



The Sudbury Chronicle



Volume 7, Number 1

Fall, 2005

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**Sudbury Historical Society
2005-2006**

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- **Honorary Trustee:**
Curtis Garfield,
Town Historian
- **Curator / Archivist:**
Lee Swanson

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Sudbury has something special in its places where a person can get back to nature and imagine the days before the town was settled by Pilgrims.

One can canoe down the River, quietly away from sounds of the highway, slipping through the soothing water, along lush marshlands.

On another day, a climb at the Nobscot Mountain area to Tippling Rock will give a little taste of what it might have felt like for Jethro, who lived peacefully there for many years until the English hung him.

A side trip to Green Hill Road will lead to the hill holding the old Indian Grinding Stone. Imagine a squaw patiently grinding corn on the stone while her husband

Oversees the view to the river, watching for outsiders coming along the busy trail between the ocean and the west.

A more solemn moment may be passed on Water Row at the foundation of the Garrison House, where settlers held off "King" Philip's 1500 warriors while waiting for help.

The Sudbury Historical Society maintains the Grindstone, keeping it free of debris and poison ivy. The Society also has catalogued and displayed Native American collections given by local residents. Lee Swanson, curator / archivist, has guided groups visiting Nobscot Mountain and the Garrison House.

As the Society promotes understanding and appreciation of Sudbury's history, we are fortunate to be

able to recall the town's early native residents. The Indian represented on the Society's letterhead is the Sudbury chief Cato whose Christian name was John Goodman. We honor him and the Goodman Society (which we absorbed) by keeping the Goodman image on our letterhead to always remember our heritage.

Sincerely,

Peggy Fredrickson
President



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Sudbury Historical Society Upcoming Program Highlights

October 2 *The Stories the Earth Tells* at SVT Wolbach Farm

November 6* *An ESOP in Our Midst:* Sudbury Employer Owned Auto Dealership

December 4 **Family Christmas Party:** Hosmer House, Caroling & Toys for Tots

January 8 *Art on Loan:* Sudbury Historical Society Art Treasures

Mark your calendar now—See page 4 for details

****Please note, this date is correct. The pink program sheet mailed previously was in error. Please correct your calendar!***

Signature Quilt Joins Sudbury Friendship Quilt with Great Fanfare

At the Annual SHS Meeting, members enjoyed the first, private exhibit of the 2003-2005 Signature Quilt displayed along with the 1850 Sudbury Friendship Quilt. The new Signature Quilt was the brainchild of Mary Ellen Hoover, who both designed and pieced together the quilt top. The design echoes the style and size of the pink, green and white 1850 Sudbury Friendship Quilt, purchased by the SHS a few years ago. The New Signature Quilt has 48 blocks of ivory muslin signature squares combined with blue squares in two small prints. It was quilted at Mary Ellen Hoover's home on a frame loaned by the Wayside Quilters, Sudbury. The quilters were Jeanne Lavine, Nancy Vanderslice, Jan Sjolund, Judy Merra, and Mary Ellen Hoover—all of Sudbury; June Robinson and Barbara Haynes (the latter of the Sudbury Haynes family) of Stow; Audrey Sacharkiewics and Virginia Maenpaa of Hudson; and Dianne James, Hyannisport.

Over 300 individuals, families, and businesses and more than 15 organizations or groups are among those who, after making a contribution to support the conservation of the 1850 Sudbury Friendship Quilt, signed the new quilt's squares and border. The names of the quilters and SHS Quilt Committee members also appear on the quilt.

Below: Kirsten van Dijk and other members admire quilt display at SHS Annual Meeting. Signature Quilt on left, Friendship Quilt on right. -Photo by Ursula Lyons



The new Signature Quilt represents both a considerable artistic and financial accomplishment. Quilt donations totaled \$5,502. This amount covered the relatively small cost of materials for the quilt and the brochure used to solicit donations, leaving a more than sufficient sum for the costly purchase, conservation and display of the historic Friendship Quilt.



Quilters hard at work.
Judy Merra, left, & Jan Sjolund on right
Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Hoover

Following the Annual Meeting, members were invited to view the impressive Textile Collection exhibit assembled by Curator Lee Swanson. Items on display included charming, century-old, handmade baby clothes complemented by a period baby carriage and ladies' attire designed for the diminutive figures of another era. Along with these treasures and other items from the SHS textile collection, both the Friendship Quilt and the Signature Quilt will be on display at Lower Town Hall on Sudbury Day, September 17, 2005.

~~ Ursula Lyons and
Peggy Fredrickson

Question and Answer

Q:

Where is this stone structure in Sudbury? The *Sudbury Town Crier* will feature this photo soon, but you can say that you saw it first in the *Sudbury Chronicle*!



~~ Lee Swanson

A:

Submit your answers to Lee Swanson at the Sudbury Historical Society (contact information on page 8). The person who guesses correctly will receive a prize!

SHS Acquisitions ~ March through September 2005

- Harriet Ritchie———Nine first day covers, 1976. B/ W photo of Hurlbut & Rogers machine shop. Mrs. Ritchie's notes on Monte Griswold. Numerous books about Native Americans and early Massachusetts history. B/W photograph of Sudbury High School class dining in Lower Town Hall. [Note: Thanks to Jacqui Bausk, one of our new Trustees, for identifying most of the students in the 1953 (?) photo].
- Anonymous———Autograph book with 50 pages of 1905-1919 inscriptions from Sudbury classmates and fellow servicemen of Frederick R. Stone, South Sudbury. Art Nouveau style, diamond-shaped book with pale green silk plush covers, gilt butterfly attached to one corner.
- Philip Simpson———Large, framed photograph of 1937 Richardson family reunion. Two page handwritten biography of Thelma Smith McAlpine-Ernst. Large, framed color photocopy of 1889 South Sudbury property map, Geo. H. Walker, Co.
- Ursula Lyons———Kovel's *Know Your Antiques*, 1990, 335 pages. Red, white and blue, U.S. flag bunting, 3.5 yards.
- Dorothy Oldroyd———Seven spools of darning silk in different colors, 25 or 40 yards per spool, used by her mother to repair pre-WWII silk stockings.
- Patty Bancroft———Sudbury Girl & Boy Scout, Svensk Kaffestuga items, many family photos. More on this later
- Winifred Fitzgerald———A business card for the 'Cabin', a Tea House, off Dudley Road (story next issue)
- Westford Historical Society—— Sudbury Wadsworth Rifles 1857 Levee invitation at Assabet Public Hall (see story).
- Barbara Taskovitz———17 photos (black & white and color) and 2 postcards of the Fife & Drum, Militia, and town events dating back to 1938.
- Wayland Historical Society———A file created by author (*A Puritan Village Evolves*, a history of Wayland) Helen Fitch Emery on the Hunt/Raymond/Bishop House, Sudbury.
- Amelia Entin, Wayland——a very early (Wool) spinning wheel (complete), + 2 early square wood Crewel frames

SHS Confers Awards on Valued Volunteers

Sudbury Historical Society recognized the efforts of its hard-working volunteers at the Annual Business Meeting in June. Mary Ellen Hoover received the SHS Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of her leadership and labor on the Signature Quilt project, in addition to her collaboration with Ginny Maenpaa to transcribe the letters written by George Moore and his family during the Civil War.

Outgoing President Kirsten Van Dijk recognized Curator Lee Swanson as a "unique volunteer extraordinaire". Van Dijk also announced the creation of "Job Well Done" awards and conferred this distinction on Don Bishop, Aaron Levine, Elin Neiterman, Mary Trubiano, Chuck Zimmer, and Suzanne Steinbach for their contributions.



Members presented Kirsten Van Dijk with a bouquet of flowers and a special rose bush to express gratitude for her two exceptional years of service to the organization.

The strength of SHS resides in all of its active volunteers, many unnamed, who generously contribute their time and energy to the organization.

~~ Ursula Lyons

Editor's Scribbles

In the spring of 2005, the SHS newsletter assumed a new format, a development which invited the selection of a new and distinctive title for the publication. Members submitted 20 suggestions, and at the Annual Meeting, those present indicated by secret ballot their top three choices. Variations on the theme of "Sudbury Chronicle" were the top vote-getters, and with

this edition, the new title debuts on our masthead. In the vote, runners-up included "Olde Sudbury" and "The Way It Was". These candidates are too good to forget and will in the future headline regular features of Sudbury reminiscences. Now, dear readers, please accept this invitation to become a published author by sharing your recollections or research concerning Sudbury history in *The Sudbury Chronicle*. You may

submit your article either by Email or by "snail mail" to the Sudbury Historical Society at Town Hall (contact information on page 6). Your contributions are eagerly awaited!

~~~Suzanne Steinbach



## Sudbury Historical Society Fall ~ Winter Program Highlights

Mark your calendar now for these exciting events:

**Sunday, October 2nd, 2 pm** at Sudbury Valley Trustees' Wolbach Farm: Paul Gardescu, Wayland avocational archeologist, and Geoffrey Evans, historian, Sudbury native, and First People's spokesman, will present their conversation, **THE STORIES THE EARTH TELLS**. Experience the conflict between Native Americans' respect for nature and the scientific quest for knowledge. Audience questions and participation are encouraged. You may see new faces at this program. Members of the Sudbury Valley Trustees and all the Sudbury Church's, Temples, and the Mosque have been invited. SHS members may be identified by their name badges—please greet our visitors warmly! We will meet outdoors if the weather is good—bring chairs or a blanket. In

event of rain, we will gather in the barn with chairs provided. Child Care will be provided.

**Sunday, November 6, 2 pm** at Town Hall: **AN ESOP IN OUR MIDST**. Hear the inside story of the innovative, local employee-owned automotive dealership. Then there will be a chance for an up-close look at luxury foreign cars, now part of the character of Sudbury. Presented by Fred Tierney, President of Foreign Motors West.

**Sunday, December 4, 3:30 - 6 pm: CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!** At 3:30 meet at the Town Hall steps for caroling (open to the public). Period costumes welcomed. SHS will also collect "Toys for Tots" at the Town Hall 3:30-5 pm (with U.S. Marines in attendance). Then at 4:30 we will make our way by candlelight to the Hosmer House for refreshments, warm drinks, and music. Bring the family for this festive program!

**Sunday, January 8, 2 pm** at Town Hall: **ART ON LOAN!** The Sudbury Historical Society, Inc. owns many works of local artists including E. Helene Sherman, Thelma McAlpine Ernst, and Gertrude Rice. This exhibit of our collection will provide explanatory notes and a video about one of the artists. We will introduce our Art Loan Program for businesses, libraries, town buildings and museums in conjunction with an exhibit of Helene Sherman's works at the Wayside Inn's second floor gallery during January and February.

~~Peggy Fredrickson

## Moore History—Sudbury Girl Scout Collaborates with SHS



Combining my passion for history with commitment to leadership and community service through 12 years of scouting, as a Sudbury Senior Girl Scout I recently completed a project in collaboration with the Sudbury Historical Society to earn the prestigious Gold Award. The highest achievement in Senior Girl Scouting, equivalent to the boys' Eagle, it is earned nationally by only 3% of Girl Scouts.

I researched "The Moore Collection" of primary Civil War letters, acquired by SHS at auction over 5 years ago with funding from members of the public and a Sudbury Foundation grant. After completing an advanced placement U.S. history course and reading McPherson's *For Cause & Comrades*, I approached Kirsten Van Dijk, then SHS President, about a project. I had read about the "Moore letters" in the *Town Crier* and was intrigued. These letters, written by young George Moore, a local Sudbury soldier not much older than I, relate his correspondence with his family during his enlistment from 1862-65. It is fasci-

Alison Occhialini, Mary Ellen Hoover and Ginny Maenpaa peruse the Moore Collection  
photo by Lee Swanson



inating to read George's accounts about the struggle between the North and South and the assassination of President Lincoln. Letters to George from his mother parallel modern day mothers' concern about their sons in battle. From the letters, I created a map of the route taken by George through the Civil War and designed an exhibit of the letters. I also developed a curriculum that allows the displayed materials to be used by Sudbury history teachers in their classrooms. The exhibition will open this

September in the Goodnow Public Library's 2nd floor ramp area. To introduce the topic to the community, I will present a lecture at the library entitled *Letters from the Battlefield...Moore History: The Civil War through the Letters of a Sudbury Family*. There will be a related workshop in February.

I intend to spread my passion for preserving the local history of my town to others. Sudbury will be enriched by learning about the contributions of the community during the Civil War. Also, my goal is to make my town's history more accessible to children and teenagers, in that if they can identify with their own local history, their awareness will help them better understand global issues and history.

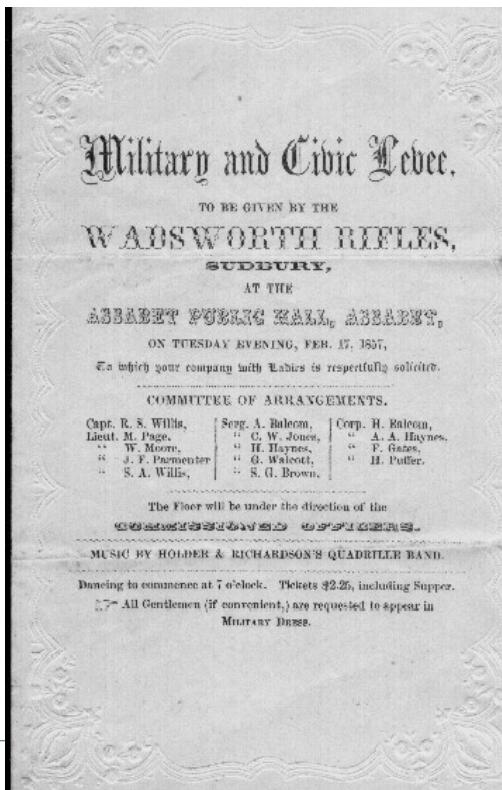
I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Mary Ellen Hoover and Virginia Maenpaa, who transcribed the Moore letters; SHS Curator Lee Swanson; Sara Schwebel, Gold Award Advisor; Bjorn Mindee, Graphic Designer; Girl Scout Leaders Kimberly Jaeger and Jan Zeytoonian, the staff of the Goodnow Library, and the Sudbury Foundation.

~~ Alison Occhialini

## The Curator's Meanderings

Hello, again, from the Ivory Tower, high on Sudbury Common, sitting on the Stage of Life. The Historical Society's working space is on the former stage of the Town Hall's second floor auditorium, once the center of all town social activity. From 1932 to the 1990's, it was the site of Town Meetings, prom dances, graduations, and theatre productions, including the Sudbury Players. Its weekend movies were the place where you went on a Saturday night date and necked in the balcony while (not) watching the movies and where you might have met your husband or wife! Whoever has stories of those times, *please* write them down and send them in. The auditorium floor is now our **SUDBURY MUSEUM**, plus storage space for our collection. We thank the Selectmen and the Town Manager for the continued use of this space.

A TREASURE RETURNED TO SUDBURY! The Westford Historical Society's Jim Bogue, emailed to ask if we wanted an invitation to an 1857 Sudbury levee. The item was in their files but had no connection to Westford. I quickly replied in the affirmative and received it a short time later. As you can see, the WADSWORTH RIFLES of Sudbury held the event in Assabet, what is now Maynard. The invitation is printed on embossed paper of the period. I told Jim that the Wadsworth Rifles, our local Militia, were named after Capt. Samuel Wadsworth (the maternal great-grandfather of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow) who was killed on April 21st, 1776. Much later, in 1891, the Monument in memory of



him and

those that died with him became the Town Seal. Very little is known of the Wadsworth Rifles, and this is the first item we have of theirs. The Town provided them with uniforms, hats, muskets, (rifles later on), swords, etc, all with Sudbury markings. Has anyone seen any?

What, you may ask, is a *levee* doing in Sudbury? A levee, as Cindy Stocking can tell you, was a gala event, a reception with a dance. It was usually held for an important person or event. The term was used in the pre-Civil War period and up

## ~ Lee Swanson

till the 1870's.

Another kind of LEVEE has been in the news, due to Hurricane Katrina. Once the humanitarian aspects have been dealt with, perhaps you might want to support the rebuilding of the historic infrastructure of that area. The historic buildings, museums, and sites that attract tourists to that area will need help. The National Trust for Historic Preservation at [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org) will work to restore the historic buildings and districts, whereas the Southeastern Museum Conference needs money to assess needs, identify available freezer spacer, storage facilities, and triage areas for affected museums. SEM may be reached at [director@SEM Direct.net](mailto:director@SEM Direct.net) or 404-378-3153.

My cousin Flossie's husband, Dr. William J. Young, was the first person to ever use freezing on a giant scale to save priceless artworks, books, and manuscripts. He created the MFA restoration lab in 1929, as his father had created one for the British Museum decades before. When the MFA sent him to Florence to help after their flood in 1963, he was put in charge of the entire rescue attempt by the Italian Government. He commandeered every freezer truck in Italy and filled them with the sodden mess, froze it, then had everything brought to freezer lockers for storage. Objects were thawed when resources were available for proper restoration. (ed. note: A similar strategy is needed in the sweltering

## Making Arrowheads

"Many winters before my manhood ordeal my father started teaching me the ways of a Quankiash brave. He taught me how to find the stones that made the best arrowheads. We liked best the clear, shiny rock that looked like ice for it would take a very sharp edge. When we found a stone full of this we chipped off big sections and carried them back to our village. There, in the winter, in the warmth of our wetu, we would chip many arrowheads. The black rock called flint, plus obsidian and chert were also good, but my father showed me how to use the talon of a large bird or animal bones to make

arrowheads if good rocks were not handy. Some stones were too soft and would crumble when struck with the larger rock, and other were too hard and would not chip at all. "Even a good arrowhead could be ruined by a wrong blow, so I and the other boys spent many long days practicing chipping while growing up. Some of us even had the powwow make magic water in which we would soak our flints. We also tried soaking them in deer grease and packing them in containers with tobacco and sacred roots to charm them into breaking easily for us. Our ruined arrowheads and chips were scattered around the village and the women complained when they stepped on a sharp one.

"Sometimes we would trade face paints for a bag of unfinished arrowheads with a neighboring brave from the next village of Metewemesick, which was between our village and Tantiesques on the path towards Manexit and Chabungungamung. We used bone or antler tips to finish off the edges of our spear and arrow blades. Brother Moose left his antlers on the ground for us in spring so we always had plenty of antlers in our village."

From *The Pond Dwellers—The People of the Freshwaters of Massachusetts 1620-1676* by Kelly Savage, page 88. ISBN 1-57052-191-9. Library of Congress 3 96-68639.

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUDBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
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STANDARD MAIL  
PERMIT NO. 151  
Sudbury, MA 01776

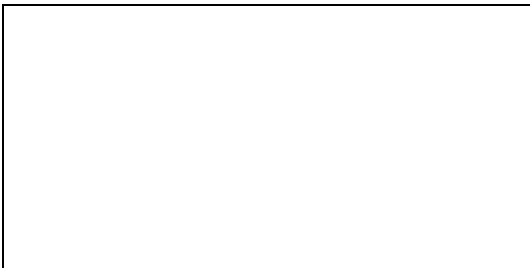
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*Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.*



*raises awareness  
& appreciation for  
our heritage by the  
collection,  
preservation,  
and sharing of records and  
artifacts which document all  
aspects of daily life in the Town  
of Sudbury*



**Olde Sudbury**

~Lee Swanson

You may have heard of the **HEARSE HOUSE**, well here it is:

Built by Sudbury to store the town-owned, horse-drawn hearse, it was originally located behind the Town Pound. That's where it will return, we hope. If you back the proposal at Town Meeting, the structure will be removed from behind the Griswold house (now the Shilts Family home) on Concord Road and restored with Community Preservation Funds.



**RICE TAVERN UPDATE:** The photo on page 7 of the previous newsletter edition is now at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover to be restored at an estimated cost of \$400. The Edmond Rice Association has volunteered to help cover the expense, and we will communicate with them.

**NOTE:** Harriet Ritchie gave the photograph to the SHS via her daughter Becky Cutting.

