

The Sutton Historical Society Bulletin

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President's Message

I consider 2021 a successful year for the Sutton Historical Society.

We had two guest speakers. Robert Hubbard, author, presented about General Rufus Putnam. Chief Ranger, Bill Reid, of The Last Green Valley, presented a talk, "Return of the Bald Eagle." Both events were canceled in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

Ross Weaver, our leader of the Sutton Center Cemetery project, assisted Ethan Westbury with achieving his Eagle Scout status. Ethan's project consisted of repairing and painting the two gateway entrances and cleaning all the headstones at the Pigeon Hill Cemetery on Mendon Road. Ethan was able to pull together around thirty volunteers to complete this project.

On June 26, 2021, we held our annual yard sale. This is one of our bigger fund raisers for the year and brought in about \$1,000 to the Society.

On Sunday, October 31, 2021, Halloween Day, we held a Sutton Center Cemetery tour. We hope this will be an annual event. We had over 100 attendees and received over \$200 in our donation bucket.

Also, the last week of September, we held a returnable can drive at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop. We took in over \$500 during this one-week event.

During Chain of Lights in December, we had the General Rufus Putnam Museum, M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, and Eight Lots School open. Carl Hutchison and Steve Colonies also had the Cannon Shed open with our cannon, "Big Ben", on display. This event also generated over \$800 in income for the Society. Last but not least, December 31 (Last Night), Carl and his crew were in Sutton Center to carry out their traditional firing of Big Ben at the stroke of midnight.

I would like to say thank you to our treasurer, Beverly Pizzi. Beverly has held this position since 2015. Beverly is an inspirational Sutton citizen and volunteer. She also works as a charter organizer and Eagle Scout Counsel with Boy Scout Troop 131. Beverly has done a tremendous job over the last six years. Thank you, Beverly.

Thank you to all who have supported the Sutton Historical Society over this past year. Whether it was signing up or continuing your yearly membership or donations made at one of our fundraisers or events. It is with your help that we are able to exist and continue to live up to our mission statement "Dedicated to Preserving Our Historical Inheritance for Future Generations".

March is **MEMBERSHIP MONTH**. Please use the enclosed 2022 Membership Application to renew your membership for 2022. The Society depends on your membership fees, donations, and program support to keep the operation going year-to-year.

-SOCIETY OFFICERS- 2021-2023

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Vice President-Pamela Strong Rocheleau
Secretary-Christine Watkins
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Museum Curator-Joyce Smith

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FIRE, FIRE, 1971!! 50th Anniversary

By Brian Stevenson



*Home of David and Sally Stevenson, 84 Mendon Road
Watercolor by Mary Stevenson Keefe*

As we hear about the horrible fires in Philadelphia and the Bronx which have resulted in the tragic loss of so many lives, and mostly children, I am fully reminded of my own family's fire fifty years ago here in Sutton at our home on Mendon Road. The odds of making it through the smoke, the chaos and the terror of fire can be insurmountable. What could seem to make sense does not make sense as fire has an engineer of its own.

The next couple of years following the fire were difficult years for our family. Unless you've been through an ordeal such as a major fire or tornado, such as the recent tornado in Kentucky, it's hard to comprehend the difficulties that follow. Most times, you lose everything. I mean everything, including clothes, furniture, family photos, bedding, curtains, right down to your toothbrushes. What isn't burned is smoke damaged. We count our blessings that we all made it out alive.

We were a family of twelve in 1971, 10 kids and two parents. My sister Mary was the oldest, 17 years old and off to college at Mass College of Art in Boston. Cathy, the youngest of us, was two years old. We were like two generations.

Friday September 25th, 1971.

It's funny, fifty years later and close to the date of the fire as I'm writing this story, the current outside temperature is 66 degrees. In 1971, the weather forecast predicted a very cold night in the mid-twenties. So, Dad lit a fire in the kitchen stove, which was on the very back side of the house. Dad worked at Mass Electric on Webster Street in Worcester. This particular week, he was on the 11 pm to 7 am shift. After getting the fire going, he left for work at about 10:30 pm. Just another normal evening.

Saturday September 26th 2:00 am.

At about this time, as the household was sound asleep, Margaret became thirsty, and got up to get a drink of water. Little did she know that the smoke that had already started making its way into the main part of the house had created her thirst, and the fire was under way. I recall Mom yelling up the stairs, "Get up! The house is on fire!" I'll say most people are not prepared for an emergency like this. What followed was chaos.

All of us kids climbed down to the front hall to the big central front door which opened inward. My older brothers, Matt, Mark, and Dave, could not get it open. We rarely used the front door, and we had a rainy September so the door was stuck. Meanwhile, our Mom went to try and get to the phone. The fire was well underway and very hot, and there was the phone —melting on its little table. The fire had now begun to make its way into the middle part of the house.

Back in the front hall, Matt climbed out a window and kicked the door open from the outside. I was trying to get down the stairs, but the smoke was so heavy in the stairway that I went back up and lay on the floor where the smoke was not as dense. After the door was opened, I cut through the heavy smoke in the stairway, and we all stood on the front lawn coughing and gasping for fresh air as we watched the fire advance.

After acknowledging everyone was out, Mom decided to go back into the house to check every bed just to make sure. We realized that Cathy, the youngest, was missing. Matt joined Mom in trying to find her. Calling out her name, they finally found her standing in a bedroom doorway. They all made it quickly out.

The only option we had to get a call for help was to run across the street and wake our grandparents, which we did. Grampa opened his bedroom door to hear the house was on fire, "Call the fire department!!!" A couple of our brothers had gotten the garden hose and were squirting the back of the house in a futile attempt to extinguish the fire. Looking back, you could think "how silly," but to be honest with you, to this day, I am sure I would still make that same attempt.

I can't imagine the anxiety and despair that my father was going through when he got the call at work from the dispatcher, "Dave you need to go home. Your house is on fire."

Years later, Mom and Dad would reflect on that part of our lives, and were thankful and grateful for how the Sutton community responded to a family in need. There were food donations, money donations, clothing donations and help with the demolition and reconstruction for the many months it took to rebuild.

I especially want to thank and praise our Sutton volunteer fire department. I imagine our fire department would have been considered a ragtag bunch of amateurs with our old trucks and inferior equipment. But, you cannot underestimate their heart and soul, courage and level of commitment. When that alarm sounded at 2:30 AM, each and every firefighter jumped out of bed understanding this was most likely going to be a response to a house fire.

Our house was built in 1835. With wooden frame and timber beams, it was a tinder box. The Sutton fire department; from the Center, Manchaug and Wilkinsonville, arrived so quickly, had the fire under control, and minimized the damage to what remained of our home.

The next morning, seeing my mom's burnt hair and singed-off eyebrows was a vivid reminder of just how close we had come to losing the most precious of all possessions; life and loved ones.

Thank you, to our Sutton Fire Department. You have my family's utmost gratitude and respect.

David Wilkinson – Ancestry.com



Wilkinsonville

How a Machinist Founded a Village He Never Lived In

By Christine Watkins

For those of us who grew up or lived in Sutton prior to the 1990s, we remember that our town boasted three zip codes. Sutton Center shared 01527 with Millbury. Manchaug had 01526, and still does today. Wilkinsonville had 01590. Why did the two small village sections of Manchaug and Wilkinsonville have their own postal zip codes? This privilege dates back to when both boasted vibrant mill communities which had a demand for a local post office to serve both the businesses and residents. In the 1970s, at a time when many families had only one vehicle, these three sections of town appeared separate. The school year brought together students from the three areas, and we identified each other by these areas. The kids from "the Chaug", the kids from "Wilks" and the kids from Sutton. Even the summer recreation programs were divided into these three areas with an end-of-summer get together and field day at the Sutton Schools, including games, contests, foot races, and crafts. There were also those students from South Sutton, known as the Quabbin District, and West Sutton; but for the most part, the three aforementioned areas were how we all identified.

With significant residential growth 30 years ago, the Wilkinsonville zip code was expanded to include all of Sutton, except Manchaug, with the new post office opening on Route 146 around late 1990 - early 1991. New residents moving into the eastern part of town, known to the old timers as Wilkinsonville, were confounded when their address would pop up as Wilkinsonville, or they received a water bill from the Wilkinsonville Water District. Unlike Manchaug, the name Wilkinsonville does not appear on any signs.

Samuel Slater came into the picture in 1789 after secretly stealing away from England to America with the secrets of the Arkwright water-powered carding machine and spinning frame, which automated the manufacture of cotton yarn, neatly tucked into his head. No hard copy plans were brought with him. Why did Slater have to “steal away?” Britain was experiencing an Industrial Revolution in which the rest of the world wanted to share. The British, however, opted to tightly protect their trade secrets making it illegal to export any machinery, plans or personnel. Slater “the traitor” knew his options for financial success were limited in Britain, and having learned of offers by American businessmen for information about these protected technologies, he decided to seek his fortune across the Atlantic. Through fate or luck, Slater and the Wilkinsons were introduced, and together, they worked to build the card machine to comb and make the cotton fibers parallel for strength and the spinning machine for twisting parallel fibers into yarn for weaving and thread for sewing. David forged and ground the spindles for Slater’s first spinning machine, and his father, Oziel, completed all the ironwork for the carding machine. These original 1790 machines are in the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. Samuel lived with the Wilkinson family while they were working together. Samuel married his first wife, Hannah Wilkinson, sister of David Wilkinson, and the first American woman to be granted a patent for her invention of two-ply thread in 1793.

During this American Industrial Revolution, both Slater and the Wilkinson extended family increased and improved upon their textile-manufacturing know-how, continuing to grow and diversify their holdings, having interests in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. David focused mostly on his machine shop, while his siblings diversified into textile mill management and investment. Apprentices of David went on to make contributions to the improvement of textile-manufacturing machinery and both mentor and apprentices maintained relationships which benefitted all parties financially. David had minor ownership in some of the operations of his brothers and relatives; however, his talents and interests were with inventing machinery and improving on existing machinery, including manufacturing rights to many of the power looms being built in Rhode Island at that time. According to historian, William Bagnall, David Wilkinson’s machine shop was the “earliest and for some years the only independent machine-shop for the construction of textile machinery” in America. His projects and interests are too numerous for this article but are well-laid out in the aforementioned book by Anthony J. Connors. By 1815, David had diversified slightly from manufacturing, building a 4-story hotel in Pawtucket with a tavern and retail space, from which he could sell some of his products, on the first floor. He eventually invested in a twice-weekly newspaper, the Manufacturers and Farmers Journal, broke with the Quakers incorporating an Episcopal parish in Pawtucket, became involved in banking, was a Mason, first treasurer of Pawtucket’s Union Lodge, and was one of four delegates representing Rhode Island at a national pro-tariff conference, plus more. He was definitely a “man about town” in Pawtucket, a member of the Rhode Island manufacturing elite. David lived with his four children and wife, Martha Sayles Wilkinson, 3rd great granddaughter of Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island, on Pleasant Street in Pawtucket very near to most of their extended family.

In 1823, David decided that he, like his brothers and brother-in-law, Samuel Slater, would establish his own mill village for which he would control the economics, religion and social structure from the ground up. David was very familiar with the Blackstone River, which runs from Worcester through Pawtucket, as his machine shop was located upon its banks. Additionally, the Blackstone River Valley was rapidly expanding with many water-powered manufacturing plants taking advantage of the 438-foot drop of the river. There was also talk of building a canal for movement of goods between Worcester and Providence, which was constructed in 1825 with continued operation through 1848 when the railroad took over.

In 1822, a cotton spinning mill owned and operated by Asa Waters of Millbury, burned. Located just 12 miles from the Slater Complex in Webster, this site was purchased by Wilkinson in 1823, and he built a stone mill to produce cotton thread and woven cloth. He expanded the mill and the surrounding community over the next 6 years, enlarging the main factory, building employee housing and a hotel, erecting an Episcopal Church completed in 1829, and incorporating a bank, called the Sutton Bank, in 1828. The Hotel, built in 1824 was known as the Rising Sun Hotel. It boasted a tavern, many rooms, a store and the post office. This building still stands today with several apartments at the corner of Depot and Providence Streets. Today, KPs Restaurant operates in an addition to this hotel where the barn used to stand. The first minister of the Episcopal church was Daniel LeBaron Goodwin. He served for 29 years, and was married to David’s niece, Rebecca, daughter of his sister, Marcy (Wilkinson) and William Wilkinson, which causes confusion in the family genealogy. As an aside, the Reverend Daniel LeBaron Goodwin was not only a Mayflower descendant but also descended from Dr. Francis LeBaron, born Providence, France 1668, a Huguenot, shipwrecked off Buzzard’s Bay, Massachusetts, believed to be the bases for the French privateer in the “Nameless Nobleman” by Jane Austen. Daniel is also the first cousin once removed of Lazarus LeBaron, who built a tavern in Sutton center and hosted the likes of John Hancock, John Paul Jones and Lafayette.

David was the largest investor in the Sutton Bank. His brother-in-law, Hezekiah Howe, husband of David’s sister Lydia, was not only the first church treasurer of the Episcopal church, but also a director of the Sutton Bank and its first president. Banking, at this time, was set up for creditors and established by prominent men to fund their manufacturing operations. Insider lending was not uncommon. The majority of the Sutton Bank loans were to members of the Wilkinson family, the major stockholders. Collateral was usually the signature of someone of good standing and means. Hezekiah and David were signers on each other’s loans. In January 1829, small financial institutions began to fail. Prices on the world textile market were dropping so that sales prices were 20% lower than costs to manufacture. With so many loans to individuals involved in the textile industry, it was only a matter of time before more financial institutions failed.

In June 1829, Wilkinsonville boasted 2,500 spindles, 118 looms, grain and saw mills, a tavern, a store, 12 residential buildings for employee housing, the Episcopal church, and the Sutton Bank. On July 24, 1829, David Wilkinson’s holdings in Wilkinsonville went

into bankruptcy. Samuel Slater, who held a large mortgage on these properties, foreclosed on September 14, becoming the owner of the Wilkinsonville properties. Samuel Slater had never intended to own the Wilkinsonville manufacturing operations and village;

Wilkinson Mill

Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park



Wilkinson Mill at the Slater Mill Site in the Blackstone River Valley NHP

NPS Photo

with knowledge, memories, and photos of Wilkinsonville to reach out to the Society to share this important information.

I would encourage visits to the Wilkinson Mill at the Slater Mill Historic Site in Pawtucket, the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster, and the reading of the book by Anthony J. Connors, [Ingenious Machinists: Two Inventive Lives from the American Industrial Revolution](#). There is so much more to the David Wilkinson story than could be shared in this newsletter. Although David Wilkinson was not affiliated with Wilkinsonville for even a decade, his mark remains in the buildings he built and the Village which continued to grow and prosper after his departure and still bears the name he gave it almost 200 years ago....Wilkinsonville.

however, it remained under the umbrella of Slater & Sons, under the name Sutton Manufacturing until the estate of Horatio N. Slater, Jr., was settled in 1907.

David Wilkinson never lived in Wilkinsonville. He remained in Pawtucket until 1830 and managed his investments from there. The financial downturn caused complete losses of all his holdings in Pawtucket, RI, as well. He was able to retain a few of his tools and an investment he had in Cohoes, NY, in the startup of a manufacturing operation. The years after the bankruptcy had him moving all over to provide for his family, while he worked on various engineering projects. He even worked for a time in Canada. Actually, he and his wife both died in Canada, with funerals being held in both Cohoes, NY and Pawtucket, RI. They are buried in Mineral Spring Cemetery, Pawtucket, RI.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers designated the Wilkinson Mill, which is part of the Slater Mill Site in the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park in Pawtucket, a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

As our town considers pursuing inclusion of Wilkinsonville on the National Register of Historic Places, I would encourage citizens

IN MEMORIAM Johanne E. Potter Walker 1934-2021

Past Treasurer and Historian of the Sutton Historical Society, Inc.

By Joyce Smith



The Sutton Historical Society would like to recognize the dedication of Johanne Potter Walker for her many years of service to Sutton.

This is Johanne's graduation picture from Sutton High School in 1952. She was one of 17 graduates in 1952 that started out with 41 students in the Fall of 1948. Johanne was described in the Senior Adjectives as "Tiny". She was small in stature, but could be depended upon to quietly accomplish tasks. Johanne was on the yearbook staff (Exitus), and wrote the class prophecy. She sang in the chorus for four years.

After graduation, Johanne enlisted in the U.S. Navy W.A.V.E.S. and did her basic training in San Francisco. She served during the Korean War. She was married to Robert E. Walker and lived in Oxford, MA for 32 years. She leaves a son, Gordon, daughters, Elaine and Dawn, seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was the daughter of Roy Potter and Margaret Grover Potter, and was born in Vermont. Roy was a well-known horseman, and spent many hours with Wally Johnson's Belgian horses in his later years. The Potters were related to the Sherman and Perry families. Margaret's sister was married to Herbert MacLaren. Suffice it to say, she had a lot of Sutton connections.

Johanne's heart was in Sutton, and she was a long-time member of the First Congregational Church. Her sisters, Dotty Potter and Jane Anderson, were also lifelong church members. Johanne sang in the choir until recently. Johanne was the church collector for many years, and kept track of the weekly donations.

Johanne was the Treasurer of the Sutton Historical Society for many years. Her lasting legacy will be in the binders she compiled as the Society's Historian. She cut out and "scrapbooked" any articles and pictures with a Sutton connection. Each binder is neatly labeled as to year, with over 18 binders in the two thousands. I cannot imagine the time it took to do such a wonderful job.

Thanks, Johanne for being the unassuming, quiet, dedicated person to the things that were important to you. You are missed.

Cemetery Restoration Project Update

By Ross Weaver

The next time you are in Sutton Center if you glance toward the cemetery, you may notice something is missing. All of the dead and dying trees along the north wall and the large red beech tree are gone.

REMAINING BEECH TREE STUMP



Although aesthetically unfortunate to lose the red beech, it was totally rotted at the core, and had to be removed. The large branch that split off last summer broke two of the stones beneath and scarred others nearby.

On the positive side, you should also notice how much cleaner and better aligned most of the stones appear to be – and that you can actually see more stones without having to stand directly over them. Since commencing this restoration project in the fall of 2019, all have been cleaned and over 300 stones have been reset, including more than 75 that have been repaired and reset.

When the frost is gone work will resume on those remaining to be done, most of which are in that area beneath and near the now gone beech tree. About 20 stones remain to be reset and another 20 to be rebuilt and reset.

Among these are some of the largest and heaviest stones. Even larger than this stone pictured. Some of these markers are the most severely broken stones

Our work schedule for resetting will continue to be Sunday mornings from 9 am to noon and Tuesday evenings from 5 pm to 8 pm. Doing this physically – and, often, mentally - demanding work requires several of us.

If you or others you know are available at any of those times, please join in. Reach out to us at sutton1704@gmail.com, or just stop at the white shed next to 323 Boston Road whenever you see cars and trucks or maybe just a brown SUV parked outside

Equally necessary is prep work and stone repairing, which is being done virtually every day. Much of this work can be done by one or two of us. And much remains to be done.

In the words of our Newsletter Editor, Janice Swindell, “This is a noble effort, and I, for one, am glad to see the cemetery where we played as students at Sutton Elementary School, now the General Rufus Putnam Museum, given such attention.”



Samuel Sibley Stone – Before and After



Brian Stevenson measuring grave marker

Secretary's Report 2021 Review

By Christine Watkins

After the lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, the Society eagerly returned to normal activities during 2021 with our first general gathering on August 6, the Eight Lots School House Potluck.

The Board met seven times coordinating several events and dealing with maintenance issues at our historic locations. The Society received a \$750 grant from the Sutton Cultural Council for rack cards and the creation and placement of QR code signs on historic locations in town. The signs should be in place in the Spring of 2022. This project fits in perfectly with the recent results of the Town's Open Space Planning questionnaire which indicated 80% of respondents are interested in learning more about the Town's history. These codes will allow individuals to perform self-guided tours of historic locations.

We hosted two successful speaker presentations – Ron Hubbard, Author, General Rufus Putnam: George Washington's Chief Military Engineer and the "Father of Ohio", and Chief Ranger Bill Reid, The Last Green Valley, who presented on the reintroduction and monitoring of the bald eagles. We created and presented a Halloween Cemetery tour with costumed interpreters at the Town Center Cemetery attended by over 100 visitors. This tour highlighted the great work being done by our Cemetery Restoration group and shared historical information about specific individuals interred in the cemetery and the history of the cemetery itself. We returned to our annual events: a successful yard sale; participation in the town's Annual Chain of Lights Event with 200 people visiting the Eight Lots School House, and the Blacksmith Shop and Museum also having many visitors; the Annual Eight Lots School House and Christmas Potlucks; and the annual firing of "Big Ben", our Civil War Cannon. We added a can redemption fundraiser which we plan to continue each year.

Cleanup was begun in the Blacksmith shop. The front window has been repaired, and will be replaced in early 2022. The forge was inoperable at the Chain of Lights event. This issue will be addressed in the coming year. The Board plans to begin assessing the historic artifacts and work with the museum curator to include these items in ascension records at the General Rufus Putnam Museum.

The downstairs office of the General Rufus Putnam Museum was cleaned, painted, and shelving was installed. Thank you to John Belculfine for his great work on the office and help with the storm windows. Money received for the museum through the 2020 LSTA Grant for Town-wide Preservation Assessment and Collection Identification from the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Commissioners was used to purchase archival materials as well as a cloud-based archival software program, Catalog-It, to allow the curator to digitize the ascension books and collection information. Sutton Library staffed volunteered to enter Ascension Book 1 into an excel spreadsheet. This was completed. There are two additional books to be input. These spreadsheets will be uploaded to the cloud-based archival software program. This project will continue into 2022. Costs to operate the museum will increase in 2022 as the Museum will be kept at a temperature of 40 degrees during the winter for an expected annual cost of about \$1,500. The archival program has an annual cost of approximately \$400. The Museum will turn 200 years old in 2023. The Board plans to continue with the restoration of this historic building, and will consider grant opportunities to assist with this work.

Our Annual Meeting resulted in the re-election of our officers for a 2-year term:

Brian Stevenson, President
Pamela Strong Rocheleau, Vice President
Beverly Pizzi, Treasurer
Christine Watkins, Secretary

L-R Dave Pizzi, Brian Stevenson, John Belculfine, Ross Weaver

Beverly resigned in November. Jennifer A. Lagan was nominated and accepted as Treasurer at our December 7, 2021 meeting. The Board thanked Beverly for her wonderful work during her tenure as Treasurer which began in October 2015.

Our Cemetery Restoration crew, as part of their involvement with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Volunteers-In-Parks program, shared in the park's recent receipt of the 2020 Region 1 George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Our Cemetery Restoration Group of approximately 18 volunteers logged a total of 914 hours, which equates to a \$31,962 in-kind volunteer value based on the current Massachusetts volunteer rate. This was the most volunteer hours posted by any of the contributing organizations in the volunteer-in-parks program. In addition, this crew has supported several Eagle Scout candidates through various cemetery projects. Most recently, troop 243 members, parents, and grandparents assisted Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan Westbury, with his



Eagle Scout project at Pigeon Hill Cemetery on Mendon Road. This project included the cleaning of over 200 stones, adjusting of the gates to both the original section and northside extension so they no longer drag, as well as the cleaning and repainting of the original section gates. Silva' Stones in Millbury has donated pieces of waste granite and marble counter top quality stone used for repairing and reinforcement. We have compensated them for some of their valuable time and expertise. We greatly appreciate their assistance and support of this important project.

Our website was renewed through weebly.com for 2 years. We successfully submitted our tax-exempt certificate to them which removed sales tax from this renewal.

We issued one newsletter in 2021. Our goal is to issue quarterly newsletters. We send electronic newsletters to members with an email on file, unless they request a hardcopy newsletter. We would welcome a volunteer to take over the newsletter—gathering articles, laying out the newsletter, proofreading, maintaining the email recipient and mail recipient lists, being the “go-to person” for anything relating to the newsletter. Currently, this responsibility is shared between our Secretary and Eight Lots School House caretaker. In addition, we are always seeking interesting articles for this newsletter. Submissions can be made to our email sutton1704@gmail.com.

Standard membership was approximately 130 (counting family memberships as 2 people). Through the Eight Lots School Photo fundraiser by Tiny Leaf Designs, an additional 75 family memberships were generated. During our upcoming March 2022 membership drive, applications will be distributed to all 2021 members (see membership form included in this newsletter), including those who received membership through the fundraiser and other citizens we believe may be interested in the Society. Our members not only pay their annual dues, but many make additional donations. These funds are integral to our ability to continue our property maintenance, presentations, and other programs going. So, THANK YOU for your continued membership and generous financial support of the Society.

The Board is also seeking volunteers to assist with grant writing, program coordination, publicity, fund raising, data input, document scanning, etc. If you have available time, we can fill it!!! We can always be reached at sutton1704@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to a productive, successful 2022!

RESEARCH

Our members regularly respond to email requests for information on property history including land records, family genealogies, and requests for tours of our properties or historical spots in town. During 2021, members provided private tours of the General Rufus Putnam Museum and the Eight Lots School House. A private tour of the town was organized for a family visiting from Washington state, descended from Timothy Sibley. Timothy Sibley donated the land that the Eight Lots School House sits upon. Descendants of Dr. Pierre Couillard, physician in Manchaug from 1875-1918, received a tour of Manchaug including St. Paul's cemetery, the location of the French Baptist Church, and the home of Dr. Couillard. A request for the history of a house at 85 Park Hill Avenue in Millbury, which was part of Sutton until 1813, corrected an error on a property record card which had resulted from a fire in the Millbury town hall many years ago. The homeowner's were excited to learn the home had been built prior to 1805, not in 1900 as recorded at the Town Hall, by Revolutionary War Patriot, Caleb Park.

Most recently, a request from a woman in Oregon, who had attended 1st Grade in the General Rufus Putnam Museum in 1952-1953, sent Society members on a hunt for a class picture of that first grade class. Thanks to great detective work by the Museum curator and other Society members, the requested photos were found!!! These photos will be added to the collection at the Museum.



Thanks to Katie King, daughter of long-time resident, Perry King. Perry was a member of that class. His mother, Marthana, had taken the photo all those years ago. She had shared the photo with the students at the time of their high school graduation from Sutton High. Several of the students we reached out to remembered seeing the photo, none had a copy, and all wanted a copy.

Here you go, 1st grade class of 1952-1953.

Research questions can be emailed to sutton1704@gmail.com.

2022 Calendar of Events

Dates and Times may be Subject to Change

All events open to both Society members and the general public.

Visit us at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org or Facebook for updated meeting information.

Upcoming meetings/events are listed in the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle, The Uxbridge Times, and the Blackstone Valley Xpress.

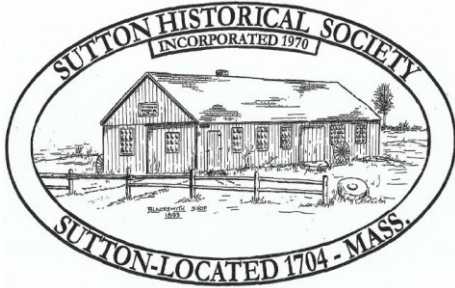
April 26 Tuesday	7:00 pm	David Vermette, Author <u>A Distinct Alien Race</u> <u>The Untold Story of Franco Americans</u> Presentation of French-Canadian Immigration	Blaxton Hall Manchaug Mills 9 Main Street
June 7 Tuesday	4:00 pm 8:00 pm	Samuel Slater Experience Museum Tour Samuel Slater is considered the "Father of the American Industrial Revolution His company owned and operated Sutton Manufacturing in Wilkinsonville for several decades. SamuelSlaterExperience.org	31 Ray Street Webster, MA Group Rate Admission \$14 adults \$10 seniors (age 60+) \$ 7 children
June 18 Saturday	8:00 am 1:00 pm	Annual Yard Sale	M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop 6 Singletary Avenue
June 26 Sunday	TBD	4 th of July Parade and Celebration General Rufus Putnam Museum will be open	Sutton Town Common
July 9-July 17		Can/Bottle Redemption Drive Drop off your returnable cans/bottles at your convenience 24-hours	M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop 6 Singletary Avenue
August 5 Friday	6:30 pm	Annual Potluck Supper	Eight Lots School House 54 Eight Lots Road
September 6 Tuesday	7:00 pm	Christie Higginbottom An Infinite Variety of Fruit: Historic New England Apples This program will explore the role played by apples at the table and on the farm landscape in the past, and will look at the revival of interest today.	First Congregational Church 307 Boston Road
October 1 Saturday	12:00 pm- 4:00 pm	Wagon and Cart Show	M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop 6 Singletary Avenue
October 4 Tuesday	7:00 pm	Annual Meeting	First Congregational Church 307 Boston Road
October 29 Saturday	7:00 pm	Historic Cemetery Tour Re-enactors will tell the tale of early Sutton settlers buried in the Sutton Center Cemetery	Sutton Center Cemetery 4 Uxbridge Road
November 1 Tuesday	7:00 pm	Michael Tougias, Author <u>Until I Have No Country</u> Presentation about King Philip's War	First Congregational Church 307 Boston Road
December 3 Saturday	Various	Chain of Lights Annual Town-wide Christmas Event	Eight Lots School House General Rufus Putnam Museum M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop
December 6 Tuesday	6:30 pm	Christmas Potluck	First Congregational Church 307 Boston Road
December 31 Saturday	Midnight	Last Night Cannon Firing Cannon Club	M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop 6 Singletary Avenue

**2022
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Please note the annual membership fees are due by **March 1, 2022**. 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. If you have not received your 2022 membership card, please renew today.
We gladly accept 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
suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Annual Membership Fee is due March 1, 2022
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

2022 MEMBERSHIP MONTH MARCH

*This printed newsletter is being mailed to you with our
2022 Membership Form enclosed.*

Please JOIN or RENEW Today!!!

We need your support to help us continue to keep history alive in SUTTON.

*Future 2022 newsletters will be emailed to those members with emails on file unless
a paper copy has been requested.*