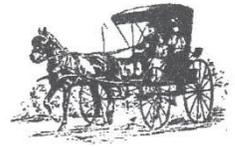


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
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Fall 2014



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

If you are like me, summer disappeared faster than ever and you are somewhat surprised to find yourself already headed into the middle of October! I hope you found time to visit the museum. It was a busy place! As always, a huge thank you goes out to all our volunteers--docents, gardeners, carpenter, and advisors--without whom we would not have such an inviting museum. Visitors frequently commented on how much they enjoyed our extensive, varied, and fascinating collection.

Thanks also to all of you who supported our programs so enthusiastically. Our Woodbine Cottage Dessert Night was especially successful thanks to stories related by Bobbi Gallup and the rest of her family, the new book compiled by Barbara Chalmers that included history and memories as well as recipes, and the culinary talent of several. And yes, although we billed it as "dessert night," we included everyone's favorite--sticky buns!

The class I taught at the museum that I called "The Faceted History of the Town of Sunapee" was nearly fully subscribed and many participants commented on how much they appreciated being able to see artifacts from the periods we were discussing. They also enjoyed the contributions of those in the class who knew as much

if not more than I about Sunapee's history. We had a good time!

**Library project.** We've been busy pressing our case for space in the original Abbott Library building. Please see page 3 for a full discussion of where we stand in the decision process.

**Fall program.** Please plan to join us at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, 15 October, at 7pm for our fall meeting and program. We will take a photo tour of Sunapee's cemeteries and the union churches that formerly accompanied two of them. Thanks to Karl Jonas, Sunapee's graves are well-documented through 2007--a tremendous service to genealogists. Identifying the oldest graves in each gives us some idea of their ages, but we do not know a lot about who started them and the circumstances of their beginnings.

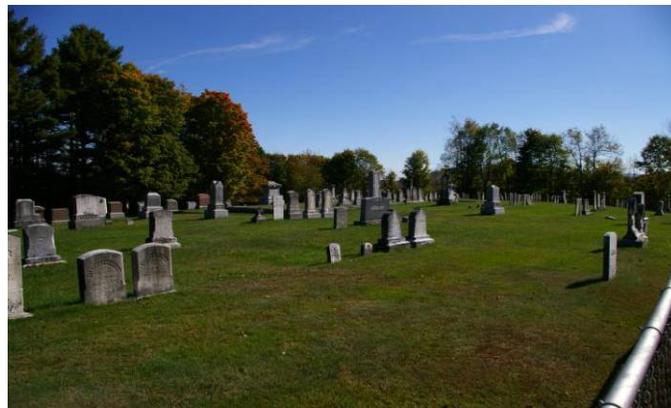
**Need gift ideas?** Please see the "store" page at our website to see items that might be just what you want.

We hope to see you soon!

*Becky Fitts Rylander*

## *Announcing our Fall Meeting and Program!*

Wednesday evening, 15 October, at 7pm at the Sunapee Community Methodist Church  
Featuring a photo tour of Sunapee's eight cemeteries (please see above for more information) and discussion of their histories and a few noteworthy gravestones.



*Another story from Winnowings, by Henry Fitts...*

Did you enjoy my report on haying in the last newsletter? Here's another story from my Dad. This one will introduce you to one of the extraordinary cows we had the pleasure to know when I was a child on Trow Hill. I don't remember Lulubelle, but I have clear memories of Hastings and Leone cows, some of whom occasionally came to visit at our farmstead.

*There is no doubt that the most personable cow I ever met was Cleon Ruffle's pixilated heifer, Lulubelle. I believe she was the first of several cows on the Ruffle spread, and she was the most active cow I ever saw, tearing madly at the leaves on the bushes and stumbling out of the blueberry and juniper clumps and down across the pasture. Also, she had a streak of curiosity that led almost to tragedy.*

*One week in July, George Merrifield and I spent several days digging a trench for a new water pipe on Ruffles' place. Every day Lulubelle was there, staring wide-eyed over our shoulders to see that we dug properly. Finally we began laying the sections of galvanized pipe, doping the couplings and screwing the sections together with big wrenches. Our work was progressing nicely until I heard George suddenly yell, "Look at that damn cow!"*

*I was hunkered down deep in the trench, trying to force two lengths of pipe into position, but I straightened up to look back. Lulubelle was standing near the ditch, gazing at us happily. Hanging from her tongue was the empty can of pipe-joint compound.*

*"She's cleaned out the whole damn can!" shouted George, grabbing the container. "A whole pound!"*

*Lulubelle stood around looking well-fed and contented while George ran to the house and got Marguerite to call the vet. The doctor was immediately concerned, because he knew that Lulubelle was pregnant. "I'll get there fast," he said. "Meanwhile see if you can give her three or four quarts of milk and two dozen egg whites."*

*We tried. But the mixture did not appeal to Lulubelle. She refused to drink it from pan or bucket or any other container. Finally we poured the concoction into a ginger ale bottle. George held the cow's chin high and massaged her throat while I forced the bottle into the corner of her mouth and kept up a steady shaking. Thus we got some of the eggs and milk into Lulubelle.*

*The vet arrived, made a few injections or something, and went his way.*

*"She'll probably lose her calf," he predicted sadly. "The lead in that pipe dope is bad stuff."*

*George and I went back to work, shaken for the rest of the week. Lulubelle ate some grass and some blueberry bushes and watched us every day until we finished the job. Later that year she delivered a fine, healthy calf.*

*New Hampshire cows are indestructible.*



A bovine visit, July 1950.

**Status of the Old Abbott Library.**

This month we celebrate the opening of Sunapee's gorgeous new library. I hope you will all visit it soon.

We are continuing our efforts to gain space in the original library building in order to create an historical library, preserve the building, and help the town maintain more extensive archives than currently possible at the town offices.

The first step is for the town to obtain court approval for relief from the stipulation of the bequest that built it that it be used as the town library. The town proposes to purchase the library trustees' share of the fair market value of property. Assuming court approval, an appraisal will have to be done and then the voters will be asked to approve the expenditure. Once all that is done, the town expects to be free to use, maintain, or sell the property as it sees fit.

Meanwhile we are not sitting still. I have been collecting information from other towns on various arrangements they have for collaboration between their historical societies and their towns for similar purposes. We are also exploring the feasibility of commissioning our own appraisal of the property and considering obtaining legal advice.

Our chances for success seem good. Because of limited parking at that site and the apparent desire among the voters that the building remain in its current form, our proposed use is currently the most feasible.

A word about cost. We do not yet know what form acquiring that space will take--a long-term lease, lease to buy, or purchase--so we don't know what it will cost. It seems likely, however that our operating budget will double to keep both our museum and the library building running--from approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000.

The pay off will be year round access to our most fragile items in space that is much closer to climate controlled than the old livery that is our museum, space to acquire and catalog items already promised and do research, and preservation of a beloved town landmark--a reminder of our rich and varied history.

If you support our efforts, we hope you will think about how you can help, both financially and by voicing your support among your friends and neighbors (especially the Sunapee voters among them) and to our select board and town manager. Thanks!



If you've already sent in your membership renewal or contribution for the year, THANK YOU!  
If not, we'd love to hear from you.

**Sunapee Historical Society  
2014 Membership, Renewals, and Contributions**

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

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Thanks!

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