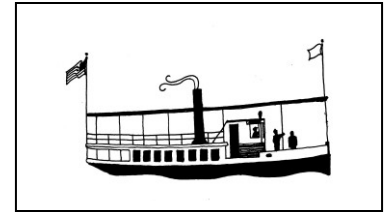


Sunapee Echoes

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Is summer really half over? As usual, time is passing much too quickly! We've settled into our usual routine, enjoying 2 programs so far with 2 more to come and *Stories from the Grave* in September. We hosted another successful history cruise on a lovely summer evening a couple of weeks ago and are expecting a full house for our repeat cruise on 4 August.

Next up in our series of summer programs will be Barbara Chalmers discussing all of the **industries that once lined Sunapee's stretch of the Sugar River**—the lifeblood of our town at that time. (7pm on 24 July at the museum.)

We will hold our **Annual Meeting** on 7 August at 6:30pm, followed by Steve Taylor on the subject of **Rural Electrification**—a NH Humanities-sponsored program—at 7pm. Although electricity came to Sunapee Village in the 1890s, some of the outlying farms weren't wired for power until 1940. Steve will tell us about the ways our farmers' lives changed once they could put away their kerosene lamps. (At the museum.)

At our **Annual Meeting**, we will re-elect two board members, John Bateson and Jim McGraw, and review the past year: our finances, activities, and some of our recent acquisitions of Sunapee artifacts—a variety of things that, as always, we are grateful to have been given. We hope you will join us to celebrate another successful year!

We will present **Stories from the Grave** at the Lower Village Cemetery this year on Sunday, 21 September. You'll learn about Josiah Scott's ill-fated family and other interesting Sunapee folks. Please let us know if you plan to come and which time you prefer (1:00, 1:45, or 2:30) so we can be sure everyone can hear. (\$15 suggested donation.)

Lois Gould is busy doing her usual terrific job finding and scheduling docents to welcome visitors to our museum. But sometimes we don't know if the six weekend slots are covered until the last minute. We understand that you need to be sure you don't get a better offer on any given weekend, but, if you suddenly find you have some time, we'd love it if you could give Lois a call or check the online signup to see if she needs help. Thanks!

All the best!

Becky Fitts Rylander

Summer Program Series

Industry Along Sunapee's Sugar River

Thursday - 24 July @ 7 pm
Flanders-Osborne Museum
(Sunapee Harbor)

Sunapee Historical Society
Founded 1973

Barbara Chalmers will trace the evolution of industries that once were the life-blood of Sunapee.

603-763-9872 / sunapeehistory@gmail.com
SunapeeHistoricalSociety.org

Summer Program Series


Sunapee Historical Society
Founded 1973

Thursday ~ 7 August @ 6:30 pm
Flanders-Osborne Museum
(Sunapee Harbor)

Annual Meeting at 6:30 followed at 7:00 by
Late in Arriving: How Electricity Changed Rural NH Life
by Steve Taylor

Sponsored by NH Humanities

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



Did you know?.....

Now that General Lafayette—or at least his 21st Century impersonator—has visited Hopkinton, Warner, Bradford, and Newport to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his farewell tour through this part of New Hampshire in 1825, it's time to focus on planning Sunapee's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence next July 4th and the ensuing American Revolution. Sunapee—or Saville as our town was known then—was a very new town, busy trying to carve itself out of the wilderness and survive. But we did have nearly 40 veterans of the Revolution, though some of them came to Sunapee after the war and others lived at the very south end of town and became citizens of Goshen when that town was formed. For instance, at least six Young brothers served in Rhode Island units before they settled in Sunapee after the war.

In addition to veterans living in Sunapee, others may have had at least a glancing connection with Sunapee at that time. **Perhaps you have family stories that fall into that category? If so, we'd love to hear from you!**

Here's just one example of the sort of story I have in mind: It turns out that my own great great great great grandfather passed through Saville (Sunapee) on his way to the Battle of Saratoga. Abraham Fitts (1736-1808) was a blacksmith in Candia, NH (east of Manchester). Luckily Lt. Fitts kept a diary that was excerpted in a history of Candia. He enlisted in Captain Moses Baker's company of volunteers on 27 September 1777 and marched from Hopkinton on 3 October to Amesburytown (Warner), Perrytown (Sutton), and on to Lane's in Fisherfield (Newbury), a distance of 22 miles, and then further to lodging at "Clark's in Fisherfield 5 miles from Lane's by Great Sunepy." Here he is apparently referring to Zephaniah Clark, a surveyor, who owned a farm at that time near the current-day traffic circle at Mt Sunapee. The company marched on from there on 4 October "thro part of Saville" and Unity to the Fort at No 4. From there, they went on across Vermont to Saratoga where they joined the Northern Continental army. After the defeat there of British General Burgoyne, they went home by a different route, arriving in Candia on 21 November. So that's a rather tenuous connection, but it gives at least a slight indication of activity in this area at that time. That group of volunteers must have been following the Province Road—a track that provided east-west access from Boscowan and through South Sunapee to the Fort at No. 4 in what is now Charlestown.

In the runup to next July's celebration, Barbara and I will do what we can to learn more about the lives and service of Sunapee's Revolutionary War veterans. We'll also pass on any stories we learn of war-related activities in town like the one about my 4 g's grandfather cited above.

If you'd like to be involved in planning the wider celebration for Sunapee, please contact Recreation Director Steve Bourque. (Recreation@town.sunapee.nh.us or (603)843-7613) He'd welcome your help!

--Becky

200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour, Newport Common, 27 June 2025




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



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

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

Please thank these businesses for their support!

Lake Sunapee Insurance Agency



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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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

2024-2025 Board of Directors

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Barbara Chalmers, *Vice President*

Lela Emery, *Treasurer*

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Jo Hill

Lois Gallup

Ron Garceau



Remember when? Bands played from the restroom roof for our summer concerts!

Courtesy of Carlton Collins