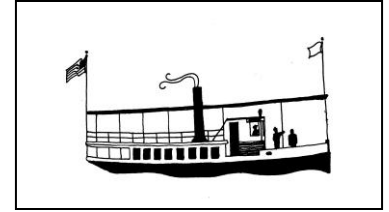


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782  
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org  
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com  
603-763-9872  
Spring 2026



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Now that Spring seems to be trying to put in an appearance, we're getting excited about welcoming visitors to the museum beginning on Memorial Day Weekend. C'mon Spring, you can do it!

The museum can only be open as often as it is with help from a team of volunteers. **Please consider becoming part of our seasonal volunteer crew!** and find more information about helping on page 2.

Our 2026 programs and events have firmed up. A handy dandy card listing them is included with this issue for you to save as a reminder.

As projected in the winter issue, we'll run **history cruises** on Monday evenings, 6 July and 3 August. We'll explore lakeshore development from Gardner Bay to Georges Mills, focusing on the vintage cottages that remain. Feel free to reserve your seats by email: [sunapeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:sunapeehistory@gmail.com). We'll worry about payment closer to the cruise dates.

Our 4 programs at the museum on Thursday evenings will be:

- 2 July – **The Faceted History of Sunapee.** I'll use maps and photos to trace Sunapee's rich history from farming community to industrial hub and tourism mecca.
- 16 July – **Life in Sunapee at the Time of the American Revolution.** In honor of the war's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Barbara Chalmers and I will explore the lives of our first settlers as they carved our town out of the wilderness.
- 23 July – **Redcoats and Rebels.** Mary Adams, from the NH Historical Society, will tell the story of our state's often unsung contributions to our independence. This is a Humanities-to-Go program sponsored by NH Humanities.
- 6 August – Our Annual Meeting at 6:30 will precede **Ernest Harold Baynes: NH's Own Dr. Doolittle.** Mary Kronenwetter will use archival photos from the Plainfield Historical Society to discuss the work of this self-taught naturalist at Corbin Park who helped rescue the American Bison from extinction and more. This also will be sponsored by NH Humanities.

We're working with a group of towns in this region to plan and highlight programs that will help celebrate the USA's 250<sup>th</sup>. See [centralnhcelebrates.org](http://centralnhcelebrates.org) for information and a calendar of events in the area.

Please remember that you are invited to march with us in the Independence Day Parade. Perhaps we will again be led by Fred Gallup and our 1928 Road Roller. We'll see.

Speaking of the **Road Roller**, we have begun to contemplate finding a permanent home for it. After years of living in Lois Gallup's barn, it wants a place where the community can enjoy viewing it more often than one day per year. We understand that there are a couple of old fire vehicles that may also need a home. Does it make sense to join forces? Does anyone have any ideas? If so, please speak up!

Our friend, John Tariot, has discovered another silent film produced by **Billy B. Van**, an effervescent vaudevillian who came to Georges Mills around 1900, made several films (most now lost), moved to Newport and became a farmer and soap producer, hosted a radio show, and named Newport "The Sunshine Town." John is busy restoring *An-Ar-Chy*, and we're hoping for a showing in Newport in the late summer or fall. See the Spring issue of *SooNipi* magazine for more info.

We are excited that a Sunapee student has chosen to research the history of Native Americans in this area for her senior project. Grace is hoping that those of you who worked with archeologist Howard R Sargent on his digs or have other information will contact her with memories. Her findings will be presented at the high school on 23 April— all welcome! Find more information on page 2.

Also on page 2, you'll find summaries of the illustrious lives of two recently-departed friends and supporters.

See you soon!

--Becky

**Did you know?.....** In this issue, our usual tidbit of Sunapee history is taking a break in favor of providing some additional information on a variety of things.

## Exploring the history of Abenaki presence around Lake Sunapee.

Have you ever wondered if Abenaki Indians truly lived on the shores of Lake Sunapee?

Do you have any family connections or information on Abenaki history that you would be willing to share?

Did you know archeologist/teacher Howard Sargent, and if so are you willing to share any memories?


**You Are Invited....**

... to a discussion at the livery in Sunapee Harbor, to talk with Sunapee High School senior **Grace Ritzmann**, who is currently doing her senior project on Abenaki history on the shores of Lake Sunapee, as well as the findings of Howard Sargent.

- All are welcome!
- **Come by April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 PM.**
- Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call or text Grace Ritzmann at 603-322-8803, or email me at [gritzmann1@gmail.com](mailto:gritzmann1@gmail.com).

Or contact Barbara Sullivan at her email: [b2sullivan@yahoo.com](mailto:b2sullivan@yahoo.com).



Research by Sunapee High School senior Grace Ritzmann

If you have any information on Abenaki history in this area or knew archeologist and teacher Howard Sargent, please contact Grace by phone (603-322-8803) or email ([gritzmann1@gmail.com](mailto:gritzmann1@gmail.com)) and/or visit with her at the Livery on 16 April at 7 pm (see the poster to the left). Or contact her advisor Barbara Sullivan ([b2sullivan@yahoo.com](mailto:b2sullivan@yahoo.com)).

All are welcome at the Livery on 16 April as well as at her presentation on Senior Projects Night at the school on 23 April.

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## Helping us at the Museum

This museum of ours is a local treasure that holds an impressive collection of donated treasures from people who love Sunapee and appreciate history. Curious visitors who wander through the big glass doors often leave with glowing remarks about how much they learned from the displays and the great information provided. Our goal is to be open to such visitors every weekend from May to mid-October, 11 AM until 4 PM. Every hour we are open requires a friendly face on site to welcome visitors, to help them explore the history on display here, and encourage discussions of how life has changed through time. So you can see that we could not do this without help.

**Please consider becoming part of our seasonal volunteer crew!** Each shift is only 2 ½ hours, you don't need to know a lot of Sunapee history, and free training is available anytime. Call, text, or email Lois Gould for more information. Lois: (603)454-4122; [tucsun03@gmail.com](mailto:tucsun03@gmail.com).

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## Sad News

We've been saddened by the news of the passings of Paul Rheingold on 28 February and Beverly Morse Isman on 16 March.



Paul, a noted attorney from Rye, NY, was known for his contributions to tort law. But to us he was a member and friend who loved spending time here in Sunapee at his antique cottage on Lake Avenue. He was always engaged in research of earlier times around here and we enjoyed contributing to two of his books: *Lake Sunapee* (Postcard History Series) 2012 and *Take Home a Souvenir: The Early Photographers of Lake Sunapee* 2021. He also helped us with research on the life of Ned Wayburn. Paul's obituary can be found at [grahamfuneralhomerye.com](http://grahamfuneralhomerye.com).

Bev, the daughter of Frank and Dottie Morse, founders of the Sunapee Water Ski School, was raised in Florida and here. She graduated as valedictorian from Sunapee Central School in the class of 1968 and went on to an illustrious career in dental health. Although she lived far from Sunapee, she came back whenever she could. Much of the memorabilia from the water ski school is in our collection, and in 2021, she wrote the text for our Pocket History booklet on the school. We will miss her visits! Bev's obituary can be found at [neptunesociety.com/obituaries](http://neptunesociety.com/obituaries).




## 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 Harbor*

Download the CLIO app



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



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- 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!*

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#### NEWSLETTER

Send future newsletters by e-mail  
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Sunapee Historical Society, Inc.  
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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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*Fred Gallup driving our antique road roller at the head of the parade.*