

# Sutton Historical Society Bulletin



March 2005 - Volume 43, No. 1  
Kate Hutchinson, Senior Editor  
Malcolm Pearson, Editor Emeritus

## In This Issue:

*Sutton Historical  
Society Bulletin Turns  
30*

*Message from the  
President*

## Sutton Historical Society Officers:

*President: Wally Baker  
Vice President: [Open]  
Secretary: Chris Sinacola  
Treasurer: Ellie Hutchinson  
Historian: Carolyn Amaral  
Curator: Paul Brosnihan*

## Sutton Historical Society Board of Directors:

*Paul Brosnihan  
Keith Downer  
Steve LeClaire  
Malcolm Pearson  
Ruth Putnam  
Chris Sinacola  
Gregory Wolodkin*

## Looking Back Thirty Years

*A sampling of the Bulletin's first issues*

*Kate Hutchinson*

In 1975, the Sutton Historical Society created the Sutton Historical Society Bulletin to share "formal papers, written memories, [and] old photographs and letters" with the Sutton community. Founded by Arthur K. Pope, who also served as Editor, assisted by Carilyn Philbrook, the earliest issues were typed "by the students of Sutton High School, to which we are grateful." The following article is excerpted from Volume 1, Number 2, March 1975.

## How Sutton Celebrated Our Nation's Centennial

*Arthur K. Pope*

The town of Sutton presently has a hard working committee appointed by the Selectmen working on a Bicentennial celebration which will include among other things a parade, casting of a medallion, and a play of lasting and national historical significance based on the diary of Dr. David Hall. This committee is made up of the following persons: Mr. Walter Shaw, Chairman; Rev. Arthur K. Pope, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Betty LeClaire, Secretary; Mr. James Healy, Mr. Adelard Renaud, Mrs. Alice Riley, Mrs. Louise Helgerson, Mrs. Eunice King, Mr. Malcolm Pearson.

As this committee carries on its work it is most interesting to look into the annals of Sutton and read a notation made for July 4, 1876 to see how Sutton commemorated that great day 100 years ago.

"There was, upon July 4th, a large and enthusiastic gathering of the citizens of the town in the grove a little east of the house of Mr. F. H. Marble.

"A procession of Sunday-school children and citizens was formed at the Congregational church, under the direction of Messrs. Edmund J. Mills, Amos Batcheller, H. S. Stockwell, and Charles H. Chase, marshals; and, escorted by the Oxford brass band, marched to the grove, where appropriate services were held under the director of E. J. Mills, president of the day. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. A. Benedict, the Declaration of Independence read by Miss Hattie A. Holbrook,

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Sutton Artillery Celebrates "Last Night"

A few seconds before midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004, the silence in Sutton Center was shattered when Old Ben, Sutton's 6 pound Civil War cannon was fired to signal the end of Sutton's year-long tercentennial celebration. Over the next 15 minutes, four more shots were fired sending 30-foot flames from the gun's muzzle to the delight of the 60 spectators. The display was dubbed "Last Night" both because it was the last night of Sutton 300 and to spoof the rest of the world which was celebrating "First Night."

The Sutton Artillery is the part of the Sutton Historical Society which is charged with the care and operation of Old Ben. On this evening the crew consisted of Privates Steve LeClaire, Tom Haynes, Ellie Hutchinson, Steve Colonies, Powder Monkey Pete Emerick and the Gun Captain was Carl Hutchinson. Additionally, three people were made temporary crewmembers and had the opportunity to pull the lanyard to fire Ben. Town Administrator, Patricia Nedoroscik, fired the third round. Joseph Barbato, President of the Millbury Credit Union, fired the fourth round. And Chris Sinicola, reporter for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette and member of the Board of Directors of the SHS ended the display when he fired the fifth round.

Though the evening was unseasonably mild, the Historical Society provided a fire and served several gallons of mulled cider. Reaction to the evening was quite positive so look for us to do it again this year.

*Contributed by Carl Hutchinson*

## A Message From the President

*Wally Baker*

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Yew Year and are looking forward to an interesting year for the Sutton Historical Society. There are several areas to be covered in this Bulletin.

### GOALS

1. Provide programs of interest to the members and their guests. The program committee consisting of Keith Downer, Chris Sinicola and Greg Wolodkin has come up with an exciting and varied programs for the remainder of 2005. Thanks to them and a special thanks to Ellie Hutchinson for their work on this. If there are topics of historical interest or historical sites in New England that you would like to visit, please mention them to a member of the committee and they will try to accommodate you.
2. Open the Rufus Putnam Museum on a regular basis--several hours a month. In order to accomplish this, we will need volunteers. If you are available, please contact Wally Baker at 508-865-4135 or [patwal@charter.net](mailto:patwal@charter.net). It is important to expand the reach of Society that we become more available to the community at large. The Blacksmith Shop does a great job in this thanks to Fran Donnelly and Steve Colonies.
3. Conduct a review of what, if anything, needs to be done to preserve the integrity of the three buildings owned by the Society. Eight Lots School, the Blacksmith Shop, and the Manchaug Baptist Church.
4. Investigate the possibility of getting a catalogue of items the Society owns onto a computer. This would greatly assist the Curator in finding items and articles as they are requested by members and guests.

### THANKS

We would like to give thanks to Janice Swindell for all her efforts and hard work over the last several years as President of the Sutton Historical Society. Johanne Walker has resigned as Secretary of the Society. and we thank her for her dedication and wish her well as she pursues other endeavors. A special thanks to the many volunteers who spend hours working on events and buildings through out 2004. Without the dedication of these individuals, the Society would not be where it is today.

(Continued from page 1)

and patriotic speeches were made by Rev. H. A. Tracy, Messrs. I. B. Hartwell, Rueben R. Dodge, J. E. Stockwell, and Rev. W. A. Benedict.

“Old time and modern songs were sung, and stirring music was given by the band. As the day wore on to its close, the crowd slowly dispersed, some, at least, praying that they who shall upon the same ground celebrate the nation’s bicentennial, may look upon our flag studded with many new stars, still proudly waving over an undivided people, who have maintained their civil and religious institution in their integrity, strengthened by their government by the promotion of virtue and intelligence, and made as rapid progress in the second as in the first century of the nation’s life, in all that constitutes true national greatness.”

Suggestions and submissions for the *Bulletin* are accepted by mail and email:

Kate Hutchinson  
29 Princeton St. #1  
Boston, MA 02128  
[stkellen@verizon.net](mailto:stkellen@verizon.net)

Sutton Historical Society  
4 Uxbridge Road.  
Sutton, MA 01590



From Vol. 10, No. 1 (Jan. 1984) issue on Stone School. Above, 1898 drawing of Stone School by ten year old student Ernestine Bates. Below, a photo of Stone School, circa early 1900's

