

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

— BULLETIN —

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THE TRAVELING HOUSES AND BARNs OF SUTTON

"There Yesterday, Here Today"

By- Donald King

The recent talk of the Waters Farm Association acquiring a barn and moving it from Manchaug to West Sutton prompts me to report on other Sutton buildings that have been relocated.

The first building, presently at 318 Boston Road, the northwest corner of Boston Road and Singletary Avenue, was built originally in 1854 on the Common as a Methodist Church. The first minister was Reverend John W. Lee. Eight ministers followed, several serving the Union in the Civil War. The church was mortgaged, but with declining membership, it was eventually put up for auction.

The buyer, Mr. Stephen B. Holbrook, moved the building with several teams of oxen to its present location. This occurred between 1864 and 1876, although the specific date is not mentioned in either volume of the Sutton Town History.

Mr. Holbrook remodeled the former church into a family dwelling and store. In the upper part of the building, he installed a tank to collect water from the eaves for domestic use. The store also served as the Sutton Post Office. Today, it houses several apartments. (It is interesting to note that one of the early postmasters was Holbrook's son, Wilder, who was the father of Flora Emily Holbrook. In 1908 Flora married John C. Dudley and later became a charter member of the Sutton Historical Society.)

The old Sutton Tavern, where many a body revived after a long church service, was built c. 1727 by Philip Chase. Three generations of Chases were tavernkeepers. Paul and Luther Whiting of the family who, dropping the "g" from Whiting, founded the Whiting Machine Works, bought the tavern around 1800. They sold it to Marius M. Hovey, who sold it to Stephen B. Holbrook prior to 1876. Mr. Holbrook moved part of the tavern to the back of his home, but that section no longer stands today.

The store and the taproom of the old tavern became the front of the building that is now at 29 Singletary Avenue. The back part of this building had been the old shoe shop belonging to Mr. Thomas Beaman Woodbury. Woodbury lived in the Harback District, but the exact location of his shoe shop is unknown. Mr. Patrick Marlow became the first owner of this structure, assembled from the old tavern and Woodbury's shop.

Our next building, the barn at Short View Farm, 23 Singletary Avenue, was once a part of the Fuller Meeting House. On November 1,

Nov. 1989



---HERE TODAY

BOSTON ROAD AND SINGLETARY AVENUE-

This building, a former Methodist Church, built in 1854 was originally located on the Town Common between 1864-1876.

SINGLETARY AVENUE- SHORT VIEW FARM-

Part of this structure was known in 1834 as the Fuller Meeting House on Terry Road in Manchaug. In 1876 it was dismantled and the components became structurally viable at "Short View Farm



MILLBURY, WEST MAIN STREET AND SUTTON ROAD (rear of Pizza House) In 1836 this house was moved near 573 Boston Road to its present location and is a multi-dwelling house.

MARBLE ROAD-

Historically alleged a school house where Henry Ward Beecher taught in Whitinsville on Main Street and it was subsequently moved to Sutton in the late 1950's.



1834, Elder Willard Fuller organized the Freewill Baptist Church. He built and largely paid for the construction of a meeting house at or near 8 Torry Road. Holding services until 1858 or 1859, he was the only minister the church ever had. After Elder Fuller's death on December 8, 1875, the building was sold and in accordance with his wishes the proceeds given to the Freewill Baptist Home Missionary Society.

Mr. Loren Howard bought the Fuller Meeting House, also known as the Manchaug Meeting House, at auction c. 1876. The building was taken down and reassembled at his farm on Singletary Avenue. Mr. Howard also owned a large shop and store on land now vacant between 12 and 16 Singletary Avenue. This was moved c. 1876 to join the church-turned-barn at 29 Singletary Avenue to be used as a house.

Continuing down Singletary Avenue, we come to the Perry Farm, "The Maples." The original barn had been moved from across the road (currently No. 34), but in 1926, it burned. Hired to replace the barn and repair the damaged house, Mr. McGrath and Sons from Millbury found an unused barn in Auburn. After being dismantled and transported to Sutton, the timbers were reassembled in "A" forms in front of the rebuilt barn foundation. A barn raising began early in the morning, and by mid-afternoon, all of the framework was hoisted and pegged. It is said that two sailors were the high men on the framing, and although I was there, I was too young to remember them or the date. (I do remember the cider, apple pie, and doughnuts, however!)

Returning to the Center, we find a barn at 10 Singletary Avenue. Mr. Levins Sibley originally built this structure on a site near 12 Mendon Road. After its relocation to the Center, the barn was used as a livery stable. In 1933 Mr. Milton Holbrook had it cut in half and lowered seven feet.

Mr. Sibley's house from the same site on Mendon Road was moved to Cole Avenue by Mr. S.J. Woodbury. It was called "Ocean House," for many years the sole occupant of Cole Ave. Mr. Henry F. Rice used this building to manufacture dobbie chains for looms in textile mills. After Mr. Rice moved his business to Millbury, the building was moved across the street where it stands today at 5 Cole Avenue. Here it was used as a woodworking shop by Mr. Vernon S. Johnson, who later remodeled it into a family dwelling.

Traveling out to 78 West Millbury Road, we see a house built by Mr. Frank H. Paine for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Paine. The Walter Paines lived in the house when it was at 302 Boston Road. Frank Paine moved it to its present location c. 1969. This may have been the last house moved any great distance without first dismantling. Because the section of Eight Lots Road between Boston Road and West Sutton Road is narrow and overhung by trees, the power and telephone companies had to raise and move many wires. A problem that did not exist one hundred years ago!

Before the West Sutton Baptist Church was built, two other Baptist church buildings existed. The first was at the intersection of Boston and Hutchinson Roads. The last trace of this building, its doorstep, was lost when Boston Road was rebuilt during the 1930's.

The second Baptist church was located near 513 Boston Road. After the West Sutton Baptist Church was completed, the Methodists used the Boston Road building. Later it was abandoned. In 1836 it was moved to Millbury where it stands today in back of the Pizza House at the intersection of West Main Street and Sutton Road. Always without a steeple and as square now as when it was built two hundred years ago, the former church looks like a barn made into a multi-family house.

We now turn our attention to buildings that were moved either out of or into Sutton. Today several houses stand on West Main Street near Brierly Pond in Millbury. Originally these were located near the Eight Lots school house. This area encompassed a small settlement of houses and shops where people made pegged shoes. The shops closed after the Civil War when cities like Brockton became centers of shoemaking.

The next example involves an old house built by a Batchelor and originally located at 107 Central Turnpike. During the mid-1980's, it was moved about one-and-a-half miles east into Northbridge. It sits back from the road at its new address, 1041 Sutton Street (a continuation of Central Turnpike).

One of the few houses moved into Sutton was once a schoolhouse on Main Street in Whitinsville. Moved in order to make room for a parking lot for the Whitin Machine Works, the building's current address is 57 on the north side of Marble Road by the Marble Village Pond. It is said that Mr. Henry Ward Beecher once taught school in this building.

Two other buildings moved into Sutton came from Douglas. In 1907 part of the house at 229 Manchaug Road was moved from Parker Road in Douglas across the old dam on Manchaug Pond to its present location. The second house was moved by B.B. and R. Knight Co. from a mill site in Douglas about three-quarters of a mile due north to its current position at 2 Mumford Road. Several other buildings were moved at this time, but only this one remains standing.

Our last example of a "traveling house" moved twice! Part of the house at 84 Uxbridge Road was a schoolhouse originally located on the present site of the DAR Museum. Before that, however, it was a law office of Mr. Jonas L. Sibley and located near 21 Uxbridge Road. One of Mr. Sibley's law students was Christopher Columbus Baldwin, who became the first secretary of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester.

In the interests of time, space, and your attention, I have not listed all the traveling houses and barns of Sutton. If you know of a unique story on this subject, I would like to hear about it. In the meantime, I hope I have inspired you to take a Sunday drive to examine and appreciate this part of Sutton's history.

Bibliography

Sutton Town Histories, Vol. I, 1704-1876, and Vol. II, 1876-1950.
Private Records.

PROJECT - "Historical Inventory Survey"

The Sutton Historical Commission is planning to enlist volunteers from the Society to complete the above project. The survey is partially done but to finish the work with a minimum of delay will enable the Town to establish historical areas/buildings and to apply for National Registration. The Waters Farm is on National Register and the Freegrace Marble Farm has been recommended by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for that status. More Information to come soon.

The Society deeply regrets the passing of these active members who since our founding in December 1969, have conscientiously served to establish the Sutton Historical Society as a presence in the Community.....

EVELYN F. SMITH - KENETH HOOVER - FRANCIS H. KING - DAVID T. PUTNAM

MONTHLY MEETINGS - November 1988 to November 1989

NOVEMBER - The Society met at the DAR Hall. The following officers were elected: President Daniel Giffith, Vice President, Janet Smith, Recording Secretary, Barbara Weaver, Corresponding Secretary, Mary Arakelian, Treasurer, Pennie Linder, Assistant Treasurer, Mary Arakelian, Curator, Marieta Howard, Assistant Curator, Ruth Putnam, and Historian, Mary King. Stephen LeClaire showed a video tape of the June Wagon Trek to Maine.

DECEMBER - The Society met in the DAR Hall. The Manchaug Baptist Church was painted in November. Auctioneers, Mary Arakelian and Daniel Griffith presided at the Annual Christmas auction and one-hundred-and-forty-five dollars was raised.

JANUARY - The Society met at the DAR Hall. Permission was granted a couple to hold their wedding ceremony in the Society's Manchaug Church on February 11. President Griffith reported that the cellar hole of the Miedema barn in Whitinsville which may be dismantled and restored in the back of the Blacksmith Shop must be filled in by the Society. The speaker John Rodgers illustrated his travelogue narration with slides on a recent trip to Scotland.

FEBRUARY - The Society met at the DAR Hall. The Society has received from Leona Dona the gift of an eighty year old antique doll dressed in period costume for the Museum. A heating element wire was installed in the water line to the Museum kitchen for year round service. Ken Warchel of Northbridge, dressed in period costume with two assistants, and slide illustrations, depicted the life of Paul Whitin during his development of the Paul Whitin Manufacturing Company textile mill.

MARCH - The Society met at the DAR Hall. Bud Gurney and Malcolm Pearson reported on a trip to Woodstock, Connecticut, to attend a meeting of persons interested in locating the route of the Indian and early Colonial Bay Path trail between Boston and Hartford. Malcolm discussed the financial responsibility and other problems to move the Miedema Barn to the Blacksmith Shop site. Upon a motion by Rae Johnson it was voted to abandon the project. Philip Whitney who demonstrated ice cutting on Manchaug Pond in February which was sponsored by the Society was reimbursed. June fleamarket plans were discussed and instituted. A motion was made and voted to establish a lifetime Society membership for one hundred dollars per son or couple. Gary Vaillancourt aided by slides and live exhibits, related how with his wife, Judi, established a business in chaulkware figurines from antique chocolate mold.

APRIL - The Society met at the Manchaug Church. Bud Gurney reported in his research of the Waters family that Sutton Beauty apple trees (originated on the Waters Farm) were located growing in California. Dan Griffith has received from Williams Lindstrom a history of the Manchaug Baptist Church up until 1972. In March a spark from the forge at the Blacksmith Shop started a fire on the roof that damaged a shingled area of about four feet by six feet. Quick action prevented further damage. The shingles on the north side being in poor condition it was decided to re-shingle that side. The opposite side (south) was shingled in 1954. It was voted to establish a new schedule of dues (first increase since the Society founding in 1970) as follows: students under 18 @ \$3.00, individuals @ \$6.00, families @ \$10.00, patrons @ \$25.00, businesses/corporations @ \$5.00 and life memberships @ \$100.00. Christine Higginbottom White of Sturbridge Village plans the gardens there and trains the costumed personnel who work in them, discussed nineteenth century gardening.

MAY - The Society met at the Manchaug Church. The business meeting was suspended. With guests from Whitinsville and Millbury Societies invited to hear a rare musical performance by Vera Myer on a glass harmonica (invented by Benjamin Franklin) who is one of three artists in the country to play this instrument professionally.

JUNE - The annual fleamarket was held at the Blacksmith Shop and the amount raised was \$841.87.

JULY - A potluck supper, an annual affair was held at the Eight Lot School grounds.

AUGUST - This potluck supper was held at the Blacksmith Shop. As usual good fellowship and conversation prevailed.

SEPTEMBER - The Society met at the Manchaug Church. Bud Gurney reported on the Annual Waters Farm Day program scheduled for October 1. A second coat of paint has been applied to the Society owned Manchaug Baptist Church. Volunteers were asked for help to inventory the collection of clothing at the Museum. Daniel Smith has donated some old photos to the Society. Nora Pat Small who is studying old houses in preparing

her doctorate in American History asked for access to the Society records. She will assist the Sutton Historical Commission in its inventory survey of old houses. Frank White from Sturbridge Village with slides rendered an informative discussion on old barns and their framing characteristics. The Labor Day fleamarket raised \$636.09.

OCTOBER - The Society met at the Manchaug Church. The business meeting was postponed until November. James Pepper, Director of the BR Valley National Heritage Commission, reviewed their purpose and projects for the Blackstone River Valley.

NOVEMBER - The Society met at the Manchaug Church. Directors; Mary Arakelian, Carl Briel, Marieta Howard, Pennie Linda, Ruth Putnam, and Barbara Weaver were re-elected until 1993. The Board of Directors voted into office; Malcolm Pearson, President, Daniel Griffith, Vice President, Francis Donnelly, Recording Secretary, Mary Arakelian, Corresponding Secretary, Mary Arakelian, Treasurer, Pennie Linder, Assistant Treasurer, Marieta Howard, Curator, Ruth Putnam, Assistant Curator, Mary King Historian. Bud Gurney MC'ed a living historical dramatization of excerpts from the Waters Farm records with characters Liza Bullard (Norma Bedrosian) and Jason Waters (Stephen LeClaire) as actors.

JANUARY TO NOVEMBER - Welcome New Members

Michael P. Anyon	M/M Kenneth Foppema	Robert and Lynn O'Neal
John R. Anyon	David and Ann Fox	Robert and Amy Picotte
Keith Anyon	Laura Fulton	Herbert and Helen Pierce
Norman R. Anyon	Richard and Gail Hallen	Robert and Rebecca Plotczyk
SSGT. Patricia P. Arakelian	Richard C. Hare	M/M Robert Richards
Philip W. and Linda L. Bowes	John C. and Sally E. Hill	John F. Rogers
W. Leo and Barbara Brochu	Elizabeth O. Kurtz	Robert E. Schulze
Paul K. Burrows	Robert and Donna Madore	Mrs. Ruth L. Stafinski
Phyllis Gillespie and	Albert A. Martin	Ann Marie Stoica
David Charpentier	Paul and Deborah Metzger	Titus J. Strakosz
Mrs. Statia Chase	Millbury Historical Society	Theresa Szewerenka
Samuel P. Chiancola	Frank and Sheila Moffat	Michael and Mary West
M/M Peter N. Collins	Karen L. Moran	David and Kathleen Yeaton
M/M James Crosby	Kenneth and Jennie Nivala	
M/M Gerald Dalstrom	Michael and Janet O'Neal	

LIFE MEMBERS-

Robert and Ann Achorn	William and Mary Calnan	Malcolm and Myra Pearson
Haig and Mary Arakelian	Linda and Isabelle Nelson	Ann Schellschmidt

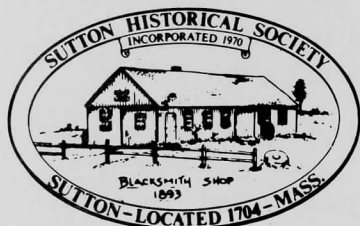
IN MEMORIAM

Walter Aldrich, Sr	George Picard
Keneth Hoover	David T. Putnam
Peggy Duffy Kent	Evelyn F. Smith
Francis H. King	Wilder Smith

IN APPRECIATION

The Society expresses its appreciation to Dennis Laforce, an authorized service person, who seasonally disconnects or re-connects the water line in the Society owned Manchaug Baptist Church and donates that service. Also, to the Blacksmith Shop repair raffle ticket sellers that raised \$1195.00 to the cause. And to Vaillancourt Folkart, Linda Sinacola, and Dale Coulter for prizes to the raffle.

THE SOCIETY WILL HOST A CHRISTMAS TEA, AT 2-4 pm, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, IN THE DAR HALL, SUTTON CENTER. ALL ARE WELCOME!



<p>Non-Profit Organization U. S. Postage PAID Manchaug, MA 01526 Permit No. 1</p>
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General Rufus Putnam Hall
4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton, MA 01590