

THE SUTTONS
of
FROG POINT PLACE

Alma Lou Spivey Sutton

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THE SUTTONS

Sutton is one of those names that was acquired through the location of the family in its early history. It is from the Anglo-Saxon words sudh meaning "south" and tun meaning "town". Therefore, the name designated "the family of Southtown".

The families of Sutton and Dudley, whose histories are inextricably mingled by inter-marriage and relationship, are ancient ones in England, dating before the eleventh century.

In 1251, in the reign of Henry III, Rowland de Sutton married a daughter of the noted family of Lexington. John de Sutton was Lord of Malpas and Shocklech in 1329. There is record of many lands being given to John, son of Richard de Sutton, by Edward III. Isabella de Sutton, after the death of her husband, Sir John de Sutton, in 1359, married Sir Richard de Dudley. Upon her death the estates of the combined families were inherited by her grandson, John Sutton. Among these estates was the famous Dudley Castle.

Other branches of the family were held in high esteem by the people of Holderness in the Province of York, and in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The family played a large part in the history of the British Isles.

The Center of the Sutton in New England was New Jersey in that section then known as East Jersey, although descendants of the family have scattered throughout the United States.

The first of the Suttons of whom we have record was William, who came to Massachusetts in 1666, but it is believed by many authorities that he was of the second generation of the family to come to the colonies. He was a Quaker and held many large

tracts of land. His children were Alice, Thomas, John, Judah, Richard, Joseph, (who died in early youth), Benjamin, Daniel, and Joseph. Many of these children of William Sutton settled in New Jersey. It is generally supposed that William had one or more brothers with him when he emigrated to "The New World", but the family was of such an adventurous disposition that its members seldom stayed in any one location long enough to be on record. Traces of the Suttons are to be found in the histories of every frontier in America.

Among the many members of the family to serve in the Revolutionary War were Jonathan and Uriah, brothers, who held commissions as captains. There were more than twenty-five Suttons from New Jersey, and many more from Massachusetts.

A few of those who have distinguished the name of Sutton through the years are: Charles Manners Sutton, Bishop of Norwich in 1792 and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1805; his son, Sir Charles Manners Sutton, member of Parliament for the University of Cambridge and Speaker of the House of Commons for many years; and Sir Richard Sutton, Under-Secretary of State and Land of the Treasury, created Baronet in 1772.

The most favored Christian names of the early Suttons in America were Joseph, John, Daniel, and Thomas.

There are two coats of arms which belong to the families from which the American Suttons are descended. The first, that of the Sutton Dudleys, is "or, two Lion's passant, bordure engrailed azure. Crest: out of a ciscount's Coronet or, pearled argent, a lion's head azure, collared gold". The motto is "Fide et Fortitudine" (Faith and Strength). Hardy Sutton's descendants belong

to the Sutton Dudleys. The second coat of arms is of the Suttons of Nottingham which is quarterly, 1st and 4th argent, a Canton sa., for Sutton; 2nd and 3rd argent, a cross fleury azure for Lexington . Crest: a wolf's head, erased gu, motto: Tout Jours Prest (Ready everyday).

The Suttons were a courageous and adventurous family. They have held high positions both in England and America. Their outstanding characteristics were strength of character, bravery, wisdom, faith in God, and tenacity of purpose. The heritage of the name of Sutton is in itself an honor and a title.

In 1776, our state of North Carolina chose its first officers and James Glasgow was elected secretary. It was part of the secretary's job to make out grants of land. Some say that Bucklesberry was a grant of state land.

John Sutton was said to be the first one in the area called Bucklesberry in Lenoir County. He came from Ireland in 1770. He owned all the land from Falling Creek to Bear Creek and from the Neuse River to where the railroad is now. The land was very swampy and trees grew everywhere. Ditches were dug to drain the land. John had several hundred slaves and a foreman to oversee them. John was the first to build a house. In front of his house there was a small house in which the foreman lived. John, his wife Elizabeth, and several of their children were buried in the cemetery in front of the house. There is no record of their birth or death. There is a cemetery in the back of the house where slaves were buried. It is still there where the cedar trees are

now. This house is over two hundred years old and is owned and occupied by Mrs. Swannie Nell Barwick today.

Copied from The Suttons of Bucklesberry 1973

BENJAMIN SUTTON

1775-1815

Benjamin Sutton was the father of Hardy Sutton. There is much speculation about his history. He is buried in the Herman Sutton cemetery. Herman was a grandson of Hardy. According to a deed for land made to Benjamin from Moses Westbrook and wife, Persis Young Westbrook, in 1791, Benjamin was the son of John Sutton. We do not know which John Sutton this was or if he was the one mentioned earlier. The Suttons of Bucklesberry says that Benjamin married "Pency Young". Persis was the daughter of Charles Young. We think that when research was done for The Suttons of Bucklesberry a mistake could have been made in reading this deed. The deed was for land north of the Neuse River to the lower end of Bear Creek. Benjamin paid thirty shillings for the proper conveyance of this land to him. Charles Young had sold the land to William Waddle who, in turn, conveyed it to John Sutton. John Sutton left this land in his will to his son Benjamin. Charles Young died before the deed of conveyance could be processed, John Sutton had died also. From receipts and other papers in the possession of Clellan Sutton, we find that Benjamin had a brother named William. We also

find that in 1794 Benjamin acquired a state grant of land for 390 acres of land in Bucklesberry and paid thirty shillings for every hundred acres. When more information can be found about Benjamin, it will be recorded.

correct

CHILDREN of HARDY and ANNIE HILL SUTTON
1803-1861 1807-1881

1. T. Hardy Sutton 1822-1895 There is no record in Hardy Sutton's will or Bible of this son.
2. Nancy Sutton 1825-1896 married Josiah Wooten born 1818 and died 1881. They had a daughter, Winifred born 1846 and died 1928.
3. Thomas Sutton 1826- 1894 Had no children. Married Julia A. Moore. Left one farm to H. Fannie Sutton, daughter of B.F. Sutton. Julia A. Moore was born 1830 and died 1888.
4. Elizabeth Sutton 1827. no record of death. married Tommy Wood.
5. Martha "Patsy" Sutton 1829- 1922. married Major Parks. They had three children. In 1855 she married Joel Elmore. He was born 1831 and died 1919.
6. William Harmon Sutton 1832 no record.
7. Richard Sutton 1833-1856 unmarried. no record.
8. Lemuel Hardy Sutton 1835 Sold his land and went to Currituck County.
9. Benjamin Franklin Sutton 1838- 1897 Discussed separately.
10. John Aldredge Sutton 1840- 1915 married Martha "Patsy" Sutton, daughter of Josiah Sr. and Nancy Hill Sutton. Martha was born 1840 and died 1914.
11. Sarah "Sallie" Hardy Sutton 1841
12. Louiza Sutton 1845-1861
13. Junius Eli Sutton 1847-1931 *- Mrs. Ruth*
14. Julius Eri Sutton 1847-1925 twin of Junius, married Nanseatta Sutton. *John*
15. Christiana Sutton 1850-1939 married Ben Hardy Sutton

THE FAMILY of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SUTTON

Benjamin Franklin Sutton was the ninth child of Hardy and Annie Hill Sutton. His farm, known as Frog Point Place, consisted of about 300 acres. It is about one-half mile north of Hardy Bridge on Highway 1152. The first bridge which spanned the Neuse River at this farm was a drawbridge. It was probably located very near the place known as The Marl Hole. Boats carrying fertilizer and other products would stop to leave these products and Benjamin Franklin would have to go to the bridge and open it. The second one, also a drawbridge, was built about 100 yards west of the present bridge, Hardy Bridge. Highway 1152 was paved in 1950 and in 1954 Hardy Bridge replaced this second drawbridge.

Benjamin Franklin served for a short time in the Confederate Army, but hired a Mr. Dawson as his replacement when he had to come home to settle the estate of his father who died in 1861. He was married four times. The first wife was Henrietta Rouse, daughter of Wiley and Frances Ann Jones Rouse of Strabane. She was born March 21, 1846 and Benjamin Franklin was born Sept. 17, 1838. They were married Dec. 6, 1865. Henrietta died Oct. 14, 1878 and had no children. In Dec., 1878, Benjamin Franklin married Laura Rouse, sister of Henrietta. Laura was born March 14, 1858 (Bible record differs from tombstone). They had two children, Henrietta Frances, born Oct. 12, 1879 and Henry Hervie, born Feb. 28, 1881. He died Sept. 11, 1881. Laura died July 17, 1881.

Benjamin Franklin then married Elsa Ann Herring who was born Sept. 1, 1853 and died July 24, 1886. They had two children, John Hardy who was born Dec. 28, 1882 and died July 6, 1967. John married Amy Graham and they had four children. They are Elsie G., Ruth who married Bill Stanley, Rachel, and John., Jr. The second child of Benjamin Franklin and Elsa Ann was Anna, or Annie L., who was born Dec. 28, 1884. She married Mr. Ben Casey and they lived in Wayne County. She died in the 1930's. In 1888, Benjamin Franklin married Mary Frances Dixon of Ayden, N.C. She was born April 26, 1864. Their children were Gladys Dixon, born March 7, 1889 and died Aug. 24, 1977. She married Al Mangam sometime in the 1940's and they moved to St. Petersburg, Fla. After his death, she lived at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro, N.C. until her death. She had no children. The second child was Clifton Rinehart, born June 24, 1891, who will be discussed later. The third child was Hadley Jackson, born Feb. 12, 1895 and died April, 1962. He married Ruby Jones and they lived in Salisbury, N.C. where he worked for Southern Railway Co. They had no children. When Jack retired, he acquired a bell from a steam engine train and gave it to Hickory Grove Methodist Church in memory of his mother.

Mary Frances Dixon Sutton was called Fannie. Two of her sisters lived with her for a while when they taught school in Seven Springs. Clifton went to school there for a short time. They stayed at school Monday through Friday. It must have been like a boarding school. Clifton told how he looked forward to Friday and how he hated for Sunday afternoon to come, because he would have to

return to school. He enjoyed telling of an incident when he and a classmate took another boy "snipe hunting". The boy became lost so Clifton and his classmate went back to school and to bed. The next day someone found the victim of the "snipe hunt" wandering around several miles away and brought him back. The boy was disoriented and about half-crazy. Clifton and the other boy never told of their part in this episode. Another thing that Clifton remembered of these years was that his mother and her sisters would sit on the porch talking. His mother would tell her sisters-- "If you can't say anything good about a person, say that he or she is healthy." Clifton also remembered that their house was always a place for travelers to stop for the night. Many times his mother would get up before daybreak to kill and cook chickens for the overnight guests. Once they were going to see relatives in Clinton, N.C. and they stopped to get water at a farmhouse. Fannie had missed a hen from her flock weeks before. She recognized her hen among the farmer's flock. The farmer told her that this hen just "appeared" one day. She took her hen and they went on their way. Clifton wondered how she knew that this was her hen.

The water supply came from open wells and Clifton thought that might have been a reason for the death of the first wives of his father. We don't know the cause of their death. In later years an artesian well was drilled at the home. The day that his father died, Clifton had been sent to get water from a spring and when he got back, he said he heard Mr. Josh Sutton say, "Fannie, he's gone." Benjamin Franklin died on Nov. 17, 1897 from Hodgkin's Disease.

He was a Mason and an outstanding man in his community. John Hardy said that he could remember his father holding court in one of the pack houses. He was probably a magistrate judge. In the 1940's Carl Goerch wrote an article about him for The State Magazine. He called him "The Bluebeard of the South" because he had four wives. Benjamin Franklin and the wives are buried in the family cemetery at the homeplace.

After Benjamin Franklin died, Fannie married G.W.Wynne in 1899. Mr. Wynne was a widower who had skin cancer. He came to this area to be treated by Dr. Ivey from Seven Springs. When he came for his visits to Dr. Ivey, he stayed at the Sutton home. Sometime after he and Fannie were married, they moved to La Grange so the children could go to school there. Fannie and Mr. Wynne had two children: George Bennett born May 20, 1902 and Mildred Lucile born Feb. 17, 1905. While in La Grange they lived in a house which was across the railroad from the present Wachovia Bank. The house was later moved to East Railroad St. The family was concerned about college education for the children so when they learned that a Methodist college was to be built near Greensboro, they moved there. The college, however, was built in High Point. Sis Fan received her diploma from the University of Maryland and went to Greensboro to teach in the public schools.

In 1910 Fannie died from cancer and her body was returned to the homeplace for burial beside Benjamin Franklin. After her funeral, Mr. Wynne went to La Grange to board the train for Greensboro. He died on the platform there, so George Bennett and Lucile Wynne were

left without parents. Sis Fan and Clifton undertook the task of rearing them. It is said that Sis Fan adopted them. George Bennett graduated from U.N.C. Chapel Hill (Phi Beta Kappa) in civil engineering. He married Claire and they had two sons. George Tyler was an officer in the Army Air Force and died in 1971 in an automobile accident. Billy is a dentist in Raleigh. After George Bennett retired, he taught for several years at Holden Technical Institute. He wrote two textbooks and used them in his teaching. He and Claire live in Raleigh. Not much is known about Lucile Wynne except that she married Jack Broyles and is living in Texas or Florida. Sis Fan (known as Aunt Pan to Clifton's children) continued teaching until she married a widower named Mills. They lived in Alabama and Maryland. She died about 1940 and is buried in Maryland. She had no children.

When Clifton was in school in Greensboro, one of his classmates was Mary Lucile Pickard, daughter of Thomas Murchison Pickard and Emily Lee Pickett. She was born March 26, 1895. Clifton and Lucile were married Sept. 20, 1914. He gave her an engagement ring at a party at her house and he liked to tell of the occasion. He remembered how pretty she looked in a pink dress. Lucile and Clifton had seven children. He worked in a bank and later had an automobile agency. He went into the construction business and his company dug the foundations for several large buildings in Greensboro. He stayed in this business until the depression of 1929. When he lost this business, he worked as a car salesman. Lucile's mother died in 1930 and after the estate was settled, Lucile, Clifton,

and their children moved into the Pickard house. Finally in 1939, they and the four younger children moved to the farm to live in the house in which Clifton was born. Mary Frances and Emily were married and Jean had a job in Greensboro. Clifton, Jr.(Nubby), William P.(Billy), Helen Dixon, and Anne came to the farm.

When Clifton's family first moved to Greensboro, Mr. Ben Herring lived on the farm as a tenant. He moved into the homeplace. During his tenancy, Clifton bought a boat which he named "The Lucile". He had apple, peach, and pecan trees planted. A cider house was built and he bought a cider press. Nubby is restoring the cider press. We don't know what happened to the boat, but Mr. Herring took the Captain's chair from it and put it on the back porch of the house so that he could sit and watch people traveling on the road. Mr. Herring bought a farm a few miles away and moved. His brother in-law, Jess Dawson, moved in as a tenant. While the Dawsons lived there, wild cherry trees were allowed to grow within a few feet of the house. Once, when they were pruning the apple trees and burning the dead limbs, the fire destroyed the orchard. One of the Dawson boys tried to commit suicide and shot a hole in a bedroom wall instead. Things looked very bleak and dreary to Clifton's family when they arrived. When the Dawsons left, they did not leave any firewood. It was an old rule that when a tenant left a farm, he provided a certain amount of firewood for the next family. It was the middle of January and very cold with a deep snow. There was no electricity nor indoor plumbing. The water supply was from an artesian well overflow pipe.

The first thing they had to do was to get firewood for heating the house. They also had to get enough wood for curing tobacco for that year. They used axes and a crosscut saw to fell the trees. Nubby was seventeen and Billy was fourteen. A Negro man, "Uncle" John Jones, lived on the farm and he taught Nubby to plow the fields with a mule. They bought their first tractor in 1940 or 1941 and it is still in use today as a mower, but "old Fireball" as it is called, has been a faithful machine. The Rural Electrification Administration was trying to get power lines into the rural areas and Nubby and Billy cut a right-of-way for them to bring the lines to the farm, but it was Dec. 19, 1947 when they got electricity. In 1950, when the road was paved, the stables and pack houses were moved to the rear of the house.

Tobacco was, and is today, the main crop. They used mule-drawn tobacco trucks to harvest the tobacco. Men broke the leaves from the stalks (called cropping) and put them into the truck. Mules took the trucks of tobacco to the barn where workers attached bundles of leaves to a stick with twine. This was called looping. The sticks of tobacco were hung in the barn and flue-cured. Log barns were on the farm at this time, but were gradually replaced by barns made of rough lumber and covered with roofing paper. Wood burning barns were soon converted into oil or gas burning ones. In 1957 a tobacco harvester was bought and its use made the task much easier. Bulk barns were bought in 1974.

THE CHILDREN of CLIFTON and LUCILE SUTTON

Mary Frances was born April 11, 1916. She married Joseph T. Carruthers, Jr. in June, 1936. They had four children.

Carol Sutton, born March 7, 1950

Joseph T. III, born Aug. 31, 1952

Ruth Anne, born July 3, 1954 and died ¹⁶April 15, 1975

Thomas Dixon, born May 14, 1960

Emily Lucile was born Nov. 19, 1917. She married William Vance Kester, Jr. of High Point June 15, 1938. They had four children.

William Vance III born Nov. 5, 1939

Thomas Sutton born Aug. 24, 1942

Gene Clifton born Aug. 30, 1944

Robert Lee born Jan. 29, 1947

Jean Carol was born July 27, 1919. She married Harvey Newton Varner, Jr. of Greensboro in 1944. They had two children.

Patsy Jean born Oct. 4, 1946

Harvey Newton, III born April 1, 1950

Clifton Rinehart, Jr. was born Dec. 8, 1921. He married Alma Lou Spivey of Elizabethtown, N.C. Aug. 18, 1946. They had three children

Mary Lucile born Mar. 23, 1948

Clara Lynnelle born Sept. 5, 1952

Susan Rinehart born Aug. 12, 1955

William Pickard was born Aug. 30, 1924. He married Frances Louise Burke April 10, 1948. They had two children.

Patricia Ann born Oct. 13, 1952

Brenda Glenn born April 2, 1957

Helen Dixon was born Jan. 29, 1927. She married James W. Stanton of La Grange in May, 1946. They had six children.

James Jr. born Sept. 13, 1947

Helen Lee born Nov. 8, 1951.

Elizabeth "Libby" born March 28, 1953.

Michael born Dec. 2, 1954.

Katherine born March 13, 1957.

Scott born Feb. 2, 1963.

Elsie Anne was born April 26, 1930. She married Worth H. Hester in Dec. 1953. They had three children.

Elizabeth Anne born March 23, 1955.

Henry Clifton born Sept. 19, 1956.

Emily Jean born June 2, 1958.

Mary Frances died May 3, 1980 from cancer. Jean died Sept. 18, 1976 from leukemia. Anne died Aug. 21, 1958 from encephalitis.

Emily Jean was two months old when Anne died and Clifton and Lucile brought her home with them. They kept her until Worth remarried in 1961. Emily Jean returned to visit during summer vacation until she was in college.

Lucile broke an arm in February of 1976 and she was in and out of the hospital for months after, suffering from high blood pressure and other complications. She died October 25, 1976. Clifton continued living alone at the homeplace until his death April 21, 1980. Clifton and Lucile were married for sixty-two years. They were prominent members of the La Grange and Bucklesberry communities. Clifton served on the La Grange school board for twenty years as chairman. He was a Mason for over sixty years. They had twenty-four grandchildren. When Lucile

died, there were seventeen great grandchildren and at this time, 1982, there are twenty-four. The grandchildren loved Clifton and Lucile and enjoyed visiting them. Nubby's and Billy's children have been especially fortunate in being able to visit their grandparents every day. Nothing was ever more fun than going to see them and playing upstairs. Lucile made the best cookies and all children know that grandmothers are the best cooks. Lucile and Clifton are missed by everyone. Lucile was truly a gracious lady.

BITS and PIECES about Nubby's and BILLY'S FAMILIES

After the J.N.Sutton farm was bought in 1952, Nubby remodeled the homeplace there and he and his family moved into it in 1953. This house was originally built in the 1880's. In 1978 Nubby gave a tract of land to Mary Lucile, the oldest child, and her husband, Freddy Beaman. They built a house and are living there with their two children, Freddy, Jr. and Sharon. Lynne and her husband, Carl Smith, live in Raleigh. Susan lives on the farm in a mobile home and works as a nurse at Caswell Center and La Grange Clinic. Alma Lou retired from teaching in 1976.

Billy and Frances built their house across the highway from the homeplace. Their first daughter, Pat, is married to Serge Beaulieu and they live in Cockeysville, Md. Brenda, the second daughter, is married to Luby Measley and they live a few miles from La Grange. Frances retired from her job at Wachovia Bank in June, 1981.

Alma Lou Sutton January, 1982

POSTSCRIPT

When Sis Fan's mother, Laura, died, Sis Fan went to live with her father's brother. (Uncle Thomas and Aunt Julia) They did not have any children. Thomas and Julia also reared another child, but this child's identity is unknown to us. It is not known how long Sis Fan lived with them. When Thomas died in 1894, he left his property to Sis Fan and the other child. Sis Fan received the farm where D & E Milling Co. is today. She also received the land which is now the Woodrow Sutton farm. Thomas' house is still standing today near D & E Milling Co. When Sis Fan's stepson, Joseph Mills, was in college in 1927, he fell out of a third story window and broke his back. Sis Fan sold this property in order to pay hospital bills. In 1931 Sis Fan wrote from Birmingham, Ala. to her mother's sister, Mrs. Myrtilla Elmore. The following is quoted from that letter: "He lived 11 months___in a hospital in Baltimore for 8 months and then we brought him home. We could only keep him 10 days as he got so much worse, so he was in the hospital here for 3 months. ___Joseph's sickness and death left us without any balance except debts. He had to have 2 special nurses a day for 8 months."

John Hardy and Annie Laurie's mother, Elsie Ann Herring Sutton, died in 1886. They went to live with their mother's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Herring. Later they lived with their guardian, Mr. J.M.Wood.

When B.F.Sutton's first wife, Henrietta, died, she left her property to him in trust for his use during his life and after his death to any children he might leave surviving him. B.F.Sutton,in

his will, left Frog Point Place to Mary Frances Dixon Sutton and their children. In 1899 a Partition Proceeding was begun in Superior Court of Lenoir County to divide the lands of Henrietta's will among the 6 surviving children of B.F.Sutton. Sis Fan, Clifton, Gladys, and Jack were given Frog Point Place and John Hardy and Annie L. received the tract on the south side of the Neuse River. This was concluded Jan. 1903. In 1916 Sis Fan, Gladys, and Jack deeded their part of Frog Point Place to Clifton.

We do not know how Frog Point Place got its name, but after a rain on a summer's evening when thousands of frogs croak their chorus to the night, we know that it is appropriately named.