



## NEWSLETTER

April - June 2001

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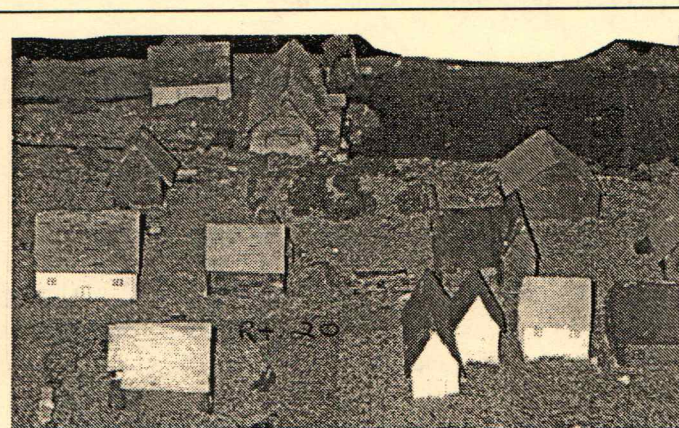
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### Did You Know?

Has anyone wondered about the seal with the Native American and the words "Goodman Society of Sudbury, Mass.," part of the Sudbury Historical Society's logo?

Its origins go back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when Florence Hosmer's father and brothers were very active in the Goodman Society. After a few years of inactivity, the Hosmers, with the help of noted architect and Sudbury resident Ralph Adams Cram, reorganized it in 1913.



Concord Rd. & Rt. 20 at Mill Village  
(A larger Hop Brook is in upper right corner)  
During 17<sup>th</sup> Century

The first order of business was to fix a faulty well across the street from the Hosmer's home on the corner of Hudson and Concord Roads to the front of the First Parish Church. They also re-wrote the bylaws and made Article II "to investigate and present the history and traditions of the Town of Sudbury" and set out to mark historical sites. Other accomplishments of the Goodman Society were: installations of a drinking fountain on the common next to the guidepost in 1914; the post lights in the Town center; and the wrought iron and glass light that was originally made for the old Town Hall portico but was moved above the front door of the new Town Hall after 1932. Next time you go to Town Hall, look for the portico light, which has cut-out lettering on three sides with the words "1639-1914 (on the occasion of Sudbury's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary), Sudbury, and GS (for Goodman Society). The Society continued to be active and in 1935 became involved with recovering ancient documents from the Thomas Stearns collection, which it actually did, but the story becomes more involved. Stay tuned (or call Lee Swanson at 978-443-3747 for more details).



## Coming Up:

## Save the Dates!

Programs in April, May, June and July 2001:

(Sorry – SOLD OUT)—Sunday, April 22 – 12-4 PM. Sudbury and Maynard Historical Societies are co-sponsoring a **bus and walking tour of Native American and 18<sup>th</sup> century sites in the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge** (formerly known as the Sudbury Annex). **Note: Anyone with a ticket should meet at Noon at St. Bridget's Church parking lot, Sudbury St., Maynard.** **Note: This tour was only advertised at SHS program meetings—another reason to attend!**

(Sorry - SOLD OUT)—Sunday, May 6 - 2 PM. **"Back to Prohibition Times in Sudbury"** with Curator Lee Swanson, who will lead a bus tour through Sudbury and note the former sites of speakeasies, stills, and more! Those who have made reservations should meet behind Town Hall and return to First Parish Church for refreshments.

**Saturday, May 12 - 8 PM. "Music of Love and Flowers,"** performed by the Musicians of the Old Post Road, featuring acclaimed mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal. First Parish, Sudbury (Rt. 27/Concord Rd.), handicapped accessible. Cost: \$18 general, \$12 students/seniors. For tickets, call Bruce Langmuir at 978-443-8309.

Although not listed on our original program, the Sudbury Historical Society is pleased to publicize and help with the presentation of this special Mother's Day Weekend Program. Plan to attend, and we guarantee you will enjoy the lovely songs and charming instrumental selections by Handel and his esteemed colleagues, including Thomas Augustine Arne and James Oswald. Refreshments and a special treat for ladies will follow.

**Sunday, June 3 - 2 PM at Sudbury Grange Hall** (next to Town Hall). **Annual Meeting and Election of Trustees and Officers**, followed by an **Open House "17<sup>th</sup> Century Sudbury Comes Alive!"** at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Town Hall (NOT handicapped accessible).

**Sunday, July 8 - Noon Tour of Sudbury's Revolutionary War Graveyard.** Learn about who is buried there. Meet in front of Town Hall.

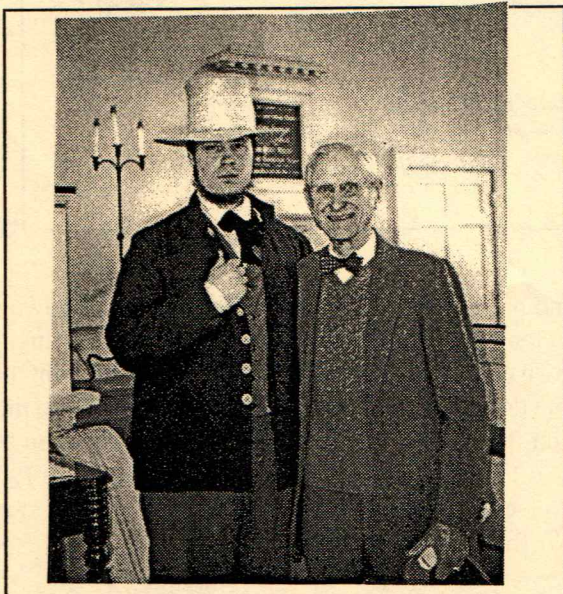
## Highlights of Winter Programs

*SHS Trustee Victor Guethlen poses with Henry David Thoreau (a/k/a Richard Smith) at First Parish, Wayland.*

In January, members and guests were treated to a

visual array of various tribal rugs of Northern Afghanistan and to an informative presentation by Abdul Zahar, owner of Amu Oriental Rugs, Inc., Sudbury. In

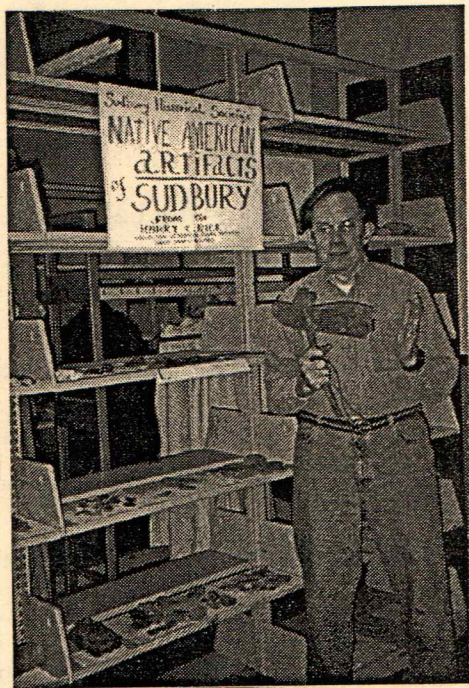
**February**, noted architect and author Jonathan Hale showed several slides depicting former and current architecture and stressed the importance of preserving beauty through symmetry. Just when we thought spring was around the corner, we were covered with two-plus feet of snow in early **March**, the day after Sudbury resident and landscape designer, Maria von Brincken, presented her colorful and inspiring slides of entry gardens derived from historic examples. Later that same day, SHS invited all the contributors to a private showing and selected readings of the George H. Moore Civil War Collection of letters, pictures, and diaries. Once again, Mother Nature tried unsuccessfully to foil our plans for our **April** meeting, co-sponsored with the Wayland Historical Society at the handsomely renovated First Parish Church of Wayland. Despite the flooding before and after the meeting, the roads were passable, and all those present were able to step back in time to hear the lecture "Walking" by Henry David Thoreau (Richard Smith), followed by his entertaining "in-character" responses to audience's questions. (See photo.) Thank you, Dick Hoyt and the Wayland Historical Society for an interesting and timely program. SHS Trustees are planning a visit to the Wayland Historical Society in Wayland Center in the near future.





## Rice Museum Fund / Wood-Davison House Fund Update:

At Sudbury's recent Town Meeting, Trustee Peggy Fredrickson and Curator Lee Swanson spoke on behalf of SHS's vision for an American Indian Artifacts Museum, built as a replica of a Sudbury Garrison or Block House to comply with the 1978 Will of the late Harry C. Rice. The Will specifies that *"the Town of Sudbury build a suitable fireproof museum building in which can be properly displayed the artifacts, materials and programs which are appropriate to the study of American History, and in particular the history of New England and Sudbury, including American Indian history."*



It also states that the museum has to be a separate structure and that Sudbury Selectmen shall act as trustees of the funds and the museum. Thus, the "Catch 22" in the Rice Will is that the Town received the money and SHS received the collection but no money to store, display or even secure it (the Will specified a safe, vault, or locked exhibition case for the collection!).

To date, there is \$84,649.11 in the Rice Museum Fund and \$48,209.67 in the Wood-Davison Fund. The latter funds were collected in a 1989 failed attempt to move an antique house from South Sudbury to Sudbury Center in order to establish a Sudbury Historical Society museum with archives in the basement.

According to Curator Swanson, the current total Town-held funds of \$132,858.78 could be used along with potential grants of up to \$200,000 for a small dedicated museum at the Rt. 20 entrance to the former Weisblatt land, now Conservation land known as Tippling Rock Trail.

Is there anyone who would like to be on a committee to champion this cause and look into more details for SHS??? Let us know at 978- 443-3747.

*Curator Swanson holds a 1000-year-old Celt (axe head) with a reconstructed handle*

## Recent Acquisitions:

The SHS is grateful to the following people for donating historical items in 2001, to date:

**Curt Garfield** . . . . for early 20<sup>th</sup>-century newspapers, photos, and personal papers of his great-aunt, Lottie Smith.

**Forrest Bradshaw** . (courtesy of his daughters) for 20<sup>th</sup>-century newspapers and photos.

**Mary Ann Courtemanche** . for a fur cape, feather fan, Sudbury eraser, 2 games made in Sudbury, and spectacles belonging to Nettie Ward Gerry.

**Paul Boothroyd** . . for two photocopies of pictures of Babe Ruth in Sudbury

**Lyn Maclean** . . . . for Sudbury's Bicentennial Committee's records

**George Lewis** . . . . for "Wayland Historical Tours" by Barbara Robinson and index and 35mm slides of interior and exterior of Wood-Davison House.

**Jackie Deveneau** . for a collection of Sudbury memorabilia, including newspapers and photos belonging to her mother, Barbara Deveneau.

**Dr. Robert Maier** .(Sudbury Family Chiropractic Services) for an original 1875 map of Maynard and Sudbury. A barn/attic loom from the Civil War period has also been offered to SHS.

**A special thank you to Betty Bishop for the antique Kirby vacuum cleaner for SHS's use!**

**Is there anyone who would like to help clean the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for the June meeting?**

**Call and let us know when you can come.**



## *What's Happening at Town Hall Second Floor?*

**Volunteers Needed:** What *isn't* happening is more *apropos*. Curator Lee Swanson is "on duty" most weekday afternoons, answering phone inquiries and welcoming visitors while trying to work on several projects for SHS. With the able assistance of Ginny Maenpaa and others (see Thank You Volunteers), the cataloguing has made great progress and awaits computerization. However, there is still much work that needs to be done before any new projects are undertaken.

### ***Some of the "projects" which need volunteers are:***

- Yankee Magazine's Community partnership program with the Sudbury Historical Society has begun, whereby SHS receives \$10 for every \$20 year's subscription to Yankee magazine (special subscription cards available at Town Hall). Need to distribute subscription cards.
- A revolving loan system is needed for the 23 donated works of the late Sudbury artist and illuminator, E. Helene Sherman.
- Replies to genealogy-related requests as well as research into Sudbury's 17<sup>th</sup>-century history would be welcomed.
- The Moore Civil War Collection still needs transcribing of all the letters, so that a future book or film may be facilitated.
- Schools and other local organizations need an SHS liaison to promote local history *via* videos, pictures, letters that are available from SHS Curator.
- A filing system for all the donated pictures and articles is needed.
- Original Research would be helpful for the May bus tour, "Back to Prohibition Times in Sudbury."
- Someone to provide photos and material for articles for newspapers that would raise public awareness of SHS's collections.
- Research into archeological sites in Sudbury would aid a ~~Sudbury~~ <sup>Sudbury</sup> Watershed project.
- Members' e-mail addresses need compiling for special e-mailings.
- File cabinets and SHS business records are in need of organizing.
- Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (Sudbury Annex) need more people who can help document the homes, roads, and other places that date back to Native American sites and the Revolutionary War times; e.g., the Rice Tavern.

***If you think you can help in any way, call Ursula Lyons at 978-443-9638,***

***Nancy Vanderslice at 978-443-8053,***

***or Lee Swanson at SHS's number, 978-443-3747.***



## Thank You, SHS Volunteers:

SHS wishes to thank the following for helping with projects and programs since January: Mary Ann Clark; Beverly Anderson; Jo Travers; Maggie Surwilo; Terri Newton; Frank Kelly; George Lewis; Cynthia Stocking; Anna McGovern; Don Bishop; Ken Ritchie; Esther Mann; Barbara Fitzgerald; Betty Foley; Muriel Plonko; Maryellen and Stewart Hoover; John McGovern; Doris Niederauer; Ann Harvey; Denny Donaldson; Adolph & Barbara Bahlkow; Dick Bell, who has been maintaining our membership and mailing list; and Carole Flynn (Sudbury Secretarial Service) for typing and formatting the SHS Newsletter and more! Readers at the Moore Civil War collection reception for sponsors included Sudbury residents Chris Kurth (manager of Meadowbrook CSA Farm on Haynes Road); Ellery Channing; L-S student Trevor Sieck; Ursula Lyons; and Lee Swanson (see photo). We would be remiss by not publicly thanking our dedicated Trustee, Peggy Fredrickson, for all the videography work she does at our meetings. Copies of the videos of SHS's programs are available at the Goodnow Library. Thank you, Peggy. Hopefully, we will get volunteers to help you with the videography work next year.



*Chris Kurth adjusts Civil War cap before reading letters of George H. Moore. Ellery Channing, who read letters written by Moore's sister Mary, looks on.*

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**SHS Wish List:** SHS is in need of an updated computer - Pentium 200 MHZ; 32 MB RAM; 30 MB disk space, with Windows 95, 98, or 2000, 3.5 floppy drive, CD-ROM drive, and a color monitor. Lee Swanson is currently allowing SHS to use his personal computer, but we want to install the new museum software, Past Perfect, on an SHS computer that others will also be able to use. If anyone knows an inexpensive way we can acquire one ASAP, we would be most grateful to hear from you.

We are *still* wishing for:

- Fax machine
- Postage scale - up to 2 lbs.
- Copy of "Historic Houses of Sudbury," by Sudbury Historical Commission (cost is \$75)
- 2'x2' Paper cutter
- Laser printer

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## What Next? Looking for a Summer Job?

SHS is looking for a student, senior, or anyone who is proficient in computers and willing to work up to 20 flexible hours a week from mid-June through mid-August. SHS will pay a stipend competitive with salaries paid for similar work.

Expectations would include:

- ▶ learning Museum Software program, Past Perfect on a Windows PC,
- ▶ entering SHS collections & donated items into the program, and
- ▶ training SHS volunteers to continue using the program.



## Welcome New Members:

There are now 153 members in SHS to date, an increase of 28 new memberships since January! As all yearly memberships will expire on August 31, next year's memberships will not become effective until September 1, 2001.

A list of current members will be available at our Annual Meeting in June. Thank you to ALL SHS members for your interest and support.

## An Invitation to All Members:

Mass. Community Forum on Historical Records – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering on May 11, 2001.

On Friday, May 11, from 9-4, Secretary of State William Galvin will be hosting the fourth annual Community Forum on Historical Records. This year's forum will be held at the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center at UMass, Amherst. The Forum will feature speakers, demonstrations, and workshops on oral histories, historical research and writing, poetry, dramatic interpretation, film and video, music, song and dance. Workshops will be offered related to Massachusetts' veteran history, agricultural history, community documentation, primary sources in the classroom, library outreach projects, and providing access to local and state records. Cost, including lunch, is \$10. Last year, several Trustees and members attended the Forum at Brandeis University and found it very worthwhile and informative. We would like to "car pool" this year and ask, if you would like to attend, to please call 978-443-3747 before April 24, or call Bill Milhomme at 617-727-2816. This is a MUST for history enthusiasts. Hope to hear from you soon.

## Sudbury Book Sales:

At the recent Sudbury Town Meetings, many copies of *Sudbury: 1890-1989: 100 Years in the Life of a Town*, by Town Historian Curtis Garfield, were sold. Special thanks to Selectman Kirsten Roopenian for extolling its praises at opening night of Town Meeting. Copies are now available on loan from the Curtis Middle School and Lincoln-Sudbury libraries. We are hoping that Channel 5 TV's Chronicle program will find a spot for Curt and his book in the near future. Meanwhile, books are for sale at The Paper Store, Bearly Read Books, and the Wayside Inn, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Town Hall Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.



*Town Historian, Curt Garfield, signs copies of his recent book on Sudbury's history. Trustee Bob Gottberg helps with sales at recent Town Meetings.*



## Help Write SHS's Mission Statement:

### Current SHS Mission Statement:

The Sudbury Historical Society accepts the commitment to collect and preserve artifacts, to foster an appreciation and understanding of history and traditions, focusing primarily, but not exclusively, on Sudbury.

### Proposed SHS Mission Statement:

The Sudbury Historical Society is committed to raising awareness of and appreciation for the heritage of the Town of Sudbury by the collection, preservation, and acquisition of records and materials which document all aspects of daily life in the Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Call or write us with your comments and/or suggestions.

## Bylaws Revisited:

"It must be something in the water," for the Town has recodified and revised its bylaws and SHS and other Historical Societies are also rewriting their bylaws. SHS has made minor revisions to the bylaws in 1959, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1992 and 2000, but this is the first attempt at a major revision.

Lee Swanson, Ursula Lyons, and Betty Bishop, with help from former Selectman Mary Ann Clark, have been working to have the new bylaws approved by the Trustees and ready for the Annual Meeting. There are still a few "kinks" to iron out, and we will report more in June. Other Historical Societies have requested copies of ours when approved!



*Do you know whose portrait this is?*

*Hint: It was found in*

*Forrest Bradshaw's basement.*

## From the Curator: (reprinted from last newsletter, in case you missed it!)

The strength of an Historical Society is its "Collection." The Sudbury Historical Society is really just beginning to collect, as we did not have a home earlier. We would like to collect not only historic Sudbury papers, artifact, etc., but also records from Sudbury businesses, especially **greenhouses** from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We also hope to collect records of Sudbury organizations. Photographs are most welcome from Sudbury events. In short, we would like to have a collection of people's lives as told in pictures, words or examples of what they ate, drank, used in their daily lives. Just imagine if you could open the door of George F. Moore's house (as he so wanted to do when he was away for three years during the Civil War), and walk back in time to 1863 Sudbury. One hundred years from now, people will be interested to see how life was in the year 2000, when we will be "history." We hope our collections will reflect accurately many periods of Sudbury life, including our own. The Fourth Annual Community Forum on Historical Records (see p. 6) is an opportunity for SHS members to learn about the many different ways of presenting and preserving the collective memory of Sudbury's people.





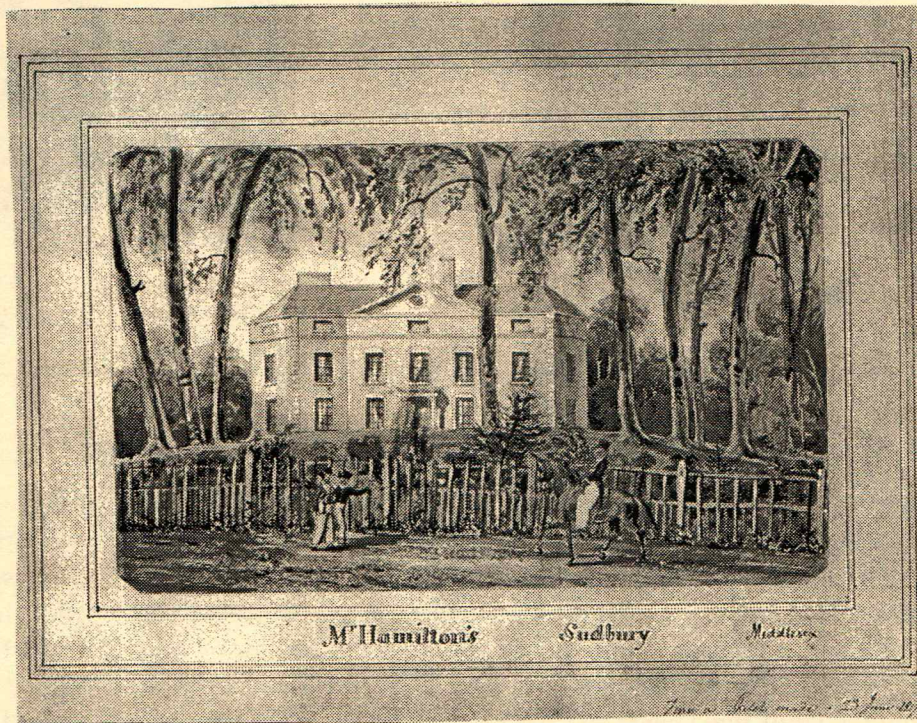
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# NEWSLETTER



PICTURE OF SUDBURY'S FIRST "McMANSION"? This 1817 copy of a watercolor depicts Mr. Hamilton's house. Does anyone know where this house was located or have information about Mr. Hamilton?