

The Sudbury Chronicle



Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

Winter 2013

April 7- History of the (recreated)
Sudbury Companies of Militia & Minute,
in Fact and Fiction

April 19 - **Red Cross Blood
Drive at Town Hall as was
done in the 40s and 50s**

Coming Events

May 5 - **Hattie Goodnow's Life
and Legacy - Her photography
and her life**

June 9 - **Ice Cream Social and a Vision of
Our Future.** Preceded by Annual Meeting

Sudbury Historical Society Looks to The Future

Leaders of the Sudbury Historical Society, Inc. have recently participated in an intensive series of workshops and webinars in order to better plan the Society's future direction. Professional Consultant Jay Vogt of Peoplesworth.com led the training and the cost of the Essential Plan Workshops was partially paid for by the Sudbury Foundation. Because of the workshop the objectives for the society are being better articulated and implemented. Board members are visiting the museums and historical societies in 30 towns, learning how they operate and how they are funded.



Seated -left to right: Elin Neiterman, Peggy Fredrickson, Ellen Morgan, Stewart Hoover, Ruth Griesel
Standing - Lee Swanson, Beth Grey-Nix



Officers and Trustees

Ruth Griesel, President
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 Archivist

The Hope for a Museum.

More than 30 years ago there was a vision of a history museum in Sudbury when Harry Rice willed his collection of Native artifacts to the Society along with a substantial sum to build a fireproof facility which would hold the artifacts that he collected over a lifetime.

Today, as part of its mission the Society collects items documenting the history of Sudbury. For a time these items were kept by various members of the organization with no strict control or record of what the items were or where they were being kept. For a time the collections of the society were housed in the Loring Parsonage and in the early 1990s there was an effort to move the Wood-Davison House on Route 20 to Town Center establishing a permanent museum and home for the Society. The cost of this undertaking was to be paid for by contributions and as the funds built up foot prints were painted along the walkway from the Wood-Davison House to Town Center. Although the move never occurred the gathered funds are held in escrow by the Town along with the funds given by Harry Rice.

In 1998 the Society and its collection moved to the second floor of Town Hall and volunteers began the important task of carefully accessioning its collection. Initially the accessioning was done using 5 by 8 cards and later Past Perfect museum software, allowing fuller documentation and location information on the many items that make up the society's collection. Today about 4500 items have been accessioned and entered into the Past Perfect database, with a similar number of items waiting to be accessioned. The collections include objects, photos, archives, and books.

The collections of the Sudbury Historical Society, a private non profit organization, are different from those of the Historical Commission which is part of the Town. The Historical Commission oversees Town properties like the cemeteries and the Hosmer House and their collections are limited to items relating to the Hosmer Family. The collections of the Society relate to the people, places and events of



Shown left is Betsey Cutler re-enacting the role of Mrs. Loring. Each year the third graders in town tour Colonial Sudbury Center and meet costumed people where they learn about colonial life. After listening to an Indian chief in full costume, they meet Mrs. Loring, the Rev. Loring and the Pound Keeper. The chief tells how he lived and got his food while Mrs. Loring talks about household chores, and shows colonial kitchen equipment, Rev. Loring, inside the Meeting House, talks of discipline, education and church meetings. The Pound Keeper talks about civic responsibility and his particular job of rounding up and holding lost animals. Finally there is the tour of the ancient cemetery where costumed actors stand by old gravestones speaking for the historical characters they represent.



From President, Ruth Griesel, at a recent League of Women Voters public forum for people and organizations interested in preserving and the history and character of Sudbury:

A Town Museum in Sudbury should have appeal for people of all ages, from 3 to 93. For children, it can provide tactile, auditory and visual cues to make the history of Sudbury come alive.

In addition to being a museum that exhibits collections relevant to Sudbury's history, it should also be an educational center that could dig more deeply into the past—thus making the present more relevant. What was an agricultural community like in Puritan times? The book *PURITAN VILLAGE: The Formation of a New England Town* by Sumner Chilton Powell was the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1963. and the author chose Sudbury as his model. What kind of knowledge could be imparted about early life in New England? It almost defies imagination with all the possibilities.

A decisive battle that was fought in Sudbury during the King Philip War of 1676 with several of Sudbury's early settlers killed. The English settlers prevailed in this war enabling them to expand without fear of Indian attacks.

Ninety-nine years later more than 300 Sudbury men—farmers who trained in our fields—marched to Concord on April 19th, 1775 with Capt. John Nixon as one of the leaders. Two died, including Josiah Haynes. A few months later, Sudbury men, under now Colonel John Nixon, fought bravely at Bunker Hill. How can Sudbury's contribution to the Revolutionary War be highlighted? Might that not encourage more interest in the war that changed the course of history?

Until recent times, Sudbury was a rural farm community—and its history is not unlike others throughout New England. Volunteers from Sudbury fought in major battles in the Civil War, and a recently published book, *FROM YOUR LOVING SON—Civil War Correspondence and Diaries of Private George F. Moore and His Family* invite readers into the lives of soldiers in battle, as well as life in Sudbury during those years. An exhibit could certainly be created that would draw observers into that critical period in our nation's history.

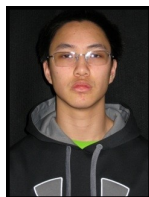
Sudbury is blessed to have the Wayside Inn, the Hosmer House, and the Revolutionary War Cemetery in our town to remind us of our rich historic and cultural past and a Museum/ Education Center could provide school children of all ages interesting experiences in conducting research, designing exhibits, composing signage, and even becoming docents.

William Hosley at the February Sudbury Historical Society presentation

...local history in particular—is essential for instilling a sense of place, past and community. The good news is that community-based historical organizations and libraries are increasingly doing the work that used to be done in church, school, and home—and they are doing it increasingly well because they are keeping it real and keeping it local.

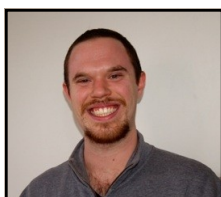


Cecily Doyle



Remington Chin

The Sudbury Historical Society is happy to have the assistance of interns. This semester Cecily Doyle and Remington Chin from Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School are helping us.



Also helping out this season is Stephen Loikith, a skilled volunteer with an MFA in Musicology from

Brandeis University

Nicole Young of Sudbury joined us for 20 hours in January. Nicole is working on her MBA at Boston College, and will be graduating in May.

No matter your interests and availability, the Society has volunteer opportunities for you.

Help is needed and hours are flexible.

Please call, write or drop in to discuss volunteer opportunities.

The Sudbury Historical Society is always thankful for gifts of items that are part of the town's history. Sixty one (61) separate gifts of collectables were given in the year 2012. Notable among the objects given are

- A framed watercolor by Loring Coleman given by Dr. Donald Oasis. The matted painting has a silver & gold frame. It depicts Bradshaw's Store on Route 20 at the intersection of Concord Road (now occupied by William Raveis Real Estate).

- A Video about the Wayside Inn given by Ann Koppeis Bowles.

- Four wedding dresses dating from the late 19th Century to the mid 20th Century given by JoAnne Cutler .



The photo on the left shows one of the dresses . It is blue/green and was worn by Isadore Thompson at her marriage to Nahum Goodnow in 1864. The gown is made of taffeta with long sleeves and lace around the high neck and edge of sleeves with a matching cape having a blue edging band and a cummerbund that laces together.



- This original watercolor painting of the Italian Chapel that was once on Mossman Road was given by the artist, Joan Meenan.



- Carol and Barry Sheingold gave a Melodeon with a foot operated vacuum bellows, rosewood veneer, one keyboard and a 5-octave range from F-F. It has turned tapered legs and a music stand attached with two connecting rods to foot pedals. It was made by S. D.& H.W. Smith, Boston Co.

The support of our business members below is greatly appreciated.

CAVICCHIO GREENHOUSES, TI SALES, WINGATE AT SUDBURY

COMRIE REAL ESTATE MARLBOROUGH SAVINGS BANK.



(Shown at Left) Eagle Scout Marty Fitzgerald shakes hands with Lee Swanson, Town Historian and Ruth Griesel, President S.H.S. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Marty designed and built a flat screen kiosk that can show video or slides and presented it to the Historical Society. Presently the kiosk is programmed to give a virtual tour of historic Sudbury.

(Shown at right) Games that were either about Sudbury, made in Sudbury or played in Sudbury are on display at the Goodnow Library in the case beside the main entrance to the library during the month of March. The display was planned and arranged by Jo Kiesewetter, a regular volunteer at the Society.



The History of the (Recreated) Sudbury Companies of Militia & Minute

As the beginning of the American Revolutionary War drew nigh, the citizens of Sudbury were preparing for the battles and hardships that lay ahead. Almost all able bodied men took part in learning musket drills and military tactics. They were formed into companies determined by their location and abilities. When war finally broke out, they performed heroically on April 19th, 1775 and beyond. After the conclusion of hostilities, militia units were no longer necessary and were, therefore, disbanded.

In 1963, a group of prominent town citizens decided that the time was right to resurrect the memory of Sudbury's contribution to American Independence by reforming the Companies of Militia and Minute and re-enacting their historic march to Concord's North Bridge. With the support of the Innkeeper of the Wayside Inn, participation grew rapidly, and on April 19th 1964, it is estimated that over 400 men armed with muskets, swords and pitchforks joined the re-enactment. The event was so successful that the Companies have repeated the march every subsequent year and have extended their activities to include a Colonial Faire, costume balls and many other re-enactments with other groups around the country.

At the April 7th Historical Society Program, the occasion of the Company's 50th Anniversary, we shall look back at many of these events – particularly those involving the Bicentennial in 1975 - and get to know some of the highly colorful characters that have graced the Companies with their presence.

Firearms must be left at the door!

Your membership expires at the date shown here

Address Service Requested

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Dan Meenan, 2013 Colonel of the Sudbury Militia and Minute leads the charge

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