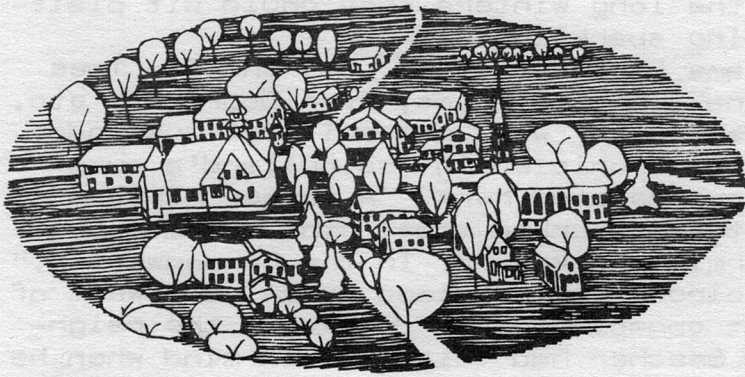


THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS



— BULLETIN —

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STAFF

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MALCOLM PEARSON

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MYRA PEARSON

FRANCIS KING

MARGARET RITCHIE

MARY KING

"HEARTHSTONES"

By Lillian Harrigan

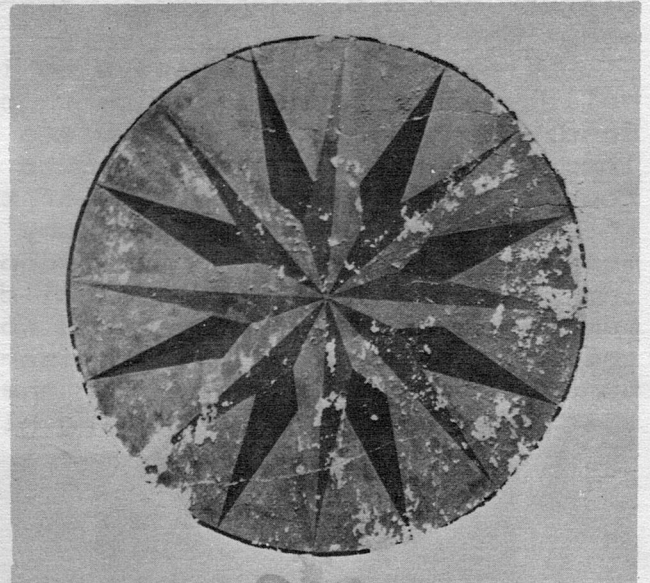
A very wise person once wrote "you never own an old house, it will own you." In the brief time I have belonged to this old house the words ring true. I have only begun to learn the history of the house and I am sure many folks have interesting tales of the place all of which I would enjoy hearing.

The house I refer to, may be known to you as "Hearthstones", "Ebenezer Waters House", "Bullard Farm", or just the first house on the left on Waters Road in West Sutton. The following tales of the place have been gathered by Mrs. Helen Crowell, who belongs to "Hearthstones", too. She very kindly has passed her history of the house on to me, and thus, on to you.

The house was built by Ebenezer Waters in 1767 (near the gable in the attic, on an oak plank is carved the initials "E.W.") and is situated on approximately 100 acres on Waters Road. It was purchased by Dr. Artemus Bullard (b. December 8, 1768, d. May 5, 1842, a. 73) in 1806. He had married Maria Waters February 17, 1796 who died two years after their wedding, they did not have any children. Dr. Bullard's second marriage was to Lucy White (b. May 5, 1778, d. December 15, 1869, a. 91) three daughters and seven sons graced this marriage. The farm buildings consisted of a house, two barns, blacksmith shop and outbuildings. Dr. Artemus Bullard became physician-farmer.

The industriousness of the Bullards is to be admired. Fortunately details of family life is preserved in reminiscence by Rev. Ebenezer Waters Bullard, 6th child of Dr. Bullard.

To accommodate the various manufacturing and processes conducted at home, a large square chamber was furnished with a shoemaking bench, a



COMPASS CARD ON CEILING
IN FRONT HALLWAY

spinning wheel, reels, a loom, and sewing facilities. The room was appropriately named the factory chamber. Natural resources available at the farm provided the raw materials. Woodlands yielded an ample supply of fuel, lumber, and wood to make charcoal to supplement their income. Another family chore was straw braiding. The girls in the family excelled in this craft. In the warm kitchen during the long winters they could sit plaiting straw, swapping tales, and sipping sparkling cider.

Sections of the large farm became known as; Long Lot, the Sap Tree Lot, the Cider Mill Lot, the Blacksnake Lot, Den Lot, Oven Door Lot, etc. Every area of this farm showed the effect of wise and skillful husbandry.

Several interesting episodes are chronicled in Asa Bullard's autobiography. Some of these excerpts are related here. A former Massachusetts governor visiting the homestead remarked that, "the panoramic view from the farm was the most charming he knew of in the Commonwealth." An elm tree, three hundred feet in circumference stood a few rods west of the house, making it one of the most conspicuous landmarks in the neighborhood and perhaps Rev. Henry Ward Beecher had this tree in mind when he described the big tree in "Norwood."

Another story describes a high windmill to pump water for the livestock. In a strong wind the pumping action became too productive as the mill whirled vigorously compelling Dr. Bullard to climb to the trundle board, swing the weatherboard and chain the mill against the wind. However, on September 17, 1815 during a great gale the mill broke off the distaff and disintegrated. Years later blades were found scattered about the fields.

Election day was always an important one in rural life - almost a holiday. A sorrowful incident occurred on what presumably is Manchaug Pond. Eight youths in two boats containing four couples rowed to an island for a picnic. Returning to shore a sudden wind upset the boats and four girls were drowned, two of them sisters.

Education beyond elementary schooling in large families of frugal means was resolved in family cooperation. Labor being critical to farming the absence of an elder child to seek further education removed this member's productivity from the work force. In a financial arrangement the student rendered his promissory note to the parent who hired a local hand in replacement, paid for the student's education and in return when that student commenced earning his own income, repaid the loan.



BULLARD FARM HOUSE ABOUT 1890



POSTCARD PHOTO OF
BULLARD FARM
HOUSE FOUND IN
FLEAMARKET AT SPENCER

Perhaps the most recognized event at the farm was the marriage of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher to Eunice White Bullard, August 3, 1837. Eunice baked her own wedding cake and fashioned her wedding gown. The marriage was temporarily delayed by a thunderstorm and as the sun came out a rainbow appeared. Under this arch they approached the bower to exchange their vows. Mrs. Beecher later assisted her husband in his authorship vocation.

Other tales are too numerous to include in this short resume of this lovely old home, to wit -

FULFILLMENT

By Frederick W. Branch

The man who built this house of mine
A hundred years ago
With Christian doors of smooth, clear pine
And chestnut timbers, row on row,
Whose oxen hauled the brick and lime,
Who squared the hearth's broad stone,
Could not foresee that Fate and Time,
Would someday make it all my own.

Of course he knew that it would stay
There, on its sturdy sills,
Long after his last Spring should lay
Her fragrant mornings on the hills,
So, even if he did not know
Just who its owners were to be,
I'll still maintain that years ago,
He planned and built this house for me.

For the present owners, we have the example of hardwork and family unity to follow. May we and all who come after us be successful and blessed.

REF: "Incidents in a Busy Life"
an autobiography by Asa Bullard, 1888
Publisher, Stanley & Usher,
171 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass.

THE FIRES ON THE HEARTH ARE STILL AGLOW

By Ol' Samuel Suttonian

Collectively they represent an inherent craftsmanship that is expressed in the various life styles of our former generations and have adapted them to contemporary living.

In realization of these attributes we are happy to document the accomplishments of three local couples in their regeneration of homesteads that had fallen into disrepair. Unless one has the vision to surmount the frustrations, bone-weary labor, unexpected cost-plus items, and other contending factors, restoration may become an experience of human endurance. It is worthwhile to pause and review their achievements within our community.

Judi and Gary Vaillancourt in June 1977 while purchasing doors at an auction where items from a house were being sold, learned that the house was to be torched as a fire practice session for a local Fire Department. The house while having been badly neglected did have potential character for a restoration project. After a closed bid purchase they carefully dismantled the structure piece by piece and indexed them. Numerous photographs were taken to record visually the design of the original homestead. Problems to move the house as a unit became a logistic impossibility due to low bridges etc.

With the help of various friends and interested persons, dismantling was completed in October. Components were stored on several sites during the winter. Re-assembly commenced in the spring of 1978 on the ell section into which the Vaillancourts moved before starting on the main house.



VAILLANCOURT
HOMESTEAD



JUDI'S
SKILL IN
WOOD-
CRAFTING
HOLDS THE
ATTENTION
OF GARY

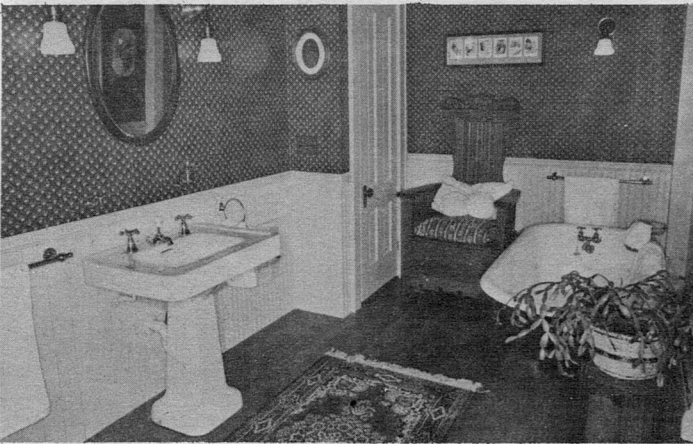


CURVED CORNER CUPBOARD

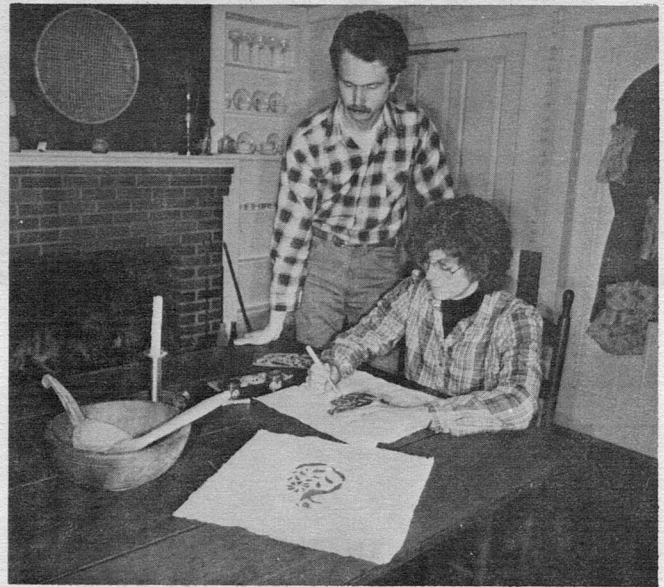
Judi's description of the building is thus: "The main house is the typical center chimney style, two over two [rooms]. Due to embellishments of the frame itself...as well as other features, it appears to have been built possibly as early as 1685...but as late as 1720 by an older builder carrying on his traditional craft, 'survival architecture'. A Beverly Jog on the side and a lean-to give it a salt box characteristic...added about 1720-1740. Although reduced to a neglected condition each room had its clues as to their original state including original colors and paneling styles. A plaster back corner cupboard built about 1720-1740 in the parlor has been reinstalled as well as the original board ceilings. Bake ovens in the rear walls of the fireplaces were discovered when dismantling the bricks made easier having been laid in clay. The ovens are now rebuilt and in place."



HOME OF BETTE KEENE
AND HER HUSBAND DAVID KENDRICK



A VICTORIAN BATHROOM
MOTIF



BETTE PAINTS A DESIGN
ONTO CLOTH AS DAVID
ADMIRE HER HANDIWORK

Another couple, Bette Keene, [descendant from two Mayflower families] her husband David Kendrick, purchased the "Bullard" place on Boston Road in 1978 which was built by John Harback in 1750 according to the first Town History. John's father, Thomas, arrived in Sutton from Warwickshire, England about 1720. His descendants built several homes in this area, later to be known as the Harback District.

The last Harback living in the "Bullard" place was Origin and his family who all died, tragically, of "consumption." He had operated a wheelwright shop across the road, water powered from a small pond situated on land now owned by the Glen Coulters.

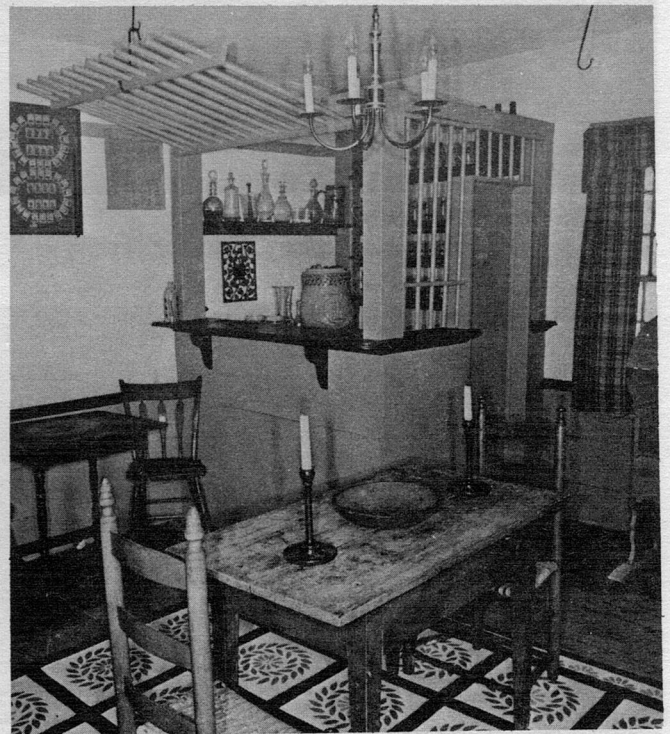
The house successively passed through several owners, namely; Hathways, Putnams (James and Alfred), Cyrus Eaton, and on to the Bullards who sold it to John and Alice Jeffery. The present owner acquired it from the Jefferys. In 1850 the house was located on fifty acres of land.

Based on architectural details the evidence would indicate several structural renovations. First built as a "half" house in 1750 with a lean-to, enlarged to a full two over two in 1800. The lean-to was enlarged to two stories in 1820 and an "ell" added to the back in 1850.

David Kendrick philosophically expressed their optimism... "we have been working on the house for four years, but we still have a long way to go. It has had 230 years head start, but we love it."



THE GLENN AND DALE
COULTER HOUSE ON
BOSTON ROAD



IN THE OLD TAVERNS
HINGED BARS WERE
INSTALLED OVER THE
COUNTER TO PREVENT
NIGHT PILFERING
HENCE, THE NAME, "BAR"
RESTORATION...GLENN'S

Across the road from Bette and David is another originally Harback built house, the home of Dale and Glenn Coulter. This 1792 house progressively passed through many owners some of whose names are current today. 1813 Freeman, Sibley, 1822 Harback, Chase, Eaton, 1864 Hall, 1866 Willard, Freeman, 1867 Odian, Beasley, Barnes, 1953 O'Connell, 1955 Ehret and 1978 Coulter.

Externally, the house remains substantially the same as originally built. Also, the interior remains unaffected except for one wall in the kitchen. Modifications were minimal and today one may well appreciate the interior characteristics as they were in 1792.

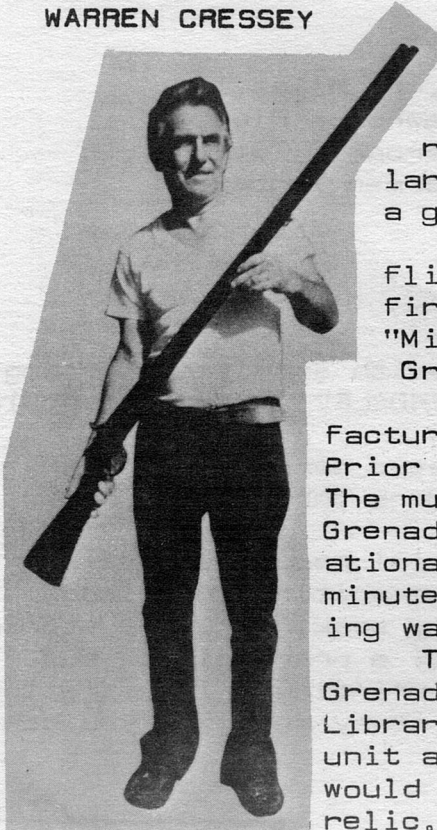
The Coulters are meticulously furnishing the home in period style. One such item is the pull down rope bed in the kitchen. Dale is enthusiastic about her brick oven in which she bakes bread.

DALE SLIDES BREAD
 INTO THE BRICK
 OVEN AS GLENN
 HOLDS THE SHEET-
 METAL DOOR



All three couples have Sutton culture in common and are constantly in collaboration with their related projects. An enduring triumvirate of their friendship undoubtedly welds an influence for perpetuating the life style of our ancestors of the 18th and 19th centuries into the 20th and beyond.

WARREN CRESSEY



WHILE IN FLORIDA ...

We visited with Warren Cressey and his family in Groveland located in the orange grove zone of central Florida. The Cressey lineage is deeply rooted in Sutton history. His grandfather owned a large farm on Central Turnpike. Warren mentioned about a gun he had found in a homestead dump near by in 1942.

The firearm is a muzzle loader, originally a flintlock which later was modified to a percussion cap fired gun. Under the side mounted hammer is stamped "Millbury 1816" and on the opposite side "Uxbridge Grenadiers."

Further inquiry determined the gun to be manufactured by Asa Waters from a U. S. Government 1808 model. Prior to 1813 the muskets were marked "Sutton/date." The musket was issued to the members of the Uxbridge Grenadier military unit. This organization became operational July 27, 1818 and combined the militia and minutemen groups of Uxbridge. The Grenadiers last meeting was in May 1831 when only sixteen members reported.

There is only one other known musket from the Grenadiers arsenal and that is on display in the Uxbridge Library. Rosters and other records of this military unit are in the library, also. Preliminary research would indicate Warren's musket is a relatively rare relic.



1816 MUSKET



DETAIL

MONTHLY MEETING REVIEWS - By Betty L. Pentland

January - The treasurer, G. William Holst, reported that ten \$500.00 certificates had been purchased and were in the Whitinsville Savings Bank. A projection screen and a projection table have been presented to the Society by Mrs. Florida Picard. James P. Whittall, Chief Archaeologist for Early Sites Research Society was the speaker. He reported on the findings of two unusual Indian sites in Eastern Massachusetts. He showed slides and elaborated upon the findings.

February - Information from the Massachusetts Historical Commission concerning the possibility of the Blacksmith Shop and the Manchaug Baptist Church being on the National Register was brought to the attention of those present. The program was comprised of two movie films entitled "Hedge-Rows" and "The Making of Birch Bark Canoes in Minnesota."

March - The treasurer reported there was \$7,102.04 in the treasury. An insurance policy is being written up for the Manchaug Baptist Church building. It is similar to the policy for the Blacksmith Shop. Mr. Joseph Robinson spoke on the life of the Old West, reading stories and displaying many books and old bottles.

1982 - JAN. - FEB. - MAR. - WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Olive Burrows
M/M Anson Davis
M/M John R. Johnson
M/M Norman W. King

M/M B. F. Miles II
M/M Lawrence Pierce
M/M Geroge B. Steiner
M/M Herman Vandewart

Betty L. Waters

IN MEMORIAM

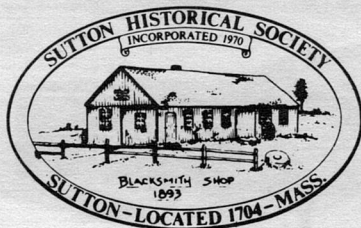
Franklin Roberts

ERRATUM - Reference December issue. In the Blacksmith Shop gasoline engine article the name of the engine should read: "GREENDALE" and not Glendale. Sorry!

FROM THE EDITOR - We need help! There are interested persons out there who should have information to share with our readers through the media of the BULLETIN.

Past articles will indicate the typical material required that we are seeking. By suggesting the theme of a story or writing an episode with a by-line credit or whatever, we are sincerely seeking future stories for publication. Literary style is not essentially a prerequisite but rather the story content. We will prepare it for printing. Illustrations always add to story interest. So please whatever story material you can offer, share it with us. Thank you.

From



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