

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

— BULLETIN —

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MARKET DAY

HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

Excerpts by RAE JOHNSON

NOTE - Rae Johnson and his wife Marjorie were in England on assignment for a year and a half. During this time he observed many of Britain's traditional customs.

The time, early 18th century, the place a small town north of London.

Out of the Moot Hall cellars were dragged each market day the pillory, stocks and ducking stool, to be set up in the center of the town square by the ancient market of St. Albans. From the cellars, too, were dragged the luckless law-

breakers, the cheeky kitchen maids and the shrewish housewives, whose husbands, unable to sustain domestic discord a moment longer, had at last in cowardly fashion, delegated their duty to the town's citizens.

Stallholders paused in the midst of unpacking their panniers of fish, flesh, bread, cream and eggs to shout and perhaps join in whipping the woebegone law-breaker. They hurled abuse and rotting produce at the miserable soul locked firmly in the stocks and added their strident shrieks to the wails of the poor old wife, as her ducking stool tipped and tilted, sending her into the murky depths of a barrel of cold water.

The town crier rang the bell and the Mayor, in the full majesty of his municipal regalia, accompanied by the borough baliffe, proceeded to the Market House, there to receive the report of the viewers as to the wholesome quality of the fare being offered. The flesh and fish tasters darted hither and yon, here complimenting a country wench and the flavor of her pies and pastries, there spitting out a morsel of overprime pork and roughly forcing its guilty owner to Market House to pay his fine.

The scene today, though different in many respects, still retains something of the clamorous urgency and excitement of the old market. Moot Hall still stands overlooking market square. Gone are the bailiffs, the searchers and viewers. Gone too, the Mayor with stately gait proceeding to Market Hall to preside as clerk.



ENGLISH 18th CENTURY MARKET PLACE

All about, the stalls tiny streets lead nowhere. Lamb Alley, Boot Alley, Pudding Lane, all reminiscent of past association with long forgotten craftsmen.

The cattle compound, once a feature, has vanished too, the sound of lowing heifers and shrill squeals of piglets is replaced by the roar of buses and cars.

Despite this, there is still the sweet aroma of flowers, fruit and fresh vegetables, the hustle and bustle of shoppers, the noisesome pitch of stallholders which has been the mainstay of the market through the centuries.

BRIEFLY - past, present, future.

Blacksmith Shop - In October five regular windows were installed and also, the large one adjacent to the side door. By this time, the boarding of 1977 was stabilized and shrinkage at a minimum. The re-glazed original 6 over 6 windows were salvaged, but the old casings and trim had deteriorated beyond redemption.

A Society member generously volunteered lumber for the casings and milled it to dimensions. He also, planed the surplus boards removed from the window cut-outs so they could be used for outside trim around the windows. By gift of lumber, services, etc. the total window project cost less than a ten dollar bill!

Batten strips will be nailed in place during the warmer weather of the '79 season.

An inventory of the shop contents is essential for the Society records and is at the top of our agenda.

Proposed Vehicle Storage Shed - The Society owns four units: a cabriolet (at the Blacksmith Shop), a surrey, a doctor's carriage (both in storage), and a saw rig now on loan to Thomas Rider who is restoring it for exhibit purposes. Tentatively, there appears to be enough area behind the shop for a five space shed. Architecturally, it would be compatible to the Blacksmith Shop design. This project is only a segment in the comprehensive program the Society must be responsible to in the preservation of irreplaceable historical artifacts.

By-Law Revision - Several changes were discussed at a recent Director's Meeting. The most notable one being the election of president, vice president, curator and historian by the Board of Directors. Presently, these officers are elected by the Board at their annual meeting following the corporation meeting. It is proposed that they be elected by the Society membership at the Annual meeting instead of the Board of Directors. There are a few minor by-law changes involved but mostly technical ones. Copies of the proposed revisions will be available to members for discussion or changes at an early monthly meeting and later to be voted on for adoption. In the final phase a small booklet containing the new by-laws will be mailed to each Society member.

SOCIETY SEAL - The By-Laws authorize an official SEAL for the Corporation; viz., Sutton Historical Society, Inc. A committee was appointed by the president to research and submit a design to the Society members for approval.

Annual Election of Corporation Officers - Mr. Donald King, President, Mrs. Marjorie Knapp, Vice-President, Mr. Kenneth Hoover, Treasurer, Miss Shirley Nelson, Recording Secretary, Mr. John Brigham, Curator, and Mrs. Doris VanTwyver, Historian.

Board of Directors [for three years] - Mr. Donald King, Miss Margaret Richie, Mrs. Marjorie Knapp and Mrs. Helen Walker.

1978 - WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Clarence and Margaret Alger
Margery M. Bostwick
Simonne M. Bosquet
Norman and Ruth Briggs
Myrtis P. Christiansen
Carole Dorris
Vincent and Mildred Furkin
Mr. and Mrs. George Freeland
Robert and Nancy Heck
Dr. and Mrs. Roger Hickler
John and Frances Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. Dale R. Jones
Richard and Bernice Kenary
C. Wesley and Leona King
George and Frances King
Robert and Lois Kolofsky
Thomas Lee
Charles and Anita Michalak

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mingolla
Arnold and Wanda Nieuwenhoff
Chester and Marie Nowakowski
Donald and Ethel O'Day
William and Pricilla Pepka
Roy and Norma Person
David and Ruth Putnam
Sallie Robert
Mrs. Ralph Roundy
Richard Salo
Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Stockwell
Margarite Stockwell
Etwalla Stockwell Thompson
Arthur Watchorn
Howard and Thelma Watson
George Wolfe
Joseph and Sally Yerka
Roland and Theresa Young

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM REVIEWS - (A Short Synopsis)

September - Dr. William Brierly presented a graphic slide review with an explanation of a governmental environmental study project he was conducting. The sites included: Death Valley, Mohave, Sierra Nevados, East Barren, Tula Row Basin, Grand Canyon, Sanora Desert and the Navaho.

October - Mr. William Sampson, a commercial chimney sweep, dressed in top hat and tails, explained in detail the purpose of the equipment on display that he uses in fireplace and chimney cleaning. A most interesting and informative part of his presentation was the discussion on fireplace design.

November - Mrs. Sandy Farnsworth, a very talented artist, exhibited original oil paintings of historical sites and showed color slides of others which she explained in detail. Her work is featured by the careful attention given to authentic detail.

December - The annual auction conducted within the auspices of the membership (item donation, auctioneers, bidding, etc.) amount raised \$196.15 for the general funds. Old photos were brought in for copying. Reproductions will go into the Society historical records.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD - A summer hotel on Purgatory Road?

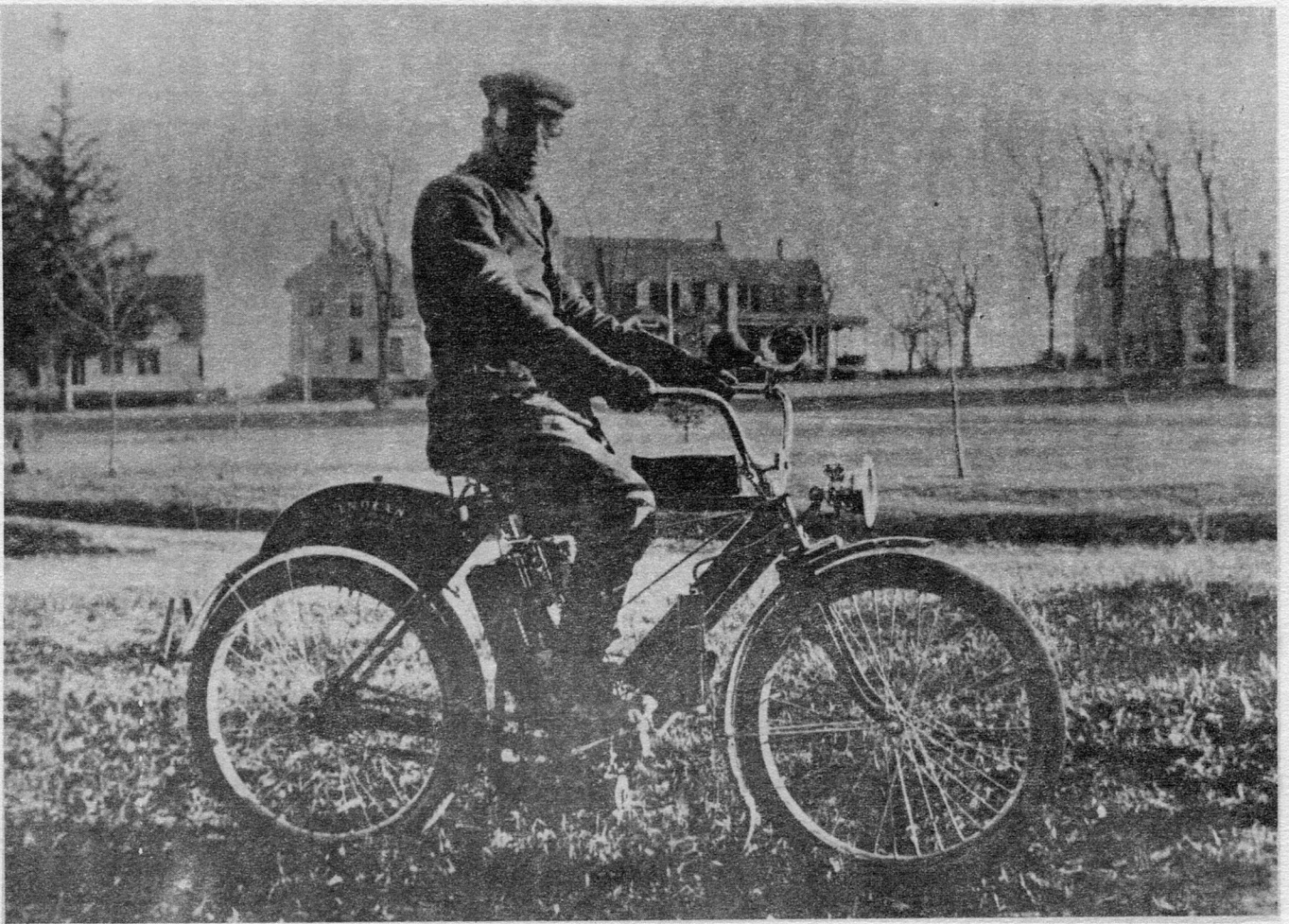
Drive slowly east on Purgatory road and at a point opposite the Dudley Memorial you will see an old stone foundation. Its origin is somewhat obscured by time. However, an inquiry to the late Tom Small revealed that someone in the 1800's decided to build a summer hotel, but due to financial limitations, the construction terminated after completing the foundation which was floored over. Another factor in its early demise could have been contributed to the townspeople voting in a dry era through the abolishment of liquor licensing.

Evidently, the floored over foundation spawned a bright idea in someone's imagination to utilize it as a dance pavilion! Mr. Small remembers at the age of 10 or 12 (probably about 1890) of leading by lantern light carriages of dancers from Wilkinsonville and Grafton up a lane from the corner of Central Turnpike and Burnap Road, to the Purgatory Road.

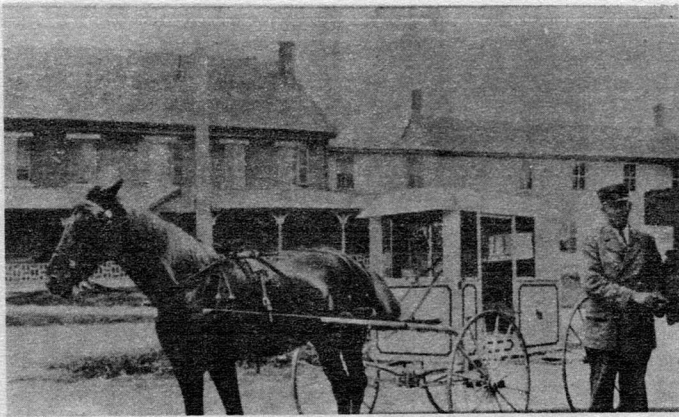
An inquiry to Mr. Charles Gravlin resulted in a limited bit of recollection that he had been told about the proposed hotel by Mr. Vernon Johnson and Mr. Marius (May) Hovey.

Does any reader have additional information?

Donald King



- JOE JACQUES -
motorcyclist, about 1909



- AS MAILMAN

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