



# CONVERSATIONS

collecting • conserving • connecting

2018 | winter

## THE CURATED COLLECTION: CULLING THE CLUTTER, FINDING CLARITY

As the SHS looks ahead to the future History Center we have begun close examination of our collections to plan archival spaces, the special collections library, and exhibition galleries. Items will ultimately be tagged, boxed, and moved and re-set in new accommodations. But, before we can get to the moving stage, we face a reality -- an overabundance of some things. Not everything that has been saved can remain, particularly if it does not support our mission and educational goals. We need to make room for future growth. Our collections team has been combing through files and shelves to separate the wheat from the chaff. Some extraneous items will be deaccessioned.

For history museums deaccessioning is a painstaking process. At times the practice has been controversial. How does an institution justify letting something go? What rights does an institution have to deaccession donated gifts? For guidance the SHS looked to our neighboring institutions undergoing the same process. Colleagues referred us to *The Collections Manifesto*, a concise guide written by museum professionals who have researched collections challenges and trends to define pressing issues. The *Manifesto* can be found at [www.activecollections.org/manifesto](http://www.activecollections.org/manifesto). Its premise is that collections must advance the mission of the institution and those that are not active assets must go elsewhere so that they do not strain resources. Looking at deaccessioning in those terms makes it less emotional and less final if items are to have new life where they belong best. We often send items we no longer can use to other historical societies and, likewise, we receive things in return. For example, an assortment of oil cans languishing in a box did not fit into our interpretive plan so we gave them to the Larz Anderson Auto Museum to be better cared for.

Collecting simply for the sake of collecting does not do items justice. Nor does this practice necessarily preserve

things if improperly stored. A collection's value is not about the number of items contained within it but the quality of those items. Broken, rusty, unrecognizable items that confuse visitors are not helpful for storytelling and risk negative impressions. Collections can be costly to maintain and that money spent on cataloging, refurbishing, and storing ineffective items may tie up funds that could be spent elsewhere. Having multiples of identical items (ex: books, reports, day dresses) may be useful but having too many takes up precious room on shelves. Ultimately items should be collected and used to tell a story, to enlighten visitors and actively engage in making connections to the past. The *Manifesto* states that collections, "that provide the most public value should get the largest share of time and resources."

(continued on page 4...)

CONNECT + CONVERSE!  
What collections do you most want to see at the new History Center?  
E-mail [info@sudbury01776.org](mailto:info@sudbury01776.org).

### MADE IN SUDBURY:

This Sudbury Soil Test Kit was manufactured by Herbert and Esther Atkinson at Sudbury Laboratory, during the 1930s and beyond from their property at 558 Dutton Road (also known as the Pery Homestead and "Homeplate Farm," Babe Ruth's house). This kit is in impeccable condition with intact glass bottles of soil test solutions, glass funnels and test tubes, and filter papers contained in a wooden box, which dates it as an earlier version of the kits.



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- To discuss gifts of stock or bequests, contact Treasurer David Pettit at 617/901-5798.
- To schedule a behind-the-scenes tour of the Parsonage, e-mail [director@sudbury01776.org](mailto:director@sudbury01776.org).
- Looking for a way to advertise your business or organization? Sponsor an issue of our newsletter with an ad:  
\$500 – half page  
\$250 – quarter page  
\$100 – sixth page  
e-mail [director@sudbury01776.org](mailto:director@sudbury01776.org).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

About four years ago we decided to move from Upper Town Hall to the 300 year old Loring Parsonage. This decision was not made lightly, knowing that it would take considerable funds to restore and repurpose the parsonage into exhibit galleries, a Visitor Center, a meeting room, archives and offices for the Historical Society to continue its work. Between a grant from the state, existing trust funds, CPA funds and generous contributions by individuals, businesses and the Sudbury Foundation over \$1,600,000 has been raised. It will be great to bring the Loring Parsonage back to use and enjoyment for the entire town and ground breaking is near at hand.



Still, it is only a building albeit a wonderful building, a town treasure. What is more significant is that we are adding something new and long needed in Sudbury, namely a Sudbury History Center. This center can play a leading role for understanding what makes Sudbury different than other towns. It can give us perspective on how we came to be as a town, how we evolved over the last 375 plus years and how we can best grow and go forward towards the future. This History Center will make Sudbury a stronger community and can become a point of welcome to new residents of Sudbury, bringing them into the civic life of our community. The Center can be a resource for our schools to make history exciting and meaningful.

The History Center, however, is not just about the past. It is about the present and the future. It will become a place where we celebrate the uniqueness of this community and the people who live here. In the next 25, 50 or 100 years we will be gone to what follows, but I want the future residents to know we were here and what we have done, both the good and bad, to make Sudbury what it is then.

Without a lively and vibrant History Center our history, your story could be lost. We own it not just ourselves but for those who follow us to record and collect the story of our town.

— Stewart Hoover



Robert Diefenbacher presents Stewart Hoover a donation for the History Center from the Friends of Sudbury Senior Citizens in November 2017. From l to r are Sally Hild, Joe Bausk, Robert Diefenbacher, and Stewart Hoover.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the fall my parents sold the family home. It was an amazing house -- a c. 1790s Greek Revival painted red. I credit growing up there amid the creaks and antiques with inspiring my career in historic preservation and museum management. But, after forty-three years, it was time for them to move on to a more manageable place. And the family came together to help pack and move. At the same time the SHS began in earnest its assessment and clean-up of its collections and office space to prepare for the eventual relocation to the History Center. This work inspired two of the articles in this issue of our newsletter. We hope that the tips will help those facing a downsizing project. We also wanted to make our members aware of the work and planning that is happening behind the scenes since construction at the Parsonage has yet to begin.



Our regular work continues. Take a look at our program calendar. In our pursuit of relevance this season we are showcasing histories of buildings and institutions that the town is considering in the future. In January Chris Morely and Frank Riepe discussed the history of the Town Hall and its proposed renovation. In March Ruth Griesel, Pat Mullen, and Jeff Beeler discussed the evolution of the Sudbury Senior Center and its future at the Fairbank facility. Then, on May 5th the SHS, along with the Agricultural Commission, will offer a Farm & Barn Tour to highlight Sudbury's agrarian past and raise awareness about the future of Sudbury's farms. Please watch for information about the tour and join us.

This newsletter also offers an update on where we are with the History Center project. Our board and committees are working diligently but the process of navigating through public projects is slow. We will get there thanks to the generosity of our members and donors — for our SHS family that is coming together to help us toward the next phase. We are grateful for your patience and support.

— Sally Purrington Hild



On December 11, 2018 the SHS was among 40 area nonprofits to receive a MetroWest Arts & Culture grant from the Foundation for MetroWest at a reception at the Weston Community Center.



## 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 the preferred 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.

I am joining at the recommendation of: \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are good for one year and are fully tax deductible. For our tax ID number, please call 978-443-3747 or e-mail: [shs-membership@sudbury01776.or](mailto:shs-membership@sudbury01776.or)

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE SHS!

*(The Curated Collection continued from page 1.)*

The SHS has a broad collection that tells of everyday life in Sudbury with objects and documents dating from the 17th century through today. Included are books, maps, newspapers, photographs, ledgers and deeds, family genealogy and town histories, scrapbooks, school and military memorabilia, business and club records, directories, and town reports. Artifacts include the first post master's desk, Revolutionary relics, early furnishings, art, housewares, agricultural tools, business signs, and textiles. Much of our collection has been acquired via donations. As such it is rich and varied, and therein lays the value. But for a time it had been unfocused while growing. That led to an accumulation and SHS volunteers worked tirelessly to keep up with the uncatalogued piles.

Recognizing that changes to procedures would be necessary to prepare for the History Center, three years ago the SHS revised its Collections Policy to guide decisions about acquisitions. The policy can be found at [sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS\\_Collections\\_Policy.pdf](http://sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS_Collections_Policy.pdf). Using the policy and the *Manifesto* the SHS Collections Committee now asks key questions about items when offered by donors and before they are accessioned: What is the story, who owned the item, how does it relate to Sudbury, what is the condition, and what resources are needed to preserve things? In addition, the SHS also revised its bylaws and mission statement at its May 2016 Annual Meeting ([sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS\\_Bylaws.pdf](http://sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS_Bylaws.pdf)). We now have tools and guiding principles by which to build a stronger collection, protect our existing assets, and look ahead to how we might create dynamic exhibitions in the new facility. We look forward to our museum opening and to welcoming researchers to our archives. Until then, we proceed...and pack.

## **KEEP, SELL, TOSS: THE ART OF DOWNSIZING**

Downsizing the family home can be daunting. It is an emotional journey to dismantle a lifetime and part with valued possessions. But the end-result is enlightening and can be manageable if you know where to begin.

In the best scenario decisions about downsizing are made well in advance of any pressing need. Advance planning gives the gift of time to determine which essentials will move and which must go. Start with a floorplan to size up furnishings, housewares, electronic equipment, and closet space. Identify key "keeps" and make a descriptive list of items or label them with color-coded stickers. Create a staging area in a spare room and make three piles for the

rest: Keep, Sell, or Donate. The keep pile should include family mementos, photographs, scrapbooks, school and family records. These have value. Find the family historian and discuss what you have saved.

A fourth pile is the gifting pile. Ask your children and close relatives what heirlooms they would like when downsizing day arrives. Do not be surprised (or offended) by their answers. Some family might not want things if their lifestyles or decor differs, yet sometimes something that you consider insignificant is a sentimental treasure to another. Often children want the same items and so it is left to parents to ensure an even trade.

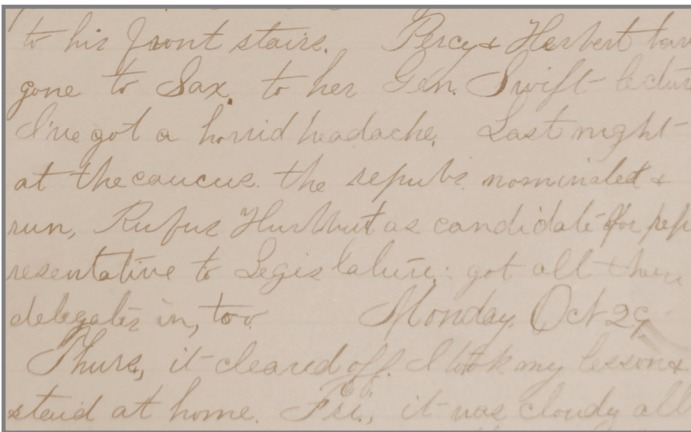
For the sell pile online sites such as e-bay and Craig's List are good options if you have time to photograph, post, and follow up with buyers. Sudbury has a Sudbury Yard Sale Facebook page. Take pictures that show close-up details and maker's marks to capture buyers' attention. Or, consider consigning items. Classic Consignments in Sudbury ([classic-consignments.com](http://classic-consignments.com)) will consult about your items and arrange to sell them for a portion of cost. Bookstores such as Bearly Read Books ([bearlyreadbooks.com](http://bearlyreadbooks.com)) buy books in good condition. If you have antiques contact an auction house. If things are simply too large and difficult to move or sell online, ask new home buyers if they are interested. Provide ballpark prices and buyers should negotiate.

The donation pile can do a variety of good. Review donations with a critical eye. For anything historic check with local historical societies to see if there is interest. For example, the SHS is always seeking items relating to Sudbury's history whether they be books, memorabilia, photos, and certain furnishings and textiles. (Refer to the SHS collections policy at [sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS\\_Collections\\_Policy.pdf](http://sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS_Collections_Policy.pdf)). The SHS and other non-profits often hold tag sale fundraisers. Donate books in good condition without water stains or mold to local libraries. School libraries look for children's books. For home furnishings and housewares many nonprofits use these items to help others build households. Gifts of Hope Unlimited, Inc. of Sudbury ([giftsofhopeunlimited.org](http://giftsofhopeunlimited.org)), which helps to transition survivors of domestic violence from shelters to homes, is one. Textiles in any condition can be placed into the textile bins at each of Sudbury's K-8 schools to raise money by the pound for Sudbury's schools. Sudbury Curb Alert is another Facebook site to advertise free stuff to neighbors.

If downsizing is occurring with urgency there are still ways to manage the task under time constraints. Hiring a downsizing consultant who can manage an estate sale or

auction is a choice. There are fees to consider, but a good and thoughtful downsizing consultant can save time and anguish.

A Swedish homeowner of a tiny house once appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show. As the cameras panned his living space his words resonated, "less space, less things, more life." For a collector or collecting institution that philosophy seems contrary. But curated spaces with quality items that convey is the goal. Curate your space, send the extras to appropriate places, and you will add value to your life.



A handwriting sample from Miss. Jones's diary. Do you recognize any

## WHO WAS MAY CONSTANCE JONES?

Recently the SHS came into possession digital scans of a c. 1883 diary written by a young Sudbury girl, May Constance Jones. The scans were e-mailed to the SHS from Jen Merheb of Texas, who had purchased the diary and was interested in knowing more about Miss Jones' story. A preliminary search for May Jones found 1868 as her birth year and 1933 as the year of her death.

Over the course of several weeks SHS Intern Leigh Kozak has been transcribing the pages, navigating through unfamiliar script often written using faint pencil lines. It appears that May lived a fairly ordinary life back in 1883. She went to the weekly "sing" and helped her mother with housekeeping. She mentions riding to the Old Mill and walking to church and the Goodnow Library for stacks of books that she then labored to carry home. Even though Miss Jones lived over 130 years ago, many of the concerns she has are not unlike those of teenagers today. She is concerned with the appearance of her skin and figure and complains to some extent about having to practice piano. Given the places she mentions walking to and from, and

## IN MEMORIAM



On February 23rd, 2018 Margaret R. "Peggy" (Carr) Fredrickson passed away. She was the heart and the soul of the Sudbury Historical Society, serving on the board of trustees in so many capacities. She served as president, vice president, and chair of the Finance Committee. She participated in the Collections and Program Committees and wrote and published the SHS's newsletter for many years. Peggy was an example and mentor to everyone in the Society. When Peggy spoke or offered her opinion everyone listened. Although no one will be able to take Peggy's place, her contributions will always be part of the Sudbury History Center. She will be greatly missed

One of Peggy's more recent special projects was the Talking Town Center audio tour of Sudbury's Town Center historic sites. The tour can be found at [www.sudbury01776.org/tour3/index.html](http://www.sudbury01776.org/tour3/index.html). Maps are also available at the SHS or in the mailbox located in the back yard of the Loring Parsonage.

her neighbors (Parmenters, Goodnows, and Haynes), one could conclude that she lived in the King Philip neighborhood, although this has yet to be confirmed.

While May's diary captures seemingly ordinary occurrences, free from gossip or local scandals, her words paint a picture of day-to-day life in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Sudbury. The SHS is beginning to discover who was May Constance Jones. We ask the community for help. If anyone has information about May or her family during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1930s, please let us know by contacting [info@sudbury01776.org](mailto:info@sudbury01776.org).

## WHERE ARE THE CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES?



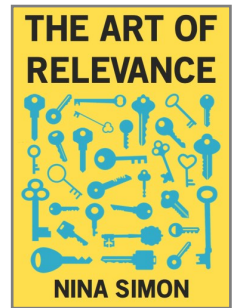
First off, the Sudbury Historical Society thanks you for your continued support of the Loring Parsonage renovation! To date our capital campaign has raised \$700,000 in private gifts and grants and we are humbled by the generosity of our donors.

We are currently in the process of finalizing the details of the project, including updating cost estimates. Ironing out the specifics of construction and working within the parameters of converting a town-owned building into a privately managed site with public and private funds is complex and is taking more time than anticipated. However, the SHS is being proactive and productive. We continue to work closely with the Permanent Building Committee, the Town Manager, and the architect so that we may begin renovations as soon as possible. We ask that you please bear with us and know that we are as committed as ever to the History Center Project and to getting the best end-product for your dollars. We are deeply appreciative of your contributions.

In the meantime, the fundraising continues for the remaining phases of the project (noted below) and the opening of the long-awaited Sudbury History Center!

## BOOK REVIEW: THE ART OF RELEVANCE

In June 2017 Mass Humanities held its Mass History Conference drawing attendees from all across the region. Representatives from the SHS attended. The theme, *Igniting a Passion for History*, focused on how public history institutions of all sizes could engage audiences to ignite an interest in history and a consciousness of the past while at the same time fostering public dialogue.



One resource explored during the conference was, *The Art of Relevance*, by Nina Simon, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. The book is packed with inspiring examples, rags-to-relevance case studies, research-based frameworks, and practical advice on how history institutions can be more vital to the community. Community engagement and participatory design inform each chapter. This book is a worthwhile read and so inspired were we that it will serve as an ideal for the future Sudbury History Center.



In December 2017 the Main Street Bank Charitable Foundation awarded The SHS a grant for the campaign to build the new Sudbury History Center. L to r: Stewart Hoover, Sally Hild, and Dennis Staires, Main Street Bank Sudbury Branch Manager, in front of the Parsonage.



### THE SUDBURY HISTORY CENTER PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

#### Phase I: Completed June 2016!

Partial stabilization of basement level and western rooms of the Loring Parsonage.

#### Phase II: In active progress...

Complete stabilization, restoration and expansion of the el. We are currently working with the Permanent Building Committee to finalize construction documents and send the project out to bid.

#### Phase III: Just beginning...

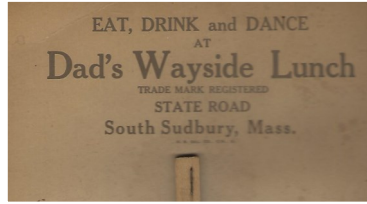
Planning for the exhibitions, outfitting of interior spaces, and a landscape management plan. Preparing for the move. Building an endowment to ensure new growth and sustainability.

#### We invite you...

If anyone is interested in taking a tour of the Loring Parsonage, please contact [info@sudbury01776.org](mailto:info@sudbury01776.org) to make an appointment.

## WHAT'S THE STORY WITH DAD'S?

This adorable image of a little girl eating lunch in the Summertime appears on a c. 1930s paper advertising fan given to the SHS by David Colombo whose grandmother had carefully preserved it in the Clark Family collection. We are curious about this restaurant and have not, to date, found any business records that show where the restaurant was located in Sudbury. A query on Facebook led to much speculation. Some thought it could perhaps have been down the road toward the Wayland town line. Some recalled a dance hall around the Horse Pond Road area and thought it could have been Dad's. We remain intrigued. If anyone knows the story of Dad's, please e-mail [info@sudbury01776.org](mailto:info@sudbury01776.org) so that we can continue our quest to find more of the story.



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Over the last several months the SHS has received some wonderful gifts to the collection. A sampling includes:

- Photographs of Hope Whitney Baldwin and train depots, assorted articles and obituaries, a document on Sudbury's granite guideposts, a booklet on Sudbury's greenhouses, a Gerry's dustless felt eraser, and two matchbook covers from Roy Hall's station, donor Harry Baldwin;
- A collection of assorted mid-century paper dolls, donor Betty Rose;
- c. 1947 Wayside Inn Letter booklet published by Richard Bennett Talcott, donor Sally Hild;
- c. 1973 Photographs of 455 Peakham Road and the neighborhood's Bicentennial Parade float project, donors Allan and Nadine Wallack;
- A Sudbury Then & Now map and a 1959 Sudbury map, donors Judy and Larry McClure;
- A wedding dress spanning two eras. The skirt belonged to donor Lynn Briden Burke's great, great grandmother and the blouse was made to match later by Sudbury bridal shop owner Maggie Flood;
- c. 1930 paper fan advertising Dad's Wayside Lunch, donor David Colombo;
- An intact 1875 Beers Atlas, donor Tricia Pirozzi;
- Sudbury Savoyards Playbills and Posters from 1961-2017, donor Andrea Roessler;

Volunteers are busy transcribing documents that have long been hidden away in file drawers. Occasionally transcripts are posted along with photographs of new-found items on our Facebook page. Be sure to like and follow our page to see the latest finds.

## YES, I/WE WANT TO SUPPORT THE SUDBURY HISTORY CENTER

Name(s): *As you wish name(s) to appear in our records.*

Business/Organization:

Address:

Town: State: Zip:

Telephone:

E-mail:

*Questions for the SHS? Contact:  
[director@sudbury01776.org](mailto:director@sudbury01776.org).*

### Enclosed is a check, payable to the Sudbury Historical Society, for:

*(Non-members donating \$100 or more will receive a 6-month complimentary membership.)*

\$50  \$100  \$250  \$500

\$1,000  \$5,000  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail donation to:** Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.,  
322 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

I prefer to donate via credit card online.

**To donate online visit:** [www.sudbury01776.org](http://www.sudbury01776.org).

This gift is given in memory of/in honor of  
(include name or names):

My/Our company offers a matching gifts program. (Please enclose form.)

Yes, I/We have included the Sudbury Historical Society in a will.

I/we wish our gift to remain anonymous.

The SHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are deductible under IRS regulations.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE SUDBURY HISTORY CENTER.**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



## LEIGH KOZAK

Senior, Lesley University

**How long have you been an intern at the SHS?** I've been volunteering since January 2017, throughout the summer and have returned for the spring semester.

**What are some of the projects you've been working on for the SHS?** I've been assisting with the Sudbury Oral History Project. I helped to curate the mid-century exhibit for the 2017 Modern Architecture House Tour, assisted with the Mod About History fundraiser last May, planned some of the summer Kidstory drop-in programs, and am currently transcribing a 19<sup>th</sup> century diary of May Constance Jones.

**What is your academic background?** I am majoring in literature, and many of my classes have given me the various skills I use at the SHS. In the world of literature there are many schools of literary critique, ranging from Historical Criticism, Marxist Criticism, and Post-Colonial Criticism just to name a few. These schools examine the historical aspects of literature. When these two areas of interest overlap they connect with one another to create a better understanding of either events in history or literary works.

**What are some new things that you learned from your work at the SHS, a nonprofit organization?** I learned how to archive items, and the finer points of setting up an exhibit. Also, there are many different moving parts in a non-profit, and it takes a lot of team work and motivation to keep these parts moving together.

**Where do you see yourself headed in the future?** With my upcoming service in the Peace Corps my future has changed more than I thought it would. While I will be teaching I will also be feeding my passion for understanding the world outside the US. For a long time I have been interested in politics and law. My service in the Peace Corps is leading me down a path that combines my love for teaching with my desire to do good. My work with the SHS has become even more important now that I

will be heading into a post conflict country. While we in Massachusetts have a well-defined history and sense of self the people of Kosovo are looking to create a new history filled with promise. I can bring my understanding that even though history can be important it doesn't have to define what we do and who we become. Upon my return (in 2020) I think I'll end up teaching or going into law and politics.



## WILL JOHNSON

Junior, Willow Hill School

**When did you start volunteering at the SHS?**

I have been volunteering as an intern a few hours a week since the spring of 2017.

**What projects have you been working on?** I help with a variety of tasks from direct mail assembly to sorting the photograph collection. However, I have also worked on the Sudbury Oral History Project creating transcriptions of video-recorded interviews conducted with various people discussing the history of our town. Currently I am working with another SHS intern, Allison Densel, on an exhibition about John Maynard.

**What is your educational background? What classes or hobbies do you enjoy?** I am in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Willow Hill School. The classes that I enjoy the most are art, woodworking, history, and science. My hobbies include woodworking, ceramics, and other studio arts. Last summer I completed a photography class at Lesley University. I also like traveling with my family, swimming, and video games.

**What are some things that you have learned about Sudbury from your work on the Oral History Project?** I learned more about the Sudbury Minutemen who marched through Concord to fight in Lexington for the first battle of the Revolutionary War. I also learned about what life was like in Sudbury in the 1950s and 1960s. It was especially fun to learn about Peter Noyes School from where I graduated several years ago. I also learned that you would never get a ride to school from your parents — if you did, you would be considered a social outcast!



**Where do you see yourself headed in the future?**

I plan to go to college after I graduate from high school. I can see myself working for a non-profit, possibly a museum, and want to continue creating art, either for work or fun.

**What connects you to Sudbury?** I am a direct descendent on my father’s side of Walter Haynes. He and his family came over from England on a ship called *The Confidence* in 1638. My ancestors also fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Someone in my family has lived in Sudbury since it was first established as a town.

**What does Sudbury History mean to you?** To me, Sudbury history means learning and discovering the interesting roots of the town. It’s also fun to see the names of my ancestors around town. I recently found out that one of my ancestors in the 1700s lived in the building that is now one of the buildings at my school, which is a fascinating discovery!



**ALLISON DENSEL**

Sophomore, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

**What is your role with the SHS?** I am a student intern working on the John Maynard Diary Project. My primary role is transcribing the diary from

the original copy into digital format. I am also helping to collect research on the life of John A. Maynard, author of the diary.

**What are your favorite subjects in school and why?**

I am currently a sophomore at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. I enjoy most subjects, but history is my all-time favorite! I have always had a passion for the subject and learning the stories of the people that came before us. Coincidentally, I am taking Advanced Placement United States History this year, and really love it!

**Can you describe John Maynard’s Diary and its importance?** The Maynard Dairy is a daily account of weather and other meteorological events that took place in Sudbury between May 1870 and September 1874. John Adams Maynard was a farmer, who also briefly served as Town Assessor in 1857 and 1858. I have been volunteering with SHS since September, coming in weekly to transcribe the diary so that the SHS can use it in an exhibition later this spring.

**Have you learned anything interesting by working with the diary?** I have learned a lot more from the diary than I ever expected! For example, the old Acton Powder Mill was subject to several explosions in a short period of time that resulted in both injuries and fatalities. In researching the man himself, I discovered the extent to which Sudbury in its past was truly a agricultural town. The diary will also provide great data to compare weather patterns from then versus now.

**To your knowledge, do teenagers today keep diaries?**

My general impression is that most teenagers do not keep diaries today. Speaking personally, I feel that most of us are just too busy with their everyday lives to stop and record events!

**Do you think understanding local history is useful and why? Will you pursue more courses in history through your education?**

Learning about local history is a very important part of our education. It helps to anchor students in place and time and sparks interest in the story of where they call home. I feel so grateful and proud to live in Sudbury because of our town’s deep and rich history that encompasses almost 400 years. However, my love for history does go beyond Sudbury, and I hope to pursue a higher education in the subject someday.

**SHS EARNS SUDBURY CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT FOR JOHN MAYNARD EXHIBIT**

The Sudbury Cultural Council awarded the SHS a grant for an exhibition inspired by a c. 1870 diary belonging to John Maynard. Working as a team, high school students Allison Densel and Will Johnson will prepare the exhibit for late spring 2018. Densel is transcribing the small leather-bound diary in which Maynard between 1870-1872 kept careful accounts of weather patterns and flora on what we assume was his property. Johnson is photographing contemporary scenes inspired by these daily accounts. Both students will research John Maynard so that we may learn who he was, where he lived, and why he was so concerned about the weather. To date we believe he owned apple orchards in North Sudbury and tracked the weather and its impacts on the growing season because it would have affected his livelihood.

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



# PAST PROGRAMS

In December the SHS was invited to decorate a room during the Sudbury Historical Commission's Hosmer House Open House. SHS Volunteers Jacqui Bausk, Mary-Ellen Hoover, Beth Gray-Nix, and Diana Cebra decorated the dining room with a theme of "The Art of Conversation" using headlines from the decades of Florence Hosmer's lifetime.



Next, Santa and Mrs. Claus came to town during the Historical Society's Annual Carol Sing with its Kindermarkt (Children's Market) and Toys for Tots drive. This year the bins overflowed!

Pictured above are Santa Claus, Jane Graham, Betsey Cutler, Debbie Keeney, Tony Howes, and Hal Cutler. Below at the Kindermarkt are Ruth Griesel, Katina Fontes and Nancy Hamill.



At the end of September homeowners Rebecca and Christian Weeks, Grace and Keith Funston, and Melanie Perillo hosted a progressive barn dinner to raise funds for the Sudbury History Center. A good time was had by all!





## SUDBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information,  
visit: [sudbury01776.org](http://sudbury01776.org), Facebook,  
call 978/443-3747,  
or e-mail [info@sudbury01776.org](mailto:info@sudbury01776.org).

Unless noted, programs are free for members. A \$5 donation is appreciated from non-members.  
Refreshments are provided by the SHS Hospitality Committee following each Town Hall program.

### JANUARY

**Sunday, January 28 – If these Walls Could Talk: A History of Sudbury's Town Halls**, Illustrated talk at the Sudbury Town Hall, 2:00 pm. Sudbury native Chris Morely will explore the history and impact of Sudbury's Town Hall: its Greek Revival presence fronting on the Common since 1846; the involvement in the design of the current iteration by three resident architects of national, even world renown (Ralph Adams Cram, Joseph Everett Chandler, and project architect Charles Henry Way); the will of a small town to organize and sacrifice — during the worst years of the Depression — to recreate a town symbol as the anchor of the town's historic community space; and what transpired in the building since that time. Also to be discussed will be the role and impact upon the town, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, of the building itself and the greater town center, as well as the statewide movement to rejuvenate historic town halls.

### MARCH

**Sunday, March 4 – The Evolution of the Sudbury Senior Center**, Sudbury Town Hall, 2:00 pm. How has the Sudbury Senior Center evolved from its earliest roots at the old parsonage of the Memorial Congregational Church in the 1980s into a flourishing, dynamic center serving Sudbury's senior residents? Current Director Debra Galloway and former Director Ruth Griesel, as well as past and present Council On Aging members, will discuss the accomplishments of this remarkable institution, as well as look to the future.

**Tuesday, March 20 – Benefit Night at Lotus Blossom Restaurant**, Boston Post Road, 5:00-9:00 pm. Dine in, carry out, or delivery. Lotus Blossom will donate a percentage of the receipts to the SHS. Bring your family and friends!

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

### APRIL

**Wednesday, April 11 –The Late Night Ride of Paul Neuhausere**, Join the SHS for an authentic colonial dinner at Longfellow's Wayside Inn, 6:00 pm. Hear the incredible and somewhat fanciful story of a Sudbury patriot and hero who carried the news of impending revolution from Boston to his beloved home town on April 1775. Paul Neuhausere is the forgotten ancestor of a recent colonel of the Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute who overcame severe physical and mental difficulties to play a forgettable role in the activities leading to the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. His story needs to be told at least once and be heard by all who cherish our local history. The tale will be told in verse and illustrated with brightly colored lantern slides by Dr. Anthony Howes. The cost of the special prix fixe dinner is \$35. A cash bar reception will be held prior to the start of dinner. Reservations must be made by calling the Wayside Inn directly at 978/443-1776.

**Sunday, April 29 – How the Puritan Village Evolved: A Guided Bus Tour of Colonial Sudbury Plantation (Sudbury and Wayland) 1639-1730**, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Co-hosted by the Sudbury Historical Society and the Wayland Historical Society. Gather at the Sudbury Town Hall (322 Concord Road) for a narrated bus tour of colonial-era Sudbury and Wayland. Stops include the Four-arch (Town) Bridge on the Sudbury River; North Cemetery; Mill Pond; the sites of the fourth and fifth (present) meeting houses (what would become East Sudbury in 1780 and Wayland in 1835); and finally to present-day Sudbury Center. Refreshments follow at the Sudbury Town Hall courtesy of the SHS. Seats on the bus are limited and first come-first served. Please bring your \$5.00 per seat payment with you on April 29th. A wait list will be created in case of cancellations. People are welcome to follow by car at no charge. More information will be available at [www.waylandmuseum.org](http://www.waylandmuseum.org).

### MAY

**Wednesday, May 2 – Red Cross Blood Drive at the Town Hall**, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Be a part of an old Sudbury tradition.

**Saturday, May 5 – 2018 Farm and Barn Tour**, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Save the Date! Details to follow. Volunteers needed to serve as site monitors!

**Saturday, May 19 – Repair Café**, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbanks Road, 9:00 am to 12 noon. Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley together with the Sudbury Senior Center and Sudbury Historical Society. Broken items may get a second chance! Bring in mendable items such as clothing, lamps, small appliances, computers, and other electronics, bikes, toys, outdoor power equipment, and dull blades and our volunteers will attempt to repair your items.

### JUNE

**Sunday, June 11 – Look at This! A Show & Tell of the SHS Collections**, Sudbury Town Hall, 2:00 pm. Join the SHS Collections Team to see a curated display of some of the SHS's special collections. An opportunity to hear about some new acquisitions and items rarely seen before! Prior to the Show & Tell the SHS will conduct its Annual Meeting and election of officers. An update on the status of the Sudbury History Center repurposing project at the Loring Parsonage will also be presented.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When an opportunity arises, new programs may be added with short notice to the events calendar. Watch your e-mail for announcements and check our web and Facebook sites regularly for new news. The SHS relies on word of mouth to let people know about our events and activities. Please share our postings and flyers with friends and family so our attendance grows. Thank you!

**Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.**  
322 Concord Road  
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

for the 2018 Farm & Barn Tour to be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Sudbury Historical Society and the Sudbury Agricultural Commission. Tour some of Sudbury's active farms and barn buildings and learn about Sudbury's agrarian past. Watch our web site and Facebook page for details about ticket sales soon. Proceeds benefit the Sudbury Historical Society.

### PLEASE CONTACT THE SHS...

- If you are a farm or historic barn owner and would be willing to open your property for the tour;
- For tour sponsorship information (opportunities include advertisements in the tour booklet, event signage, and in-kind donations);
- If you would like to volunteer as a site guide or docent\*; or
- If you could spend an hour or two setting up and cleaning up after the event, working the registration, merchandise sales, or refreshment tables.

\*Volunteering for the Farm & Barn Tour is a great job for high school students looking to satisfy community service requirements! Volunteering at the tour is always an adventure — fun people, fabulous history!

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

### CONNECT + CONVERSE!

Did you know that Sudbury was once known as the Carnation Capital? And cows grazed in the Town Hall parking lot at the Haynes family dairy farm? Find out more at our Farm & Barn Tour 2018.

