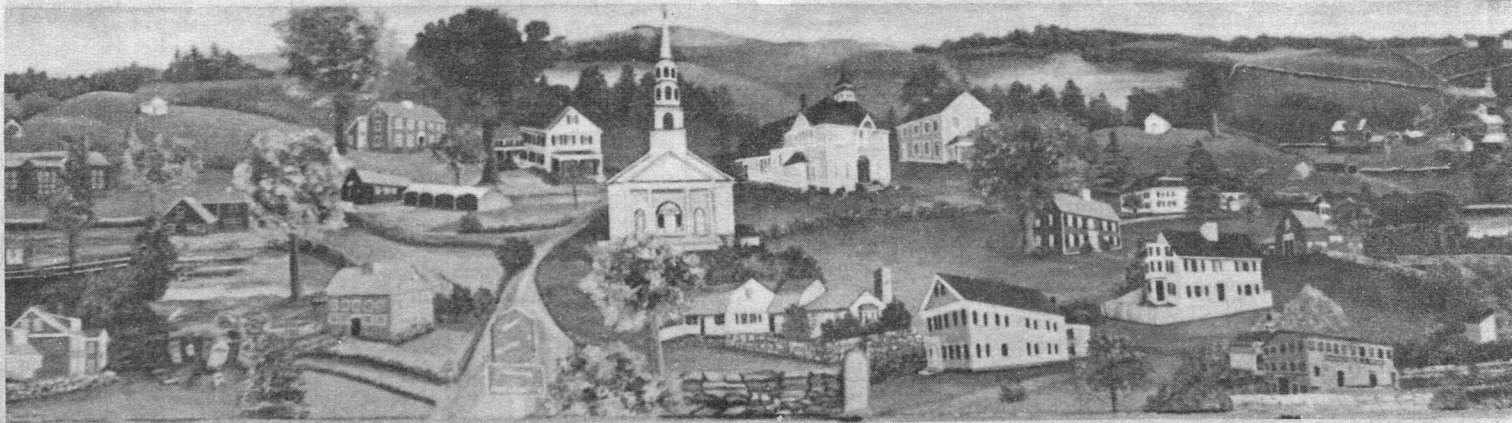


THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN
 Sutton, Massachusetts Vol. II No. I May, 1976

Sutton and the Bicentennial



In the June 1975 edition of our bulletin we told of how Sutton celebrated our Nation's Centennial. In this issue we have endeavored to come up with as complete a listing as is available of Sutton's Bicentennial events.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The arts and crafts division of the Sutton Bicentennial Committee has invited all town residents to submit art works, local photographs, and early American decorative crafts for judging in a forthcoming contest. Those selected as best in each category by an impartial jury shall be displayed in the Sutton Town Hall on Saturday, July 3, 1976.

All entries to be considered for judging should be delivered to the Town Hall between 9 and noon Sat., June 5 and picked up after the judging between 3 and 5 p.m. the same day.

BICENTENNIAL MEDALLION

The Sutton Bicentennial Committee has commissioned the Robbins Company of Attleboro, Ma. to strike in bronze and silver a bicentennial medallion depicting the town seal and local and recent history of the town. These may be purchased from Walter B. Shaw, chairman of the Committee, Cole Ave., 865-4345. Bronze is \$3.15 and silver is \$15.75.

THEATER

Marc P. Smith, playwright and Executive Producer of the Worcester Foothills Theater, is writing a Bicentennial drama based on the diary of Dr. David Hall, written 1740-1789 in Sutton. Written for the town of Sutton, the play will be produced here in the Fall of 1976.

PUBLICATIONS

Under the supervision of the Sutton Bicentennial Committee and Mrs. Florence Shaw, members of the Sutton High School and English Departments are compiling a photographic essay on the historic community of Sutton including photographs of historic structures as they stand today along with landscapes and modern construction.

This book will be available for sale by July 4, 1976.

In commemoration of the Bicentennial, the Sutton Historical Society Bulletin has published "David Hall and the Great Awakening" by Karen Helgesen. This is a study of "...one of the most important Sutton figures in the revolutionary period as well as one of the most important events contributing to the revolutionary involvement of our people."

Copies of the above are available for \$1 by writing Mr. Donald King, Whitins Road, Manchaug, Mass. 01526.

IN THE SCHOOLS

The Sutton School Department is presenting a number of Bicentennial related events throughout the year, some of which are open to the public.

Among the most outstanding and lasting of those was the creation of an eight foot long mural depicting the scenes, buildings, and important landmarks of the town. (Depicted above in a photo by Bradford Bailey.)

The mural was created by students: Donna Schroeder and Cath Anderson and their art teacher, Mrs. Evelyn Newton, and is on permanent display in the High School Library.

FRIDAY NIGHT, JULY 2, 1976

GALA OLD FASHIONED DANCE ON THE COMMON

Preceded by a supper from 6-8 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, the entire town will gather to dance under the stars in a gay celebration of the Nation's 200th. Roger Wynot of Nova Scotia and Beverly, Ma. will lead traditional, contra, and quadrilles.

Dick Ledger of Bristol, R.I. will lead the square and round dancing.

Joe Casey from Maine will lead the traditional square dancing. Dress 18th and 19th century (optional)

In case of rain the event will be held in the high school gym.

Dance free to all (except club level dancers.) On site concessions

**SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1976
OLD FASHIONED COUNTRY FAIR
ON THE COMMON BEGINNING AT 10 A.M.**

**SHERMAN BLACKSMITH SHOP
EXHIBIT BY THE SUTTON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT IN TOWN HALL

**D.A.R. HALL AND MUSEUM
OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**DEDICATION OF MINUTE MEN
MONUMENT ON THE COMMON AT 4 P.M.**

**FASHION PAGEANT OF 200 YEARS
OF AMERICAN DRESS IN FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH at 7:30 P.M.**

Country Fair includes eats galore, Craft and Food tables, Petting Zoo and Livestock, Hay Rides with King's beautiful Belgians, Antique Car with Machinery display, multi-affle, Old-Tyme movies, Children's games, Sutton Bicentennial Quilt exhibit, wandering Minstrel in the morning, Rock or Jazz Band in the afternoon. Also, music by "The Wayfarers", a wandering New England Folk ensemble presenting Folk music which reflects Americana through the years.

Free table space with 100% profit for all Sutton churches and organizations — contact Andrew Smith by May 15 for space, 865-9687.

Commercial space available on percentage basis.

**SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1976
10 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SPONSORED BY THE DIACONATE OF THE
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST (Congregational)**

Led by the Diaconate and all the town's clergy including the Old North Parish or Second Church of Sutton (now Millbury First). People will gather at the graveside of the Rev. David Hall in Sutton Center Cemetery for wreath laying and appropriate ceremonies.

There will be a procession to the Meeting House steps where the Lombard Clock will be dedicated and then the group will move into the church for a service of worship which will include special music by the choir, the conclusion of the Bicentennial Sermon series and the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Music will be provided by "The Brass Reunion" — a New England Brass Ensemble.

(In case of rain the entire service will be held in the sanctuary)

It is hoped that all persons will attend in dress reflecting the last 200 years of American History and where possible will either walk to the services or attend in horse and carriages or antique vehicles.

12 NOON — PICNIC AT EIGHT LOTS SCHOOL

Recreating the Sutton 1876 Centennial celebration, townspeople are invited to bring a picnic lunch to Eight Lots School. (Music and relaxed program)

**EVENING — TOWN OF SUTTON
BICENTENNIAL BANQUET AND BALL
At The**

PLEASANT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

Keynote speaker, dinner and colonial ball, live music. Ticket information and other details forthcoming, Mr. and Mrs. John Perry, chairpersons.

**MONDAY, JULY 5, 1976
ALL DAY SPORTS PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOLS
BAND CONCERT AND FIREWORKS
IN THE EVENING**

To be held on School grounds and environs and will include soccer game, soap box derby, water polo and other events. Evening band concert will be by Sutton High School band, James Healy, chairman.

Quobin Church - South Sutton Baptist (Where I went as a little girl)

By Bertha B. Johnson

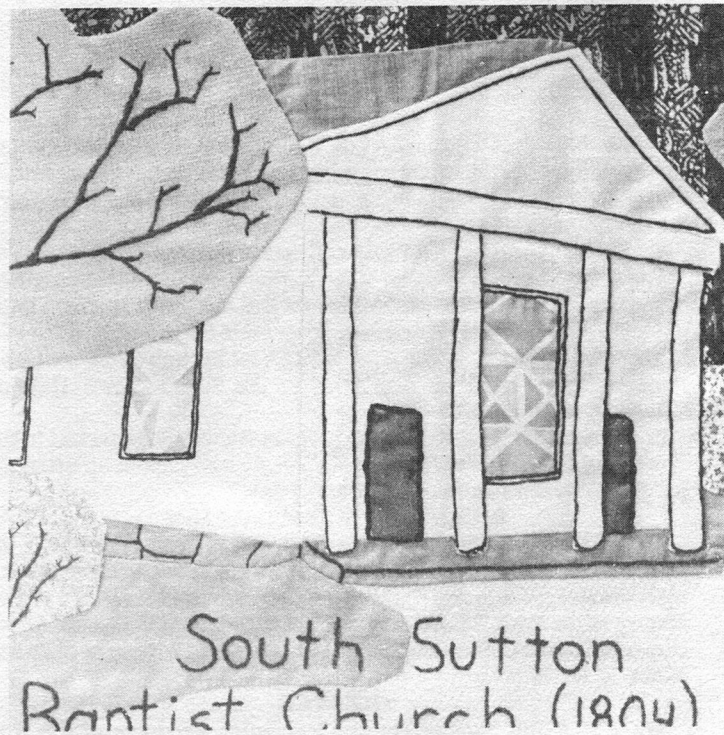
Church of my childhood,
Sweet memories of those days,
When first we heard the Precious Word
The truth, the light, the way.

Those old pews are filled,
With faces I recall,
So filled with Christian piety;
My memory sees them all.

All honor to those faithful ones,
Who've joined the throng above;
All honor to these faithful ones
Who still keep this House of God.

May we, who, as a part,
Devote our lives to thee;
And worship thee, with all our hearts
O, God of Trinity.

Dear little church of my childhood,
I love thee, and thy memories still;
Like a beacon star, thou shineth afar
Little old church on the hill.



The picture above is the South Sutton Baptist Church as depicted on a quilt block by Linda Bjorn. This block is part of the Bicentennial Quilt being made by the women of the First Congregational Church.

Before the South Sutton Church was organized Church services were held in the house now occupied by Irene Barnett built around 1750.

Sunday and Thursday evening services are now held in this church at 7 p.m. sponsored by the Immanuel Chapel of Upton, Norman Brower, Pastor. The church was built in 1804.

Great Grandfather's Ledger

By Phyllis B. MacLaren

Attics are wonderful places full of treasures but needless to say, a body could rarely plan on entering that heavenly height with a mind to procure one special object at a moment when it was needed. Those of us who have tried it, rarely returned to civilization with wits intact. That one object of our attention was almost always lost in the melee. A year later it might pop out from some dark corner but the day of the search it wasn't there. Indeed, we had come to believe it was nowhere. Gremlins? Spooks?

However, if one ascends those steep and gloomy stairs in the spirit of adventure and an ardent desire to find something we know not what, happiness could be ours.

This morning I took courage in hand, whistled up a make-shift silly tune and went to the attic to find a story for The Bulletin. I crawled and crept and shoved and pushed. At the point of no more endurance a THING miraculously appeared in front of my eyes. Ah - here was the basic for my story! It was a ledger kept by Great Grandfather Benjamin Lincoln Batcheller, meticulously recorded when he conducted a general store in Eight Lots. The year was 1856. Beside the store, Great Grandfather owned and operated a grist mill in combination with a shingle and clap-board mill, also a boot and shoe making shop. It was a natural for this ledger to include, among countless imported items, all the products of B.L. Batcheller's own manufacturing. Produce of local farmers and handcrafts of their women-folk were brought to Great Grandfather for trading and they, too, were duly recorded.

The record showed great volumes of candles being sold, only one or two entries for "oil", a significant that candles were the lighting of that day. Salt was often itemized. Hand weaving was still a home craft so very little cloth was sold and of course no sheets or towels or blankets: linens, woven coverlets and patchwork quilts were made at home. Cassia (cinnamon) was the only spice itemized. No stockings - hand knits from baby to Grandpa. Small orders of table crockery were often entered. Great-grandfather traded in lumber and one entry was made for "coal".

From the boot-shop, "piece work" on the foot-wear was done by Sutton residents in their own homes. I was amazed to read names of those who did that piecwork and traded in the general store. They were from all corners of our town which, of course comprised that part which is now Millbury. I know there were a multitude of boot-making shops all over Sutton but was Great Grandfather's the only general store at that time? Recorded history always leaves one hanging on so many points.

Taken at random from a listing of labor costs when Great Grandfather rented out his oxen and hired man service:

one half day for oxen and man drawing manure \$1.75
 one pair oxen 2 hours .40
 to Worcester with timber \$5.00
 oxen and man 2 hours \$1.60
 drawing load stone .75
 use oxen 6 hours \$1.20
 drawing brick \$1.50
 cutting 128 1/2 cord of wood \$128.50

And now, read on, for a sampling of prices charged in the general store. I'd be willing to bet all those olden residents of Sutton soundly griped about the high cost of everything!

FOOD

Sugar 10 lbs. in bucket	.95
Molasses 1 gal.	.52
Salt 1 bag	.25
Rice 1 lb.	.08
butter 1 lb.	.20
Vinegar 1 gal.	.17
Eggs 1 doz.	.18
Potatoes 1 bushel	.40
Coffee lb.	.17B
Beef lb.	.11

SUPPLIES

Candles 1 lb.	.19
plough point	.50
Swarm of bees	\$2.50
Sheepskin	.50
File (18 inch)	\$1.06
Shaving soap 1 cake	.07
Hammer	.33
Knives	.09
Smoking tobacco 2 papers	.05
Kitchen lamp	.30

CLOTHES AND SEWING MATERIAL

Boys Shoes (one pr.)	.43
Suspenders	.15
Boots (one pair)	\$2.50
Calico (one yard)	.12 1/2
Cotton cloth	.09 3/4
Collars	.14
Linen (one yard)	\$1.00
Thread (one ball)	.09



BENJAMIN Lincoln Batcheller, born in Lincoln House, Central Turnpike, Sutton, near William Stockwell's, Aug. 27, 1826. Died in Hutchinson House, Hutchinson Rd., Sutton, Jan. 2, 1881. Married Fannie Knapp (Metcalf) 1829-1886.

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership (check one)
 Family Single Junior (under 18)
 \$5 \$3 \$1

Signature _____

Name (Please print) _____

Street Address _____

City/ Town _____ Zip _____

Mail application and check payable to Sutton Historical Society,
 Box 127, Manchaug, Massachusetts 01526.

The Sutton Historical Society Bulletin

Vol. II No. I May, 1976

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

Contract for repairs and alterations to eight lots school, district no. 3, Town of Sutton, County of Worcester, Mass.

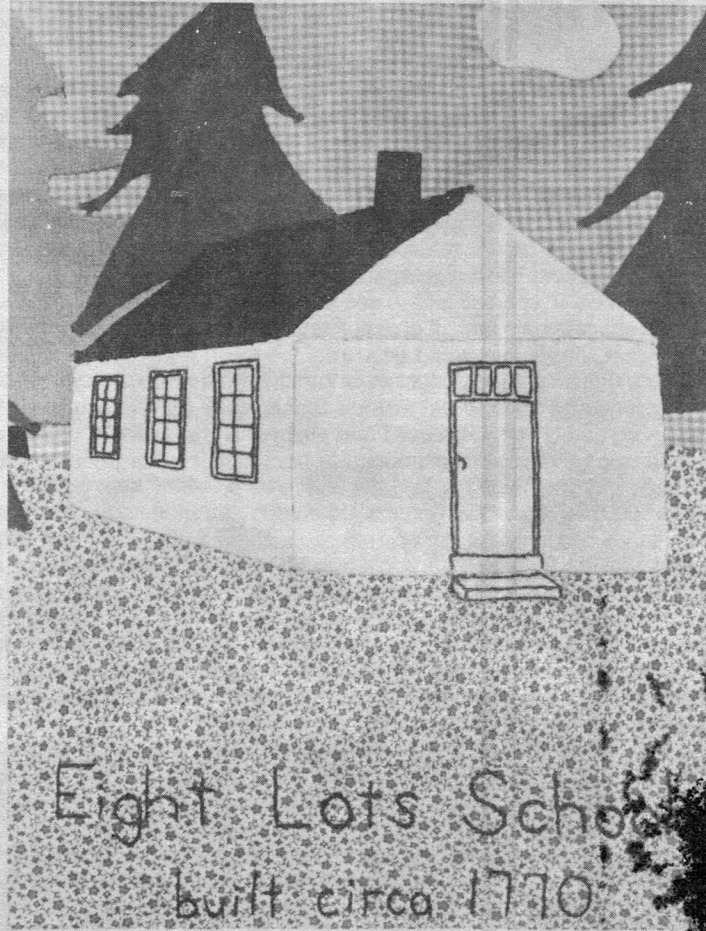
9th day of May, A.D., 1853

Articles of Agreement made, concluded and agreed upon this 9th day of May A.D. 1853 between Stephen Marsh, Simeon Stockwell, E.H. Hutchinson, Building Committee of School District No. 3 in the Town of Sutton in County of Worcester of the one part and Loring Jacobs of Millbury in said County of Worcester of the other part as follows: The party of the second part for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and eighty-five dollars doth hereby covenant and agree that he will perform the following work at School House No. 3 in said Sutton. — Clapboard front and both ends - new window panes and sash 9 by 13, six windows, the other same width as now but as high as the others. Front door moved to the west end to be trimmed with plane casings, knob, Iron lock, transom over front door to be used again; new silled where the door now is. Windows to drop as the committee may order. Three new doors - outside, school room and clothes room. Window springs to windows. To be new seated from north to south with five tiers of seats, three double and two half in each tier, a low seat on each side the open space next the wall. Table desk. Plastered, good brown work; to be painted outside two coats - school room same, floor and seats excepted. Old materials to be used again that will make good work. A small window in the East gable and Back-House to be repaired in good order. The said party of the second part to furnish all the materials and cause work to be done in a good and workmanlike manner. The House to be ready to commence upon by the 25 of July and completed on or before the 15th of September. When completed the said committee by being notified shall meet at said School House and proceed to examine the work and if found done according to this contract shall accept the same and pay the said contracting party the whole amount herein first mentioned.

In witness whereof we have hereto set our hands and seals on the day and the year above written.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of
Harriet M. Warfield

Stephen March ()
Simeon Stockwell ()
Edwin H. Hutchinson ()
Loring Jacobs ()



QUILT BLOCK of Eight Lots School by Esther Pope. (From Bicentennial Quilt of women of First Congregational Church.)

From
Sutton Historical Society
Box 127
Manchaug, Mass. 01526

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