

# THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

— BULLETIN —  
VOL. XIX NO. 2 JULY 1990



## STAFF

Editor	- Malcolm Pearson
Assoc. Editor	- Myra Pearson
Corres. Sec'try	- Mary Arakelian
Art Consultant	- Joy Nydam
Reporters	- Donald King (Manchaug)
	- Rae Johnson (W. Sutton)
Circulation	- Donald King
	- Elizabeth King
	- Mary King
	- Rae Johnson
	- Marjorie Johnson
	- Margaret Ritchie

## A COVERED WAGON TRIP TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK IN 1894-

### PART II

- from the diary of EVA S. BANCROFT

*PREFACE-* In the April BULLETIN in the first part of the trip related to the journey from Buffalo, Wyoming to Yellowstone Park. As stated in the last issue one page of the original diary is missing and that particular page chronicled their visits to sites inside the Park. However, a few place names recording their entrance and exit does furnish some clues as to what places they saw in the Park.

Enough location names were in the diary to map their trail north into Montana, westward and south into the Park in Wyoming. Upon leaving the northeastern entrance they traveled in a east-south easterly direction home to Buffalo, Wyoming. Hence, a map of the trip is included in this issue.

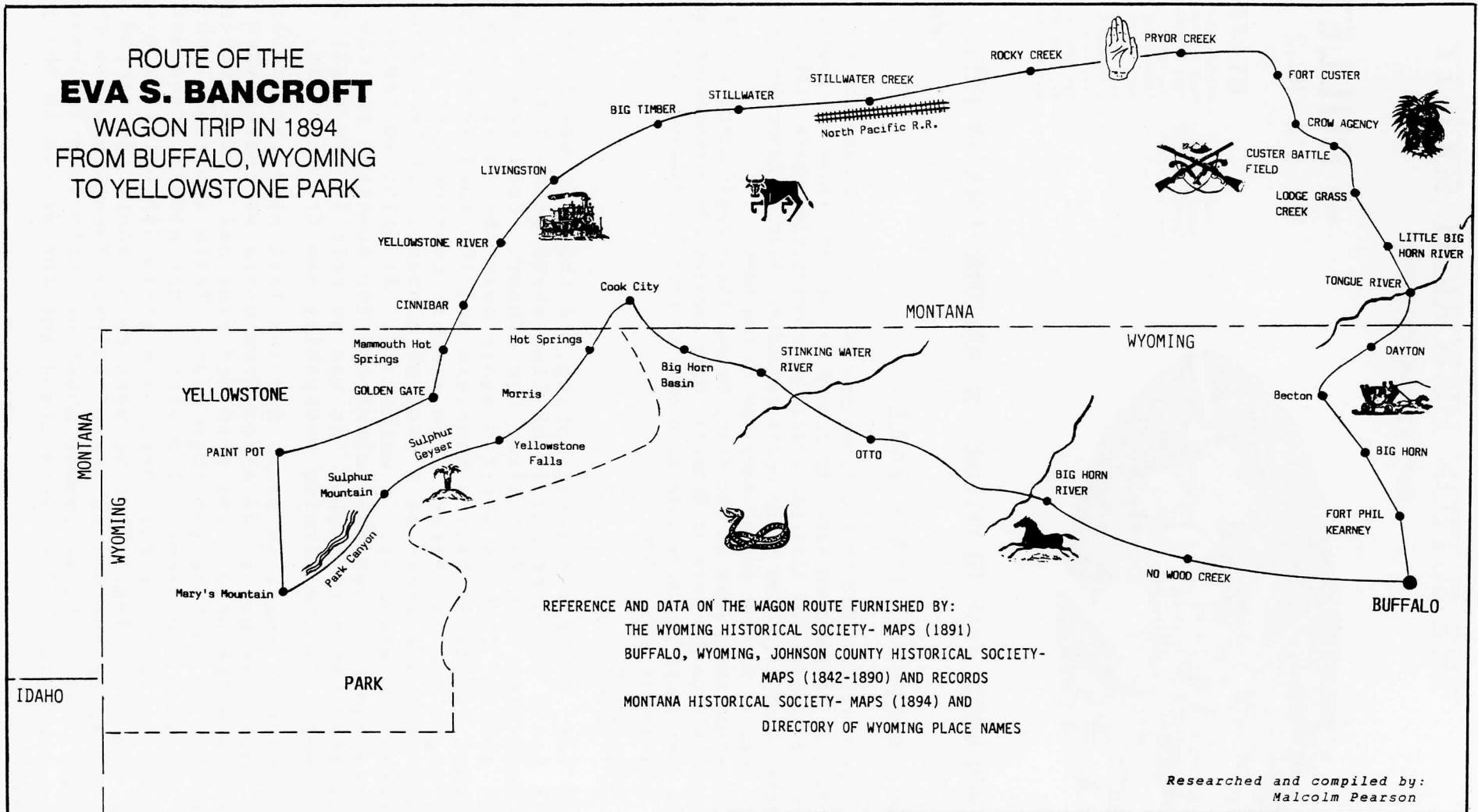
-Editor-

THE DIARY CONTINUES....

.....Paint Pot, a large boiling spring. I think it was 25 or 30 feet across. It boils all over and looks like white paint boiling, At noon we camped near East Fire Hole River for dinner. Fred went fishing and caught four trout. Then we started again over the worst roads yet. We went over what is called Mary's Mountain and the road is not used now but Fred thought it was nearer. The road is covered with rocks. The hill 3 miles long and steep as a roof of a house. It took 2 hours to get the horses and wagon up. I walked up. At night we camped at an old Stage Station that has been abandoned for sometime and the girls and I went into the shanty to sleep. It was so cold in the night that we could not sleep. In the morning everything was frozen stiff.

September - Getting ready to start for the last site that we expect to see in the Park. We got a few miles from where we camped when we got to a place where the bridge was gone and Fred had a time getting the horses over but at last he got them over. Edith was right behind when her horse got into the creek. The girt to her saddle broke and that threw her off but did not hurt her. The girls did not ride over. We all walked over on a log. Then we went on at noon. We camped near a creek for dinner on our way we passed Sulphur Mountain where there is a Sulphur Gyser. At night we camped about one mile from Yellowstone Falls. Went to see the Falls. They were grand but the Canyon is the grandest I ever saw.

ROUTE OF THE  
**EVA S. BANCROFT**  
 WAGON TRIP IN 1894  
 FROM BUFFALO, WYOMING  
 TO YELLOWSTONE PARK



REFERENCE AND DATA ON THE WAGON ROUTE FURNISHED BY:  
 THE WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY- MAPS (1891)  
 BUFFALO, WYOMING, JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY-  
 MAPS (1842-1890) AND RECORDS  
 MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- MAPS (1894) AND  
 DIRECTORY OF WYOMING PLACE NAMES

*Researched and compiled by:  
 Malcolm Pearson*

September 5 - On our way out of the Park we started for Morris and got there about ten o'clock. Camped for dinner. At night camped about six miles from Hot Springs.

September 6 - Getting breakfast. Shall start as soon as it is over. Started about nine. Went as far as the Hot Springs. Went into the place where they sell coated specimens. Bought some and drove three miles and got dinner and it began to rain so had to stay all night. Had trout for supper.

September 7 - Cleared this morning so we started again. At noon got dinner and Fred went fishing. Did not get any. At night camped near a small lake.

September 8 - Started about eight. Drove till one (o'clock) camped for dinner. Fred went fishing, caught one trout. At night camped near a creek right between two mountains. During the night some animal came and ran up and down the tent. We had an awful time getting up a terrible hill.

September 9 - Getting ready to start again. Drove to Cook City. We had a great time getting there. The horses got baulky but we got there at last and camped for the night. Cook City is a mining town.

September 10 - The miners are not working on account of the hard times. We met one of the mine owners and his wife and he took us over the mill and to the mine and explained the processes of grinding the ore and getting out the gold and when we got back from the tunnel his wife had dinner already. They take their cook with them when they go to the mine. She thought after climbing the mountain we should need something. I think she was very kind. We had a nice dinner. The cooks is a man and everything is neat and clean and cooked in the best manner. After dinner we drove about ten miles and camped near the mountains and in the woods.

September 11 - Are getting ready to start again. We go slow for our horses are getting tired. We met a man in Cook City that was born in Dedham, Massachusetts and he went with us to the mine. He has been in the west for a great many years. He was glad to see people from Massachusetts and took a great deal of notice of us. We have an awful hill to go up. One of the horses would not work so we had to go into camp. We had drawn the wagon part-way up the hill. Then the horses did the rest but the pole was broke so Fred had to make a new one which did not help us about getting along. At night we camped near a little stream and Edith washed. I was so tired that I went to bed without supper.

September 12 - Fred has got the pole most done and then we shall try again. Started at last. Drove till noon. Stopped for dinner. We had such bad roads that I walked most of the way. I was so tired I had to lie down awhile. They got dinner and it began to snow pretty soon and we had to stay all night.

September 13 - Still in camp. It is snowy this morning. Waiting for fair weather. Did not start till two this PM. Snowed when we started but did not go a few miles. It was so cold we had to go into camp and make a fire to get warm.

September 14 - We left camp this morning. Not so cold as yesterday but terrible roads all day. Awful hills and mudholes and creeks to cross.

September 15 - Started this morning for Dead Indian Hill. The worst hill in Wyoming up a mountain. It looked as if it is impossible to go up. I walked most of the way yesterday and I shall have today. Camped for dinner. Fred and Eddie have gone part-way to see if it is possible to get

up Dead Indian Hill. Started with part of the load but did not get up a little way when he tipped over and he and the team went over the bank. He did not get hurt but the pole broke for the second time so had to stay in camp another night.

September 16 - Started again. Fred is going to try if the horses will draw the empty wagon up and then he will pack the things on the saddle horses and try to get up that way. It was very cold in the mountains. At two o'clock we are going up Dead Indian Hill having a hard pull. Got up about 4 o'clock. Started at nine in the morning. For three miles we all walked... It was all the horses could do to get the empty wagon up in seven hours. It is a terrible hill. Tired to death. Camped at night in Big Horn Basin. The wind blew all night terrible. I was afraid the tent would blow over but did not.

September 17 - Getting ready to start again. About 4 o'clock we camped on Chapman's Ranch where we got some potatoes. The first we have had for two weeks and some bread and milk. We had nothing but biscuit and bacon for two weeks. I got so I could not eat it. Stayed on Chapman's Ranch all night.

September 18 - Getting ready to start again. It is very much warmer than it was in the mountains. They have a tame antelope the first I ever saw. It is a pretty creature. Camped for dinner near a little stream near a ranch.. At night we camped near the Stinking Water River.

September 19 - Started Again. Camped near Sage Creek for dinner. At night we camped at Dry Creek.

September 20 - Have not started yet. Fred gone to hunt up horses. They strayed away last night. He found them after awhile. We left camp about 11 o'clock. Fred shot an antelope soon after we left camp so we shall have fresh meat for dinner. Have antelope to last for sometime. Very glad for a change. Camped at night in the sage brush. The girls slept outdoors (did not put up the tent) right on the ground on the mattress Nothing over them but the sky and Fred and Edith too. I slept in the wagon.

September 21 - Started at nine. Camped for dinner near a ranch. Got some oats for the horses. Feed is getting scarce. At night we camped near a Morman town called Otto.

September 22 - Started this morning about nine. Camped at noon near the Big Horn River. Edith is getting dinner. At night we camped at Morgan's Ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan very kind. Gave us tomatoes and mellons and invited me to supper. We had hasty pudding and milk. Very nice people. Wish I might live near them.

September 23 - Got started about 11 o'clock. Went to Morgan's before we left and at three we had to camp. One of the horses gave out so we had to lay over until morning. The horses strayed away last night.

September 24 - Fred has not found them yet.

September 25 - Fred found the horses yesterday about nine. We started at noon. Camped at a creek called NO Wood. No wood in it! At night we camped at a creek called Ten Sleep. I got some sugar and eggs at a ranch. We are about 65 miles from Buffalo. Hope to get there the last of the week but our horses are about played out.

September 26 - Started about 8 o'clock. Drove awhile and then camped for dinner. Had to hunt for water. Found some after awhile. After dinner found the road awfully hilly. At night we had to go to bed without supper. Could not find water.

September 27 - Had to start out without breakfast. Have to wait until we find water. We went about a mile and found water. Stopped for breakfast and came to an awful hill. Took 'till dark to get up. We got up the hill called Muddy Hill about 3 o'clock. Took us 'till dark to get down. Fred had to cut down a tree and tie it to the wagon to hold it from running down hill. The brake was not enough. I walked. Camped near a road near the bottom of the hill. Got tent up just as it began to rain.

Getting breakfast. 15 miles from Buffalo. Hope to get there tonight. Rained all day, cold and windy. I walked about ten miles today. It was cold that I could not stand it to ride. Kept warmer walking. Got back to Buffalo about dark. Hungry, dirty, and ragged but thankful that we're all alive and well.

So ends my trip to the Park. Money would not hire me to go again in the same way!

*Eva S. Bancroft*

*NOTE: If Part I is reviewed place names may be readily located enroute to Yellowstone Park and in this issue the return trip is determined by places identified on the map.*

*BIBLIOGRAPHY-*

- Eva S. Bancroft, original diary 1894*  
*Wyoming Historical Society, maps (1891)*  
*Buffalo, Wyoming, Johnson County Historical Society,*  
*maps (1842-1890) and records*  
*Montana Historical Society- maps (1894) and directory*  
*of Wyoming place names*  
*Sutton Town History 1876-1950 Vol. II- p.205, para.3,*  
*p.345, para.2*  
*Lousia C. Waner- (great grand-daughter of Eva S. Bancroft)*  
*verbal family information*



HOWARD CEMETERY  
SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

THUS ENDS A VIVID AND DRAMATIC FIRST PERSON  
STORY OF WAGONEERING IN THE WEST

*July 1990*

## EIGHT LOTS SCHOOL

ON JULY 2nd a deed was signed by trustees and members of the Eight Lots School Association to convey title of the school and land to the Sutton Historical Society. Association members, Wilfred Stockwell, President, Jeffery Cole, Vice-President, Belle Smith, Treasurer, Olive Taft, Stanly Moore, and William Welsh were the signees gathered at the school along with several Selectmen, Ethel O'Day, Town Clerk, notary, and Historical Society persons. After the signing procedure the Association held an informal reunion. One association member, Viola Dodd, living in Florida, signed the deed which was handcarried to Florida and back by Ann Schellschmidt.

The school building does require some carpentry and painting. Fortunately, two accounts will probably finance this work. The Association graciously transferred their savings account of about one thousand dollars into the Society account and the Phyllis MacLaren memorial fund will increase the school repair fund by twelve hundred dollars.

The age of the building is somewhat obscure in historical records. Fred Humes and E. Florence Kneeland researched this question in preparation of the Town History, Vol.II, 1876-1950, but did not conclude any definitive date on when the school was built. The date 1773 has been the informally suggested year although apparently there is not any historical record existing to sustain that claim.

Unquestionably the Society has acquired a remarkable specimen of an early Americana that perhaps be the oldest original wooden one room school house existing in New England or elsewhere in the States.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS-** The JUNE was held in the General Rufus Putnam Hall. Bud Gurney reported on the possibility of the Stone School Road, Stone School site presently in a ruinous state being donated to the Society. Plans for the annual flea market July 7th were discussed and committees appointed. A new design of a goldtoned metalphoto Lifetime Membership card with holders name inscribed was shown and approved, Nicholas Langhart of East Douglas presented an illustrated lecture on architectural New England history. The JULY flea market activity precluded a regular monthly meeting. \$919 was raised. the shingling of the south side of the Blacksmith Shop has been completed. The AUGUST annual potluck supper at the Eight Lots School was rained out and the meeting adjourned to the West Sutton Baptist Church recreation hall. Myra and Malcolm Pearson who had toured across country in 1959 presented a slide documentaton of the trip.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS-** Thomas Andrade  
John and Mary Belculfine, Jr  
Russell and Janice Boutiette  
Philip and Linda Bowes  
Thomas and Elizabeth Connors  
George DeBoer  
Jamison Gosselin  
Gary and Karen Levitre  
Anthony and Janet Moore  
John F. O'Rourke  
Peter and Karen Reilly

Amos and Mary Green  
M/M Richard Hutchinson  
Mrs. Gustav F. Johnson  
M/M Paul D. Kinney  
James LeClaire  
George and Frances Lindberg  
Van and Mary Leichter  
Stephen and Kathy Romasco  
Robert and Beverly Stearns  
Robert and Laura Stonebreaker  
M/M Wendell Whittier

### LIFE MEMBERS-

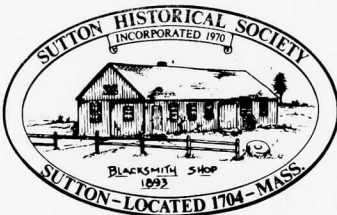
John Brigham, Sr  
Ona Fleet  
Ralph and Ruth Gurney

Carl and Elinor Hutchinson  
Wallace and Shirley Johnson  
Mary B. King

F. Mike and Beverly Pinjuv

### IN MEMORIAM-

\* Barry B. Putnam, Sr \*



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

4 Uxbridge Road  
Sutton Massachusetts, 01590