

SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

April 19, 2008, 2007 – Volume 46, No. 1
Kate Hutchinson, Editor-in-Chief
Malcolm Pearson, Editor Emeritus

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Cheryl Bonin*

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Sutton Historical Society Officers:

President: Wally Baker

Vice President: Cheryl Bonin

*Recording Secretary: Darlene
Belisle*

*Corresponding Secretary:
Chris Sinacola*

Treasurer: Ellie Hutchinson

Historian: Johanne Walker

Curator: Paul Brosnihan

Upcoming

Sutton Historical Society Programs:

May 6 – *Antique Appraisal
Night, Sutton Senior Center
with professional appraisers
from Skinner's Antiques. \$10
per item.*

May 10 – *Field Trip to
Museum of Work and Culture,
Woonsocket, RI Meet at the
church parking lot at 9:15 – If
there are enough people there
may be a stop at Wright's
Chicken Farm.*

A Message from the President

This year has already been very busy for the Sutton Historical Society. We are setting new trends in our programming and hope to attract more members to participate. We will be having an Antique appraisal night on May 6th, a concert on the Sutton Common on May 17, tours of area attractions, another Antique Show and other meetings.

The Blacksmith Shop is in dire need of a new roof and we would like to make the well usable by adding a pump. This will need to be addressed soon. If anyone has any fundraising ideas, just let us know and they will be considered.

We will be looking for many volunteers for the Antique Show in September. This is a big fundraiser for the Sutton Historical Society and loads of fun to work on, even if you can only spare a few hours. There will be plenty of jobs to go around before, during and after a show. So if you really want to show your support, please consider volunteering to help out. Contact Cheryl Bonin at 508-865-1369.

We have more copies of "The History of Sutton, Vol. I" available for sale. If you are interested, please let me know at 508-865-4135 or patwal@charter.net. There is a limited quantity, so call soon if you want to purchase one.

Wally Baker, President, Sutton Historical Society

A Message from the Editorial Staff

We will be recycling articles from the older bulletins in the next coming bulletins. If you have a particular article that you would like to see please contact Wally Baker and we will try to locate it.

As always, we welcome any submissions from all the members. It is not always easy to put together a bulletin and help from any quarter is appreciated. Photographs are also welcome.



SAMUEL WATERS TAVERN - CIRCA 1775

Written by Cheryl Bonin

The Samuel Waters Tavern located at 650 Central Turnpike in West Sutton is believed to have been constructed in the mid 1700's by Samuel Waters and his wife Prudence. Samuel, (1750-1828), was one of several Waters family members to own land in Sutton during this time period. Samuel lived what appeared to be quite an eventful and colorful life, which included operating a tavern, serving time in debtor's prison, (the result of his participation in a ill-conceived real estate investment), and serving as an Elder with the First Baptist Church of West Sutton during the latter part of his life. At the time of Samuel's death, the tavern and adjoining land was owned jointly by his two sons, Joshua and Samuel Jr. Being that the property was split between the brothers legally, it was also physically split along the east and west sides of the structure. Interestingly, the property remained divided along these lines well into the 1950's and was not only utilized as a private dwelling over the years, but also as a meeting place for a local group of Masons.

Later owners of the property included additional generations of the Waters family through the early part of the 1900's , a pair of "maiden ladies", (apparently the politically correct term for "old maids" in the mid to late 1800's), sisters named Ursula and Olive Tucker, and then two generations of the Phelps family. In fact, Lucy Phelps, local teacher and noted women's suffragist, resided in the home for the majority of her life (up until she and her brother Charles sold he property in 1956), and her signature can be found on many of the walls in the upstairs "ballroom" of the tavern. The tavern "ballroom" showcases very early and original hand painted designs on all of the walls. It is theorized that a noted painter from Connecticut, Winthrop Chandler, whose portraits of Samuel and Prudence Waters are currently kept in the collection of Bertram K. and Nina Fletcher Little at Cogswell's Grant, Essex, MA, may have also been responsible for the wonderful artistry in the "ballroom". One might surmise that Chandler, having come to West Sutton for the purpose of painting the portraits of Samuel and Prudence in the late 1700's, may very well have returned at another time and painted the ballroom in exchange for room and board as many itinerant painters of the period did to survive. Other theories promote the possibility of Samuel himself, thought to dabble with a paintbrush on occasion, may have taken upon the task of decorating the ballroom himself.

Other artifacts from the Samuel Waters Tavern have made their way to locations as far as Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, where a fireboard, originally located in the main part of the home and later purchased by Nina Fletcher-Little on one of her visits to West Sutton, is now housed at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Museum. Designed and painted for decorative purposes when the fireplace was not in use, the fireboard could also have been painted by Winthrop Chandler. Although no such attribution has been made, it is known that Chandler painted an overmantel, (a decorative wood panel located above the fireplace), for Ebenezer Waters, a cousin of Samuel's who also resided in West Sutton.

The Samuel Waters Tavern has a colorful history and if it could talk, one could only imagine the long and interesting litany of stories it would tell. Stories could be heard of not-so-secret Masonic meetings, conversations shared over a pint of rum, the rantings of two spinster sisters squabbling over how best to write their only brother out of their will, the brushstrokes of an itinerant painter in the ballroom, and the thinking-out-loud dreams of a girl seeking equality with the men in her life.

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SUTTON

WALTER BAKER

On June 24th, 2007 there was a rededication of the stained glass windows as a gift from the estate of Dorothy Henn. This bequest enabled the Church to refurbish all the windows. The process included replacing the lead, cleaning all the glass and replacing the sills, when necessary. This had not been done since their installation in the early 1890's and should ensure the proper condition of the windows for another 100 years. Judy Schindler of Texas, Mrs. Henn's daughter, was in attendance for the ceremony. The following is a brief history of the donors of the sanctuary windows.

GIFT OF SARAH A GOODNOW

Sarah A West Goodnow was the wife of Edward Augustus Goodnow who a distinguished financier and philanthropist born in Princeton. Mr. Goodnow owned a very successful wholesale and retail shoe and hat business, a cutlery manufacturing business and was also President of a major bank in Worcester. He was a benefactor of many causes, among which included building a library in Princeton, his home town, heading a subscription to fund a black regiment during the Civil War, supporting numerous colleges including being the first American to contribute for the education of women in South Africa. He was a major benefactor of Plymouth Congregational Church of Worcester. He gave away over \$250,000 in late 1880's and 1890's. This would be \$5.5 million in today's dollars.

IN MEMORY OF ALVAN WOODBURY PUTNAM AND WIFE MARY LOVELL KNIGHT

In Memory of Alvan Woodbury Putnam and wife Mary Lovell Knight. Alvan was born on Oct 18, 1824 and died on Apr 15, 1891. Mary was born in 1826 and died in 1903.

IN MEMORY OF DEACON EDWIN HAVEN HUTCHINSON AND WIFE MARY ANN FISK WATERS

Edwin Haven Hutchinson was a prominent member of the town of Sutton where he was a Selectman, deacon of First Church, and served as a Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Edwin was baptized born on Aug 22, 1821, Married to Mary Ann on Dec 12, 1844. Mary Ann was born on 12 Dec 1820.

They had a son William Horace Hutchinson, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. On June 3, 1864, during the Battle of Cold Harbor, he was with a Unit of 300 men which was down from an original total of 1050. They attacked against a fortified position that had no chance of succeeding. That morning 220 were killed, wounded or captured including William who was killed.

It is reported that there is an entry in a dairy written by Willie's father, (Deacon Edwin) with a statement that says, "Brought in hay this morning, Picked up Willie at the train station this afternoon".

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE AND LUCY HASTINGS

George Hastings was born in 1821 and Lucy Hutchenson Morse, who was born on August 22, 1818 in Sutton were married on Dec 10, 1844 in Sutton. Lucy H Morse was born on Aug 22, 1818 in Sutton. Ellen Hastings was their daughter born in Sutton on August 1, 1848.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE F WOODBURY, MD

George F Woodbury was born in Sutton on Oct 16, 1851 and died in Worcester in June 1893. He had a medical practice in Worcester. His spouse was Ellen Hastings whom he married in 1883.

IN MEMORY OF ELIJAH AND PAMELIA SIBLEY

He was born on May 25, 1820 and married Pamela Jones, born in 1819, on Nov 24, 1842. They lived in Sutton and Worcester.

IN MEMORY OF SUMNER PUTNAM AND HIS WIFE SUSAN DUDLEY WHO WERE LIBERAL DONORS TO THIS PARISH

When Sumner was about eighteen, his father Joseph, sent him to Oxford to learn to make sale shoes; after remaining there three months he returned. His father built him a little shop and told him to go in and work at his trade; he would give him his board and clothes, and he might have all he could earn. So Sumner worked early and late, putting his earnings at interest. Consequently when he died he left twenty-five thousand dollars. He was a selectman for several years. He was born on Dec 2, 1809. Susan Dudley was born on Dec 11, 1812. Married on July 1, 1840.

GIFT OF DEXTER ALONZE BRIGHAM AND FAMILY

Dexter Alonzo Brigham was a prominent and useful citizen of the town. He was a prosperous produce and dairy farmer. He served as Selectman, Overseer of the Poor and Chairman of Assessors. Mr. And Mrs. Brigham were very active in the Congregational Church

of Sutton and Mr. Brigham served as Deacon for many years, superintendent of the Sunday School and was chairman of the Finance Committee at the time of his death. He was well known for his benevolences and generosity to all worthy causes. Jim Brigham and J Dexter Brigham are Grandsons of Dexter.

IN MEMORY OF ABBIE KING RICE

Abbie King was born on April 26, 1850 and married Henry F Rice on May 2, 1876. Henry F Rice, born on Jan 29, 1844, was the husband of Abbie and father of Alice Julia Rice. He lived to be the oldest living veteran of the Civil War from Sutton. He invented and manufactured the Dobby Chain, which was an important item in the weaving of cotton fabric.

IN MEMORY OF ALICE JULIA RICE

Alice Julia Rice was born on May 14, 1884 and died of Scarlet Fever at age 17 on December 22, 1901.

IN MEMORY OF REV SAMUEL MELLON WHITING, MISSIONARY TO INDIA (1850-1961)

Rev. Whiting was born on June 25, 1825 and graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, in 1846 and from the Newton Theological Seminary in 1850. He was ordained on May 8, 1850, in the First Baptist Church, Hartford, and was married the next day to Miss Mary Elizabeth Flint of that city. In June following, they sailed from Boston for Assam, India, as missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and arrived at Gowahati, Assam, in April, 1851.

His missionary service in India covers a period of a little over ten years, a decade rendered remarkable in the history of our missions by the enlargement of missionary operations, and the triumphs of the cross over the powers of heathenism. Mr. Whiting was qualified by natural endowments, culture, learning, piety and zeal, to enter into, and help forward this aggressive work. He translated large portions of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Assamese, a work which reflects great credit upon his accurate scholarship. He was successful as pastor and preacher, as teacher and translator, as editor and financier, proving himself equal to all these high trusts. For four years he took charge of the printing establishment, and for two years he had the whole charge of the mission at Sibsagor.

He did great work for Assam, and left behind him there a name and an influence that will live in all coming time. He returned to this country on account Mrs. Whiting's health in 1861, and entered at once into earnest work for the Master.

For seven years he was the esteemed and successful pastor of the church in Colchester, Vermont. While there he performed a large amount of varied and useful work in the New Hampshire Institution at Fairfax, and in the various religious organizations of the state; showing in these spheres the same versatility of talent, mature wisdom, and executive ability which had characterized his services in India. He was a very highly esteemed in ministerial circles beyond the Baptist denomination, and was pronounced by the best judges in Vermont the foremost Hebrew scholar in the state. He was as modest and unassuming as he was profound in classical scholarship. He was as true in principle and unswerving in integrity.

For four years he was the honored pastor of the ancient and venerable church in Windsor, Vermont, a worthy successor of the devoted and able Elijah Hutchinson of blessed memory. From Windsor he was called to Fair Haven, Connecticut, where the crowning work of his pastoral life was accomplished. The church there owes to him, under God, almost its very

existence. He found them without a house of worship, few and feeble, worshipping in a hall over King's Hotel. While looking faithfully after the spiritual interests of the church were also greatly built up under his ministry, and the church stands today as a monument of his fidelity and ability. In the midst of these abundant labors his health gave way, and he was forced to resign all connection with this cherished work and retire from the active ministry of the Word. Since then he has lived in New Haven, an invalid in steadily failing health. He died Feb 21, 1878.

(From the Watchman and Reflector. –A Baptist Weekly)

IN MEMORY OF MARY TUCKER WHITING, ABIGAIL WHITING, ABBY WHITING HARVEY

Mary Tucker Whiting was a sister to Samuel Whiting b. May 29 1835 d. Oct 14 1836. Abby Whiting was a sister to Samuel Whiting b. 6 Aug 1827, Married Edwin B Harvey on Sep 16, 1844.

JESUS IN THE HOME OF MARY AND MARTHA
.GIFT OF THE LADIES SOCIAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY DEC 1913.
The Mary and Martha Window is located to the right of the pulpit.

THE PLOWMAN WINDOW

The window reads: I will lift up my eyes until the hills from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth
The plaque underneath reads: In tribute to the ministry of this church unto six generations of the Lombard family. Edwin Baker Lombard Patricia Lombard 1944

The plaque to the left of the window reads:

The Plowman

Beside the furrowed fields, the days work done,
he stands while from the flaming sky, beyond the
hills, the sunset lights the sphere with gold
The spire to which since infant years his eyes have
looked in reverent awe. Look up and live!
The horses, weary with their toil, see naught.
Above the grass on which they feed, and dream
Of naught, unless it be a crib well filled.

UPCOMING SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

May 6, 2008, Antiques Appraisal Night with Stuart Whitehurst from Skinner Auctioneers, Sutton Senior Center, Hough Road 7:00 PM. \$10 per item appraisal (includes a raffle ticket). Cheryl Bonin, 508-865-1329 **LIMITED TO 50 APPRAISALS!** – The doors will open @ 6:15 to begin assigning numbers. Refreshments will be served. There will be a \$5 fee for those who would like to observe the appraisals Please do not bring stamps, coins, jewelry or musical instruments.

May 10, 2008 – Field Trip to the Museum of Work and Culture, Woonsocket, RI. Assemble at the church parking lot on the common at 9:15. If there are enough people, a side trip to Wright's Chicken Farm will be arranged. Call Wally Baker -508-865-4135

June 3, 2008 – Show and tell/ Pot luck supper Eight Lots School House, 6:00 PM Wally Baker 508-865-4135

July 1, 2008 - BOD meeting only, all members welcome. Wally Bakers house, 4C Herbert Drive, Sutton, MA - 508-865-4135

August 5, 2008 - Pot Luck Supper, John Sinacola, beekeeper, Eight Lots schoolhouse, 6:00 PM

September 20, 2008 – Sutton Historical Society Antique Show, Sutton Common. 10 to 4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Cheryl Bonin 508-865-1329

October 11, 2008 – Gravestone Girls, rubbing and history in Sutton Center Burial Ground, 508-865-3010 (This is a Revised Date – Meet at 2:00 PM in Sutton Center.)

November 11, 2008 – BOD meeting only, all members welcome, Polly's Antiques, Sutton Center, 7:30 PM

December 2, 2008 – Annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner/Yankee Swap. Cheryl Bonin, 650 Central Turnpike, Sutton, 508-865-3129

Tired of having the same people appear on this bulletin as hosts? Have great ideas? Want to give some time to the Historical Society? Have special talents? VOLUNTEER!

IN MEMORIAM

We would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Preston Piper who passed away in March. The family has graciously requested that donations in his memory be made to the Sutton Historical Society.

RETURN TO:

Sutton Historical Society
4 Uxbridge Road,
Sutton, MA 01590

