



The Sutton Historical Society Bulletin

Dedicated to preserving our historical inheritance for future generations.

Founded December 8, 1969

In This Issue:

- **Harry Anderson Indian Artifact Collection Donated to Historical Society**
- **President's Message**
- **Treasurer's Annual Report**
- **Secretary's Annual Report**
- **Annual Membership Dues**
- **Membership Form**
- **2019 Calendar of Events**

-Society Officers- 2017-2019

President-Brian Stevenson

Vice President-Dave Pizzi

Secretary-Christine Watkins

Treasurer-Beverly Pizzi

Museum Curator-Joyce Smith

-Board of Directors- 2016-2018

Keith Downer
Marjorie Duff
Rochelle Forsythe
Peter Michelson
Sheila Moss
Alice Shaw

Blacksmith-Fran Donnelly
Bulletin Editor-Janice Swindell
Cannon Club - Carl Hutchinson

Harry Anderson Indian Artifact Collection Donated to Sutton Historical Society

By: Mary Jo Henry

Throughout his life, Harry Anderson was an avid outdoorsman, lifetime member of the Sutton Historical Society, Inc., and collector of local Nipmuc Indian artifacts that he would find while hiking around the area. Harry also found old buttons, coins and pieces of pipe that settlers smoked from while tending their fields. Harry set aside the best pieces for this collection which has been donated to the Sutton Historical Society, Inc., and housed in the General Rufus Putnam Museum. All of the artifacts in the collection were found in Sutton and most were found around the Manchaug Pond area.

Arrowheads comprise the bulk of this collection; there are many different variations in basic form and stone that were used by the Indians. According to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, the ultimate reasons for this variation is not known, except that it may have something to do with the manner of hafting the point to its shaft.

Some examples of arrowhead shapes in the case are Neville (top center), Beekman Triangle (quartz projective below), Squibnocket (fourth and fifth down in the center and arrowheads flanking them), Merrimack (long quartz arrowheads to the left and right of the Squibnockets) and Bifurcate Base (base notched arrowhead fourth row down to the left of the center arrowhead).

Harry not only collected arrowheads, but also had many types of primitive tools and items that were used by the local Indians to carve into wood, farm, drill, prepare meals, skin hides and for adornment.

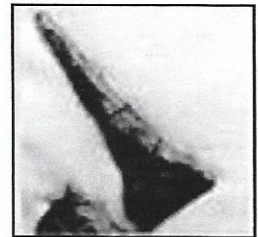
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Many of these tools were used over 2,000 years ago, or more. He trained his eyes on what to look for and amassed a collection consisting of over 300 pieces. I once asked him how long he thought he spent on this, and he figured each piece took about 2 hours to find and most of the artifacts he found walking along Manchaug Pond's north shore, Waters Farm shoreline, and Blueberry Island. The best time to find them is in the spring before the water comes up, the winter snow and ice would heave up new treasures with each thaw. Some of the unique articles that he discovered in Sutton are:



Plummets and sinkers - the Nipmuc Indians fished and fish was not only food, it served as fertilizer for crops. Stone sinkers were used with nets to catch the fish.

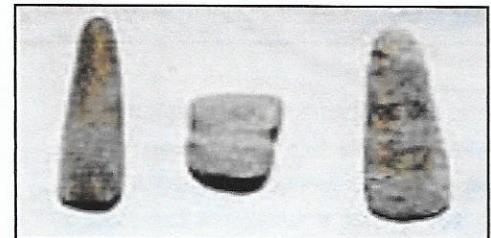
Drills/perforators - were used to cut into hides for clothing as well as bone and wood. Most drills are not found intact, but if you find one piece, keep looking, as the other piece will usually be close by. There is a drill to the left of the plaque at the bottom, as well as above the bottom right arrowhead.



Gouges - are stones that have been curved that were used for woodworking as well as with making dugout canoes. Hollowing a log for a canoe was started by burning the inside of the log then gouging out the charcoal to dig into the wood. Keep in mind that the local trees were much larger back then than what we usually see now. Most of New England was deforested in the early 1800s in order to make pastures and farming. The cut trees were used for lumber and fuel.



Hatchet Blades, Axes, and Celts - larger hatchet blades were used for felling trees and smaller were for lesser work like making wooden products. The photo shows a 4-inch hatchet between two 7" celts.



Gorgets - are a type of pendant that was made for personal adornment. The photo shows a gorget that is 4" in length that is located in the bottom left of the case.



Knives and Notchers - were necessary for survival in cutting as well as making arrows and were usually serrated. The photos illustrate a notcher that was used for woodworking and shows an indentation that was made for a finger grip.



There is a lot of history beneath our feet in Sutton!

President's Message

By: Brian Stevenson

So, I ask myself why am I a Sutton Historical Society member? I am a member not as much for the historical aspect of Sutton, but maybe more for my love of Sutton.

I am employed by EMC / Dell with 138,000 employees. I meet a lot of people. So, when I meet someone new, the conversation usually starts off with, "Where are you from?" I get one of two responses. "Sutton, where's Sutton?" I'll say, "Do you know where Tony's Pizza is?" at which point the topic changes. The more frequent response is, "Oh Sutton, that's a nice town." Sutton is a great town, and I believe groups like the Sutton Historical Society play a part in Sutton's nostalgic reputation.

Sometimes I get anxious expecting instant results or instant progress with the many projects our group undertakes. However, when I reflect on the past six months, one year, two years, five years, I can't help but be astonished at our accomplishments. We should applaud ourselves.

Take a look at the 2018 calendar of events within this bulletin. If you were to compare 2018 to past years, you will find some differences. In 2018, we offered more special presentations/entertainment. Our Facebook presence is growing as well. To me, the most important activities on that calendar are the ones involving school-age kids. These events hold us true to our motto:

"Dedicated to preserving our historical inheritance for future generations"

Now it's 2019, and we are not finished yet. We have some big things coming up this year. We recently teamed up with the Sutton Parade Committee. The Sutton Fourth of July Parade is scheduled for June 30, 2019. This parade will start at the elementary school and finish at the town common. Fireworks to follow.

We also teamed up with the leaders of the Sutton First Congregational Church. The Congregational Church has a 300th year anniversary coming up in 2020. We would like to help them shine for the big day of celebration. Take a look at that building next time you drive by. It's in desperate need of a paint job and other various repairs. This church and the town common are two of Sutton's biggest icons, not to mention how much their organization does for the community. We hold our meetings there, the Boy Scouts hold meetings there, and the soccer field out back is used, all free of charge.

So far in our recent history, we completed the full restoration of the Eight Lots School House and re-opened the General Rufus Putnam Museum next to the Sutton Center Fire Station. This year, we will be focusing on the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop across from the center store on Singletary Avenue. Fran Donnelly has been our resident blacksmith for many years now. Fran will be working with a couple of young interns come this spring. Our goal is to make the blacksmith shop more accessible to the public, not only as a working blacksmith shop, but as a museum as well. The blacksmith shop has been a missed opportunity for us to gain exposure for our organization. Let's open those doors and show what a prize is to be exposed within.

Now, I'm sure if you're still reading this bulletin, you are interested. Please take a look at our annual budget report. You will find we don't make ends meet and even to get to this point is a struggle.

Currently, the heat in the General Rufus Putnam Museum is shut down because we cannot afford to heat that building. This fluctuating temperature is not good for the irreplaceable artifacts within. As mentioned, opening the blacksmith shop will create new expenses this year. We are an extremely small group, and we need all the help we can get whether it be volunteering, exploring fundraising or grant opportunities or financial support by making an additional donation. Getting friends and family to join our society will help increase membership revenues. Let's work together to make 2019 even better than 2018.

Sutton Historical Society, Inc.
Treasurer's Annual Report
October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

By: Beverly Pizzi

Revenues:

Membership Dues	\$1,300	
Member Donations - Cash	\$2,480	
Hillside Club Donation - Museum	\$200	
Donation Jar - Museum	\$141	
Donation Jar - School House	\$91	
Merchandise Sales	\$277	
Yard Sale Income	\$1,013	
Interest - General Fund	<u>\$24</u>	
Total		\$5,526

Expenditures:

Website	\$144	
Safety Deposit Box Rent	\$21	
MA Annual Report Filing	\$18	
Newsletters (including postage)	\$589	
Plastic Cups - 3rd Grade Visit	\$189	
General Rufus Putnam Museum Restoration	\$1,413	
General Rufus Putnam Furniture & Equipment	\$237	
General Rufus Putnam Museum Heat	\$1,038	
Property Insurance	\$1,925	
Electric - Blacksmith Shop	\$124	
Pest Control	<u>\$75</u>	
Total		\$5,773
Operating Deficit		(\$247)

Sutton Historical Society, Inc.
Secretary's Annual Report

By: Christine Watkins

MEMBERSHIP: Counting family memberships as 2 individuals, we increased our membership to over 120 individuals this year. The goal of our membership drive was 100 members. We hope to continue increasing membership from year to year.

FACEBOOK: Our Facebook followers increased from 400 to over 500 this year. The Board is considering ways to convert these followers into members, donors or simply attendees at events.

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November 7, 2017	General Meeting
December 2, 2017	Chain of Lights - Open House, Eight Lots School House, Blacksmith Shop
December 7, 2017	Christmas Potluck - First Congregational Church - Historical Show and Tell
December 31, 2017	Last Night Cannon Firing by Cannon Crew, headed by Carl Hutchinson
January 15, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
February 6, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
March 6, 2018	Special Presentation - Keith Downer - The Real Boston Massacre (30+ attendees) Event filmed by Local Cable Access
April 3, 2018	Special Presentation - Peter Michelson West Sutton and the Putnam Link to the Mayflower (50+ attendees) Event held in Blaxton Hall, Manchaug Mills, courtesy of Gary and Judi Vaillancourt Event filmed by Local Cable Access
April 6, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
April 27, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
May 1, 2018	Special Presentation - Art Martin, Author (30+ attendees) "Summer of 1840, on the Shores of Singletary" Event filmed by Local Cable Access
May 15, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
May 28, 2018	Memorial Day, General Rufus Putnam Museum Reopening - Veteran's Exhibit \$251 generated in donations and merchandise sales
May 31, 2018	3rd Grade Tour - Eight Lots School House (100+ students)
June 5, 2018	3rd Grade Walking Tour - Sutton Center, Blacksmith Shop and Putnam Museum (100+ students)
June 15, 2018	Cookout Potluck - Manchaug Baptist Church (30+ attendees)
June 26, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
July 10, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
August 10, 2018	Annual Potluck - Eight Lots School House
August 24, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
September 11, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
September 15, 2018	Town-wide Yard Sale 24 Home Locations, 5 Vendors at Blacksmith Shop
September 24, 2018	Board of Directors' meeting
October 2, 2018	Annual Meeting - election of Board of Director members
November 6, 2018	Special Presentation - Christine Watkins - Blaxton Hall, Manchaug Mills "100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, Remembering Sutton's Soldiers" (50+ attendees)
December 1, 2018	Chain of Lights Eight Lots School House Open (over 100 visitors) General Rufus Putnam Museum Open M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop Open (over 100 visitors)
December 5, 2018	Christmas Potluck - General Meeting (17 attendees) Peter Michelson elected to Board of Directors Ed Chrostowski shared his metal detecting finds from around Sutton
December 31, 2018	Last Night Cannon Firing by Cannon Club

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please note the annual membership fees are due by **March 1, 2019**. 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 our Historical Society and use the attached Membership Form in this bulletin. Our Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. We gladly accept all donations. Donations may be tax deductible. Consult your tax preparer.

Please note: if your mailing address label on the newsletter is printed in yellow, it means your 2019 annual membership fee is due.

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, 2019

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

\$15.00 Individual Fee: _____

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

Additional Donation: _____

PLEASE NOTE: if your mailing address label on this newsletter is printed in yellow, it indicates your 2019 annual membership fee is due.

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

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates and Times may be Subject to Change

February 5	7:00 PM	General Meeting	First Congregational Church
March 5	7:00 PM	Special Presentation Ross Weaver "Sutton Cemeteries and Burial Records"	First Congregational Church
April 2	7:00 PM	Special Presentation Robert Thorson UCONN, Professor of Geology Author of seven books "History of New England Fieldstone Walls"	First Congregational Church
May 7	7:00 PM	Special Presentation Peter Michelson "A Return to Collins Farm in Sutton, Discover how the 500-acre tract was Illegally sold in 1731"	First Congregational Church
June 14	6:30 PM	Annual Cookout/Potluck Supper	Manchaug Baptist Church 439 Putnam Hill Rd
June 22	12:30 PM	Museum and Town Hall Cemetery Tour in conjunction with Strawberry Festival on Town Common 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Rufus Putnam Museum
June 30	5:30 PM	Museum and Town Hall Cemetery Tour after the 4 th of July Parade	Rufus Putnam Museum
August 9	6:30 PM	Annual Potluck Supper	Eight Lots School House
September 10	7:00 PM	General Meeting	First Congregational Church
September 21	9:00 AM	Town-Wide Yard Sale	Blacksmith Shop
October 1	7:00 PM	Annual Meeting	First Congregational Church
November 5	7:00 PM	General Meeting	First Congregational Church
December 3	6:30 PM	Annual Christmas Potluck Supper and a review of 2019	First Congregational Church
December 7	TBA	Sutton Chain of Lights Tours	Eight Lots Schoolhouse Rufus Putnam Museum Blacksmith Shop
December 31	Midnight	Last Night Cannon Firing Celebration	Blacksmith Shop

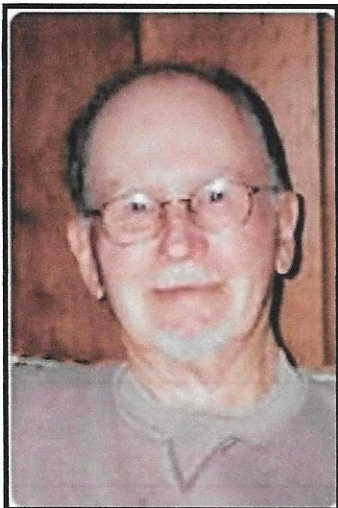
All events open to both Society members and the general public. Visit us at www.suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org or Facebook for updated meeting information. Upcoming meetings/events are listed in the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle, The Uxbridge Times, and Yankee Xpress.

SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4 UXBRIDGE ROAD
SUTTON, MA 01590

NOTE: If the mailing address label is printed in yellow, your 2019 annual membership fee is due.

Harry Anderson Indian Artifact Collection

Harry Anderson
1921-2018



A sincere appreciation to Harry Anderson for all his thoughtfulness in donating his valuable collection to the Sutton Historical Society. His collection is proudly on display at the General Rufus Putnam Museum.



Display Case on Exhibit at the General Rufus Putnam Museum