

The SUTTON FAMILY

of Andover

RICHARD SUTTON, proprietor or "subscriber" of Lancaster, is mentioned in 1653. He is said to have come to ANDOVER from Roxbury, remaining here for only a few years, and moving on to Reading. Then later, he returned to Roxbury.

His first sale of land in Andover is recorded in a deed to Bradstreet, Sr., - of a home lot and house and 80 acres of meadow, 1658. Sutton's Plain is mentioned for the first time, and described as bordering on the Billerica line, --- pine barren. In 1663 a deed shows that Richard Sutton of Roxbury, husbandman, sells 8 acres to George Abbott, next neighbor, (once a Roxbury man)-upland in West Parish. George Abbott and Wm. Chandler were witnesses.

1664: An estate conveyed by Sutton/^{-called weaver,} and wife, to George Abbott; - oxlands on west side Shawshin; plough lands, 35 acres, by Little Hope Brook, 18 acres lying on George Abbott's swamp or meadow lately purchased from the Town of Andover from Bradstreet and Woodbridge. Simon and John Bradstreet and Tom Chandler, witnesses.

1665. Roving animals caused much damage. A lawsuit of Simon Bradstreet vs. Dan Gage on account of swine. Fence viewers were Tom Johnson and Richard Sutton who testified that the fence was sufficient for all orderly cattle but ordinary fences would not keep out swine. Thereupon the law ordered that 10 of these knowing "critters" were all that could be owned by each man.

1664: - Bradstreet had a cause against Richard Sutton. Bradstreet's horses went across Sutton's land and he/ ^{struck and killed} one of them, "intentional" said the charge. Sutton claimed it was not so. That one night he called the Bradstreet and Dane dogs to drive off the horses that were eating fodder on his property, and the dogs killed a mare, and he couldn't beat them off.

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Andover chose Sutton for fence viewer next year, so he had a chance to get even with old Bradstreet. In another case, Gage testified for Bradstreet, so Sutton was doubtlessly glad to go back to Roxbury. Simon Bradstreet was a hard neighbor and despised inferiors.

Richard Sutton was the first WEAVER named in Andover, and would have built a fulling mill, if he had stayed. He was active in military service in the Indian Wars and in his advanced years, was, for his honorable service, exempt from further duty, by order of the General Court. He left no descendants here when he left. 200 years later, Eben Sutton, a direct descendant of Richard, came back to Andover.

William Sutton of Danvers, came here in 1826, with a mortgage on a woolen mill here owned by Samuel Ayer. Sutton was rich and active, and revived the making of woolen cloth, with power looms. He died in Danvers 1832, but his son Eben, who died 1864 and Wm., who died 1865, left estate to Gen. ^{Eben} Sutton of New York, who came to North Andover to reside and bought the Armstrong place. Sutton Mills is the name given to the village where his workers live, near his mill in the lower part of North Andover.

vol.5-1673: - A complaint was made on June 3, by Richard Sutton of Roxbury, pagell16/ against Moses Symonds and wife, Sarah, and daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth had promised to marry Richard, but R. claims that her parents had prevented the match. Symonds is ordered to pay Richard 31bs "for time wasted" and the court orders Richard and Elizabeth released from their engagement, unless they chose to make it up later.