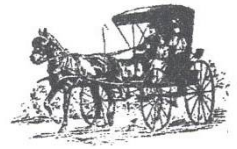


# Sunapee Echoes

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Spring 2013

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Welcome spring! Can summer be far behind? We've had some good skiing, but I'm beginning to hanker for open water and soft summer breezes. As usual, the museum will open for the season on Memorial Day Weekend and be open on weekends through June and then on our normal, six days per week schedule for July and August. We're looking forward to seeing you! *If you'd like to help us get ready, join us at the museum on Saturday morning, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-12.*

**Save the Date!** Please plan to attend the dedication of the new Herbert Welsh Trail at the Dewey Woods marsh and on Garnet Hill on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and enjoy a **Nature Art Walk**—a special exhibit of historical Sunapee landscape images and Welsh's art that will be posted along the trail through July and August. Historical Society member Barbara Chalmers helped the Conservation Commission construct the trail and this summer's special exhibit is her brainchild. It will help us picture what the views were like from there about 100 years ago. We are delighted to help!

As you probably know, Herbert Welsh (1851-1941) was a long-time summer resident, THE early advocate and leader of conservation efforts for Mt. Sunapee and the Dewey Woods, long-time president of the Sunapee Chapter of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Indian rights activist, philanthropist, and artist. He used to walk from his home in Philadelphia to Sunapee in the spring and back again in the fall.

If the trail doesn't call to you, we expect that you will be

able to view the images at our museum and perhaps on our website. Stay tuned for further details!

**The Abbott Library.** Now that the bond issue for the new library has passed, people are starting to wonder who will occupy the original building—a decision that probably won't be made until the new one is underway. We have asked to be considered when the time comes because we sorely need better space for our more fragile items—documents, books, photographs, art work, etc. The town also needs more accessible, yet secure, space for the town archives. So we envision a partnership with the town in a solid building where we can do an adequate job of sorting, cataloguing, and preserving important pieces of town history. Such an arrangement would:

- Preserve the building.
- Preserve its use as a library—as the original gift intended.
- Provide comfortable research space year-round.

If you like the idea, I hope you'll talk it up!

**Summer Programs.** We're planning a wide variety of programs for you this summer. Please see page 3 for a full rundown of the lineup so far.

We are continuing our PALS—Partners Around Lake Sunapee—collaboration and have included this year's PALS calendar with this newsletter. Please note the new "passport" feature—an opportunity to enter a drawing. Find information on the insert on the map.

Above all—have fun!

*Becky Fitts Rylander*

### Spring Meeting & Program, Sunapee Historical Society

7 pm - Weds., April 24th, 2013 at the Sunapee Community Methodist Church

Everyone welcome. Refreshments after the program. Free; donations appreciated.

**Program: Cranky Yankees: All Together Now!** Presented by Jim Cooke, an actor who turned from the drama of the stage to the "dry" pages of history. Today, he makes the past live again in **Cranky Yankees: All Together, Now!** bringing together his four characters in a "greatest hits" from Cooke's several solos.

- Calvin Coolidge - 30th President from Vermont
- Daniel Webster - Statesman from New Hampshire
- John Quincy Adams - 6th President from Massachusetts
- Edward Everett - delivered the Gettysburg Address?

In this performance Jim Cooke showcases selections from his several solos and compares and contrasts the divergent characters he has taken. See more info at his website: [www.CrankyYankees.net](http://www.CrankyYankees.net)

*SHS Note of interest: Jim Cooke Graduated from Sunapee High School in 1954. Here is a note he sent to us:*

*"Fact: I would not be doing what I do if it weren't for the Prize Speaking Contest at Sunapee High School started by former NH Governor Bartlett. He was NH Governor when Coolidge was Governor of Massachusetts."*

## *Sunapee's Granges*

My curiosity about the grange movement has been piqued by our recent acquisition of the minutes of the Lake Grange (#221) from its inception in 1895 to its demise in 1979 after 2,006 meetings.

***A Little History:*** The Grange, or more officially The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, was founded in 1867 to be a national advocacy group for agricultural and rural issues. Grange lobbying was largely responsible for the Cooperative Extension Service, Rural Free Delivery, and the Farm Credit System. Other causes included temperance, the direct election of Senators, and women's suffrage. From the beginning, women and children over the age of 14 were encouraged to participate fully and women were required to fill four of the elected positions. The Grange—especially at the state and national level—is a non-partisan group involved in policy issues. The motto of the Grange is: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

In New Hampshire, the first Grange was established in Exeter in 1873. The NH State Grange continues today with 75 or more subordinate (local) Granges. At the local level, Granges served (and still serve) as community service and social organizations—a sort of family fraternity that focuses on patriotism and citizenship, continuing education, the proper use of resources (both human and natural), and developing individual abilities. Local Granges are organized into “Pomona” Granges, roughly along county lines.

In addition to Lake Grange in Sunapee, the Rockland Grange (#284) was formed in Georges Mills in 1899 and continued at least into the 1950's.

***Notes from the Archives:*** Although I have not had time to read through all of the minutes of the Lake Grange, I've gleaned some interesting tidbits.

The first meeting—during which the original officers were installed and the name was chosen—was held at the home of Harvey Lear. Subsequent meetings, generally held twice each month, were in the Odd Fellows Hall. Each meeting included ritual, committee reports, and entertainment—usually a lecture or discussion, but sometimes also recitations, skits, and music. The subjects of the lectures seem to have varied widely from farm issues to any educational topic someone wanted to address. The town warrant was discussed at that time of year and sometimes they received information on what was happening in the state legislature. Social events such as suppers or beano nights brought in donations that were used not only for expenses but also to support local charities. In addition to their regular meetings, the Sunapee members also often attended meetings of the Sullivan County Pomona Grange and visited other granges. The Pomona Grange *Programme* for 1909 lists 18 meetings held around the county in that year. Indeed, I was struck by the number of times the Lake Grange meetings were attended by visitors from nearby granges.

At least in the 1940's and 50's, the Lake Grange Agricultural Fair Association staged a country fair that must have rivaled today's Cornish Fair. It included judging of livestock, produce, food, parade floats, and costumes as well as various competitions. The minutes from October 1954 reveal that \$124.22 was received in proceeds from the fair.

We don't have the minutes of the meetings of the Rockland Grange in Georges Mills, but there's an interesting account in some notes on its early years written, we believe, by George Gould. He relates that Rockland Grange members traveled one day through Corbin Park to visit Park Grange in Cornish where they heard a “most eloquent speech.” On the way back, they had to get out of their carriages and drive a herd of buffalo off the road so the carriages could get by. We are no longer free to travel through Corbin Park, but if you look in the Delorme *New Hampshire Atlas*, you can see the road they must have taken from Croydon through a notch in Croydon Mountain to Cornish flat and back—a nice short cut! Topics for discussion at Rockland Grange in 1910 included: “Resolved: That laws should be passed compelling the preservation of our large timber tracts,” “Resolved: That the farmer's wife works more hours every day than the farmer,” and “Do automobiles bring enough money into the state to compensate for the injury they do in rural communities?”

The minutes of the last few meetings of Lake Grange at the end of 1979 are poignant: they recorded making their last donations (including to the Sunapee Historical Society) and voting to surrender their charter. They expressed some disappointment that the NH State Grange claimed their records instead of allowing them to reside at the Sunapee Historical Society. I'm happy to inform any former members that the old records have finally come home!

*If anyone has stories to tell of Lake or Rockland Grange activities, we'd love to hear from you.*

## 2013 Programs

In addition to the spring event outlined on page 1, here's what we have lined up for you so far:

### Saturday, July 6, 2pm

Dedication of the Herbert Welsh Trail and Nature Art Walk. (see page 1)

### Thursday, July 11, 7pm

**The Armenia White** – the Woodsum Steamboat Company's Flagship. The Woodsum Steamboat Co. was formed in 1876 and grew to a fleet of 5 boats. The Armenia White was the largest and could transport over 600 people to various stops around the lake. Circa 1918, as private motorboats and autos became popular, the Armenia White was taken out of service. Learn more and enjoy photos. Free; refreshments following.

Note: this program will complement LSPA's June 20<sup>th</sup> offering on Mrs. Armenia White, the person.



### Thursday, July 25, 7pm

**History of Business and Industry Along the Sugar River.** The Sugar River begins at Sunapee Harbor and travels down through the village. Sawmills, machine shops, and many other businesses depended on the river for power. Come learn about this aspect of Sunapee's historic past. Free; refreshments following.

### Monday, August 5, 7pm

**Annual Meeting and Program – Sidney Bickford, Artist: His Life and Art of Nature.** Come and learn about this prolific local legend. Free; refreshments following.

### Thursday, August 15, 7pm

**Island Hopping on Lake Sunapee.** Great Island, Little Island, Emerald Island, and Burkehaven Island are the largest islands on Lake Sunapee, each with at least one cottage. Great Island once sported a bowling alley and a church was planned but never built because someone stole the money! More history and lore of the islands (with photos) will be the topic of a Cracker Barrel Talk. Free; refreshments following.

*Watch your email, our website, our bulletin board, and local media for word of additional Thursday evening offerings.*

## Sunapee Historical Society 2013 Membership, Renewals, and Contributions

\$15 Individual    \$25 Family    \$200 Life Individual    \$350 Life Family  
 \$50 Business or Professional    Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Yes, please send future newsletters by email.

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*From our files: The View from the Top of Garnet Hill*



Lake Sunapee, N. H.

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