



# CONVERSATIONS

collecting • conserving • connecting

2018 | fall

## TOWN MANAGER SIGNS CONTRACT -- PHASE II OF LORING PARSONAGE REPURPOSING SET TO BEGIN

The Sudbury Historical Society is pleased to report that on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the SHS gifted to the Town of Sudbury \$726,000 that the SHS has raised through private donations and grants for the next phase of renovations of the Loring Parsonage. A contract with Classic Construction & Development Corporation, based in Littleton, MA, is now signed by Sudbury's Town Manager and construction on the History Center project will begin in October. We owe an enormous thank you to our donors, grantors, and supporters who have helped us to see the project through to this stage.

Planning for the Sudbury History Center began in earnest in 2014 and has been a lengthy, careful process since. As the building is owned by the Town of Sudbury, the SHS, which will lease the facility, has been working closely with the Permanent Building Committee as project managers and architects Spencer, Sullivan, and Vogt. Special thanks go to PBC Co-chairs Mike Melnick and Elaine Jones, along with Town Manager Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Combined Facilities Director Bill Barletta, and Deputy Director of Public Works Bill O'Rourke for the

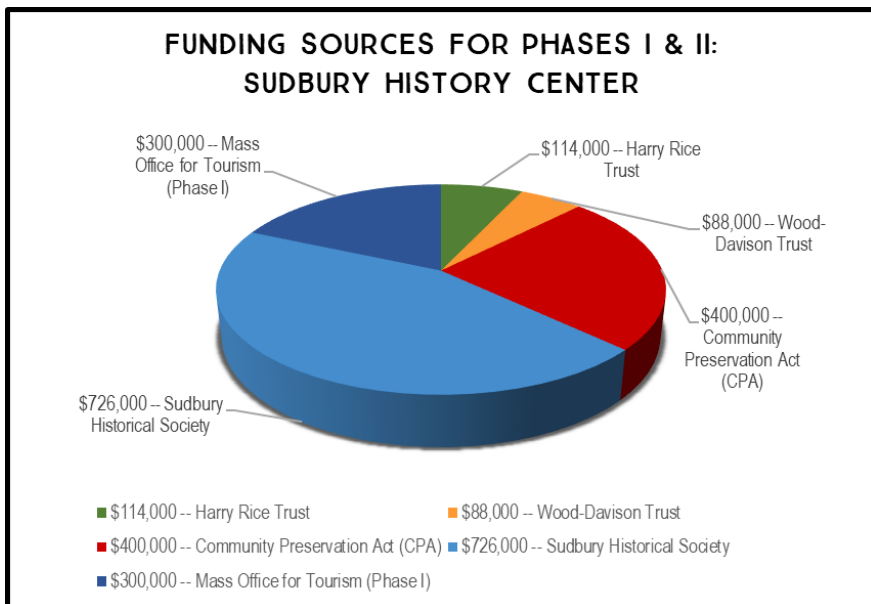
time they have spent guiding the project. The building is also under the oversight of the Selectmen, Historical Commission and Historic Districts Commission and plans have been reviewed by these boards as well.

Now the SHS is one step closer to opening the Sudbury History Center at the restored Loring Parsonage. The building will be strong, secure, and accessible. Watch for an email and Facebook post about a public ground-breaking ceremony soon.

**CONNECT + CONVERSE!**  
 Do you have photographs or historic renderings of the Loring Parsonage? Do you have stories about the building when it was used as the Fire Chief's residence or Haynes's Dairy farm? If so, e-mail [info@sudbury01776.org](mailto:info@sudbury01776.org).

### NEXT STEPS: PHASE III FUNDRAISING

The SHS is in the process of designing interior spaces, including exhibition galleries, the archives, office areas, and visitors center and is determining remaining needs for operations. Details for how you can help will be shared soon.



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a lover of history in all its forms and a 15-year resident of the town of Sudbury, I am honored and humbled to serve as the new President of the SHS Board of Trustees. The honor is clear, Sudbury is an amazing community with a long and rich history. From its history of pre-European-contact indigenous life to the important role played by its residents in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars to the leadership and talents of its 20<sup>th</sup> century inhabitants, much exists to uncover, share, and preserve. For this reason, I take the responsibility seriously and am humbled by what it entails.



Preserving and sharing Sudbury's history in a manner deserving of its depth and complexity can be a challenge in today's changing world. It is not enough for historical societies to merely collect and house items of historical significance. To foster support, the public needs to be reminded of the value of local history and shown its relevance. Additionally, our community, and by extension its history going forward, is rapidly changing. Like many suburbs, Sudbury is no longer a quiet agricultural town with generations of families staying and returning to live where they grew up. New families from near and far are moving to our town to take advantage of all we have to offer. These issues remain front and center in my mind as we look toward showcasing the SHS collection in what will be the Sudbury History Center. Our new facility will allow us to better represent the known past to those familiar with Sudbury's history and properly unveil it to those unaware of its dimensions.

As an educator and researcher, program design sits near and dear to my heart. In addition to our traditional Sunday afternoon programming, we have some interesting, new programs planned that we hope you will try. Some, like our civics enrichment program, are geared toward young people, but others are discussion based and focus on fostering community dialogue. Our goal is the participation of our traditional membership, but also the engagement of new audiences, so please spread the word and encourage your friends and neighbors to get involved.

In the coming months we will share updates on programs, events, and, of course, the Loring Parsonage renovations. If you would like to get involved in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

— Katina Fontes



Photograph from the SHS Collection — an undated view of Mill Village from Maple Avenue.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

I cannot express enough how gratifying it is that Phase II of the History Center construction project will soon commence. For me, and others who have worked on this project since 2014 at least, it is very personal. I am privileged that my job is a full-time job. Some weeks it is well more, and, as working mothers do, I juggle family responsibilities and chauffeuring children, all while my work e-mail constantly uploads. I do this because building the History Center is an opportunity for the SHS to create something long lasting for our town -- something of value. And, as a preservationist, it does my heart good to see this building become useful, maintaining the remaining historic aspects, but also expanding its potential with contemporary elements, like the lift so that all who enter may have access, and temperature control systems, both of which are costly things, but necessary for a variety of reasons.



While obtaining my Master's degree from Boston University I had initially thought I would use my historic preservation degree to block bulldozers for a living. One of my first tasks as a volunteer intern was standing on Yawkey Way passing out Save Fenway Park! bumper stickers and gathering signatures for petitions to halt plans to build a new ballpark and abandon beloved Fenway. People gave me an earful and I gathered more than signatures. I learned that all development is not "bad" development. An improved Fenway remains. There are ways to adapt structures while being sensitive to historic fabric. I believe we have done this with the rehab plans for the Parsonage and we look forward to sharing the finished product with you.

I am also excited about "Our Town" - our new civics program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. When I first moved to Sudbury I didn't know much about how the town worked. But I joined the Historic Districts Commission, serving a term. Later I served on the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Town Hall Blue Ribbon Committees. And I also worked for six years in the Planning Department for the Zoning Board, Community Preservation Committee, Sudbury Housing Trust, and the HDC. Those experiences taught me about my town. I learned about local and state regulations and I attended Town Meetings with regularity. It gave me new insights that proved useful for navigating through the Parsonage repurposing project as well. It is our hope to interest our young people in how residents can and do make an impact on their community.



It's a busy fall at the SHS! We look forward to seeing you soon.  
— Sally Purrington Hild

Linda (Brown) O'Brien recently donated to the archives a Christmas card with a sketch of the Kidder Bake Shop, owned and operated by her parents and located in Mill Village. Along with the card were copies of recipes for Kidder's sweet dough, pie crust, and sponge cake. We may test out one of those at an upcoming program. Many thanks to Linda and the Brown Family for these gifts.

# 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.org](mailto:shs-membership@sudbury01776.org).

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE SHS!



# REDUCE, RE-USE, RE-PURPOSE: MUSEUMS AND ADAPTIVE RE-USE

One of the many good things about the History Center project is that with a new old space the SHS has an opportunity to join fellow museum institutions in consciously contributing toward the sustainable communities movement with the adaptive re-use of the Loring Parsonage. The building has served as a minister's parsonage, a dairy farmer's homestead, the Fire Chief's residence, town offices, and now it will be a vibrant community gathering space and the structure will be saved from further deterioration.

Utilizing a heritage structure is not uncomplicated, however. Architects Spencer, Sullivan, and Vogt, the SHS, and the PBC spent countless hours debating the SHS's programmatic needs and prioritizing the must-haves for a public building in order to meet building codes versus the nice-to-haves. This, along with the structural complexities of an old building, took many months and revisions. How to add modern aspects of HVAC into ancient spaces without compromising historic fabric is particularly challenging and costly. But the work is worth it. More history institutions are tackling these types of projects in order to remain fresh and relevant while respectfully preserving the past for the future.

Transforming the Parsonage also has the SHS thinking about other ways in which the organization can be a contributor to sustainable practices. We can do so through our programming. Our Summer Tag Sale & Crafters Meet-up on August 4<sup>th</sup> enabled us to gather many items cluttering our offices that we no longer needed, but others did. Books, magazines, crafting supplies, and useful office products were sold in bulk. Offering these items at tag sale prices to give them new life was an easy way to keep things out of our landfill and raise a little money for the SHS. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Tag Sale will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Also in October, (20<sup>th</sup>) will be the third Repair Café collaboration between the SHS, the Nashoba Valley Rotary Club, and the Sudbury Senior Center (see our calendar). It is amazing to see people bringing items otherwise destined for the landfill, but instead getting them fixed for free by skilled fix-it volunteers. Old lamps, new life! And the fix-it crew has been able to practice their talents.

Ways the SHS implements sustainable practices in the office include:

- We routinely recycle copy paper, plastic, metal, and

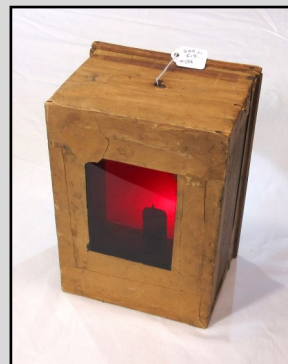
glass by bringing items to the Sudbury Transfer Station. Careful packing up from programs allows more packaging from the refreshment table to be put into recycling bins;

- We conserve printer paper usage by saving scrap paper that has been previously printed on only one side. Scrap paper can be used for printing rough drafts and impermanent printed records;
- We re-use cardboard mailing boxes and bubble wrap as well as office supplies such as 3-ring binders, clip boards, and partially used sheets of mailing labels;
- We recycle toner cartridges and old electronics including computers and accessories, used batteries, and spent lightbulbs through store recycling programs;
- We use recycled paper products in the kitchen and restroom when possible; and
- We serve water from pitchers or dispensers in cups or refillable water bottles rather than offering single-use plastic water bottles.

These are just some of the ways in which we can do our part to help the environment and preserve our historic landscape at the same time.

## WHAT WAS THIS?

The SHS took a look through its collections to find examples of items that once served completely different purposes from current use. On a high shelf, slightly dusty, was this safe light from the Curt Garfield Collection. A safe light is a light source suitable for use in a photographer's darkroom. It provides illumination only from parts of the visible spectrum to which the photographic material in use is nearly, or completely, insensitive. This particular safe light was made from a wooden cigar box. There is a red cellophane panel on one side and on the interior is a candle-holder to provide the light source. There would have been a sliding lid to shut out extraneous light, but alas, the top is long missing. It is interesting to think of our former Town Historian Mr. Garfield building this out of something he recycled.



# SHS PILOTS “OUR TOWN” – A CIVICS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR 8TH GRADERS

Civics is back! In June 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) adopted a new curriculum framework for History and Social Science, including a full-year civics education requirement for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Additionally, after months of discussion and debate, a new project-based civics bill was passed by the Massachusetts House and Senate during the summer and is close to being signed by Governor Baker. In this spirit and because of its commitment to community engagement, the SHS will be piloting a civics enrichment program for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that focuses on local government and democratic practices.



An early ballot box from the SHS collection.

Our Town will take 8<sup>th</sup> grade participants through the ins and outs of town governance, including the process of researching, drafting, and submitting a warrant article and marketing and voting on its adoption in a mock town meeting. Guest speakers from the League of Women

Voters, current and former town employees and elected officials, and other guests with expertise relevant to the selected article topic, will discuss their experiences with participants and facilitators will share relevant documents and objects from the SHS collection for primary source use.

The program, slated to begin in mid-October, will take place at least twice a month on a day and time to be determined by participants. Applications are available on the SHS’s web site, or at <https://bit.ly/2MFBuFI>, and are due to the SHS by Tuesday, October 2nd. The program fee is \$100 per student for the full academic year (need-based scholarships are available). Contact Katina Fontes at [president@sudbury01776.org](mailto:president@sudbury01776.org) for more information.



A c. 1930 Town Meeting held at First Parish Meeting House after the old Town Hall burned. From the SHS Collection.

## THE SHS HOSTS HISTORY CONVERSATIONS

Founders Circle members participated in the first “History Conversations” program series on Sunday, September 9th at the home of Elin and Larry Neiterman. With the theme of New England Comfort Foods & Heritage Recipes guests sampled an array of traditional family fare made by Trustees, volunteers, and staff. From Sobaheg, a Wampanoag stew, to Tourtitere, a French Canadian meat pie, lobster pasta salad, Svensk



Kaffestuga Swedish meatballs, and Tangle Breeches cookies, there were many delicious dishes to try.

History Conversations is based upon Living Room Conversations, the phenomenon which allows a bridge across issues that may divide and separate, but mostly makes people think.

Conversations provide a mechanism for engaging in friendly and meaningful discussions thereby, increasing understanding, revealing common ground, and sometimes leading to solutions. As the SHS strives to maintain a dialogue about history’s multi-facets, future programming will emphasize the exchange of ideas along with information.



Watch for announcements about the next History Conversations program this winter.



## COLLECTIONS NEWS: NEW ACQUISITIONS: HAWES FAMILY PAPERS

Recently the SHS was gifted an extensive collection from the Hawes and Holmes family of Sudbury. We are grateful to Ashley Holmes for giving the SHS an assortment of papers, maps, photographs, books, tools, and more from her grandparents, Ralph and Agnes Hawes, and mother, Dorothy Holmes. These items join other previous acquisitions from Ralph's brother, L. Roy Hawes.



The Hawes Family c. 1930s.

Ralph and Agnes Hawes were owners of one of several carnation growing businesses in Sudbury during the early half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their greenhouses were located between Highland Avenue and Nobscot Road on what is now the present-day Springhouse Pond development (153-137 Nobscot Road). Ralph and Agnes had two children, Ralph Jr. and Dorothy.

Among the collection are Agnes' school records. Agnes was a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher before her marriage. She kept a set of class photos of her students from the 1928-29 school year. Each picture is labeled with the student's name and Agnes' picture appears along with the group. Often the SHS receives school photographs without labels so these are of particular value.

Ralph obtained his degree from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, bought property and built his flower growing business in Sudbury. Agnes kept track of their investments. They saved a WWII ration book that tells about wartime in Sudbury. Did you know that each family member got his or her own coupons?

Ralph was a member of The Grange for fifty years. He was also a founding member of the Boston Flower Exchange for sixteen years, and he served as its President and Director. During this time Ralph experimented developing new



A c. 1970s aerial view of the Hawes property and carnation greenhouses.

cultivars of carnations. There are records of Ralph winning a national prize for one of his beauties.

Later in life the family sold their extensive property which was developed as Sudbury Plaza with Shaw's Supermarket and CVS and the Springhouse Pond town homes for independent senior living. As Ashley notes, Springhouse Pond was named for the pond at the property that was hand-dug by Ralph. The family saved many of the drawings and plot plans for the development prior to and after development and these show details of neighboring property owners. This collection serves to document changes in Sudbury's landscape and we are fortunate to have these items for future researchers.

### MORE NEW ACQUISITIONS:

Our collections are growing. Our policy can be found at [sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS\\_Collections\\_Policy.pdf](http://sudbury01776.org/docs/SHS_Collections_Policy.pdf). Recently the SHS received:

- From Nancy Somers, a 1920s-era treadle Singer sewing machine;
- From Pam Duggan, a 20x20" framed aerial photo of Cold Brook Farm (Northgate Farm, 999 Concord Road);
- From Ellen Galligan Sabino, "Tales of the Wayside Inn";
- From Beverly Zioneck, 4 matted photos of Town Meeting Tonight dated 1939;
- From Sandra Gleason, Gleason and Thompson family records and photographs;
- From Amy Robinson, a washboard with "soap saver"; and
- From Deborah Drummond, impeccably preserved items found behind the staircase of her Concord Road home, including a single leather woman's shoe, boys' suspenders, boys' wool tweed newsboy hat, an intact metal tip of a bayonet, a jackknife, and a small box once containing "Dana's liver & kidney pills, price \$.25."

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



## ELLEN MORGAN

**How long have you been an SHS volunteer?** I started working at SHS in the Fall of 2008. My husband Dean died in December 2007 and I was at loose ends. I found myself going to stores just for something to do. SHS member Mary Trubiano suggested I become a member of the SHS.

There I was welcomed by Peggy Fredrickson and was promptly trained to do data entry on the collections software (Peggy had great patience). I came in regularly on Tuesday mornings, joined by Judy Merrra and Joan Schow, and we became the "Tuesday Ladies."

**What sort of work do you do at the SHS?** I type into the computer the information needed for accessioning new collections items, scan materials, and put away the objects or documents. As a result, I have a reasonable knowledge of the SHS's holdings. One recent task was to organize the flat files which hold maps and oversized documents, labeling them and creating a contents list. I also serve on the Collections Committee which decides about acquisitions and priority projects related to the archives.

I also served as a guide for Sudbury Through Time, the tour of Town Center offered annually to all Sudbury third graders. Gradually I became the tour coordinator which is great fun, valuable for kids and adults, and exhausting too. In addition, I suggested and oversaw the Town Center Tour the SHS held as part of the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. All of these tours were originally done under Peggy Fredrickson's aegis and I followed her model.

**What has been your educational/professional training and did that lead to an interest in this type of work?** I was a history major at Wellesley and minored (unofficially) in Latin. I married before my senior year and finished commuting from an apartment in town. I then taught Latin for two years at Beaver Country Day School and corrected final exams from the hospital when my eldest son was born. We moved to Sudbury in 1967 with two young children followed by a third in 1970. I volunteered at the local elementary school -- Haynes library and then Noyes -- as a tutor also. That led to working as a tutor at LSRHS for 13 years and also home visits with teens who could not attend school temporarily because of illness, etc.

**What are some new things that you learned from your work at the SHS?** Volunteering at the SHS has involved brushing up my typing skills and learning a tremendous amount of the history of Sudbury. Like most residents I was totally unaware of Sudbury's past and if asked would only have been knowledgeable about the Wayside Inn. Also, handling objects and documents from the past has been fascinating.

**What is your favorite item or items in the collection?** My favorite part of the collection are the clothes and quilts but I also am in awe of the documents from the early periods of the town. I am fascinated by all the eras of history, especially the early periods of the town and of US history.

**What are you looking forward to with the opening of the new Sudbury History Center?** I am looking forward to being able to put the collection in order and to help arrange some exhibits in better, more comfortable surroundings. It has been exciting to see the hoped for move come ever closer to reality. I genuinely expect that with the move we will have a set up that will relate to the children and adults of Sudbury in a way that has not yet happened.



## AMANDA MCKINNON

**How long have you been a volunteer at the SHS?** I have been a volunteer for 1 1/2 years.

**What sort of work do you do at the SHS?** I assist in organizing and accessioning new items that come into the Historical Society.

I also serve on the Interiors Committee for the new Sudbury History Center at the Loring Parsonage. Our focus as a committee is to ensure that the collections are well preserved in their new storage location as well as safely displayed for our visitors to see.

**What is your educational/professional training?** I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Interior Design. My previous jobs include working at an architecture firm where I design corporate office interiors.

*Continued on page 9...*



# JOHN A. MAYNARD: ACCIDENTAL HISTORIAN

By Allison Densel

“Don’t judge a book by its cover” is a phrase familiar to many. Its simple message: appearances can be deceiving, so don’t jump to conclusions. The case of the diary of John Adams Maynard, a farmer who lived in Sudbury during the 1800s, is a shining example of this principle.

A diary suggests pages full of one’s thoughts, a record of the current gossip, or deep, personal feelings. At a quick glance, it seems that Maynard’s writing is the polar opposite of that. Every page, from top to bottom, contains seemingly mundane details about each day’s weather and the state of the crops on his farm. Other than the meteorological notes, from a time when keeping official records of that kind were uncommon, at first the diary doesn’t appear to offer significance beyond data.

However, tucked into the neat rows of cursive, between reports of temperature and cloud cover, are details that, when compared to the rest of the diary’s contents, are extraordinary. These peculiar entries are a window into the everyday lives of Sudburians, providing modern historians with a first-person account of events that might otherwise remain unknown.

## EXPLOSIONS AT THE ACTON POWDER MILL

One of the first entries that stands out is that of November 23, 1870. It starts off with a (literal) bang, as Maynard writes, “Acton Powder Mill blew up ¼ before 4 a.m.,” before casually ending with “fair with clouds and S. wind.” This comes as a shock when previous entries are all about the weather. The nonchalant way in which Maynard writes about the accident makes it seem like a one-off event, nothing special, and then he is back to business as usual.

But that day in 1870 is not the only of its kind. Throughout the years, Maynard records several explosions at the mill on March 24, September 5, and September 11, 1873. The level of detail varies between the entries, but he does mention that on both March 24 and September 5, men at the factory were killed. Maynard even mentions (a few days later) the funeral of the man who died in the March 24 explosion, A.G. Fay, the mill’s owner.

Gunpowder manufacturing had been taking place in the area where Maynard lived since the 1830s. The facility that he references was part of a larger group of mills that made up the American Powder Company. This complex



One of the photographs appearing in the John Maynard exhibit now on display at the Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. Photo courtesy of Will Johnson.

stretched along the Assabet River, cutting through Sudbury, Maynard, Acton, and Concord. Explosions were common, and even made it into the personal writings of Henry David Thoreau, where they are described in much more graphic detail.

However, it was not always the big machines or the dangerous explosives that were responsible for misfortune in the area. Sometimes it was a slight oversight by one of the workers. As Maynard reports on June 26, 1873, “some men from Assabet Factory carelessly threw a match by the roadside near Joseph B. Adams’ and burned 1/8 acre at James Reilley’s woodland.”

The Sudbury Mill, which was located, unsurprisingly, on Powder Mill Road, was very close to Maynard’s property. Being in such close proximity, he would have been on the front lines when disaster struck the plant. One can only imagine how terrifying it must have been to bear witness to such tragedy.

## THE MYSTERY OF “OLD ELECTION DAY”

As Maynard’s diary was transcribed, one term kept appearing that baffled SHS volunteers. Almost every year, on the last Wednesday of May, Maynard talks about a holiday called, “Old Election Day.” It seemed to carry a significance similar to Flag Day or Patriots’ Day, with ceremonial guns being fired. People might also have taken a break from their everyday tasks to participate in recreational activities, as Maynard suggests on May 31, 1871, that bird hunting once took place on the holiday.

Still, the purpose of the day was unclear. Old Election? Old election for what? Who celebrated? Was it specific only to Sudbury? Just when it looked as though Old Election Day



was moved to January. Despite this official change, the holiday remained in May, perhaps as a way of remembering and celebrating the town's history.

But why do we not still celebrate Old Election Day? Maynard again explains in an 1874 entry, the holiday had been gradually fading into obscurity, over the course of the last 30-or-so years. He writes, "Not a gun was heard – ten years ago there were a few, twenty years ago, considerable many...thirty years, boy, hunted some, and several years after the day was changed from May to Jan. Old Election Day remained a holiday generally." But now, after so long, it has finally been brought back into the light thanks to Maynard's fastidious record-keeping – His words a reminder of the importance of preserving history.

When John Adams Maynard decided to keep a diary, he probably wasn't thinking it would survive for 130 years after his death, much less become an important artifact. He likely didn't consider that his writing, his weather observations, would be read, transcribed, and put on display. Regardless, we owe our gratitude to Maynard for keeping the history of our town. Because of his diligence we now have a better understanding of what life in Sudbury was like, from the daily forecast, to the daily news. His accounts give us an entry point into the lives of our predecessors, allowing us to rediscover pieces of history long forgotten. Without knowing it, Maynard became a Sudbury historian, disguised as a humble farmer.

John Adams Maynard was born in 1815. He lived as a farmer for most of his life and served two terms as the



Town Assessor in 1857 and 1858. At age 74 he died of edema, unmarried and living with his younger brother and sister-in-law. He is buried, along with most of his family, in the Old North Cemetery in Sudbury.

John A. Maynard's headstone in the Old North Cemetery in Sudbury. Photo courtesy of Allison Densel.

*Volunteer spotlight interview continued from page 7...*

Volunteering at the Historical Society was a new direction for me. I was looking to learn more about my community and it just so happened that the SHS has a need for the design of the new History Center. My background and the needs of the Historical Society fit well together and I am excited to bring my skills to the design of the History Center!

**What are some surprising things that you have learned from work at the SHS?** I have learned a lot about the preservation and safe handling and storage of historical items. Since each item is unique, there can sometimes be a creative way to store the item so that it lasts as long as possible.

**What items do you like to work with most?** Some of my favorite items are the dishes, china and kitchen tools. I just love imagining who may have been in the kitchen using the tools or how many family dinners the china saw.

**What are you looking forward to most when the Sudbury History Center opens?** I am very excited to be able to display some of our collections for the public to see. I believe that it is very important for our community to learn about where they are living, and the new History Center will definitely be a wonderful addition to Sudbury.

## INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

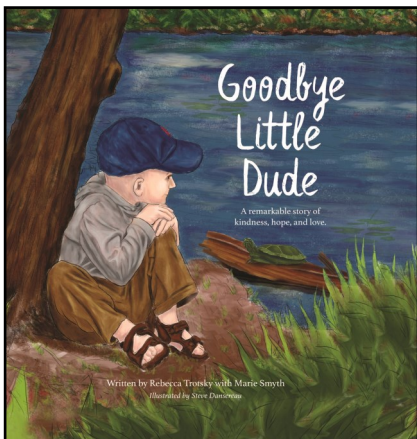
The SHS offers internships for high school and college students. Our goal would be to provide students with skills that are transferrable to various nonprofit work environments, but, while we provide job training for projects, ideal candidates would be familiar with Microsoft software, excel, and basic data entry and various technology. Access to transportation is a must given limited public transit in Sudbury. Interest in local history, genealogy, museum management, educational programming, and public speaking is desirable.

Specific needs we currently seek to fill are:

- researchers to assist with queries about genealogy;
- writers to research and write newsletter and blog articles, as well as content for Facebook and Twitter;
- graphic designers to help research current trends and methods of exhibitions and to design future displays for the Sudbury History Center;
- membership and development assistance;
- collections processing and data entry assistance.

Contact [director@sudbury01776.org](mailto:director@sudbury01776.org) for more details.

# TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR GOODBYE LITTLE DUDE



Join the SHS and Curran Press at Brush and Easel, Inc. (339 Boston Post Road) Sunday, September 30th for an author's reading of *Goodbye Little Dude*, by Rebecca Trotsky and Marie Smyth. Readings of the book will be held at 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 2:00 pm.

A paint craft will follow each reading sponsored by Brush & Easel. This is an all-ages community event!

*Goodbye Little Dude* was written in memory of Jonathan Smyth, who lived in Sudbury and attended Haynes Elementary School. Hear this beautiful story about a very special local boy, his rescued turtle, Little Dude, and a community coming together to create this book for Jonathan.

Tickets are required. Advance-purchase is recommended via Eventbrite.com. Tickets may be purchased at Brush and Easel on the day of the event subject to availability. The cost for the reading is \$40 per family (includes one signed hardcover book), plus \$10 per child for the optional paint craft, and \$25 to purchase a copy of the signed book itself.

This fundraiser will support Dana Farber pediatric cancer research and the Sudbury Historical Society. Many thanks to event sponsors: Bearly Read Books; Bridges by EPOCH; Brush and Easel; Casita; Donna Moy-Bruno of Re/Max Results Realty; Dunkin Donuts; Forever Slender Med Spa; Giorgio's Tae Kwon Do; Healing Point Therapeutics; KUMON of Sudbury; The LEAP School; Learning Express; Mark T. Wendell Tea Company; Noli Salon; Sudbury Extended Day, Inc.; Sudbury Pizza; The Paper Store of Sudbury; Tuesday Spoon Baking Company; and Viking Adaptive Martial Arts. Gratitude also goes to Curran Press, Marie Smyth, and Becky Trotsky for their partnership.

**Editor's note:** When an article appeared in *The Boston Globe* on April 3, 2018 telling the story of young Jonathan Smyth, his battle with neuroblastoma and his big-hearted rescue of the baby snapping turtle, later known as "Little Dude," it got the SHS volunteers talking. In the weeks following it was clear that everyone had been touched by Jonathan's

story and about the making of the book, *Goodbye Little Dude*, I reached out to Curran Press to see about the possibility of purchasing books for the History Center's future gift shop. But, as conversations went on, we knew we could do something more to share these events that occurred right here in Sudbury. Thus, the plan for the author's reading was hatched. We asked our community partners at Brush & Easel to help and owner Irina Tolmach was willing. It is our hope that promoting the book will help get it into the hands of others who may be coping with a goodbye and that it inspires genuine thoughtfulness and good — qualities Jonathan possessed. The *Globe* article may be found at [www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/04/03/dying-boy-found-little-turtle-their-story-now-children-book/](http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/04/03/dying-boy-found-little-turtle-their-story-now-children-book/)  
[XnAJ6ZwbB7oai1xQE8p4PM/story.html](https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/04/03/dying-boy-found-little-turtle-their-story-now-children-book/XnAJ6ZwbB7oai1xQE8p4PM/story.html).

## CONNECT + CONVERSE!

At their September 11th meeting Sudbury's Board of Selectmen issued a proclamation that September 30th, 2018 be known as "Goodbye Little Dude Day!"

## SUMMER SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all who participated in our Summer Survey. We had 93 respondents and have analyzed some of the data collected. Here are a few highlights:



- Respondents like to attend lectures (67%), but also enjoy house tours (62.6%), walking tours (54.9%), art exhibits (46.2%), antique shows (45.1%), and films (35.2%).
- Topics most enjoyed, include: history of Sudbury neighborhoods (62.6%), history of local sites (59.3%), history of specific people from/in Sudbury (40.7%), local family history (36.3%), letters and diaries (35.2%), and historic landscapes and gardens (30.8%)
- People want to receive information about programs and activities primarily through email (70.3%), the SHS Newsletter (46.2), and Facebook (40.7%).
- Program attendees overwhelmingly (77.6%) find handouts useful.

One of the more interesting things we learned from our survey is that more than half of the respondents (50.5%) are non-SHS members. This tells us that we need to encourage membership at all levels! Membership dues range from student (\$15) to family (\$50) to Founders Circle (\$100) to benefactor (\$1000) and more in between, so please spread the word!

Our Summer Survey is now closed, but we plan to design additional surveys in the weeks and months to come to help guide our programming and planning.





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

Unless noted, programs are free for members. A \$5 donation is appreciated from non-members.

For more information, visit:  
sudbury01776.org,  
Facebook.com/The01776,  
call 978/443-3747,  
or e-mail info@sudbury01776.org.

### SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, September 30 – Author’s Reading & Children’s Craft: *Goodbye Little Dude***, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, or 2:00 pm, at Brush & Easel, Inc., 339 Boston Post Road. Join the SHS and Curran Press for an author’s reading of the children’s book *Goodbye Little Dude*, by Rebecca Trotsky and Marie Smyth. A paint craft sponsored by Brush & Easel will follow each reading. *Goodbye Little Dude* was written in memory of Jonathan Smyth, who lived in Sudbury and attended Haynes Elementary School. Hear this beautiful story about a very special local boy, his rescued turtle, Little Dude, and a community coming together to create this book for Jonathan. To reserve tickets for a book reading session, the additional turtle craft, or to simply purchase a signed hardcover book package, visit Eventbrite.com. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support Dana Farber pediatric cancer research and the Sudbury Historical Society. \$40 per family (includes one signed book package), \$10 per child for the paint craft, and \$25 to purchase the book package itself. Additional books can be purchased the day of the event.

**Sunday, September 30 – The Paper Store Fundraiser – in conjunction with “Goodbye Little Dude,”** 10:00 am–6:00 pm, 435 Boston Post Road, Sudbury. Shop for cards, gifts, home décor, etc. and 10% of your purchases will support the SHS and Dana Farber pediatric cancer research.

### OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 6 – Sudbury Craft Beer Fundraiser**, 10:00 am–8:00 pm, 365 Boston Post Road, Mill Village, Sudbury. Celebrate Oktoberfest with special tastings of selections of local beer, wine, and cider! 10% of your purchases will support the SHS.

**Thursday, October 11 – Stories in Stone**, 7:00-8:30 pm, Sudbury Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. Join monument conservator Ta Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services, for an illustrated talk on early American burial grounds. Discover the meaning of symbols adorning historic gravestones and follow their evolution through society’s changing attitude towards death. Learn about geology found in local burial grounds and how the styles of stones and materials used changed with the times. Also discussed will be preservation and conservation techniques and standards which guide conservators in their work. Ms. Conde has over 18 years’ experience in her field working on projects across the nation. In Conde’s words, burial grounds are outdoor museums to the average man, accessible and open to all. The stones reveal the history of the town and the people who lived there through the stories on the stones.

**Saturday, October 13 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SHS Tag Sale Fundraiser**, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Sudbury Town Hall Lawn, 322 Concord Road. Contact Tag Sale Co-Chairs Stewart Hoover at 978-443-9023 or Ursula Lyons at 978-505-0426 for information about donating items for the sale. Volunteers are also needed to help set up, staff, and clean up from the sale as well. Great job for high schoolers needing community service!

**Saturday, October 13 – Fall Foliage Walk at Pantry Brook Farm**, 2:00-3:30 pm, Pantry Brook Farm. Visit one of the most scenic areas in town with property owner Carole Wolfe, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the Sudbury Historical Society. View historic buildings, farm fields, stone walls, and Pantry Brook, and learn about the history of the farm and Sudbury. The property is only open to the public on guided walks. Co-sponsored by the SVT and SHS. Free. Registration required through SVT at [www.svtweb.org/programs/calendar](http://www.svtweb.org/programs/calendar). 25 person attendance limit.

**Saturday, October 20 – Repair Café**, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbanks Road. Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley together with the Sudbury Senior Center and Sudbury Historical Society. Broken items get a second chance! Bring in mendable items such as lamps, gardening tools, jewelry, eyeglasses, small appliances, computers and other electronics, sewing machines, bikes, toys, outdoor power equipment, and our volunteers will attempt to repair your items. Knife and gardening tool sharpening available.

### NOVEMBER

**Saturday, November 3 – Musicians of the Old Post Road Concert, “Jefferson in Paris,”** 7:30 pm, First Parish of Sudbury, 327 Concord Road. Contact MOPR at [www.oldpostroad.org](http://www.oldpostroad.org) for tickets. Additional parking available at the Town Hall lot.

**Sunday, November 4 – First Annual Margaret Fredrickson Memorial Lecture: The History of Carding Mill**, 2:00-4:00 pm, Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Road. Join Chris Hagger, Sudbury resident and Chair of the Sudbury Historical Commission, for an illustrated talk on the history of Carding Mill, including its purchase and reconstruction in Sudbury. The Margaret Fredrickson Memorial Lecture will be held each November to honor the memory of our beloved SHS member, volunteer, and friend, Peggy Fredrickson, who dedicated many years of service to the advancement of local history education.

**Thursday, November 15 – Laurel Grove Sip & Shop Fundraiser**, 6:00-8:30 pm, 339 Boston Post Road, Sudbury. Get a head start on your holiday shopping at Laurel Grove, a home decor store featuring refinished furniture, vintage and unique local gifts. A portion of sales will support the SHS.

### DECEMBER

**Saturday, December 1 – Tree Lighting & Carol Sing with Santa and Mrs. Claus**, 5:30-7:30 pm, on the steps of Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. The U.S. Marines will collect new, unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots. Refreshments served in the Town Hall after the 6:00 lighting.

**Saturdays, December 1 & 8; Sundays, December 2 & 9 – Hosmer House Holiday Open House**, sponsored by the Sudbury Historical Commission, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, 299 Old Sudbury Road. SHS volunteers will be decorating the Parlor.

Address Correction Requested

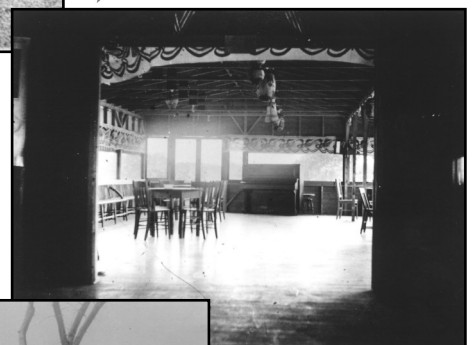
## COLLECTIONS NEWS FOLLOW UP: DAD'S WAYSIDE LUNCH

In the last issue of *Conversations* we shared a photo of a paper fan advertising Dad's Wayside Lunch. We asked if anyone knew the story of Dad's and where it stood. It pays to poke around – The answer was right under our own roof. First I found a reference for "Dad's Place" in Laura Scott's *Sudbury: A Pictorial History*, p. 119. It was located on Boston Post Road where Conrad's Restaurant is today. Dad's was a restaurant, ice cream parlor, and also a dance hall. Since the 1920s the site has held a variety of restaurants with names like McManus Ice Cream, Twin Maples, Leones, JT's, Winchester & Co., and, as of the printing of the book in 1989, Matt Garrett's. Newer residents will remember Sky Restaurant and their lobster mac & cheese. The original Dad's Wayside Lunch burned down in 1925.

About a month ago I found among the collection an unlabeled CD containing photographs, popped it into my computer, and lo and behold, these amazing photos were stored. The site was also known as Goulding's Dance Hall and we now have both interior views and scenes of surrounding farm land. Fascinating! Mystery solved.



Dad's Wayside Lunch showing the old cars and Post Road traffic of the day!



The photo above shows an interior view of Goulding's Dance Hall.



At left is what remained of Goulding's Dance Hall after the 1925 fire. The Barton Barn is visible behind on Old County Road.

CONNECT + CONVERSE!

*Do you have an idea for a History Conversations topic to help us plan the next discussion?*

E-mail [director@sudbury01776.org](mailto:director@sudbury01776.org).