

The Sutton Historical Society Bulletin

D e d i c a t e d t o p r e s e r v i n g o u r h i s t o r i c a l
i n h e r i t a n c e f o r f u t u r e g e n e r a t i o n s .

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian Stevenson

2020. What a crazy year it's been. This COVID-19 virus has put a damper on the Sutton Historical Society's ability to enjoy our normal activities. All our guest speakers were canceled. There was no annual cookout at the Manchaug Baptist Church, and no annual yard sale -- one of our biggest fundraisers. To tell you the truth, I've been discouraged by our inability to make much progress. Then, I ran into Gary Vaillancourt, member and local business owner, and we had a great conversation. As I was leaving, Gary said to me, "What a great job the Sutton Historical Society is doing." I consider Gary to be a person who has his finger on the pulse of our community. His statement really encouraged me and got me thinking about our organization. Yes, this virus may have slowed us down, but it hasn't stopped us. So, I'm dedicating this letter from the president to us: the Sutton Historical Society.

I want to thank our board of directors:

Alice Shaw, Marge Duff, and Rochelle Forsythe, always the first to attend all events and always the last to leave.

Peter Michelson, who resides in Worcester but hasn't forgotten his roots here in Sutton.

Keith Downer. Not only does Keith sit on our board, but he also holds a position with the Sutton Historical Commission.

Sheila Moss. While Sheila and Mike run their own business (Mike's Truck Service in Millbury), they're also heavily involved with the Massachusetts Sportsman's Council.

Joyce Smith. Our museum curator. Joyce is working very hard organizing all the clutter within our museum. Joyce has her work cut out for her, and I'm sure she will get it done.

Christine Watkins, our recording secretary. Christine has done a tremendous job in our communications department. She set up and updates our website and Facebook page, and posts all events with local newspapers, among other tasks.

Pam Rocheleau, our vice president. Pam has been very involved with the Sutton Center Cemetery project, and she's taken on cleaning headstones at the West Sutton Cemetery as well. Next time you drive by that cemetery, look in and you will notice a difference.

-Society Officers- 2019-2021

President-Brian Stevenson

Vice President-Pamela Strong Rocheleau

Secretary-Christine Watkins

Treasurer-Beverly Pizzi

Museum Curator-Joyce Smith

-Board of Directors- 2018-2020

Keith Downer

Marjorie Duff

Rochelle Forsythe

Peter Michelson

Sheila Moss

Alice Rosebrooks Shaw

Blacksmith-Fran Donnelly

Bulletin Editor-Janice Swindell

Cannon Caretaker - Carl Hutchinson

Schoolhouse Caretaker - Dave Pizzi

Beverly Pizzi, treasurer. Beverly speeds down route 128 to the Mass Pike from her job in Waltham to make it on time for our meetings. She does a great job balancing our books, and Beverly is also very involved as a charter organization representative with Boy Scout Troop 131.

I would also like to thank a few non-board members of ours.

Dave Pizzi. Dave stepped down from his position as vice president last year. Dave continues to be the caretaker of our Eight Lots School House property. Dave works with the Sutton Center Cemetery project every Tuesday evening and Sunday morning. He also helps us publish our newsletter and promotional pamphlets.

Ross Weaver -- WOW! I can't say enough about Ross's commitment and dedication to the Sutton Center Cemetery project. You wouldn't believe the hours Ross puts in every week, repairing broken headstones, doing research, and collaborating with the personnel at the town hall.

John and Marian Belculfine took on a project of their own, cleaning up Dodge Cemetery on the corner of Pierce and Leland Hill Roads. They've spent the last three or four months there. Upon completing Dodge cemetery, John and Marian have moved on and started work in the Wilkinsonville cemetery. Nice job, John and Marian.

Jonathan Rocheleau and April Eaton Brown (Tiny Leaf Designs Photography) used the Eight Lots School as a photo shoot location and donated part of those proceeds to the Sutton Historical Society, raising over \$1,000 for us.

Lastly, thank you to all our members for your support and financial contributions. After all, we can't survive without you.

Our remaining event for 2020 is listed below. The Cannon Club is hopeful this event will not be cancelled. Any changes will be posted on our website, suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org, to our facebook page, and emailed to members.

2020 CALENDER OF EVENTS

Dates and Times may be Subject to Change

In Response to the current gathering rules put in place by Governor Charlie Baker, the Society has cancelled our remaining meetings.

***Continue to practice Social Distancing
Stay Safe!***

We will include our 2021 Calendar of Events in our Winter Newsletter

December 31 Midnight Last Night Cannon Firing
Cannon Club

M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop

All events open to both Society members and the general public. Visit us at www.suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org or Facebook for updated meeting information. Upcoming meetings/events are listed in the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle, The Uxbridge Times, and Yankee Xpress.

**Sutton Center Meeting House
First Congregational Church**
By Peter Michelson and Alice Rosebrooks Shaw

"To understand the significance of the New England meetinghouse is to understand the power and the promise of the American Dream."

- Brent D. Glass, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian

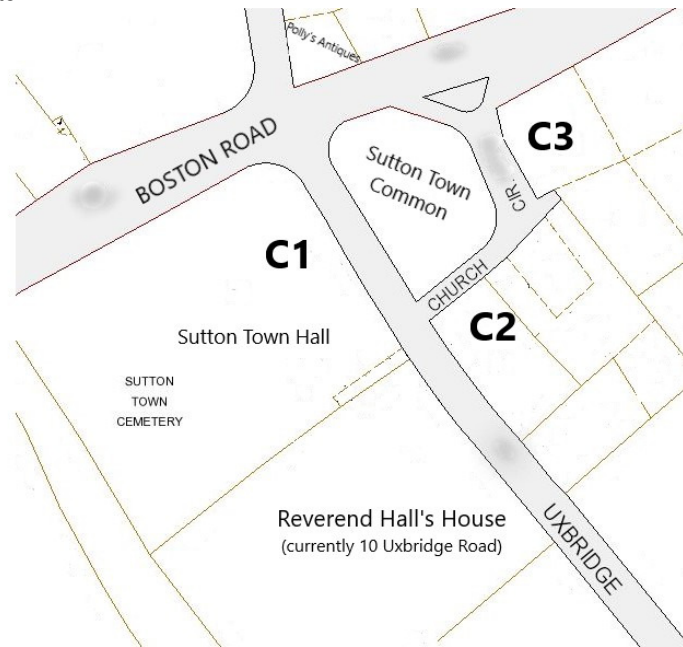


The year 2020 will be remembered as a time that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, brought many challenges and hardships to us all. Sadly, the calendar of events celebrating the tri-centennial of the Sutton Meeting House located on the common had to be canceled. However, the renovation to restore the front of the meetinghouse and the steeple to its 1829 glory did continue. We would like to share the history of New England meetinghouses, and, more specifically, the Sutton meetinghouse in celebration of the 300th anniversary of its construction in 1720.

In Colonial Massachusetts, the meetinghouse was an integral part of the community. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was in effect a theocracy created by our Puritan ancestors. The meetinghouse served as a functional town building during the week and as a place of worship on Sunday. Town residents were expected to attend the services which lasted all day. Commuting to the meetinghouse on horse or by walking could require a journey of many miles in each direction. The problem of conveniently locating the meetinghouse for the residents in an expanding township eventually led to additional meetinghouse construction which was a precursor for town creation. Engaging in work on a Sunday would result in a fine or corporal punishment as attending service was mandatory. Membership in the town church was a requirement for male residents that wanted to vote in town elections. The town meeting form of government is derived from the colonial New England meetinghouse.

A pre-condition of the charter of township from the Massachusetts Bay Colony was the construction of a meetinghouse and the employment of a minister within a few years of the settlement of the town. The colonial meetinghouse was a plain structure, easily recognized by an absence of decorations, statues, or a crucifix. New England meetinghouses became more ornate in the 1820s as can be observed in the present state of the Sutton meetinghouse. A summary of the evolution of the Sutton meetinghouse follows.

The map below of the Sutton Town Common indicates the approximate location of the three meetinghouse buildings since the settlement of Sutton. The building currently standing on the Common (C3 on the map) is the third structure built by the First Congregational Church of Sutton.



The first building (C1 on the map) was erected in 1720. It was situated on the west side of the Common (the Town Hall side). This building was taken down in 1751 and replaced with a new building (C2 on the map) in a different location on the Common. The material from the original meetinghouse was recycled and used in the building of the second meetinghouse. Ebenezer Waters (1740 - 1808) pledged a donation of a bell weighing 700-800 pounds for the meetinghouse in 1794. The second meetinghouse (C2) was located on the south side of the Common (opposite the red brick store fondly known as Polly's Antiques today) near the home of Reverend David Hall (currently, 10 Uxbridge Road).

The second meetinghouse burned down in 1828 after a town meeting had been held that day. The pulpit in the church had been built by the renowned Sutton furniture maker, Nathan Lombard and his son, Alanson Allen Lombard. When the church was on fire, the men of the town ran in to save the pulpit before the church completely burned down. This pulpit was installed into the new church (C3), but two feet had to be cut off to make it fit in its place in the Sanctuary. The first two buildings were plain with clear glass windows and simple wooden benches with backs.

The present church building (C3) was built in 1829 at a cost of \$5,940. It was more elaborately built, reflecting changes in the Puritan influence of the original meetinghouse. The luxury of pews, as well as a tall steeple and enclosed platform for the church bell were added. The bell was donated by Ebenezer Waters for the second edition of the church and meetinghouse.

Extensive damage was suffered during the hurricane of 1938. The following excerpt is taken from "History of Town of Sutton, Massachusetts, Vol II". Notice how the meetinghouse had now adopted a more ostentatious appearance:

The First Congregational Church suffered severely from the hurricane. The steeple fell, leaving the belfry roofless and the beautiful memorial window was shattered. Other damages made repairs impossible without redecorating, for which plans were made. Everyone (in spite of his own loss) responded so generously that in three or four months the church interior had been renovated. Attention was then given the steeple. Plans, drawn by Vernon S. Johnson and son, Wilfred, were accepted and workmen copied the old design. In less than a year, the new steeple was in place.

We have seen the importance of the meetinghouse to the community for the last 300 years since its inception in 1720. As an example, the authors would like to share a personal experience of an ancestor whose baptismal record is part of the early town records that were saved during the fire in 1828. Abia (Leonard) Brown, daughter of John and Naomi Leonard of New Sherborn (later Douglas), was baptized by Reverend David Hall in the month of September in the year 1739. The Leonard family operated a tannery on the Douglas side of Manchaug Pond near the properties of Richard Waters and Samuel Rich, adjacent to the current Oxford/Douglas/Sutton border near Manchaug Pond, which had been an area called Manchaug Farm. The town of Douglas was not established until 1746; therefore, the Sutton meetinghouse would be the nearest place of worship for the Leonard family. Abia is the maternal great-grandmother of the famous abolitionist and suffragette Antoinette Louisa (Brown) Blackwell. In 1853, Mrs. Blackwell became the first female ordained minister of the Congregational Church in South Butler, NY. The year 2020 also marks the 100th year since the ratification of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. At age 95, Mrs. Blackwell voted for Warren Harding in the 1920 presidential election. The meetinghouse in Sutton has been in continuous use for three centuries and can bear witness to so many cultural changes.

In anticipation of the 300th anniversary of the meetinghouse, many events were planned throughout the year which, unfortunately, had to be canceled. The planned renovations did continue as scheduled. The Sutton Historical Society is proud to have secured a grant to aid in restoring such an important cultural building to its previous pristine condition. The meetinghouse continues to be used extensively by the community. Some of the groups, which use this building as a meeting place include the Cub Scouts Pack 243 and the Boy Scouts Troop 243, Sutton Youth Soccer, adult yoga enthusiasts, as well as the Sutton Historical Society. Groups which support the Sutton Food Pantry and clothing drives for residents of Worcester County continue to use the meetinghouse. As we close out 2020, we look forward to another 300 or more years of this meetinghouse standing guard over our community and providing a valuable space for its citizens to gather.



The current Blacksmith Shop sign stating "Sutton Historical Society" was originally made in Spring 2019 by Linda Sinacola, Robert and Martin Shaw. Unfortunately, late last year during a severe windstorm, the sign fell from the bracket and a corner of the sign was slightly chipped. Since then, the sign has been stored in the Blacksmith Shop.

To honor the work done by Linda, Robert and Martin, the team of Brian Stevenson, John Belcufine and Dave Pizzi wanted to ensure that the sign would once again be properly displayed. Dave repaired and refinished the sign, Brian and John reinforced the hanging bracket to the building and properly reattached and anchored the sign to minimize any potential billowing in the wind or dislodging.

A great job and a great holiday photo. Happy Holidays to All!



Photo by Dave Pizzi

Sutton Historical Society, Inc.
Secretary's Annual Report
October 2, 2019 - October 3, 2020

The global Covid-19 pandemic which affected the world in 2020, significantly impacted our scheduled events subsequent to the social-distancing and gathering restrictions put into place by Governor Charlie Baker in March of 2020.

The Society continued to be active in projects undertaken in 2019; specifically, our support of the renovation of the façade and steeple of the Sutton Meetinghouse (aka First Congregational Church, Sutton Center); the repair and restoration of the Town Center Cemetery by our Cemetery Conservation Group, the Dodge Cemetery (John and Marion Belculfine), and the West Sutton Cemetery (Pam Rocheleau, Bill Augustus and others); creation and printing of a Society Brochure; and continued organization of the General Rufus Putnam Museum.

One Newsletter was issued in February 2020. Distribution was by email or paper copy.

Membership, including lifetime members and counting a family membership as 2 people, was almost 160, up slightly from 140 in 2019.

Facebook followers are up to 797, an increase from last year's 680 followers. Our website, suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org, is updated regularly to keep our members up-to-date on Society happenings. E-mail is checked regularly and several research questions were successfully answered or redirected by our members. All meeting announcements are also included in local newspapers.

Board of Directors' meetings were held on:

11/1/2019	01/14/2020	02/19/2020	7/22/2020	9/14/2020	9/28/2020
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General meetings were held on:

11/5/2019	12/3/2019	02/04/2020	03/04/2020	08/07/2020 (picnic at the Blacksmith Shop)
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The Eight Lots School House, General Rufus Putnam Museum and Blacksmith Shop were opened during the 2019 town-wide Chain of Lights Event on 12/7/2019. The Cannon Club successfully fired off Big Ben on New Year's Eve (12/31/2019)

The Society gratefully accepted responsibility for the care of the Manchaug Diorama, created by Gene Zabinski, who passed away in November 2019. This diorama depicts the Village of Manchaug during its years of ownership by the B. B. & R. Knight Company. The diorama is currently housed in the Manchaug Mills.

GRANTS

- **Sutton Meeting House:** The Board, through collaboration with the Sutton Meeting House members, coordinated a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Massachusetts Marketing Partnership. Grant number 7008-1116 "provided that not less than \$80,000 shall be expended for the Sutton Historical Society, Inc., to repair and renovate the Sutton Meeting House in the Town of Sutton." This work was completed by June 30, 2020 and all funds were received.
- **Historical Society Brochures:** Society member, Dave Pizzi, created a brochure detailing the properties currently owned and maintained by the Society. This glossy brochure will be distributed at events to interested attendees. 250 copies were printed. The \$408 printing cost of the brochure was offset with a grant from the Sutton Cultural Council.
- **Sutton Public Library – General Rufus Putnam Museum:** Betsy Perry, Sutton Librarian, and Joyce Smith, General Rufus Putnam Museum curator, worked together to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to preserve the collections owned by the Society. This initial grant money, which is to be expended over a 2-year period, is the first step in the process of preserving, arranging and describing, and eventually digitizing the Society's historical holdings for access through the Digital Commonwealth.

UPCOMING EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

- Eight Lots School House – student pictures grades K-5 – April Eaton Brown and Jonathon Rocheleau, photographers; a portion of the sitting fee will be passed to the Society to provide an annual family membership to the family of the photographed student.
- Bottle/Can Drive and Redemption Trailer: A Bottle/Can Redemption program will be started on Saturday, October 17 from 9-12 as a means of raising much needed revenue for the Society. After the initial kick-off, a redemption trailer will be placed at the Blacksmith Shop, for weekly collections. This effort will be led by Brian Stevenson, President.
- Blacksmith Shop: Cleaning, reorganizing, and cataloguing holdings.
- General Rufus Putnam Museum: continued organizing and assessing of holdings.
- Cemetery Conservation Committee: continued repair and cleaning of grave markers in the Sutton Center Cemetery and other cemeteries throughout town.

The Society is always in need of volunteers. Consider helping with any of the above projects. The Board is open to fundraising suggestions and ideas as well as speaker/presentation recommendations. The Board can be reached at sutton1704@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Watkins
Secretary

Sutton Historical Society, Inc.
Treasurer's Annual Report
Summary of Combined Accounts Compared to Prior Year with Projected Budget
October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

Revenues:	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Donations - Cemetery Project	\$ -	\$ 1,200
Donations - Member Corporate Match	\$ -	\$ 1,123
Donations - Members	\$ 2,735	\$ 2,927
Donations - Noncash	\$ -	\$ 71
Dues - Members	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,690
Dues - Members 2020 Prepayments	\$ 105	\$ 140
Event Income	\$ 585	\$ 464
Event Income - Cannon Club	\$ -	\$ 450
Interest all accounts	\$ 67	\$ 91
Yard Sale Income (2019 amounts deposited over 2 years - no yard sale in 2020)	\$ 500	\$ 593
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 5,522	\$ 8,749
 Expenditures:		
Cemetery Project Expenses	\$ 64	\$ 992
Cannon Club Expenses	\$ -	\$ 654
Electric	\$ 220	\$ 148
General Rufus Putnam Furniture & Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
General Rufus Putnam Bunting	\$ -	\$ 105
General Rufus Putnam Museum Heat	\$ 300	\$ 495
MA Annual Report Filing	\$ 19	\$ 19
Maintenance - Blacksmith Shop	\$ -	\$ 625
Maintenance - Cannon Shed	\$ -	\$ 256
Maintenance - Eight Lots School House including gravel	\$ -	\$ 951
Maintenance - Eight Lots School House Handicap Ramp	\$ -	\$ 700
Maintenance - General Rufus Putnam Museum	\$ -	\$ -
Meeting Room Rental - 1st Congregational Church	\$ 200	\$ 200
Newsletters including postage	\$ 307	\$ 158
Pest Control	\$ 300	\$ 169
Plastic Cups - 3rd Grade Visit	\$ -	\$ 172
Property Insurance	\$ 2,171	\$ 2,043
Bank Fees and check purchases	\$ 37	\$ -
Speaker Fee	\$ -	\$ 150
Stamps	\$ 55	\$ 81
Website (site expires 10/2021-domain expires 10/2024)	\$ 304	\$ 173
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 3,977	\$ 8,091
 Increase/(Decrease) Before Grant Activity	 \$ 1,544	 \$ 658
 Non-Recurring:		
Grant Revenue		
Sutton Cultural Council	\$ 408	\$ -
MA Tourism & donations	\$ 80,105	\$ -
Grant Expenditures		
Meetinghouse Repairs & Bank fees	\$ 80,089	\$ -
Marketing - Brochures	\$ 408	\$ -
Net Non-Recurring	\$ 16	\$ -
 Change in Combined Funds	 \$ 1,560	 \$ 658

CURATOR'S CORNER

Museum Report - Annual Meeting- Oct 3, 2020

This has certainly been an unusual year, especially since mid-March. Going back to last fall, Betsy Perry applied for a grant between the library and the Historical Society. A representative came and met with Betsy and me. We toured the Eight Lots School, the Blacksmith Shop, and the General Rufus Putnam Museum. We received notification that the grant was approved for \$10,000 over the next 2 years. The grant started Thursday, October 1, 2020. The grant will pay for an archivist to come up with a plan for our three properties. At the end of the 2 years, we can apply for another grant to implement the plan.

In January, a group of us met at the Thompson, CT, Historical Society. I had met a couple at Waters Farm and again at the General Rufus Putnam Museum, who gave me contact information for Thompson, as they had been in a similar situation. I had previously made two trips there to get ideas that we might be able to implement. They explained their methods of digitizing their collection, and taking pictures of all the items. They put their information into a spread sheet that can then be merged into the Past Perfect Program that they use.

Recently, I contacted Paul Holzworth, and he spent time with the laptop. He tried to get Wi-Fi, but the signals from the library and fire station are too weak. Paul Brosnihan did a wonderful job with the collection, and we plan to enter the ascension books into spread sheets. We have had people volunteer to work on the entries.

Two weeks ago, the downstairs office was emptied of its contents. The plan is to paint and install a double book shelf that came from the Manchaug Library that Pam Gurney Farnham has. Betsy Perry would like to transfer the 1850 Vital Statistics books, and possibly other books from the library's Genealogy section to the museum. I also have started to sort the Town Reports that will eventually be housed there. If you have never examined one, there is a wealth of information in them.

I am no longer on Conservation and intend to spend time at the Museum on a more regular basis. One problem is the working conditions, which depend a lot on the weather. Summer is too hot and Winter is too cold. We did have an air conditioner donated by Ryan Frick, and there are a couple of space heaters. We keep the thermostat low to save propane. The lack of running water and a bathroom also limit time spent there. I fortunately live less than a mile away.

We budgeted money for the Museum, and I would like to buy some archival materials. Having the Museum open will depend on State guidelines. Since this was the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and the 300th anniversary of the Meeting House, an emphasis on those topics could possibly be next year.

I am also concentrating on collecting school information and hope to be able to identify individuals in pictures. Donations of garment bags would be useful to store clothes.

I am looking forward to coming up with a Master Plan for our collections through the grant process.

Respectfully Submitted.

Joyce A. Smith
Curator



DONATION RECEIVED!!!!

At the Annual Meeting, Mike and Sheila Moss generously presented the Society with a framed original 1915 Boston Herald Newspaper photo spread depicting Purgatory Chasm prior to its being established as a State Park in 1919. The donation was placed into the care of museum curator, Joyce Smith. The donation was generously accepted by all in attendance.



A Great Big SHOUT OUT!!

Thank you to **John Belcufine**, Lifetime Society Member, for his 30 hours of volunteer labor painting, adding chair rail and coordinating the repair of the electric heating register in the Museum's downstairs office space. This space will house files and Town Annual Reports.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE ANNUAL UPDATE

By Ross Weaver

Begun in late August of 2019, the Sutton Center Cemetery restoration project has been in process for over 14 months. Ten of these months were spent with at least some on-site work being completed on the 404 humanly-placed stones visible at this cemetery. These include gravestones and markers, memorial stones, foot stones and granite posts.

With the exception of a few of the broken stones and some of the granite posts, all of these stones have been cleaned. Pam Rocheleau, who continues to work in the West Sutton Cemetery, is commended for her individual effort in the Center Cemetery. Gareth McCullough, Boy Scout and grandson of Sutton resident, Debbie Moore, organized four visits with additional scouts resulting in the cleaning of 118 grave markers. Heather Glode is working in the Hough Road Cemetery, and Pam Montemagno is working in the Armsby Cemetery.

Resetting is a team effort. Brian Stevenson, Dave Pizzi, John Belculfine, Jim Brigham and I have had great success working together. More recently, Eagle Scout, Paul Noel, and his father, Mike, of Millbury, have joined the effort. To date, 208 stones have been reset. Of those, 28 have been repaired. Vital to this effort has been access to the hearse house (aka shed) located next to the cemetery where we have set up a workshop. Also vital to this effort has been the Gator loaned to us by Pam Farnham.

So, what remains here? 142 stones remain to be reset. Of these, 39 are obviously in need of repair, and our experience shows that others will be identified while resetting.

Beyond the efforts at the Sutton Center Cemetery, special recognition goes to John and Marion Belculfine, life time Society members, who have single-handedly cleaned 273 grave markers in the Dodge Cemetery on Leland Hill Road. They have begun their efforts in the Wilkinsonville Cemetery. Starting in late-September and continuing as the weather allowed, they cleaned 41 stones there including two family monuments - one very large.

Seven more veterans have been located during this process.

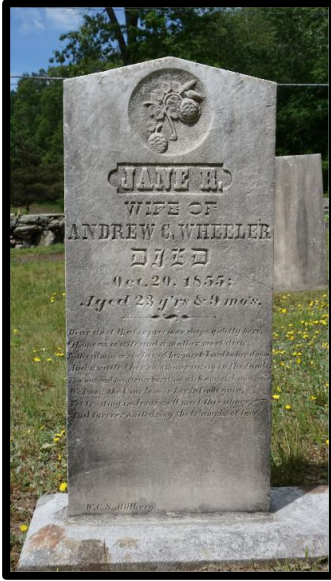
In February, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Launched a New Cemetery Conservation Ambassadors Volunteer Program. The program has not progressed during the year due to

Covid-19. Conservation Group having an active role in the Corridor program as point people to help other volunteers learn and start their own projects in their communities.

All information continues to be uploaded to Find-a-grave.com to assist those looking for loved ones or doing genealogical research.



**A Cemetery Mystery
Dodge Hill Cemetery
By Ross Weaver**



Well it didn't take long. The cleaning that Marion and John are doing at Dodge Cemetery has uncovered - literally and figuratively - more mysteries.

The stone for Jane Rebecca (Dike) Wheeler was beautifully carved (by W.C.S. of Millbury based on inscription in lower left corner). Very ornate artwork in the flowers are the top.

Curiously, what you see is not facing the front (Leland Hill Road) side of the cemetery as virtually all other gravestone there do. Even more curious, the "back" of this stone - or the front based on its placement - is inscribed for Lenard (Leonard) and Sally Snow with only their ages, no dates of death.

Jane Rebecca was born, married and, sadly, died young in Millbury. Also, although there are members of the extended Dike family buried at Center Cemetery, I find no family connection for her at Dodge. Sally Snow was a Leland. I

have not researched back multiple generations, but so far have found no relation between her and either Leonard Snow or Sally (Leland) Snow.



There is a long granite base for this stone. Adding to the mystery, at the other end of this base is a smaller stone inscribed "Infant" on the side facing Leland Hill Road. On the other side - facing the same way as Jane Rebecca's - is inscribed "Our Dear Little" followed by carving that was all chiseled out. Jane Rebecca and Andrew Chester Wheeler had two children. Daughter Mary lived into adulthood. Son William was born in 1854 in Millbury. He died in Millbury in 1856. In the Millbury death register for that year, Millbury Central Cemetery is recorded as the place of burial.

Andrew remarried. He died at age 67 and with his second wife, Hannah Cordelia (Burt) Wheeler, is buried in Millbury Central Cemetery in a lot with her parents. I checked the back of their memorial stone for inscriptions for Jane Rebecca and William - nothing there.

I think that Jane Rebecca and son William are also buried in Millbury Central Cemetery (if so, no Find-a-Grave memorials have been set up for them). I am speculating that Andrew had their gravestones replaced in the latter 1800s with more weather resistant granite stone or stones. I further speculate that their original marble stone was "repurposed" for Leonard and Sally (Leland) Snow, and whoever did so, knew their ages but not the dates of their deaths.

Even if I am wrong, the whole thing is bizarre.

Fundraising

On October 17, 2020, the Society held its first bottle/can fundraiser which raised over \$400 for our Treasury. Additionally, during October and November, members April Eaton Brown and Jonathan Rocheleau (Tiny Leaf Designs Photography) sponsored a fundraiser taking school portraits inside the Eight Lots School House. This fundraiser brought \$1,000 into our treasury plus a one-year family membership to the Society for those having a portrait sitting. Thanks to all for helping to raise much needed funds for the Society.



2021

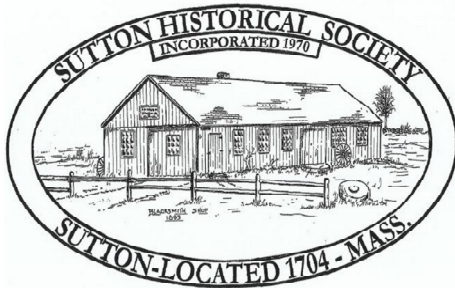
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please note the annual membership fees are due by **March 1, 2021**. The fees collected are important funds to help sustain payments of related insurances, utility bills and ancillary bills, the mailing of the news bulletin and various activities. Please help support the Historical Society and mail your membership form today.

We gladly except all donations.

VOLUNTEER...

We welcome all volunteer help. If you have a special talent, skill or trade, please let us know how you would like to volunteer and your area of interest. Please contact sutton1704@gmail.com.



Mail all payments to:

**SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
4 UXBRIDGE ROAD
SUTTON, MA 01590**

email: sutton1704@gmail.com
www.suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Annual Membership Fee is due March 1, 2021
Checks Payable To: Sutton Historical Society, Inc.**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

\$15.00 Individual Fee: _____

\$25.00 Family Fee (including children under 18): _____

Additional Donation: _____

The Sutton Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
Consult your tax professional for the deductibility of all donations.

SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 4 UXBRIDGE ROAD
 SUTTON, MA 01590

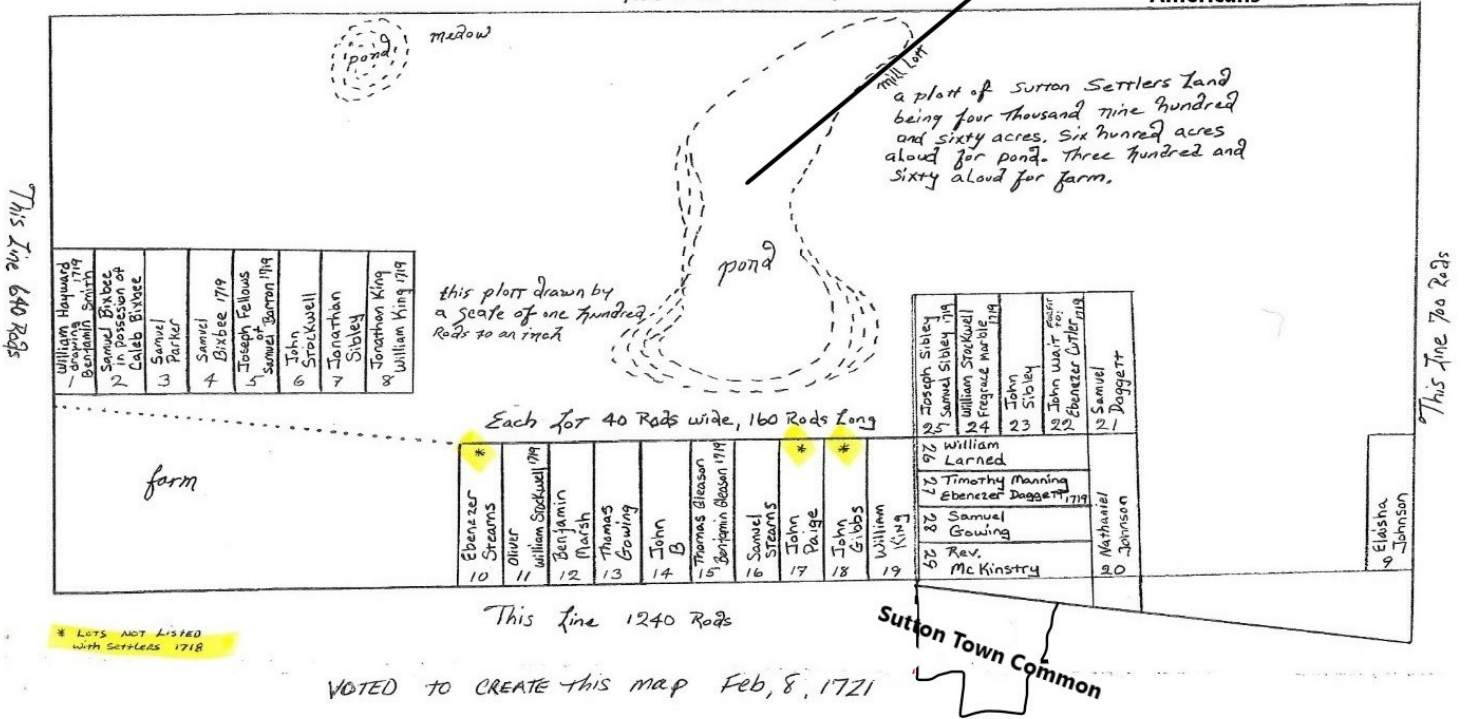
Original Proprietor's Map 1721

Restored and Enchanced by
 Keith Downer, member
 Sutton Historical Society

Singletary Pond
 originally called Crooked
 Pond by the Native
 Americans

1 Rod = 16.5 feet

This Line 1240 Rods



- 1 William Howard 1719
- 2 Samuel Bixbee in possession of Caleb Bixbee
- 3 Samuel Parker
- 4 Samuel Bixbee 1719
- 5 Joseph Fellows
- 6 Samuel Barron 1719
- 7 John Streckwell
- 8 Jonathan Sibley
- 9 Jonathan King
- 10 William King 1719

this plot drawn by a seat of one hundred Rods to an area

a plot of Sutton Settlers Land being four thousand nine hundred and sixty acres. Six hundred acres aloud for pond. Three hundred and sixty aloud for farm.

Each lot 40 Rods wide, 160 Rods Long

- 11 Ebenezer Streams
- 12 Oliver William Stockwell 1719
- 13 Benjamin Marsh
- 14 Thomas Gowling
- 15 John B
- 16 Thomas Gleason
- 17 Benjamin Gleason 1719
- 18 Samuel Streams
- 19 John Paige
- 20 John Gibbs
- 21 William King
- 22 Joseph Sibley
- 23 Samuel Sibley 1719
- 24 William Stockwell
- 25 Fregace Marble 1719
- 26 John Sibley
- 27 John Wainwright
- 28 Ebenezer Carter 1719
- 29 Samuel Daggert
- 30 William Larned
- 31 Timothy Manning
- 32 Ebenezer Daggert 1719
- 33 Samuel Gowling
- 34 Rev. Mc Kinstry
- 35 Nathaniel Johnson
- 36 Eldasha Johnson

* LOTS NOT LISTED WITH SETTLERS 1718