

SUDBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Year in Review

2022



KEY DATES:

May 14th

Official SHC Opening Party

June 6th

Francesco Started

July 14th

First Golf Tournament

November 11th

Sudbury Road Race

December 3rd

Sudbury Holiday Village

A FEW GOALS WE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR:

- Hired A New Archivist
- Started Two New Fundraising Initiatives
- Started A Podcast
- Opened A New Children's Exhibit

History. Community. Preservation.



2023 President's Letter

For the Sudbury Historical Society, 2022 continued to be an exciting time for our organization. After many delays brought upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to celebrate the official opening of the Sudbury Historical Center and Museum with a Grand Opening Weekend in May.

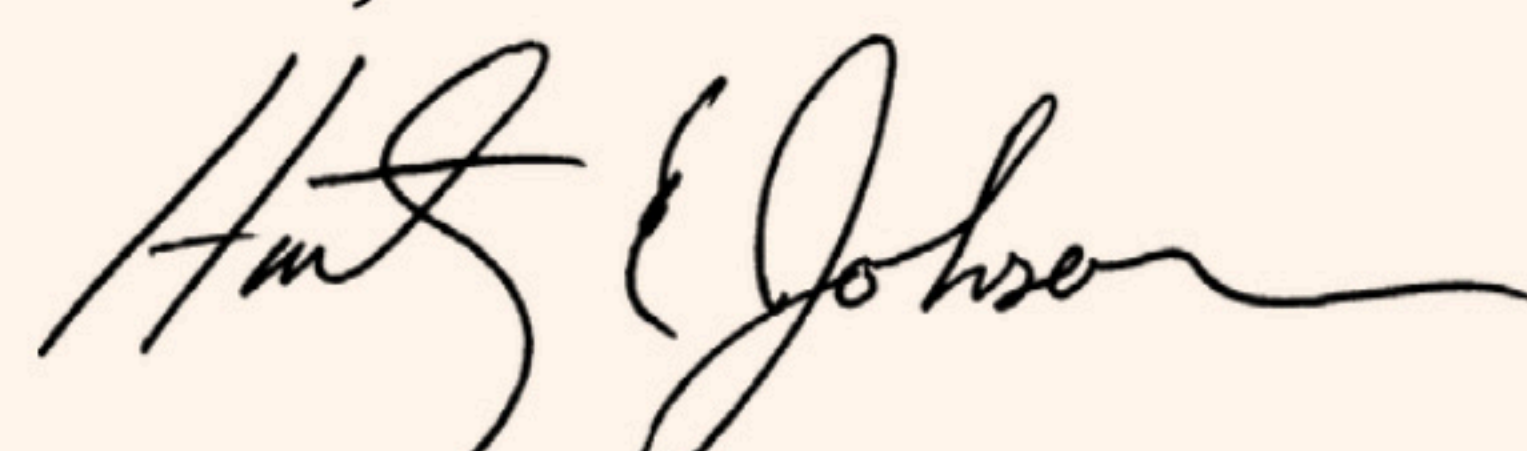
It was so great to see our benefactors, supporters, and the community as we officially welcomed all to the fabulous Loring Parsonage. The goal of “creating a museum and accessible archives” open to the residents of Sudbury and beyond was finally realized! Thank you to all past and present who helped the SHS reach this ambitious goal.

This year also marked a return to some more traditional events and lectures in person. We were glad to be able to offer our members and supporters many options as we had 5 lectures (in person and virtual), community events that included our 1st Annual Golf Outing and Sudbury Road Race, as well as our ever-popular Mount Wadsworth Cemetery Tour and Festival of Wreaths in December.

Behind the scenes, we have been working hard at organizing our archives led by our newly hired archivist, Francesco Buccella. Through a grant from the Sudbury Foundation, his hard work has allowed us to preserve Sudbury's history professionally, allowing it to be available for generations to come.

We couldn't have gotten to our current position without your help! I further invite you to support us by renewing your annual membership, shopping local at our 01776 gift shop, or by simply spreading the word about SHS events and our excellent museum. Also, please watch for our Annual Appeal, which will take place this April.

Best,



Hartley

Officers & Trustees

Hartley Johnson, *President*
Elin Neiterman, *Vice-President*
Beth Gray-Nix, *Secretary*
Diana Cebra
Keith Funston
Steve Greene
David Pettit
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William Andreas
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George Connor
Bethany Schlegel-Shaw
Taryn Trexler

Staff

Rachael Robinson
Executive Director
Francesco Buccella
Archivist

Opening Day!

Rachael Robinson

Official Opening Day celebrations were a two day affair that kicked off Friday, May 13th, with a cocktail celebration to thank all of our donors. The Sudbury Historical Society was honored to receive an official citation in recognition of opening by the State of Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives respectively. State Senator Jamie Eldridge, and State Representative Carmine Gentile's aid Ravi Simon were there to present the citations.

Day two of the celebrations included an open house on Saturday, May 14th. The Sudbury Historical Society welcomed members of the Sudbury community to come and play games, enjoy the exhibits, get their faces painted, and eat some tasty food from the food trucks that attended the event. It was wonderful to have so many people come through the doors and enjoy the new museum and gift shop.



Voices Of Sudbury

Rachael Robinson



In the early part of 2022 the Sudbury Cultural Council granted the Sudbury Historical Society funds to start a podcast, Voices of Sudbury. The objective of the podcast is to bring people together in conversation about Sudbury, and share these stories with a wider audience. Guests can come on and speak to someone from the Historical Society, or bring a guest, or guests, on and have a conversation amongst themselves.

Anyone can be on an episode!

The first episode dropped March 9th, featuring Sally Hild, and it's been plugging along ever since. Conversations have ranged from discussing the SHS's haunted doll, Anne, to chatting about one resident's life traveling abroad and how they carried their home of Sudbury with them throughout.

Recording takes place at the museum, or can also be done remotely. Guests have thus far had a great time, and found the experience to be fun.



“So excited for this podcast bringing local stories to life. Fantastic first episode. Can't wait for more!”

— Myrna Thorn, Apple Podcast Review



Episodes can be found on most podcast streaming platforms, including Apple, Google, and Spotify. Alternatively they can also be listened to straight from the Sudbury Historical Society website, on the Voices of Sudbury Page, found under the 'Virtual Sudbury' header. Liking and subscribing is highly encouraged!

Changing Exhibits

Beth Gray-Nix

The Historical Society has enjoyed presenting small exhibits to promote subjects of interest this past year. During Women's History Month, the exhibit featured three extraordinary Sudbury Women, portrait painter Florence Hosmer, teacher and amateur photographer Hattie (Harriet) Goodnow, and Honora Haynes owner of Broadacres Farm. Each one had a passion they pursued throughout their lifetime and made significant cultural contributions to Sudbury. In April there was a Patriots Day exhibit. This day celebrates the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Sudbury played its part and sent its Militia to fight. Our town Militia volunteers who reenact this special battle choose to march on the original day, April 19th. The exhibit showed the different routes they took to get there. The other picture showed the amazing gathering in 1776 at the North Bridge in Concord. In other areas of the exhibit were photographs and souvenirs of various Militia events held in Sudbury several times a year. Townspeople and visitors get to see a muster at the Wayside Inn. The Militia honors the memory of those who fought. It brings out a piece of our rich history.

The Thoreau Bird Exhibit came to us courtesy of SHS Trustee Steve Greene who has been collecting small examples of the local birds that Thoreau saw during his time in Concord. Thoreau felt that birds were an essential part of nature. The small statues show beautiful colors and intricate shapes. We are lucky to have so much conservation land in our area to make a home for them.



New Fundraisers

Elin Neiterman



First Annual Charity Golf Outing

A beautiful summer day was perfect for our first annual Charity Golf Outing to benefit the Sudbury History Center & Museum. The event was held on July 14th at the Wayland Country Club. 38 players joined us for a day of golf and fun. The event was a scramble start with 18 holes of play. The day continued with a delicious sit down lunch and the delightful craft cocktail 'The Gentleman Farmer' by Short Path Distillery. Golfers were treated to swag bags, raffle prizes, and prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and straightest drive.

We have a long list of sponsors that we would like to thank for making this event possible; Cavicchio Greenhouses, Dean Financial Group LLC, Mark T. Wendell Tea Company, Short Path Distillery, Craft Massachusetts, Fitness Together, Roche Bros Supermarkets, OVATION, Oak Barrel Tavern Sudbury, Sudbury Cedar Fence, JP Bartlett Co., The Neiterman Family, The Cebra Family, The Shaw Family, Duck Soup, Pat Sluder, Edie Kabakoff-Boynton and family, Elizabeth Gray-Nix, Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Fugakyu Cafe, and McCormick Irish Cream. Keep updated with our emails and join us for a round of golf next year!

5K Fun Walk/Run Race

Our first Sudbury Road Race was held on November 11th on the beautiful and historic grounds of Longfellow's Wayside Inn. 150 walkers and runners enjoyed the scenic route with fall colors and crisp air choosing the one mile walk/run or the 5K race. The day was full of fun with lots of families and school groups joining us. The race started at the front of the Inn, passed the Martha Mary Chapel, the Grist Mill and continued into the neighboring streets. All registrants received a t-shirt commemorating the event. Awards were given out to the top 3 finishers in the following categories; 1 Mile: Huxley Ackley, Grant Larson, Leah Larson. Women's 5k: Kate Weiler, Claire Sulkowski, Ingrid Abrahamsen. Men's 5k: Matthew Jennings, Dylan Ascese, Brian Klein. We have a wonderful list of sponsors that we would like to thank for making this event possible; Drink Simple, Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Bullfinch's Restaurant, Lynch Landscape, Unlimited Promo, Millbrook Smiles, Kathryn Lee Real Estate. We especially would like to thank the Sudbury Police Department for keeping the runners safe and the Sudbury DPW for their help with the routes. Stay up to date with our emails for the time and date when the race will be held next year.



Programming

Rachael Robinson

Programming at the Sudbury Historical Society has been varied this past year, ranging from fiddle concerts to children's candle making. Here are some of the highlights of the year, starting off with the release of *Delving Deeper*, a collaboration between the SHS and the Musicians of the Old Post Road. The SHS was delighted to be joined by the Berwick Fiddle Consort twice for concerts this past year, once in February and again in July. In April there was a week of children's programs including book binding, corn husk doll making, candle making, and a Boston Tea party. Fall programming included a lecture by public historian Richard Smith on *The Sudbury Fight*, pumpkin painting of the SHS's own grown pumpkins, another superb tour of Wadsworth Cemetery, and a lecture by Steve Glovsky of Wayland on the Henry Knox Trail.

Social Monday's are also held on the first Monday of the Month, and these are an opportunity for people to gather and have coffee and meet other likeminded members. Coffee and baked goods are provided, and the timing runs from 10:30am-noon. Please stop by to chat about history, Sudbury, current events, or whatever else is on your mind!



SOCIAL MONDAYS

Join us on the first Monday of the Month for coffee, tea, pastries, and history!



Play With History!

Rachael Robinson



Generations can come together in one exhibit to share experiences and create new memories.

‘So long!’ to the wonderful exhibit on historic house building and the Loring family that was on display in our Sudbury Foundation Gallery. Now the gallery features Play With History! Which is an interactive exhibit for children to engage with some historical aspects of Sudbury’s identity through play. Children of all ages are welcome to come and play with a wide variety of telephones on display. They can create art, write letters to post in an historic postal box, and pretend to be at school. Children can learn about what farming means to Sudbury, and then ‘plant’ and ‘harvest’ vegetables. They can learn about trains, and create their own track system, as well as run a historic general store. This is a wonderful way to engage children through learning and play.



Sudbury Holiday Village

Leila Frank

It was a warm and rainy day in December, but, while the weather may not have been seasonal, Sudbury's Holiday Spirit would not be deterred. The excitement kicked off with the arrival of Santa Claus on Sudbury's gleaming No. 2 Ladder Truck. While Santa ducked into the Presbyterian Church to prepare for his visitors, a crowd gathered about the fire truck, with event goers young and old climbing in the truck and chatting with the crew. Police and DPW vehicles and staff were also on hand for the afternoon's damp touch-a-truck activities. Over at Grange Hall, the upstairs was warm and cozy with Goodnow Library's Miss Amy holding a song and story time. The Book Nook was also there, selling an assortment of holiday books for all ages in support of the Library, as well as the Girl Scouts, who sold out of their delicious home-baked treats. An undaunted dance troupe from The Performing Arts Collaborative were dancin' in the rain by the steps of Town Hall. Across the street, The Hosmer House was open for guests with decorated Christmas trees in every room, and First Parish hosted a Soup on the Rocky Plain. Here at the Sudbury Historical Society, visitors enjoyed the interactive new "Play with History" exhibit, purchased wreaths and created their own at the "Festival of Wreaths" and perused The 01776 gift shop.



A tremendous thank you to all of the volunteers who made the event possible and to all the attendees who brought holiday magic to a soggy afternoon.

Collections

Francesco Buccella

Through the generosity of The Sudbury Foundation, I joined SHS in May and have been working diligently to further organize and preserve our collections that hold the history of Sudbury. Now that the home of SHS is Loring Parsonage, a daily goal has been to ensure that every object has a safe place to be preserved within the new space. The larger goal is to make the collections even more accessible and discoverable for all visitors and researchers, both current and future ones.

At the end of every workday, great progress is visible, and it will be rewarding to see more and more researchers diving into our history-filled materials. The collections have been receiving museum-quality treatment to match the level of our museum-quality galleries.

Archival-approved supplies are used exclusively, and priority is always placed on proper care and handling procedures. Preserving our collection objects means preserving the history of Sudbury.

With a background as an art historian, as well, I have been personally impressed with the artistic output of Sudbury residents that can be encountered in our collections. Allen. Coleman. Hosmer. Sherman. Some truly talented artists have come from the town! There are portraits that express the raw emotion of the sitter, photographs that capture the character of the town, and drawings that are examples of a high level of skill. Our portrait of Honora Haynes by the noted William McGregor Paxton (1869-1941)—although not a Sudbury artist—is also a fine example of artistic talent in the pastel medium.

Another strength that I have noted in our collections is the scrapbooks compiled

over the years by Sudbury residents: Hall. Johnson. Powers. Tallant. At first glance, the scrapbooks seem to be jumbled, nonsensical sets of random newspaper and magazine clippings; however, they are highlights of important figures and timelines of crucial events that comprise the history of Sudbury. So much historical information can be gleaned even from just a quick perusal.

We also happily welcomed two new volunteers in 2022: Anya Morris and Mirca Sghedoni. Anya has been working hard to organize our large collection of Sudbury Town Crier photographs, while Mirca has delved into a recent acquisition: the Walker Family papers, some of which date from the Colonial Era. We are grateful for their continued assistance. We hope you will enjoy a before-and-after photograph of one of our reorganized collection storage areas! We are eternally grateful to the late Kevin Shaw for that day when he led the charge to move those heavy boxes and racks, which was no small feat. The area is now much more spacious and accessible thanks for his efforts. We are looking forward to more and more improvements in 2023!



After & Before



Kevin Shaw

Rachael Robinson

On October 14th the Sudbury Historical Society received word that our treasurer, Kevin Shaw, had been tragically killed in an accident. The news was difficult and for many days felt unbelievable. The SHS is no stranger to loss, but this was sudden and something no one was prepared for.

Kevin joined the board in 2018, becoming treasurer in 2020. With his techno-wizardry, he made a lasting impact on new ways of doing business, especially during the pandemic shutdown. Kevin was humble, almost to a fault, about his skills and was always apologetic that he wasn't 'giving enough time' to specific projects. He gave more than he will ever know. Kevin was an affable person who could talk to anyone, and it always felt like a genuine connection. He had a can-do attitude that genuinely made it seem like with him at the helm of a project anything was possible. But more than just our loss this is a true loss for the Sudbury community and the world at large. Kevin along with his family, wife Bethany, and daughters Violet and Alexa, were the 2022 recipients of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year award.

Truly a family award, community has been a central focal point for the Shaw's since they put down roots in Sudbury a decade ago. Bethany, a tremendously skilled artist, has lent her expertise to the SHS numerous times throughout the years. The SHS logo featuring our new home of the Loring parsonage is a shining example of her work. We are so grateful to have had Kevin as part of our organization, we are the better for it.



*"The heart, like the mind, has a memory.
And in it are kept the
most precious keepsakes."*

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



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**DON'T FORGET
TO BECOME A
MEMBER OR
RENEW TODAY!**

To learn more about archival donations, volunteer opportunities and financial donations please contact us at: director@sudbury01776.org
www.sudbury01776.org