Sudbury Center has a new look. New curbs and walkways give it dignity and beauty. Turning lanes and modern traffic lights help move the traffic, and landscaping will be done in the spring, but as the town looks to the future it remembers its past.

Sudbury Center—The Early Years: 1650-1857

What we call Sudbury Center was near the geographical center of Sudbury in 1650. For many years the Center was a common for grazing cattle. The only meeting house was east of the river in what is now Wayland. In 1708 permission to build a meeting-house on the west side of Sudbury River was given by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts. It took fifteen years - until 1723, for the site to be selected, a meeting house built and the Reverend Israel Loring and his family moved to an existing house about a mile away. There were no other homes nearby. A town meeting was held in the new west side Meeting House that year. Still town meetings and church services were sometimes held at the old Meeting House on the East Side of the river.

A cemetery area in the “Rocky Plain” of the Center had been designated in 1716 but didn’t have its first burial (Sara Noyes) until 1727. This is now called the Revolutionary War Cemetery.

A parsonage was built near the Meeting House and the Loring family was living in it by 1730. A large amount of acreage was managed by the Lorings until the Reverend died in 1772 at age 98. The land and the Loring Parsonage were inherited by Wheelers. (Loring’s daughter Mary married a Wheeler who passed it on to a Haynes.)

After the Revolution, in 1780, permission was given to divide Sudbury into two distinct towns. Sudbury Center became the official center of church and government for the Town of Sudbury. The Town of East Sudbury had its own government and later took the name Wayland.

After that Sudbury Center developed further: the present Meeting House structure replaced the original one, a Town Pound was built nearby for stray animals, a school house was built in the center followed by the Hearse House near the cemetery, and in 1799 carriage sheds were built next to the Meeting House. Residences and businesses gradually followed.

After the turn of the century Sudbury Center had a railroad stop, a general store, a post office, a tavern, and a blacksmith shop.

In 1835 the town declared that churches could not meet in schools, so a group of Methodists bought land across from the Meeting House and built a church there. The next year the State declared itself separate from churches. But it took time for Sudbury to separate church and state.

Continued on page 4
President’s Letter

Yes, I believe it is going to happen—For many years Sudbury, unlike all the other historic towns around us, has not had a History Museum. Now the Town Center is being revitalized and traffic is moving through Concord and Hudson Roads more easily. New walkways are in place and nothing historic was lost.

It is an exciting time to be living in historic Sudbury and the Sudbury Historical Society is playing a big part. Thanks to Senators Barrett and Eldridge and Representative Gentile we have received a $290,000 dollar grant from the state and the Town has been given the first payment to begin the restoration and repurposing of the Loring Parsonage into a History Center and Museum.

For too long this 300 year old gem has been underutilized and has not been open for the town to enjoy. All the great collections of the Society have been hidden away on the second floor of Town Hall, but no more. Using the state funds the Historical Society has gifted to the town and by working with the Permanent Building Committee an architect has been retained to make the Parsonage a destination for everyone, young and old. By April we expect restoration work to begin. We are working with the Town to make town trust funds earmarked for a history museum available for this long awaited project. We are not all the way there yet. More funding needs to be found. But, I know we can do it. The Sudbury Historical Society will not own the Parsonage; it will always belong to the Town. It will be the responsibility of the Society to take care of this treasure and insure that it will always be open and a showcase for the history of Sudbury.

— Stewart Hoover

Photo at right:
The SHS gives the first installment of the State grant to the Town. From left to right: Representative Carmine Gentile, Selectman Chuck Woodard, Town Manager Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, SHS Vice President Joe Bausk, Selectwoman Pat Brown, SHS Director Sally Hild, SHS President Stewart Hoover, Curator/Archivist Lee Swanson, State Senator Mike Barrett, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, SHS Member Tom Hollocher, and SHS Trustee Ruth Griesel.
From the Director

2016 — A new year begun and with it new opportunities. That is what I remind my children each January as they are apprehensive about heading back to the rigors of elementary school. Our year ahead at the SHS allows for many new opportunities — for challenges, for the hope of successes, and for being grateful for a chance.

This issue of the Sudbury Chronicle provides a snapshot of where we are as an organization in our 60th year of operation. Stewart Hoover’s President’s Letter offers an update on progress with the Loring Parsonage repurposing project. Articles address the importance of our Town Center as a location for the future History Center. We learn more about Sudbury citizen Harry Rice whose foresight brought the idea of a museum to light. The SHS has expanded upon his wishes with our vision of an inclusive, active, multi-functional History Center. It is an opportunity for something truly magnificent for Sudbury.

Articles also mention recent and upcoming programming which offer a sampling of our educational work. Highlighted are some helpful resources that can encourage the public to further their own research projects. With a History Center we can do more.

Of course, with our future planning the realities of fundraising require mention. It is with sincerity that we express our gratitude to those who have helped us thus far with our fundraising goals. Our recent annual appeal met and is surpassing its anticipated budget. Over the last year we have appreciated those members and friends who have come out to support our restaurant and shopping benefits.

Our membership is steady and we are welcoming new faces. We hope more will join us in our growth. We have a lot of work to do at the SHS. The beauty of an organization like ours is that there is something for everyone’s skill set, whether it’s collections work, research, finance, fundraising, or education, we can use your talents. We have openings on our committees and there are a few vacancies on our Board of Trustees to fill. If you are interested in helping us shape our future, please let us know. It is an exciting time to get involved.

Here’s to opportunities and the new year ahead. Best wishes from the SHS!

— Sally Purrington Hild

Membership Form

Please complete your form and mail with a check made payable to the Sudbury Historical Society, 322 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Be sure to list your name as you would like it to appear in our records.

Name(s):

Address:

Town, State, Zip:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Check your preferred membership category:

General:

___ $15 Student (age 21 and under.)

___ $30 Individual

___ $50 Family

Founders Circle:

___ $100 Peter Noyes Supporter

___ $150 John Nixon Champion

___ $250 John Goodnow Sponsor

___ $500 Josiah Haynes Patron

___ $1,000 Israel Loring Benefactor

___ I am interested in volunteer opportunities.

___ I would prefer not to join at this time, but here is my contribution for $______________ to help preserve Sudbury history.

Memberships are good for one year and are fully tax deductible. If you need our tax ID number, please call 978-443-3747 or send an e-mail message to: shs-membership@sudbury01776.org
By 1846 the first separate Town Hall was built right next to the Meeting House. Then a school built for the center was moved across the street. That became the Grange Hall.

Noting how our Town Center evolved is important, for our town grew out from this original Puritan Village and continues to expand. In our present-day historic Town Center we are able to see vestiges of the past as a testament to what happened here. The SHS appreciates the work of many town committees and staff that worked diligently over several years to craft a plan for its revitalization.

Collections News

- The SHS welcomes as a new member Ralph Parmenter Bennett of Hanover, NH. Mr. Bennett is already helping the SHS grow its collection of founding family research by donating an October 1993 copy of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* in which appears his informative article, “Further Notes on the English Background of John Parmenter of Sudbury and Roxbury, Massachusetts.” We thank you, Ralph. If anyone has compilations of Sudbury family research, this is just the sort of thing we’re interested in collecting. Copies of manuscripts or genealogy projects can be mailed to the SHS or, depending upon length electronic copies can be sent via e-mail to director@sudbury01776.org.

- The SHS collections policy, revised this summer by the SHS Collections Committee, is posted on the web site now. Or, use the link below: sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS_Collections_Policy.pdf. Anyone considering donating items to the SHS should review this document to confirm our policies on what we can accommodate in our holdings and what we typically seek to collect.
Member News

Joan E. Meenan passed away on January 2, 2016 after a brief illness. Joan did much for the Sudbury Historical Society serving as a Trustee for many years and helping with countless projects and programs. She gave us her talents as an artist by evaluating and archiving works in the Society’s collection and by creating artwork for the organization.

Joan was a true joy and will be missed both as a wonderful person and valuable asset to the Society.

Above is a photo of Joan in the Hosmer House portraying Florence Hosmer during a tour of historic Sudbury Center.

At right is Joan’s painting of the Italian Chapel that was located on Mossman Road. Joan donated the framed painting to the SHS Collection.

The Loring Parsonage: The Purpose of Repurposing

As the SHS discusses with the community its plans for the History Center, the question often is asked why we are interested in locating the History Center and Museum in the Loring Parsonage. Our Trustees weighed this decision carefully and over the course of several years. Research was done on historical societies’ facilities in surrounding towns. The SHS conducted a feasibility study to show that the plan was possible and the Society’s operations and exhibition plans would fit within the site. The following is our rationale:

- The Loring Parsonage, built as the home of Sudbury’s first minister, is an important historic structure because of who lived there and as one of the few extant buildings of its type which, as a town resource, will be opened to the public.
- It is an ailing town building. Repurposing will give the building new life. As stewards the SHS can ensure its protection. The SHS’s vision, with backing from the State grant, has already begun the process.
- Tradition and history affirm that the Town Center has been a place for gathering and governing. The Town Center is undergoing revitalization so the Town has invested in its resources. The SHS is experiencing new growth and with that dynamic the SHS’s activities will support and draw events to the improved Center.
- There are a multitude of historic resources in Town Center and other historic institutions. The SHS already works closely with Town Departments and Committees. The location will foster collaborations with the Historical Commission and Hosmer House, the Town Clerk’s Office, the churches, the closest schools, and use of the Town Hall, Grange Hall, park lands, and nearby businesses. The SHS already has tested Town Center’s potential through our Sudbury Through Time 3rd grade tours and our participation in Town Center Community Fairs. On weekends when more than one institution holds activities we have seen how vibrant the Center can be. We want to do more of this.
- The tourism potential for Sudbury is enormous. With the Wayside Inn campus in South Sudbury and the Historic Town Center as a draw there is no need for out-of-town guests to go far afield to learn about local history. Sudbury has what is needed and tourism dollars spent in town are a win for Sudbury.

These are just some of the reasons why the SHS is enthusiastic about the Town Center and the Loring Parsonage History Center project. This is why we believe it can succeed. If you have further questions about our project or plans, please contact Sally Hild at director@sudbury01776.org.
Sudbury Police Then and Now

The new Police Station project at 75 Hudson Road is at long last complete.

In 1932, prior to the building of the current Town Hall, Sudbury Police Chief Seneca Hall had no office at all. He worked out of his “back pocket,” according to Town Historian, Lee Swanson.

When the current Town Hall was built, Sudbury’s police and fire departments were near each other in the Town Hall.

For many years Sudbury was a small town and the police knew many of the residents. Jacqueline Bausk says, “I have lived in Sudbury basically all my life and I remember in the 40’s and 50’s the police station and the fire station were near each other at the Town Hall.” Things have now come full circle as they are now again next to each other. “My brother, John Robertson [Bob] MacLean Jr. was a Police Sergeant, my father, John Robertson [Pop] MacLean Sr. was a Special Policeman, my husband, Joseph Bausk, was a policeman and then a Special Policeman, my nephew Richard Allan MacLean is presently a Sergeant on the force,” said Bausk.

In 1960 a “modern” Police station was built on Route 20. Later separate fire houses were built.

Current Police Chief Scott Nix says, “My father began his career with the Sudbury Police Department in 1968, retiring in 2004 as a Lieutenant, following his honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps. Prior to being discharged from the Marine Corps he served a thirteen-month combat tour in Vietnam where he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon and two Purple Hearts. Following his separation from the military he continued a family tradition in law enforcement; to include my great grandfather who retired as a Captain with the Waltham Police Department. Two of my father’s brothers also served in the Sudbury Police Department as Special Police Officers. I joined the United States Marine Corps in 1990 shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait while in my senior year at Bentley College feeling it was my obligation to continue the Marine Corps tradition. I later joined the Sudbury Police Department late in 1993 as a dispatcher. I was fortunate to rise through the ranks being selected as Chief of Police in 2013.”

Now in new facilities on Hudson Road, the Police Department and Fire Department are again side by side near the Center.

In a memo to the town dated December 16, 2015 Chief Nix states, “On behalf of the whole Police Department I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all the residents, committees, town staff and contractors who have made the new Police Building come to reality.” An open house will be planned for the spring so that residents can tour the facility.
SHS Gets Wrapped Up in History

To raise its community profile the SHS unveiled a new project this fall called Project Scarf Wrap. Devised as a twist on groups’ traditional yarnbombing tactics, the SHS yarnbombed with a purpose, creating hand-knit scarves.

Each scarf left around town had a tag attached printed with information about a Sudbury-based farm past or present. For example, one tag explained:

*Cavicchio Greenhouses, Inc. began in 1910 when Giuseppe and Civita Cavicchio emigrated from Italy to Sudbury to raise their family on 56 acres of land which included an apple orchard and field grown vegetables delivered and sold in the Boston markets. The Great Hurricane of 1938 leveled the orchard but the Cavichios persevered growing other vegetable crops tended by their children and grandchildren. Today the over 250 acre operation includes annuals, perennials and nursery stock, as well as a wide array of landscape supplies.*

The tags related the project to the SHS’s history education mission. “Sudbury’s agricultural tradition is rich. The SHS wanted to shine a spotlight on our farms and farmers and the good work they do to support Sudbury by producing locally grown products and preserving our landscape,” said SHS Director Sally Hild.

From spring to fall SHS members and friends knit over 50 scarves that were distributed around town starting in October. The SHS is grateful for the hours spent stitching by knitters Ellen Morgan, Daphna Cox, Serena Caperonis, Rachel O’Brien, Shanna Russ, Diane Seligman, Renata Pomponi, and Heidi Thoren. Said Hild, “I knit quite a few scarves myself, but the skills of our members are impeccable. They made beautiful, complex knits.” All yarn was donated. A plea for yarn went out in our newsletter and on Facebook. People gave bags and boxes of all kinds. Special thanks also go to Ruth Brown, Betty Drum, Mary Ellen Hoover, Catherine McNeil, Elin Neiterman, and Susan Pope Skelly for their yarn.

Blue Meadow Farm sponsored the project in memory of David and Maryann Clark. Mr. and Mrs. Clark operated the pick-your-own blueberry farm at 120 Nobscot Road for the past 44 years. It is now owned by their daughter Audrey Murphy and her husband, Glen.

Blue Meadow is also a full-service equestrian center. The SHS remembers Mr. and Mrs. Clark and their contributions to Sudbury through this project.

Twillingate Gardens & Flower Shop and Twillingate Farm Alpacas also sponsored Project Scarf Wrap. According to owners Karen and Jim Hodder, Twillingate is the oldest flower shop in Sudbury, located at 136 Hudson Road. Family owned and operated Twillingate has been around since 1934 and has raised poultry, vegetables, and flowers on the land. Their daughter, Amy Dupee, began Twillingate Alpacas in order to harvest fleece which is used in the production of knitwear and specialty yarn sold in the shop.

From posts left on the SHS Facebook site we know that our scarves were appreciated locally but had a far greater reach to people as far as Roxbury and north of Boston. One Sudbury resident said that she not only found a beautiful hand-knit scarf, but also learned something new about her own neighborhood. That is more than we could have hoped for. Warm wishes from the SHS.
Harry C. Rice

Who was this man who donated a collection of Native American objects and a large sum of money to Sudbury? The donation was designated the Harry C. Rice Museum Fund in 1979, not long after the death of 75 year old Harry Clinton Rice in November 1978. Harry was the son of Charles W. Rice, a local farmer who lived on the family farm on Water Row. The Rice family claimed ties to Edmund Rice, an early arrival from England to this country. The 1900 property evaluation of the farm included 6 horses, a bull, 7 yearlings, 900 fowls, a swine, and more.

As is the case with many people in town, Harry seemed to have many interests beyond farming. He was listed on town records as Inspector of Animals, or Dog Officer. Not only did he rescue dogs, but also worked with some 250 residents to oppose power line towers that would, according to former Town Historian Curt Garfield, “destroy the Haynes Garrison House site on Water Row as well as Harry Rice’s farm and airport.” Yes, the Civil Air Patrol had an airport and Harry had the Broadmeadow Stable in those days. The Hoovers remember Harry providing horses as a fundraiser at local events.

Harry was president of the Edmund C. Rice Association from 1925 to 1928. His ancestor Edmund was one of the founders of Sudbury in 1638 and later one of the 13 petitioners for the founding of Marlborough. Not only was Edmund a deacon of the Puritan Church, indeed it was he who served as selectman and later a member of the Great and General Court.

A love of animals led Harry to rescue dogs and keep them from meeting a sad end. One case involved a puppy found abandoned and nicknamed Buddy. It was nursed to survive, but later died. As a response to this sad case and its...
publicity, funds were raised, and the Buddy Dog Humane Society founded. Buddy Dog established a temporary shelter for homeless dogs on Rice’s farm. The organization eventually moved and grew, but Harry’s interest in the welfare of dogs continued.

One might wonder how Harry got involved in digging up Native American artifacts. Was this at the time when, according to Garfield, “...while digging a new cesspool” he had discovered a large collection of artifacts?” Harry’s collection is now maintained by the Sudbury Historical Society as designated in Rice’s will. It contains roughly chipped axes, pestles, gouge bits, pounding stones, and a number of chert artifacts, chert being a mineral found not only in this area, but in parts of New York. The collection was inventoried in 1981 and included projectile points and two arrow shafts that were reportedly found in the wall of Mr. Rice’s house.” A thorough report by archaeologist Shirley Blancke in 2000 further identifies and documents the collection. The Harry C. Rice Trust fund is now valued at close to $171,000. Will Harry’s wish to see a museum to hold these objects become a reality? Time will tell.

Those wishing to find out more may find information at the SHS where one can purchase Curt Garfield’s book, Sudbury 1890-1989: 100 Years in the Life of a Town.

Researching Town Records

Individuals researching people, places or events of Sudbury will find extensive resources on the Town’s website sudbury.ma.us, maintained by Technology Administrator Mark Thompson and his staff.

There are three places offering information:

1. Under the photo near the top right of the homepage is a box for doing a Google search of the entire site. At the left of the blue box type in your topic. One may search a name, a place, an event, or any topic. Included in the search are references from the Board of Selectmen meetings, committee minutes, Town Reports, conservation and planning reports, construction documents, brochures, booklets, reports, Town Manager Newsletters, Town meeting warrants, and more. There is another search button in the blue header at the top of the page. The two search buttons give slightly different formats for their results.

2. For a more defined search go to the blue header of the home page. Click “Departments,” then select the department of interest. You can find lots of information posted by the Town Clerk’s Department, for example by clicking “documents.” Active documents are listed but that is just a sample. For older documents scroll to the bottom of the document list and click “Show Archived Documents.” Archived Clerk’s documents go back to 1950.

3. A very special collection of ancient (before 1850s) documents, both public and personal, is in the “Historic Archives”. The link to them is above the blue line at the top of the home page.

The Town of Sudbury is outstanding in the completeness of its records. Much effort has gone into maintaining and digitizing them. Those efforts continue as new records are added from time to time.
Book Review

*The Americans: The Colonial Experience* by Daniel J. Boorstin puts historical events and people into their context and discusses their impact. The broad perspective and topical analysis make this a unique and valuable book for those with an interest in understanding the roots of modern America. It is especially relevant for those of us in Sudbury. The first chapter, about the Puritans of Massachusetts, tells how the Puritans selected their leaders and representatives, their concern for proper limits of political power, and what they thought made for a feasible federal organization.

Further chapters present the Quakers of Pennsylvania, The Virginia plantation owners and slaves, and the debtors of Georgia. Each colony brought its experiences into the mix that became America. This exhaustive book goes on to sections on medicine, science, education, the press, and warfare, ending with a chapter titled A Nation of Minute Men.


Development Report

New to our development program has been the addition of special shopping days and restaurant benefits which have allowed the SHS to shop or dine locally and also get to know our members and friends in a more social atmosphere beyond the lecture hall.

We have appreciated the opportunity to work with several generous Community Partners in the last year. Proceeds supported our operating budget. Our schedule included:

- January 2015 – Lotus Blossom Restaurant, Sudbury
- June 2015 – Whole Foods Market, Wayland
- September 2015 – T-wisted Frozen Yogurt, Rugged Bear Plaza, Sudbury
- December 2015 – A.C. Moore, Shoppers World, Natick
- January 2016 – Bertucci’s Restaurant, Wayland Town Center, Wayland

Our experiences with each was phenomenal and we encourage support of these businesses. We appreciate all who participated and hope you find the experience worthwhile as well.

Our 2015-2016 Annual Appeal

(continued from page 4)

**Friend(s) of the SHS**
- Richard Robison
- Liz and Fred Rust
- Joan Schow
- Barbara Taskovics
- Sudbury Mobil
- Ti-Sales
- The Weinberger Family
- Maxine Yarbrough
- Gladys and Charles Zimmer

**Fellow Enthusiast**
- Barbara and Adolf Bahlikow
- Jill and Eustacio Caseria
- Lisa Croce
- Dan and Eileen DePompeii
- Jeanne E. Genova
- Lee Goodman
- Lily A. Gordon
- Betsy Gottberg
- Sandra and Robert Hall
- Susan and Peter Henderson
- Elaine L. Jones
- Jody and Mark Kablack
- Lyn MacLean
- Beth and Dan Maier,
  *In memory of Nora M. Maier*
- Judy and Sam Merra,
  *In memory of John Velle*
Upcoming Events in 2016

◊ **Sunday, February 7** – **A Little Bit of Sweden, A History of Svensk Kaffestuga**, Illustrated talk at the Town Hall, 2:00 pm. Speaker Elin Neiterman, with Lisa Forsberg, granddaughter of the restaurant’s owners, will discuss the history of the restaurant that stood at 394 Boston Post Road. Special assorted Swedish refreshments will be served after the program. Come and share your recollections.

◊ **Sunday, March 6** – **The League of Women Voters: Helping to Shape Sudbury’s History for 60 Years**, Illustrated talk at the Town Hall, 2:00 pm. In honor of Women’s History Month LWV Board member and former President Sue Abrams will talk about the history and founding of the League in 1957 and the various League-sponsored studies that have impacted Sudbury’s civic life ever since.

◊ **Wednesday, April 6** – **Ezekiel How: Innkeeper, Soldier, Citizen**. At the Wayside Inn, Time TBD. Join the SHS at Longfellow’s Wayside Inn as Reenactor Tony Howes details Ezekiel How’s involvement in Sudbury life before, during and after the Revolution. In honor of the Inn’s 300th Anniversary, partake in a special prix fixe dinner and enjoy our program.

◊ **Tuesday, April 19** – **Red Cross Blood Drive at the Town Hall**. Times TBD. Be a part of an old Sudbury tradition.

◊ **Founders Circle Members Event**. Date and Location to be Announced.

◊ **Saturday, May 21** – **Home & Hearth Tour Fundraiser** featuring the King Philip Neighborhood – Details to follow.

◊ **Sunday, June 5** – **History of Wolbach Farm** in collaboration with the Sudbury Valley Trustees at Wolbach Farm, 18 Wolbach Road, 2:00 pm. Photographer Alice Wellington will discuss the history of the Wolbach Farm and family and how SVT evolved. SVT will lead a walking tour following the lecture.

For more information about any of the programs listed above, e-mail director@sudbury01776.org.

Welcome New Members

*as of September 2015*

Ralph Parmenter Bennett
Mary J.T. Brown
Joan and James Carlton
Helen and Miner Crary
Elisabeth Hughes
Anna and David Klegon
Elaine and Bill Kneeland
David and Lucinda LaGasse
Joanne Minassian
Deborah and Stewart Mueller
Muriel Nelson
John Reed
Amy and Venson Shih
Theresa and Alan Williamson, A.J. Williamson Termite & Pest Control Company

The Annual Holiday Carol Sing on December 20 was enjoyed by all ages. New song books, sponsored by Laurel Grove, and the U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots drive added to the fun. Later the group visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Grange Hall where children shared their wish lists and shopped for gifts at the Kindermarket.
The Svensk Kaffestuga circa 1939 as shown on a postcard from the SHS Collection and on page 121 of *Images of America: Sudbury.*

You won’t want to miss our upcoming program about the Svensk Kaffestuga Restaurant on Sunday, February 7. The SHS is interested to hear your recollections about the restaurant. Swedish refreshments will be served, such as the Svensk Kaffestuga Swedish meatballs and cookies. Feel free to bring your own Swedish refreshments and heritage recipes to share. Swedish costumes welcomed.