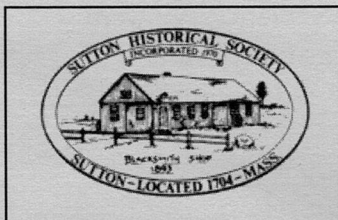


Sutton Historical Society Bulletin



August 15, 2006 – Volume 44, No. 2
Kate Hutchinson, Editor-in-Chief
Malcolm Pearson, Editor Emeritus

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A Message from the President

Message from the President:

The Society had an open house at the Eight Lots School on June 13th from 5 to 8PM. The purpose was to provide an opportunity to neighbors and residents to tour the facility as it is closed most of the time. The results were outstanding, as some 65 to 70 people took advantage of this. Of particular interest were the number of children, accompanied by their parents, who attended and had their pictures taken in the old seats. There was a switch that was found in the building also. It was such a success, we have decided to do this again in September at a time to be announced in the local papers.

Special thanks to Paul Brosnihan and John Sinacola for their hard work in getting the school ready for the open house.

We are still trying to get together a list of volunteers to staff the Rufus Putnam museum on Tuesday nights. Regular staffing will enable us to apply for grants to help preserve our collections.

Hope to see you all soon,
Wally Baker, President

Sutton Historical Society Officers:

President: Wally Baker

Vice President: Open

Recording Secretary: Open

Corresponding Secretary:

Chris Sinacola

Treasurer: Ellie Hutchinson

Historian: Johanne Walker

Curator: Paul Brosnihan

Upcoming Sutton Historical Society Programs:

**September 5 – Annual
Flea Market at the
Blacksmith Shop from 9 to
2. Please bring your
baked goods for the food
table. Tables are available
for \$10.00**

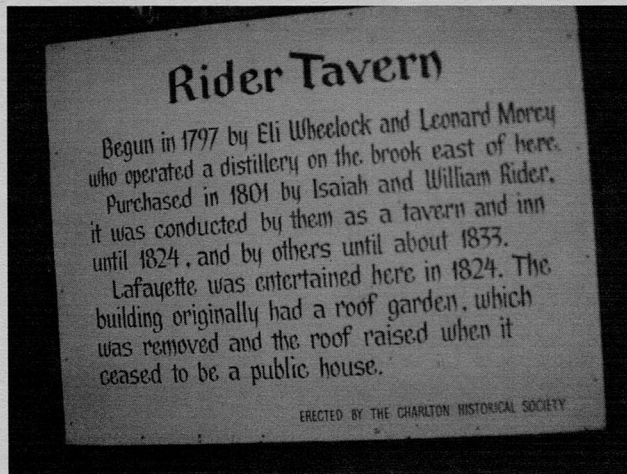
**October 17 – Meet at the
Asa Waters Mansion at
7:30 PM in Millbury for a
program with Tom and
Brenda Malloy from the
Association for
Gravestone Studies.**

A Message from the Editorial Staff

Correction from the last bulletin: The photo of the Armsby barn was incorrectly attributed to Joe Doherty. It was actually taken by Richard Auger of Whitinsville, a professional photographer.

We will be trying out the e-mail address listing later on in the fall. Please send any e-mails to be included to eu Hutchinson@yahoo.com and put "Sutton list" in the subject line.

On June 6, 2006 the 20 members of the Sutton Historical Society carpoled to the Rider Tavern on Stafford Street in Charlton, owned by the Charlton Historical Society. We were treated to a private evening tour by several very knowledgeable members of the Charlton Historical Society and had refreshments afterwards. Our thanks to Glenn Ellis for making the arrangements to have the tavern open just for us.



Photograph of the sign in the third floor attic explaining a small part of the history of the Rider Tavern. The attic has a raised roof, but the original roof was flat and had a rooftop garden, unusual for the time. The roof was blown off in the Hurricane of 1938.



The front of the Rider Tavern with the Sutton and Charlton Historical Societies.



The Sutton Historical Society is selling these Sterling Silver Weathervane pins. The pin measures 2-1/2" wide x 1-1/4" high and is representative of the weathervanes on the Sutton churches. They are made in America. The price is \$17.50 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. To order, call Ellie Hutchinson at 508-865-3010 or e-mail euhutchinson@yahoo.com or mail a check to Sutton Historical Society, 4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton, MA 01590

NOTES ON THE BUILDING OF THE RUFUS PUTNAM BUILDING

The building was constructed jointly by the Sutton Center School District and the Olive Branch Lodge to serve both as the Center School and, on the second floor, as a Masonic Lodge Hall.

At the April 14, AL 5823 (1823) meeting of the Lodge, it was "Voted to build a Hall with the Center School District in Sutton if we can build on equitable terms and choose a committee of five to consult with a committee from said district..."

At the subsequent meeting on April 22, AL 5823 (1823). It was "Voted to choose a committee of three to go forward and build a Hall in company with the Center School District and have power to expend the funds of the Lodge for the same (said building is not to be more than forty feet long and twenty six or seven feet wide) and made choice of Bros. Jonas L. Sibley, Dan'l Tenney and Simeon Woodbury for their committee."

Further, at the meeting of September 29, AL 583 (1823) it was "Voted to add Bro. Nehemiah Chase to the committee which was chosen to build a Hall and directed the committee to go forward and finish the Hall with Blinds seats Stove and as they think most proper and the Lodge will hold themselves as a Lodge accountable for the expense."

The first meeting of Live Branch Lodge in the building was held on Thursday, January 21, AL 5824 (1824). The minutes contain the following:

"Choose Bros. Roberts, Barton and Chase a Committee to invite Rev. E(dmund) Mills to come into the Hall and Make a prayer which he did in presents (sic) of the Fraternity and other Inhabitants of the neighborhood."

A copy of a page in the Lodge records dated January 3, AL 5824 (1824) (and appended to the meeting minutes of January 1) itemizing the costs for construction. The total being \$714.92

Olive Branch Lodge met continuously in the building until March 17, 1845, after which the Lodge relocated to larger quarters in Wilkinsonville and, subsequently, to Millbury. The Lodge sold its interests in the building to the Center School District in January 1851 for \$176.62.

Presented to the Sutton Historical Society by the members of Olive Branch Lodge March 2006.
January 1, 1824

Expenses of Building the Masonic Hall in Sutton as reported by their Committee Jan 1 1824 AL 5824.

To Elthanan Batheller for Cellar underpinning	\$56.00
For stones under the hearth	7.25
Dan Harrington for frame and finishing outside	340.00
Paying Wm. Manning for Advertising	1.25
Paying Luke Harrington for finishing Hall	300.00
Paying J Grigg's for 12/ of Hinges for cellar door	1.00
Interest on the above after due to Jan 8, 5824	6.54
D. Gurney for Chairs and Curtains	8.88



Manchaug Baptist Church
 March 7, 2006
 SHS President Wally Baker(right) accepting the plaque from Masons (left to right) Mr Gordon Forsberg and Mr. Ross Weaver. The evening was rounded out by a performance by the local folk group Plainfolk. We will hear more about the role of the Masonic Lodge at a later meeting.

THANK YOU'S

The Society would like to thank everyone who sent in their dues from the form in the last newsletter. Many of you made an extra donation and it is greatly appreciated. We'd like to thank John Sinacola for his work in putting in new wiring at the Manchaug Baptist Church . Curtis and Brigitta Paine have been very diligent about keeping the grounds mowed as well, a never-ending task in the summer. We are always in need of volunteers to help out with the maintenance of the buildings. If there is a specific job that you would like to help with, or if you have a talent that you would like to let the Society take advantage of, please let us know. Contact President Wally Baker at 508-865-4135.



July 1, 2006 – Grass Hill Cemetary, Millbury MA – Hannah Irish looks about while the Milita prepare to fire a salute honoring Asa Waters. Captain Keith Downer commands. Photo by George Maple, Worcester MA, Sons of the Union Veterans

Members of the Sutton Militia and other militia groups gathered at the Grass Hill Cemetery in West Millbury to decorate the gravesite of Asa Waters, musket maker for the Revolutionary War. Later on that morning, there was a mid-morning repast at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury followed by a program that included a talk by Sutton Historical Society member Keith Downer on the role that Sutton played in the fermenting of the Revolution and the significance of the Armory Asa Waters in supplying muskets to the Continental Army. At the time of the Revolution, Millbury was part of Sutton. While most Waters muskets that are found today have “Millbury” stamped on them, there are some around that are stamped “Sutton.” These are the muskets that would have helped fight the British regulars and win the American Revolution. The Armory was located near the Millbury town offices.

The Asa Waters Mansion is engaged in a funding drive to enable them to collect some of the muskets and pistols made by the Waters family to be on permanent display. For more information go to www.asawaters.org.

Return to:

Sutton Historical Society

4 Uxbridge Road

Sutton, MA 01590

IN MEMORIAM

OUR GOOD FRIENDS AND SUTTON

Elizabeth "Betty" LeClaire Donald Luther
Andrew Zuidema Claire Barritt Amedie Bordo