

Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

January - April 2002

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From the President

What a joy it is working with an interesting group of people to preserve the SHS's collections which depict the history of Sudbury. Every day presents new challenges and as more volunteers are joining in the work, we are making strides that are useful and rewarding. Topping our Wish List this year is a permanent home for the Society (Loring Parsonage?) in a place accessible and protected so that more people can see and appreciate what we are busy collecting and cataloging. However we must be patient and be thankful that for the present we have been allowed by the Town to use Town Hall 2nd Floor.

Some of our wishes have indeed come true. We are MOST appreciative for our members and more than \$1000 in gifts last year! Thanks to the Gertrude Pomeroy Trust and the generosity of a SHS friend who approved the donation, we can purchase a new computer which will make it easier for volunteers to help with cataloging on our new Museum software. Our wish for 'curatorial angels' has also come true (see p. 3). Soon the SHS will also be leasing a copier/fax machine which should help lower our printing costs. Of course we always need more VOLUNTEERS and apologize if you have already volunteered and have not been contacted while we have been in the process of setting up our new Museum software. We can always use more people to help with cataloging. You set your own hours. Please call our new Volunteer Coordinator, Ursula Lyons at 978-443-9638 if you still have not been contacted. Note: SHS is grateful to member Sharon Kindick, who has had previous experience compiling the First Parish and Sudbury Garden Club newsletters. Thank you, Sharon for preparing the layout for this newsletter.

We also are looking for a few more trustees who meet once a month and donate their time and talents; and look forward to meeting more members and volunteers at our upcoming programs. For more information about SHS, please contact me at 978-443-8053 or call the SHS at 978-443-3747.

Nancy

Acquisitions Since April, 2001

In April the SHS received a wonderful collection of Sudbury resident Nelson Fairbank's 27 diaries and autograph book which chronicle the activities of Fairbank in his day to day business and personal activities from 1873-1908. The Collection is a gift of Sandra Bell of Stoughton whose father found the diaries in a house in Maynard. She also made a chronological list of all the people mentioned in the diaries in the order that they appear. The SHS is most grateful for her contribution.

Another donation from a SHS member and former Trustee who prefers to remain anonymous is a rare copy of a 32" x 37" 1942 US Army Corps of Engineers' land acquisition map of the former ammunition dump, now known as the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge in Sudbury, Maynard, Hudson and Stow. The map depicts the house lots on the 2,906 acres when the Army took over the land during WWII.

The Sudbury Historical Society is also very grateful to the following for their donations:

Paula Adelson	photographs of Sudbury taken by her late husband Dr. William Adelson
Janet Alford	WWII Ration books and memorabilia
Clay Allen	original photos taken by him of the Hosmer barn; balance beam scale
Adolph Bahlkow	records and pictures of the Sudbury GO-KART Assn.
Shirley Barnes	copy of <i>Museum of Early American Tools</i> by Eric Sloan
Joe & Ruth Brown	1940-1958 Sudbury Town Reports; Rice Family data; Rice Association Newsletters, 1930-1950
Fran Caspe	copy of <i>The War Years: 1765-1781</i> by former Sudbury residents Betsy & John Powers
Jackie Deveneau	Copy of <i>Annals of Sudbury, Wayland and Maynard</i> by J.S. Hudson
Cynthia Parker DiMatteo	original drawing of the Wayside Inn used for Sudbury Annual Town Report
Natalie Eaton	large 1858 lithograph of an American Seaman's Friends Society Certificate awarded to Sudbury resident Deacon Thomas Dakin
Win Fitzgerald	Original picture of Babe Ruth and his daughter in front of Dutton Rd. home (thanks to Bill Maloney who saw it on <i>E-Bay</i>)
Curt Garfield	additional array of material culture from his great-aunt Lottie Smith, an ornithologist and early member of the Sudbury Garden Club, and from his great grandfather Henry Smith who was the first person on record to grow, package and sell flower seeds in Sudbury. (See Curator's Report p. 5)
Bob Gottberg	Stack of 1970's Sudbury newspapers
Virginia Maenpaa	Finnish/English dictionary and two pamphlets from the late John Bartlett; Sunny Hill Pre-school's 40 th Anniversary program; 1923 & 1940 Sudbury Town reports
Thelma McAlpine Ernst	four of her original framed watercolors and two crewel works (see Loan Program, p. 4)
Virginia Perkins	her husband's collection of papers and full uniform from WWII; her son's full uniform, personal records and photos of Sudbury men from Vietnam War; programs from Sudbury Players' productions; 1960 Sudbury First Parish Cookbook
Doris Soule	Handkerchief edge wedding dress belonging to Maria Soule

In addition the SHS has purchased three 1917 photos of Sudbury school classes and an original 1843 Roster of the Sudbury Militia, with thanks again to Bill Maloney who found it on *E-Bay* and Win Fitzgerald who passed it on to us.

Wish List:

We are pleased to report that some of our past wishes have actually come true (see From the President column). We are still hoping that people will donate towards the following:

- ♦ A modern flat file, 4 drawer 36"x 46" cabinet with base to hold the historic maps that we have collected (cost approx. \$500 per section).
- ♦ New powder-coated 4 drawer metal file cabinets
- ♦ Frames for displaying historic maps, documents, posters
- ♦ Archival supplies
- ♦ Expenses associated with our leased copier/fax
- ♦ A replacement fence around the Indian Grinding Stone (cost approx. \$450 for a split rail fence)

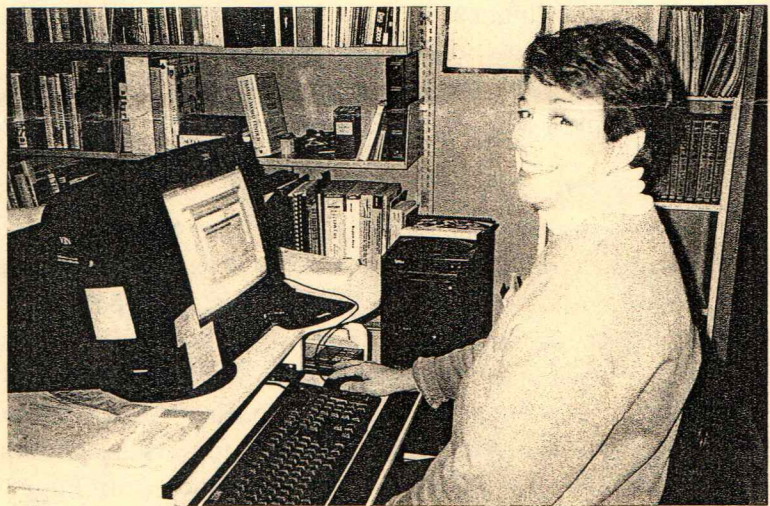
Don't forget to pick up forms to buy a subscription to Yankee Magazine - for yourself or as a gift so that the SHS will receive \$10 for each subscription. Forms are available at Fleet Bank, Middlesex Bank, the Wayside Inn and Town Hall.

Membership

Since September, the SHS has grown to 114 memberships including five Life memberships. Thanks to letters sent out by Trustee Kirsten van Dijk SHS has also expanded its base of members to include more parents of school age children. If you have not already supported SHS by joining, please call Betsy Gottberg at 978-443-3081 for a membership application.

Thank You to SHS Volunteers

Our request for more 'curatorial angels' was heard last summer. Two people came forward who read the article in the Boston Globe. One is a student at Lincoln-Sudbury High School, Devin Currie who came to our rescue by setting up our new museum software, Past Perfect and then stayed on as our Summer Intern helping to teach others about the software. The other volunteer is really a "Charlie angel" in the person of Charlene "Charlie" Ensore (See picture). Charlie has put in over 140 hours since June 1st working diligently on entering the SHS acquisitions into the new software program. Thank you so much Charlie and Devin.



SHS volunteer Charlie Ensore working at the computer.

Our list of dedicated volunteers has also expanded to include Life member Don Bishop (wife Betty was a Trustee). Don has become our financial consultant whose perseverance and documented research have aided our Treasurer in checking past records and working out the best methods of banking and investment. Don's contributions have not ended however, as he also has researched the history of the Indian Grinding Stone (see p.5). Other new volunteers include William Bradley, Danielle Ensore, Steve Goldberg, Ed Arees (See Loan Program p. 4), and Laura Hayden, former photo editor and retail production manager who will be helping organize SHS's Collection. We would be remiss in not thanking our longtime curatorial volunteers Dick Bell, Peggy Fredrickson, Mary Ellen Hoover, Frank Kelley, Virginia Maenpaa, Mary Trubiano and our dedicated Curator Lee Swanson. If the heart of our Society is our Collection, then YOU are the veins that keep blood flowing into our heart!

SHS Trustees

Since the Annual Meeting in June, 2001, the SHS has had six vacancies on the Board of Trustees due to resignations and the death of Ed Blackey (see below). June and Clay Allen, long-time dedicated members have retired. SHS is truly indebted to them for faithfully helping out at every meeting and for June's many years as Treasurer. Betty Bishop also retired; but not before she worked diligently with Lee Swanson on the revision of SHS's By-Laws and the researching of SHS's Indian Grinding Stone with husband Don. We also regret the resignation of Trustees Vic and Pat Walsh who served so well as SHS's Hospitality Chairmen, and 'whenever needed.' Inadvertently omitted in our last Newsletter, Life member and Trustee Bing Swain also resigned after many years of assistance to the Society. His quiet, sometimes anonymous contributions have been enormous and he continues to help when he can.

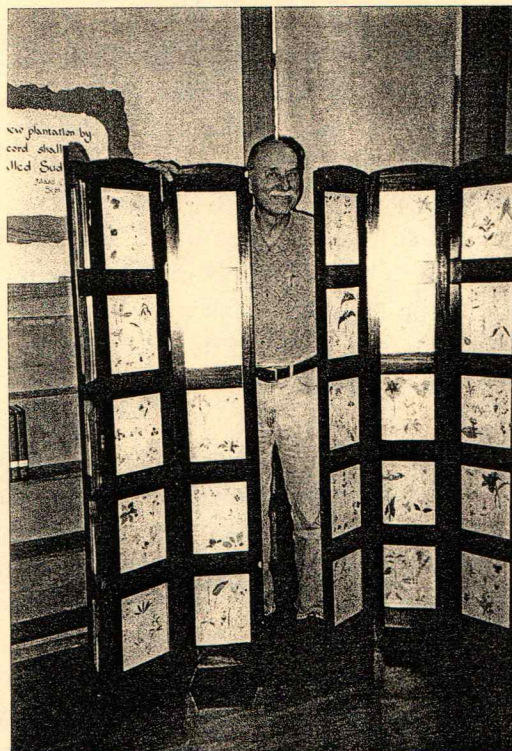
Fortunately four new members have taken up the challenge of being a Trustee: Kirsten van Dijk, former member of the Sudbury Historical Commission, who has already produced our creative November program and is our School Liaison/Coordinator; Muriel Plonko, SHS's liaison to the Sudbury Historical Commission and main researcher for the Historic Sudbury Houses book (available from the Sudbury Historical Commission); Natalie Eaton, lifelong Sudbury resident, artist and descendent of many of the old Sudbury families who brings her historical perspective and help with hospitality to the Trustees; and Priscilla Demers, also related to early settlers of Sudbury who is especially interested in compiling historical and genealogical data.

A Tribute To Trustee Edwin A. Blackey, Jr.

On August 17, 2001 the Sudbury Historical Society lost one of its most dedicated members, former President and Trustee at the time of his death. Ed Blackey's sense of humor and positive attitude throughout his illness and his willingness to do 'whatever he could' to help the Society were remarkable, especially during his last few months. Ed will probably be best known for keeping detailed records of his work and for leading the SHS's efforts in publishing the popular *Pictorial History of Sudbury*. The SHS will be dedicating our February meeting to him, one which he was planning to present (See Future Programs, p. 7).

SHS Loan Program

For several months SHS Curator Lee Swanson and Trustee Ursula Lyons have been working to set up a Loan Program so that the works of Sudbury artists, in particular noted illuminator and artist E. Helene Sherman, will become more widely known and appreciated. The works on loan will be displayed in area banks, schools and businesses for up to six months at a time. After the necessary appraisals, photos were taken by volunteer Ed Arees with assistance from Peggy Fredrickson, and now the contract and album of works is nearing completion. SHS member Steve Goldberg, current owner of the late Miss Sherman's home, has graciously volunteered to coordinate the program scheduled to be underway in the Spring. In addition to the 21 framed works of Miss Sherman, donated to the Society by her Estate, there will also be an 1894 watercolor by Ellie Godfrey Robinson, donated by Linda Cass and four original watercolors and two crewel works donated by artist and SHS member Thelma McAlpine Ernst. If anyone has an original work of art by a Sudbury artist and would like to donate it to the SHS for use in the Loan Program, please contact the Curator at 978-443-3747.



Trustee Bob Gottberg holds the movable display of Gertrude Rice's 1915 colored pencil drawings of Sudbury wildflowers.

Did You Know?

Native American Indian Grinding Stone In Sudbury

Thanks to the legal research and leadership of Life members Don and Betty Bishop, SHS has been found to be the rightful Lessee of the little known Native American Indian Grinding Stone on the property at 29 Green Hill Rd. The grinding stone's ownership has been a subject of many years' discussion but we had no legal knowledge as to SHS's connection to it until now. As soon as the deeds and Probate Court records were found, the Bishops, Lee Swanson and Bob Gottberg contacted the current owners of the land, Sara and Luis Luis, who have been most cooperative. The entire van Dijk family, J.C., Kirsten, Ian and Alan, then cleaned out the leaves and brush from around the historic site after Thanksgiving.

Trustee Ginny Maenpaa is currently working with the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) to place a marker at the site showing the significance of the grinding stone. How fortunate the SHS was to have former members like the Hall Family who recognized the significance of the site and wanted to preserve it by leasing it to the Historical Society.

Thank you to the Town of Sudbury for taking away the leaves and brush.

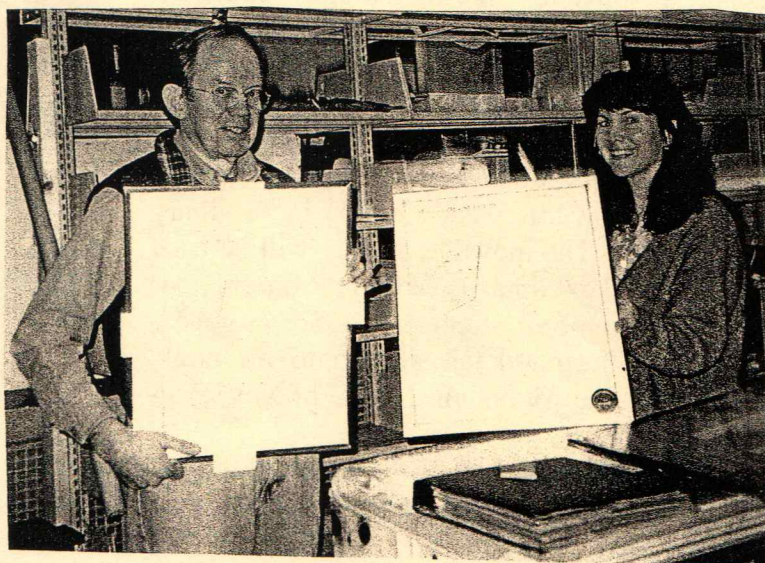
Curator/Archivist's Report

Do You Want To Be Remembered??

As you travel through life, at some point you might question whether you will be remembered and thought of after you wear out (hopefully you will not rust out from not participating in life). The Sudbury Historical Society may help you or your loved one be remembered. GIVE US YOUR personal papers/letters relating to your life or work in Sudbury or to your military life. Uniforms are most welcome. Yours or your "Aunt Maude's" recipes, scrapbooks, graduation dress, class pictures, garden club programs are of interest to the SHS. Who would ever remember Sudbury resident George H. Moore? Until his Civil War correspondence was purchased by SHS in 2000, he was unknown and now he will be memorialized, perhaps in a future book about him. Recently Town Historian Curt Garfield cleaned out drawers, shelves and attic spaces of his ancestral home and gave SHS cases of 'stuff.' It turned out to be material from his great grandfather (featured in our January program) and his great aunt Lottie Smith. It is all called 'material culture,' and as we have begun to sort it we have discovered remarkable things and stories woven through all of it. Many future displays in our museum, or off-site exhibits will emanate from these 'things'. BUT, note that George Moore, Henry Smith and Lottie Smith will all be remembered by an accident of a purchase or gift to a Historical Society. If you are planning to move, we hope you will find something for us to remember YOU as you remember US. (If all you find is money, SHS does accept bequests or unrestricted gifts of money.) Let's hear from you!

What's Happening At Town Hall 2ND Floor??

MAPS - We have recently made color laser copies of the 1875 DeBeers Atlas map of Sudbury/Maynard. (See photo) It is a 16"x20" framed under glass, ready to hang, four color map with a key on the back explaining unusual features of the map. It makes a great gift and is available for \$50 (plus \$2.50 tax) at our programs or call 978-443-3747.



Curator Lee Swanson and volunteer Laura Hayden check over frames of 1875 four color Maynard/Sudbury maps which will be on sale at meetings.

School Connections - Our biggest project to date came from a request from the K-8 Public Schools Curriculum Director Jane Hunderly, who was seeking information on the lives of our early settlers, their families and occupations. We have had to spend many hours doing original research gathered from the Sudbury Archives at the Goodnow Library and the work already done by Dr. William Adelson (courtesy of Paula Adelson). The material gathered will be used for the third grade local history curriculum. Due to the MCAS tests the third grade is the only time the schools can teach local history from 1638-1758. Colonial history will be taught in the fifth grade. We need help with this research, more eyes and hands to look at available records. Call 978-443-3747 or stop by most afternoons if you have time to help.

Meetings - Since the last newsletter, I have attended many meetings, workshops or annual meetings of other historical organizations. My assistant curator Ginny Maenpaa was also able to attend some of these meetings. Peggy Fredrickson and I attended a full day workshop on how to create oral histories of local people. The techniques we learned from this workshop will be used at our January 20th meeting. I also attended a two day workshop on how to write grant proposals which we will need as we continue to grow.

Copies of all these workshops were sent to our former Japanese Intern, Taka Morita. Taka is currently employed writing a history of a nearby Japanese city. We hope to bring Taka back in the not too distant future.

On a final note, **Genealogy requests** are steadily growing, and we need help in responding to them too. If you can volunteer any time, please call either Ursula Lyons at 978-443-9638 or the SHS at 978-443-3747. Until we meet.

Lee Swanson

Looking Back to 2001

After the Annual Meeting in June, the SHS set out to accomplish three goals and did just that! **For the first time there were three programs for members during the summer months.** Although the attendance was less than during the regular year, everyone who did attend the meetings agreed that they were very interesting and worthwhile. In **July** Curator Lee Swanson, *aka the graveyard ghost*, led members on a tour of the Revolutionary graveyard and unearthed a few heretofore unknown facts. In **August** the SHS unveiled the first showing of Mrs. Gertrude Rice's collection of colored pencil sketches of wildflowers found in Sudbury around 1915. The movable display will be used for other local exhibits. (See Loan Program p. 4) Then in **September** Stephen F. Johnson gave a fascinating illustrated talk related to his book, "Ninnuock: The Algonquin People of New England."

Secondly, the SHS Trustees voted to purchase a first rate Museum software program aptly named Past Perfect. It organizes archives, memberships and will do 'whatever needed' according to Curator Lee Swanson.

Achieving the third goal was the most difficult as SHS needed help with setting up and working on the program. We advertised for a **Summer Intern** and that is how SHS volunteer, **Devin Currie** a Lincoln-



SHS Trustees Kirsten van Dijk and Sheila Mackinnon check the display of homemade pies at the November meeting.

Sudbury RHS junior accomplished our third goal and **made it possible for others to understand the software program.** Incidentally Devin earned enough money to supplement his savings and purchase his very own 'dream computer.' Thank you for your invaluable help, Devin.

Fall Programs, 2001

Beginning in **October** SHS joined with the Maynard Historical Society and presented a mock recreation of the 1871 Sudbury Town Meeting when the Town of Maynard was created by purchasing land from Sudbury. In **November** members and guests were treated to a delicious sampling of home made pies to remember Sudbury's champion pie maker, Miss Ruth Ames. No one seemed to mind that that Miss Ames won the contest for the best pie! (See picture).

Once again the SHS is grateful to the Sudbury Historical Commission for providing the festively decorated Hosmer House for the SHS members' Holiday Party in **December** - a perfect way to get into the Holiday spirit!

Due to unforeseen delays the 2002 SHS Newsletter may not arrive before the **January 20th meeting** at 3:00 pm at the Goodnow Library.

(Hope you marked your calendars already). Sudbury has such a wealth of history and fewer people each year who can remember the 'old days' (four of the participants of last year's 'Sudbury Remembered' meeting are no longer alive). That is why videographer and Trustee Peggy Fredrickson with Lee Swanson, Sheila Mackinnon, Natalie Eaton, and Nancy Vanderslice have been busily compiling oral histories and related data from Sudbury's businesses, especially the greenhouse and seed business. Town Historian Curt Garfield will also present recently discovered information about his great grandfather Henry Smith's business. Read about it in the newspaper or stop by the library and view the display case in January if you can't make the meeting.



"and the winner is..." Miss Ruth Ames, aka Betsy Cutler, far right.
L. - R. Kirsten van Dijk, Producer, Judges Fire Chief Michael Dunne, Trustee Bob Gottberg, Stephanie Cook.

FUTURE PROGRAMS of the Sudbury Historical Society

In case you misplaced your program you can cut out this section or mark your calendars for:

FEBRUARY: Sunday, February 17th at 3:00 pm "Pre-20th Century Houses in Sudbury Massachusetts: An Overview and Statement of Appropriateness in Houses in the Sudbury Historic Districts" - Presented by Frank Warner Riepe, Sudbury architect and member of the Sudbury Historic Districts Commission. Program dedicated to Ed Blackey. Goodnow Library meeting room.

MARCH: Sunday, March 10th at 3:00 pm "Getting Re-acquainted with George Barton's Antique Kayak" on permanent display at the Goodnow Library. Readings from the diary of prominent Sudbury scientist George Barton with illustrated presentation by antique kayak expert Mark Starr of Mystic Seaport, CT. Co-sponsored with the Friends of the Goodnow Library at the Goodnow Library meeting room.

APRIL: Sunday, April 7th at 2:00 pm "Fashion Show of Antique Gowns, Textiles and More" First-time presentation of SHS's clothing and textile acquisitions plus private collections. First Parish Church, Sudbury.



Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

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Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

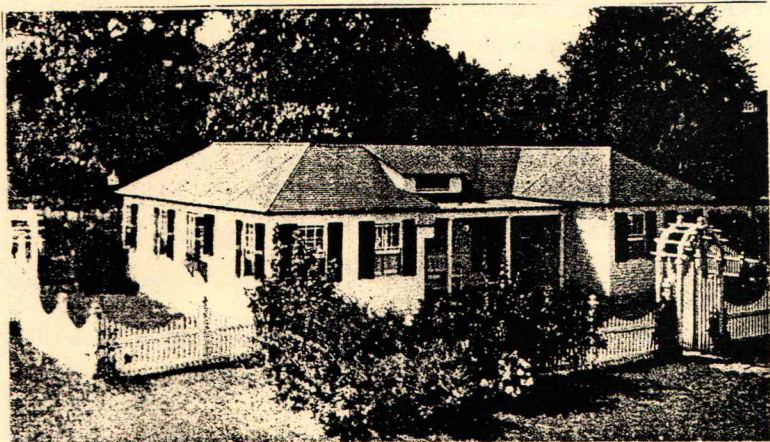


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NEWSLETTER



1928 Hodgson House Exhibit, South Sudbury, Mass., near the Wayside Inn on the Boston - New York State Road



Cottage 2876 at our Sudbury, (Mass.) Exhibit

Do You Have a Hodgson House?

Do you own a "Portable" House built by E.F. Hodgson Portable House Co., Dover, MA? They were made in completely finished sections, mostly cedar and have a distinctive gable end window.

We believe there are still some in Sudbury. If you own one or are curious about them, call SHS at 978-443-3747.

(From an inquiry by Paul H. Tedesco, Ph.D., Pres., Dover Historical Society)