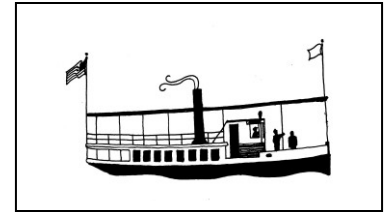


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
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603-763-9872
Summer 2024



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Summer is steaming along, literally, and we hope you're staying cool! We've already had one lovely history cruise and two excellent programs as well as lots of interesting and interested visitors at the Museum. But there's plenty more to come:

Next up is John Dietel with his *History of Sailing on Lake Sunapee* on 25 July. Then...

- Another *history cruise*—a repeat of the first to the southern end of the Lake on 5 August aboard the MV Mt. Sunapee.
- Two NH Humanities-to-Go programs:
 - Kein Gardner's *Discovering New England Stone Walls* on 8 August
 - Mary Kronenwetter's *Austin Corbin's Animal Garden* on 15 August, joint with LSPA at their Center for Lake Studies
- Our *Annual Meeting* (see below for details) at 6:30 pm on 22 August followed by a review of *Sunapee's history* at 7:00 illustrated by *favorite old photos*.
- *Stories from the Grave* at South Cemetery on 5 October at 1:00, 1:30, and 2:00 pm

Unless otherwise noted, all will be held at the Flanders-Osborne Museum in the Harbor at 7 pm. More information can be found on our website.

Perhaps you'd like to know why we call our museum the *Flanders-Osborne Museum*? Here's the explanation: W. Wallace Flanders built the barn that is now our museum in 1891. He ran it as a livery, and then it served his Osborne

descendants as a garage and the boat works that some of you may remember. In 1980, Fay Osborne bought out his cousins' shares and gave the building to us to be our museum. We have been proud to use it ever since to explain Sunapee's history to our community and visitors.

Please join us at the museum at 6:30 on 22 August for our brief *annual meeting*. We will review our activities over the last year and our financial position. We will also thank outgoing board members and elect new ones. And I'll show photos of some of our recent acquisitions.

We are pleased that both John Bateson and Kathy Springsteen have accepted our invitation to serve on our Board pending your approval. They will fill positions vacated by Heidi Unger and Lucy Mueller. In addition, Lois Gould and Howard Sargent have agreed to serve another 3-year term on our Board of Directors and Yours Truly, Barbara Chalmers, and Lela Emery to serve another 2-year term as officers (President, VP and Treasurer). We have no by-law changes for you to consider this year.

It truly takes lots of us to keep our society going. As always, our deep thanks go to our faithful docents, to those who donate both financially and with artifacts, and to our visitors, who find Sunapee's history as interesting as we do. We hope that some of you will want to help us with our myriad tasks and eventually want to step up to serve on our Board of Directors.

All the best!
Becky

Summer Program Series

Sunapee Historical Society
Founded 1973

Thursday, 25 July @ 7pm
Flanders-Osborne Museum
(Sunapee Harbor)

Sailing on Lake Sunapee
A World-Class Venue
for Pleasure & Competitive Sailing

John Dietel will review the history of sailing on our Lake from early crafts to Olympic-level one-design class fleets.

* Free - Donations Appreciated *

For more information 603-763-9872 or
SunapeeHistoricalSociety.org




Did you know?.....

In addition to Lake Sunapee, 4 other bodies of water lie within the borders of our town. At our program on 11 July, Barbara Chalmers entertained us with some of the information she has gleaned in her research on shoreline development on those four—the subject of her forthcoming book on the subject. Here's some of what we learned about their early history with a couple of personal notes from me.

Otter Pond and Otterville lie in the northeast corner of Sunapee and northwest corner of New London. Until two pieces were sectioned off and given to New London the entire pond and Little Lake Sunapee, too, were wholly within Sunapee. By 1817, the border cut across the middle of Otter Pond as it does now. Because of the hill that we climb up and over on our way to New London and back, it is easy to forget that Little Lake Sunapee drains into Goose Hole Pond and from there into Otter Pond and that a thriving settlement existed through the 1800s, tucked in beside Goose Hole Pond. A dam was built there in 1807 to create Goose Hole, and water power was used for a fulling mill, grist mill, and sawmill for many years. My own triple great grandfather's younger brother, Nathan Fitts (1784-1852), moved to New London from Candia, NH c. 1833 and settled on Otterville Rd. After a fire in 1835, he built a house and the Otterville store. By the 1860s, Otterville included a store, church, and blacksmith shop in addition to the mills and several houses.

Similarly, Georges Mills grew through the 19th century at the western end of Otter Pond, and the outflow into Lake Sunapee was dammed and used to power several mills (grist, saw, and shingle). In addition to the water flowing in from Goose Hole, two other brooks enter, one from Star Lake and one from Baptist Pond. The volume of water passing through Otter Pond is critical to the health of Lake Sunapee, providing 7.6 times its volume in the course of a year. The first vacation cottage wasn't built until about 1931.

Ledge Pond, a little to the southwest of Otter Pond and higher, was surrounded by farms for many years. It was the water source for Georges Mills from 1901-1999, and had only a few cottages at the western end. It was enjoyed by my own family during WW II because they could walk to it from their summer place on Trow Hill Rd to swim on hot days, thereby not spending precious gasoline to drive to the big lake. The first cottage was built in 1910.

Perkins Pond, located off North Rd near the Croydon town line, is the shallowest of all 4, and the Perkins Pond Protective Association is working hard to address the issue of excess silt that's been deposited in the pond. The pond, originally named Breeches Pond, was renamed in 1850 after a nearby farm family. Boy Scouts and fishermen camped nearby from 1870 on and it was dammed for a sawmill in 1901. Two cottages were built c. 1905-1908, but it was surrounded by seven farms until the 1920s when development began at the eastern end. Most of the early cottage owners were Finnish immigrants who had come to Newport to work in the mills or forests.

Mountain View Lake, located in the southern part of town, was named Spectacle Pond until 1908. Then several names were tried out until its current name became official in 1915. Six farms surrounded it through the 1800s enjoying their proximity to the Province Road and, beginning in the 1870s, the railroad. A dam was built for a sawmill in 1865 where the lake drains into Chandler Brook on its way to Lake Sunapee. The first cottages were built in 1905. In 1777, My gggg grandfather, Lt. Abraham Fitts, marched with his company of volunteers from his home in Candia, past "Great Sunnepy," camped at Zeph Clark's farm (presumably the 200-acre farm Clark bought in 1775 near what is now the traffic circle), and on to the Battle of Saratoga via the Province Rd to Fort No. 4. No wonder my dad fell in love with Sunapee during a summer job when he was in college in the 1930s!

Barbara's book, which she hopes to finish by late fall, will cover the construction and ownership stories of many of the cottages on these four ponds/lakes that are now surrounded by both seasonal and year-round dwellings, as well as their early years when our town was predominantly a farming community. We'll let you know when it's available.

Becky Fitts Rylander

Please thank these businesses for their support!

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SUNAPEE
★CRUISES★



We're glad to accept your membership renewal or donations at any time! Hearty thanks to all who have already donated!

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Sunapee, NH 03782

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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

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