



# A Year in Review 2024

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Each year we take a look back at what we accomplished as an organization.

We delight in remembering old events that same long ago, and get excited at the prospect of doing them all over again in the coming year.

Join us as we talk a little stroll down memory lane.

[www.sudbury01776.org](http://www.sudbury01776.org)





## Table of Contents

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**Sudbury Historical Society**  
288 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776  
Sudbury01776.org  
978/443-3747

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
|                           | <b>Page 2:</b>  |
| Letter from the President |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 3:</b>  |
| Boston Post Cane          |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 4:</b>  |
| Collections               |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 5:</b>  |
| Fundraisers               |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 6:</b>  |
| Events                    |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 7:</b>  |
| Exhibits                  |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 8:</b>  |
| Kiosk                     |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 9:</b>  |
| Upcoming Books            |                 |
|                           | <b>Page 10:</b> |
| A Look Ahead              |                 |



# A Letter To Our Supporters



For the Sudbury Historical Society, 2024 continued to be an exciting time for our organization. Open for over 4 years now, the Sudbury History Center & Museum continues to be the pride of Sudbury Center's Historic District. Each day we continue focus on our mission to "educate and interest the citizens of Sudbury in a finer public spirit, through understanding of the traditions and history of the town.

It has been great to see our benefactors, supporters, and the community over the past year at our numerous community events and program lectures. In 2024 we were able to offer our members and supporters many options as we had 4 lectures (in person and virtual), community events that included our 3rd Annual Golf Outing and ever expanding Sudbury Road Race! In December, we welcomed the community to our museum and gift shop in conjunction with Sudbury's Holiday Village. Finally, the presentation of the Boston Post Cane has returned and we are so excited to continue this tradition. All were organized by our Executive Director, Rachael Robinson and brought to fruition by hours of work by dedicated SHS volunteers. Thanks to all!

The ambitious goal of "creating organized and accessible archives" open to the residents of Sudbury and beyond has been completed! Led by our Archivist, Francesco Buccella, our archives and collections can now be viewed online. Through a grant from the Sudbury Foundation, his hard work allowed us to preserve Sudbury's history professionally, allowing it to be available for generations to come. Visit our website today to see the culmination of this multi-year project.

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. We will have so much more to offer in 2025, so make sure to keep in touch.

*Hartley E. Johnson, President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hartley E. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



# THE BOSTON POST CANE

## Sudbury Boston Post Cane Awarded to 104-Year-Old Ruth M. Brown

Joe Bausk  
Elin Neiterman  
Sudbury Historical Society

Francesco Buccella  
Rachael Robinson

Beth Gray-Nix

Sudbury Historical Society Boston Post Cane Committee

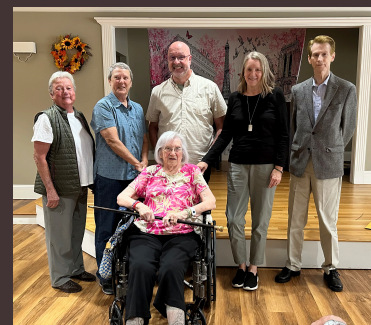
October marked the revival of a longstanding Sudbury tradition: the Boston Post Cane was awarded to Ruth M. Brown, the town's most senior resident at the age of 104!

A native of western New York, Ruth M. Ray was born in 1920 and later married Joseph "Joe" Brown in 1944. They had five children together and moved to Sudbury in 1959, spending the rest of their seventy-six years of marriage here. Ruth pursued a career in clerical work, initially with the Bell Aircraft Corporation in Rochester, New York, and then for the Town of Sudbury Public Health Nurses Association.

Over the years, Ruth has been a superbly active participant in the local community. She was part of the Sudbury Business and Professional Women Club, Sudbury Woman's Club, the Town of Sudbury 350th Committee, and the Wayside Inn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as a proud member of the Sudbury Historical Society and the Memorial Congregational Church of Sudbury. After much genealogical research, Ruth was even able to link her ancestors back to Edmund Rice, the founder of Sudbury, which led her to join the Edmund Rice Association.



Ruth Brown After the Awarding of the Cane by Joe Bausk (2024)



Ruth Brown Holding the Cane with Family (2024)



William Phelps Jones with the Sudbury Boston Post Cane (1909)  
Gift of Ralph Parmenter Bennett, inv. no. 2024.028.0011



Sudbury Boston Post Cane Handle  
Transferred from the Town of Sudbury, inv. no. 2023.014.0001

In 1909, Edwin Grozier (1859-1924)—then owner of the Boston Post newspaper—established the Boston Post Cane prize to honor the oldest inhabitant in towns across Massachusetts. Grozier commissioned Fradley and Company of New York to manufacture the canes, each identical in design. The shafts were made from ebony indigenous to West Africa and the handles were composed of fourteen-carat gold with town names inscribed.

The Sudbury Boston Post Cane was first awarded to William Phelps Jones (1820-1911) in that initial year and the tradition has been awarded on and off throughout the years. Now that the cane is well preserved as part of the Sudbury Historical Society archives, we plan to carry on this tradition for years to come.



Ruth Brown with Beverly Anderson and Harriet Ritchie  
at a Meeting of the Sudbury Woman's Club (1994)  
Gift of Suzanne F. Steinbach, inv. no. 2021.014.0001



Ruth Brown Preparing Pie Crust  
at a Meeting of the Sudbury Woman's Club (1994)  
Gift of Suzanne F. Steinbach, inv. no. 2021.014.0002

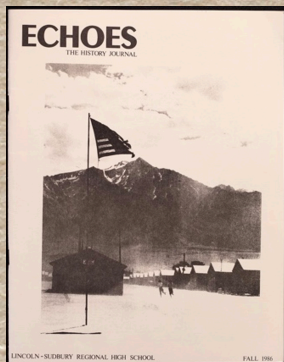


# FRIENDS OF THE SUDBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

We would like to express our gratefulness to the following individuals and families for expanding the collections at the Sudbury History Center and Museum this year through their donations of a wide variety of material from documents to photographs and everything in between! Thanks to their generosity, our collective knowledge of the history of Sudbury continues to be enriched. We continue to catalog, digitize, and preserve these objects for generations to come. Be sure to visit our collections online to see all the wonderful objects that have been donated at <https://sudbury01776.catalogaccess.com/>

With sincere gratitude,  
**Francesco Buccella**  
 Archivist

William Schechter

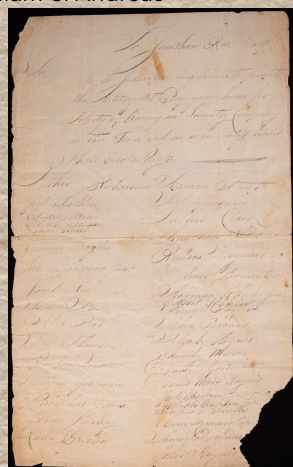


Echoes: The History Journal (1986)  
 Issue by Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School  
 The Schow Family

Judith Allen Roberts



Boston and Maine Railroad Section House, South  
 Sudbury  
 Photograph by Clayton F. Allen  
 William S. Andreas

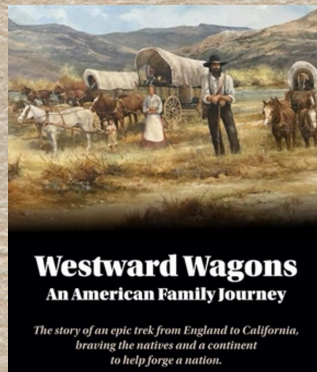


Letter from the Town of Sudbury to Jonathan Rice  
 (c. 1775)

Document concerning the American  
 Revolutionary War  
 Michael Fitzgibbons  
 Anne E. Gibson



Hunt House, Sudbury (2003)  
 Watercolor by Anne E. Gibson  
 Russell E. Goodenough



Westward Wagons: An American Family  
 Journey (2022)  
 Book on the Goodnow Family by Russell E.  
 Goodenough

Mark W. Lewis  
 Diane Loomis  
 The McClure Family  
 Janis A. Milroy  
 Ralph Parmenter Bennett  
 Douglas K. Parsons  
 Andrea J. Roessler

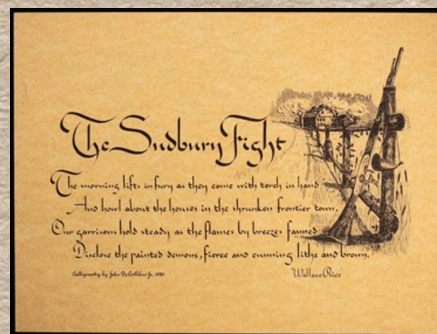


Official Candy Salesgirl Pin (c. 1965)  
 From the Sudbury Camp Fire Girls  
 Thomas Sabourin  
 Barbara A. Bahlkow



Town of Sudbury 350th Anniversary Patch (1989)  
 Featuring the Wayside Inn Grist Mill

Joseph D. Bausk, The Colantuono Family,  
 Deborah Cooper Crane, Melinda J. Davies  
 John J. DeCollibus



The Sudbury Fight  
 Designed by John J. DeCollibus

Barton Barn, Sudbury (1976)  
 Painting by Ira R. Amesbury  
 Jane H. Sciacca  
 Patricia M. Sluder  
 Leo F. Zschau



Sudbury Ancient Fyfe and Drum Companie  
 Medallion  
 Designed by Les Longworth and cast by William H.  
 Vollheim



# FUNDRAISERS

In 2024 we held two community fundraisers. We held our 3rd Golf Tournament and 3rd Annual Sudbury Road Race.



A little overcast, but good running weather for participants and spectators alike!



Our golf tournament took an interesting turn this year. Instead of the usual 18 holes, we played only 9 before enjoying a delightful evening dinner and a raffle drawing. We were thrilled to have a fantastic number of players and dinner guests. The LS Boys golf team emerged as the champions, even scoring a hole-in-one!



Our Annual Sudbury Road Race took place on November 11th. This year, we had 257 runners and walkers participating in both the 1 mile Fun Run and the 5K race. The event was once again hosted at Curtis Middle School, and we were fortunate to have excellent weather for the run. A huge thank you to all who joined us!



The goodest supporter on the course!



Our happy runners!

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Thank you to our sponsors and raffle prize donators!



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# EVENTS

The SHS was delighted to participate in the first Earth Day celebration organized by the Town of Sudbury!

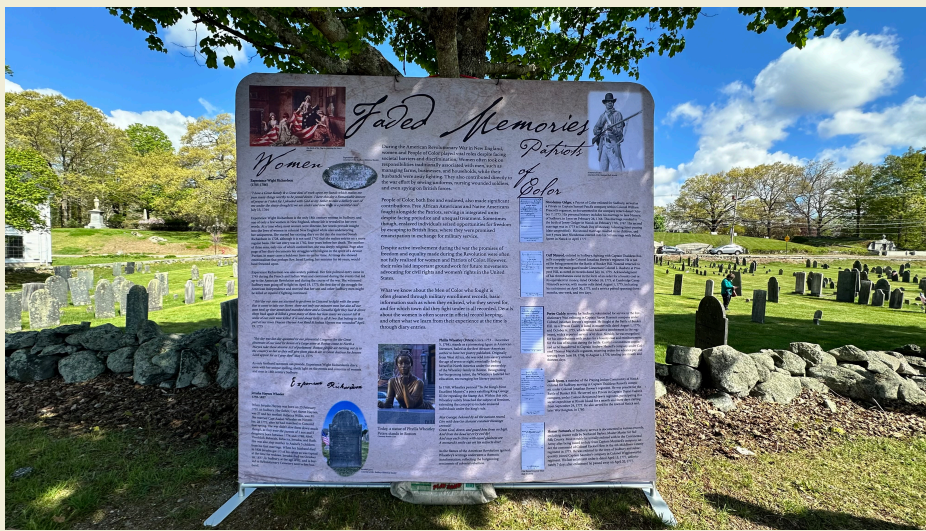
**SUDBURY** SATURDAY  
**EARTH DAY** APRIL 20, 2024  
 10AM - 2PM  
 Town Center  
 322 Concord Rd, Sudbury

Come and learn what YOU can do to help protect our planet.



**EARTH FAIR**      **LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**FARMER'S MARKET**      **RECYCLED CRAFTS**  
 AND MORE!

 [SUDBURY.MA.US/EarthDay](https://SUDBURY.MA.US/EarthDay) 

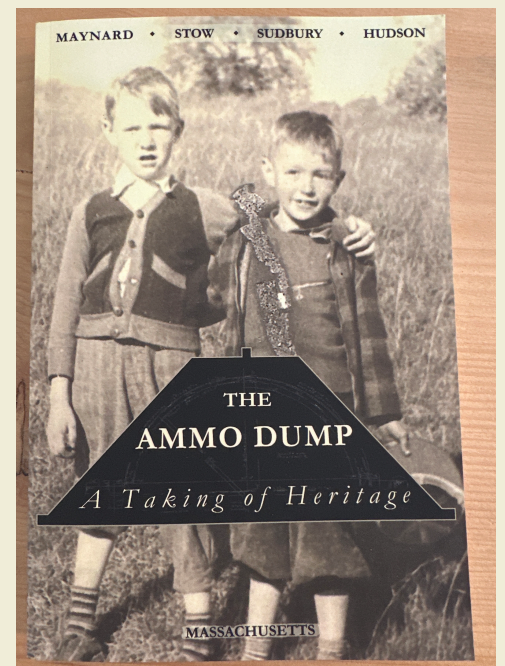
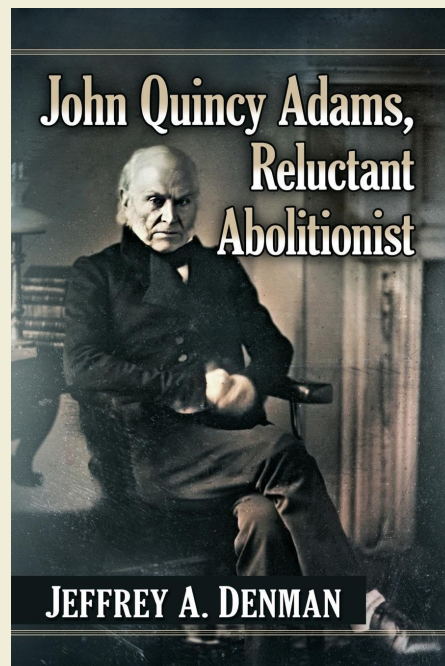
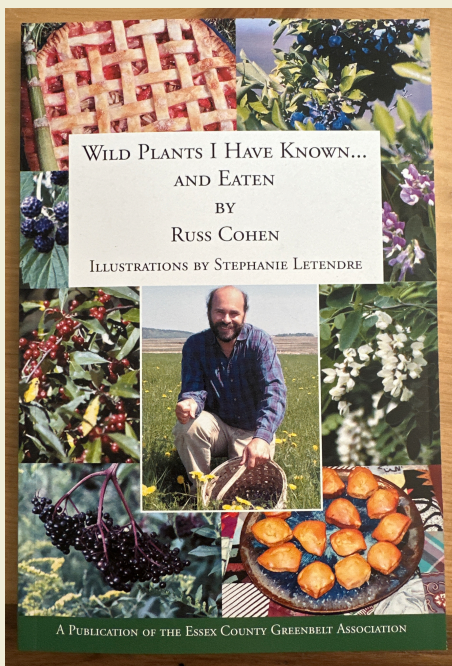


In May the SHS collaborated with Athena Education for the event 'Faded Memories' as part of Freedom's Way's Hidden Treasures Tour.

# 2024 saw many great presentations, book talks, childrens programs, and fun community events at the SHS!

*Here are some brand new events we participated in this year!*

The SHS hosted several authors to talk about their wonderful books. Authors included local forager Russ Cohen, Jeffrey Denman on his new book about John Quincy Adams, and the Boothroyd's and their book about the Ammo Dump.





# EXHIBITS

## LAST LOOKS!

In April 2025, we will bid farewell to our children's exhibit 'Play With History!' This exhibit has been an invaluable resource for providing children with hands-on experience with 'ancient' technology, such as the rotary phone. Children of various age groups have relished the opportunity to engage with the farm produce, trains, general store, schoolhouse setup, phones, and letter writing. We are appreciative of the overwhelmingly positive reception this exhibit has garnered. Be sure to visit one last time before it concludes on April 11th!



Taking its place will be the second phase of our Landscape exhibit, 'Sudbury's Changing Landscape'. This upcoming installment will center on the transformations in Sudbury following the Revolutionary War. This ties in with our commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The new exhibit will debut on April 18th.

## POP UP EXHIBITS



Our display on the Sudbury Boston Post Cane

This year, our exhibit pop-up case has hosted two remarkable displays. The first exhibit focused on the Boston Post Cane, delving into its historical significance and showcasing community members who were honored with it. This coincided with the revival of awarding the cane to Sudbury residents.

Currently, our exhibit features the Sudbury Town Pound, highlighting its construction, builders, and historical purpose. We invite you to visit and explore this exhibit before it is replaced with a new display.

Currently on display, the Sudbury Town Pound





# REVOLUTIONARY WAR CEMETERY REVISITED



Edward Kreutz  
Colonel, Sudbury Companies of  
Militia and Minute  
At Sudbury, August 2022



The following is an excerpt from a document written by the late Ed Kreutz in 2022. As a result of his extensive research, the Revolutionary War Cemetery was revisited by members of both the Sudbury Historical Society and the Sudbury Historical Commission. This group has collaborated over the past two years to collect and update information related to the cemetery. These updates will soon be made available to the public, and a new informational kiosk will be installed at the cemetery. The kiosk will provide locations of known burials, list notable individuals interred there, and offer links for those who wish to explore further. We are eternally grateful for Ed's passion for history.

*So their names may not be lost to the knowledge of men.*

In the summer of 2012, ground penetrating radar brought to light some unknown facts about Sudbury's Revolutionary War Cemetery, located in Sudbury's town center. The scans located 976 possible burial sites and 70 possible buried headstones.

These discoveries prompted research to determine whether there were any Revolutionary War soldiers buried there whose graves have sunk beneath the earth and gone unidentified in modern times. For two and a half centuries, headstones have borne the brunt of New England's freezing and thawing, acid rain, and pollution, rendering many of them unreadable.

After months of research in 2022, names of long-forgotten soldiers emerged. Through exploring historic documents of burials, it was found that 106 Revolutionary soldiers were interred here. Previously, it had been thought that number was only 41. Out of that 106, only 61 of their stones remain today. Lucy Hall Greenlaw mentions in her book, "Inscriptions from the Old Cemetery at Sudbury, Mass" (1906), that some graves are marked by fieldstones and broken headstones and that many aren't marked at all. She also noted that less than half of those buried there are found in the records of the town.

In addition, some records such as the Reverend Jacob Bigelow's log of all those buried there from 1772 until 1816, revealed interments of many who had served in the war without giving the exact location of their sites. Other documentation, such as Lucy Hall Greenlaw's book, also lists the burial of many Revolutionary War soldiers here, again without the knowledge of exactly where in the cemetery.

To date, this recent culmination of documentation is the most exhaustive list of known Revolutionary soldiers buried here, including their families and service records, but more can always be learned. As a community, we must do what we can to preserve the stones we have and through documentation, remember and honor those farmers, shopkeepers, and tradesmen of Sudbury who defied the most powerful nation on earth in the fight for freedom. They reveal many of Sudbury's soldiers of the Revolutionary War long forgotten.

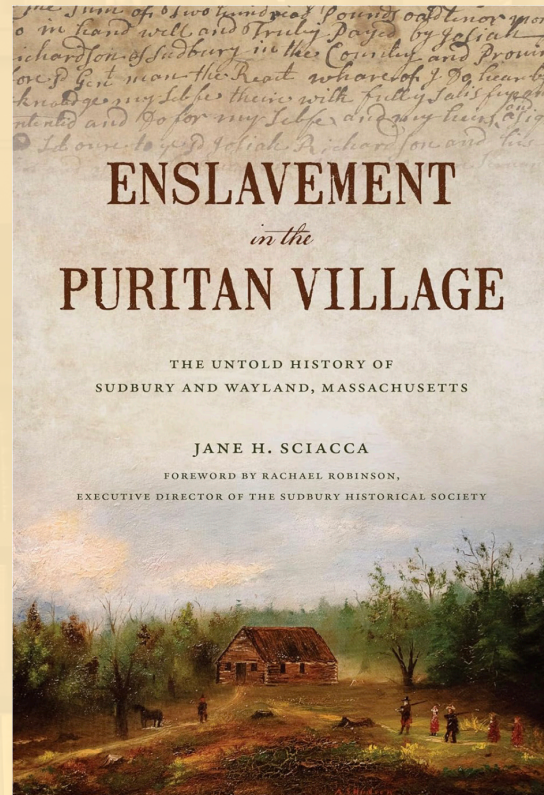


# UPCOMING BOOKS

*In the year 2025, there are some remarkable books on the horizon.*

The initial book is the result of extensive work throughout 2024. Titled 'Enslavement in the Puritan Village,' it is authored by Jane Sciacca. Jane's research on enslavement in Sudbury, including present-day Wayland, spans over 24 years and has now been compiled into a book. Jane collaborated closely with the Sudbury Historical Society to have her book published by History Press, a division of Arcadia Publishing.

This book launched on January 21st and is obtainable for purchase at the 01776 Gift Shop.



We are delighted to introduce the second book, which delves into the life of Babe Ruth during his time in Sudbury. The official title of this book is 'Babe Ruth of Sudbury: The Bambino in Massachusetts, 1914-1926'. Our archivist Francesco Buccella will thoroughly research and write this book, made possible through a generous grant from the Sudbury Foundation. We express our profound gratitude for the ongoing support from the Sudbury Foundation. This specific topic continues to captivate not only the Sudbury community but also a wider audience. Babe Ruth remains a mysterious figure in American history, surrounded by myths and legends, especially regarding his time in Major League Baseball and residency in Sudbury. Eighty-six years after 'the Curse of the Bambino', Sudbury still holds significance in the narrative of its resolution and the first Red Sox World Championship post his departure.

The SHS receives approximately one request per month for details about Babe Ruth and his tenure at Home Plate Farm. We aim to uncover numerous stories and potentially address or debunk some urban legends. The book is scheduled for release in late 2025, followed by an exhibit. Stay tuned for further updates!



# A LOOK AHEAD

Reflecting on the year 2024 fills me with anticipation as I witness the remarkable progress of this organization. Approaching my fifth anniversary as Executive Director, I am struck by the journey we have undertaken. The onset of my leadership coincided with the pandemic, compelling me to engage with a history and community from a distance. Despite these challenges, our growth has been substantial. The museum now operates seamlessly, showcasing dynamic and exquisite exhibits. Our array of programs and community events continues to expand consistently. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from visitors regarding the museum's quality and the delightful experience of visiting our space is truly heartening. Witnessing the enthusiasm and anticipation of our hosted events, such as the Sudbury Road Race, among numerous individuals, fills me with great joy.

I am eternally appreciative of Francesco Buccella, our diligent archivist, for his tireless efforts in maintaining the impeccable order of our collections. His invaluable assistance has greatly benefitted numerous researchers. The seamless operation of this institution has been made possible by the dedication of our volunteers, particularly Elin Neiterman, Beth Gray-Nix, Ruth Griesel, and Andrea Roessler. Hartley Johnson consistently provides invaluable input, serving as an exceptional source of ideas and guidance. The unwavering support of our board has been an immense source of gratitude.

Looking ahead, the anticipation for Jane Sciacca's upcoming book, Francesco's forthcoming publication, and the exciting 250th anniversary events is palpable. The Sudbury Historical Society has a wealth of prospects to anticipate, including new exhibitions, expanded programs, and increased community involvement. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all for your unwavering presence and support.

Rachael Robinson  
*Executive Director of the Sudbury Historical Society*





The Sudbury Historical Society  
288 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776