



## **2023 was a BIG year at the SHS!**

We opened our new interactive exhibit, *Sudbury's Changing Landscape*, and further expanded our community engagement seasonally with various presentations and activities.

We also began the process of digitizing our archives and collections! Our efforts in 2023 and beyond are focused on publically sharing Sudbury's extensive history with all.

Sudbury Quarter-Millennial,

TOWN OF SUDBURY,



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1996, AT 1.00 O'CLOCK P. M.

# A Letter To Our Supporters

Hartley E. Johnson, President



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Rachael Robinson, *Executive Director*  
 Francesco Buccella, *Archivist*

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 Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776  
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For the Sudbury Historical Society, 2023 continued to be an exciting time for our organization. Open for over 3 years now, the Sudbury History Center & Museum continues to be the jewel of Sudbury Center's Historic District. Each day we continue to 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 2023 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 2nd Annual Golf Outing and Sudbury Road Race, as well as our ever-popular Cemetery Tour (new this year at the Revolutionary War Cemetery) and Festival of Wreaths in conjunction with Sudbury's Holiday Village in December. All were organized by our Executive Director, Rachael Robinson and brought to fruition by hours of work by dedicated SHS volunteers.

The ambitious goal of "creating organized and accessible archives" open to the residents of Sudbury and beyond is also being realized! We have been working hard at digitizing our archives and collections led by our 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. Visit our website today to see the beginnings of this multi-year project.

We could not have gotten to our current position without your help. It is the generosity of both volunteer time as well as financial donations from longtime members and community supporters that has allowed us to be successful!

This notion was further shown by several large donations made to the SHS this year from estate plans and charitable contribution funds. We thank you for your support and continued enthusiasm towards local history in 2024.



# Collections Now Online!

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Francesco Buccella, Archivist

The Sudbury Historical Society (SHS) is proud to announce that our collections can now be viewed online! Thanks to a generous grant from The Sudbury Foundation, we have been able to initiate the large-scale digitization process of the historical objects in our archives. Presently, all collections acquired by the SHS from its incorporation in 1956 through 2000 are accessible online. We will be frequently adding more and more records, so be sure to check back often! To access the catalog, see our website or directly visit: <https://sudbury01776.catalogaccess.com/>

The SHS continues to acquire materials that illuminate the history of the Town of Sudbury. Over the past year, notable arrivals include: a 1698 land deed from John Grout (donated by William S. Andreas); a collection of Marian Heath greeting cards (donated by Adrienne Balcom); the Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute uniform of William Turner (donated by Susan M. MacDonald); and the Sudbury Boston Post Cane (transferred from the Town of Sudbury). These are just some examples of the many donations by generous donors that help to grow our collections. We are extremely grateful for their support!



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those that have volunteered their time and hard work over the past year to help improve the cataloging, organization, and research of our important historical collections: Sarah Hurtig (digitization of the Sudbury Town Citizen Photograph Collection); Jonathan Ramin (research within the SHS Reference Files); Jennifer Roberts (data organization within the SHS Database); and Mirca Sghedoni (cataloging of the Hurlbut Papers). It was also a pleasure to host three internships from the Simmons University School of Library and Information Science: Benjamin Kaplan (McCann Family Collection), Heather Walker (Sudbury Legion Records), and Kathryn Walsh (Perkins Family Collection).

Each student worked diligently to improve the physical and intellectual organization of their assigned collections. As a final project, a display of each collection was featured in the Jonathan Baggott Gallery at the Loring Parsonage. All the individuals mentioned have been wonderful additions to the SHS community, and we look forward to future collaborations in 2024.



# Fundraisers

Rachael Robinson, Executive Director

On July 13th the Sudbury Historical Society held it's Second Annual Golf Tournament. This year's winners were representing Oak Barrel Tavern, a leading sponsor of the day's event. The weather was good, and the greens at The Wayland Country Club were active. The golf foursomes headed out to compete for a series of prizes, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Straightest Drive. As well as the ultimate prize of winning the whole tournament. Afterwards the group enjoyed a delightful lunch in the club house, and more winning was had with the drawing of raffle prizes.

The Sudbury Historical Society was honored to have an amazing turnout amongst the golfers, but also the sponsors for the event. A huge Thank You to our sponsors: Oak Barrel Tavern, Cavicchios, Middlesex Bank, Main Street Bank, Mark T. Wendell Tea Co., Rob Arone, Lee Dean, Roche Bros, NB Taylor Real Estate, Short Path Distillery, Greene Acre Sales 'Fine Hastas and Daylilies', Ovation, Sudbury Cedar Fence, and Juniper Farms. Additionally Thank You to all who donated raffle items: Wayside Inn Country Store, Market Basket, Duck Soup, Goodnow Farms, Wayside Inn, Pat Sluder, Stop and Shop, Short Path Distiller, Coach Grill, and Wayland Country Club.



The Second Annual Sudbury Road Race was held November 10th, at 10am. We had over 200 runners cross the finish line between the 1 Mile Fun Run, and the 5K race. The weather was cool, but not too damp or windy, excellent conditions for a run. Before the races Brian from CrossFit TILT Sudbury led a warm up and stretch class to get participants ready to run. The event was held at Curtis Middle School, which offered a great space for participants and spectators alike to hang out. The courses took the runners past some historic homes in the area. Mike Merra, LS class of '77, brought his fabulous team from North Star Timing to time the race for us.

Congratulations to the top three finalists! 1Mile: Bryce Storer, Evan Kaufman, Josh Lui. Men's 5K: Matthew Jennings, Dylan Ascoleso, and Adam Patisteas. Women's 5K: Kara Haas, Claire Sulkowski, Lisa MacIorakowski. A huge Thank You to our sponsors for the event: Herb Chambers, Kathryn Lee- Advisors Living, Kirk Dental, Lamacchia Landscape, Millbrook Smiles, Semple Landscaping, Lynch Landscaping, Painters Etcetera, and Bullfinches Restaurant.



# Programs

Rachael Robinson, Executive Director



The Sudbury Historical Society held a number of lively programs throughout the year. To celebrate the release of her book 'Broadacres Legacy: The Story of Honora Haynes' Alice Sapienza gave a wonderful Authors Presentation. Many of Honora's former students and friends from Sudbury attended and shared wonderful stories about her and her farm.


SHS Trustee Ed Kreutz gave a hilarious presentation about Revolutionary War firearms. Ed is a gunsmith and builder of reproduction 18th-century flintlock weapons. In his free time he is also a historical researcher and re-enactor specializing in the Revolutionary War for over 45 years. During his talk, he showed examples of the weapons and accoutrements used by the combative nations as well as civilian firearms of the time.

SHS Trustee Steve Greene presented at the Annual Meeting in June, sharing some fascinating history of the railroads in Sudbury. It is exciting to be able to walk the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail through Sudbury soon.




This year the Society changed up the location for it's annual Cemetery Tour. After a rain delay the Saturday came and the sun was shining and the spirits were high in Sudbury's Revolutionary War Cemetery (Née Ye Old Burial Ground). So high in fact that the ghosts of John Goodnow, Colonel Ezekiel How, Experience Richardson, Mary Loring, Rev Israel Loring, John Maynard, Deacon Josiah Haynes, and Rev. Rufus Hurlbut all came out to tell us a little bit about their past lives.

In October the SHS had a small surplus of pumpkins that grew in the garden. A pumpkin painting event was held for children to come and decorate pumpkins grown from the garden.

**Ed Kreutz  
Presents**  
Revolutionary War Firearms  
April 27th, 7pm

On Zoom or In-person  
Sudbury Historical Society History  
Center and Museum  
Reservations and more details for  
this program are available at  
[www.sudburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sudburyhistoricalsociety.org)




# Exhibits

Rachael Robinson, Executive Director

In November of 2023 the Stansky and Eaton-Keeney Gallery was cleared out of the Sudbury Collections Exhibit, and replaced with Sudbury's Changing Landscape.

The new exhibit Sudbury's Changing Landscape will enthrall the visitor with stunning technological interactives, and beautiful graphic displays that exemplify how Sudbury has come to be the beautiful town that it is today.

From ice covered landscape, indigenous tribal lifeways, to new farming settlements, this first phase of our two part exhibit, Sudbury's Changing Landscape Glaciers-1780 will paint a picture of an ever changing environment. Play with the interactive sandbox that changes topographical lines and colors as the sand moves around. Watch a short film of nature projected on the wall, and feel the vibrancy of New England's wildlife. Hear Troy Running Wolf Phillips speak about his culture and history as a Nipmuc representative.

This exhibit is the first part in a two part exhibit series. This portion covers Glaciers-1780, and Phase 2 will cover 1781-Today. The next phase will open coinciding with the 250th anniversary of Patriots Day in 2025.



Now on display at the Sudbury History Center and Museum is the Sudbury Boston Post Cane! In 1909, Edwin Atkins Grozier—then owner of the Boston Post newspaper—established the Boston Post Cane prize to honor the oldest inhabitant in towns across Massachusetts. Identical canes made of ebony with fourteen-carat gold handles, each inscribed with town names, were commissioned by Grozier. In that year, Sudbury received its edition of the cane and William Phelps Jones (1820-1911) became its first recipient.

Visit our Baggott Gallery at the Loring Parsonage to see the cane in-person and to learn more about its history! Illustrated through material from the Sudbury Historical Society collections, recipients of the cane from its earliest years through present-day are highlighted. Notable prize winners included the artist, Florence Hosmer (1880-1978), as well as centenarians such as Tolla Paulsen (1885-1990) and Dorothy Piper (1902-2007). The display continues to honor these exceptional individuals from the Town of Sudbury.



# Welcome Back, Sudbury Through Time!

Elin Neiterman, Vice President

The Sudbury Through Time program is back! The tours had been on hiatus for three years due to the pandemic. The tour of Sudbury's historic town center is arranged for the all of the third-grade students, parents and teachers. The tour includes a walk through The Revolutionary War Cemetery, the oldest burying ground in town. The Town Pound is where they meet the pound keeper, who tells them about the various animals such as cows and goats he cares for until the owners are located. Rev. Israel Loring meets the group at First Parish Meeting House. Rev. Loring was Sudbury's minister from 1706 to 1772.

The Sudbury History Center and Museum is where the groups learn about the Native Americans that once inhabited the area, as well as the arrival of the settlers and colonial history. Many of the students have returned to the Museum with their parents to share this exciting history with them.



**WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE THIS PROGRAM BACK UP AND RUNNING! IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE KIDS AND PARENTS. THE DELIGHTFUL CONVERSATIONS HAD WITH THE CURIOUS STUDENTS MADE ALL THE VISITS SO FUN. IT WAS GOOD REMINDER OF WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.**

**- RACHAEL ROBINSON**



# 250th Celebrations

Rachael Robinson, Executive Director

The 250th anniversary of Patriots Day will be April 19th, 2025. This date marks a profound occurrence in American history, symbolizing the spirit of resilience, courage, and unity that ignited the flame of revolution. On this fateful day, shots of revolution were fired at Lexington and Concord, marking the dawn of a new era in the struggle for independence and self-determination.

Patriots Day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by ordinary men and women who dared to challenge the status quo and defy tyranny in pursuit of freedom and justice. It commemorates the bravery of the Minutemen who stood against the might of the British Empire, embodying the ideals of liberty and democracy that continue to inspire generations of Americans.

The 250th anniversary of Patriots Day provides an opportunity for reflection, introspection, and remembrance. It allows us to honor the sacrifices of our forebears and pay tribute to their unwavering commitment to the cause of freedom. By commemorating this historic milestone, we reaffirm our collective identity as Americans and pledge to uphold the principles of liberty and democracy for which our ancestors fought and died.

Furthermore, the 250th anniversary of Patriots Day offers an invaluable opportunity for education and enlightenment. It provides a platform for schools, museums, and historical societies, such as ours, to educate the public about the significance of this pivotal moment in American history. Through exhibits, reenactments, and educational programs, we can deepen our understanding of the events that transpired on April 19th, 1775, and their enduring impact on the course of human history.



Sudbury has formed a 250th Revolutionary Committee to plan commemorations for the anniversary, alongside celebrations for the 250th Independence Day in 2026. The Sudbury Historical Society will collaborate closely with the committee on events. Over 100,000 visitors are expected to flock to Concord and Lexington for the 2025 holiday weekend, potentially increasing foot traffic in Sudbury. The town should prepare accordingly for the surge in visitors.

SUDBURY 250 COMMITTEE

1775- 2025

# Generous Giving

Rachael Robinson, Executive Director

In February 2022 we were alerted of the sad news that Beverly R. Anderson had passed away. Bev has been a long time member and sponsor of the Historical Society. She was an ardent traveller, artist, gardener, and a lover of Sudbury history. Beverly very generously remembered the Historical Society in her will, and in the summer of 2023 we recieved a substantial sum of just under \$80k from her estate.

This money has helped us to add revenue to certain projects that we had in the pipelines, giving them a little more oomph, and additionally start our internal conversation about starting a formal endowment.

An endowment serves as the lifeblood for small historical societies, such as ours, ensuring their longevity, resilience, and ability to fulfill their mission for generations to come. Societies often operate on shoestring budgets and rely heavily on volunteer efforts. However, we know our impact can be disproportionately significant, enriching communities by safeguarding cultural heritage and fostering a sense of belonging and identity.

Endowments provide stability in funding, shielding organizations from the uncertainties of fluctuating donations and economic downturns. This financial security would allow us to maintain essential operations, such as maintaining archives, preserving artifacts, and organizing educational programs and events. Moreover, endowments can facilitate long-term planning and strategic initiatives, empowering organizations to undertake ambitious projects and expand their reach.



Beverly R. Anderson. Image courtesy of Memorial Congregational Church, of which Bev was an active member for many years.

Additionally, an endowment enhances the credibility and attractiveness of a historical society to potential donors, as it demonstrates prudent financial management and a commitment to sustainability. By investing in an endowment, supporters can ensure that their contributions have a lasting impact, perpetuating the legacy of local history for future generations. In essence, an endowment is not merely a financial asset but a testament to the enduring value and importance of preserving our collective past.

We are forever grateful to Beverly for starting us on this journey.

# A Look Ahead

Rachael Robinson, Executive Director

It's always good to look over the past year to reflect on what has been done. Often times it can feel like we were so focused on some big items, that we completely missed some smaller but still significant happenings. 2023 was a great year, and we were able to accomplish a lot. We brought back some old classics with a little twist, and grew some new endeavors.

As we look forward upon 2024 there are exciting new challenges to undertake. The resolve of the Society is to continue to grow and have more offerings of programs, events, and visitorship. The Society sees the museum space as a communal gathering spot as much as a place for educational development. The goal is to continue to have dynamic and fun exhibits for visitors, while also being a great resource for a quick gift. Shopping locally in the 01776 Gift Shop not only helps the organization fund projects, it also helps local artisans.

The continued support of members, community organizations, and local businesses is imperative to our mission. This mission is to be able to provide accurate publically accessible information on the history of Sudbury, a safe repository for significant artifacts, and a fun environment. The ability to share our collections online with anyone around the globe is a wonderful feeling. People from all over the globe love Sudbury and want to learn more. Often times this comes from a familial connection, or just a keen interest in a specific event that transpired here. Being able to share what we have will hopefully inspire future donations, make independent research easier from anywhere, and streamline our educational output.



In 2024 I am optimistic that we can reach new individuals to share our passion with. We do ask one favor of you, kind reader, please be sure to let your friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and even casual acquaintances know that we are here. A common phrase we hear is 'I have lived in town for years and I never knew you existed!'. We really hope we hear this less, although we understand the sentiment! Word of mouth is often the most effective way for us to gain new visitors. It costs nothing for anyone, and a personal vouch from a friend can be worth so much more than a paid advertisement. We hope that you follow us on our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our mailing list- we promise we won't over load your inbox! These are the fastest ways for us to share updates and let you know what we have going on. Finally, we are so thankful for our members. The continued support we get is amazing, and we appreciate it.



# Images From The Year



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