

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS



— BULLETIN —
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THE HANNAH DUSTIN SAGA

Note — This narration was evidently handed down through several generations of the Cressey family (see lineage at end of text) and is being reproduced "as is". The manuscript was submitted by Carol Bornemann, daughter of the late Warren Cressey. — EDITOR

Hannah (Emerson) Dustin was born in Haverhill, Mass. on Dec. 23, 1657. She was the daughter of Michael and Hannah (Webster) Emerson and was married to Thomas Dustin, from New Hampshire, Dec. 3, 1677. They lived in Haverhill. At the time of her capture they had twelve children. The father saved all but the baby.

Mrs. Dustin with her baby, her nurse Mrs. Mary Neff, and Samuel (Lenardson) Richardson were taken prisoners by the Indians on March 15, 1697 and carried to Contoocook Island, New Hampshire.

She was taken out of bed with her infant six days old. The Indians sat her on a horse to ride. When a little distance from the house the baby cried and an Indian took it by the feet and dashed its brains out on a rock. The child's name was Martha. They arrived at Contoocook island March 30.

This island is between the waters of the Contoocook and the Merrimac and contains about two acres of land covered with trees and was the home of a tribe of Indians. It was a strong fortification against the English. The party had traveled about 250 miles in their wanderings but the direct route is only 75 miles. They were so far from home that the Indians did not tie their prisoners but being tired

lay down to sleep with their captives between them.

Hannah had previously told the others not to go to sleep for the Indians had plans to start for Canada the next morning and she was going to try to escape.

She noticed where the men put their tomahawks, guns and knives. In the dead of night she arose carefully and hid all except the ones she wished to use. She awakened the boy and girl and told the boy to kill three, the girl two and she would kill the other four.

Each took a tomahawk. Hannah killed her four, the boy three and the girl one and struck at another but missed and he jumped up and Hannah killed him. They started off in a hurry, but after going quite a distance Mrs. Dustin thought of the scalps and wanted to go back for them. Sam and Mary refused and she went alone knowing that she must have proof if she wished her story to be believed. With the Indians' canoes they crossed the river and followed the stream down, living on whatever they could find.

They reached Boston April 21 and here met Cotton Mather near the State house to whom they showed the scalps, tomahawks and an Indian gun.

At this time there was quite a bounty on scalps but Mrs. Dustin was told that she could not receive it as she was not fighting the Indians but had killed in cold blood. She replied that her blood was never cold after they killed her child. The General Court at once voted twenty-five pounds to Mrs. Dustin and twelve each to the others. The Governor of Maryland sent them presents as did many others.

Collections News

When Mrs. Dustin returned to her home her husband was working in the field. A neighbor called to him, "Dustin, your wife's got back". It is said that he dropped his hoe as if shot, having believed her to be dead.

The day of Mrs. Dustin's capture, the Indians killed twenty-seven persons in Haverhill and burned nine dwelling houses. The bloody cloth in which Hannah carried the scalps is still in the possession of her descendants. Mrs. Dustin's statue now stands on Haverhill Square, Mass.

Great-great grandfather John Dustin was born in Haverhill Mass and was 18 years old when he enlisted in the army. He fought at the battle of Bunker Hill, also at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered to Gen. Gates. There he traded with the prisoners and got the silver from which two spoons were made. These are now kept in the family. He received his pension either in Surry or Gilsun, Cheshire Co., N.H. His house being in one town and barn in the other.

Line of Descent

Hannah Dustin	born	1657
John Dustin	born	1686
John Dustin	born	1755
Abigail Dustin Chandler	born	1785
Martha Chandler Cressy	born	1832
Frank Cressey	born	1862
Mildred Cressy	born	1894

Therefore Mrs. Dustin is fourth great-grandmother of Mildred Cressy.

The collections committee has recently resumed inventorying and organizing the Sutton Historical Society's extensive and important collection of objects. The job is an enormous one and will entail rearranging the museum space while work is underway. With the preliminary approval of the board of directors the committee will transform the second floor of the General Rufus Putnam Hall into a storage and work area.

Proper accessioning and storage of the historical society's collections will be an expensive task. The committee will organize a sub-committee in charge of grant applications and other fund-raising activities, but if members have, or have access to, any of the following items we will gratefully accept them:

Industrial Grade Metal Shelving
File Cabinets
Dehumidifier
Inexpensive Source of Light-Weight White Cotton Gloves

We will also be looking for volunteers for the following tasks:

Public Programs Cataloguing
Exhibits Housekeeping
Fund Raising

You need not have had any experience! Join us for an opportunity to familiarize yourself with material remnants of Sutton's past.

The collections committee is composed of Nora Pat Small, curator, Marieta Howard, Ruth Putnam, Mary Arakelian. If you can help us in any way — whether with your time or useful items — please call Nora Pat at 865-2275.

Recent Acquisitions

A collection of Sutton High School graduation programs, singing school concert programs, and young woman's club yearbooks was donated by Caroline Freeland Malkasian.

A copy of The American First Class Book owned by Nancy Sibley of Sutton in 1836 was donated by Janet and David Zampini.

Wilfred Stockwell has donated numerous items from Silvermine Farm that belonged to his grandparents and great-grandparents, including four ladderback chairs, a peat moss shovel, a butter churn and a cranberry picker, among other treasures.

Our thanks to all who have remembered the Historical Society. If you have any Sutton-related items that you would like to donate, please contact Nora Pat Small at 865-2275.

For Sale

"Sutton Documents" (1681 and 1720 - 1778)

This 44-page booklet contains reproductions of 26 original documents and their exact translations. The documents include indentures, bonds, notes and deeds, military orders, petitions, power-of-attorney, and miscellany. Fully cross-indexed.

Revised Edition • \$7.00 pp

Mail check to the Sutton Historical Society,
4 Uxbridge Rd., Sutton, MA 01590

SUTTON INTERLUDE

*1930 100th Anniversary Program of the
First Congregational Church Program
(excerpts)*

THE SUTTON HYMN

(written by Rev. John E. Tuttle)

Upon the Sutton hill,
 Beneath New England skies,
Stands the old church. so nobly, still,
 While, year by year, time flies.
For all His mercies shown
 To her by God above,
We thankfully His goodness own
 And magnify His love.
For all through the years
 Have loved and served Him here,
Who dwell in heaven, without tears,
 We now His name revere.
Help us O Lord, our God
 'Til working days are done,
To walk with Thee in sweet accord,
 A household of Thy Son.
Keep this Thy Church aflame
 With holy zeal and love,
"Til heaven and earth are one in Thee,
 Thou Christ of Calvary.

HAIL TO OUR FATHERS

(written by Mrs. Vernon S. Johnson)

Hail to our fathers of long ago,
In spite of hardships, loss and fire
Raised again with eager hands,
This "House of God" for us to share.
Hail to our fathers with faith subline,
Would we all had such love devine.
Hail to our fathers of early days,
Who kept faith for us so long,
And left to us the House of Praise,
To worship Him in prayer and song,
Hail to our fathers with faith subline
Would we all have love devine.
Hail to our fathers of present time,
Heirs of God's Kingdom love and care,
May our devotion and daily life
Bring honor to this House of Prayer.
Hail to our fathers with faith subline,
Would all had such love devine.

Monthly Meetings —

April 6 - The Society met in the Manchaug Church at 8 PM. A video tape of the Muster Field Farm in North Sutton, NH, depicted the Harvey Homestead exterior and interior views, also the outbuildings, ice harvesting, cultivated fields, flower gardens, etc., all recorded in the various seasons of the year. Robert Bristol (now deceased) narrated on camera the different scenes. He established the complex as a living museum and the homestead is on National Register. After the showing refreshments were served.

May 5 - The Society met in the Manchaug Church at 8 PM. After a short business session "The Tales of Yore" panel assembled consisting of Wally Johnson, Selectman, Ben MacLaren, Ruth Putnam, Helen Ordnung, Bud Gurney, and Dick LaBonte, Selectman, as moderator. The tales pro and con were a second episode to the February 2nd panel discussion group. Refreshments were then served.

June 2 - The Society met at the Manchaug Church at 8 PM with 21 persons present. Painting of the church was authorized by a May 11th Board of Directors meeting and completed at a cost of \$1258.00. A Blacksmith Shop oversight committee consisting of Bud Gurney, Ruth Putnam, Dan Griffith, Scott Bennett, Nora Pat Small, and Francis Donnelly as advisor was appointed. Two video tapes were shown, one of the 1895-1982 Town Hall demolition and the other one of the 1983 construction of the new Town Hall. Also a tape recording of the February 2nd audience reaction to the "old Timers Stories" panel discussion was shown. Refreshments were served.

July 6 - The Society met at the Blacksmith Shop for a potluck supper. A committee consisting of Scott Bennett, Mary Arakelian, Daniel Griffith, and Mary B. King were appointed to select nominees onto the Board of Directors to serve until 1996. Details of the July 10th flea market were discussed.

August 3 - The Society met at the Eight Lots School for a potluck supper. The July flea market raised \$571.00.

September 7 - The Society meeting was held at the General Rufus Putnam Hall. A Board of Directors list of nominees for election in the next annual meeting will be published in a local paper. The Labor Day flea market raised \$524.00. James P. Whittall, archeologist, lecture topic was, "The Sir Henry Sinclair Voyage to North America in 1392". It was profusely illustrated with slides and the subject amply detailed. Following the program refreshments were served.

October 5 - The Society met in the General Rufus Putnam Hall at 8 PM. Being an annual meeting and with diminished membership audience present due to a Town Meeting, a quorum was not present which necessitated postponement of the business portion to the November meeting. Shown were many items from the estate of the late Daniel (Tighe) Smith which were donated to the Musuem. Among them; a painting of the Stone School House, the wedding dress of Flora Dudley (1870 era), old town reports, a stereoptican with dual photo cards, and many historical documents. The speaker for the evening was Richard Moffat, a coin dealer who rendered a graphic illustrated discussion on the history of American coinage. Afterward refreshments were served.

IN MEMORIAM -

Daniel S. (Tighe) Smith



General Rufus Putnam Hall
4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton, MA 01590

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