



The Sutton Historical Society Bulletin

Dedicated to preserving our historical inheritance for future generations.
 Founded December 8, 1969

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2012-2013**
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**TOWN OF SUTTON
HISTORIES**

REPRINT EDITIONS

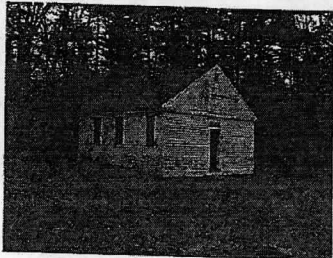
**VOL. I — \$90
1704-1876**

**VOL. II — Order
through Sutton
Town Clerk
1876-1950**

EIGHT LOTS DISTRICT SCHOOL...A LITTLE HISTORY.

The Eight Lots School was built before 1773 on land that was given by Col. Timothy Sibley. The school was operating in 1773, but the "privilege to maintain a school on said land" was not officially recorded and deeded until 1799. At that time the land, which had originally been part of Sibley's cow pasture, was officially designated as land to be set aside for public education.

The school serviced the children of some of the original Sutton settlers from what was called the Eight Lots district. This was a tract of land that apportioned eight, 40 acre lots to settlers. The families that settled and farmed this land were some of the more famous Sutton Forefathers. Among the more prominent were: Stockwell, Freeland, King, Hutchinson, Woodbury, Welch, Cullina, Marsh, Sibley, Severy, Dodge, Griggs and Batcheller to name a few. The school boasts having educated 38 Revolutionary War soldiers, the most famous of whom was General Rufus Putnam, who was born not far away from the school in this district.



EIGHT LOTS DISTRICT
 SITE OF SUTTON'S FIRST TOWN MEETING IN 1718. MANY WORKING HILLS' SIDES POTTED THIS LANDSCAPE. THE DISTRICT WAS ORIGINALLY COMPRISED OF EIGHT 40-ACRE FARM SETTLEMENTS. THE EIGHT LOTS SCHOOL WAS BUILT CIRCA 1630 AND OFFICIALLY CLOSED IN 1916. RUFUS PUTNAM WAS THE SCHOOL'S LAST TEACHER. ARTHUR MERRILL CREATED THE COUNTRY'S FIRST SCIENTIFICALLY MONITORED FISH HATCHERY IN 1921. THE 6 PONDS CONNECTING WEST SUTTON AND EIGHT LOTS AREA TO SINGLETARY LAKE ARE CALLED THE "MERRILL POND SYSTEM"

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COST ESTIMATE FOR EIGHT LOTS SCHOOL PROJECT

PHASE I-\$28,000

A. Roof

Strip existing shingles, replace any underlayment that has water or insect damage, replace drip edge, re-point chimney if necessary and clean up the site when completed.

B. Foundation and Sill

Foundation sills need to be inspected. Some sills we currently know need to be replaced; others will need to be accessed upon removing facial boards. Those sills that are replaced will be replaced with pressure treated material. Quite a few of the granite foundation stones are falling out of place; these will need to be reset.

C. Siding and Sheathing

Most corner boards and lower mud board will need to be replaced. Siding will be removed with care and reused if possible. Facial boards on both gable ends need replacing.

D. Windows

Windows need to be addressed individually, such as glass replacement, paint and re-glazing.

E. Re-painting

All material will be primed and painted to insure preservation.

ALL MATERIAL USED WILL REPLICATE ORIGINAL ERA CONSTRUCTION.

This is an estimate for material and labor; this is not a quote and does not include interior (Phase II), utility work (Phase III) or landscaping (Phase IV).



A special THANK YOU to our volunteers!

Eight Lots School Cont. From Page 1

Teachers were hard to get in those days. Five dollars a week was a high wage. One of the first schoolmarms of which we have documented information was Nabby Leland, who began teaching about 1811 at Eight Lots.

Nabby had no formal teacher training, but came from a learned family for her day. Her father, Solomon, had more books than anyone else in Sutton at that time.

Sutton at one time had 14 such schoolhouses, each servicing a 3-4 mile district. Each district's school was built by the local residents, who served as school committee, made all the decisions about what was taught, and most importantly, paid the bills. All of these schools, except Eight Lots, have been destroyed or have been incorporated into private homes.

The schoolhouse was functional from prior to 1773 until 1896. It was not used again until 1911 'til about 1918. Since that time it has been kept as a museum of early education in America.

From as much as we can tell, readin' took a back seat to 'ritin and 'rithmetic. Books were expensive and with the exception of the Holy Bible, little or no reading was done here.

Writing exercises were rare, since paper was also expensive. Penmanship was practiced in the early days, however, and the more flowery and ornate it was, the more accomplished the writer.

Excerpts from a 1971 interview of Alice C. Riley
by Roland Lapointe

SUTTON TRIVIA ANSWERS

Where is General Rufus Putnam buried?
Ohio

Where was "the chicken mill"?
Manchaug

What was the purpose of the town pound?
Hold Roaming Cows

Where is Washington Hall?
Brick Block-Town Center

Why was the settlement delayed from 1704
until 1716?
The French and Indian War was being fought

What is Crooked Pond now called?
Singletary Lake

The Sutton Historical Society is an organization that exists to promote research and learning in the history of the town of Sutton; to acquire, protect and preserve property, historical documents, relics, and objects; and to promote the celebration of patriotic and historic anniversaries.

We own, and currently are preserving and protecting, a turn of the century Blacksmith Shop in Sutton Center and an 18th century one room schoolhouse in the Eight Lots District. We are also maintaining a museum in General Rufus Putnam Hall in Sutton Center.

All persons who love the town of Sutton and who wish to see its historical character preserved are welcome to become members of our active and growing society by submitting the application enclosed in this bulletin.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY JULY 9TH MEETING

Join us on the second Tues., July 9th at 6:30 pm for our annual Pot-Luck supper at the Sherman Blacksmith Shop in Sutton Center. Because of Independence Day, the meeting was moved to July 9th. Come see the water wheel that was donated and explore the blacksmith shop. We have great cooks and always have a variety of main dishes, sides, and deserts, so bring your appetite, along with a folding chair.

SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUGUST 6TH MEETING

The annual pot-luck supper at the Eight Lots School will be held at 6:30. Come see the progress on the renovations of the school house! Please bring a pot-luck dish and a folding chair.

As always, anyone interested in any of these events are welcome to join us. Upcoming meetings are listed in the Sutton-Millbury Chronicle and Towns section of the Worcester Telegram.