



CONVERSATIONS

collecting • conserving • connecting

2020 | SPRING



The Loring Parsonage, Home of the Sudbury History Center and Museum
Pictured at top, circa 1930, and with recent renovations at bottom in 2020

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From the President

Up until a few months ago, the completion of the Sudbury History Center & Museum was on track. Now several months into the COVID-19 pandemic, our plans have been pushed back as we have been unable to access our offices due to the closure of town-owned buildings and statewide social distancing protocols. Consequently, most of our usual in-person programming and membership events are on temporary hold.

Despite this unprecedented hurdle, the generous financial contributions made by our members combined with other grants and donations have enabled us to continue to work diligently on Phase 3 of the Parsonage Repurposing Project.

Prior to the March 16 closure of our offices, we were able to install the office furniture and archive storage shelving into the second floor of the Loring Parsonage. We anticipate being able to continue to move our archives and office materials to our new offices when the pandemic stabilizes, hopefully in late June, but the timetable will be driven by the statewide, phased reopening timeline.

Additionally, I am pleased to report that a great deal of forward progress has been made in designing our welcome area and gift shop, two rotating galleries (Sudbury Foundation Gallery and the Stansky, Eaton/Keeney Gallery) and our permanent gallery (Jonathan Baggott Gallery). The latter will show a sweeping history of Sudbury from the earliest of times to the present. It will feature professionally designed wall murals, archival display cases and a digital interactive display that will allow the visitor to take a “deeper dive” into the stories displayed on the walls of

the gallery through images and content from our collections. Amazingly, all of this preparation and design has been done remotely by a dedicated group of volunteers and our new Executive Director, Rachael Robinson.

The official, grand-opening timeline will be later this year, assuming we are able to resume normal operations in the coming months.

We couldn’t have gotten to this point as an organization without your help! I further invite you to support us by renewing your annual membership, giving to our ongoing appeal, linking your Amazon account to our Amazon Smile profile, or by offering your expertise in various fields as we expand into our new location.

If you would like to reach me personally, please email me at: president@sudbury01776.org. I look forward to seeing our members over the next few months virtually and at our grand opening of the Sudbury History Center & Museum later in the year.



MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

We are pleased to welcome Rachael Robinson as our newest Executive Director! Her previous work as a Curatorial and Museum Reference Associate of the Hart Nautical Collection at the MIT Museum will bring a uniqueness to the role of Director that we need as we transition into the Sudbury History Center. She has had a wide array of leadership roles in every category that we saw as a need for our new Director in our changing organization. She has experience with programming, collections management, photography digitization and engagement with town entities and donors.

Rachael has been involved for many years as a member of the Littleton Historical Commission, as well as assisting the Littleton Historical Society on various exhibit design projects before joining the SHS in late February. It has been a rather disjointed start to her tenure, so please join us in welcoming Rachael to our organization!



LORING PARSONAGE UPDATE

The Sudbury Historical Society is in the midst of its most ambitious project to date, creating the Sudbury History Center and Museum at the circa 1730 Loring Parsonage in the Town Center.

Planning the move of the SHS offices and centuries of archival materials has taken time, but we are pleased to announce that we are close to our big transition to the Loring Parsonage!

Thankfully we were able to install our new office, research and conference room furniture, as well as our archive room storage units just prior to the shut downs caused by the Coronavirus pandemic (pictured below). We patiently wait for our moving professionals to relocate the SHS archives to their new home next door when restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic are lifted this summer. Even though we are unable to physically be on site, we continue to work on the design of our galleries (one permanent and two rotating), gift shop and welcome center remotely!

We can't wait to build out our future history center and offices into the gem of Sudbury Center and to share it with our members! Keep an eye out for updates as the grand opening comes to fruition in the fall of 2020.



JASON PARMENTER OF BERNARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS AND STODDARD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: PATRIOT & INSURGENT

an excerpt of an article written by Ralph Parmenter Bennett

If not for his role in Shays' Rebellion, Jason Parmenter, yeoman farmer, might have been recorded by history as simply a Revolutionary War veteran and one of the thousands of soldiers in Shays' Army. His arrest and trial for murder and high treason and subsequent death sentence assured him a brief time of notoriety before fading back into the obscure recesses of history. The available historical documents provide a fascinating glimpse into the life of this individual.

JASON PARMENTER⁶ (Deliverance⁵, George Jr.⁴, George Sr.³, John Jr.², John Sr.^{1,1}), the second child of Deliverance and Ruth (Hayden) Parmenter, was born at Sudbury, Massachusetts 1 January 1734 (Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850 [Boston, 1903], hereinafter Sudbury VRs, 106).

Jason died on 9 April 1807. His obituary was published in the 25 April issue of *The New Hampshire Sentinel* of Keene, "Died--In Stoddard, very suddenly on the 9th, Capt. Jason Parmenter, aged 73" (Keene Sentinel, M.F. roll #3, Keene Public Library). He is buried in an unmarked grave, among other Parmenters in Stoddard's Joslin Cemetery, near the foundations of his farm. One can envision Jason during these final quiet years at Stoddard, contemplating his adventurous life over a cup of Bohea tea.

Jason married at Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 7 March 1753 ABIGAIL FRIZEL/FRIZZELL (Franklin Rice, Vital Records of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts to the end of the Year 1849 [Worcester, Mass.:1904], hereafter Shrewsbury VRs, 200). Abigail, the fourth child of Samuel & Prudence (Flagg) Frizel, was born at Shrewsbury 27 January 1734 (*ibid.*, 37). The Frizel family were early settlers of Bernardston and Leyden, Massachusetts. Samuel Frizel appears in a town record of soldiers who served during the French & Indian Wars between 1744 and 1755, and is also listed as one of the men in a scouting company from Bernardston in 1755 (Bernardston Town Records, misc. collection, Cushman Library, Bernardston, MA).

Jason Parmenter, No. 108294, Pvt., appears on a muster roll as a resident of Petersham in a company of foot under Captain Andrew Dalrymple in Colonel Jedidiah Preble's Regiment. He served on an expedition to Canada during the French & Indian War between 20 April & 8 November 1758 (Massachusetts State Archives, Vol. 96:456, Columbia Point, Dorchester, MA, hereinafter MA Archives).

Jason returned to Bernardston by 1765. In August 1765 he appears as a grantee to a deed for the purchase of 50 acres of land in lot #29 on the east side of Bernardston from John Severance, yeoman (Deeds for Old Hampshire County, Vol. 23:46, Hampden Co. Deeds

Registry, Hampden Co. Hall of Justice, Springfield, MA).

Jason Parmenter was prominently involved in town affairs throughout his years in Bernardston. He held town office as a hog reeve in 1767 & 1771 and as a deer reeve in 1774. On 6 March 1775 he was elected constable and collector for Bernardston (Bernardston Town Records, Vol. I). At the time of the April Lexington alarm in 1775, Jason was mustered out as a Private in Captain Agrippa Wells' Co., Colonel Asa Whitcomb's Regiment on 1 May. He likely served during the siege of British occupied Boston. A muster roll and a company receipt for wages are dated at Prospect Hill near Boston (MA Soldiers & Sailors, Vol XI, pp. 937, 938). In a narrative of his Revolutionary War experience given in a petition in 1787, Jason states he "was a minute man for Col. Asa Whitcomb's Regt., Capt. Agrippa Wells' Company for eight months Service. Secondly, for the year 1776 I was engaged for three months to Ticonderogue and served out there and returned home; Thirdly in the year 1777 went to Moses Creek and was there one month and returned home". (MA Soldiers & Sailors, records Jason during this campaign as a Private, Colonel Elisha Porter's Regiment, enlisted 10 July 1777, discharged 12 August 1777). Jason's narrative continues "And then I sent my Son for three months: and in the Battle of Lake George he was taken out of time into eternity by a Cannon Ball. Fourthly I was there at the capturing of Burgoyne and then returned home again" (MA Archives, Vol. 189:356. Accounts of his Revolutionary War experience are also found in MA Soldiers & Sailors, Vol. XI, pp. 937, 938 & 941). The son of Jason killed at Lake George was his third child, Jason, b. 24 Jan.1759, who died in his 18th year (Bernardston Town Records, Book III).

Jason Parmenter returned to Bernardston and was to fight no more as a soldier of the Revolution. He remained active in town affairs. In March of 1778 & 1779 he was elected as a member of the Bernardston committee of safety & correspondence, and in 1781 & 1782 he served as surveyor of highways. He is last mentioned as holding town office in 1784 as constable for the east side of Bernardston (Bernardston Town Records, Book I). Δ



Parmenter Garfield Store / Sudbury Historical Society Collections

COPING WITH COVID

The mission of the Sudbury Historical Society is to be a comprehensive repository of daily life in Sudbury throughout time, and most especially key moments in history. The Sudbury Historical Society would like to collect real time accounts from Sudbury residents on how they are dealing with the current COVID pandemic. Submissions can be in the form of photographs, written statements (emails, physical letters), videos, creative endeavors (poems, artwork inspired by current events).

If you have anything you would like to share we would love to have it to enhance our historical collection.

Please email submissions, or links to submissions, to director@sudbury01776.org. Or mail to the Sudbury Historical Society, 322 Concord Road, Sudbury MA 01776. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

We here at the Sudbury Historical Society wish all of the members of our community, and beyond, health and strength during these challenging times. Take care of yourselves, and be kind to your neighbors. Together we will get through this.



SHOPPING WITH THE SUDBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There are some exciting new ways to support the SHS through shopping!

THE NEW ONLINE GIFT SHOP

The Sudbury Historical Society has introduced a new online giftshop that offers a limited amount of items. Visit our site at <https://sudbury-historical-society.square.site> and shop some limited wares featuring images from the SHS. This is a great way to support and showcase the SHS collections. We will be adding more items over the coming weeks and months, so be sure to check back often to see our latest additions!

AMAZON SMILE

If you're like many of us, an Amazon box on your doorstep may be a common occurrence, especially during this time at home.

But did you know that you can shop at Amazon and support the SHS at the same time? It's true! When you visit Amazon via smile.amazon.com and select the SHS as your charity of choice, the Amazon Foundation will automatically donate a portion of your Amazon purchases to the SHS.

So whether you're restocking on household staples or springing for a new set of tires, you'll be helping to promote local history and connect the people of Sudbury to our rich past every time you shop. If you need further help, please visit our website where we have a live link to the set-up. It only takes a few minutes!

Visit our homepage for instructions and further details, as well as a live link to the AmazonSmile setup.



ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXHIBITS

The Exhibits Committee has formed two separate groups, one for the permanent exhibit in the Jonathan Baggott Gallery addressing the history of Sudbury and another for the two temporary exhibits in the Sudbury Foundation and Stansky-Eaton/Keeney Galleries which will be rotated out and replaced 6 months or so after opening. The Sudbury Foundation Gallery will present the Life and Times of Israel Loring (1682-1772), the Parsonage's first occupant. The Stansky-Eaton/Keeney Gallery will present samples from the collection to illustrate its breadth and depth, as well as to gain feedback from visitors as to subjects the SHS should emphasize in subsequent exhibits.

Because of its permanent nature, the Jonathan Baggott Gallery is being refined by professional exhibits designers (Content Design) and will also feature an interactive display by Trivium Interactive, LLC, specialists in this area.

To whet our public's appetite for these exhibits which Covid 19 has delayed, we are emailing weekly installments on Sudbury's history and items from the collection via Constant Contact. This program will continue until the Opening.

- Keith Funston, Exhibits Chairman

COLLECTIONS & INTERIORS

We are 90% packed up for the move which came to a screeching halt in March. Our new home is a Town building so until they decide to re-open we are stuck. The movers have been helpful, allowing us to keep putting off the move. Specifically they are going to help with the big map cases and packing up the art. The collections are moving in their boxes or big green waterproof bins when the time comes. Each has been labeled with the floor and the room it is going to.

In the meantime, volunteers have been working on multiple projects, posts for Facebook, and our website. We have been involved in working on the Exhibit committees for the new museum. We have also reached out to the schools who were looking for some volunteer projects for students. We will let you know the results in the next newsletter.

- Beth Gray-Nix, Collections and Interiors Chairwoman

PROGRAMMING

In-person programming has unfortunately been suspended due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. However the SHS has taken steps to provide some limited virtual content to engage its community. Our Facebook page has become a place to share content, including fun interactive digital jigsaw puzzles comprised of images from our collection. Past virtual events remain available on our feed as well. Recently we have started a weekly email series titled *View From The Collections* which aims to share interesting information from our archives. We will continue virtual programming until it is safe to gather together again.

- Rachael Robinson, Executive Director

FINANCE

This has been a challenging year with the delay of the opening of the History Center and Museum, but financially we are in a strong position. We have \$192,000 in cash with about half of that reserved for the completion of the interior of the Loring Parsonage, upcoming exhibits, and creation of a giftshop. We have received a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation for MetroWest and between membership and fundraising we have raised over \$60,000 for the year. Much of this success is due to the strong support we have received from our members and friends. Once the History Center and Museum is open, we expect to see our financial position continue to become even stronger.

- Stewart Hoover, Finance Chairman

Give Your Time and Talent to the SHS!

The Historical Society is always looking for volunteers to help with every aspect of our organization from collections management, merchandizing and programming to financial management, newsletter writing, and fundraising. Whatever your talent is, there is a place for it at the SHS. We also have a couple of openings on our Board of Trustees, please contact us if you think you or someone you know has some extra time and might be a good fit.

SUDBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT FROM FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST



The Sudbury Historical Society has received a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation for MetroWest. The grant is for audio/visual equipment and development of audio/visual programming that will be used as part of the displays and exhibits in the soon-to-be-opened Sudbury History Center and Museum. The Historical Society has many recordings and videos of programs previously presented at society meetings, a number of which are in VHS format. These programs need to be edited and digitized so they can be viewed within the new building as well as online. Additionally, the Society plans to continue developing audio/visual presentations of other aspects of the history of Sudbury and the surrounding area.

This is the second time the Foundation for MetroWest has made a generous grant to the Historical Society. In 2017, the Society received a grant toward the restoration and repurposing of the Loring Parsonage into the Sudbury History Center and Museum. The Society is gratified by the Foundation's strong support over the years.

The Sudbury Historical Society is a private 501(c)3 organization, and it relies on private donations from its membership, the Sudbury community, and institutional donors such as the Foundation for MetroWest. The Society looks forward to opening the Sudbury History Center and Museum at the Loring Parsonage in Town Center in the Fall of 2020.

IN MEMORIAM OF CURT GARFIELD

Goodbye Curt , by Beth Gray-Nix

Curt Garfield passed away on May 10th. He is survived by his step children, Robert Evans, James Evans, and Mimi Byland. One of his friends remembers him as one of Sudbury's quiet celebrities. The Garfield family has lived in Sudbury for many generations. A lot of them at the house at 106 Woodland. Curt took over the house from his Aunt Lottie Smith at her death.

He was Boy Scout and rose to the "Order of the Arrow". He founded Explorer Post 2, continued as adviser and mentor to many boys. He gave SHS pictures, patches, and camping gear to help preserve their history. He moved in with a local family at age 13 and lived in their basement. He even built a totem pole in the backyard.

Curt, also known as "Frenchie" was in many memorial day parades. He was with the US Army Armored Division. He was also part of the Sudbury Companies of Militia & Minute. He had a love of Sudbury History and was an incredible supporter of the Historical Society. The group did not have a home for many years, so Curt collected and kept things from his own family and by town residents dropping things off at his house. He provided SHS with many items from hunting traps, tools, documents, and books. Everyone reports that he loved to tell stories and was a font of knowledge about local history. He took that love of history and wrote books including, "As Ancient as ThisHostelry: A History of the Wayside Inn," "Henry Ford's Boys: The Story of the Wayside Inn Boys School," and "History of Sudbury Massachusetts, 1890-1989."

I suspect that are many more great stories about Curt. Please forward them to the Historical Society so we can do justice to his memory. He will be missed.



Curt Garfield (in tan) marching in the 1968 Memorial day parade, Sudbury MA / Courtesy Dave Columbo

Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

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Address Correction Requested