

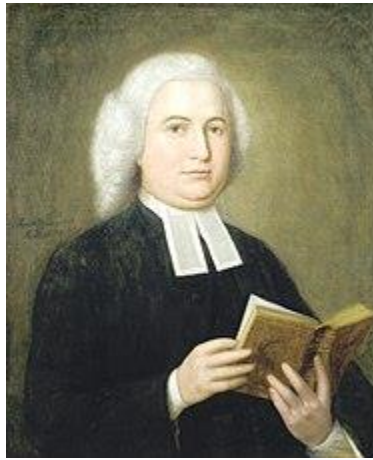
# Reverend David Sutton 1703 to 1775

*Father of Jeames, 1737*

Part Five: Ma's Sutton Family

Brown University

*James Manning, 1762, was the school's first president. A Baptist preacher, he taught the earliest college classes at his parish house. He was a Sutton contemporary and colleague. It has been reported that he was assisted in his ministry by various Suttons.*



James Manning (1738–1791)

## Middlesex County, New Jersey

David Sutton was born; 31 July 1703, in Piscataway, Middlesex County, New Jersey, the son of John Sutton and Elizabeth Conger. His father, John, was born in 1674 and died in 1750. His mother, Elizabeth Conger Sutton, was born in 1678, and she died in 1731. Reportedly.

He had brothers and sisters. Nine other children of John and Elizabeth Conger Sutton are Moses Sutton, 1696–1740; Aaron Sutton, 1699–1746; John Sutton, 1701–1761; Sarah Sutton, 1706–1746; James Sutton, 1709–1791; Jesse Sutton, 1711–1795; Elizabeth Sutton, 1713–1746; Mary Sutton, 1717–1746; Ephraim Sutton, 1719–1790. Reportedly.

Born in Piscataway in 1703, David lived to be 72, while the average lifespan of other men born in Piscataway was 48.

Some ancient histories may have been mixed, mingled, and mismatched in the records of multiple David Suttons, but by 1766 the sixty-three-year-old father of the above family was a property owner in Somerset, New Jersey. In a bicentennial report, David Sutton was the owner of eighty-four acres in 1766, which is a good size for a family farm.



### Detail: *Landholders from Survey by Benjamin Morgan*

#### *Index to Survey by Benjamin Morgan*

<u>Plot</u>		<u>Acres</u>	<u>Total</u>
167	Peter Senman	2,000	
221	" "	3,000	
222	" "	23,000	
225	Peter Senman		
247	" "	<u>15,600</u>	43,600
159	Ansions of Antony Sharp		
27	John Steele	57	
54	" "		
123	" "	<u>134</u>	191
75	David Suttan	6	
79	" "	46	
93	" "	<u>32</u>	84

Land Holders  
from  
Survey by Benjamin Morgan  
Bicentennial Project  
Basking Ridge Chapter  
Daughters of American Revolution  
Mrs. Edmund A. Uehlers, Regent  
1665 Valley Road  
Millington, New Jersey

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79	" "	46	
93	" "	<u>32</u>	84
10	Peter Sweed	111	
45	Peter Ten Eich	30	
104	Margaret Tueples	100	
12	Denias Tunison	307	
49	John Veal	62	
233	Thos. Warren	1,400	
199	Ann West	912	
91	John Williams		
35	Peter Williamson	37	
37	P, Williamson & C. Addems -3-tracts	60	
250	George Willocks	60	
251	" "	<u>466</u>	526
190	Graham Winder	1,904	
191	Samuel Winder	500	
189	John Wite	877	

## An Early American's Family History

New Jersey's first permanent European settlement was in 1660. Piscataway Township in New Jersey was settled in 1666 by Quakers and Baptists. Earlier they had left a Puritan colony where non-conformists such as Quakers and Baptists were mistreated. David Sutton's people were Quakers and Baptists. The records of the early Baptist Church of Middletown, New Jersey included David and Elizabeth Sutton as church members in June, 1733.

The country the family settled was ideal, due to its location near the Raritan River.

*The river has served an important water transportation route since the Pre-Columbian era. The name Raritan is also applied to the Raritan people, an Algonquian tribe that inhabited Staten Island, near the river's mouth. In colonial days, the river allowed the development of early industry around New Brunswick, as well as the transportation of agricultural materials from central New Jersey. During the American Revolutionary War, the river provided a means for troop conveyance.*

*Middlesex was established as of March 7, 1683, as part of the Province of East Jersey and was partitioned as of October 31, 1693, into the townships of Piscataway, Perth Amboy, and Woodbridge. Somerset County was established on May 14, 1688, from portions of Middlesex County.<sup>[13]</sup> The county's first court met in June 1683 in Piscataway, and held session at alternating sites over the next century in Perth Amboy, Piscataway, and Woodbridge before relocating permanently to New Brunswick in 1778. Wikipedia*

### Somerset County, New Jersey

Early on in the New World, population growth and the establishment of new counties out of existing counties often made it look as if a family was moving when they were actually staying put. David Sutton lived in the general area all his life and died in Bernardsville, Somerset County, New Jersey on 19 December 1775. It is rumored that he is buried in Bernardsville Methodist Cemetery in Somerset.



*Methodist Cemetery of Bernardsville, LEFT.*

*Somerset County is one of America's oldest counties. The area was first settled in 1681, and the county was established by charter on May 22, 1688. Most of the early residents were Dutch. General George Washington and his troops marched through the county on several occasions and slept in many of the homes located throughout the area. Wikipedia*



Just before he died, David wrote his will in 1775 Somerset County:

### Will of David Sutton

**1775, Dec. 1. Sutton, David**, of Bernards Township, Somerset Co.; will of. To my wife,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of my estate. To Marah, Jeonner and Abigail, who are the 3 youngest of my daughter, Elizabeth, deceased, £5 a piece. To the children which my daughter, Marah, had, who is deceased, viz., to eldest son, David, £10, and to each of the rest, £5. Eldest son, Isaac, £10, and then to have equal with David, John, Abraham, Jeames, Moses and Sarah. Executors—sons, David and Moses. Witnesses—John Collins, Hannah Collins, Benjamin Courton. Proved Dec. 19, 1775.

1775, Dec. 18. Inventory, £271.16.8, made by Jacobus Rechtmeyer and Abraham Van Tuyl. Lib. L, p. 276.

The father of these children married their mother in 1723. Her name was Elizabeth Cox, and like Hannah Cox before her, her name--anchored to David's--is a godsend in the research of multiple David Suttons. She was born in 1705, New Jersey and died in 1746 in Somerset County at the age of forty-one.

#### *U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900*

Name: *David Sutton*  
**Birth Place:** **NJ**  
**Birth Year:** **1703**  
Spouse Name: *Elizabeth Cox*  
Spouse Birth Year: 1705  
**Marriage Year:** **1723**  
Marriage State: *NJ*

It is said that after the death of Elizabeth the widowed father married a young woman named Sarah Trembley. There are no authentic records

linking a second marriage or that link the life or death of Sarah Trembley to this David Sutton.

The children of David and Elizabeth Cox Sutton who are mentioned in his will are:

Elizabeth Sutton (1724 - 1775)  
 Marah Sutton (-1775)  
 Isaac Sutton (1729 - 1799)  
 David Sutton (1732 - 1812)  
 John Sutton (1733 – 1813)  
**James Jeames Sutton (1737 - 1828)**  
 Abraham Sutton (1738 - 1800)  
 Moses Sutton (1745 - 1827)  
 Sarah Sutton (1746?)

Perhaps the birth of Sarah was in 1746, and Elizabeth died in childbirth, leaving four or five of the Sutton children, under twelve and motherless. It would not have been unusual for the grieving father to have found them a new mother.

The most remarkable feature of the David Sutton family is that six of its sons became missionaries. At least four of them were ordained and six of their names are recorded in church books of the time. According to 1904 author, Thomas Sharp Griffiths, these early Suttons did as well for the Baptists of New Jersey as Roger Williams did for his Baptists in Rhode Island. They,

*...were Bible men. Evidently substance was to them of more worth than manner, culture and forms. These were the men who made us as a denomination what we are. Their spiritual appetite was not dainty nor their spiritual digestion perplexed with dyspeptic tendencies. Note these names: . . . Sutton, etc. The pastors of Burlington have included choice men. The church has always been housed. At a meeting of Baptists, December 21st, 1794, in Burlington, the minutes state, "Having assembled in the Baptist Meeting House," bought in 1794, from the "Friends," (Quakers).*

**New Jersey Baptist History, Thomas Griffiths. Barr Press Publishing Company, 1904.**

David's grown sons were known preachers.

Isaac:

*By 1767, James was preaching on the Pennsylvania frontier with his brother Isaac.*

**"The Descendants of William Sutton" by Lorin Snyder, 1998.**

David:

*Rev. David Sutton entered the pastorate in 1764, remaining till August, 1783 and proved himself sent of God. Morgan Edwards says of him: "He has often been compared to Nathaniel of whom it was said, 'there was no guile in him.'"*

*He was a constituent of Scotch Plains church. He was a missionary pastor. In 1764, the year of his settling at Kingwood, he made an appointment at Flemington and in his long charge at Kingwood, nearly twenty years, preached in the house at Flemington. **He was thus the first Baptist preacher at Flemington and laid the foundation for the later growth of Baptist interests there.** Mr. Sutton's successors at Kingwood preached at Flemington, until, and long after the organization of the Flemington church. That body owes all it is to this wonderful man. Since 1742, twenty pastors have ministered to the church--David Sutton, almost twenty years. **Griffiths***

John:

*In 1761, Rev. John Sutton became pastor of Cohansie Church. but illness compelled him to retire within a few months. Mr. Sutton was one of five brothers — all Baptist ministers — sent out by Scotch Plains Church. Rev. John Stutton was a graduate of Hopewell, an associate with Rev. James Manning, of Scotch Plains Church, founder of Brown University. Mr. Sutton was an eminent man in his times. **Griffiths, "The writer copied these items from the old minute book of First Hopewell."***

James/Jeames:

*Two Baptist churches in New Jersey have been named Tuckahoe, one in 1771. The house of worship was built in 1751. They had a large parsonage farm and dwelling on it. Their pastors were, . . . James Sutton, he was a constituent of the church and ministered from 1771-72. **Griffiths***

Abraham:

*Though Abraham gets an unfavorable mention concerning an unfortunate incident of his wife's accusation of sexual harassment against his brother, **Reverend James Sutton**, he gets mentioned in the church book minutes in an early "he said/she said."*  
**"The Descendants of William Sutton"**

Moses:

*Uniontown Borough. Moses, Milton, and Isaac Sutton are licensed preachers in 1775.*

According to Hopwood and Gaddis, --Isaac, James, and Moses of the American Revolution's generation of men, "owing to the difficulty of the times," are in Fayette County in Western Pennsylvania trying to adapt to the war. They would be men thirty to fifty years old with families of their own. In New Jersey, from where they would all be leaving, the war was marching to a tune of a different drummer. Sadly, 1775 was about the time of their father's death.

### **Baptist Church History**

In the 1904 Griffiths book about New Jersey Baptist Church history, concerning the sons of David Sutton and their church work in the state, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, their deeds sound comparable to the work of Roger Williams of Rhode Island. The Roger Williams legacy and his congregation of a century earlier were no doubt an influence on the young Sutton men of New Jersey--and on their father and his brothers. Their Quaker heritage from David Sutton and his father and his grandfather had to help herd them into the rebellious Baptist flock. Well educated and ordained, they took up their Bibles, became missionaries, and headed west to build churches and schools where students could be taught how to read their Bibles. When the Philadelphia Association of Baptist Churches sent Dr. James Manning to Rhode Island to start a college, Rev. John Sutton was a helpful associate, according to Griffiths. The school which began as a seminary for young men eventually became known as Brown University.

Suttons were certainly a part of spreading the Baptist religion. They stepped out of their Quaker beginning, followed the Gospel as they



understood it, and accepted the Great Commission which Christ gave them to "... Go ye into all the world."

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.... Mark 16:15-16 KJV*

"All the world" turned out to be the new United States, west, for the sons of Rev. David Sutton. His boys spread out over Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana under contract with their heavenly father to teach and to spread the Gospel:

*[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost... Matthew 28:18-20 - Bible, King James Version*

In New Jersey,

*. . .amid the men of the only Baptist Association in the country and in a colony of the largest liberties, having guarantees in its settlers, Friends, and Baptists--unlike other colonies . . . America was a refuge for all dissentients from other dissentients and authorities, civil and religious. An immense mixture of extremists and positivists in the religionists coming hither and the new element of liberty to think and to teach, tended to a wider divergence. Baptists have cause for gratitude, both, that the New Testament was our sole authority for duty and for instruction; that our ministers could thereby command and control these elements of contradiction and settle the foundations of our churches on a scriptural basis. Griffiths.*

On the other hand, Suttons have no cause for gratitude toward earlier writers. Earlier historians left elements of contradiction that cannot be settled on the foundations of churches or on a scriptural basis. At most it can be said that the New Jersey family of the Reverend David and Elizabeth Conger Sutton seems to have done its part to uphold the Great Commission in which they fervently believed.

**The End**