

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. I No. II June 1975

HOW SUTTON CELEBRATED OUR NATION'S CENTENNIAL

The town of Sutton presently has a hard working committee appointed by the Selectmen working on a Bicentennial celebration which will include among other things a parade, casting of a medallion, and a play of lasting and national historical significance based on the diary of Dr. David Hall. This committee is made up of the following persons: Mr. Walter Shaw, Chairman; Rev. Arthur K. Pope, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Betty LeClaire, Secretary; Mr. James Healy, Mr. Adelard Renaud, Mrs. Alice Riley, Mrs. Louise Helgeron, Mrs. Eunice King, Mr. Malcolm Pearson.

As this committee carries on its work it is most interesting to look into the annals of Sutton and read a notation made for July 4, 1876 to see how Sutton commemorated that great day 100 years ago.

"There was, upon July 4th, a large and enthusiastic gathering of the citizens of the town in the grove a little east of the house of Mr. F. H. Marble.

A procession of Sunday-school children and citizens was formed at the Congregational

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THE OLD WEST SUTTON HOTEL AND TAVERN

By Rae Johnson

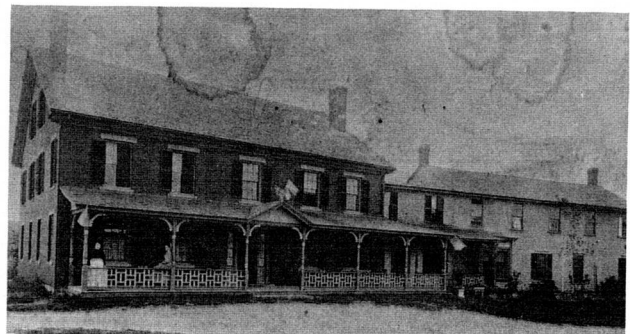
In West Sutton, at the corner of Town Farm Road and Central Turnpike, where Mr. & Mrs. McCollums home now stands, is the site of the historic West Sutton Hotel and Tavern.

The original tavern was built by Mr. Amos Waters (1717-1772) in the middle 1700's.

Since then, several buildings were located on this site until 1815 when Capt. Reuben Waters expanded the facility to include a Masonic hall and store.

In the middle 1800's, Paris & George Tourtellott tore down the main portion of the hotel and constructed the brick building shown in the photograph. For many years the tavern was an important place

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Old West Sutton Hotel

HOW SUTTON CELEBRATED (Cont'd)

church, under the direction of Messrs. Edmund J. Mills, Amos Batcheller, H. S. Stockwell and Charles H. Chase, marshals; and, escorted by the Oxford brass band, marched to the grove, where appropriate services were held under the direction of E. J. Mills, president of the day. Prayer was offered Rev. W. A. Benedict, the Declaration of Independence read by Miss Hattie A. Holbrook, and patriotic speeches were made by Rev. H. A. Tracy, Messrs. I. B. Hartwell, Reuben R. Dodge, J.W. Stockwell, and Rev. W. A. Benedict.

Old time and modern songs were sung, and stirring music was given by the band. As the day wore on to its close, the crowd slowly and reluctantly dispersed, some, at least, praying that they who shall upon the same ground celebrate the nation's bicentennial, may look upon our flag studded with many new stars, still proudly waving over an undivided people, who have maintained their civil and religious institutions in their integrity, strengthened their government by the promotion of virtue and intelligence, and made as rapid progress in the second as in the first century of the nation's life, in all that constitutes true national greatness."

ANNUAL
OLDIES BUT GOODIES SALE
 AT
SHERMAN BLACKSMITH SHOP
SUTTON CENTER

SATURDAY JUNE 21 - 10 AM
 FOOD, BOOKS, TOYS, ANTIQUES
 IN CASE OF RAIN - TOWN HALL

NOTE: FOR PICK-UP AND STORAGE
 PHONE MR. OR MRS. KENNETH HOOVER
 CO-CHAIRPERSONS, 476-7593

HOUSE DATE MARKERS AVAILABLE

The Historical Society has appropriated funds for a year plaque or marker to be offered to owners of homes built before 1800. This program is one segment of the Society's participation in the Bicentennial observance.

In a parallel project an inventory survey of historical sites which is now planned for completion June 30 is being conducted. The State Historical Commission will publish this listing in a directory scheduled for publication during the ensuing year. The directory is updated annually as towns submit their listings. The information is necessary for applying through channels for recognition by the National Register for preservation aid and protection status.

The year marker plaques will be made of anodized aluminum, one-eighth inch thick, approximately 5" wide by 12" long. Numerals will be about 3" high, aluminum color on a black background, easily legible from the street when attached to a home. The material has archival permanency and is corrosion and erosion resistant to the weather. If a home owner so desires, a Society member will attach the plate in a location designated by the owner. The plaque is optional to owners at no charge for homes originally built prior to 1800.

Necessary funds are limited for such a project and in response to numerous requests by various home owners for homes built after 1800, the Society will make up individual orders at a cost of approximately \$5.00, which is the anticipated cost to produce them. Such requests should be made to the Society's treasurer before July 31st.

WEST SUTTON HOTEL (Cont'd)

In the life and activity of West Sutton, serving as a library, a movie house, a dancing school, a singing school and at different periods of time there were the usual criticisms of the operation of the tavern.

After Central Turnpike was built, the hotel became a scheduled stop for the stagecoach from Boston and Hartford. Some drivers boarded at the hotel and often exchanged places with drivers when they stopped, one driving east, the other driving west. Horses and coaches were also exchanged during these stops.

On April 3, 1915, a late spring snow storm hit the area, making travel on the roads impossible. During that night a chimney fire in the hotel started the conflagration that was to finally engulf the structure and the historical landmark known as the West Sutton Hotel became a memory to those who knew it.

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BULLETIN

Vol I No II June 1975

Published quarterly

Founder & Editor-Arthur K. Pope
Asst. Editor-Carilyn Philbrook

This issue typed by the students of Sutton High School to which we are grateful.

Please submit formal papers, written memories, old photographs and letters for publication at any time to either of the editors.

WHAT IS THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

The Sutton Historical Society is an organization that exists to promote research and learning in the history of the town of Sutton; to acquire, protect and preserve property, historical documents, relics, and objects; and to promote celebration of patriotic and historic anniversaries.

We own and currently are preserving and protecting a turn of the century Blacksmith Shop in Sutton Center.

We meet monthly for various programs of historical significance.

We are governed by a Board of Directors consisting of twelve persons. Presently, Mr. Rae Johnson is our president.

All persons who love the town of Sutton and who wish to see its historical character preserved are welcome to become members of our active and growing society by submitting the application below.

To: The Sutton Historical
Society Inc.
Mr. Donald King, Treas.
Whitins Road
Manchaug, Mass. 01526

I/We are interested in joining the Sutton Historical Society. (check one below)

Family membership at \$5.00 per year. _____
Single membership at \$3.00 per year. _____
Junior membership at \$1.00 per year. _____
(under 18 years of age)

(Signature)

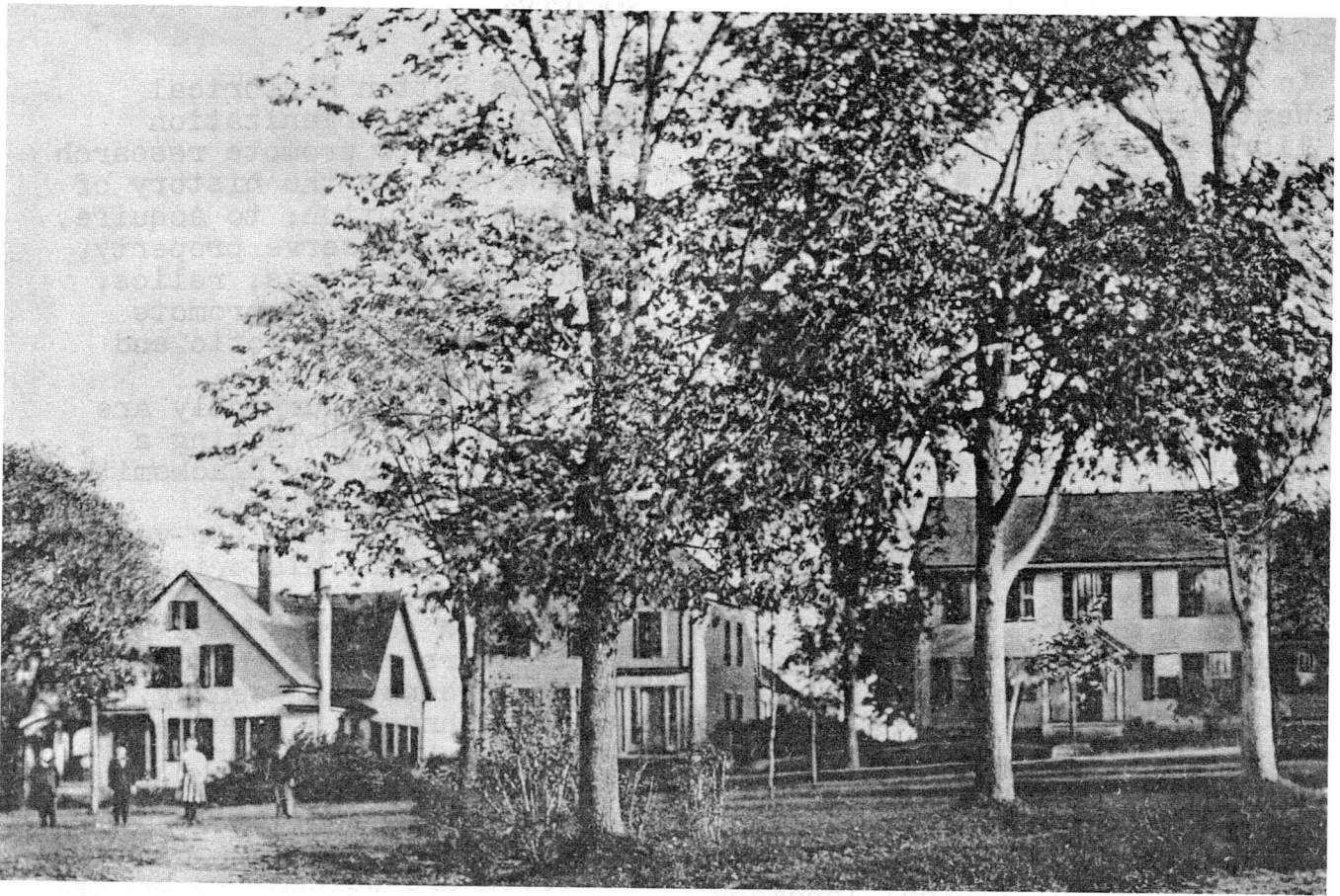
Name (please print)

Address

Please make checks payable to the Sutton Historical Society.

June 1975

SUTTON YESTERDAY



Looking across Sutton Common from Boston Road around 1900.
All three of these homes were completely destroyed by fire in
Nov. of 1909. (From a Postcard).

From
Sutton Historical Society
Box 127
Manchaug, Mass. 01526

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Manchaug, Mass.
Permit No. 1