

# THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

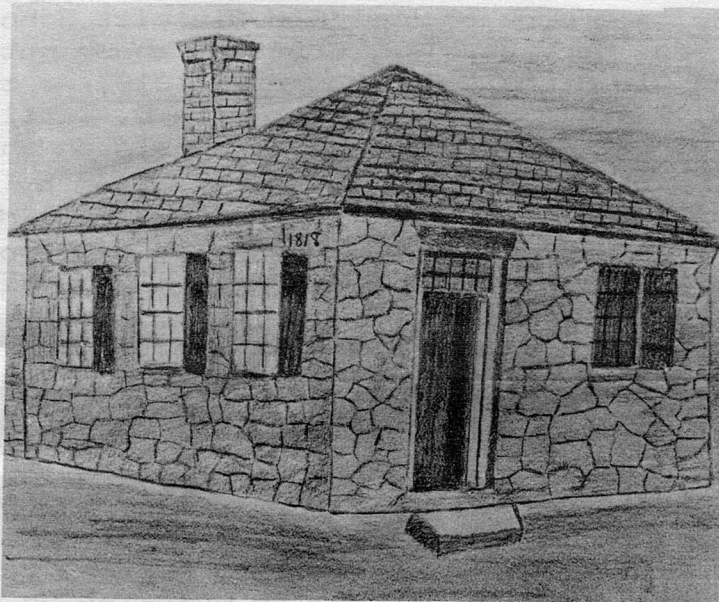
SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## — BULLETIN —

VOL. X NO. 1 JANUARY 1984

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### STONE SCHOOL

Drawing By—  
Ernestine Bates 1898  
10 year old student  
(enhanced for reproduction)

### DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 9

The first school in the Captain Abraham Batcheller district (in 1818, District No. 9) was probably built about 1785 on a site between the homes of Dr. John W. Brigham and W. H. Going near a brook. William T. Stockwell who lives nearby on Dodge Hill Road believes that some flat stones near a brook on Leland Hill Road was where the school once existed. The first teacher assigned to the school was Soloman Howe in 1786. In 1818 the Stone School, the second one in District No. 9, was built by Whiting Fisher, a stone mason from Franklin, on the Henry Stone Farm [Fulton Place] with stone hauled to the site by neighboring farmers. School classes were terminated in 1914 and the school was closed.

Nostalgia among the grown-up past students became a reality in 1894 when Mrs. Ellen Redfield Thompson of Bellefontaine, Ohio visited Mrs. Marie Bates Barnes of Mendon an old classmate. They planned a reunion program and sent out invitations to class members. The guests met at the Hicks farm in Mrs. Thompson's honor. Thus, the commencement of a long association until 1941 when war, transportation restrictions and the demise of members more or less terminated the existence of the Old Stone School Association.

An article in the Worcester Telegram of August 12, 1915 reports in detail of what is perhaps a typical reunion gathering and its activities. Excerpts follow:

"Sutton, August, 1915 - about 360 persons [presumably alumnae, families and friends - Ed.] attended the 21st annual reunion of the Stone School Association at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Stockwell. The day being ideal, the guests remained on the lawn and the morning was passed greeting old friends and renewing acquaintances. Dinner was served at 1 o'clock on the basket plan.

After dinner, the President, John C. Dudley, spoke. Mrs. John Dudley secretary pro tem, reported one death in the Association during the year of Mrs. Ellen D. Hovey.

Miss Minnie Brigham was elected secretary for the year. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$11.40, and a collection of \$21.59 was taken -- Frank Bates of Newton presided. At the close of business, the program opened with a piano solo by Miss Mabel Brigham. The toastmaster then introduced Rev. John Tuttle, who spoke on the old-time district school, and said he failed to see how the modern school compared favorably to the simple, old-time district school. He closed his remarks by saying he intends someday to write a book on the 'Old District School'-- the oldest person present was Mrs. Mary Wheeler, Grafton, whose mother, Nancy Wardsmouth, taught in the Old Stone schoolhouse in 1818,--- the youngest was Albertis Hilliard, 7 weeks old, --- Mrs. John E. Tuttle spoke chiefly to the boys and girls, and urged them to remain on the farm. ---Summary of sports: Potato race for boys under 15 years, won by Frank Muller, for young women under 15, won by Connie Anderson --- Filling bottles with tablespoon, won by Alpeild Erickson--- Driving hen, won by Marion Smith. Running broadjump, won by Claud Bates, distance 17ft.6" - Such was a typical reunion day."

Dr. James H. Armsby is probably the most distinguished alumnus. He was the founder of the Albany Medical College, Albany, N.Y. and was also the United States Consul at Naples, Italy in 1861. Dr. Armsby as a boy lived in the district at the time of the building and in a letter to a Ruben R. Dodge says, "I remember when the suggestion of a new building came up and the proposition to build one of stone thrilled my young mind. It was proposed to draw the stones from the different farms with the other materials to be used. I well remember accompanying my good father with his team to draw many loads of stones. It was an event of no small interest to the children of the district, and how we watched its progress and completion-- and I now think of its first opening, 1818, when I was eight years older. John McClellan who was one or two years older than myself occupied a seat with me. The seats were then in pairs, a desk for each scholar, one was elevated above the other as the back seats were higher and occupied by the larger scholars."

Many of the former students went on to eminent careers. Reverend Daniel Anderson received his early education at the school and became one of the most distinguished clergymen of the Episcopal church. Reuben R. Dodge was one of the compilers of the published history [1876] of the Town of Sutton-- many years a member of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Benjamin L. Batcheller became prominent as representative to the legislature from his district, Town Clark, and Selectman. Miss Laura Prentice who went to Germany to study and afterwards became a teacher at the Westfield Normal School.---Judge Calvin E. Pratt presided in a New York Superior Court and was a General in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was a teacher in the Stone School in 1828.

A secretary's record of 1908-'13 meetings and a 1897 booklet by Reuben Dodge describing the 9th-10th district schools has been donated to the Sutton Historical Society by Mary and Francis King. Also, the original drawings by Ernestine Bates and news clippings were given to the Society by Louise Waner, whose great aunt Cora Mansfield owned them.

## TEACHERS 1786 - 1897

TEACHERS OF CAPT. ABRAHAM BATCHELLER  
DISTRICT (SO-CALLED) UP TO 1818. BUT  
AFTER THAT TIME CALLED THE OLD STONE  
DISTRICT NO. 9, WHEN THE STONE HOUSE  
WAS BUILT.

- 1786. Solomon Howe..... Sutton.
- 1787. Solomon Howe..... Sutton.
- 1788. Benjamin Batcheller..... Sutton.
- 1788. Anna Batcheller (Summer Term) Sutton.
- 1789. Anna Batcheller (Summer Term) Sutton.
- 1789. Benjamin Batcheller (Winter Term)  
Sutton.
- 1790. Anna Hall (Summer Term) . . . Sutton.
- 1790. Benjamin Batcheller..... Sutton.
- 1790. Benjamin Batcheller ..... Sutton.
- 1791. Benjamin Batcheller ..... Sutton.
- 1824. Capt. Abraham Chase ..... Sutton.
- 1825. Mr. Rich. .... Sutton.
- 1826. Col. Charles Brigham..... Grafton.
- 1826. Austin Holbrook . . . . . Grafton.
- 1828. Edward J. Mills..... Sutton.
- 1833. John McClellan..... Sutton.
- 1834. Lucien Chase..... Millbury.
- 1836. Mr. Lyon..... Woodstock, Conn.
- 1836. Emmons Carpenter..... Northbridge.
- 1837. Horace Hicks..... Sutton.
- 1837. Julia A. Woodbury..... Sutton.
- 1837. Clara R. Dodge..... Sutton.
- 1839. R. N. Merriam..... Sutton.
- 1839. Emeline Peirce..... Sutton.
- 1839. Miss Bixby . . . . . Auburn.
- 1841. Mehitabel Batcheller..... Sutton.
- 1841. S. D. King..... Sutton.
- 1843. Anna D. Hall..... Sutton.
- 1843. Miss Drury..... Auburn.
- 1842. Maria Hall..... Sutton.
- 1842. Frank Wheeler..... Northbridge.
- 1844. Earle Joslin..... Webster.
- 1845. Nathan Griggs..... Sutton.
- Samuel Fletcher..... Whitinsville.
- 1849. Catherine H. Hall..... Sutton.
- Fayette Armsby . . . . . Sutton.
- 1849. Jesse Heal..... Amherst.
- Augusta Wood . . . . . Hopkinton.

### NAMES IN ORDER OF YEARS' TEACHING.

- 1850. Sarah E. Armsby..... Sutton.
- 1851. Sarah E. Armsby..... Sutton.
- 1851. I. E. Hooker (Amherst Coll.)
- 1852. S. S. Fletcher..... Northbridge.
- 1853-4. Mary A. Armsby..... Sutton.
- 1855. Ellen Pierce . . . . .
- 1856. A. L. Frisbie (Am. Coll. 1856).
- 1856. Clara Parkman..... Sutton.
- 1857. A. L. Frisbie. . . . .
- 1857. Mary A. Armsby..... Sutton.
- 1858. Richard L. Dodge..... Sutton.
- 1859. Lucy Kent..... Leicester.
- 1860. Edwin F. Rawson . . . . . Barre.
- 1860. Angie C. B Harnden.... Boston.
- 1861. Wm. E. Davidson. . . . . Millbury.
- 1861. Abbie E. Stockwell..... Sutton.
- 1862. Newell Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1862. Mary E. Taft..... Northbridge.
- 1863. Mary E. Taft..... Northbridge.
- 1863. Mary A. Thayer..... N. Bridgewater.
- 1864. Seraphina E. Hall. . . . . N. H.
- 1864. Mary A. Thayer..... N. Bridgewater.

- 1865. Melissa E. West..... Upton.
- 1865. Helen Prentice..... Sutton.
- 1865. Laura Davis..... N. Y.
- 1865. Melissa E. West..... Upton.
- 1866. Abbie E. Stockwell..... Sutton.
- 1866. Abbie E. Stockwell..... Sutton.
- 1867. Emily F. Goulding..... Millbury.
- 1867. Emily F. Goulding..... Millbury.
- 1868. M. Maria Chase..... Uxbridge.
- 1868. M. Maria Chase..... Uxbridge.
- 1869. Newell Wedge . . . . . Sutton.
- 1869. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1870. Eva L. Makepeace. Residence unknown.
- 1870. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1871. Marian Hastings..... Millbury.
- 1871. Alvin W. Putnam..... Sutton.
- 1871. Alvin W. Putnam..... Sutton.
- 1872. I. E. Pierce..... Millbury.
- 1873. Mary A. Heywood.....
- 1873. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1873. Minnie A. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1874. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1874. Mary A. Heywood.....
- 1875. Hattie A. Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1875. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1876. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1876. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1877. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1877. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1878. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1878. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1879. Mary E. Penniman..... Sutton.
- 1879. Ida Going..... Sutton.
- 1879. Minnie A. Gage..... Newton.
- 1880. Minnie A. Gage..... Newton.
- 1880. Minnie A. Gage..... Newton.
- 1880. Eunice Brown.....
- 1881. Minnie A. Gage..... Newton.
- 1881. Mary I. Benson..... Northbridge.
- 1882. Mary I. Benson..... Northbridge.
- 1882. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1883. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1884. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1884. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1885. Nellie Dodge..... Sutton.
- 1885. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1886. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1886. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1887. J. Tyla Holbrook..... Sutton.
- 1887. Emma I. Willis..... Douglas.
- 1887. Emma I. Willis..... Douglas.
- 1888. Della Moffit..... Northbridge.
- 1888. Della Moffit . . . . . Northbridge.
- 1888. S. Lizzie Dodge..... Sutton.
- 1889. Mildred Sibley..... Sutton.
- 1889. Jennie D. Norcross..... Sutton.
- 1889. Jennie D. Norcross..... Sutton.
- 1890. Mildred Sibley..... Sutton.
- 1890. Mary G. Perry..... Sutton.
- 1890. Mary G. Perry..... Sutton.
- 1891. Carrie H. Hines . . . . . Worcester.
- 1891. Addie Hammond..... Sutton.
- 1892. Addie Hammond..... Sutton.
- 1892. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1892. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1893. Newell Wedge & S. E. Wedge.. Sutton.
- 1893. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1894. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1894. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1894. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1895. Sarah E. Wedge..... Sutton.
- 1895. Evelyn Fairbanks..... Millbury.
- 1896. Evelyn Fairbanks..... Millbury.
- 1897. Evelyn Fairbanks..... Millbury.

Jan 1984

## THE MUSICAL TALENT OF THE OLD STONE SCHOOL

by — Benjamin T. Warner

We've heard full many a famous band and singers of renown  
Whose top-notch notes were pitched so high you'd think they'd tumble down;  
But Sousa's band in all its pride and Patti at her best,  
Swell Nordice and Albani, Kellogg and all the rest,  
Could never cast o'er me the spell of music's gentle charms  
As did the songs we use to sing taught by our fair school-marms.

And where, I ask in all the world, has music e'er been heard  
Which had the power our souls to sway - which has our hearts so stirred,  
As when our Reuben Lincoln sings that charming, sweet refrain:  
"I'D RATHER BE WITH ROSY NELL A-SWINGING IN THE LANE."  
All honor to this aged bard, this rhymster up-to-date!  
Long may he live to be Old Stone's loved Poet Laureate.

Go where you may and get the best who sing for gold or fame,  
And I'll fetch on a friend of mine who'll make that song sound tame.  
You ask me who this artist is, this singer of the hour?  
'Tis Dexter Brigham, strong of arm, a man of great lung power!  
And more than this, and you'll admit that I am surely right -  
His lung power's fully equalled by his monstrous appetite.

We can recall, with pleasure all, as we the past road scan,  
A teacher true, whom we all know as Mrs. Penniman;  
And tho' now she has ceased to be 'mid teacher's ranks a pillar,  
Like birds awing, she still can sing, a happy, prosperous Millar.  
Here let me say, I'm glad today, your prudent school-committees  
Keep up the rule in the Old Stone School, and hire school-teachers pretty.

There is a gang, who when they sang contrived to make a noise,  
And you have said with shake of head: "A lot of awful boys!"  
And all nice girls heard advice from wise and watchful mothers  
For them to steer forever clear of those notorious Watner Brothers.  
But Jim is wed and looks well-fed, and when he gets up steam,  
He will expand and best the band warbling LOVE'S HAPPY DREAM.

Me, you might thank to speak of Frank who well does life enjoy  
Since his desire to be the sire of a bouncing baby-boy  
He's realized; and tho' he's prized in Marlboro for his song,  
I think he'll own that his young son will beat his dad ere long.  
And Charlie too whom you all know as anything but slow,  
True to the gang, has learned to twang the festive gay banjo.

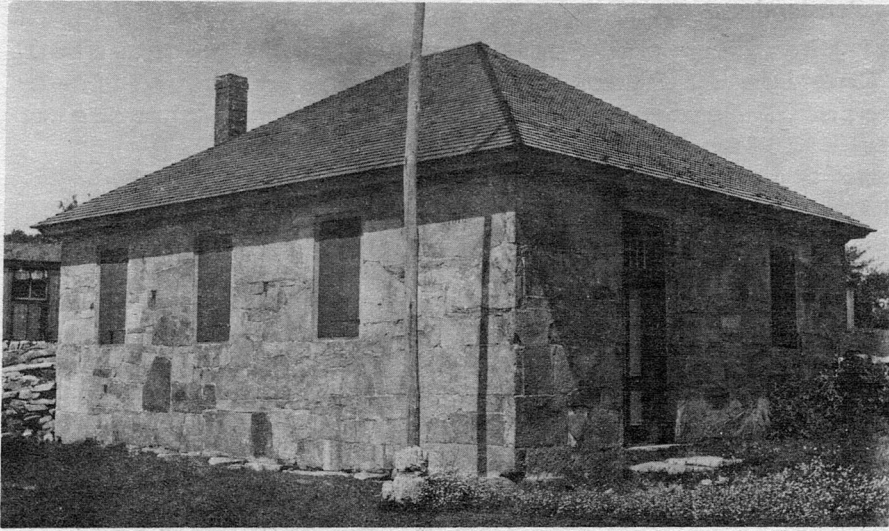
And as for Ben, you all know when a Sutton maiden wrote  
A dismal verse I'll not rehearse but simply from it quote:  
The saddest are these - let none faint please - "Alas, I might have had Ben"  
And let me say to girls today, if you desire a man,  
Don't dare to wait or fool with fate, but grab him while you can!

Now just for fun, I'll mention one who's in an awful fix;  
And lest you make a sad mistake I'll tell you 'tis Champ Hicks.  
He was a beau long years ago and vowed a yow and said  
That no refrain he'd sing again, till he a wife had wed.  
Full many a year has passed most drear, yet still he sings no lay -  
Where is the belle who'll break the spell? I hope she's here today.  
Now if you wish for harmony I'll very quickly find  
Four singers which for hymns and songs, will best the country blind,  
For bass we'll mention Dexter Lowe, alto, his daughter Jenny,  
His wife will dare to take the air, and help she'll not need any,  
While for a tenor, his son John will hold his own, you bet!  
So there you are, the all-round star, and famous Lowe Quartette.

If I had time, I'd put in rhyme the folks that well we know -  
The Dodges and the Bachelers and all the Burnaps too;  
The Brigams and the Bateses who know how to make the dollars,  
And also keep the dear old school from running short of scholars!  
The Humphreys, Bancrofts, Andersons; the Woodards and each King -  
In fact, most all the Old Stone folks knew how to play or sing.

O school-masters true, always of you 'tis pleasure to think,  
And 'twill be till my aged feet go tottering o'er the brink!  
Sing on! this old world needs your song to drown discordant care;  
Sing on! true heart-felt melody is poison to despair;  
Sing on! like care-free birds that trill in tree and blue skies o'er us,  
And thus prepare your hearts to share in heav'n's unending chorus!

*BIBLIOGRAPHY — Worcester Daily Telegram August 12, 1915  
Lists of Teachers in school districts  
No. 9 — No. 10  
by Reuben Lawson Dodge 1897  
Sutton Town Histories 1704 — 1878 and  
1878 — 1950*



STONE SCHOOL



LIONS HEAD  
Drawing By—  
Ernestine Bates



CLASS GROUP



INTERIOR CLASS GROUP

## MONTHLY MEETINGS – By Betty Pentland

OCTOBER - Being the Annual Meeting, the following officers were voted into office: President, Charles I. Pentland; vice president, Wilfred Stockwell; recording secretary, Betty Pentland; corresponding secretary, Donald King; treasurer, G. William Holst; curator, Rae Johnson; directors, John D. Brigham, 3 years; G. William Holst, Charles I. Pentland; refreshments Olive Warner; program committee, Daniel and Mildred Griffith. G. William Holst, treasurer, reported a balance of \$8,300.38. The following committee members, Rae Johnson, Malcolm Pearson, Donald King, and G. William Holst were appointed to make a feasibility study in constructing a building on Blacksmith Shop land to shelter the various vehicles that the Society owns. The evening speaker was Mr. Charles Brown, whose topic was "Railroads In The USA; and how transportation affected Change and Growth in Sutton." It was a most informative talk well illustrated with appropriate slides.

NOVEMBER - Vice-president Wilfred Stockwell presided at the meeting held in the Manchaug Baptist Church building and his wife, Jean Stockwell, was secretary pro-tem. Guest speaker, Edward Duane, historian from Paxton, and descendant of the Howe family that built the Wayside Inn at Sudbury, related the historical aspects of gravestones with explanations of period design and interpretations. He, also displayed numerous rubbings he had made and discussed the techniques involved.

DECEMBER - This meeting at the West Sutton Community Hall was conducted by the president Charles I. Pentland. Doris VanTwyver expressed appreciation for the handrailing outside the Society's Manchaug Baptist Church building installed by Donald King and Rae Johnson. The annual auction, with auctioneers; Rae Johnson, Daniel Griffith, Donald King, and Wilfred Stockwell persuaded a limited attendance to part with a total of \$198.60 toward the Society's financial gain.

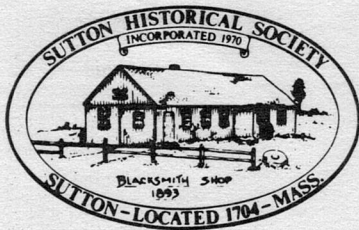
## 1983 – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER - WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Laura Fulton                      M/M Charles Gifford  
George and Esther Perry

## IN MEMORIAM

\*Thelma Hartness \* John Newton \* Alice C. Riley\*

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