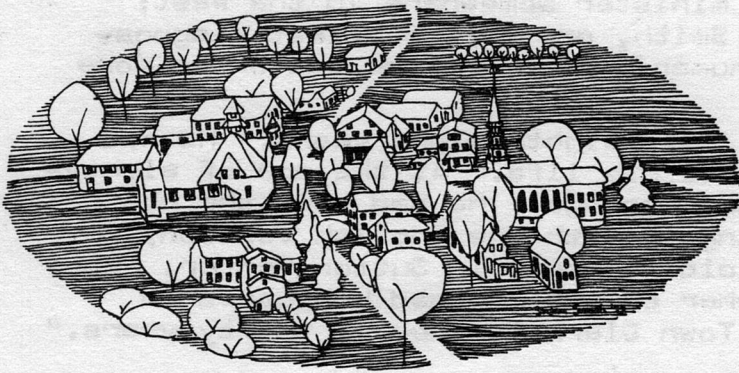


THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS



— BULLETIN —

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APRIL 1979

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IN TRIBUTE TO . . .

"Master" JOSEPH HALL

By ALICE RILEY

Joseph Hall, known as Master Hall, was born in Sutton, Sept. 4, 1751, the son of Rev. David and Elizabeth [Prescott] Hall. Presumably, he was born in Mills house, facing the town common, the house his father, Rev. David, is said to have built.

Under his father's tutelage Joseph acquired a sound academic training at an early age. His chief delight and concern was a mastery of the Learned Languages. At the age of fourteen he began tutoring young men of Sutton in the rudiments of grammar as well as initiating them into the intricacies of translating, reading and orating Latin, and occasionally Greek. His diary, written at this period of his life, tells little of his personal life or of his family but seems to be the reflections of a much older and more mature person. His diary does tell of a personal affliction which disturbed him for a long time.

The disturbing and painful affliction was a blister on his heel which had become ulcerated and refused to heal. Young Joseph devotes many lines of his diary to the many and varied remedies provided him by the goodwives of Sutton. "But", he says, "to no avail. I scarce can hobble to my chair."

But Master Joseph survived the blistering heel and the rigors of a ministerial background and at the age of eighteen entered Harvard College, receiving his A.B. degree in 1774. Although fitted for the ministry he chose to return to Sutton to work the acres of his somewhat extensive farmlands, to teach school in the small schoolhouse on the common or to give private instruction in the big house where he was born. He became town clerk of Sutton and continued in this office for nearly thirty years. Farming was his primary concern and his hours of teaching had to lend themselves to the time he could spare from seed time and harvest. He was a thrifty farmer, an excellent teacher and a meticulously careful town clerk.

Tuition for the instruction of young men of Sutton was paid for by the town, but Master Hall often had one or more young men from out of town living in the home while receiving their preparation for entering Harvard. These pupils were paid for by their fathers. Dr. Bond of Norwich, Connecticut, who fitted for college under the instruction of Joseph Hall, speaks of the excellence of the training and guidance of the young men of Sutton who were in Master Hall's care.

cont'd - p 2

Joseph Hall married Chloe Grosvenor of Pomfret, Conn., in 1785. Five children were born of this marriage: [1] John Hancock, a jeweler in the north part of Worcester County; [2] Joseph, surgeon and physician, also a judge of probate in Tennessee; [3] David, a physician, removed to Cornish, New Hampshire; [4] Lemuel, graduated at Brown University and was a Congregational minister somewhere in the West; [5] Lucy C., who married Dr. S.C.H. Smith, one of the ablest diagnosticians of his time but so great a humanitarian that he was often more needy than his patients.

Joseph Hall died April 6, 1740, aged eighty-eight years. He had been active physically and mentally all his life. At the age of eighty-four he began the study of the French language. He had read the New Testament through in French, comparing it with the English version.

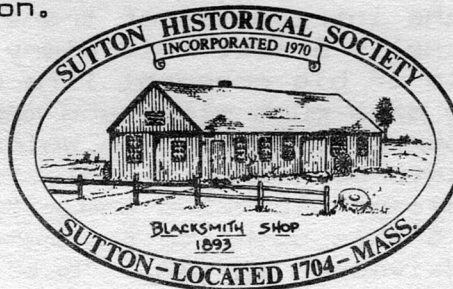
Master Hall lies buried in the old cemetery in Sutton Center. On his stone is this inscription: "Teacher of the Learned Languages in this town for about fifty years and Town Clerk for nearly thirty years."

BRIEFLY - Past, Present, Future.

By-Law Revision - Following a short discussion and explanation of the by-law proposed "by-law revisions" they were adopted at the February meeting. The principal change involved a new procedure to elect a president, vice-president, curator and historian. Now, these officers will be nominated and voted into office by membership at the annual meeting. Previously, they were elected by the Directors from that Board. This change allows any Society member to be elected to these offices.

The by-laws with updated revisions will be printed in a small convenient booklet size for distribution.

Society Seal - Illustrated herewith is the adopted official seal of the Society at the February meeting. The Blacksmith Shop having been purchased and preserved by the Society as a prime landmark in the community, became a natural selection for a motif in the seal design.



Eight Lots School House - Recently their stove was stolen and an offer by the Historical Society for a replacement was postponed indefinitely by the Eight Lots School Association when they concurred history could repeat itself.

Mini - Flea Market - The Society acquired the residue of an estate in January. Some items are nondescript and others should be worth a limited revenue. It is proposed to hold an advanced pre-June sale of these articles to clear space at the Blacksmith Shop.

Sutton Historical Museum - A major project and community service has been in abeyance since 1973 when an architect was engaged to draw up plans for a museum. A secure, fireproof building situated near public protection facilities is a logical consideration. The plans are based on a 40' x 60' building of colonial design, split-level entrance, half Sutton stone veneered front, first floor open display area with cathedral ceiling, a ground floor meeting area, kitchen and restroom arrangements and a security vault.

A suitable land site is the major problem in planning. Land around the Blacksmith Shop is a logical solution so that the museum and shop are environmentally harmonious. An article in the 1978 an-

nual town meeting to transfer the old high school site across Single-
tary Avenue from the Shop to the Society was defeated by the ongoing
need in town for office space. This problem may be resolved in a year
or so and again the old high school site could be reconsidered. Mean-
while, the museum is in the anticipation twilight zone and hopefully
a resolution may be forth coming.

1979 - January and February - Welcome to New Members

Lester R. and Ruth Aldrich	Albert S. and Mary Heck
Mrs. Doris I. R. Campbell	Timothy D. and Jane Kerins
Glen R. and Dale Coulter	Edward F. and Shirley LaCrosse
Dr. Louis E. and Dr. Nancy Fazen III	Ernest L. and Judith Noel
David W. and Deborah Hebert	Ronald E. and Irene Pierpoint
George B. and Ethel Edwards	Andrew F. and Joan Smith
Gary and Judith Vaillencourt	

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM REVIEWS - (A Short Synopsis)

January - Sutton Police Officer Hector Robarge discussed security in terms of a householder's implimentation of measures to discourage break and entry burglary. Some of the suggestions included: non-pick, dead bolt, two key locks, non-pick window locks, appliance identafication marking, mail and daily paper stoppage when on vacation, timing devices to turn on and off lamps, and DO NOT HESITATE TO PHONE POLICE WHEN SUSPICIOUS PERSONS ARE ABOUT, EITHER YOUR HOME OR YOUR NEIGHBORS. Officer Hebert presented two films that graphically illustrated cause, affect and precautions.

February - Rae Johnson introduced Russell Keenan of Webster who showed slides of the old Charles Church water-powered saw mill in Douglas. He detailed plans to seek funding for restoration of the mill.

Marjorie and Rae Johnson presented a most interesting slide review of their year and a half stay in the British Isles. Rae showed numerous slides of Poland, taken while on work assignment. Restoration progress in war ravished Poland was visually impressive.

March - Mrs. Inez Gornall of Uxbridge showed in a practical demonstration the techniques of theorem painting on velvet and reverse painting on glass. She explained the historical aspects of the two crafts in the 18th and 19th centuries. Step by step she prepared the decals for theorem painting and progression of crafting reverse painting. On display were many of her own paintings.

MAY - On May 8 Sandwich Glass expert Raymond Barlow will exhibit his beautiful glass collection and lecture on the Sandwich glass saga, at the Elementary School. Due to insurance and transportation expenses to be defrayed by the Society, a moderate donation is suggested for admission that evening.

MAILMAN 50 Years of Service!

In our last issue the photographs of a familiar personality in the early half of this century precipitated into numerous inquiries concerning additional information about Joe Jacques.

Joseph F. Jacques was born in 1881 on a Sutton farm and became the first RFD mail carrier out of Millbury Post Office at the age of 19. Although in good health and a willingness to "carry on", government regulations compelled him to retire in 1951.

Commencing in 1900, he covered a daily route of about twenty miles, either on foot, horseback, or driving a rig. The early mail load was 50-60 letters but increased to about 500 toward the end of his service. Joe's starting salary was \$225 per annum!

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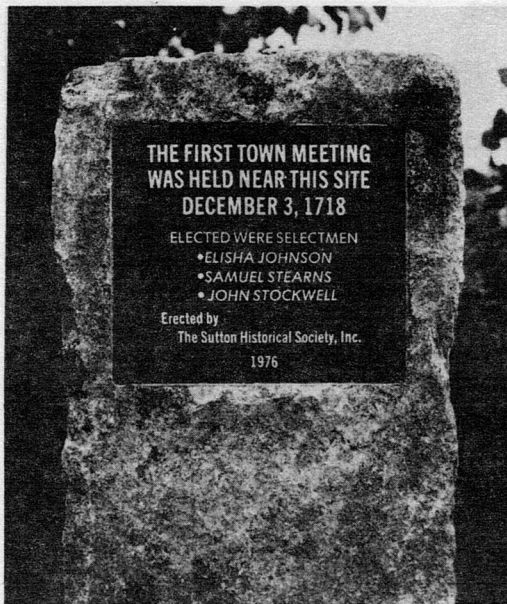
Vol. V No. 1 APRIL 1979

Before the postal department furnished horse rigs or other vehicles, Joe built two carts, one with wheels and the other with runners. In 1914 in favorable weather he rode an Indian motorcycle on the route. The photograph identifies this cycle as about the vintage of 1909 because the gas tank is over the rear mudguard. In 1917 a model "T" Ford provided route transportation. The high clearance and narrow tires of the "T" performed quite capably in snow and mud.

After 27 years of RFD mail service he was assigned to "city" delivery in Millbury until his retirement on March 31, 1951.

FIRST MEETING HOUSE PLAQUE DEDICATION .

By Town Clerk, Ethel M. O'Day, absent AUGUST 28, 1977, due to illness.



Let me begin by saying that the title of Town Clerk was mentioned in the Bible, Book of Acts, Chapter 19, verse 23, and I quote "And when the Town Clerk quieted the crowd" this proves to be a very old and responsible position. What is a "Town Clerk"? The definition states, pertaining to clergy, one who keeps records. Our ancestors who came to America usually settled around a church or meeting house where they worshipped and where they met from time to time to discuss the affairs of their colonies and to elect officers to carry out duties of local government. This plan spread throughout New England and became known as Town Meeting form of government which was used as a means of expressing one's individual opinions. The office of Town Clerk became a necessary part of Town Meeting because of the need

of someone to record the important discussions concerning the raising of taxes, building bridges, roads, schools, and churches. Upon dedicating this plaque today, I want to share with you what I feel our ancestors were trying to tell us. I call them the three "R's" also, known as "Roberts Rules".

One - to accept REALITY

Two - be RESPONSIBLE

Three - and the most important of all,
to know RIGHT from wrong

From
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