

Classroom Connections to Sutton 300

Sutton Public Schools, Sutton, MA.

2003 August 25-26 and October 14

This workshop for teachers, led by teacher-historian Karen Board Moran, is a model of how to open your classroom curriculum to teach a variety of disciplines through a local lens by providing a resource binder and local research experiences. It was created to encourage students to engage in Sutton 300, a celebration of Sutton's 300 year history throughout 2004. Teachers worked in teams or individually to shape their new found knowledge of the community into lessons aligned to the Massachusetts Frameworks to be used within the Sutton Public Schools.

Workshop I: Monday, August 25. Meet at Worcester Public Library with tour by Nancy Gaudette, Curator and Archivist of the Genealogy and Worcester Area History Collections followed by an afternoon of research.

Explore Sutton Resources: Tuesday, August 26. Following morning work time at local schools, meet for tour of Sutton Common by Janice Sherman Swindell, president of the Sutton Historical Society. After a bag lunch on Common spend the afternoon researching in the Rufus P. Putnam Historical Museum and Sutton Public Library.

Workshop II: Tuesday, October 14. Final preparations on teacher created lesson in mornings and sharing of lessons after lunch break. (30 lesson copies, including handouts were required)

Resources:

Sutton 300 items and *Images of America: Sutton* by Chris Sinicola were available at Polly's Antiques on Sutton Common

Sutton Historical Society at <http://www.suttonmass.org/histsoc/museum.html> with *Sutton Town Histories*, Volume 1(\$90) and Volume II (\$45) as well as online in 2013.

"Sutton, Massachusetts. Local Records 1663-1868, 1940" in Manuscript Collection at http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Findingaids/sutton_mass.pdf. Visit the American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury St Worcester, MA 01609, (508) 471-1721 to find more Sutton material.

Sutton Public Library videos: "Sutton's 250th Anniversary"

"Along the Blackstone" Series

"Tip to Sutton, Maine by Wagon"

"The Diary of Water's Farm"

Sutton Public Library local history collection:

Country Gentleman Newspapers collection from 1860s indexed by topic, author and illustrations)

Family genealogy collection

“Hancock-Hall House”

“Hand Made Rugs”

“Historic Resources Survey List by Street” (1999)

National Register of Historic Places Folder (Center and West Sutton)

“Personal Experiences of the Civil War of Sgt. Herbert A. Kimball”

“Rufus Putnam Memorial”

Sutton Bicentennial Program picture albums, 2 volumes

“Sutton Documents, 1720-1778”

Sutton High School Yearbooks

Sutton Reconnaissance Survey also at

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/reconReports/sutton.pdf>

Sutton Town Histories, Volume I and Volume II

Town histories of Millbury, North Brookfield, Grafton, Upton, Oxford, et al.

Vital Records to 1850 from most Massachusetts’ towns; also available at

http://www.mass-doc.com/vitals_before_1841.htm

“Waters Farm-First Homecoming Weekend”

“Wooden Ware”

Worcester County: American’s First Frontier by Peter Whitney

Sample Essential Questions:

- How did geography affect the settlement and development of Sutton?
- How did the Native peoples interact with the European settlers?
- What was the town’s opinion about separation from Great Britain?
- Why did some areas break away from Sutton? How did the townspeople feel about the loss of land?

- What types of occupations were found in Sutton during different stages of development?
- How did the town feel about the development of Route 146 over the years?
- What types of battles were fought over water rights?

Curriculum Connections:

ART 3D model of town; stenciling (Stephenson/Lucy Waters Phelps home); quilting; architecture (“What style is Your House?” Worcester Heritage Preservation Society at <http://www.preservationworchester.org/pages/education.html>)

GEOGRAPHY maps; 3D topography map; impact of transportation networks; mill neighborhoods

LITERATURE journals and diaries; newspapers for a particular era; create tour guides; stories about rural and mill towns, such as *Lyddie* by Katherine Patterson (5th-middle school), *Charlie Needs a Cloak* by Tomie de Pola (2nd), *Mill* by David Macaulay (4th and older)

MATH tables and graphs showing population and production; property values; taxation; story problems from survey regarding farm and industry

MUSIC period music; graduation or prom songs (see Lucy Waters Phelps resources)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION period dancing; period games; early recess activities

SCIENCE weather dependence of farmers; ecology- pollution from mills; natural flora and fauna; inventions from Sutton; Sutton Beauty apple; Isaiah Thomas’ first paper mill in Bramanville

SCHOOL WIDE OR GRADE “A Day in the Life of an 18th Century Child” (19th, 20th); Sutton timeline with each class or grade responsible for 10-50 years (Divide into areas of investigation)

Field trips

- Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor at <http://www.nps.gov/blac/index.htm> and <http://www.blackstonevalleycorridor.org/>; Millbury Walking Tour at http://www.blackstonevalleycorridor.org/downloads/tours/mass_tours/millbury.pdf Sutton Walking Tour at http://www.blackstonevalleycorridor.org/downloads/tours/mass_tours/sutton.pdf

- M.M. Sherman Blacksmith & Woodwright Shop at 428 Boston Road 61 Town Farm Road Sutton, MA 01590 (508) 865-5770 (508) 865-2597
- Rufus Putnam Museum at <http://www.suttonmass.org/histsoc/museum.html>
- Waters Farm at <http://www.watersfarm.com/index.htm>
- Willard House and Clock Museum at www.willardhouse.org