

# 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

Spring is coming! The days are getting longer and warmer. Winters for the Historical Society are usually our slower months. But now, it’s March, and time to start thinking of our 2021 goals, initiatives, and membership renewal.

We will continue our efforts of restoring the Sutton Center Cemetery. If you’re interested in joining this effort, we meet every Tuesday night at 5 pm until dark and Sunday mornings from 9 am until 12 noon or so. This work will continue when the ground thaws. We will, definitely, be opening up our M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop at 6 Singletary Avenue across from the Sutton Center Store. We are seeking volunteers to help with cleaning, reorganizing, and maintenance, such as reglazing of the windows, painting and so much more at this building. We would also like to get a few people to work in the forge. If you are interested, reach out at [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com).

We will continue organizing and setting up our artifacts within the General Rufus Putnam Museum. Our curator, Joyce Smith, and Sutton librarian, Betsy Perry, are working together to utilize the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner’ grant funds which were approved to help us organize and, eventually, digitize the collection. We would also like to install an AC/heat pump in the museum. This will help us with climate control, which is a necessity for protecting the many artifacts within.

Not all of us have been idle over the winter months. Chrissy Watkins has secured a grant through the Sutton Cultural Council. This grant covers the cost of QR code signs and the printing of rack cards for distribution in neighboring towns throughout the Blackstone National Corridor information racks. The QR code can be scanned with your smart phone bringing up a link with information for that particular historic site. We will be installing these new signs at the Eight Lots School House, The Sutton Center Cemetery, General Rufus Putnam Museum, the Blacksmith Shop and other historic locations in town. As always, anyone interested in helping with this project can reach us through our email, [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com).

We plan to continue hosting guest speakers and informational seminars. These have been a big hit over the last few years. We are hoping to take advantage of outside venues, such as the gazebo on the town common and the lawn space next to the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop. We will keep you informed of any events we add to our 2021 schedule through email, website, Facebook, newsletters, and local newspapers.

That’s quite a list, all of which could not happen without you, our members, and others who contribute to our cause. So, I say thank you, and please continue to support the Sutton Historical Society. If you haven’t done so already, please renew your membership for 2021 with the enclosed Membership Form.

**-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**

# 2021 CALENDER OF EVENTS

*As the COVID Pandemic continues, the Board of Directors has not scheduled any events at this time.*

*Any added events will be included emailed to members, published in local newspapers, our website, and our FACEBOOK page*

*Continue to practice Social Distancing  
Stay Safe!*



## *Fundraising*



Thank you to Tiny Leaf Designs, LLC (April Eaton Brown and Jonathan Rocheleau) for their outstanding contribution of over \$1,800 to the Sutton Historical Society. April and Jonathan scheduled school portrait sittings at the Eight Lots School House during the Fall of 2020 with a portion of the proceeds being given to the Society.

Thank you to Stephen Benjamin Insurance Agency for their generous contribution of \$500 made possible from their sales of Cats Meow pieces during the 2020 Christmas season.

These generous efforts more than offset our lost revenue from cancelled events—namely, our annual yard sale, Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Chain of Lights.

**Sutton Cultural Council Grant 2021:** The Society has been approved for a 2021 grant of \$750 for the printing of informational rack cards to be distributed at our locations and through the Blackstone Heritage Corridor as well as a project to install QR CODE signage at various historic locations throughout town to encourage self-guided tours. We are very grateful for this approved grant request.

We are always on the lookout for grant opportunities. If any members are aware of potential grants or would be interested in helping us find grant money, please reach out to us at [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com) or through our website [suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org](http://suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org).

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## WHO, WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN????

### Do you recognize these photos?

Help us identify where these pictures were taken, when they were taken, and who is pictured.  
Copies can be emailed to those wishing to help us!!

Email us at [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com) with your suggestions.



# CURATOR'S CORNER

Joyce A. Smith

## 100 YEARS AGO IN SUTTON and the USA

The current COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. As I have been organizing the significant collection of Tax Valuations and Annual Town Reports in the General Rufus Putnam Museum dating from current time back to the 1800s, I became curious as to what pandemic information the 1918 Sutton Annual Report contained. There was no mention of the flu in the town report of 1918. It did list 64 total recorded deaths for 1918, but not the cause of death



FILE PHOTO –MUSEUM REMAINS CLOSED

Researching about the 1918 flu pandemic piqued my interest about what Sutton and our nation was like 100 years ago in 1920. I dug out the Town of Sutton 1920 Annual Report and this is what I found.

### Town of Sutton Annual Report of 1920

#### Selectmen's Report

38 Orders Drawn	\$104,511.64
Opening Roads (snow bills)	7,066.26
Support of the poor	8,006.98
Free Public Libraries- 4 locations	624.19
Electric light and power	2,758.58
Inspecting slaughtering	360.15
Memorial Day and dedication of WWI tablets at Town Hall	200.00

#### Town Clerk Report

28 marriages  
47 births - 29 males, 18 females, 21 American parentage, 14 foreign, 12 mixed  
41 deaths - 25 males, 16 females, 30 American, 10 foreign, 1 unknown. Names and ages 18 and over 70 are listed.  
227 dogs licensed - 184 males and 43 females.  
86 hunter's licenses were issued.  
258 persons liable to military duty.

#### Report of Overseers of the Poor

Detailed reports are published for the Poor Farm. Inventories of livestock, hay and grain, farming tools, provisions, supplies and household goods are given along with their estimated value. For example: 1 cow bell \$1.00; 1 fly sprayer \$0.50; 15 pkgs gelatin \$1.50; 6 gallons molasses \$5.25, 1 ear trumpet \$2.00; 3 handkerchiefs \$0.30; 32 pkgs tobacco \$3.20

Sales of farm products like milk, pork, eggs, vegetables, apples, and butter brought in \$4,488.54 of revenue.

**Tax Collectors Report** - lists the names of delinquent tax payers in each precinct and the amounts owed.

#### Report of the Superintendent of Schools

The total enrollment of all schools was 462 pupils. The high school, located on Singletary Avenue, had 35 students as follows: 13 Freshmen, 9 Sophomores, 7 Juniors and 6 seniors. There were 3 teachers.

There were 10 public grade schools with 3 teachers each in Wilkinsonville and Manchaug; 2 teachers in the Center, with 1 teacher in each of the other schools. The schools and enrollment were as follows: Center - 59, Wilkinsonville - 86, Manchaug- 120, Harback - 22, Union - 21, Putnam Hill - 22, West Sutton - 29, Leland Hill -17, Hathaway - 15, South Sutton - 36

### 100 YEARS AGO IN THE UNITED STATES

#### 1918 Pandemic

The 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic killed 50 million people globally. Victims showing symptoms could die within a few days or even hours. World War I claimed 16 million lives. Vaccinations became widespread in 1945. When WWII ended, it was prudent to be vaccinated to prevent the spread of illness which happened when soldiers returned in 1918.

#### Airmail

The first airmail route between New York and Washington was on May 15, 1918. It didn't go well. The pilot got lost and crashed 24 miles from the starting point. ("If at first you don't succeed, try, try again")

## **Cars**

The Model T was the most popular car. Henry Ford's affordable Model T or Flivver, accounted for about half the cars. A 2-seated runabout version cost \$500 at the time.

## **Prohibition**

The Anti-Saloon League's successful campaign for the 18th Amendment prohibited alcohol from 1920 to 1933. Budweiser made the end of prohibition famous by delivering beer to the White House with its famous Clydesdales in 1933.

## **Clothes**

People spent about 17% of their budget on clothes. The 1920's saw a shocking change in hem lines and styles in woman's clothes from what the older generation was used to!

## **Movies**

Movies were silent. Charlie Chaplin and his portrayal of "the Tramp" made him the biggest movie star. Piano players were hired to provide sound to go with the action on screen.

## **Radio**

Radio was the instrument to gather around to get the news, sports, and shows with "singing cowboys". Radio would gradually be replaced by black and white television after WWII.

## **Women's vote**

The suffrage movement gained momentum, helped out by public contributions of women during WWI. President Woodrow Wilson urged Congress to pass the 19th amendment which finally occurred in 1919. The 1919 Sutton Valuation and Tax Report lists 65 female voters.

## **Minimum wage didn't exist**

The unemployment rate was under 2% but with no minimum wage, work conditions in factories were long hours with unsanitary and dangerous conditions. It wasn't until 1938 that a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour was passed.

## **Time zones were a new thing**

With the Standard Time Act of 1918, the country had an established clock, necessary for increasing railroad travel. Daylight saving time was intended to reduce consumption during the war.

## **Modern conveniences included toasters and zippers**

General electric made an electric toaster which became widely used with the increasing availability of electricity. Inventor Gideon Sundback received the patent for a "Separable Fastener" in 1917, but the name "zipper" became common in the 1920's. Buttons were made of metal, wood or mother of pearl. Hooks and eye had been widely used previously to buttons.

## **2020 COMPARISON**

The 1920 federal census listed Sutton's population at 2,578, and according to the Town's website, in 2020 Sutton has approximately 9,500 citizens

Sutton's 2020 Budgeted expenditures were \$32.4 million

The 2019 Town Annual Report available on the Town's website lists

81 births

65 deaths

32 marriages

1,279 students are enrolled for 2020-2021 per the school's website

Per the town's website, 2020 actual school spending was \$18.5 million

Students grades Pre-K to 12 attend school in one large 2-building complex located on Boston Road.

## The Tragic Life of Elvira J. Stockwell

Elvira Stockwell Powers



Joyce A. Smith

Curator Sutton Historical Museum

Like many of you, I have been using this quarantine time to sort through pictures and old files. In August, I was asked by my cousin Dotty Taft Barre (102 years young), to help clean out her apartment when she moved to assisted living. Knowing that I have an interest in family history, she wanted me to especially be on the lookout for a diary and album from her Great Aunt.

The diary is a book with ruled pages, supplied by the U.S. Christian Commission. Inside the cover is

Miss Elvira J. Powers  
Nashville, Tenn.  
Delegate of Christian Commission  
April 2, 1864

Much to my surprise, when I Googled her name, I found Elvira had written a

book published in 1866 called *Hospital Pencillings*. Wikipedia has a brief biography stating that she came to Nashville as a “hospital visitor and nurse in the Union Army’s military hospitals. **Little is known of her early life**, but it is believed that she was born in 1827 and was a widow by the time the Civil War began.” You are about to find out information about her tragic life from her diary, album, and research done by my great uncle, Walter Stockwell Taft.

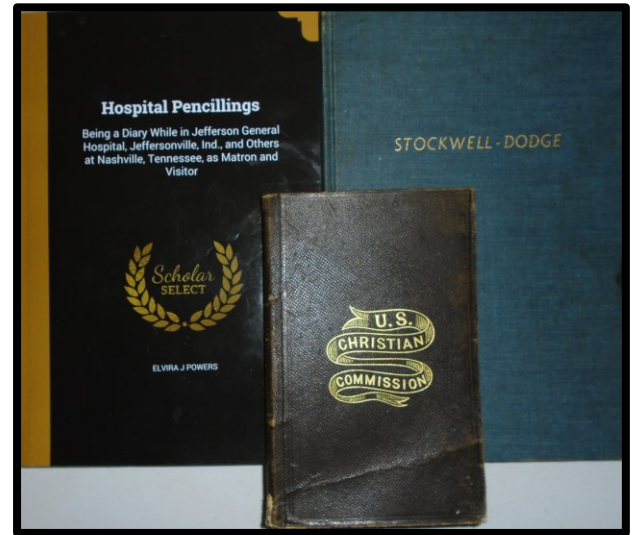
Her father, Reverend James Stockwell, (Israel, Absalom, William, William) was from Sutton. James and Prudence Dodge were married November 24, 1825 in Ward (now Auburn). The vital records of Auburn list the children of James and Prudence as follows: Susan Elvira, August 6, 1827, Martha (1830) and James, (1832- 1833). Three other daughters, Louise, (1834), Caroline, (about 1838) and Emogene (February 4, 1844) have unknown birth places. Rev. James died in Nov. of 1844 in Centerville, Michigan. Elvira was 17 and the youngest daughter, Emogene, only 9 months old. Elvira wrote a letter to her uncle Simeon in Sutton, telling of the death of her father James. In it she says. “they had only been in Michigan since April.”

At the time Elvira wrote the letter back to Sutton in February 1845, she was teaching school “8 miles from mother” who was living on the farm that her father James had intended to buy. The next information is the death of Elvira’s mother (Prudence Dodge Stockwell) in Millbury of pleurisy fever on April 11, 1847. That would have made Elvira 19 and Emogene only 3. The tragedy of Elvira’s life had only begun.

Elvira was married to Edward W. Powers somewhere between 1846 and 1848. They were in Janesville, Wisconsin when her son, Clarence, was buried in 1849. In 1853, she went from Oxford to West Batavia, NY, and her son was burned to death in a rented room the family was living in. Six months later, she buried her daughter, Alice, with Clarence. In 1856, she had separated from her husband. Elvira’s sister, Emogene, was living with her as was her year-old daughter, Carrie. She supported herself by dressmaking. In letters to her sister, she describes not having enough food, and by Oct. 1847, she had secretly started divorce proceedings. Her fear was that her husband would take Carrie.

In November, Elvira was sick with smallpox. In a letter Emogene sent to her sister Louisa, she described how Elvira had visited with a minister and his family. They told her they had Chicken Pox. Elvira was not alarmed, as she had contracted Chicken Pox as a child. It was smallpox instead. Elvira was sick for 10 weeks and Carrie died of smallpox on Christmas night, aged 1 year, 2 months, and 5 days. Elvira composed a poem, published in the Jamesville, Wisc. Gazette, along with the death notice.

The information about Elvira and her sisters, comes from the Stockwell/Taft genealogy published by Walter Stockwell Taft, son of Emogene. He included copies of letters between Elvira and various sisters written over time. A copy of this genealogy is in the Sutton Library. Emogene seemed to have been shuffled between her sisters a year at a time. In 1858, she returned to Oxford with sister, Louise, and got a job as a weaver in the North Oxford mill. She would have been 14 at the time. In 1859, at age 15, she married John Allen Taft. Her husband was in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865 and she worked in the mill during that time. In 1962 when Walter wrote the genealogy, Emogene had 62 descendants.



Now you know about Elvira's tragic life which previously has been known to but a few. After losing her parents at such an early age and losing four children, it is hard to imagine how one could go on. From 1858 to 1860 she taught in Beloit, Wisconsin.

In 1862, she was with her sister Martha in Randolph, NY, where she graduated from Randolph Academy. From there, she was associated with the U.S. Christian Commission, working in Civil War hospitals. In 1866, she published her book based on her diary. Her book is not copyrighted and is in the public domain. The cover states, "This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it."

In 1867, Elvira was in Worcester, and in 1870 she was teaching at Quinsigamond School. In 1871, she was preparing for the Universalist Ministry, attending Canton Theological College in Canton, NY. She was forced to leave because of ill health. Elvira died at Emogene's house in Worcester of tuberculosis (consumption) on Sept. 21, 1871 at age 44. She is buried in the Universalist lot in Hope cemetery.

The photo album is filled with pictures from the 1860's, most of which are labeled. The handwritten diary has names, which outfit they belonged to, and where letters were sent for them. There is a wealth of information and opportunity for future research.

When asked to "be on the lookout for" the diary, I had no clue as to its significance.

Dorothy (Dotty) Taft Barre, great niece of Elvira, followed in her footsteps and was a nurse in the 16th General Hospital during WWII in the Battle of the Bulge. She was 102 last July and has her own stories, including meeting Bob Hope at the French Riviera on furlough during the war. I have taken Dotty's photo album to join her uniform and other memorabilia at Ft Devens Museum.

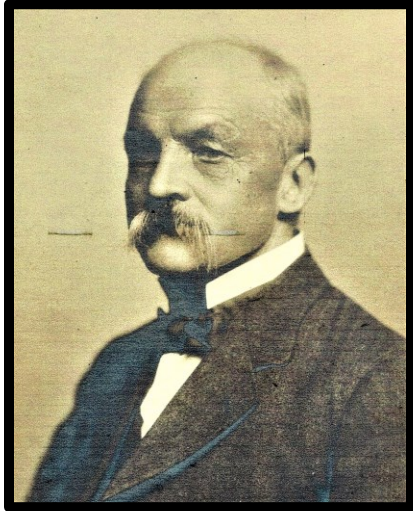
PHOTO ALBUM OF ELVIRA STOCKWELL POWERS WITH IMAGES OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS



## MANCHAUG HISTORY

*Dr. Pierre L. Couillard*

*by Christine M. Watkins*



Dr. Pierre L. Couillard was born January 27, 1849, to Joachim Couillard and Catherine Doutre and baptized that same day in Ste. Martine, Chateauguay, Quebec. His father passed away on July 19, 1852, at the age of 41 in Ste. Martine when Pierre was only a small child. His mother remarried in February of 1855 to Charles Bergevin. Their blended family remained in St. Martine. Review of Canadian census data from 1851 and 1871 indicates that Pierre had four brothers, James, Jean-Baptiste, Antoine and Edward and one sister, Alphonsine.

His naturalization papers dated December 8, 1879, indicate he immigrated to the United States from Canada in 1872. Review of the Directory of Deceased American Physicians indicates he attained his Medical Degree from the University of Montreal in 1875. He married fellow French-Canadian immigrant, Naomie Provost, in St. Denis Church, East Douglas, on April 23, 1880.

**Daughter, Naomie on right, next to Couillard Residence, Main Street**

Dr. and Mrs. Couillard purchased a home on Main Street, Manchaug, on September 10, 1880. The 1905 Town of Sutton Valuation and Tax indicates the family owned 2 houses, 1 acre homestead, ½ acre homestead, 2 barns, 2 horses, a bakeshop, and other personal items valued at \$3,475 and were one of the wealthier families in the village.



Dr. Couillard's practice was based in Manchaug. He was a significant leader of this small cotton-manufacturing French-Canadian village of less than one square mile which was under the ownership of the B. B. & R. Knight Manufacturing Company based in Providence, Rhode Island.

A review of births, deaths, and village population indicates Dr. Couillard had a busy practice in addition to his position as a school physician for Sutton. His being of French-Canadian descent and able to speak French was very important to the village residents as they retained their French-Canadian customs, language, and Catholic faith. According to the 1895 Massachusetts State Census, Sutton had 3,420 residents with 881 (26%) having been born in French Canada and 1,506 (44%) living in Manchaug. By the Massachusetts Census of 1905, 1,647 (52%) of Sutton's population of 3,173 was living in Manchaug with 1,530 (48%) either the child of a French-Canadian immigrant or having been born themselves in French Canada.

In addition to his responsibilities as a physician, Dr. Couillard supported and helped many village residents by issuing mortgages providing the necessary funds for them to leave the company-owned housing and purchase existing homes or buy land to build homes. Banks were not easily accessible at the time. Reinvesting in a community by extending credit was common for many wealthier residents. Interest rates were 5-6%. Based on my research, I believe Dr. Couillard also was a voice for the citizens of Manchaug.



**Edward J. Couillard, 1900**

Dr. & Mrs. Couillard's children and grandchildren went on to be well-educated, community-conscience citizens of both the Blackstone Valley and the greater Massachusetts area. Many followed his sense of giving back to the community and had strong philanthropic interests of their own.

Their oldest son, Edward, attended Phillips Exeter Academy, graduating in 1900. He played both football (right guard) and baseball (first base) while a student there. He went on to Dartmouth College, and the University of Maryland Medical School, known as the Baltimore Medical College. He followed in his father's footsteps becoming a physician with a practice

in Whitinsville, MA, for 27 years. His son, George R. "Doc" Couillard, played right field on the 1935 College of the Holy Cross National Champion baseball team. That same year on April 15, 1935, Babe Ruth, in his only season with the Boston Braves, played in an exhibition game at Fitton Field, helping the Braves to a 5-2 win over the Holy Cross Crusaders just one month before he retired from the game in late May. Holy Cross went on to have one of its best seasons in history, going 22-1, with a 14-0 record at home. George played many years for the old Blackstone Valley Baseball League and was instrumental in starting the Northbridge Little League, coaching for many years.

Ruth Couillard attended Becker Business College and followed in her father's steps with regard to a sense of community by being a founding member of St. George's church in Worcester as well as being a longtime volunteer with the American Red Cross blood bank, the Arthritis Foundation and the Easter Seal Society.

The Couillard's youngest daughter, Rachel, also went into the medical field graduating from Memorial Hospital Training School for Nurses. Her sons went on to Harvard University and Cornell University and also followed the philanthropic mission of giving back to their community established by their grandfather.



Rachel Couillard, Classical HS 1924

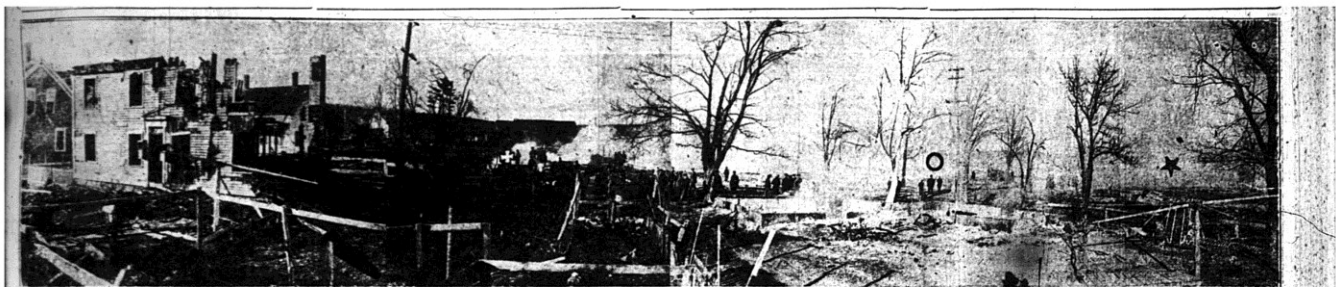
Worldwide Pandemic - Sutton Deaths - Fall 1918				
Name		Death	Onset	Employed by:
Buckley, William F.	19	9/30/1918	9/20/1918	Whitin Machine Works
McEndy, Mary L	28	10/1/1918	10/21/1918	At home
Peltier, Philomena	43	10/1/1918	9/26/1918	At Home
Chase, William	31	10/9/1918	9/28/1918	Southern NE Telephone
Girard, Frank H	28	10/10/1918	10/5/1918	Bookkeeper
Morvin, Simon	18	10/10/1918	10/8/1918	
Couillard, Pierre Leonard	68	10/11/1918	10/7/1918	Physician - Manchaug
Putnam, Lillian F	38	10/18/1918	10/7/1918	Homemaker
Lincoln, Lucy Ann	90	10/20/1918	10/20/1918	At home
Mathieu, Oliver	24	10/26/1918	10/12/1918	Felt Mill - Millbury
Gauvin, Joseph Leo	5	10/29/1918	10/21/1918	Child
Parker, George	1	10/30/1918	10/25/1918	Child
Theodosios, Constantine	49	12/1/1918	11/24/1918	Card Room BB & R Knight
Bryant, Perry	80	12/16/1918	12/12/1918	Laborer
Holbrook, Lucy	3	12/19/1918	12/12/1918	Child
Baldon, Betsy	64	12/25/1918	12/18/1918	At Home
Barbata, Salvadore	31	12/25/1918	12/26/1918	Carder BB & R Knight
Mellen, William	55	12/27/1918	12/22/1918	Mechanic
King, Gertrude	28	12/30/1918		At Home

Dr. Couillard died on October 11, 1918 during the Spanish Flu Pandemic. A review of Sutton's death certificates indicated approximately 19 deaths from influenza or pneumonia in the last 3 months of 1918 during the height of the pandemic. Undoubtedly, Dr. Couillard contracted the disease himself while caring for the sick around him.

Dr. Couillard is buried in St. Paul's Cemetery, Manchaug Road, Sutton, MA, which he assisted in establishing in the early 1900s. As a result of discord with the Catholic priest of St. Anne's Parish, Father Victor Campeau, St. Paul's French Catholic Church was established in Manchaug in 1902. It was located on the corner of Morse Road and Gervais Avenue. This small parish made national news on April 19, 1905 when 42 members converted from Catholicism to the Baptist faith at a time when our country harbored strong anti-Catholic sentiments. The priest, Reverend Alfred F. Ribourg, went on to marry Mildred Reynolds in Sutton on May 8, 1905.

An account of this national event can be found on our website, [suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org](http://suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org), under the tab Newsletters, January 1995 - It Happened In Manchaug Ninety Years Ago.

After Dr. Couillard's death, the family lived in Worcester, but continued to own their property in Manchaug. On April 16, 1924, a devastating fire which made national news, destroyed 10 acres of the Main Street section of Manchaug, leaving a quarter of Manchaug's residents homeless. Some of the Couillard property was damaged/destroyed in this conflagration. Tenants in their property were made homeless. The great conflagration, however, is a story for a future newsletter which this author is diligently compiling.



Mark devastation today marks the area in Manchaug which yesterday afternoon was swept by the \$300,000 fire, starting in a garage and wiping out not only residences, but the Catholic church, convent and parochial school. The circle indicates the location of Joseph Connolly's garage, occupied by Edward Bennett, where the fire started. The circle at right center marks the site of St. Anne's Catholic church, rectory, convent and parochial school and the star at the extreme right indicates the location of St. Jean de Baptiste hall, which also was destroyed.

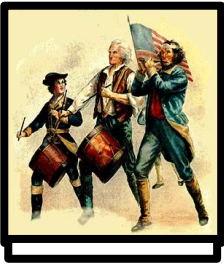
April 17, 1924 - Main Street Manchaug Fire Damage - The Evening Gazette - County Edition

Couillard house far left undamaged with chimney. Couillard rental - white burned house on left. St. Anne's property, Main Street, right half of photo.



# FOUND PATRIOT

Thomas Preston Richardson



Society members frequently respond to requests for genealogical assistance. A recent request resulted in the discovery of a Patriot from Sutton who is not named in the listing of those who served as detailed in the History of Sutton Volume 1. Society members were able to successfully find the Patriot's Declaration of Service as taken during his Pension application.

**DUES** in the case of *Thomas P. Richardson*  
of *Marlow* in the State of *New Hampshire*  
(Act 7th, Jan'y, 1838)

1. Was the declaration made before a Court or a Judge? *Yes*

2. If before a Judge, does it appear that the applicant is disabled by bodily infirmity?

3. How old is he? *Very Old*

4. State his services, as directed in the form annexed.

Period	Number of Service	Rank	Name of Command and Title Office
<i>Fall 77</i>	<i>30-3000</i>	<i>Capt</i>	<i>Capt. Burbank's Co.</i>
<i>Fall 77</i>	<i>30-3000</i>	<i>Capt</i>	<i>Capt. Hammond's Co.</i>
<i>Fall 77</i>	<i>30-3000</i>	<i>Capt</i>	<i>Capt. Gould's Co.</i>
<i>Fall 77</i>	<i>30-3000</i>	<i>Capt</i>	<i>Capt. Tyler's Regt.</i>
<i>June 81</i>	<i>6 Months</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	<i>Capt. Gould's Co.</i>

5. When did he make when he entered the service? *Sutton Mass.*

6. In his statement supported by living witnesses, or documentary proof, by military evidence, by unsworn affidavits, or by the oath? *Sworn Affidavit*

7. Are the papers sufficient as to form and substantiation and if so, in what respect?

*Thomas P. Richardson*  
Applicant

**Declaration,**  
In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June, 1838,  
STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE,  
County of Strafford.

I, the said *Thomas P. Richardson* personally appeared in open Court before *Charles G. Burleigh* Justice of the Peace of the County of Strafford in & for said County of Strafford in the County of Strafford, and State of New-Hampshire, upon solemnly swearing, according to law, that on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1838.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. *That in the fall of the year 1777 he lived in the Town of Sutton in the County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and he was first called into service in the month of July or August 1777, when he volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Andrew Elliott, from Sutton, and marched to the Town of Wilmington near Bennington in the State of Vermont, and served about two weeks. He was dismissed. That in the fall of the year 1777 he lived in said Sutton and again volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Caleb Burbank and then in Colonel Tyler's Regiment for the term of three or four months and marched to Providence in the State of Rhode Island. From Providence he marched to South Kingstown where he continued in the performance of his duty until the expiration of the time for which he engaged when he was dismissed. That in the fall of the year 1779 he lived in said Sutton and volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Hammond and marched to Albany in the State of New York where he continued in the performance of his duty about three months it being the time for which he engaged when he was dismissed. That in the month of July or August there was an alarm and that he marched in a militia company belonging to said Town of Sutton commanded by Captain Caleb Burbank to the Island of Newport in the State of Rhode Island. He was in service at this time about three or four weeks. That in the month of June 1781 he lived in said Town of Sutton and volunteered in a Company commanded by Captain Jonathon Gould and marched to the State of Virginia. He was at Yorktown at the time of the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army. He enlisted for and served at this time six months. Captain Gould died in the Town of Williamsburg in Virginia and Captain John Holland took the command of the company after the death of Captain Gould. In this service, he did the duty of a teamster. He was born in the Town of Sutton in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the month of December 1760. He has a record of his age in his bible. He was living in Sutton aforesaid when he was first called into service. Since the Revolutionary War, he has lived in Marlow, New Hampshire where he now resides. He volunteered in all his services \_\_\_?\_\_\_ no continental \_\_\_?\_\_\_ a Rhode Island. While at Albany there were several hundred Indians brought in as prisoners by General Sullivan. He never received a written discharge. He is well known to Ezra Kidde, Esquire of Alstead who lives in his neighborhood and Jonathan Brown of Marlow who can testify as to his character for \_\_\_?\_\_\_ and this belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution.*

I was born in the Town of Sutton in the County of Strafford in the State of New-Hampshire in the month of December 1760. I have a record of my age in my bible. He was living in Sutton aforesaid when he was first called into service in the month of July or August 1777, when he volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Andrew Elliott, from Sutton, and marched to the Town of Wilmington near Bennington in the State of Vermont, and served about two weeks. He was dismissed. That in the fall of the year 1777 he lived in said Sutton and again volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Caleb Burbank and then in Colonel Tyler's Regiment for the term of three or four months and marched to Providence in the State of Rhode Island. From Providence he marched to South Kingstown where he continued in the performance of his duty until the expiration of the time for which he engaged when he was dismissed. That in the fall of the year 1779 he lived in said Sutton and volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Hammond and marched to Albany in the State of New York where he continued in the performance of his duty about three months it being the time for which he engaged when he was dismissed. That in the month of July or August there was an alarm and that he marched in a militia company belonging to said Town of Sutton commanded by Captain Caleb Burbank to the Island of Newport in the State of Rhode Island. He was in service at this time about three or four weeks. That in the month of June 1781 he lived in said Town of Sutton and volunteered in a Company commanded by Captain Jonathon Gould and marched to the State of Virginia. He was at Yorktown at the time of the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army. He enlisted for and served at this time six months. Captain Gould died in the Town of Williamsburg in Virginia and Captain John Holland took the command of the company after the death of Captain Gould. In this service, he did the duty of a teamster. He was born in the Town of Sutton in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the month of December 1760. He has a record of his age in his bible. He was living in Sutton aforesaid when he was first called into service. Since the Revolutionary War, he has lived in Marlow, New Hampshire where he now resides. He volunteered in all his services \_\_\_?\_\_\_ no continental \_\_\_?\_\_\_ a Rhode Island. While at Albany there were several hundred Indians brought in as prisoners by General Sullivan. He never received a written discharge. He is well known to Ezra Kidde, Esquire of Alstead who lives in his neighborhood and Jonathan Brown of Marlow who can testify as to his character for \_\_\_?\_\_\_ and this belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution.

I hereby authenticate every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and do declare that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

*John P. Willard*

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.  
*John P. Willard*  
Justice of the Peace

Witness my hand and seal of Office this 10th day of June 1838.  
*John P. Willard*  
Justice of the Peace

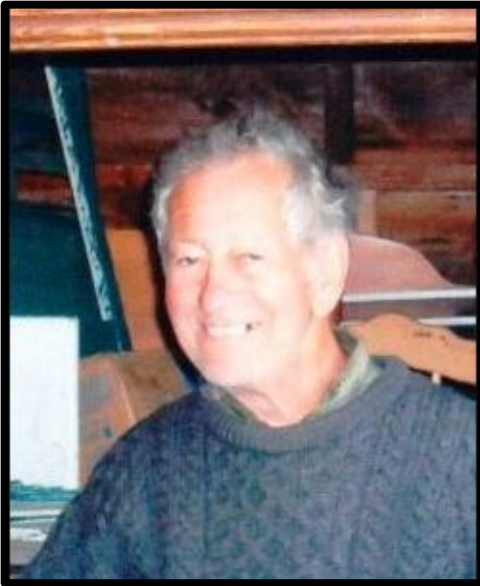
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.  
*Thomas P. Richardson*  
Applicant

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter, and after giving the interrogatories presented by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier, and served as he claims. And the Court further certify, that it appears to them from their investigation that the said applicant is entitled to a pension or an annuity under the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1838.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.  
*Thomas P. Richardson*  
Applicant

Thomas Preston Richardson was born in Sutton in December of 1760. His family's farm was located near Dorothy Pond in Millbury, at a time when Millbury was still part of Sutton. He married Lydia Singletary in Sutton. The family moved to Marlow, New Hampshire, where both Thomas and Lydia are buried. Lydia's father, Amos Singletary, was one of the founding members of the North Parish Church in Sutton, which is now the Millbury First Congregational Church on West Main Street, Millbury. According to his service record, his first experience was under the leadership of Captain Andrew Elliott, from Sutton. A transcription of his declaration follows - **blanks below are words which the transcriber could not decipher:**

"That in the fall of the year 1777, he lived in the Town of Sutton in the County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. That at that time, he volunteered in the militia company commanded by Captain Andrew Elliot and marched to the Town of Wilmington near Bennington in the State of Vermont and served about two weeks. He was dismissed. That in the fall of the year 1777 he lived in said Sutton and again volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Caleb Burbank and then in Colonel Tyler's Regiment for the term of three or four months and marched to Providence in the State of Rhode Island. From Providence he marched to South Kingstown where he continued in the performance of his duty until the expiration of the time for which he engaged when he was dismissed. That in the fall of the year 1779 he lived in said Sutton and volunteered in a militia company commanded by Captain Hammond and marched to Albany in the State of New York where he continued in the performance of his duty about three months it being the time for which he engaged when he was dismissed. That in the month of July or August there was an alarm and that he marched in a militia company belonging to said Town of Sutton commanded by Captain Caleb Burbank to the Island of Newport in the State of Rhode Island. He was in service at this time about three or four weeks. That in the month of June 1781 he lived in said Town of Sutton and volunteered in a Company commanded by Captain Jonathon Gould and marched to the State of Virginia. He was at Yorktown at the time of the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army. He enlisted for and served at this time six months. Captain Gould died in the Town of Williamsburg in Virginia and Captain John Holland took the command of the company after the death of Captain Gould. In this service, he did the duty of a teamster. He was born in the Town of Sutton in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the month of December 1760. He has a record of his age in his bible. He was living in Sutton aforesaid when he was first called into service. Since the Revolutionary War, he has lived in Marlow, New Hampshire where he now resides. He volunteered in all his services \_\_\_?\_\_\_ no continental \_\_\_?\_\_\_ a Rhode Island. While at Albany there were several hundred Indians brought in as prisoners by General Sullivan. He never received a written discharge. He is well known to Ezra Kidde, Esquire of Alstead who lives in his neighborhood and Jonathan Brown of Marlow who can testify as to his character for \_\_\_?\_\_\_ and this belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution."



## ***IN MEMORIAM***

**Paul F. Brosnihan  
November 5, 2019**

Paul F. Brosnihan, 87, passed away peacefully on November 5, 2019 in Beaumont Nursing Center of Northbridge, surrounded by his loving family. The Sutton Historical Society regretfully missed the announcement of his passing and pay tribute to him at this late date with heavy hearts and great thankfulness for his dedicated service as the Curator at the General Rufus Putnam Museum for many years in the 1990s and early 2000s. Paul diligently recorded receipt of many important historical artifacts for the Town of Sutton, and even though he made his home in Millbury, he was dedicated to preserving Sutton's rich history.

Paul was married 61 years to Mildred C. (Norton) Brosnihan, and had four children. Paul served in the United States Navy for two years before embarking on a career as a middle school teacher in the Worcester Public School Department, where he taught geography and history for 37 years.

His family remembers him as being endlessly creative filling his days with writing, painting, sculpting, and recording his life experiences. He spent many happy summers vacationing with family and friends in Clark Island, Maine.

He was funny and outgoing, he made new friends wherever he set foot.



Museum 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Past Exhibit set up by Paul



Museum 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Past Exhibit set up by Paul



Paul Brosnihan pictured with past Society Presidents, Cheryl Bonin & Wally Baker

2021

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

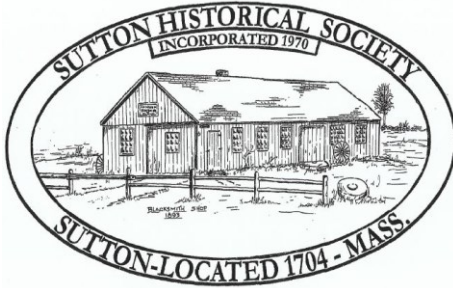
Please note the annual membership fees are due by **March 1, 2021**. The fees collected are important funds to help sustain payments of related insurances, utility bills and ancillary bills, the mailing of the news bulletin and various activities. Please help support the Historical Society and mail your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

We gladly accept all donations.

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### 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](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com).



**Mail all payments to:**

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

email: [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com)  
[www.suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org](http://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



### Sutton Cub Scout Pack 243 Visits Eight Lots School House Amid Pandemic Columbus Day 2020

Thanks to Dave Pizzi, caretaker of the Eight Lots School House, for “masking up” and sharing the history of the School House with local Cub Scouts. Our community is lucky to have such a treasure in our midst. The Board is hoping that local 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will once again be touring the school house this Spring now that COVID vaccines are being administered. Stay Safe!!!

