

# Town of Sudbury

Office of Selectmen  
[www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us)

Flynn Building  
278 Old Sudbury Rd  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1843  
978-639-3381  
[selectmen@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:selectmen@sudbury.ma.us)

## **380<sup>TH</sup> STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 6, 2019**

***By Bob Haarde  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen***

Sudbury Town Meeting can be traced back to a meeting on February 20, 1639 where the order of business was the following: "Ordered by the commissioners of the Town that every inhabitant shall come forth to the mending of the highway by removing fallen sticks and branches." After 380 years, we are still removing sticks and branches.

One of the first paths cleared in that first decade was the road to Concord, which on April 19, 1775 was the path taken by the 346 Patriots who went to the Battle of Concord including Josiah Haynes who at the age of 80 grabbed his musket and led a courageous charge on the British soldiers and paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom.

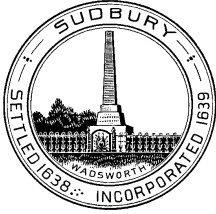
Colonial Sudbury was comprised of settlers who ventured from the safety of the shoreline to the wilderness to get further from the influence of British rule, many of whom traveled from England aboard the passenger ship Confidence. Some of their names were: William Pelham, Edmund Browne, Bryan Pendleton, Walter Haines, John Blandford, John Howe, George Munnings, Andrew Belcher, John Goodnowe, John Ruddock, Edmond Rice, Henry Curtis, John Parmenter, Henry Loker, John Bent, John Maynard, Joseph Taintor, Thomas Axdell, Thomas Plympton, Goodman Witherell, Philemon Whale, Thomas Buckmaster and Thomas Cakebread,

Some of the original inhabitants of this land, whom we now refer to as Native Americans, were Jehojakim, Magos, Muskqua, Musquamog, Wenneto, Tantamous, Netous, and Cato. Cato was fondly referred to as Goodman Cato after he was given the Colonial title of respect and rank of "Goodman" by the Sudbury settlers. Cato lived on what is now known as Goodman's Hill.

It is said that people die twice. Once when they physically die and then when the last time their name is spoken. Now that the Loring Parsonage, the original home of Israel Loring, one of Sudbury's founders, is now The Sudbury History Center and Museum, the names of these original inhabitants of Sudbury, although difficult for me to pronounce, shall live on.

On April 20, 1648, an Indian Deed was signed by John Winthrop the first Governor of Massachusetts, recording a transaction of land in Sudbury from Goodman Cato to Walter Haynes and Hugh Griffin in exchange for five pounds of commodities and wampum.

This peaceful exchange marked not only an early example of commerce and real estate transactions in America but also one of the first examples of Race Amity in America. Thanks to Sudbury



# Town of Sudbury

Office of Selectmen  
[www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us)

Flynn Building  
278 Old Sudbury Rd  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1843  
978-639-3381  
[selectmen@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:selectmen@sudbury.ma.us)

resident, William Smith, On the second Sunday in June we celebrate Race Amity in Sudbury in and many other communities and we support the ongoing effort for National Race Amity Day.

The Town of Sudbury demonstrated thought leadership at many times in our history. One such example was in 1654, When new Selectman John Ruddock challenged the English custom of church rule when he declared: “We shall, or should, be judged by men of our own choosing,” this was the first such American declaration of what would become evident in the US Constitution and a cause championed by Thomas Jefferson as the “Separation of Church and State.”

Sudbury was one of the first towns to publicly dissent with England’s handling of the colonies. What began as a group of rebels planning by the fireplace at the Wayside Inn, became the beginnings of what would eventually become the revolution. In 1768, Sudbury Town Meeting voted to boycott imports and promote industry from within. This was one of first steps taken toward colonial independence.

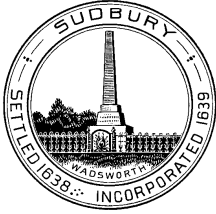
Sudbury is well-known for sending the largest contingent of soldiers to the Battle of Concord. The British command failed to take into account that Sudbury was home to 360 veterans of the four French and Indian wars including Colonel John Nixon, who earned the rank of Brigadier General under General George Washington.

Education has always been important to Sudbury residents. In 1854 a young Williams College student named James Garfield was hired by Sudbury parents to teach summer school to their children in the Parmenter and Garfield General Store in Sudbury Town Center near where our current Town Hall is today. This young Sudbury teacher would go on to become the 20th President of the United States.

The Town of Sudbury played a role in the anti-slavery movement with Abolitionist meetings in the upstairs meeting room of Enoch Kidder’s shoe shop, a building which still stands today as a real estate office at 361 Boston Post Road. Israel How Brown operated a segment of the underground railroad in Sudbury from his home which still stands today opposite Wadsworth Cemetery.

Sudbury has a long tradition of spreading goodwill, supporting those in need and supporting those who have served the cause of freedom. In 1877, the town operated the Hotel d’Gilbert which at one point supported as many as 711 people in need. These people were wanderers, peddlers and most of them were veterans of the Civil War and suffering the effects of combat now referred to as Post Traumatic Stress. The Hotel d’Gilbert would provide work, food and shelter for those in need until it closed in 1957.

Famous Sudbury Resident and Red Sox Pitcher Babe Ruth would rent buses to bring busloads of children from Boston-area orphanages to his farm in Sudbury where he would play baseball with them and cook them lunch.



# Town of Sudbury

Office of Selectmen  
[www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us)

Flynn Building  
278 Old Sudbury Rd  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1843  
978-639-3381  
[selectmen@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:selectmen@sudbury.ma.us)

Our 9/11 Memorial, the Sudbury Military Family Support Network, the Scott Milley Foundation, the Sudbury Fyfe and Drum Militia, and HopeSudbury are all examples of Patriotism and Goodwill which I am sure make both Josiah Haynes and Scott Milley proud of their hometown.

At the 1882 Sudbury Town Meeting, the question of granting women the right to vote and hold office was placed before the people of Sudbury - a full 38 years before the 19th Amendment ratifying the women's Suffrage movement was passed. It is appropriate to note that this year we will now have three women on our board of Selectmen and we have signed an extension for our Town Manager, Melissa Rodrigues.

We have done great work we have more great work to do. Sudbury Town Meeting is our Congress. You are all senators and we are all here to carry on the legislative branch of government for our town.

Henry David Thoreau described the New England Town Meeting in a speech in 1854, when he said:

*"In some obscure country town, the farmers come together for a special town-meeting, to express their opinion on some subject which is vexing the land. This is the true Congress, and the most respectable one that is ever assembled in the United States."*

To continue this long tradition of self-government and thought leadership you are welcome to the longest-running continuous form of government in North America, the 2019 Sudbury Annual Town Meeting.



*Chairman Haarde delivering the State of the Town Address at Sudbury Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019.*