Meetinghouse, LIBRARY, Home

Most regular library visitors know the general history of the Sturgis Library, from its origins in 1644 as a meetinghouse for the Reverend John Lothrop and his followers, to its transformation in 1867 to a public library. But many of you may not know that for most of its life – up through the 1990s – the Sturgis Library has also been home to many local residents.

Reverend John Lothrop and his family were its first inhabitants. The structure, constructed in 1644, was used as a meetinghouse and home. Lothrop died in 1653, leaving “to my wife my new dwelling house.” Anne Hammond Lothrop, John Lothrop’s wife, resided here for a time. Joseph Lothrop, son of John Lothrop, owned the house by 1660. Thomas Lothrop, son of Joseph, lived in the house until 1723.

Abigail Lothrop Sturgis, granddaughter of John Lothrop and wife of Thomas Sturgis, lived in the house prior to 1763. These were William Sturgis’ great–great grandparents. The will of Thomas Sturgis Jr. in 1763 left a “norwest room” to a single daughter “with a common privilege in the kitchen, cellar, at the well & over and about the house and liberty to get wood for one fire,” indicating that by 1763 the house had been converted from a half–Cape to the larger colonial–style structure it is today.

William E. Sturgis and his wife Hannah Mills lived in the house in the 1770s and 1780s. Their son, Capt. William F. Sturgis was born here on February 5, 1782. There is some evidence that Thomas Phinney and Sylvester Baker may have been tenants of the Sturgis family. Major Sylvanus Phinney was born here in 1808. He went on to be founding publisher and editor of the Barnstable Patriot newspaper, which has been in continuous publication since the 1830s. Deacon Joseph Chipman purchased the house from William Sturgis after Sturgis’ mother’s death around 1819. Isaac Chipman lived here, and may have had a boarder named Doctor Doane around 1848, according to the Barnstable Patriot.

William Chipman sold the house back to Capt. William Sturgis in 1863. Sturgis died on October 21, 1863, leaving the house, his personal library, and $15,000 to start a library to benefit the Town. Trustees Samuel Hooper, Lemuel Shaw, and Edward Hooper had the second floor on the west side of the house removed to permit a high–ceilinged shelf–lined room, the top shelves serviced by a ladder. On August 2nd, 1867, it opened as the Sturgis Library.

At that point, the upstairs portion of the house was made into a residence for the librarian, who provided services in exchange for free rent. The first librarian in 1867 was Rev. Thomas Weston. If you look closely at one of the panes of glass in the south–facing front window in the Hooper Room, you can see a name that looks like Mary or Emily Weston etched into the glass, perhaps by a diamond ring, a practice popular at that time.

Continued on Page 2
Continued from Page 1

Other librarians who lived in the building included Mrs. Olive Freeman who served from 1872 to 1883 and died following after a fall in the upstairs apartment when she broke her hip. Miss Lillie Loring took over in November 1883 and presumably lived in the apartment, serving until her death in 1894. Miss Elizabeth Crocker Nye served as librarian from 1894 to 1948, and lived in the building the entire time, perhaps longer than any other resident. After Miss Nye’s death, the Trustees rented the upstairs space to tenants.

Harriet Stockton Worthington lived here with her brother around 1953, and ran a nursery school for local children. See the photo above of students dressed for a play, dated Christmas 1953.

In 1956, Basil Edwards lived here as a bachelor and brought his new bride Peggy (Margaret) Edwards here in 1957 while their home on Pine Lane was being built. Their daughter Sarah was born while they lived here. They moved to Pine Lane in 1958.

As late as the early 1990s, there was a tenant living in the second floor apartment. The last known tenant was Gladys E. Barnard. She died November 20, 1991.

The upstairs of the original building is now used as office, staff, and storage space.

Print and Email Newsletters

In order to bring you timely news, we have started publishing a new monthly email version of our newsletter. This allows us to notify library users of upcoming programs and events, enhanced services, and the latest library news. We will still be publishing the print edition of our newsletter twice a year — once in the winter and once in late spring.

To sign up for our monthly email newsletter, go to [http://www.sturgislibrary.org/news/newsletter](http://www.sturgislibrary.org/news/newsletter) and fill in your email address in the sign-up box (pictured to the right, above.)

On the newsletter page on our website, you can also read back issues of both our print and email newsletters. There’s a lot happening at the Sturgis Library. Make sure you don’t miss a thing!

Exhibit Space Available

Attention collectors, artists, crafters, and packrats! Do you have a collection, artwork, crafts, antiques, or unique items you’d like to share? We have exhibit space available for interesting displays of all kinds. In the past we’ve displayed everything from vintage valentines to toy soldiers, historical memorabilia, tools, handcrafted jewelry, and more. Contact Lucy or Marcella at 508-362-6636 for more information.
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK
Lucy Loomis, Library Director

In 2007 the Sturgis Library celebrated its 140th year as a public library, and this year the original library building is 365 years old. The preservation and upkeep of our building is an important part of our mission, and the Sturgis Library Board of Trustees have been responsible stewards of our historic building, anticipating building issues before they became unmanageable and attending to problems as they have arisen.

In the last several years it became evident that major preservation and renovation projects needed to be addressed. As part of our strategic planning process, the Board determined that a professional building assessment survey would help us to set priorities for current and future building projects, give us a strong foundation for fundraising efforts, and provide the framework to undertake the needed building projects in a systematic and strategic way.

A building assessment survey was completed in November of 2008 by the architectural firm of Brown Lindquist Fenuccio and Raber, Inc. of Yarmouth Port. They worked with consultants Building Engineering Resources, Inc. and Coastal Engineering Co., Inc. to assess the structure, HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems, fire protection, and other building systems. The resulting report provides us with recommendations for high, medium, and lower priority projects that will address building deficiencies and help to preserve and protect our historic structure. In the coming months, the Board of Trustees will be seeking grants and matching funding to complete the highest priority projects. Keep an eye on our website and newsletters for details on our building preservation project.

Celebrate Spring!
Come Dine With Us!
Sunday, March 22, 2009  6 PM

Join us for the fourth annual Sturgis Library Dinner, hosted by the Board of Trustees and held this year at the Old Yarmouth Inn in Yarmouth Port on Sunday, March 22nd at 6 PM. Join friends, neighbors, and fellow library supporters for a fun, relaxed evening of dining. There will be a choice of fine foods, a cash bar, goodie bags, and more! A portion of the ticket proceeds goes to support library services and programs.

On the menu:
A choice of braised short ribs of beef, cranberry-herb stuffed chicken breast, sole picatta, or a vegetarian entrée. Desserts include triple chocolate torte or apple crisp with French vanilla ice cream. Appetizers, salad, crusty bread, coffee, and tea round out the menu. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets will go on sale in February, and are $50 each, which includes appetizers, entrée, dessert, coffee and tea, and gratuity. Get your tickets early — seating is limited!
Adult Services Update

By Marcella Curry, Adult Services Librarian

Our program theme of local history was popular this fall and you’ll see more offerings this winter & spring. Our popular literary discussion group will expand on the theme; the titles to be discussed are books with a strong sense of place. Collaborating with the Barnstable Historical Society, we’re presenting talks by Dan Santos and Bill Cook. Dan is a fine woodworker and you’ll hear & see his project to reproduce a classic Windsor chair with connections to Nantucket. Bill will share a video of the Cape Cod Maritimes’ project to build a replica of a Crosby catboat. Ned Handy has agreed to come talk about his new book, The Little House at Sandy Neck, in June.

New Service Offered!
OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks can now be downloaded and enjoyed on Macs. From the CLAMS catalog you can download the OverDrive Media Console for Macs. You can then download audiobooks onto your computer and then onto an iPod or other MP3 player. To access the downloadable audio book feature in the CLAMS catalog, go to http://library.clamsnet.org and click on the image of the MP3 player.

Volunteers
Our volunteers keep the library going by assisting with wide variety of tasks. We have three new volunteers helping us out. Jean Hall lives in Cummaquid, her interests include reading along with knitting & crocheting. She already volunteers with the Hospice Thrift Shop and decided she had time to help at Sturgis. She comes in twice a week and gathers the items we send off to other libraries. Brianna Silverman is a student at Sturgis High School and she wanted to help out in the community. Helping at Sturgis is a good fit since her interests include reading and writing. She comes in weekly to assist with shelving library materials. Joyce Prince is a regular Sturgis patron along with being an author. She is assisting with our project of refurbishing our Cape Cod Genealogical Notes. She is enjoying the project and likes the flexibility of choosing her schedule to work on this project.

Music CDs
Our extensive collection of music CDs will be relocated to the Simpkins Room in a new CD shelving unit. The CDs will also be repackaged in containers that travel more safely through the library-to-library delivery system. We’re adding new titles every day, so check back often! For a complete list of new and popular music CDs, visit the CLAMS catalog and click on the links for “Top Requests” and “New and Popular Titles.”
Sturgis Library's 2009 Reading and Discussion Group
Let Me Take You There, Books With a Strong Sense of Place

Registration is Required
We can help you obtain copies of the books
Call us at (508) 362-6636 or email us at marcellamcurry@comcast.net

This program is funded in part by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

Woodworking in the Eighteenth Century:
Reproducing the Charles Chase Nantucket Windsor Chair
March 10, 2009    7 pm
Presented by Barnstable Historical Society and Sturgis Library
Join us for an illustrated lecture by fine woodworker Dan Santos.
Dan has been creating fine furniture, cabinetry, and woodenware for more than twenty five years. In his lecture he will discuss a recent project to reproduce a classic Windsor chair inspired by the work of Charles Chase of Nantucket.

Catboat Sarah
May 12, 2009    7 pm
Presented by the Barnstable Historical Society and Sturgis Library
The Cape Cod Maritime Museum built a replica of Sarah, an 1886 Herbert F. Crosby catboat. Bill Cook will present a video of the major steps in construction, from carving the oak keel and steam-bending frames, to shaping the spars and splicing the rigging, giving us a first-hand view of traditional Cape Cod boatbuilding.

Little House at Sandy Neck
June 2009 (Date TBA)    7PM
Author Ned Handy will talk about and show images from his book, The Little House at Sandy Neck: a Record of the Past and Present Uses of Barnstable Harbor and Sandy Neck
Kids Corner!
By Karen Campbell Murdoch, Youth Services Librarian

Children’s Storytime
Thursdays, 10:30 am - 11:00 am
Join us in the Children's Area for a Children's Story Time at 10:30am on Thursday Mornings. This story time is geared towards 3 year olds and up, but siblings are welcome. Registration is appreciated.

Kids Book Club is back!
Wednesdays 4:00—4:45     April 1st — May 5th
Join Ms. Karen for this 6 week book club! We invite children between the ages of 6 - 9 years to read & discuss featured books as well as creating many types of crafts too! Registration is required.

PITTER PATTER PUPPETS!
February 18th at 10:30 am
This wonderful puppet show will consist of developmentally appropriate interactive puppet play activities specifically designed to stimulate language, literacy, sensory awareness, problem solving, self-expression, phonemic awareness, and story creation.
This program is best for children birth to 5 years of age but is enjoyed by children and adults of all ages.
To Register please call Karen M. at 508-362-6636

Questions, Suggestions, or Thoughts?
Please contact Karen Murdoch at 508-362-6636
Would you like to be added to our email list for event and program updates? Please send a note to Karen at stugiskids@comcast.net

Want to join our TAG Group?!
Our Teen Advisory Group is open to everyone ages of 12 and up who love to connect with other teens, review great books, attend fun game nights, and more! Please contact Karen M. for more information.

Please check our Calendar of Events and our new Kids/Parent blog for new programs and for future events!

http://stugiskids2.blogspot.com
Happy New Year from the Friends of Sturgis Library!

The Friends welcomed in the New Year on Sunday, January 11 with an entertaining and informative program by Cape Cod’s own “Feelin Good Barbershop Quartet.” On Sunday, February 8 at 2:30 pm chanteuse PAVIA will present “A Valentine Cabaret.” Accompanying herself on the accordion, she will sing a program of favorite love songs and torch songs. Please mark your calendars!

While there are many reasons for concern these days, we have much to be thankful for. Sturgis Library is a national treasure with an outstanding staff and the Friends work all year to support and enhance the valuable services that the library provides. To this end we rely on volunteers. A special thank you to those who:

- donated treats and goodies for our bake sales, programs and May luncheon
- volunteer in the Friends Book and Gift Store
- worked at the Book and Plant Sales
- decorated the library for the Holidays
- hosted and staffed our July Garden Tour
- serve on the Board of the Friends of Sturgis Library

Most importantly, thank you to the almost 200 members (households) who have joined the Friends. We appreciate your support and invite new members to join at any time. Annual dues are only $15.00 per household.

On behalf of the Friends Board, I’d like to extend warm wishes for a New Year of peace, joy and good health!

Margaret A. Housman, President of the Friends

Join us for a

Family International Folkdancing Program

Wednesday, April 22nd at 10:30 AM

Parents and children will be learning dances from Bolivia, Mexico, Israel, Tahiti, Ghana, France, England, and the United States

Children ages 4 and up, teens, parents, and grandparents are welcome

Be sure to wear your sneakers!

Registration is appreciated
Now Selling at the Friends Book and Gift Shop

- New Sturgis Library mugs with a green border ($5.00)
- Sturdy and attractive “Whale of a Library” totebags ($20.00)
- Matted art prints by Kathy Kleekamp in a variety of sizes and prices depicting scenes of Barnstable Village & Cape Cod
- Original notecards by local photographer, Joyce Kevorkian ($3.00)
- Wooden bird ornaments by Gary Starr ($15.00) A selection of 4 new birds for 2009.
- A few 2009 desktop calendars by Peter Barrows are still available depicting images of Barnstable Village and Cape Cod (now reduced to $10.00).

Recent Friends’ Contributions to Sturgis Library

⇒ $5,000 to the Library’s Annual Appeal
⇒ $5,500 for the purchase of large print books, audio books, and rental books
⇒ Purchase of all museum passes
⇒ Subscription to monthly “Book Pages,” a book review periodical
⇒ Sunday afternoon music programs

UPCOMING FRIENDS PROGRAMS

Sunday, February 8 @ 2:30 PM
Pavia, singer
“A Valentine Cabaret”

Tuesday, March 24 @ 2:30 PM
Cape Cod Authors’ Tea
$12.00 for members
$15.00 for non-members
Reservations required — Seating limited to 48

Wednesday, May 6 @ 12 noon
Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Friday & Saturday June 5-6
Annual Book, Plant & Bake Sale

SIMPLY STURGIS
LOCAL AND FRESH

Our new cookbook featuring recipes for fresh, locally grown or harvested foods will be available in early May. Watch for details about a reception to launch the cookbook!

THANK YOU

To all the volunteers who help me with library mailings throughout the year. Each one would be a mammoth task without you.

If anyone else is interested in volunteering to help please call me at 508-362-6636.
Many hands make light work!

Elizabeth
The Board of Trustees would like to thank the following foundations, local businesses, community organizations, individuals and families who contributed to the Sturgis Library during the last year.

### Special Gifts and Bequests
- Roger Ludwig / F.M. Weny Charitable Trust
- Caroline B. Leech Estate
- Dorothea Dodge Estate
- Edward D’A Norman Estate
- Donations by family & friends in memory of Myrne Riel

### Organizations & Businesses
- Barnstable General Store
- Barnstable Village Civic Association
- Cape Cod Cooperative Bank
- Friends of Sturgis Library
- Grubs Garden Club
- IFAW
- Lothrop Family Foundation
- Tales of Cape Cod

### Sturgis Founders
- $1,000 and up
  - Samuel I.A. Anderson
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### Barnstable Spring Antiques Show

**Saturday, April 18th 2009**

10 AM to 4 PM

To Benefit
Sturgis Library &
Whelden Memorial Library

**Place:** Barnstable-West Barnstable Elementary School
Route 6A West Barnstable

Over 30 quality dealers are expected for this 2nd annual show.

Luncheon and Bake Sale items available

### A Warm Welcome to Our New Library Trustees:

**Susan Bloom and Tom Prince**

The Board of Library Trustees are:
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- Dan Santos, Vice President
- Bill Cook, Treasurer
- Jackie Crowley, Secretary
- Carrie Bearse
- Sheila Bearse
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- John Ehret
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- Jim Hinkle
- Ted Housman
- Laurel Kornhiser
- Joanne Lyman
- Tom Prince
- Ted Theodores
- Joan Wright
Sturgis Library

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday
Thursday & Friday
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday
1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Saturday
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday
Closed

Web site:
www.sturgislibrary.org

Email:
info@sturgislibrary.org

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Calendar of Selected Events and Programs

✎ February 8th @ 2:30 PM
Pavia, singer “A Valentine Cabaret”

✎ February 16th
CLOSED for President’s Day

✎ March 10th @ 7 PM
Woodworking in the 19th Century

✎ March 22nd @ 6PM
Library Dinner at the Old Yarmouth Inn

✎ March 24th @ 2:30 PM
Cape Cod Author’s Tea

✎ April 1st @ 4 PM
Kid’s Book Club Begins

✎ April 20th
CLOSED for Patriot’s Day

✎ April 23 @ 4 PM
International Folk Dancing

For more events, visit our online calendar @ http://www.sturgislibrary.org/calendar/