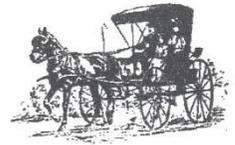


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
www.sunapeehistoricalociety.org
e-mail: sunapeehistory@gmail.com



Winter 2014

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Is it winter? This week it is; a couple of weeks ago I wasn't so sure. What crazy weather!

Updates on some items from our Fall issue:

Fall Fundraiser. Congratulations to Bob Henderson, the winner of our raffle for the dvd *Henry Phipps Goes Skiing* and *The Wild Goose!* Bob reports that he thinks this is the first time he's won something. And huge thanks to all of you who sent in contributions. We couldn't do it without you!

Gardens. A big thank you to Pat Hall for volunteering to care for our gardens next summer!

Docents. But we still need a docent coordinator. If you think that job might be right up your alley but have some questions about what it entails, please be sure to be in touch.

Library Project. In October, we presented the Select Board with our vision for a historical library and archive in the original library building once the new one is completed—a better place for our fragile items and space that would provide better access year-round for everyone and make collaboration with the schools much easier. A decision has not yet been made, but the new library is on schedule and slated for completion in the summer. So please stay tuned for more news on this.

And looking forward to summer:

Programs. We're in the middle of planning a robust variety of programs for this coming summer. We're thinking about a Woodbine dessert night and would welcome any memories of Woodbine that you would care to share. If you're interested, please send them to sunapeehistory@gmail.com.

New Exhibit. We're planning to tweak the kitchen exhibit a bit and include more aspects of a homemaker's life years ago. Don't forget to check it out.

Adventures in Learning (AIL) Course. I've been asked to teach a class on Sunapee history for Adventures in Learning, the adult ed organization sponsored by Colby Sawyer College. It will run in 4 classes in July. I'm coming across some interesting tidbits as I prepare the course. See page 2 for a sample.

Articles. Time seems to be speeding up, and the job of drafting this newsletter comes around faster and faster. If you know something about an aspect of Sunapee history that you'd like to share, you're welcome to submit a short article for this newsletter. We'd welcome the help!

Membership Renewal. We've included the 2014 membership renewal and contribution form in this newsletter. Please know that we are considering instituting some perks for members—perhaps a discount on merchandise or invitations to special events for life and current members. If something along those lines would speak to you, please let us know. We especially hope to hear from those of you who have been very quiet for some time. Remember: we depend on your help to preserve Sunapee's fascinating and varied history.

Hang on... spring is coming!

Becky Fitts Rylander



Did you know this?

A reminder of our agrarian roots.

Sunapee began as a poor town carved out of the wilderness and dependent on agriculture for its survival. The eastern boundary of the town was established in its original charter in 1768 by the Masonian curve—a line drawn 60 miles from the mouth of the Piscataqua River at Portsmouth to form the original western boundary of the province of New Hampshire. That's why the boundary runs across the lake and right through Great Isle. In 1768, the area was supposedly known as Corey's Town, but we have found no evidence that a Corey ever had a permanent residence here. The town was named Saville, and the land was divided into plots of 80-100 acres that were given as favors to the well-connected. Only one of the original grantees appears to have come here to live. During the Revolution, most if not all of the men who settled here went off to war or came to live here after their service. In 1782—in the early days of the republic—the town (by then known as Wendell) was assessed a tax, but the residents were so poor that they had to beg for relief. State papers carry the document in which they asserted that only a few families had a cow or two, some had to buy their corn, and those who raised corn had to take it to another town to be ground. They were clearly in danger of starving. Ironically enough, they said they were unable to pay the tax because *the town contained too much water (not arable land) and too many absentee landowners who could not be taxed!*

And from the 1914 town report.

As we approach town meeting time, it's fun to look back 100 years and glean what we can from the town report of that year to get a picture of life in Sunapee in that era:

- 1914 was the year that the voters were asked to approve a change of name for Georges Mills—to Van Harbor. Obviously that warrant article was defeated, and the name still commemorates one of its early settlers. The story is that Billy B. Van, a vaudevillian turned silent movie maker had settled in Georges Mills for his health and thought he would make that hamlet into Hollywood East. A number of actors frequented the town to act in several of his films. About the time he wanted to rename the town, the residents decided they'd had enough, and Mr. Van ended up moving to Newport.
- A note in the librarian's report mentioned that the library—not in its own building for another 12 years—was in need of more space. At that time, the library contained 2500 volumes and had made 4271 loans during the year.
- Agriculture was a significant component of the local economy. The town inventory lists 247 horses, 2 mules, 24 oxen, 283 cows, 97 neat stock (a New England term for dairy cattle), 52 sheep, 27 hogs, and 120 fowls.
- The town was talking about creating a 4-year high school to replace the 2-year curriculum.
- The district school in Georges Mills had been renovated and four scholars graduated from the 2-year high school.
- The town hoped to raise \$50 to benefit the boys' band.
- A fire at the Hame Shop caused \$15,000 damage.
- And more electric street lights were being added to Chase and High streets and in Georges Mills.



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: _____

Yes, please send future newsletters by email.

No, I'd prefer to continue to receive newsletters by mail.

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

Volunteerism - We need people to help!
Please indicate in which areas you'd be willing to contribute:

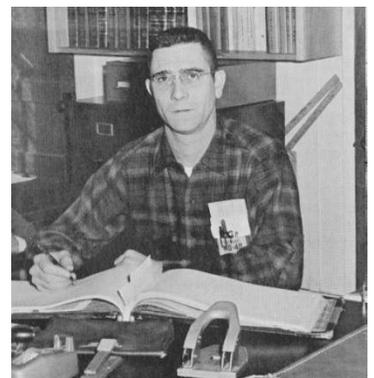
- Docent Programs Refreshments Newsletters
- Public Relations Fundraising Exhibits Maintenance
- Cleaning Filing, Scanning, Computer Oral Histories
- Education/schools Research Historic Properties
- Other _____

Comments/Suggestions:

In Memoriam - Stuart Gallup

We are sad to report the passing of Stuart Gallup on 3 January 2014 after a long period of declining health. Stuart was not only a long-time Sunapee resident, but was one of the founding members of the Sunapee Historical Society and our first president (1973-1977). Of course, he didn't stop there, but was active with the Sunapee Fire Department, served as treasurer for the town, worked with the Boy Scouts, and was member of several regional antique boat, auto, and tractor clubs.

Photo from the Town Report 1973



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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

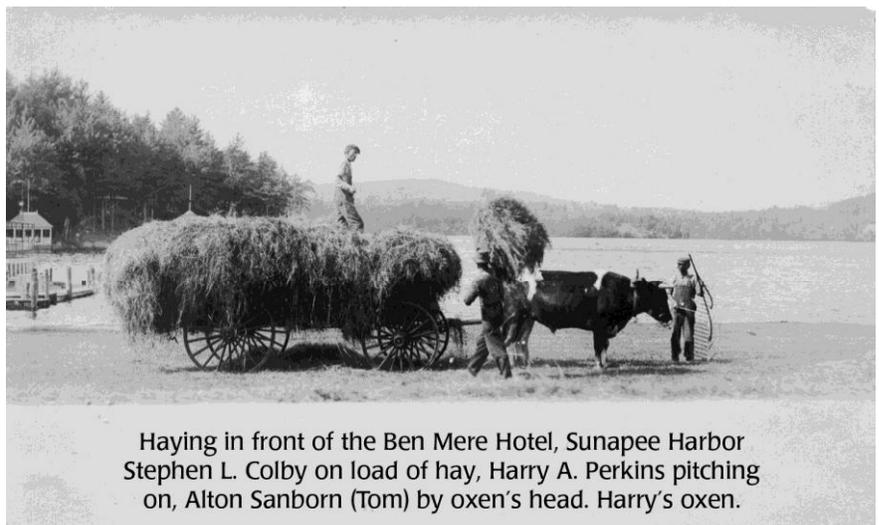
Docent Coordinator:

Vacant

Nominations:

Jo Hill

From our files:



Haying in front of the Ben Mere Hotel, Sunapee Harbor
Stephen L. Colby on load of hay, Harry A. Perkins pitching
on, Alton Sanborn (Tom) by oxen's head. Harry's oxen.