

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS



— BULLETIN —

VOL. VII No. 4 December 1981

STAFF

RAE JOHNSON

MALCOLM PEARSON

DONALD KING

MYRA PEARSON

FRANCIS KING

MARGARET RITCHIE

MARY KING

SUTTON'S CENTENARIAN

By Evelyn Freeland Smith

The intervening years between 1881 and 1981 have been truly a remarkable century in world history. In the millenniums prior to this extraordinary period of advancement, the arts had not achieved collectively such a monumental development. The telephone, sewing machine, phonograph, electric energy for lighting and power, radio, automobiles, aeroplanes, radar, motion pictures, electronic audio, television, atomic energy, moon landings, computers, medical science advancements and many, many other accomplishments.

Into this era and to experience all these singular events was born Flora Holbrook Dudley on April 16, 1881, in the Holbrook house on the corner of Boston Road and Single-
tary Avenue, the daughter of Wilder S. and Jane M. Holbrook.

She began her education in the Rufus Putnam School now the present Town Library building and went on to graduate from Wellesley College in 1903. After teaching languages and music for five years in the high school in Westerly, R. I., she married John C. Dudley. They lived in Montreal, Canada, before coming back to Sutton to live on the old Dudley Farm on Dudley Lane in 1912. During that time, a daughter was born Alice Holbrook Dudley, who died in infancy.

While Mr. Dudley served in France during WWI, Mrs. Dudley was in Washington, D. C., employed in an office position. Returning again to Sutton they resided in the Peter Dudley house on Buttonwoods Avenue.



Flora Dudley at 250th Anniversary
reading historical brief.



Flora Dudley in period Costume

Her only son, Staff Sargent John Holbrook Dudley, was a tailgunner on a B17 Bomber which was shot down May 10, 1943 over Sicily in WWII. Her husband John C. Dudley passed away December 23, 1951 after serving in several Town offices for many years. Mr. and Mrs. John C. Dudley donated seventy acres adjacent to Purgatory Chasm Reservation for a recreation area in memory of their son.

Flora Dudley was adept at directing plays and coached the Annual Grange Plays using all local talent as well as organizing the yearly Memorial Day Town Hall Evening Service. For over forty years she gave music lessons to the children from all sections of Sutton. In her teachings she emphasized two piano skills and the theory of music: also, in these four score years she played the organ and directed the choir at St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilkesville [Sutton].

Mrs. Dudley acquired a notable collection of period costumes of yesteryear. Thusly outfitted, she modeled them at entertainments in such diverse locations as Williamstown, Mass. and in R. I. Many shawls, predominantly paisley, with the appropriate accessories including jewelry, enhanced her presentation. As a quick change artist, she

sustained the interest of her audience and more-so with her light hearted commentary.

In public service she was Town Historian, collaborated in writing three districts of VOL.II Sutton History 1952, supervised and paid for reprinting of VOL.I and for many years was responsible for their sales. She was a charter member of the Sutton Historical Society and a member of the Sutton Historical Commission.

Having inherited extensive land holdings, she personally sought out boundaries on these parcels in Sutton, Douglas and Northbridge. As house lots were sold off she conducted most of the transactions.

This year, her Hundreth Birthday, was celebrated in the Shrewsbury Nursing Home. Necessarily, the recent years have taken their toll in limiting her alert personality. This brief biography relates how it used to be with Flora H. Dudley.

BLACKSMITH SHOP ITEM

During some genealogical research by Bud Gurney, some interesting information surfaced regarding the stationary gasoline engine which was the source of power at the Blacksmith Shop. Previous to this, steam power [the steam licenses to operate are still posted] turned the shafting for running equipment.

The Shop's gas engine was manufactured by Sheldon B. Burlingame whose ancestors arrived in Connecticut in 1654. For awhile he made steam engines and in 1890, believing in the future of gas engines, commenced to build them at 416 West Boylston St., Glendale, Mass., hence the name "GLENDALE ENGINE." They were made in 3½, 5, 7, and 15hp models in a cost range from \$175.00 to \$360.00

Not too many engines were manufactured and are relatively rare. The Society is fortunate in possessing one in good condition.

MONTHLY MEETING REVIEWS - By Betty L. Pentland

July - A picnic supper was held by members and friends of the Sutton Historical Society on the grounds of the Eight Lots School. It was suggested that the Society obtain copies of the Millbury Town History and the Oxford Town History. Jack Shugrue and his wife, Elaine, presented a program of slides entitled: "New England Poetry From Earlier Times." Poetry titles from the works of twenty-four American poets were on tape and accompanied by Elizabethan music. Three hundred years of New England poetry was included, beginning with Ann Bradstreet, born in 1612 and finished with Edna St. Vincent Millay, born in 1892.

August - The regular meeting of the Sutton Historical Society was held at the Waters Farm on August 4, 1981 with a potluck supper picnic at 6:00 PM. About 50 members and friends attended. As the president and recording secretary were both on vacation, Marjorie Knapp, Vice-president, presided and Margaret Ritchie was secretary pro tem. Malcolm Pearson announced that as the Town Hall was going to be demolished, he had the Town scales and weights removed and also the safe for storage purposes. A copy of the Millbury Town History has been received. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has asked us to take an inventory of historical sites, [such as houses, cemeteries, archaeological, and other historical items]. This has to be done before the Historical Commission may apply for certain buildings to be put on the National Register.

September - The monthly meeting was held at the Manchaug Baptist Church. Under old business, Malcolm Pearson reported that a Representative from the Massachusetts Historical Commission was in Sutton two weeks earlier and had visited the Waters Farm. Photographs of the removal of the safe from the Town Hall were on display. 1904 Celebration pictures were found in the safe. Mrs. Carolyn Dukes donated a photograph of the Manchaug Baptist Church when the interior had pews and hanging lights. Mr. Fred Baldwin spoke concerning the old weather vane on the Town Hall and of its poor condition. He had decided to have a new one made by the Putnam Sheet Metal Co. and asked for interest and donations from townspeople to do so. It was voted that the Sutton Historical Society would donate the amount of \$50.00 towards the expense of a weather vane for the new Town Hall. The evening program was presented by Mrs. Leona Dona who showed her many dolls and explained how she made them. The exhibit included a Rag Doll, Bread Dough Doll with cloth body, and porcelain slip dolls made from moulds. Included were the Googli-doll with hand blown glass eyes, Pouty Doll, the Bi-lo Reproduction doll designed by Grace Putnam in 1925, the Campbell Kids, two German character dolls with a mohair wig on the boy and real hair on the girl, Minature dolls for doll houses, Family member dolls etc. Doll parts and wigs made and styled by Mrs. Dona who assembled and dressed them.

October - The meeting of the Sutton Historical Society was held at the Manchaug Baptist Church. Mr. Fred Baldwin displayed the weathervane for the Town Hall and introduced Mr. Brooks Putnam, who had worked on it. The annual election was held and the following slate of officers was presented and voted into office:

President	Charles I. Pentland
Vice-president	Marjorie Knapp
Recording secretary	Betty Pentland
Corresponding secretary	Donald King
Treasurer	G. William Holst
Curator	Rae Johnson
Historian	Mary King
Directors - 3 years	Margaret E. Ritchie
Program Committee:	Jean Stockwell
Dan & Millie Griffith	Marjorie Knapp
	Donald King

Ruth Putnam has agreed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors and finish the two year term of Beulah Wallace. The evening program on "Bee-keeping" was presented by Mr. Warren Richardson.

November - The meeting of the Sutton Historical Society was held at the Manchaug Baptist Church. Malcolm Pearson reported that survey application had been prepared on the Waters Farm for submittance to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for recommendation to the National Register status. The evening program on "Gems and Precious Stones" was given by Mr. Bruce Harding of Worcester.

December - This meeting and Christmas Auction was held at the West Sutton Community Hall. Under New Business, the treasurer G. William Holst made a motion that \$5,000.00 of the treasury money be invested in ten \$500.00 increment certificates. The motion was carried. Rae Johnson, curator, asked for help in cataloging and identifying the many historical items throughout the town and owned by this Society. This will be an on-going project for 1982. The Christmas Auction Auctioneers were Dan Griffith, Rae Johnson and Donald King and \$249.20 was raised.

1981 - OCT. - NOV. - DEC. - WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Doris M. Humes
M/M Joseph Mingolla
M/M Kenneth Merrill
M/M Charles Brown
M/M Thomas C. Clark
Rev. William J. Raftery
Rev. James F. Hoey
M/M Kris Oliver

M/M R. Gordon King
M/M Royce Beatty
M/M Edward DeHaan
M/M Ross Weaver
M/M Vincent Forkin
M/M Albert Nichols
M/M Robert Vickery
Evelyn H. Phelps

Nancy J. Cote

SPECIAL NOTICE - At the January 5th meeting, James P. Whittall, II, Chief Archaeologist for Early Sites Research Society will report on two unusual Indian sites in Eastern Massachusetts. One has aspects of findings not aligned with Indian culture, and the other has paleolithic artifacts and would be the first such find in that area. Carbon 14 dating reveals certain objects date to 5200BC. Mr. Whittall has presented lectures at Castleton College, the Eastern Archaeological Society and the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. His work has appeared in AMERICA B.C., SAGA AMERICA and other publications.

THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

From



Box 127
Manchaug, MA 01526

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Manchaug, MA 01526
Permit No. 1