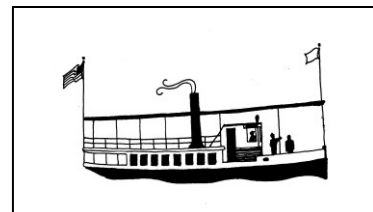


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782  
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org  
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com  
603-763-9872  
Spring 2025



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Winter seemed to be having trouble letting go this year, but the ice went out on 15 April, temperatures are warming, and we know that summer will be upon us before we know it!

**ANNOUNCING** our new book! *Sunapee's Other Lakes* by Barbara Chalmers has just come off the presses. It's filled with information about the history of development around Otter Pond, Ledge Pond, Perkins Pond, and Mountainview Lake and is available at Sunapee Archives, at our museum once it reopens on 23 May, and at Harborside Trading Co. for \$45.

### Summer Programs, all at 7 pm at the Museum:

Note: All of this information and more can be found on a handy card accompanying this newsletter or on our website.

- Our summer series of programs will begin earlier than usual—on **11 June**--in order to learn about General Lafayette and his farewell tour before its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 27 June. Lafayette rode through Sunapee on his way to Newport, Claremont, and Vermont and made two brief stops in Newport. See page 2 for more details of planned festivities in Newport.
- Have you ever wondered what some of our old tools and machinery were built to do? On **10 July**, Greg Young will explain and demonstrate some of it.
- Thanks to the water power provided by the Sugar River, industry was once the lifeblood of Sunapee. On **24 July**, Barbara Chalmers will trace the history of the multitude of businesses that provided employment and helped sustain the town.
- Although electricity came to the center of Sunapee by 1895, the outlying areas were not wired for lighting until 1940. On **7 August**, following our annual meeting, Steve Taylor will talk about how electricity finally changed life in rural NH.

### Stories from the Grave at Lower Village Cemetery.

On **21 September**, you are invited to join us at the Lower Village Cemetery to meet a few of the residents there.

Reservations are needed for that to ensure that everyone will be able to hear. See our program card for details.

### History Cruises departing the town wharf at 5:30 pm.

It wouldn't be summer without our popular history cruises, this year on 7 July and repeated on 4 August. We'll explore early lakeshore development in the Harbor, Burkehaven, Lake Avenue, and Gardner Bay. Tickets are \$45 per person, and reservations are required by email to [sunapeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:sunapeehistory@gmail.com) or phone to 603-763-9872.


**In Memoriam.** We were saddened in March by the passing of Mark Halsted. Although Mark was the great grandson of Dr. Jonas Nilsen, the first commodore of the Yacht Club, we remember him especially for the help he gave us in finishing the meeting room at the Museum.



**Volunteers Needed!** As always, we can't keep the museum open without the help of a team of docents. If you'd like to sample the pleasure of talking with visitors—welcoming them and pointing out a few of your favorite artifacts—please let us know. Lois Gould will add you to her list of contacts for her emails regarding the schedule and we will welcome you to the team.

All the best!

Becky Fitts Rylander




**Lafayette & the Farewell Tour:  
Odyssey of an American Idol**  
by Alan Hoffman

**Wednesday, 11 June @ 7:00 pm**

Famed Revolutionary War General Lafayette traveled from Concord to Newport through South Sunapee as part of his tour.

Sponsored by NH Humanities

Sunapee Historical Society  
603-763-9872 ~ [sunapeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:sunapeehistory@gmail.com)



## ***Did you know?.....*** About Chief Sootanore

Chief Sootanore was a fictional Native American whose story was told by former governor and Sunapee native, John Henry Bartlett, in *The Legend of Ann Smith*, a small book he published in 1931. He writes that he intended it as a bit of a counterpoint to all the stories of violent struggle that surround the interaction of natives with settlers.

The story revolves around the rescue of 8-year-old Ann Smith who was separated from her family in a blizzard as they traveled to a new home in the wilderness. Chief Sootanore found Ann and returned her to her family. The two families lived in this area amicably, and in the end, Ann married the chief's son and the young couple headed west to work with other Native Americans.

The same year that the book was published—1931—Governor Bartlett had a statue of Chief Sootanore erected on land belonging to his family's farm, near Sunapee Central School—land that he gave to the school to be used as a playground in 1941. Some grading was required to create a ballfield, playground, and speakers' rostrum. The rostrum is a large cement structure used for graduation ceremonies and speaking competitions that remains there today. Speaking prizes have not been awarded there since 1952, but I hear that the kids have taken to calling it "the mansion" and like to hang out there.



The statue was removed when the regrading for the playground was done, and it disappeared during WW II. The plaque resurfaced in the 1960s when Joyce and Doug Richardson found it in a second-hand shop near Keene and purchased it. Last year, Howard Sargent and his family donated the plaque to the Sunapee Historical Society, and we are delighted to have it.

But what became of the statue? Was it melted down for the metal it could provide to the war effort? Or was it sold? Several years ago, one of our FaceBook fans posted a photo of a similar, if not identical, statue located on property in the 1000 Islands area on the St Lawrence River in New York. The photographer thought it was smaller than ours, but we don't know for sure. Whatever happened to it, the statue is part of our past, and is now mostly forgotten!

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## **Festivities for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of General Lafayette's Visit to Newport**

Major General the Marquis de Lafayette came to America at the age of 19 to support our cause for liberty and human rights. His help was essential to the eventual success of the American Revolution. President Monroe invited the General to visit the US in 1824. Toward the end of his Farewell Tour—on 27 June 1825—he traveled from Concord to Claremont. Today, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that tour is being celebrated all along his route. Although he passed through South Sunapee (Wendell at that time), he apparently did not stop here. But he did make brief stops in Hopkinton, Warner, Bradford, Newport, and Claremont.

We are all invited to join the festivities in Newport! A horse-drawn carriage carrying General Lafayette will arrive at Newport Common to be greeted by the Sons of Liberty, General John Stark (all impersonators), the local chapter of the DAR, and other organizations. The ceremony is expected to include short speeches and perhaps a 3-gun musket salute.

Here are the details:

Date: Friday, 27 June 2025

Time: 3:00-4:30

Place: Newport Common at the bandstand

For more information, see American Friends of Lafayette 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary website: <https://lafayette200.org/>.

## Looking for something to do?

Why not try out our self-guided walking tour of the Harbor area? You'll discover old and current photos of the historic buildings and places complete with information about them, all on your smart phone thanks to the *Sunapee Harbor Historical Walking Tour* on the Clio app!


**Or for gifts?** Check out our store:

<https://sunapeehistoricalsociety.org/our-store>

Take a walk with us through the early stories of Sunapee

Download the CLIO app

and search under "Tours" by either Location or Title *Sunapee Harbor Historical Walking Tour* ~ Enjoy!



SunapeeHistoricalSociety.org  
603-763-9872

- Follow the numbered pins on the map
- Enjoy the pictures of then and now
- Read the back story of Sunapee Harbor's historic buildings & places

## Please thank these businesses for their support!

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

## 2025 MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS – CONTRIBUTIONS

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### 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!

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INDIAN STATUE, BARTLET HOMESTEAD. PHOTOS, J.A. SARGENT