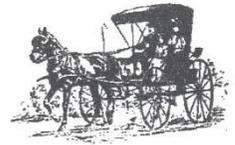


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
www.sunapeehistoricalociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
603-763-9872 or 8809
Spring 2014



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

So, okay...I've put away my skis and I'm beginning to think it might as well be summer! We have a lot going on and look forward to seeing you soon.

Docent Coordinator. Thanks go out to Lucy Young for volunteering to be our docent coordinator. Please look at your calendar and think about sparing a few hours to welcome visitors to our museum. In the course of an afternoon, you are likely to meet interesting folks from near and far and will learn more about Sunapee yourself. No need to know a lot—we'll show you where to find answers. Feel free to enlist a friend to enjoy the duty with you. Call or email us for first dibs on the day(s) you want!

Upcoming Events. We're planning some interesting programs for you, so take a look and mark your calendars. All will be at the museum except on 30 April, all at 7pm except where otherwise noted, and all free and with refreshments.

30 April: *Notable Women of Sunapee* (see below).

17 May, 9-12: *Clean-up Day.* Come and help us prep the museum for the summer. We'll be revamping the kitchen exhibit to include a broader view of the life of yesterday's homemaker.

24-26 May, 1-4pm each day: *Opening Weekend.* Time to enjoy the museum again. Balloons for the kids!

10 July: *Sunapee Women's Organizations.* Part of our focus on the women of Sunapee, their lives, and some notable characters, this program will discuss the activities and influence of several women's groups.

24 July: *A Magic Lantern Show.* Enjoy old-tyme entertainment using slides from our collection.

7 August: *Woodbine Cottage Dessert Night.* Did I hear

you saying "Ah, sticky meeting, we will delve into the history of this landmark restaurant run by the Hill family from 1927-1977. Refreshments will feature desserts from their cookbook.

21 August: *Wooden Launches on Lake Sunapee.* Steam-powered wooden launches were some of the first pleasure boats on the lake. These open cockpit boats were also powered by naphtha, gasoline, and electric/battery. In the 1909 Regatta program, there were 53 launches registered for the annual Launch Race! A few of these graceful boats are still on the lake. Photos and perhaps a restored example.

Adventures in Learning (AIL) Adult Ed Course. On four Friday mornings beginning on 11 July, I'll be leading a course at our museum for Adventures in Learning that I'm calling *The Faceted History of Sunapee*. It will be a broad review of life in Sunapee from 1768 to 1968. If you're interested, check the AIL web site (Colby-sawyer.edu/adventures) or keep an eye on *The Kearsarge Shopper* for information on AIL's summer schedule.

The Old Abbott Library. Our campaign to gain space in the original library building to create a historical library and archive continues. On 31 March, the town held a "visioning" session during which several ideas for use of the building were put forward. We were gratified to note that many (most?) of the people present seemed to like our plan and to appreciate the importance of preserving Sunapee's history and making it more accessible year-round. The Select Board is continuing its deliberations and has scheduled another visioning session for 30 June. We hope you will plan to attend. Please contact us if you are interested in helping or have questions. (Never fear: the museum at the Harbor would remain as is.)

Becky Fitts Rylander



Ruth Almeder

Announcing our Spring Program: Notable Women of Sunapee

at 7pm on Wednesday evening, 30 April

Lake Sunapee United Methodist Church, Rte.11 and Lower Main Street in Sunapee

Come and learn or share your memories of a few significant figures from Sunapee's past.

Everyone welcome; refreshments.

From my research on our early history...

Who was Captain Oliver Corey?

Soldier, explorer, hunter, surveyor, politician? Certainly he was some of those and perhaps all.

Our original charter, granted in November 1768 by Royal Governor John Wentworth on behalf of King George III, says that this area—then to be called Saville—had previously been known as "Coreystown." A chart of the original lots showing the proprietor owners of each reveals that Oliver Corey was the owner of two lots. It also indicates that an early road was known as "Corey's Road." But we don't know that Corey ever lived here. In fact, we think that only one of the original proprietor grantees—mostly from Portsmouth, Newbury MA, and Charlestown—ever lived here.

I've recently been reading the minutes of meetings of the proprietary held in Portsmouth from 1768 to 1794. Sure enough, Capt. Oliver Corey shows up there. He was elected moderator of the first meeting and was put in charge of collecting taxes from proprietors from #4 (Charlestown) and laying out a road and lots here. By the end of May 1769, he reported having done that and was to be paid. The proprietary asked him, with others, to do more surveying and to collect taxes from the proprietors again to pay for the work. But by April of 1770, the minutes say the he "is now gone from the province." Where did he go?

According to *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Vol. 66, p. 127), Oliver Corey was born in Littleton, MA in 1729, married there in 1748, and didn't move to Charlestown until 1768. He was an original grantee not only of Sunapee (Saville at the time), but also of Grafton and of St. Albans, VT, and was one of the builders of the Charlestown Bridge across the Connecticut River in 1780. He died in Charlestown. No date is given for his death but it must have been prior to 1818 because his widow died that year at her son-in-law's home in Rockingham, VT.

We know that Corey served during the Revolution in a unit from Massachusetts—one of more than 1,000 men from New Hampshire who enlisted in Massachusetts companies. But where was he from 1770 to the Revolution and following that conflict? He does not appear in any census of Saville or Wendell, as our town was renamed when chartered in 1781. Our friends in Charlestown kindly checked their records and found no trace of him there.

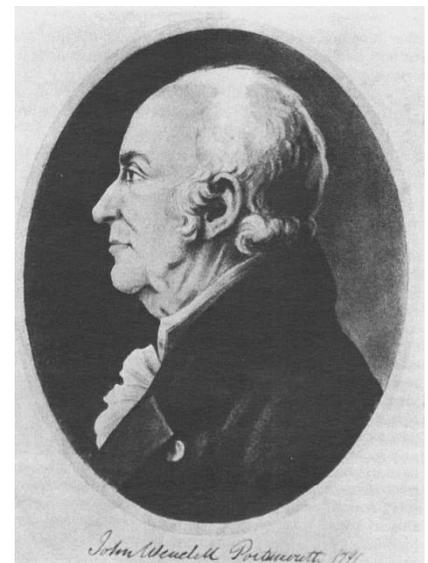
And what about John Wendell?

John Wendell, of Portsmouth, came from a well-to-do and well-documented family. He was a lawyer who was instrumental in settling many New Hampshire towns, including Sunapee, and appears to have been our most influential proprietor.

In our own case, he served as clerk for the meetings of the proprietary in Portsmouth and demonstrated keen interest in inducing settlers to reside here. To that end, the meetings focus on building roads, laying out the lots, and settling disputes regarding the lots. By late 1774 Wendell had evidently decided, in the absence of help from other proprietors, to build grist and saw mills here at his own expense. He continued to work with our proprietors and settlers in the early days of the republic, settling boundary and lot issues and petitioning the General Court for tax abatements. In the fall of 1785, he planned a visit here.

We know that he often bought out proprietors who no longer wanted their lots. The property formerly owned by my parents bears witness to that: their 85-acre lot was originally owned by proprietor Abel Walker (from Charlestown), then by John Wendell (dates unknown), and passed to Barnabas Conant in 1793.

No wonder our town was known as Wendell from 1781-1850 and the west end of town along the road to Newport still commemorates his name!



(Corey and Wendell, continued.)

So where does that leave us? The marvelous(?) thing about research is that it never seems to be finished. I have just discovered that John Wendell's papers reside in a library at Harvard and evidently contain letters to him from some of our early settlers as well as business papers related to New Hampshire towns. I have asked for digital copies of a letter from Oliver Corey written in 1784 and several others from Surveyor Zeph Clark, who lived in Newbury near the mountain (as far as I can tell), and from George Lear, our one proprietor/settler. We'll see what turns up, but a trip to Harvard to see more may be in my future. Then there are the early land records. Those are held in Keene, the county seat of Cheshire County of which we were part prior to the creation of Sullivan County in 1827. I'll be looking for more early town records, too.

So much research to do, so little time...

But stay tuned...there's bound to be more to the story.

Becky

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town, State, & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send future newsletters by email.

I'd prefer to receive newsletter by mail.

Please make checks payable to:
Sunapee, NH Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782

Volunteer opportunities abound. Please let us know if you'd like to help with any of the following:

Docent Duty	Programs	Refreshments	Newsletters
Public Relations	Fundraising	Exhibits	Maintenance
Cleaning	Filing & scanning	Oral histories	Education
Research	Historic Properties	Other _____	

Or have comments or suggestions for us:

Thanks!

In Memoriam – Stan Fitts

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Stan Fitts in February. Stan was the retired president of the Clark-Wilcox Co. in Boston and president of the CW Equipment Co. in Framingham, MA, with a keen interest in power boats and snow mobiles. But we remember him as a lifelong summer resident of Burkehaven and a staunch and generous supporter of our society. We appreciate his support and will miss our association with him.



Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee NH Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

2013-2014 Board of Directors

Officers:

Becky Rylander, *President*

Sandy Alexander, *Vice President*

Lois Gallup, *Treasurer*

Lois Gould, *Secretary*

Directors:

Adele Warner

Ron Hand

Bob Blakley

Eileen Stiles

Priscilla Sargent

Programs Chairman:

Ron Garceau

Docent Coordinator:

Lucy Young

Nominations:

Jo Hill

From our files:



Woodbine Cottage before it was Woodbine, with the Ben Mere Inn in the background.