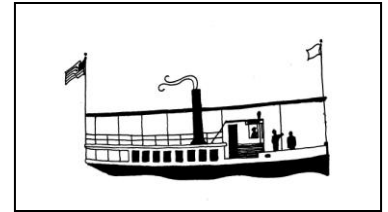


# Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.  
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Summer 2016



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**At the Museum.** We've made major improvements at the museum this year, so don't forget to stop by if you haven't been there recently. Our old cottage exhibit is getting rave reviews! Lucy Sturtevant, whose family camped on their lot on Garnet Street for many years before finally building their cottage, sits rocking by the porch. Photos of their campsite are on display. The porch door squeaks just right, and there are lots of other details that you won't want to miss. Thanks to all who worked so hard on that!



Thanks mostly to the efforts of Barbara Chalmers, we've also revamped and spruced up most of our exhibits and our sales area. Thanks also to Vic Reno for lighting improvements. The museum looks great!

**August Programs.** See below and page 3 for details.

**Sales.** Our new Ben Mere ornament has just come in and looks lovely. It joins other new items that may interest you.

Volume 1 of a book about the **Regatta!** will be available very soon if not already on hand by the time you receive this newsletter.

**Elections.** The prime order of business at our annual meeting, coming up on August 4<sup>th</sup>, is election of officers and directors. Here's the slate:

- President (2 yrs): Becky Rylander
- Vice President (2 yrs): Barbara Chalmers
- Treasurer (2 yrs): Lela Emery
- Secretary (2 yrs): Lois Gould
- Director (3 yrs): Ron Hand
- Director (1 yr): To be filled

We owe a great deal of thanks to Lois Gallup for her work as our treasurer for many years. She has done a great job and the Board will miss her!

As always, we need more help and will welcome anyone who would like to be involved. **Docents**, in particular, are in high demand, so please consider helping out on one or two afternoons. As a docent, you'll have fun meeting people from all over. There's no need to know a lot about Sunapee's history, and we can train you up quickly. This would be an appropriate time for a review of our financial books and we're wondering if there's a **CPA** among you who might like to donate some time for that. If so, please let us know. Thanks!

We'll look for you at the museum!

*Becky Fitts Rylander*

Don't miss our Annual Meeting and Program!

### ***Dan and Frank Woodsum Reminisce!***

Come hear the Woodsum Brothers, portrayed by Greg Weiss and Greg Young, tell about their lives and the business of steamboating on Lake Sunapee.

At 7pm on **Thursday, August 4th**, at the Sunapee Historical Society Museum, Sunapee Harbor. Business meeting at 6:30; program at 7pm.  
Everyone is welcome; free with refreshments after the program.  
See you there!



***A Tourism Timeline.*** We had a wonderful time on our history cruise aboard the MV Mt. Sunapee II exploring the progression of most of the lake shore development in the town of Sunapee. We noted which cottages remain of those that were built originally from the late 1870s to the 1940s, and I thought you might be interested in a timeline for the trains, hotels, and steamboats that were critical to the development of tourism here. The tourist trade got going in earnest after the Civil War and the advent of a train route through Newbury, so we will begin there.

1872: The Newbury Cut was completed, allowing for through trains from Concord to Claremont. Lake Station was eventually established near present-day Davis Cabins, Edgemont or Sunapee Station near the mountain, and Wendell Station on the western edge of town.

1873: The Johnson family opened Sunapee Mountain House, a hotel on the side of Mt. Sunapee. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire just before opening for the 1875 season and was never rebuilt.

1874: Lafayette Colby built Lake View House, later the Burkehaven Hotel.

1876: Nathaniel Gardner built the *Penacock*, a small steamer, to transport customers to his bowling alley on Little Isle.

1876: The Woodsums built the 75-passenger *Lady Woodsum*.

1878: Runals House (site of the Sunapee bandstand) opened. Rebuilt in 1890 to become the Ben Mere.

1886: A Newport syndicate built the rather ill-fated 500-passenger *Edmund Burke*, enlarged for 600 passengers in 1889.

1887: The Woodsums Built the 650-passenger, steel hulled *Armenia White*.

1888: The 3 existing steamboats sold 15,000 tickets. Service included moonlight cruises with orchestras for dancing.

c. 1888: The Harbor View Hotel was built, enlarged in 1890 to become the Guelma with accompanying stable, and ultimately became the Harbor House Hotel and Harbor House Livery.

1892: Lake Sunapee Regatta Association was formed. Annual water sports competitions continued into the 1950s.

1897: Annie and Carrie Covell built their first hotel, greatly enlarged and rebuilt in 1906 to become the Granliden.

1897: The Woodsums added the *Kearsarge* to their fleet. Held 250 passengers and required 1 ton of coal per day.

1902: The Woodsums added the *Weetamoo* for 150-200 passengers. She was intentionally scuttled in 1926.

1907: The Woodsums added the *Ascutney*, also for 150-200 passengers.

c. 1917: The *Armenia White* was retired. She was sold for scrap in 1939.

1934: The Woodsum Steamboat Company was out of business.

1936: The *Kearsarge* sank in ice at anchor off Davis Cabins. Sid Crook salvaged the pilot house, later given to our museum.

By 1939: All the steamers were gone—2 on the bottom of the lake, the others sold for scrap.

1954: The Granliden ceased to operate as hotel and was torn down by 1968.

1967: The Ben Mere's last season. Torn down soon after.

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***Sunapee's Sestercentennial Coming Soon.*** Our town has a tradition of grand celebrations of significant anniversaries and marked our 150<sup>th</sup> and Bicentennial years in style. The town has just put out a call for volunteers to help plan our Sestercentennial—the 250<sup>th</sup>—celebration in 2018, and we hope you'll sign up. We've put a case full of Bicentennial memorabilia in the meeting room at the town offices for inspiration!

*In Memoriam:* We have recently lost two loyal members and stalwarts of the community. We will miss them both.

**John McCrillis:** John was a lifelong resident of Newport and owned one of the oldest cottages at Burkehaven. In addition to all he did for the town of Newport and skiing in this area, he was a great steward of the Lake and its history. He kept up with developments at the museum, and frequently came to our programs.

**Dick Webb:** A Sunapee resident at Harding Hill Farm since 1948, Dick's contributions to the life of this town are too numerous to mention here. We note especially his work in land conservation, establishing many wooded areas for public use, and as a founding member of Sunapee Harbor Riverway.

**Update on the Old Abbott Library.** On 31 May, we presented the Select Board with our proposal to lease the Old Abbott Library (OAL) for up to 2 years while we raise funds to buy the building. Our plan is to create a year-round accessible archive for the town and simultaneously preserve the building. The town is currently considering our proposal and exploring the possibility of a commercial sale. If you like our plan, please feel free to let the select board know and please think about volunteering to help. No matter your area of expertise or interest, we could use you. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

**Memberships and Donations.** Thanks to all of you who have responded so generously to the membership renewals and donations plea that we sent out in March! We couldn't keep the museum running without you. Thanks especially to our business members: Lake Sunapee Insurance, Dexter's Inn, and Dan Schimberg.



Thanks also to Lake Sunapee Bank for underwriting the publication of the pamphlet we put together to accompany our history cruise!

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Here's a membership and donations form for any of you who missed the opportunity earlier in the year.

**2016 MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS – CONTRIBUTIONS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK MEMBERSHIP TYPE:**

\$15 Individual     \$25 Family     \$50 Business     \$100 Patron     \$300 Sustainer

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_     I wish to remain anonymous

**NEWSLETTER**

Send future newsletters by e-mail  
 Send future newsletters by postal mail

**Please make checks payable to:**

Sunapee NH Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 501, Sunapee, NH 03782

Thank you!

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**August Programs.** In addition to the 4 August visit of the Woodsum Brothers (see page 1 for details), you won't want to miss these:

*9 August at Newport's Library Arts Center at 6:30:* A joint program with the Newport Historical Society on the Life of **Billy B. Van**, vaudevillian, silent movie producer, and unofficial mayor of Newport.

*18 August at the Museum at 7pm:* **Building Sunapee**—A Crackerbarrel Talk with area builders on those who worked so hard 100 years ago to build the cottages and hotels of Sunapee and Georges Mills.

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***2015-2016 Board of Directors***

*Officers:*

Becky Rylander, *President*  
Sandy Alexander, *Vice President*  
Lois Gallup, *Treasurer*  
Lois Gould, *Secretary*

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Tony Bergeron  
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*Docent Coordinator:*

Lucy Young

*Nominations:*

Ron Garceau

*Ex Officio:*

Eileen Stiles  
Jo Hill

*From our museum files:*



*The Museum as Osborne's Garage  
Decked out for Sunapee's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1918*