

The Sudbury Chronicle



Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

Winter 2014



Dear Members and Friends,

The Sudbury Historical Society has been searching for a space that would be appropriate for a history center/museum. Increasingly, the Loring Parsonage has appeared to be that place. Adjacent to Town Hall on Route 27, it is in the heart of Sudbury's Historic Town Center. On December 3rd, the Selectmen gave their unqualified approval of the Society commissioning a study of the repurposing of the Loring Parsonage for use as its history center/museum. The Sudbury Foundation has provided funds to partially pay the cost of the study. The Society is

now soliciting proposals from qualified architects to determine what will be required to make the Parsonage structurally sound, meet ADA requirements, and create a functional public exhibit/display space. It is probable that the footprint of the existing building will need to be increased, and part of this study will be to determine the extent of this resizing and its configuration.

The Loring Parsonage was built in 1730 as a home for Israel Loring—the first minister to serve the “west-side” residents of Sudbury. The division into a west side parish was a major change for the Town of Sudbury (which at that time encompassed the present-day towns of Wayland and Sudbury). The division meant there would be two ministers and two meeting houses. The new meeting house was built in 1723 on the site where Sudbury's First Parish stands today. In August of that year, the first Town Meeting was held in the new west meeting house.

Town Meetings would alternate between the meeting houses until 1780, when the two districts officially separated into two towns—East Sudbury and West Sudbury. Reverend Loring resided in the Parsonage until his death in 1772.

Over the following 150 years, the building served as a farm house and at one time a tavern. In 1931, it was purchased by the Town of Sudbury and was used for many years as office space for town departments including the Board of Selectmen. It is no longer used for that purpose.

The Sudbury Historical Society is very pleased by the prospect of repurposing this beautiful historic building and the opportunity to bring to life Sudbury's rich historical past in a site surrounded by other historical entities in the Sudbury Town Center.

Sincerely,
Ruth Griesel, President

Sudbury Center Tour Returns

In response to great interest and enjoyment of the guided tours of Sudbury Center that were done in September of 2011, the Historical Society, the League of Women Voters and the Historical Commission will be offering the tours again in May as a 375th Anniversary event.

Antique Home Group

It takes a certain kind of person to buy and love an antique home. Plans are being made for a group of owners of old homes to have social gatherings. For information call the Society at 978-443-3747 or e-mail shs-membership@verizon.net. Information on old homes may be found at <http://mhs-macris.net>, which is searchable by street name or keyword.

Parade Float

The Society is looking forward to making a float for the Fourth of July Parade. The current idea is to create a replica of the bow of the 1638 sailing ship Confidence and have “Sudbury's Puritan Settlers” waving from it. Beth Gray-Nix is coordinating the planning. To help plan or build the float call the Society at 978-443-3747.

Telephone and Fax: 978-443-3747

Email: sudburyhist01776@verizon.net

Web: www.sudbury01776.org

Sudbury Historical Society, Inc., 322 Concord Rd., Sudbury MA 01776

Like us on Facebook



Keeping the Spirit of Sudbury's Past Alive.

Officers and Trustees

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Nancy Somers

Lee Swanson,
Curator/Archivist

Reverend Edmund Brown's Library: A Concert of a Puritan Minister's Musical Collection



As part of Sudbury's and Wayland's 375th Anniversary celebration, the Sudbury Historical Society will present a concert in honor of one of the founders and the first minister of the Sudbury Plantation, the Reverend Edmund Brown. He was known for being a good-standing Puritan minister and for being a wealthy citizen of the plantation, possessing the largest amount of property in the plantation. Surprisingly, he was also an amateur musician, traveling to the colony with a bass viol and his library of 180 books – some of which were certainly music books.

Since records of exactly what books he had no longer exist, the concert attempts to recreate the books of music that would have been in the Rev. Brown's library. The selections were based on popular pieces for viols and church music in 16th-17th century England, featuring pieces by Byrd, Gibbons, Kirbye, and more.

The concert will be performed on period instruments by 4 members of the Cambridge-based viol consort "Long and Away" and soprano Sarah Orlovsky. It will be on Sunday April 6, 2014, 3 pm at First Parish of Sudbury, 327 Concord Rd. Admission is \$20 at the door. The First Parish Meeting House is handicap accessible.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sudbury Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

A Peek at the Past

In one of the older items recently accessioned, we see a hand drawn map signed by John Haynes in 1724. This document was found with other miscellaneous records in a collection originally indexed by former town historian Forrest Bradshaw.

From the Accession Record for this Archive:

The document on the right measures 6 1/4" by 8" and is a handwritten survey with a hand-drawn map. It describes land on the west side of the Sudbury River in and adjacent to the Wet Ass Swamp. The land is bounded by land claimed by Captain Brown, Samuel Willis, and common land. The land is laid out to the right of Edmund Rice and is 7 1/4 acres. It is signed by John Haynes.

The plot drawing shows abutters as well as the placement of a highway, with a scale of 60 rods.

On the reverse side is written that the proprietors of Common Land in Sudbury concur with this grant and is signed by John Haynes, Moderator, dated June 15, 1724. There is also the signature of Edmund Rice and the date 1724.



SHS volunteer Daphna Cox recently began accessioning a trove of Haynes memorabilia from the Rnehult family. The collection is notable because of its many points of connection to one branch of this old Sudbury family. The collection includes photographs, books, and a tiger maple lap desk containing letters, deeds, death certificates, and other documents dating from the 18th to the 20th century.

In early January 2014, Daphna accessioned Grange awards for Herman Austin, bestowed in 1965 for 50 years as a Grange member. Herman farmed at 113 Haynes Road, which remains a working farm, Siena Farm, now owned by the Kurth family. The collection also includes an 1897 photograph of a young Herman and his family in front of their home. Herman's mother, Angeline Haynes Austin, was a daughter of Francis Haynes, who died in 1912. A map and probate documents show that she and two siblings owned substantial tracts of land near Wash Brook. This land is in the area of Meadow Drive to Wildwood Ln. and Wash Brook Road off Old Lancaster Rd. The family also owned land in North Sudbury near present-day Willis Road.

In addition to the legal documents, Daphna found personal items such as a notebook of "Angie Haynes, aged 8 years," with vocabulary words like "promontory" and "egregious" written in neat cursive – it's hard to imagine these words tripping off the pen of a current 3rd grader! Many more items await accessioning, like a mink muff, a Victorian mourning hair brooch, and a geography textbook from 1796. Daphna is excited to research and document these objects, and help create a narrative history for this branch of the family.



**TRUSTEE
SPOTLIGHT**

Nancy Somers

I have a love of history and a strong connection to Sudbury, my home of over 40 years.

When I first came to town, I was initially involved in Girl Scouts, including being a troop leader and then the neighborhood chairman for the town. I joined the Society in 2001 when Kirsten Van Dyke was the president and she recommended me for a trustee position.

The Sudbury Historical Society is a great organization to be involved with. I am happy to be a trustee and I love to share the history of our town with our neighbors.

The programs are excellent. I always learn new things about my town and I find the people who helped shape the town to be interesting.

I also enjoy the friendships in the group and am impressed with all the volunteers who work so hard. I am most excited about our plans to have a history center/museum for the town. I think it will benefit the residents of Sudbury, young and old alike, by giving them a place to go to learn about the wonderful history of Sudbury. Our society is working hard to make this a reality.

**FOUNDERS
CIRCLE**

**Israel Loring Benefactors
(\$1000 or more)**

Marilyn & Robert Ellsworth

**John Goodnow Sponsors
(\$250)**

June Allen

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(\$150)**

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Esther Mann

Ashley and Helen Milton

Betsy & John Nikula

Beth Gray-Nix

Patricia & John Pearson

Carole & Dave Pendleton

Mary & John Trubiano

Linda & David Wallace



**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**

Marilyn Ellsworth

When we moved here on July 3, 1976, I was homesick for New England. I grew up in Rumney, NH, a town of 800 at the foothills of the White Mts, where everyone in town was related and people seldom moved. History could easily be traced for generations. But by the time I moved to Sudbury, I had been on the road as a Navy wife for 8 years, as my husband was stationed in Bethesda, MD, and Oakland, CA.

I so missed New England with the stone walls, pastures, small general stores, and churches with white steeples on the town common. The first event we attended in Sudbury as a family was the 4th of July parade. History was all around us in the town center, and I knew that I had come "home". In 1976 I sewed up colonial costumes for myself and my daughters, and we had a wonderful time reliving history. I think for me, history informs the present. It's easy to trace back the love of our library and good schools to Sudbury's early history. It's also easy to see how much interest there has been in preserving our open space and historic houses and landscapes.

The Sudbury Historical Society has brought our history to life with its many programs and family and school activities. I am very excited about the possibility of a permanent museum and educational center. As Sudbury celebrates its 375th anniversary, I think many of our Sudbury residents will realize what a unique place we hold in the history of our Commonwealth.

SHS has 162 members and is growing daily.

Your membership expiration date is printed on your address label.



Facts and Figures

Researchers: In 2013, researchers and visitors have come from: Sudbury, Hudson, and Norwood, Mass.; Falcon Heights, Minn.; Carlsbad and Folsom, Calif.; Dearborn and Eaton Falls, Mich.; Pittsburgh and New Ringgold, Penn; Dallas, Tex.; Vernon, Conn.; Seattle, Wash; and Montclair, NJ. In addition, there were countless phone and web inquiries from near and far.

Volunteers: Volunteers logged 366 hours in November and 226 hours in December doing the work of the Society.

Collectables: During 2013 there were 87 groups of donations of archives, objects, photos, or books to the collections. They included a wide range of items, including:

A report card from 1865

A booklet on what to do in a hurricane

A Tercentennial Edition of the Sudbury Beacon

Documentation of the history of the Senior Tax bill from its origin to implementation.

A Sudbury Soil Test Kit found in Belford, New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy

The Four Seasons, four original paintings by Don Soule' that show the Grange Hall in each season.

Two US flags from 1846. One has 28 stars and the other has 29. The 28-Star Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1846 when a star was added for the admission of Texas (December 29th, 1845). It lasted for only 1 year. The 29-Star Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1847 when another star was added for the admission of Iowa (December 28th, 1846)

Programs: The fall 2013 Society programs were well attended.

The October program on Reverend Loring was enjoyed by many people, some related to the Loring Family.

The Tag Sale brought in over \$2,000 thanks to the excellent quality of donated items. People are already planning for a Tag Sale next year.

At the November *Fabric of Life* exhibit more than 65 people enjoyed guided group tours. The exhibit is still in place at the Town Hall. Group tours may be arranged or individuals may do a self-guided tour by appointment.

Genealogy 101, hosted with the Goodnow Library, brought 35 attendees.

The Musicians of the Old Post Road appreciated the Society's support on December 15th. In spite of the snowstorm the sanctuary at First Parish was full.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus hosted 42 children and many adults, who sang carols and gave gifts to Toys for Tots on December 22nd.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

As of January 5, 2014

Israel Loring Benefactors (\$1000 or more)

Staples. Inc.

John Goodnow Sponsors (\$250 - 999)

Cavicchio Greenhouses, Inc.
Marlborough Savings Bank
TI Sales
Allegra

John Nixon Champion (\$150 - 249)

Choate Studio
The Keen Handyman
League of Women Voters of Sudbury
Lexus of Northborough
The Optical Place
Wingate at Sudbury

Peter Noyes Supporter (\$100 - 149)

J.P.Bartlett Co.
Sudbury Lumber Co.
Orchard Hill Assisted Living
Precious Metals Sudbury

Volunteer Wanted

An IT professional is needed to join in planning for the next generation of hardware at the Society.

Call 978-443-3747 for information



Coming Events

February 2, 2014 **The King Philip War in Sudbury** - Town Historian, *Lee Swanson*, and a supporting cast will bring to life what happened in Sudbury in April 1676.

March 2, 2014 **Railroads in Sudbury** - Multiple Railroad Enthusiasts will tell of the two Railroads that served Sudbury.

April 6, 2014 First Parish 3 p.m.
"Rev. Edmund Brown's Library": A Concert Drawn from a Puritan Minister's Musical.

Saturday April 19, 2014 2 pm-7 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive at Town Hall.

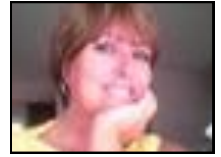
May 4, 2014 **War Memorials of Sudbury** - *Rachael Goodrich* will present an overview of Sudbury's monuments and memorials including facts discovered while researching them. She will provide an update on the Sudbury Monument Restoration Project.

May 2014 **Tour of Historic Sudbury Center** returns in honor of the 375th anniversary of our town.

June 8 **The Men who Marched to Concord, April 19, 1775** - *George Quintal* - Each man had his own history and his own family and George will introduce us to these individual men who marched to fight in Concord and the route they took to get there.



SUE HALL EATON
**Blogs about
Sudbury, Ancestry and Genealogy**



Sue's blog, www.thehuntforhenrietta.blogspot.com, shares several stories with Sudbury connections. Listed in her Blog Archive section are entries like "**There's Something About Henrietta**," which explains how Sue was so drawn to her 4th great-grandmother, who was born in Sudbury in 1849. That was posted in November 2010. "**The Eames Massacre**," was posted in October 2011; and a short one posted in May of 2011 is simply called "**The Inn**."

Sue says "I grew up in Sudbury during the '50s and '60s and never left the area until a few years ago (2006) when I retired and moved with my husband to Florida.

Although my grandfather was born in New York City he moved to Sudbury in 1942 for health reasons. My Madison Avenue grandfather's affinity for the town was a little puzzling to me, but I too always felt intensely connected to Sudbury and its history, a connection that none of my friends seemed to share.

As a girl my grandfather told me wonderful stories about people and events in Sudbury's past that were fascinating to me. Growing up I knew Grandpa Hall's only connection to the town was that his Aunt Lil from Vermont had married Uncle Howard, a Sudbury Goodnow. We were in some way also related to the Ames family, particularly Miss Ruth Ames. She went to our church and, when I was eight, she taught me to play the piano in the parlor of her old Victorian home on Landham Road.

Before it was really fashionable, I developed a passion for genealogy and years later I wrote a genealogy blog called **The Hunt for Henrietta**. The hunt for ancestors with some connection to Sudbury was always at the heart of that passion. It led to my discovery that the roots of my family tree are deep in Sudbury soil. I think that explains why I always felt that Sudbury was in my bones."

The Sudbury Historical Society has included a link on their home page to one of her stories called "**Tea at the White House**." It is a story posted in July of 2011 that explains how the townspeople in Eaton's personal history became legend in her family and made her feel as if she grew up in a town full of heroes.



Picturing Sudbury: A Celebration of Our Town

The SHS wants to know what you think makes Sudbury, Sudbury. Use a photograph to complete the sentence, "Sudbury wouldn't be Sudbury without..."

These photos have already been submitted to the photo contest.

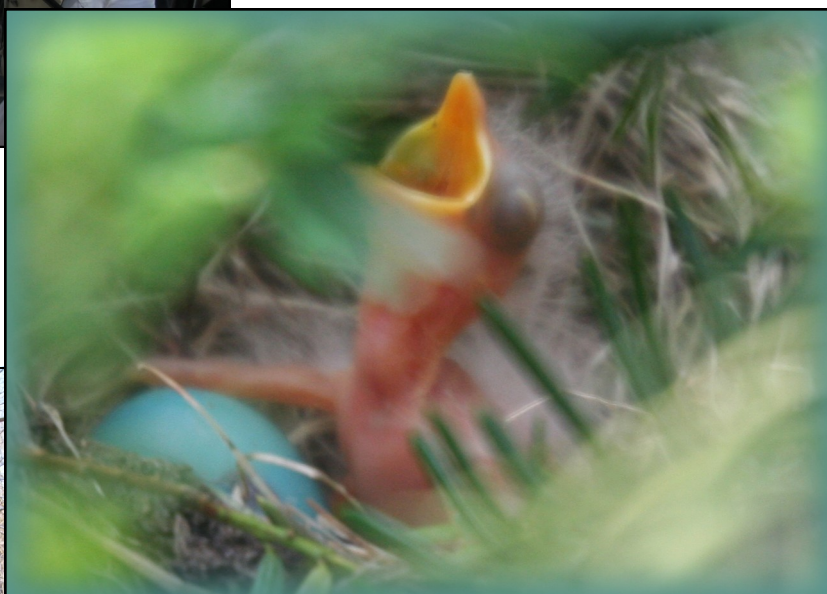
The contest ends July 31, 2014. The Winner's Exhibition will be announced at a later date.



For Mary Ellen Hoover it is the Colonial Faire at the Wayside Inn.



For Diane Muffitt it is the wonder of seeing a baby bird hatched just twelve hours ago.



For Sue Feldberg it is the Wayside Inn Grist Mill in winter.



**At the SHS web site, www.sudbury01776.org,
people enjoy the Virtual Tour, Past Programs and Links.**

In the last three month over 150 individuals have taken the virtual tour of Sudbury's historic sites.

Past program videos on demand are also popular.

The page with Links to other sites of interest to history buffs also gets great traffic.

The Sudbury Historical Society is on Facebook

Go to Facebook.com. If you haven't enrolled, give your name and a password. When you are in, go to the box at the top and at "find" type in Sudbury Historical Society.

When you find us, look for the thumbs up icon.
Click on the thumb to "Like" us.



You will be kept updated on all of the news of the Sudbury Historical Society.

You'll be notified of the dates and topics of our monthly presentations, upcoming events, new and old news.

**Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.
322 Concord Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776**