

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS



— BULLETIN —

VOL. VII No. 2 July 1981

STAFF

RAE JOHNSON

MALCOLM PEARSON

DONALD KING

MYRA PEARSON

FRANCIS KING

MARGARET RITCHIE

MARY KING

GRANDMA FREELAND

By Evelyn Freeland Smith

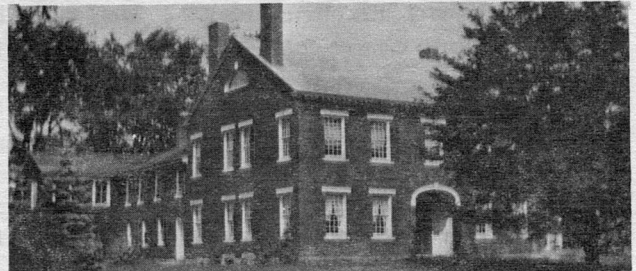
The following saga chronicles an era in New England living and documents the life style of one such pioneering woman of a century ago.

On Freeland Hill at the site of the Lund residence [recently sold] was the brick house built in 1818. The Freeland family, except for an interval of a few years, occupied this homestead until 1939.

Around 1850, the elderly Mrs. James Freeland had assumed the responsibility as homemaker for a sizeable family still remaining at home. A solicitous friend visiting in Maine persuaded Caroline Adams of Exeter in coming to Sutton as a helper to Mrs. Freeland. Caroline Adams, a teacher at 16 and a helper in various homes, had experienced the rigors of rural life. For instance, if the fires went out during the night someone with a pail plodded to the nearest farm house to beseech them for live coals for restarting the fire at home. The one room school she attended was isolated enough so that they were always alert for possible bears. Children did not have weather proof rubbers or boots and the girls wore black leather slipper type shoes. Perhaps these conditions contributed to juvenile sickness and mortality rate.

Upon arriving at the Freeland home, Caroline Adams joined a family consisting of one daughter, Adeline and five unmarried sons, Franklin, Freeman, Frederick, Fayette and Foster. In later years, she jovially remarked that she had her "choice." She chose Franklin and for a wedding present the young couple were presented an adjacent house to the brick house, now owned by the Arakelians.

Eventually, six children were born to Caroline Adams Freeland. Also, she became foster mother to a brother-in-law's baby when its mother died soon after birth, raising it along with her own three months old baby. Later she raised a grandson whose mother died when he was six months old. She became a midwife to the neighborhood women. Mr. Fred Batcheller, Phyllis MacLaren's father, related that she brought him into the world for a piece of lace and a pound of homemade butter. When neighbors died, she officiated in place of the present day undertaker. These duties caused her to remark in her later years, "I brought so many into the world and I laid out so many" because she had lived such a long life time.



FREELAND HOMESTEAD

Despite the hardships of travel during her three score and ten years, she visited her daughter in Iowa on three different trips. Domestic chores included the making of clothes, food prepared for winter storage, and the production of rugs from worn clothing. Her proficiency at rug making was very prolific and many friends were recipients of this hand-craft when she was past the age of 100. Meanwhile, she corresponded regularly with her daughter and family members in Maine. Reciprocal visitations were an institution in those days.....the telephone being non-existent.

Thus, after a full life of service to mankind she passed on at the age of 106.

HORSE TRADE

As related to Bud Gurney by Walter King

Some years ago, in a conversation with the late Walter King, he related a few historical facts including some humorous twists. As the subject turned to "horses", Walter began to chuckle, grin, and then proceeded to tell me some tales regarding the horse trade, including the following story.

Ma and Pa Nichols were an elderly Sutton couple who operated a small hillside farm. As the Spring season approached, Pa Nichols got to thinking of the work that had to be done in the coming months. He said to his wife, "Ma, I think I want to trade horses; got a lot of work to do and don't think our old horse is up to it." With that, Pa Nichols went down Rochdale way to see Mr. Aldrich, the horse dealer.

Aldrich picked out a horse that he thought would fit the requirements and traded for \$15.00 to boot. Pa Nichols drove his new purchase home and started Spring chores. This animal being very young, had energy and mannerisms not really desired by old Mr. Nichols.

In the meantime, Mr. Aldrich took his trade horse and clipped all of the winter hair off, and cleaned him up so well that within a few days he took on a fresh look.

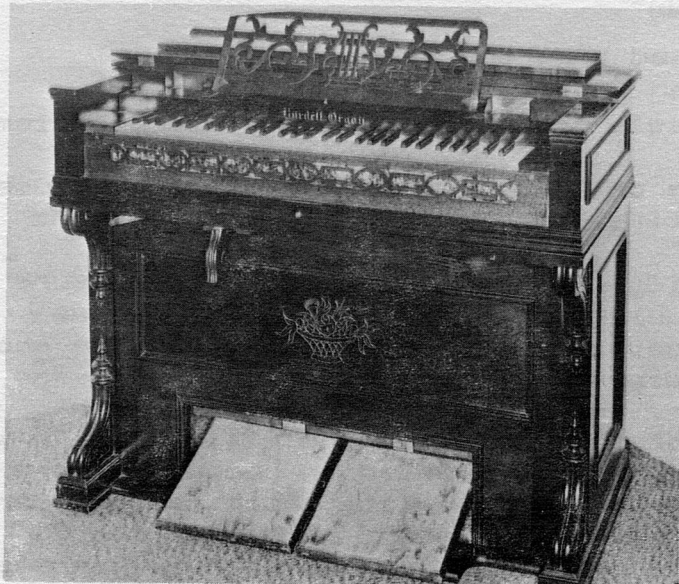
Pa Nichols told his wife that there were a few characteristics about this new horse which he didn't like, and decided to go back to see Mr. Aldrich. He drove to Rochdale and told Mr. Aldrich that he wasn't satisfied with this horse and wanted another trade. Aldrich brought out a horse which Pa could have for \$10.00 to boot, so Pa Nichols drove back to Sutton and into his barn yard. He called Ma out to show her the new purchase and trade agreement. He also told her what a good horse this was-- just what he wanted.

Ma looked at the horse carefully and said, "Pa, you old fool, you just bought your old horse back and it cost you a total of \$25.00."

Pa being mighty upset, denied the possibility until Ma said, "You unhitch that horse; let him loose and see where he goes."

Just as Ma Nichols predicted, the "new" old horse upon being let loose walked right to the barn and into his own stall, waiting for the harness to be removed.

OLD CAPE COD RECIPE....2 Crust Clam Pie
3-4 cans minced clams drained, chopped onions to taste
Sauce made from clam liquid. Bake 425° Recipe on request.



BEQUESTS TO THE SOCIETY
By the Beulah (Dermont)
Wallace Estate

Burdett
Organ

This skillfully constructed piece has a 21½" x 42" unspliced mahogany top. All draw joints are dovetailed



**A Wedding at the Society's
Manchaug Baptist Church**

On June 20, 1981, at 10AM marriage vows were exchanged by Jane S. Trevor and Denis F. LaForce before Rev. Joan J. Bott. Attendants were Maid-of-honor, Sylvia R. Trevor, Bridesmaid, Gloria A. Cains and Bestman, Kenneth C. LaForce. A donation and a note of appreciation for use of the church was received by the Society.

July 1981

MONTHLY MEETING REVIEWS - (A Short Synopsis)

January - Dr. William Brierly reported that the BULLETIN had been received favorably at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

Ralph Gurney reported on the newly installed Security Alarm System at the Waters Farm.

Elaine Budzyna of Douglas spoke on "Fabrics, Textiles, and Costumes." She gave information on fabric identification, cleaning, mending, and preservation storage requirements.

February - St. Regis College, Cambridge, is using the Indian signature symbols on Sutton's earliest deed published in a BULLETIN article as reference material in a course conducted by Dr. Barry Fell. On the meeting program, "The Life Style of Soldiers of the mid 18th Century", was described by Ted Peterson, Worcester, while in costume of a British soldier. His detailed explanation of the equipment and military life was very interesting. Roger LaFerriere, Sutton, dressed in buckskins as a Frontiersman presented the counterpart of a Colonist. Both men had participated in fabricating the costumes, equipment and guns displayed.

March - Mrs. Estabrook, of Evergreen Farms, Dudley, talked about sheep raising, and their utilization as a food and product source. Samples of several articles such as; coats, vests, mittens, knitted clothes, blankets, all from skins or wool, were exhibited. Also, slides of different breeds of England, Scotland and Wales were shown.

April - This meeting was held at the Society's Manchaug Baptist Church building to a capacity audience. Mrs. Joyce Hill presented a slide lecture on "Paintings and Portraits of the 19th Century in Sutton and Millbury." Her research and extensive knowledge in this field was generously shared with many persons who made inquiries concerning their own paintings, after the formal program.

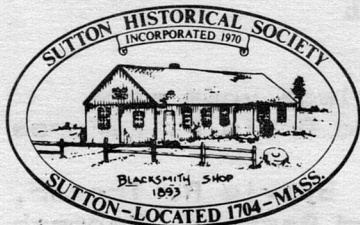
May - Francis King presented a gift by Ted Johnson to the Society of a Sutton Bank document and Seal dated 1828. This bank was active for three years. Mr. Klink showed many tools of the 1700's, 1800's, and early 1900's. His discussion covered their collection, identification of implement date by construction design and their repair.

June - Preparations were made for the "Annual Oldies and Goodies Sale" held at the Blacksmith Shop on June 7. Four hundred eighty-seven dollars [\$487.00] was raised from this project.

1981 - APRIL, MAY and JUNE - WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Carol Bornemann	M/M George Keith
M/M Thomas Darrah	M/M Gerard LaFlash
Donald Faubert	M/M Edgar McDonald
M/M Arthur Johnson	M/M William Welch
M/M Everett Winslow, Jr.	

From



Box 127

Manchaug, MA 01526

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