

# George Sutton, From the White Cliffs of Dover to Plymouth Colony in 1634

Ma's Sutton Family  
Part Eight



*Replica of a 17th Century Ship on Which Early English  
Colonists Sailed to the New World*



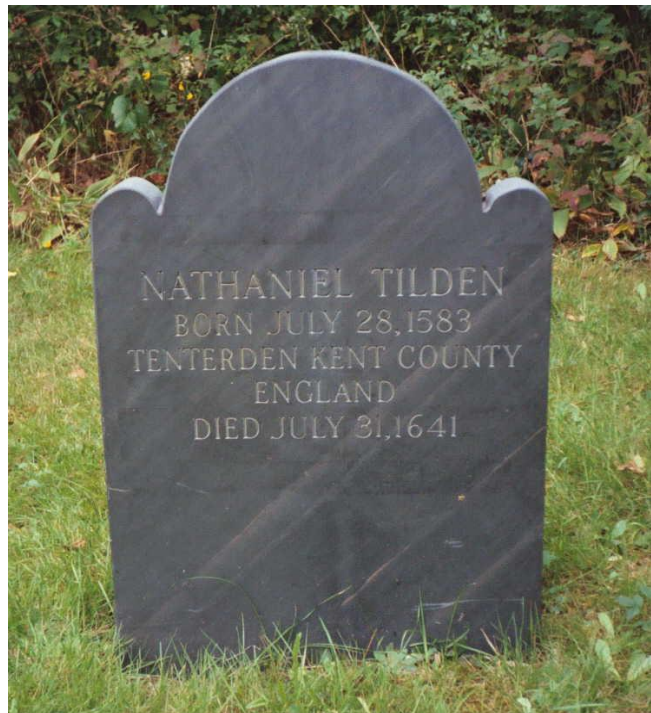
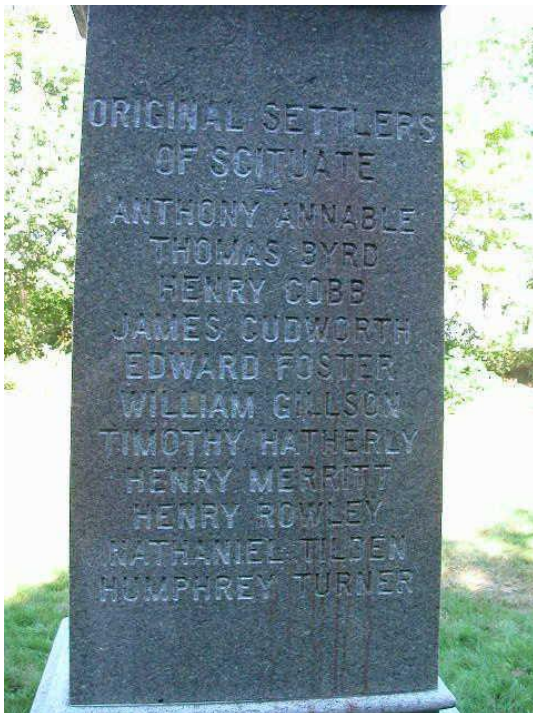
In Memory of  
Jack Vaughan, 1911-1992

## The First American Sutton

There is a Unitarian Universalist Church in Scituate, Massachusetts that is over 375 years old. It was started in 1634 by some free-thinking religious zealots who were first jailed in England and then banished to the New World for their nonconformist philosophy. Primarily, they came out of Kent, England. They sailed into New England just a few years behind the **Mayflower**. In the New World a part of their zealous movement, called the Quakers, took hold.

*A small log cabin served as the first church. The site is marked today by a monument that honors the early members of the parish, "The Men of Kent," and also by gravestones from the 17th century. A History of the First Parish Church of Scituate, Massachusetts: Its Life and Times,  
By Richard Stower, 2013*

### Men of Kent Cemetery, Scituate, Massachusetts



Among the men of Kent walked Nathaniel Tilden with his wife, Lydia Hatherly Tilden. He may have spent up to two years in a Dutch or English jail for his religious choices before he was released and shipped off to America. He brought with him his servant, George Sutton. George eventually found such good favor with his master that Tilden gave him his daughter Sarah to wed. Soon there was a family of Suttons in America, compliments of George and Sarah, and their descendants grew up, took up the Bible, and began moving out west on their various Protestant missions from God. From 1634 up to the nineteenth century Bible-toting Quaker and Baptist Suttons can be followed through their church work. It would have been good with so many Bibles around, if one of them had left a page of family names and birthdays, but they did not. Fortunately, the Quakers left a record of their history, and George Sutton was a Quaker.

*Tilden Arrival, Marriage of Children, Wife's Family-- linked to George Sutton*

Nathaniel Tilden (1583-1641)

Taken from: *Passengers to America* p. 120

Tilden, Nathaniel, of Tenterden, co. Kent, and of Scituate in the Plymouth Colony, passenger in the *Hercules*. For his family and ancestry cf. REGISTER, vol. 65, pp. 322-333. His wife was Lydia Huckstep, baptized at Tenterden 11 Feb. 1587/8, daughter of Steven and Winifred (Hatch) (Wills) (cf. REGISTER, vol. 67, pp. 47, 48). Nathaniel and Lydia (Huckstep) Tilden had twelve children baptized at Tenterden. Five of these children were buried at Tenterden, and seven accompanied their parents to New England. Their daughter Mary married 13 Mar. 1636/7 Thomas Lapham, and their daughter Sarah married on the same day George Sutton, both of these men appearing in the passenger list as servants of Nathaniel Tilden.

where he built the forty-third house by 1636. After converting to the Quaker faith George and his family moved to North Carolina where he died in 1669. His son Joseph "of Corralinah" testified that "my mother Sarah Sutton did Receive in Corralinah... £5 in full of a legacy from my grandfather, Mr. Timothy Hatherly..." (PCLR3:2:306)

**NOTE:** Some records are surprising. The son of George and Sarah Tilden Sutton says he has a grandfather who isn't named Sutton, Tilden, or Huckstep. His name is Hatherly. This son's statement implies that Mr. Hatherly is a maternal grandfather whose name is not Huckstep.

The 1666 will of Timothy Hatherly in which the £5 legacy appears names several Lydias and other Tilden heirs, but, no other Suttons, besides George.

From the Tim Hatherly will:

Lydia Garrett" 40s. at age twenty-one; to "Gorge Sutton his wife and children £5"; to "the wife of Will[i]am Bassett my wife's daughter £5"; to "the



*Kent, England*

*Tenterden County, Kent, England . Tenterden is a town in the borough of Ashford in Kent, England. It stands on the edge of the remnant forest, The Weald, overlooking the valley of the River Rother. Its riverside today is not navigable to large vessels and its status as a wool manufacturing centre has been lost. Tenterden has a large conservation area and seven large or very old public houses within its area. **Wikipedia, Map & Text***



*The White Cliffs of Dover are part of the coastline of Kent, at the point where Great Britain is closest to continental Europe. On a clear day the cliffs are visible from the French coast.*



*Embarkation of the Pilgrims*

1844 Portrait by Robert Walter Weir of the *Mayflower* pilgrims

### **America's Sutton Family Story: In the Beginning**

The history of the evolution of American religious and social ideology is the story of the Suttons. The Puritans on the ***Good Ship Mayflower*** and the Nonconformists Quakers on the ***Good Ship Hercules*** represented the genesis of the Sutton legacy of piety and their passion for a simpler life. Puritans on the ***Mayflower*** reached America, dropping anchor near the tip of Cape Cod on November 11, 1620. In April of 1635 the banished nonconforming Quakers embarked on the ***Hercules*** of Sandwich, England and landed in New England. Sandwich is an historic town in the Dover District of Kent, south-east England. George Sutton, the first Sutton--and a Quaker--came over aboard the ***Hercules***.

## HERCULES, SHIP OF SANDWICH, ENGLAND

*April 1635. List of persons embarked in the ship "Hercules" of Sandwich from the town of Sandwich to the Plantacon called New England.*

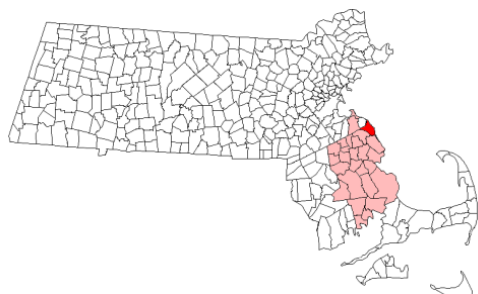
*Names: Nathanel Tilden, of Tenterden in Kent; Occupation: Yeoman; Wife: Lidia. Children: Joseph, Thomas, Stephen, Marie, Sara, Judeth, Lidia. Servants names: Thos Lapham, George Sutton, Edward Ford, Sara Couchman, Marie Perien,*

**Passengers to America, by Tepper, ISBN# 0-8061-0767-6, 1988, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD 1-800-296-6687, pp. 111-113**

The first Colonial American Sutton was George Sutton. He was born in Tenterden County, Kent, England in 1613, and he sailed to the Plymouth Colony of Massachusetts in 1635 aboard the **Hercules**. Two years later he married Sarah Tilden (1613-1677) who had also migrated from Tenterden County, Kent, England. Her father was Nathaniel Tilden who led his family group to America. George was a member of the group, but he came as a servant. They settled in Scituate, Massachusetts.

*Scituate is a seacoast town in Plymouth, Massachusetts, midway between Boston and Plymouth. The name Scituate is derived from "satuit", the Wampanoag term for cold brook, which refers to a brook that runs to the inner harbor there.*

*European settlement brought a group of people from Plymouth about the year 1627 who were joined by immigrants from the county of Kent in England. They were initially governed by the General Court of Plymouth, but on October 5, 1636, the town incorporated as a separate entity. **Wikipedia.** MAP Scituate, Massachusetts.*





*The Landing of the Pilgrims*

--by Henry A. Bacon (1877)

### **Of Religion and the Suttons in Colonial America**

*George Sutton, 1613-1669, The Quaker*

*Of all such persons as embarked themselves in the good ship called the "Hercules", of Sandwich of the burthen of 200 tons, John Witherley, master, and therein transported from Sandwich to the plantation called New England in America; with the certificates from the ministers where they last dwelt of their conversation, and conformity to the orders and discipline of the church, and that they had taken the oath of allegiance and supremacy. (The certificates, all dated February and March, 1634, are here omitted.)*

*Masters of Families:*

*Nathanl Tilden of Tenterden yeoman and Lydia his wife - 7 children - 7 servants*

**George Sutton** was a servant of Nathaniel Tilden's who arrived on the ship Hercules in 1634/5. He married **Sarah Tilden**, Nathaniel's daughter. Sutton lived on Greenfield Lane where he built the forty-third house by 1636. After converting to the Quaker faith George and his family moved to North Carolina where he died in 1669. His son Joseph "of Corralinah" testified that "my mother Sarah Sutton did Receive in Corralinah... f5 in full of a legacy from my grandfather, Mr. Timothy Haterly..." (PCLR3:2:306)

**Nathaniel Tilden**, gentleman, of Tenterden, Kent, came to New England with his wife **Lydia**, seven children and seven servants on the ship Hercules in March, 1634/5. Lothrop recorded that Mr. Tilden had built the 20th house by October 1636. Tilden was appointed ruling elder of the First Church in Scituate, 1635; died before 6 Sept 1641, when his will was presented for



## Of the Passenger List for the **Hercules**

Baptists and Unitarians grew out of the New World's Quaker Meeting House. In time, several Suttons followed the Baptists, who early on were scholarly folk, building churches and schools wherever they went and leading the way in social causes, but in the beginning, there were none. At least none to speak of. Among the passengers listed there is no church leader mentioned, except to say that aboard ship were, . . ."the certificates from the ministers where they last dwelt of their conversation, and conformity to the orders and discipline of the church, and that they had taken the oath of allegiance and supremacy."

George Sutton crossed the Atlantic Ocean as a servant to a Yeoman. Sailing with him were a painter, a surgeon, three tailors, a carpenter, a merchant, two shoemakers, a school teacher, a mercer, a hemp dresser, and a husbandman. A mercer dealt in silks and satins and the yeoman and husbandman were farmers, one of them being Nathaniel Tilden—George Sutton's boss.

No ministers. Since plain dress was practiced by Quakers, a principle of their testimony to simplicity, all the clothiers--in the absence of a church leader--make it seem as if there was some back-sliding going on.

### The List

"Of all such persons as embarked themselves in the good ship called the **Hercules**," etc: from,

**Original Lists of Persons of Quality 1600-1700"**, John Camden Hotten, Reprinted 1980, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc, Baltimore. Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number 63-530(History of Sandwich, by W. Boys, 1792, pp.750-1.)

*April 1635. List of persons embarked in the **Hercules** of Sandwich, Kent, Mr John Witherley, to be transported from Sandwich to New England:*

***Nathaniell Tilden** of Tenterden, Kent, **yeoman**, and Lidia his wife; children*

*Joseph, Thomas, Stephen, Marie, **Sara**, Judith and Lidia Tilden; servants Thomas Lapham, **George Sutton**, Edward Ford, Sara Couchman and James Bennet.*

*Robert Brooke of Maidstone, Kent, **merc**er, and Anne his wife.*

*Thomas Hayward of Aylesford, Kent, **tailor**, and Susanna his wife.*

*William Witherell of Maidstone, (Kent), **school teacher**, and Mary his wife.*

*Fannet not (Faintnot) Wines of Ashford, Kent, **hemp dresser**.*

*Thomas Bony and Henry Ewell of Sandwich, (Kent), **shoe makers**.*

*William Hatch of Sandwich, **merchant**, and Jane his wife, **Symon Sutton** and **Lidia Wells**.*

*Isaac Cole of Sandwich, **carpenter**, and Joane his wife.*

*James Sayers of Northbourne, Kent, **tailor**.*

*Comfort Starre of Ashford, **surgeon**; children Thomas, Comfort and Mary Starre; servants Samuel Dunkin, John Turkey and Truthshallprevaile Starre.*

*Margaret, wife of William Johnes late of Sandwich now of New England, **painter**.*

***John Best** of St. George, Canterbury, Kent, **tailor**.*

*Thomas Brigden of Faversham, Kent, **husbandman**.*

**Kent Archives Office: SA/ZB/2 (The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776)**

No church man, and only two farmers, but lots of clothiers to handle the plain attire of the Quakers might be attributed to the status of Tenterden in Kent being a wool manufacturing centre. Evidently, the men of Kent intended to stay in the field they knew, the textile business, minus any shepherds or sheep.

“...Kent being a wool manufacturing centre:”

*Shepherd with a Flock of Sheep, 1884 - Vincent van Gogh –*



Unmentioned, might have been a carpenter, or two. By 1636 George Sutton and forty-two of his fellow immigrants had built themselves houses.



*Most houses had dirt floors, not wooden floors, and each had a prominent fire and chimney area, since this was the only source of heat as well as the only way to cook. Each house would have had its own garden, where vegetables and herbs could be grown.*

***Houses in Early Plymouth Colony - [MayflowerHistory.com](http://MayflowerHistory.com)***

## **Colonial America, Housing and Homes**

*Thatched roof home at Jamestown*

*Photo by Ducksters*

*The type of homes built during colonial times varied greatly depending on the local resources, the region, and wealth of the family.*

### **Early Housing**

*The houses built by the first English settlers in America were small single room homes. Many of these homes were "wattle and daub" homes. They had wooden frames which were filled in with sticks. The holes were then filled in with a sticky "daub" made from clay,*



*mud, and grass. The roof was usually a thatched roof made from dried local grasses. The floors were often dirt floors and the windows were covered with paper.*

*Inside the single room home was a fireplace used for cooking and to keep the house warm during the winter. The early settlers didn't have a lot of furniture. They may have had a bench to sit on, a small table, and some chests where they stored items such as clothes. The typical bed was a straw mattress on the floor.*

### **Williams-Barker House, 1634, (now Barker Tavern)**



WILLIAMS-BARKER HOUSE

*The Williams-Barker House (now Barker Tavern) was supposedly built in 1634, making it one of oldest buildings in Massachusetts. Wikipedia.*



Photograph by Weldon D. Draz, Bedford

*The village of Scrooby, England, c. 1911, home of the Mayflower Pilgrims until 1607.*

Arriving in 1634 as a servant, within two years George had endeared himself enough to the “Plantacon’s” yeoman leader to be given Tilden’s daughter, Sarah Tilden, in marriage. Both the gentleman, and the servant, built homes in Scituate, and there, George and Sarah had a son, William Sutton, in 1641. Other sons were named Nathaniel, Christopher, and Joseph. Two daughters were named Sarah and Elizabeth. The George Sutton family became prominent in their clandestine Quaker community.

The pilgrimage to the New World had not stopped the quarreling over religious ideology amongst the Protestant Englanders. Because the Puritans demanded that everyone else be like them, eventually an unhealable rift developed over the practice of baptism in their Protestant churches. It was a quarrel that affected future New England Suttons. In George Sutton’s family of Quakers, his grandsons listened to the Baptist’s side of the debate and forever after they did a lot of moving around, perhaps searching for a church house that suited them—or, a spot on which to build their own church house, preaching baptism by immersion. By 1822 their quest had taken the Baptist preachers among George Sutton’s progeny out west--as far as Indiana.

George Sutton is last mentioned in the records of New England in 1664. Timothy Hatherly left the George Sutton family £5 in his will of 1664. Timothy Hatherly, may be the father of Lydia Hatherly who married Nathaniel Tilden, and they became the parents of Lydia Tilden who married George Sutton. After the death of Timothy Hatherly, the Suttons moved south, to “Corralinah.”

his family moved to North Carolina where he died in 1669. His son Joseph “of Corralinah” testified that “my mother Sarah Sutton did Receive in Corralinah... £5 in full of a legacy from my grandfather, Mr. Timothy Haterly...” (PCLR3:2:306)

*Timothy Hatherly Will of 1664-1666*

*Timothy Hatherly*

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In his will, dated 20 December 1664 and proved 30 October 1666, Timothy Hatherly bequeathed to "my wife Lydia Hatherly my house I now dwell in with the rest of the housing ... with all the land I die possessed of during her natural life," also "my silver plate with all my pewter and brass that I do not otherwise dispose of by will," also "what moveables soever are in my parlor and parlor chamber ..., also all my linen ..., [also] my gray mare two cows and two oxen and my cart with all my wearing clothes"; to "Edward Jenkins his wife and children £12"; to "Nicholas Wade his wife and children £12 ... also one great brass kettle"; to "Sussanna the wife of Willam Brookes and her children £12 and acquit her of her first husband's debt to me, as also one copper kettle with three ears"; to "Timothy Foster £5 and to Elizabeth Foster £3"; to "Mr. Thomas Hanford" £10; to "Fear Robinson now the wife of Samuell Baker 40s. and to the other three children of Isacke Robinson John Isacke and Mercye" 40s. each; to "Lydia Garrett my wife's daughter three acres of land part of which her house stands on ... and £5 ... and likewise acquit all former accounts and reckonings between she and I from the beginning of the world to this day"; "to the four children of the said Lydia Garrett" 40s. at age twenty-one; to "Gorge Sutton his wife and children £5"; to "the wife of Will[i]am Bassett my wife's daughter £5"; to "the widow Preble my wife's daughter 50s."; to "Lydia Lapham an heifer worth 50s. or 50s. in goods"; to "Thomas Lapham 30s."; to "Stephen Tilden £5 to be paid when his service is expired"; to "Lydia Hatch the daughter of William Hatch" £8 at age twenty-one or marriage; residue to "my trusty and well-beloved friend Joseph Tildin" executor [MD 16:158-160, citing PCPR 2:2:34].

Joseph Tilden, refusing to be executor of the estate of Timothy Hatherly, was on 31 October 1666 appointed to be administrator of the estate [PCR 4:138], and letters of administration were granted on 5 June 1667 [PCR 4:155].

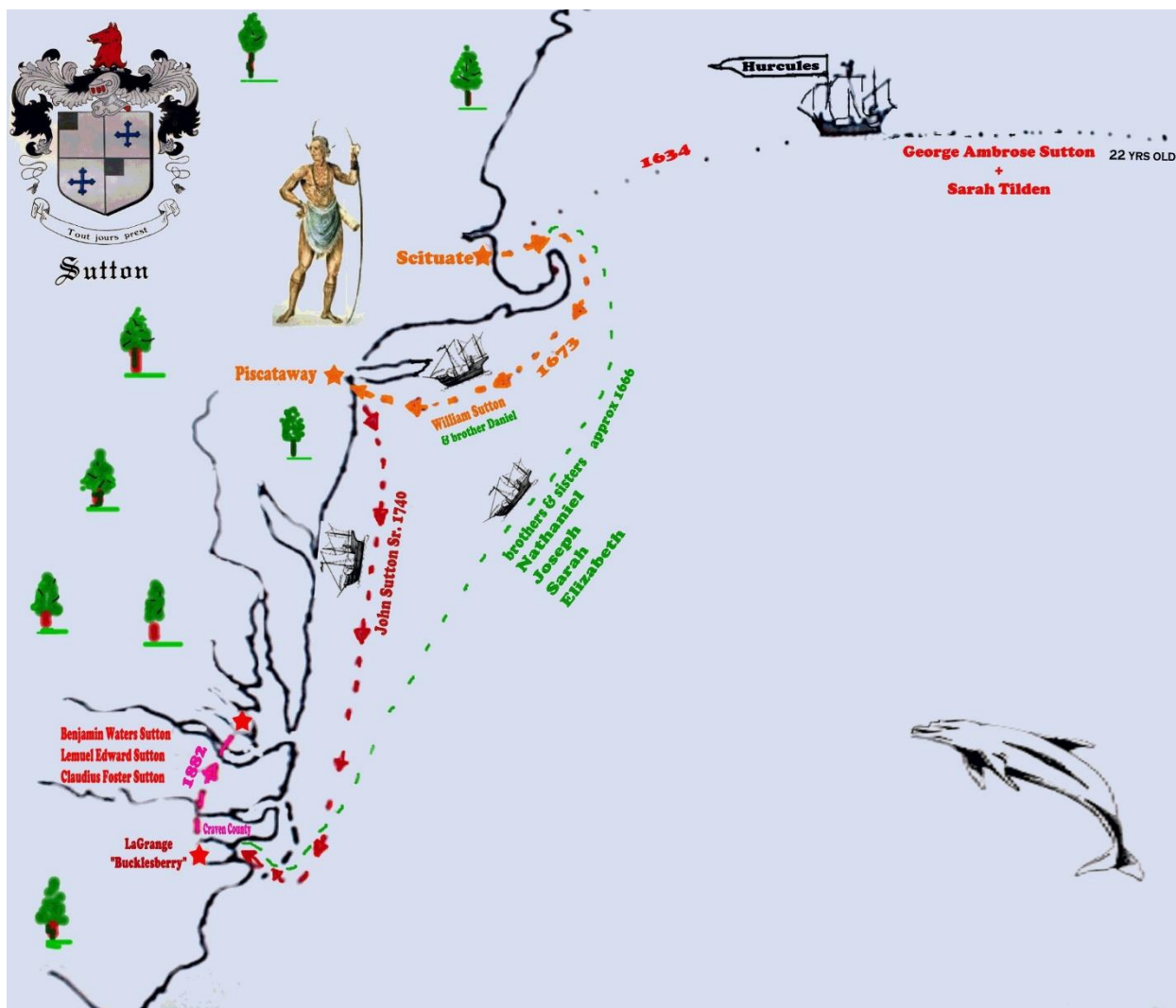
The inventory of the personal estate of Timothy Hatherly was taken 9 November 1666 and totalled £224 12s. 8d., with no real estate included [MD 16:163, citing PCPR 2:2:38-40].

DETAIL: "To George Sutton his wife and children £5;"

Lydia Garrett" 40s. at age twenty-one; to "Gorge Sutton his wife and children £5"; to "the wife of Will[i]am Bassett my wife's daughter £5"; to "the

Perhaps £5 helped the Suttons pay for their move to "Corralinah." ...

## The Voyages of George Sutton, 1634-1666



Copied from an Ancestry.com file

## To Corralinah From Scituate

*Following the Quaker persecution in Mass., George Sutton and his wife, Sarah, moved to Perquimans County in the Colony of Carolina. He died there April 12, 1669, leaving two sons, Nathaniel and Joseph. They left many descendants who have spread out over North Carolina and Virginia. **The Suttons of Caroline County, VA** by T. Dix Sutton*

*Perquimans County (/pɜːrˈkwɪmənz/)[1] is a county located in the U.S. state of North Carolina. The county was originally created as Berkeley Precinct. It was renamed Perquimans Precinct around 1684 and gained county status in 1739.[4]*

*Perquimans County is part of the Elizabeth City, NC Micropolitan Statistical Area, which is also included in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk, VA-NC Combined Statistical Area.*

**Perquimans County is part of the Elizabeth City, NC, VA-NC Combined Statistical Area.**



*Perquimans County, NC Map*

By 1668 a number of Quakers had left New England, among them the family of patriarch George Sutton, moving away from the houses they built in Plymouth toward what would become the Virginia/North Carolina border. There, into the next century, a Quaker community would come to life and thrive.

Reportedly, southern Quakers were not persecuted as vigorously as northern Quakers. And, the community he was headed to was inhabited by friendly natives—natives who got along well with Quakers.

George Sutton moved his Quaker family—except for his son William who had started a family of his own in Massachusetts—to the undetermined border of the southern colonies of the Carolina District and Virginia. It was a move that led him into the vicinity of Perquimans County.



*Detailing the Migration of George Sutton from 1634 to 1666*



***The House George Sutton Descendants Built***

*Sutton-Newby House is a historic plantation house located near Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina. It was built about 1745, and is a 1 1/2-story, four bay, frame dwelling with a brick end and gable roof. It originally had both ends in brick. It features a full-width, shed roofed front porch and massive double shouldered chimney. It is a member of the small group of 18th century frame houses with brick ends in northeast North Carolina.[2] The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.[1]*  
***Wikipedia***

*Sutton-Newby House. (National Register) This is one of the oldest houses in the Albemarle, probably built circa 1745 by Joseph Sutton on land which had belonged to his family for nearly seventy years. Founders of the family were George Sutton (died 12 April 1669, probably in Perquimans) and his wife Sarah (Tilden) Sutton. Sutton had left Sandwich, England in 1634 for Scituate, Massachusetts.*

**(THEY CAME TO STAY, A tour of Historic Durants Neck and old Neck, Perquimans County, NC 4 may 1991 Sponsored by NC Society Colonial Dames XVII Century and Perquimans County Restoration Association)**

### *Of Perquimans County*

Interestingly, the original natives of the region called their country Perquimans which can be translated into “the land of beautiful women.” In spite of their beauty, these good-looking natives were pushed out of their homes by English and Welsh settlers by 1700.

The white settlers were trappers and hunters involved in the lucrative fur trade. They organized Perquimans as a precinct of Albermarle County in late 1668.

The county’s early history was marked by political disputes between the trappers and newcomers who kept moving in. Many of the newcomers were Quakers, such as the Suttons. Nevertheless, the Quakers sided with the fur traders in their ongoing disputes with the other new émigrés.

The fur traders held the support of the Quakers from beginning to end. The Quakers wielded a fair amount of influence in early colonial politics well into the eighteenth century, and they were able to establish their religion in the Perquimans area.

One Quaker location was called Sutton Creek. The Quakers called the area of their Meeting Place Sutton Creek because the stream that flowed past their services ran through land owned by the Suttons who were devout Quakers.

Sutton Creek is a notable tributary of the Perquimans area and served as a meeting place for Quaker congregations in the colonial era of Perquimans for some time. It is a fitting tribute to the name of George Sutton and his faith.

*The End*