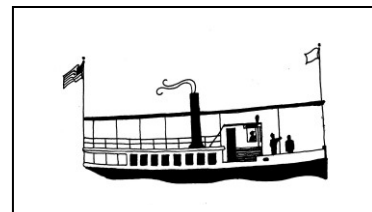


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
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603-763-9872
Fall 2024



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We've been catching our breaths a bit after a busy summer and enjoying some lovely fall weather. We hope you've been doing the same! Around the edges, we've prepped the museum for winter, and you'll see that the big barn door is now closed up tight. But please remember that Sunapee Archives remains open year-round, and we're there every Monday afternoon (1-4). Visitors are always welcome!

We finished the summer season with programs about New England stone walls, Austin Corbin's Animal Garden (Thank you to NH Humanities for their sponsorship of those!) and a slideshow of our favorite old photos. Then we wrapped it all up with *Stories from the Grave*, an introduction to South Sunapee Cemetery and a few of its residents. See below for a few photos, page 2 for more information, and page 4 for an 1896 photo.

We'll co-host another NH Humanities program at the Abbott Library on 7 December at 2 pm. This time we'll learn about the **History of Agriculture as Told by Barns**.

As always, we are eternally grateful to our trusty docents. We could not be open at the museum 3 days per week plus holidays all summer long—that's some 88 days—without their help. Whether you spent one shift welcoming folks to our museum or many more, please know that we are most grateful. Many visitors gave us rave reviews, and your friendly welcome played a large part in their reactions.

Greg Young gets special thanks for all the Saturdays he spent all day explaining all sorts of power and machinery to our guests (they love it!), and that's to say nothing about his

willing help with a variety of maintenance projects. Thank you, Greg!

Thanks also to those of you who, like Sue Garceau, Kathy Springsteen, and Bryan Trainor, so often heard Lois's plea for help at the museum and volunteered your time. We hope you had fun meeting our visitors. Thank you, all!

Now we will begin to turn our attention to next summer. We'll schedule the next set of history cruises and plan our programs. If you've thought of a subject you'd like to know more about or have knowledge of an aspect of Sunapee's history that you'd like to present, please let us know. As you know, Sunapee's history is rich and varied and there's always more to learn!

Next summer, we hope to begin a series of rotating exhibits celebrating the lives of some of our neighbors, one or two at a time. We've just been given digital photos that document the life of someone who lived among us for many years, first as a child and young adult on his great aunt and uncle's chicken farm and then as a retiree. He may be one.

It's always fun when artifacts—photos, documents, mementos, etc.—show up for our collection. We hope you'll think of us when deciding who might be interested in your collection of Sunapee things.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Becky Fitts Rylander

Some Residents of South Sunapee Cemetery, SHS *Stories from the Grave*, 5 October 2024



Lucy Mueller
as Fannie Perkins



Greg Weiss
as Hazen Crowell



Judy Thackaberry & Dave Munn
as Richmond & Charlotte Angell



Brian Emery
as Asahel Lear



Kathy Springsteen
as Marcia Putney

Did you know?.....

Sunapee's cemeteries—Georges Mills, Eastman (Old and New), Lower Village, Crowther, Colby, Cooper, and South—have provided the final resting places of many of our residents since the beginning of the 19th Century, first at Old Eastman Cemetery on North Road. The Sunapee Historical Society has presented its *Stories from the Grave* featuring a selection of characters telling their life stories at Eastman Cemetery two years ago and at South Cemetery this year. We will continue to present similar programs as time and energy allow and research permits.

Here is a bit about the people highlighted this year at South Cemetery:

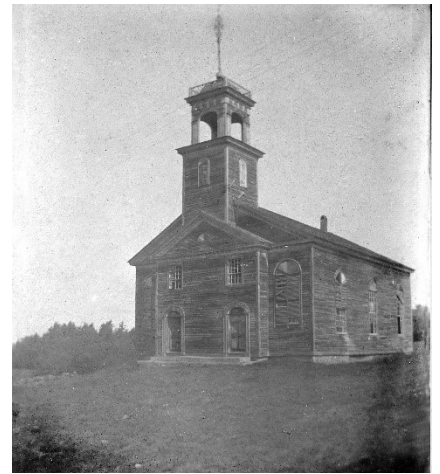
Fannie Muzzey Perkins (1885-1985). Lived nearly all of her long life in South Sunapee, first at her parents' farm and later with her husband on Nutting Road. Active in the Rebekahs and the Grange. Enjoyed especially the annual Grange fair and won prizes for flowers and embroidery. Worked with her husband at the National Grange Mutual Insurance Co. and was awarded a silver service for 30 years of service. For decades was Sunapee correspondent for the *Argus Champion*, the local weekly paper. Lived her last years at the Odd Fellows Building in the center of town.

Richmond (1820-1879) and Charlotte (1825-1887) Angell. Buried side-by-side, but Richmond's death from blunt force trauma was violent and the details are sketchy but laced with jealousy, abuse, and attempted cover-up. Alcohol seems to have played a part. Charlotte's young friend was convicted of the death and died of pneumonia in prison in Concord. Charlotte and 2 sons continued on, living in poverty until her death in 1887.

Hazen Crowell (1804-1885). Known as industrious, firm in his convictions, and much respected. Born in Newport; grew up and farmed on the Bradford Road. Gave the land for, and helped build, the South Meeting House in 1833, and gave more land for the burial ground several times over the years. The meeting house land reverted to his children when it was demolished, and they gave it to the town for cemetery use in 1911. It now holds the newer graves at the southeast end.

Asahel Lear (1806-1890). Blacksmith and gunsmith. Invented and made more than 50 parlor stoves with a circulating flue. Lived near the meeting house and was deacon for many years; also was trustee of the cemetery. Was Postmaster for South Sunapee for 25 years and narrowly missed being injured when knocked off his platform by a mailbag thrown with a little too much gusto from a train. Skated and hiked into his 70s.

South Meeting House, c. 1896



Marcia Runals Putney (1878-1945). Lived with her mother (Lucy Jane Holmes Runals, 1835-1918) and aunt (Lucia Ann Holmes, 1835-1925) and her husband, Dura Putney, on Central St. Graduated from Pratt Institute in New York City and began a thriving millinery business in Sunapee. Was a charter member of Sunapee Woman's Club and served as its president. Daughter of Albert Runals, Sunapee businessman, who with John Y. Gardner built Runals House, the first hotel in the Harbor on the site that became the Ben Mere Inn. Buried with Dura and her mother and aunt with their gravestone marked for Marcia and Dura on one side and Lucy, Lucia, and infant brother Lucian (all born in 1835--triplets!) on the other.

South Cemetery is a pleasant place and worth exploring (as are they all). It is located on Harding Hill Road. All the gravestones face the woods, presumably so the deceased will lie facing the sunrise. For a map showing the locations of Sunapee's cemeteries see the "Family Genealogy" tab of the "Resources" page on our website or click [here](#).


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

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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

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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society
PO Box 501
Sunapee, NH 03782

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South Sunapee Meeting House – Looking NW with Bradford Rd to the left and
Harding Hill Rd to the right and cemetery beyond