfield Rd, Kings' on Main Street, and Cogswell's on Jobs Creek Rd.

I asked a long-time family friend what he remembered about staying at Sargents' with his family when we were kids—a week or two every summer for 17 years. He reported mostly lazy summer days with lots of swimming at the town dock and watching the senior Mr. Sargent police the parking there (and you thought parking there was only a recent problem!). Of course, a dinner at the Woodbine was a highlight of every vacation.

Sunapee Harbor had its share of cabins, too: Lakeview House & Cottages, Shoreedge Lodge & Cottages, Pinecroft Lodge & Cabins, Indian Cave Lodge & Cabins, and Whispering Pines Lodge & Cabins (now Sunapee Harbor Cottages). Our friends, Wendy and Skip Nolin, owned and ran Whispering Pines from the late 60s to mid-80s. Wendy reports that they had many repeat customers. Only one cottage was outfitted for housekeeping (with a kitchenette), but one couple converted another one by bringing a toaster, electric frying pan, and a cooler. One family showed up when their car broke down on their way to the White Mountains. They ended up staying at Whispering Pines for their entire vacation even after their car was repaired and came back year after year. Many of their guests ate lunch (their dinner) at Woodbine, then fixed supper in their cabin. Besides excursions in the area, they enjoyed sitting on the porch to listen to band concerts (with the band perched on top of the restrooms in those years!), watching activity—sometimes unsuccessful—at the boat launch, enjoying the Sunday afternoon waterski shows, and observing the stars at night—a novelty for folks from New York City!

Tara Hall was located around the corner in Burkehaven. After years of vacationing on Lake Champlain, our friends, the Edsons, came to Sunapee and stayed at Tara Hall for two summer vacations. After that, they rented places to accommodate their extended family for 25 years or more until one of them bought a place—yet another example of the way people fall in love with the Lake Sunapee area! And White Shutters, at the other end of the Harbor, with cottages now privately owned, has been an enthusiastic community since 1947.

Other cottages were not on the water. Trow Rico Cabins, where Constance Tallarico (Mrs. T—Steve Tyler's grandmother) and her sons ran something of a family music camp, was on Rte 11; also, Sleepy Hollow Lodge and Cabins, catering for a time to fishermen; Brookside Cabins and Cheerio Coffee Shop and Cabins in the Lower Village; and Colby's Balsam Cabins in Wendell.

And, of course, there were many more in all the towns around the lake and beyond. I'm thinking especially of our friends at Davis Cabins, located on the Newbury shore, but there were many more. If you have fond memories of vacations spent at one of these fine establishments, we'd love to hear your stories!

--Becky



on LAKE SUNAPEE

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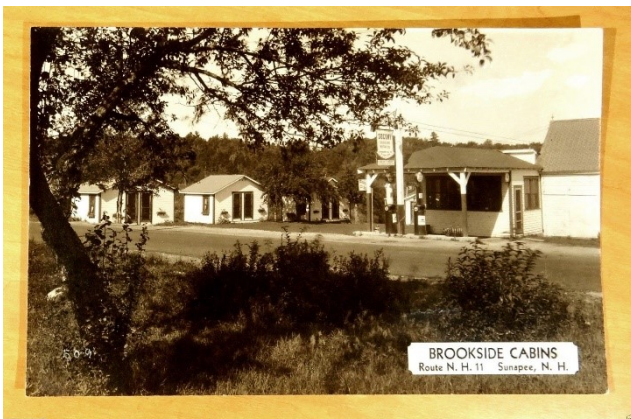
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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

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Crandlemere Cabins, one set of many in Georges Mills and around the lake.