



# Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

## NEWSLETTER



April - June, 2003

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Vol. 4, No. 2

### Officers & Trustees of Sudbury Historical Society 2002 - 2003

#### President:

Peggy Fredrickson

#### Secretary/Clerk:

Ursula Lyons

#### Treasurer:

We Need One!

Ellen Cron

Betsy Gottberg

Bob Gottberg

Victor Guethlen

Mary Ellen Hoover

Priscilla Linden-Demers

Virginia Maenpaa

Muriel Plonko

Nancy Somers

Cynthia Stocking

Maggie Surwilo

Nancy Vanderslice

Kirsten van Dijk

#### Honorary Trustee:

Curtis Garfield

Town Historian

#### Curator/Archivist

Lee Swanson

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### *From the President*

The people of Sudbury seem to have a tradition of enjoying research. Some people are able to do it and others form an appreciative audience. Excellence and thoroughness have characterized the unique presentations at Historical Society meetings. The Society serves the community well by locating and by doing original historical research and by providing a forum for presentation.

Original research about Sudbury has been presented at the winter programs. The Program "Slavery in Sudbury?" explored a subject little known and quite surprising. The Ralph Adams Cram program brought to light a world famous architect who had a home in Sudbury but seemed to be better known in Boston than in Sudbury. The "Vision for Route 20" juxtaposed historic old pictures with a vision for future revitalization of the business corridor. Each of these programs was presented by the person who had actually done the research and who was personally interested in the subject.

Programs are selected in August for the coming year, but suggestions are welcome anytime. Please contact Ursula Lyons or Lee Swanson if you know of any more 'local treasures' who might share their research at future SHS programs or if you have an idea for a future program. Thank you.

*Peggy*





## Donations since December, 2002:

Mary Ellen Hoover	"Sail Magazine"; "Four Dark Days," Mass. Commemorative Bicentennial; Town Warrant and Reports
Virginia Maenpaa	"Echoes"-History of LSHRHS (1954 – 1994)
John Bartlett	"The Waysiders" by R.L. Gardner
Ellen Richardson Glueck	Antique Hunt/Oviatt Doll Bed with Bedding
Mary Jane Hillery	Little Red Bible, inscribed in gold with "Dexter C. Jones"
Donel Roberts	Miscellaneous pictures used in <i>Sudbury Citizen</i> newspaper; 1965 Ration Board
Janet Alford	Instruction Book; 1971 Sudbury Compilation Project Report; 1972 LSRHS History Report; 1972 Job Description of Town Employees; Assorted Town Reports, Warrants and List of Persons
	Award Letters from Sudbury H.S. 1939-1940; Grange Ribbon
	Handbills and Posters from three Sudbury Players' plays



Acquisitions - Hunt/Oviatt doll bedstead and bedding with Mary Ellen Hoover and Ginny Maenpaa.

## V O L U N T E E R S



Loan Program - Betsy and Bob Gottberg with drawing by Helene Sherman, one of 23 artworks available for loan.

## Special Thanks to Volunteers

Thank you to volunteers Nancy Hamill and Denise Nurney for helping Betsy Gottberg setup refreshments; to Bill Andreas who is helping with our computers; to Royce Kahler for his continued help with archaeology and to SHS President Peggy Fredrickson who has been assisting the Treasurer's Committee by doing the data entry for the new Peach Tree Software accounting system. As Curator Swanson has stated several times, "We wouldn't survive without them." We wouldn't survive without you either, Lee!!

## SHS' Wish List

- ♦ Silk thread for repairing antique clothes and textiles
- ♦ Donations towards SHS's \$50 membership in the New England Historic Genealogical Society
- ♦ Modern flat file cabinet to hold historic maps, the largest being 36" X 48"
- ♦ Publisher (software by Microsoft) for Windows 98
- ♦ Laptop Computer
- ♦ Memorabilia from former Sudbury businesses
- ♦ ANYONE WHO CAN HELP WITH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH



## *IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.....*

### **January 19 was Ralph Adams Cram Day in Sudbury**

Over 400 people braved the cold and the snow to attend the Open House at the newly restored mansion on Concord Rd. named 'Whitehall' by noted American Gothic architect Ralph Adams Cram who spent summers there from 1910 until his death. The current owners of the mansion, Touchstone Realty, Inc., served 'wine and cheese' to all the guests. Local artists displayed their works in several rooms as people went on a self-guided tour. Everyone was pleased with the event and a few days later the floors were once again clean and polished for prospective buyers!

The program co-sponsored by the Friends of the Goodnow Library and the Sudbury Historical Society, "The Sudbury Savant" at the Goodnow Library, had an overflow crowd to hear architect Ethan Anthony's slide/ lecture of the life and works of Cram. The Ralph Adams Cram Exhibit in the upstairs Ramp Gallery at the library continues until April 1.<sup>st</sup>

In **February** a large audience at Town Hall heard Wayland resident Jane Sciacca give a very informative lecture on slavery in Sudbury. She 'named names' and spoke of the lives of the slaves who lived in Sudbury during the Colonial period until slavery was prohibited in Massachusetts in 1783.

The SHS **March** program, "A Vision for Route 20: How it Was and How it Can Be" was skillfully presented by Sudbury resident Cheryl Salatino, a Radcliffe Landscape Design Program graduate, who has developed a workable plan for transforming the disconnected Route 20 commercial district into a desirable destination for residents, shoppers, visitors and area workers. SHS Curator Lee Swanson aided Cheryl with her visual presentation. We all want to believe that Cheryl's vision will one day become a reality!

NOTE: ALL THE SHS PROGRAMS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN SHOWN ON LOCAL CABLE TV AND ARE AVAILABLE ON VIDEO TAPE AT THE LIBRARY.



Jane Sciacca speaking at the February Program on Slavery in Sudbury.

### *What's Hot??*

- ♦ The book "History of Sudbury: 1890-1989" by Town Historian Curt Garfield has the distinction of being "the book that started the search for Babe Ruth's piano". As recently as February 9th, the quest to find Babe Ruth's piano has made headlines in the Los Angeles Times Sports section and the Washington Post Magazine, not to mention earlier articles in every major city in the US and on major TV Stations, including the Today Show. This Spring there will be another attempt to find the elusive piano alleged to be in Willis Pond. Stay tuned. To order copies of the book that tells the Babe Ruth 'piano' legend (Call SHS at 978-443-3747, \$12.60 (\$15 if mailed).
- ♦ Grinding Stone commemorative cup plates from the Historical Commission. They are available at Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor for \$10 plus tax.
- ♦ Four - color laser copy 1875 de Beers Atlas map of Sudbury and Maynard, with an explanatory key (unframed -\$31.50; framed \$52.50)



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13** - 3:00 pm, Goodnow Library: "Clickety- Clack on the Railroad Track - History of the Wayland/Sudbury Railroads" by Rick Conard; followed by a short walk to the railroad section house museum on Route 20 (Courtesy of the Sudbury Historical Commission).

**SUNDAY, MAY 4** - 2:00 pm. Bus Tour – "Abandoned Sudbury - Part IV" Southwest Corner of Sudbury-Forgotten Stories of Henry Ford's Estate. Meet behind Town Hall at 1:45 pm. This program has sold out every year so make your reservations early by sending a check (\$10 – members; \$15 - non-members) to SHS, P.O. Box 233, Sudbury 01776. Make check payable to Sudbury Historical Society.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8- ( RAIN DATE June 15<sup>th</sup>)** - 3:00 pm, Town Hall. Annual Meeting and election of officers followed by a self-guided "Walking Tour of the Sudbury Town Center History Trail" with historic guests at each stop!! (See article on p. 5.)



Winnie Grinnell and Sandra Clement at the end of the Sudbury Town Centre History Trail with the Presbyterian Church and Grange Hall in the background.

## AREA PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

**Marlboro Historical Society**, Rice Homestead, 377 Elm Street. Call 508-460-3499 for more information.

\*"Elegant Cake Social" on Sunday, April 6th, 2:00 pm

\*Program on nearby Towns (Milford & Hudson) Tuesday, April 22nd, 7:30 pm

\*"Reading the Landscape of New England" by Diana Muir, Tuesday, May 27th, 7:30 pm

\*Flowing through History on the Sudbury River & History of a Milltown: Maynard, Tuesday, June 24th, 7:30 pm

**Stow Historical Society**, at Stow Town Hall, Route 117.

\*Saturday, May 10th, 4:00 pm. "The Magnificent History in New England Stone Walls", by Robert M. Thorson, author of "Stone by Stone". For more information, call 978-897-5996.

## Memberships Keep Growing!

*SHS Launches Drive for Business Memberships!*

The SHS membership list has grown to 154 memberships with over 600 people on the general mailing list. Membership runs from September 1 – August 31, so if you know anyone interested in becoming a member, please call 978-443-3747 and leave a message for Mary Trubiano. The SHS Business Membership Committee has been meeting to plan a business membership drive for next year. Special incentives will be offered. So far Cavicchio Greenhouses and Wingate Nursing Home have joined the Society! If anyone would like to help contact local businesses, please call 978-443-3747.

**Did You Know???** There is a 17<sup>th</sup> century small pox graveyard located along the '30 rod road' belonging to the Knox Trail Council of the Boy Scouts adjacent to the Town of Sudbury's Tippling Rock Trail. As of 1930 there were six gravestones listing the name and date of death of early Colonial settlers who died from small pox. The gravestones have disappeared although we believe that a nearby house has one of them. Anyone who has any information of the whereabouts of these gravestones should contact the SHS so that we may assist the Boy Scouts in placing the gravestones in a protected display at the site.



## *Curator's Corner*

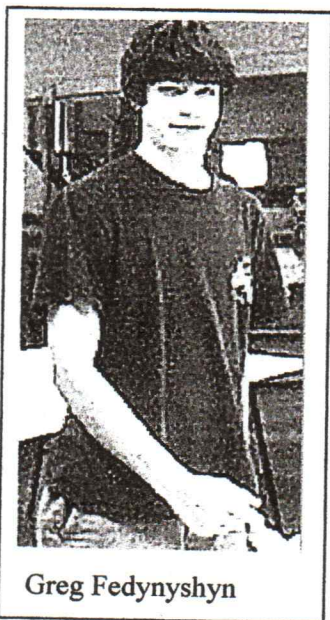
I want to thank ALL the people who have given the Society so many items over the last year, let alone in previous years. Our Past Perfect software allows us to do all the tracking and creates the paperwork that you will be seeing in your mailbox soon. The more volunteers we have entering data the faster this will go especially with our new 3.0 update. Please volunteer to work here. (I will adjust my hours accordingly.)

Pictured below is last summer's volunteer intern, Greg Fedynyshyn, who accomplished so much working here on many different projects. He is available to work here this summer but he needs money for books for his first year at college. Thus the Society is seeking funding via grants or perhaps some generous members could help sponsor his internship at \$10/hr. (Call me at 978-443-3747 for details and cost.)

Nametags have finally become a reality thanks mainly to the efforts of Mary Trubiano, Ginny Maenpaa and the Past Perfect Company who worked with me on this project. When you come to the next SHS meeting, pick up your new nametag and get to know others in the Society. Just remember to return it to the basket afterwards!!

In February I resigned as a Trustee to allow that I may be paid in the near future without being in conflict of interest as a Trustee. I will continue to attend Trustees' meetings but I cannot vote. That's all for now.

*Lee*



Greg Fedynyshyn

## *Save The Date - June 8 - For A Special Walking Tour Around the Town Centre!!*

How many times have you driven past the Town Centre (historical spelling) and barely noticed the many historic buildings and parks if at all!! If you have, you're not alone. Well, SHS is proud to announce the first of many self-guided walking tours around the Town Common, thanks to Sudbury landscape Designer Maria von Brincken.

The Sudbury Town Centre History Trail in Maria's own words, is a "museum without walls, an outdoor classroom, but most importantly, a vehicle to pass on Town memories." The shortest (of three) walk would take in the buildings and sites surrounding the Town Common and will be featured at the SHS Program on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, beginning and ending at Town Hall. This tour will be unique because of the 'invited guests' from the past and present who will briefly explain each of the ten sites around the Common. Join us on June 8<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate for the first time the hidden charms of the Town Centre! Refreshments will be served afterwards at Town Hall.

## *1850 Friendship Quilt May be Returned to Sudbury*

Are you related to anyone who lived in Sudbury during the 1850's? If so, you may be especially interested in knowing more about the status of what appears to be a rare 'find' which will hopefully return to Sudbury.

In 1850 a group of 63 women, mostly from Sudbury, contributed personalized squares to a large pink Friendship Quilt coverlet on both sides which Lucinda Brown assembled. The purpose of the quilt is uncertain but the estate of her great grand-daughter, Mary Thompson Howe, sold the quilt and it was found in a flea market in Mississippi in 1975 by David and Marian Spitzley now living in Grosse Point Park, Michigan. For the last 27 years the Spitzleys have stored the quilt in their home and have done some research on its origins. On February 21, an Internet message came to the Sudbury Historical Society (via the Historical Commission) that the quilt was for sale. Pictures and information related to the various women who contributed to the quilt were also received. Our enthusiasm is growing daily and Trustees are meeting to plan the next steps toward purchasing the quilt. The SHS believes, as do the owners, that the quilt should be returned to Sudbury where ALL residents may view the 63 signatures and sentiments which so many Sudbury women wrote. If you would like to support our effort to bring the quilt back to Sudbury or participate in researching the quilt or quilt-makers, please call 978-443-3747.





**Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.**

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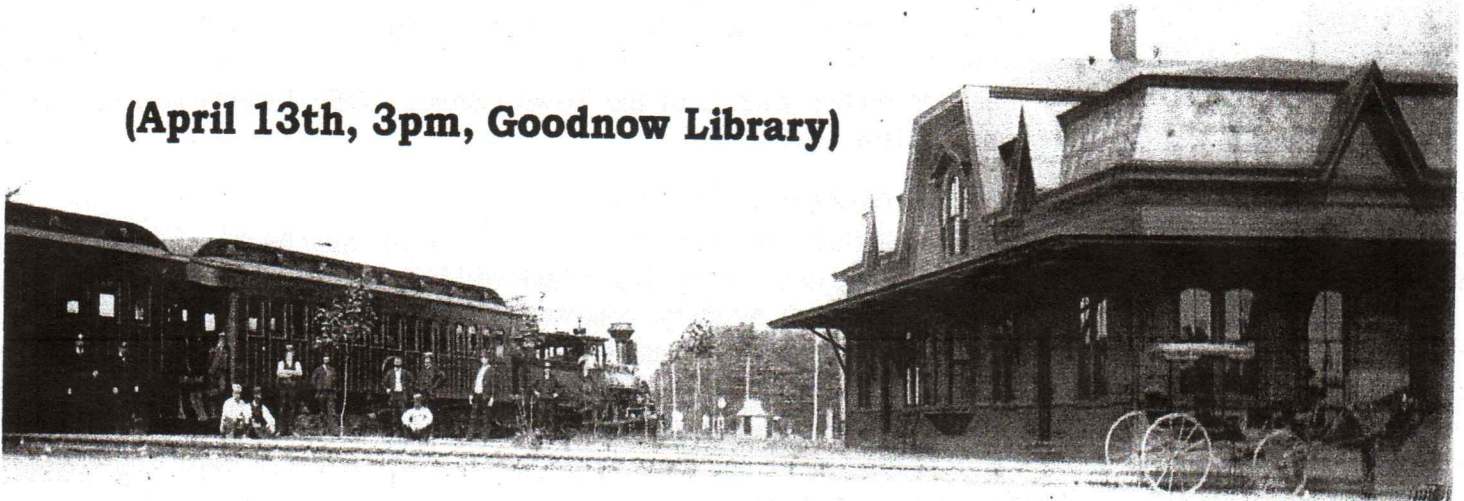
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## ***NEWSLETTER***

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### **All Aboard! To SUDBURY**

**(April 13th, 3pm, Goodnow Library)**



Join us on April 13th, 3:00 pm at the Goodnow Library to learn more about the history of the Wayland / Sudbury Railroads, followed by a tour of the nearby Railroad Section House Museum on Route 20.