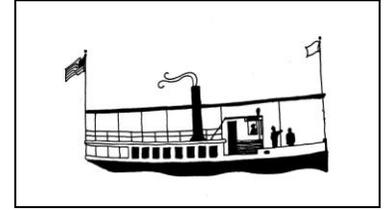


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782
sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
e-mail: contact@sunapeehistoricalsociety.org
603-763-9872 or 8809



Spring 2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We have a busy summer planned. Here's a quick summary so you can mark your calendars:

Spring Open House at the Archives – see below.

Programs at the Museum at 7pm:

July 12th: **Sunapee's Historic Buildings and Places**

July 26th: **Sunapee 100 Years Ago**

Aug 9th: **Summer Life in the 1920s-1950s**

(following our annual meeting at 6:30)

Aug 23rd: **Sunapee Folklore, Mysteries, and Trivia**

3rd Annual History Cruise: Hastings/SooNipi/Blodgett's

July 2nd or August 20th, 5:30 pm at Sunapee Harbor pier; reservations \$30 each; email sunapeehistory@gmail.com or phone 603.763.9872; cash bar and light refreshments.

Independence Day Parade on July 7th with our 1928 road roller; extended hours at the Museum with Woodsum Machine Shop Demo and more.

Steamboat Rides on Sunapee Zephyr:

July 14th, 10-3; reservations required; \$20 each.

Sunapee's 250th Celebration:

July 14th evening: Kick-off events around town including

Woodbine Desserts at the Museum, time TBD

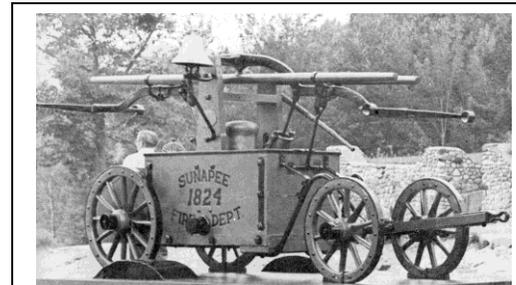
August 17th-19th: Various events around town including:

Spring Meeting and Open House

Sunapee Archives

April 24th 2018, 5-8 pm

This open house will feature an expanded exhibit honoring the Sunapee Fire Department and all the good work they have done over the years to protect us. Come and see what we've been doing to establish Sunapee Archives. Light refreshments will be served.



Scenes of Sunapee Through the Years

an Art Exhibit Celebrating Sunapee, Aug 17-19

sponsored by Sunapee Historical Society and

Sunapee Heritage Alliance at the Livery Annex

Opening Reception Friday 5-7 pm

We are looking for artwork depicting Sunapee, by deceased and living artists, and would love to display never before seen works. If you have a framed painting or drawing of Sunapee please consider submitting your piece for our exhibit. Go to sunapeehistoricalsociety.org or sunapeeheritage.org for details and to download a submission form. Questions? Contact Barbara Chalmers at barbara@sunapeehistoricalsociety.org or leave a message at 603.763.9872.

How can you help? We need assistance and hope you're already thinking about how you can help. If you have just a few hours to spare, we'd love to have you welcome folks to the Museum as docent, prepare refreshments, help with maintenance and more. Just let us know (see p.3) and join the fun!

Museum Clean-up Day. Help us on Saturday morning, May 19th, 9-12, as we get the museum ready for summer.

Sunapee Archives. Stop by on any Monday, 1-4 to see how well we've repurposed the Old Abbott Library. Our capital campaign continues and now stands at about \$340,000. We hope to reach our \$500,000 goal later this year so we can replace the HVAC system, purchase some equipment, and have a nest egg for future repairs. Feel free to help!

Did you know?...

A new acquisition. Have we told you what fun it is when things come to us out of the blue? This winter I received a call from one Jean Brown in Massachusetts wondering if we would like an afghan. But it wasn't just any old afghan. Here's her story:

During World War II, a young girl named Jean Amirault (yes, Jean Brown herself) came to Sunapee with her family. From the cottage they rented on the lake, they would walk along the railroad tracks to the store and post office where they could pick up their mail. One day, there were some women on the steps of the store selling raffle tickets for an afghan they had knitted to support the troops. Jean had a quarter in her hand and intended to spend it on candy, but, instead, young Jean bought a raffle ticket. Lo and behold, she won the afghan! Jean had kept the afghan all these years and was looking for a home for it. We gratefully accepted!

We have been unable to locate any press account of the raffle, but we're quite sure the store in question was Perkins Store, then located facing the Mt. Sunapee/Edgemont railroad station. The store building is still there. When the traffic circle at the mountain was constructed in 1951, the road was moved, so the store was picked up and turned around so that it would continue to face route 103.

As Debbie Perkins says, "It thus turned its back to the past mode of travel and faced the future with great expectation." The railroad tracks and station are, of course, long gone.



Appreciating Sunapee. We thought you'd like to read the following account, written by Hope Johnson Miller Leone after she returned from being interned in the Philippines for three years during World War II. It was published in the July 1945 issue of *New Hampshire Troubadour*. If you're interested in learning more about her story, you can purchase a book, *For All Your Tears*, written by Hope, published and sold by the Newport Historical Society (open Sundays, 10-2).

A New Englander Comes Home by Hope Miller

Years ago, when I was a little girl, my Father and I climbed Mt. Sunapee. While we rested on the granite ledge on South Peak above Lake Solitude, he read me "The Bridal of Pennacook", Whittier's Indian legend about this part of New Hampshire. I have never forgotten that day. When I was interned in Santo Tomas in Manila and longing to be free and safe at home again, home seemed New Hampshire, not America as a whole, and I remembered the lines from the poem—

"The hills are dearest which our childish feet
Have climbed the earliest; and the streams most sweet
Are ever those at which our young lips drank,
Stooped to their water o'er the grassy bank."

In April, in San Francisco, when I was a newly returned ex-internee, my friends said, "Come back West. You have been away for years. See your family and your New Hampshire, then come back." They added, with the same sweeping sort of statement we New Englanders make about the breeziness of Westerners, "You'll find people cold and unfriendly—so stiff and conventional. Come on back here." Another said, "Besides, it's not going to look as beautiful to you now, after the West."

I have been in New Hampshire a month. We are having a family reunion at a cottage at a pond near Lake Sunapee. I have lived here since the first of June, two weeks by myself before my family started coming—from Maine, Detroit, Alaska, and, we hope from Italy. My western friends should meet the "cold, conventional new Englanders" up my road. We have not been home, in New Hampshire as a family, for eighteen years. But the folks around here know exactly who we are. They know we were born and raised at Mt. Sunapee, they know where we all have been and what we have done since 1927; they know every car that has stopped here; who our guests have been, and how long they have stayed. It seems like interest to us, not curiosity. We are New Englanders ourselves and accepted as such. They have helped us in all sorts of ways.

I have seen more majestic mountains, and more flaming sunsets—but I remember the words of the poet, "Places I love come back to me like music"—

I woke before sunrise a morning not long ago to see a shiny disc in the still waters of the pond. It was the waning moon reflected there. A white-throated sparrow's clear notes broke the silence. Then a pink dawn broke. The white

birches on the small island in front of camp were reflected in the lake. I have walked through woods singing with spring to a sheltered spot where pink lady slippers grow thick, and long stemmed blue violets bloom beside a little brook. I know where to find maiden-hair ferns with their dark wiry stems.

One evening I came home from town to find all the constellations shining again in my pond. The whip-poor-will's call, the frog's chorus, the fluttering of night birds—these sounds were my lullaby.

One morning a little fawn looked in my kitchen window. Curious small animals hear our portable victrola on the porch and stop by to listen.

Now the meadows are a tapestry of daisies, buttercups, Queen Anne's lace, paint brush—myriads of June flowers.

I think it all as lovely as I did when I was a child—perhaps because it is home to me—perhaps because the simplicity and charm of this spot is more appealing to me just now than magnificence and splendor.

For I have been gone a long time and for three years I was imprisoned. The homesickness of years is forgotten now. All my impressions are brightly colored by regained freedom. The land before me is not just a scene to me—it is my own country again—bright and clean and beautiful.

In Memoriam. As our winter issue of this newsletter was going to print in January, we lost two people who were very special to us:



Janet Ramspott was a staunch member of our board of directors for many years. Together with Jo Hill, she spent ~~many~~ hours organizing historical papers in the museum office—an immense help for finding items later! After that, they headed for the attic where they sorted through all the old newspapers, memorabilia, and artifacts stored there. Janet also participated in many other activities, such as welcoming visitors to the museum and training new docents. As docent coordinator, she ensured that the museum could be open on our regular schedule with a minimum time commitment by any one person. We never had so many docents as when Janet was in charge. Who could say “no” to Janet?!

Bob Blakley took the mission of the Sunapee Historical Society to preserve Sunapee's rich history and make it accessible to all seriously and undertook three monumental tasks that will remain part of his legacy for decades. In addition to serving as a board member and docent, he:

- Single-handedly cleaned, repaired, indexed, organized, and photographed each Magic Lantern slide in our collection of 2,674. With all these images digitized, they will be preserved for posterity and can be shown without using the fragile Magic Lantern projector.
- Indexed all the graves in Sunapee's eight cemeteries and updated the index every subsequent year. Genealogists will be forever grateful.
- Created and assembled the extensive application to add the Old Abbott Library to New Hampshire's State Registry of Historic Places. This application will be submitted as soon as we own the property.



We miss Bob's can-do attitude, support, and humor tremendously.

Calling all docents (and others)!

Our season is short and we'd like to be open three hours per day six days per week in July and August, but that requires considerable person power. If you'd like to help out as docent at the museum, please call Lucy Mueller at (413) 695-6591. That's the best way to sign up for the day(s) that work best for you. If you're new, Lucy will provide all the training you need. Please tell your friends about this opportunity to learn more about Sunapee's rich history and meet some great people.

We need other help as well—refreshments for programs, maintenance, fundraising, publicity, and more. If you'd like to help, please either call us (603.763.9872) or send an email to sunapeehistory@gmail.com.

Many thanks!

Sunapee Historical Society
PO Box 501
Sunapee, NH 03782

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Perkins' Store, Mt. Sunapee