



Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



April - June, 2004

Editor: Ursula Lyons Layout Editor: Sharon Kindick

Vol. 5, No. 2

Officers & Trustees of Sudbury Historical Society 2003 - 2004

President:

Kirsten van Dijk

Secretary/Clerk:

Treasurer:

Peggy Fredrickson

Alice Byington

Ellen Cron

Betsy Gottberg

Bob Gottberg

Mary Ellen Hoover

Virginia Maenpaa

Muriel Plonko

Nancy Somers

Cynthia Stocking

Nancy Vanderslice

Honorary Trustee:

Curtis Garfield

Town Historian

Curator/Archivist

Lee Swanson

Inside this Issue

From the President.....	p. 1
Save Art, Restore It, Pass It On - Sunday, May 2	p. 2
Also On May 2!.....	p. 2
Acquisitions January 1 - March 23, 2004.....	p. 2
Many Hands Working Together.....	p. 3
Update On Quilts.....	p. 3
Oral History Project.....	p. 3
Curator's Corner.....	p. 3
Brick Wall In Your Genealogy Search?.....	p. 4
Past Programs:.....	p. 4
Coming Events If You Dare.....	p. 5
Is SHS Getting Closer To A Permanent Location?.....	p. 5
From The President's Library	p. 6
Thanks To:.....	p. 6
Memberships	p. 7
Historic Photo.....	back page

From the President

Dear Members:

As our current program year draws to a close, various subcommittees are very busy designing the upcoming Sudbury Historical Society 2004-2005 "Adventure". I truly enjoyed the variety of educational and entertaining programs we were able to offer, and look toward the coming program year to expand our horizons even further.

For the Town of Sudbury the year 2004 has, so far, been pivotal. Our newly elected Moderator Myron Fox survived his "initiation" Town Meeting mostly intact. Surely Tom Dignan's reputation will guide Moderator Fox in the coming years. Also the passage of article 25 – the Cutting property – will go down in the books as a precedent, for sure. And look toward the Revolutionary War Cemetery Project in the coming months and years as another great example of preservation under the Community Preservation Act.

Finally, I would be remiss in my responsibility as your President if I did not inform you of some recent changes in our Board of Trustees. We are a growing group and a few of our Trustees have moved on to areas of different geography and interest. As our organization grows and strengthens, it is inevitable that concurrent events take place. This time of change is what I believe, is a precursor to the BIG PICTURE. A Museum for the Town of Sudbury is an inevitable fact. Let us rejoice in the new favorable atmosphere surrounding Historic Preservation and cross our fingers that soon "Our Day Will Come"

Sincerely,

Kirsten

Save Art, Restore It, Pass It On - Sunday, May 2

Time Is Cruel To Works Of Art! Perhaps you own a fine art painting, or know someone who does, but it is dingy, has tears in it, and stains on it, even raccoon droppings! DON'T THROW IT OUT, bring it to our program on Sunday, May 2nd, at the Sudbury Town Hall at 3:00 pm and our speaker!

Theresa Byington Carmichael (the daughter of Alice Byington) will show you what she does as a fine art Conservator. The arduous task of restoration and conservation, will be shown by this well-trained professional.

Another perk for members; non-members will be asked to make a donation.

Also On May 2!

If you missed it last November, Diane Rapaport will present SCOTS FOR SALE at 1:00 pm at First Parish for the Minute Man Regional Historical Society Annual Meeting. Sudbury is the host this year, and Diane has expanded her talk to include all the towns that marched on April 19th, 1775. Historical societies, commissions, and Minute and Militia groups are invited.

Acquisitions January 1 – March 23, 2004

Ellen Richardson Glueck, from Pennsylvania gave 2 genealogical binders filled with documents and information relating to the descendents of Josiah and Experience Richardson. She also gave many Books of historical interest including : Annals of Sudbury/ Wayland/ Maynard 1891; List of persons –Revolutionary Cemetery Sudbury with annotations; 1639-1939 Sudbury – Brief history of Sudbury with in 1939 program; Reprint of Hudson's History of Sudbury 1968 #271; Over a dozen other books with information from surrounding towns

George Kieswetter "Spirit of Volunteers" a video shown at start of town meeting April 2003

David Levington 4 Chamber of Commerce pole banners: 2 from 2003; 2 from 2002

Linda Muri 8 x 10 copy of picture of 3 classes of Sudbury elementary students – circa 1914

Goodnow Library 53 audio tapes of S.H.S. meetings 1976-1989 to be made into CD's for library

Sylvia Throckmorton 8 town reports

Curt Garfield 1 box of miscellaneous memorabilia

Janet Germaine for Sandra Clement painting of Walker Garrison House – 1898; straw and braiding tools; picture of Sudbury Music Hall; assorted photos of Richardson, Chinn, Gardner families and friends; original 1757 proclamation from Gov. Pownall; photo Sudbury Center; 1 pair bakelite bracelets; set of Coast Guard clothing of W.W. II belonging to Philip Richardson.

Ginny Maenpaa 4 elementary school reading books used at South Sudbury School, Massasoit Ave.: 3 by Arthur Scott Bailey – "Jasper Joy," "Bobby Bobolink"; "Betsy Butterfly"; 1 by Churchill Lettingis, Schumier "The Progressive Road to Reading."

Rebecca Cutting & Harriet Ritchie miscellaneous Sudbury materials

Joseph Brown additional copies of magazines, etc. of early 1900's

Other Donors 5 tabloid type newspapers: South Middlesex News "5 Days in February - A Storm You'll Never Forget"; The Spirit – supplement to Beacon Publications – "They Fought and Died for Freedom."; "Liberty Bell" July 4, 1974; Framingham News – "114 Known Dead in Tornado."; Worcester Telegram – June 18, 1953 – "TORNADO"

Many Hands Working Together

Generous, capable Volunteers work together to make the Society a vibrant and effective organization. Most of the following people work several hours a week on Society projects:

Bill Andreas	Software and graphics
Jason Bendel	Intern - everything
Don Bishop	Finances
Bob Gottberg	Retail and wholesale sales
Betsy Gottberg	Meeting refreshments
Elin Neiterman	Data entry - accessioning
Mary Trubiano	Data entry - membership
Chuck Zimmer	Computer and Financial software and hardware help

The greatest need for more volunteers is in Description & Accessioning. Description is to describe objects or documents in museum terms (Chenhall's Nomenclature). If you like cross word puzzles, you would like this! Accessioning is entering the information into the computer after it has been described. It is very interesting, challenging, and satisfying.

There is also a need for someone to Document our collection, piece by piece, via scanning, and digital photography. We are setting up a photo studio area to accomplish that. The Picture joins the Description in our Past Perfect software, then we can find anything!

Update on Quilts

The 1850 Sudbury Friendship Quilt was presented to the Sudbury Villagers at their monthly meeting in February at the Goodnow Library. While Ursula Lyons discussed the background and details of the antique quilt, Trustees Mary Ellen Hoover, Ginny Maenpaa and Nancy Somers helped with the signing of the new 2004 Sudbury Friendship Quilt. Several Villagers signed blocks, squares and borders of the quilt which is being pieced together by Mary Ellen and Ginny. The SHS invites anyone who has not signed this future 'historic' quilt to call Mary Ellen at 978-443-9023 for further details. Don't miss out on this opportunity to become part of Sudbury's history!!

Oral History Project:

A new proposal originating with trustee Peggy Fredrickson, professional videographer and former Sudbury Local Access coordinator for the cable company, involves a continuation of Sudbury's previous work on compiling oral histories of Sudbury from interviewing people who have lived and worked here for many years. Each interviewee will be provided with sample questions to encourage discussion. The interviews will be recorded on a 3-chip Digital camcorder used with external microphones, edited and transferred to a DVD and/or VHS video, and archived by the Sudbury Historical Society and/or the Goodnow Library. SHS Curator Lee Swanson who has had some television experience, will also help with the New Millennium Oral History Project. Charitable grants and donations to the Sudbury History Society will be the only source of funding. If you know anyone who would contribute to compiling an oral history of Sudbury or if you would like to help support this project, please contact Lee at 978-443-3747.

Curator's Corner:

Our new INTERN is Jason Bendel from Sudbury, who has accomplished a lot in very little time. He came at just the right time, when we had a lot of organizing and cleaning to do. The Jewish Volunteer Service had called previously, but we had a problem with the telephone line that day, and I could hardly hear the caller from the JVS. But I did know someone was coming to visit, but I didn't know why! Jason arrived the next day, and we got it all straightened out. We wish to thank the JVS for finding us, and setting it all up.

Lee

Brick Wall in your Genealogy Search?

If you have come to the end of your wits, in the search for ancestors, due to missing records, or the common recurrence of the same name. Help is available via DNA testing, and the work of the Family Tree DNA website (<http://www.familytreedna.com>). They host over 800 Surname projects. The test itself does not give the useable genealogical info, but provides a marker to match with other markers of known family members from the line of investigation. You may find out you were adopted!

If none of this makes sense, yet you have email, jot a note to Mr. Adrian Williams (stickamw@earthlink.net) and he will send you material on how DNA can help in your search.

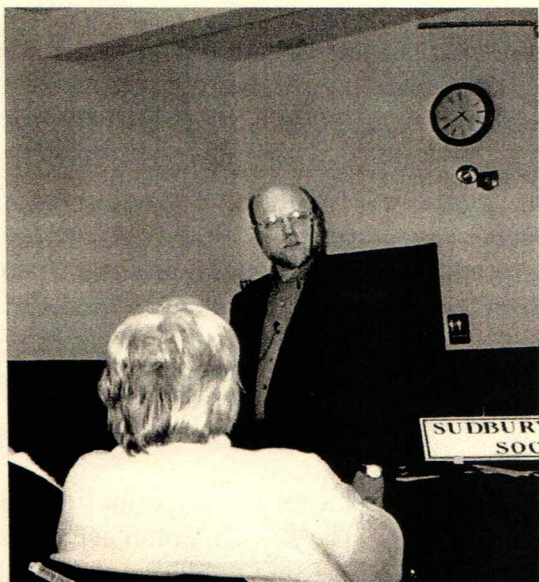
Past Programs:

If the cold weather kept you inside in **January**, you missed an opportunity to travel back in time to the 18th and early 19th centuries when itinerant entertainers, including animals and gypsies, would come and perform in taverns in New England and along the Boston Post Road. Concord resident Peter Benes of Dublin Seminar for New England Folk Life Fame presented a very informative program.

February brought a large group of barn enthusiasts to watch former SHS Trustee Jonathan "Bing" Swain demonstrate the tools and craftsmanship used to build timber frame barns. Many thanks to Bing for an outstanding program. DVD's of Sudbury Barns (made by Peggy Fredrickson) are available at the Meetings.

In **March** the Sudbury Cultural Arts Council funded the SHS program on stonewalls. Author Professor Robert M. Thorson was both entertaining and academic as he explained the historical significance of the stone walls in New England.

April brought a large crowd of curiosity seekers who were not disappointed by the slide presentation by Wayside Inn Grist Miller Richard Gnatowski. He discussed many little known details about Henry Ford, the Wayside Inn buildings and land, Post Road and Mill Village. We hope Richard will return for "Wayside Inn: Part II"!



The Stone Wall Guy Dr. Thorson teaching us why we should hug STONE WALLS!



Richard Gnatowski of the Wayside Inn telling the tales of the Wayside Land and Buildings.

Coming Events If You Dare

Remember June 6th for the Annual Meeting at 3:00 pm, at Town Hall. The Marlborough Historical Society will join us in a combined meeting with PAUL HOGMAN telling about all 3 BOSTON POST ROADS, the lore, gore, and legends will intrigue you! SEE YOU THERE !!!

Perhaps you have always intended to go to GORE PLACE, now you should from June 15 to October 31. DEADLY HONOR: Dueling in America exhibit is open Tuesday to Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 pm, \$5 fee. Rt. 20, Waltham. A governor's beautiful estate so close to us.

Is SHS Getting Closer To A Permanent Location?

At this year's Annual Town Meeting, Town Manager Maureen Valente discussed plans to move some Town offices into the Flynn Building. Although no mention was made as to the future of the Loring Parsonage which now holds the offices of the Town Manager, Selectmen, and Town Counsel, it is no secret that the Sudbury Historical Society has been hoping to move into the Parsonage, one of Sudbury's oldest homes and just next door to SHS's current location!

In the meantime we would appreciate your support towards that end and ask that you make your request known to the Selectmen by calling 978-443-8891 Ext. 382. We will keep you posted and hope that perhaps this time next year the SHS will have a permanent home as other towns have for their Historical Societies.



The Mass. Quilt Documentation Gang stand in front of the Sudbury [Library] Quilt after they documented it. They documented over 36 quilts in one day!

From The President's Library

Well, it's Spring cleaning season and I'm sure you are all frantically searching for that tried and true recipe for "French Polish" to treat your prized antique furniture. Martha is a bit tied up at the moment so I perused my bookshelves for advice. George Grotz, author of "From Gunk to Glow" and "The Furniture Doctor" (1962) and in the latter I found the following on pages 25-26 under "33 ways to Restore Old Finishes".

French polishing This is an amazing process used for many years – hundreds of them – both to apply and finish and to restore one that is mildly scuffed or shopworn. It is the nature of the beast that it gives a very glossy finish, which used to be more popular than it is today. But this can always be dulled by a light rubbing with 000 or 0000 steel wool.

The procedure is to first wash off any wax with mineral spirits or turpentine – nothing else will do it. You then make a small pad of fine, washed cotton (old white shirts) about a quarter of an inch thick. (I can't stop to count how many layers that is). You wet this pad completely with boiled linseed oil and then squeeze it out. Now use this pad to rub a thin coat of shellac onto the present finish. The crazy part, I mean, is that it works. Also the pressure of your oiled pad forces shellac into the minute imperfections on the surface of the old finish.

The technique is to rub the surface quite hard, but with a motion that never stops, so that the pad will not stick to the shellac. This makes polishing legs easy, but large flat surfaces are harder. For the latter use a figure eight motion.

As the oil is squeezed out of the pad keep rewetting it with a few drops of oil at a time, and keep applying about a quarter-teaspoon of shellac at a time to the pad. Sometimes it is desirable to thin the shellac a little with alcohol. This is the kind of process you should try first on some useless piece before attacking the top of your grand piano. It is not a hard skill to learn. Four or five experimental patches on a useless surface will give it to you. You want to get the feel of how much shellac and how much oil you need on the pad. And even an experienced French polisher will get his pad started on a useless piece, or the inside of a leg where it won't show if he has too much shellac on the pad and it piles up.

When the shellac does pile up, or you accidentally stop your motion, which will leave an impression of the cloth in the surface, the whole area you were working on must be cleaned off with another pad that has been dipped in alcohol and squeezed out. Apply more alcohol a little at a time to keep the pad wet enough to pick up the shellac you want to remove.

This process can be used on any finish: shellac, lacquer, varnish, etc.

Before I closed the book on this topic, however, let me again quote my Guru Grotz. In section 1 of his helpful tome, George addresses "The Gentle Art of Acquisition" in its various manifestations. In an alphabetical format, town dumps will be found in the "T" section vs. the "D" section; perhaps the subjects of another meandering essay.

town dumps Many city people will laugh at this, but in many small towns, the town dump is called "the store." I am sitting in a chair, next to a table, both of which came from our dump. A sort of general agreement comes into being that when you have a piece that might be of some use to somebody else, or could possibly be repaired, you don't throw it over the edge of the dump, but place it to one side.

The best times of the year are at spring-cleaning time, and when the summer people are closing up their cottages and houses at the end of the season. Good pickings.

Have fun and keep it clean!

THANKS TO:

Ginny Maenpaa for assorted tools, and a vise (We end up doing our own carpentry, metal, electrical, painting, finishing, etc, work to save money we don't have.

Ruth Brown for picking up the challenge I made in a talk recently at the Sudbury Women's Club. Wherein I stated we knew almost nothing about Gertrude Rice who created the notebook of colored pencil drawings of wildflowers of Sudbury in 1915-16. Ruth went into NEHGS and found a lot of info.

Nancy Somers for her 4-drawer file cabinet, that Jason has totally restored.

IF YOU ARE MOVING, GIVE US A CALL, FOR STUFF WE CAN USE

Ainsworth Family

Clay Allen Family

Beverly Anderson

William S. Andreas

Andrews & Moore Family

Armbruster & Winschel Family

John W. Armstrong

Baggott Family

Bahlkow Family

Lillian W. Balch

Linda J. Baldelli

Baldi Family

Fred Ballou

Bausk Family

Becker Family

Bell Family

Sandra Bell

Perry Lowell Bent Family

Bishop Family

Patricia Blackey

Brown Family

Bursma Family

Alice E. Byington

Beatrice Cabot

Cliff A. Card

Caspe Family

Choquette Family

Clark Family

Cline & McGowan Family

Coffin Family

Ellen S. Cron

Martha L. Curran

Cutler Family

Rebecca & Benjamin Cutting

Davison Family

Cynthia Denessen

Deutsch Family

Dewey Family

J. Lucille Dixon

Doyle Family

Gail & Derena Drake

Drobinski Family

Betty Drum

Ellsworth Family

Margaret Espinola

Evans Family

Fairbank Family

Michael Fee

Fickett Family

Ruth L. Fields

Fitzgerald Family

Betty Foley

Fox Family

Peggy Fredrickson

Keith Funston

Frances Galligan

Curtis Garfield

Andrew Gillis

Ellen R. Glueck

Goldberg Family

Grant Family

Gray Family

Greenleaf Family

Winifred Grinnell

Victor Guethlen

Lewis H. Halprin

Hamill Family

Fay W. Hamilton

Karen Hansen

Harvey Family

Hawes Family

Agnes A Hawes

Royal Haynes

Elna Headberg

Hillery Family

Hirsch Family

Hoaglin Family

Hollocher Family

Hoover Family

Pat Howard

Nels E. Johnson Family

Elna Johnson Family

Jones Family

Kahler Family

Keeney Family

Kelly Family

Martha Kilcoyne

Noriko Konosu

Kruskal Family

Hale Lamont -Havers

Langmuir Family

Lauer Family

Ann Lavery

Berthe L. Lessard

Theresa C. Letteri

Levington Family

George K. Lewis

Anita W. Lewtas

Priscilla A. Linden-Demers

Lockery Family

Louie Family

Ursula Lyons

MacKinnon Family

Lyn MacLean

Ginny Maenpaa

Esther Mann

McGovern Family

Meenan Family

Middleton Family

Morgan Family

Taka Morita

Linda Muri

Eileen C. Murray

Nauss Family

Teresa Newton

Francis C. Newton Jr. Family

Doris E. Niederauer

Denise Nurney

Carmel O'Connell

Offner Family

Jean Padula

Paro Family

Ginny Perkins

Phelps Family

Shirley Place

Iolee Plender

Plonko Family

Susan W. Pope

Nona Pucciariello

Rawson Family

Reece Family

Riggert Family

Ritchie Family

Robinson Family

Roddy Family

Rose Family

Roy Family

Rust Family

Schaaf Family

Sears Family

Silverman Family

Singer Family

Sironen & Uttaro Family

Smith Family

Virginia Soderling

Somers Family

Stansky Family

Suzanne & Arden L. Steinbach

Steudel Family

Cynthia Stocking

Stone Family

Ellen Sturgis

Margaret Burns Surwilo

Swain Family

Lee Ford Swanson

Taft Family

Thoman Family

Thompson Family

Marion Tratnyek

Travers Family

Margaret L. Tristan

Trubiano Family

VanDijk Family

Vanderslice Family

Wallace Family

Walsh Family

Peg Whittemore

Wiedenbauer Family

Wisniewski & Greenspan Family

Wolfe Family

Yarbrough Family

Maria von Brincken

plus One Anonymous Member

Thank You for your Support, and
continuing interest !

SHS MEMBERS ARE THE
CREAM OF SUDBURY !!!



Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 233

Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

Phone: 978-443-3747; Fax: 978-443-0982

email: Sudburyhs@stowtel.com



NONPROFIT
STANDARD MAIL
PERMIT NO. 151
Sudbury MA 01776

The Sudbury Historical Society is located in upper Town Hall in historic Sudbury Centre. Office hours are: Monday - Friday 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Tuesdays until 8:00 pm. Other days by appointment.

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.

NEWSLETTER

**Do you know who made this auto float for the
Sudbury 4th of July Parade in the 1910's?**

