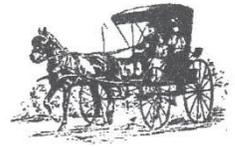


Sunapee Echoes

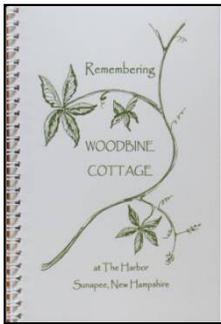
Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
www.sunapeehistoricalociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
603-763-9872 or 8809
Summer 2014



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Summer is off to a great start. (Please tell me it's only just started!) We've been having lovely weather and lots of visitors to the museum.

A good group enjoyed our discussion of women's activities the other evening. We started with the story of Betty Grendell, an early settler who one day managed to scare a bear away from her pig sty to save her family's meat for the winter. This hardy soul went on to live to 104. New Hampshire women are strong!



You'll want to see the new book we have for sale at the museum: **Remembering Woodbine Cottage**. It looks similar to a Woodbine cookbook but includes so much more—history, memories, and photos of that wonderful restaurant as well as recipes. Thanks go to Barbara Chalmers for creating it! Each copy is just \$20 (\$18 for members).

Our annual meeting is coming up (on 7 August). In addition to the election of officers and a review of our budget, we will discuss our vision for use of the original Abbott Library as an historical library and archive and our latest thinking regarding the path to that goal. Please

see the attached letter from the Board of Directors for more information on that. The business meeting will be followed by a program—with samples—on desserts at Woodbine. Please come, give us your thoughts, and enjoy sticky buns and more.

The slate of those standing for election is as follows:
President: Becky Rylander for 2 years, exp. 2016
VP: Sandy Alexander for 2 years, exp. 2016
Treasurer: Lois Gallup for 2 years, exp. 2016
Secretary: Lois Gould for 2 years, exp. 2016
Directors:
Bob Blakley for 3 years, exp. 2017
Barbara Chalmers for 1 year, exp. 2015

Those continuing in place are:
Directors: Adele Warner, Ron Hand, and Eileen Stiles.
Program Chairman: Ron Garceau
Nonimations: Jo Hill

We thank Priscilla Sargent, now leaving the board, for her years of service and support!

Finally, don't miss Riverfest on 20 July (4-8:30pm). Proceeds will help augment the flags flying proudly on Main Street—a project we started several years ago.

Becky Fitts Rylander

Upcoming Events at the Museum— Mark Your Calendars!

24 July, 7pm. A Magic Lantern Show featuring two stories from our collection and a brief history of this form of entertainment, the predecessor to motion pictures.

27 July, 4-7pm. Open House at the museum. Come and bring friends to see behind the scenes and learn about our vision for the future.

7 August, 7 pm. Annual meeting and Program—Woodbine Cottage Dessert Night featuring life in the dessert kitchen and refreshments from the cookbook.

21 August, 7pm. Wooden Launches of Sunapee.

From my research on our early history...letters to John Wendell.

In the last issue, I told you that I was eager to see some letters from our early settlers to benefactor John Wendell. It turned out that all of the ones I had selected dealt only with land issues—who owned what, boundary lines, who might buy plots, etc. The one from Oliver Corey was from Junior Corey, not his father, and dealt with selling his lot. So that effort did not add materially to our knowledge of the early days. I'll keep digging, so stay tuned...

And from more recent history...

When I was a child, I spent glorious summers with my family at our old farmhouse on Trow Hill. One of the favorite activities for my brother and me was helping Verne Hastings, the neighboring farmer, take in the hay both from his fields and ours. What a thrill when he gave us the job of tripping the rake at just the right moment or let us ride on the twine box of the baler! Before the job became as mechanized as that, though, my dad often helped our neighbor across the road, John Sulko, with his haying and learned to swing a scythe. In his *Argus* column and book *Winnowings from the Granite State* (available at the museum @\$10 per copy), Dad wrote eloquently about the effort of early owners of our property to clear the fields that we so enjoyed and of the job of keeping the fields clear. Here's what he had to say:

I often wonder if the fields on my place were cleared by Barnabas Conant in 1825 or Charles Morey about thirty years later. Probably both men, as well as several who followed, had a hand in the laborious task of felling the trees and digging up the rocks and stumps. I can picture Conant or Morey now, hitching the team to the stone boat and starting the long process of building the walls that surround the hay fields and mark off the area where the orchard once flourished. Considering the labor expended over the years, the result is a pair of smooth fields more precious than any amount of money in the bank. In comparison, the amount of work needed to hold what we now enjoy, to beat back the ever-creeping jungle, seems small indeed. If we should let in the hard hack and sheep sorrel and choke cherry and scrub trees that always take over when fields are abandoned, we would be breaking faith with those hardy predecessors and their far-reaching vision of the farm they were passing on to us.

In haying, the old-timer was proud of his ability with a scythe, and his skillful swing of the blade through the grass had to be blended with an equally skillful swing of the whetstone over the blade. Other hayers are justly proud of their horses and mowing machines, when all parts are running smoothly, and modern-day farmers certainly have similar feelings about the work their tractors can do.

I remember one summer day when I stood by with the hay fork while old Messer and his team were cutting a field of deep clover. The mowing machine jammed often, and the horses came in for a string of verbal abuse that was a marvel to hear. Finally the old teamster climbed off the rig and headed for a clump of choke cherry to cut himself a switch. As he trimmed the stick with his jackknife, I could see that the whip would be far too short.

"You can't reach the horse with that!" I yelled in his ear. "Too short!"

He scowled for a minute and grabbed my shoulder.

"Son," he said, "I ain't never hit them beasts with a whip. But I do like to swing it at 'em!"

--by Henry Fitts

Here's a photo of Sylvester Messer with his oxen hauling granite past the Harbor:



Volunteer Help Wanted!

Although we always ask for volunteers for broad categories of jobs—and many thanks to those of you who volunteer—we've been less good about connecting with you. So we thought perhaps giving you some idea of specific jobs would be a better approach for all of us. Please see if one of these appeals to you and let us know:

1. Putting postcards in plastic sleeves and filing them by subject.
2. Helping us create notebooks of information on particular subjects.
3. Cataloging/indexing articles in scrapbooks.

These all sound like good winter projects. Please don't think that volunteering now would mean sacrificing time outside in precious summer weather. You would be under no time constraint to complete the task.

And more **docents** are always needed and welcome. It's fun to meet the visitors to the museum and share your love of Sunapee with them. No need to know a lot about Sunapee's rich history—you'll learn as you go along.

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 \$_____

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!

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

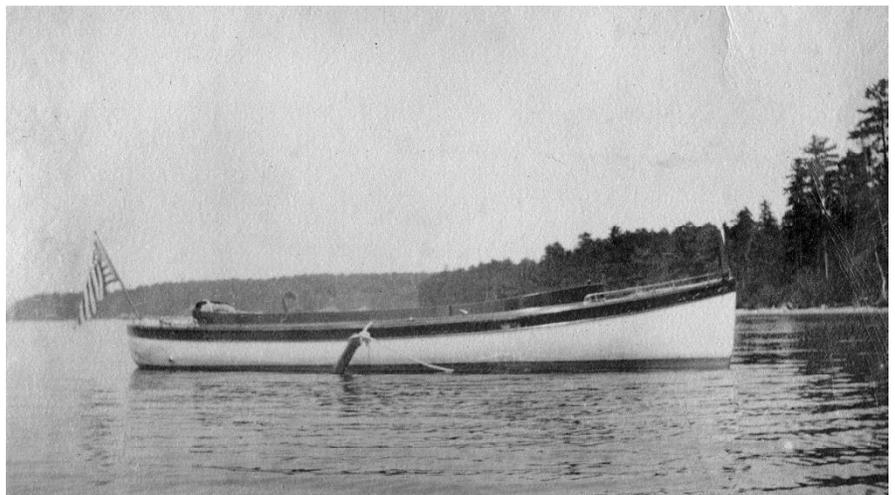
Docent Coordinator:

Lucy Young

Nominations:

Jo Hill

From our files:



An Electric Launch