



The King House Museum

Stony Brook **CURRENTS**

Vol. II, No. 4

A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

September 2007

The mission of the Suffield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

Suffield Historical Society

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Original Proprietor Samuel Bush and Early Settler Joseph Fuller

by Ed Chase

Just north of the house now owned by Frankie & Bill Connelly on North Main Street was an 18-acre land grant that was traded several times during Suffield's settlement years. The Committee for Suffield deeded it first to Original Proprietor Samuel Bush in 1678. Bush became a tithingman for Suffield and, with his wife Mary, the parent of two children during his years in Suffield. But in 1696, the Bush family moved to Westfield and sold all his properties to Joseph Fuller of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Nothing remains of their years in Suffield here except the name "Bush Bridge" on Halladay Avenue over Ffyer Brook where Samuel Bush had his farmlands.

Fuller had been a sergeant under Captain William Turner at the "Falls Fight" on May 19, 1676. A carpenter by trade, Joseph returned to Ipswich and never settled on this Suffield property. In later years, history credits him with arresting a witch in Ipswich who was hanged by her feet.

In 1714, he deeded the Suffield homelot and farmlands to his son, Joseph, who became a settler in Suffield.

The following year, Joseph the settler married Bathsheba Hanchett, literally, the girl next door. Together they had six children. Joseph served Suffield as tithingman, surveyor of highways, constable, and was selected to determine damage to private property caused by highway construction. He remained here until his death in 1744, and many of his descendants remain in Suffield today. In fact, the Hanchett property is currently owned by a direct descendant of Joseph and Bathsheba, Francis Fuller Connelly.

Genealogy:

(1) John Fuller (b. Aug. 24, 1617, d. June 4, 1666) emigrated from Norfolk, England with the Winthrop Fleet in 1635. On May 31, 1652 he married Elizabeth Emerson in Ipswich.

(2) Joseph Fuller (the soldier) was born in Ipswich in 1658. Joseph married Mary Wood in October 1686 and died in Ipswich on August 22, 1731.

(3) Joseph Fuller (the Suffield settler) was born to in Ipswich on August 13, 1690 and died in Suffield on March 7, 1744. Joseph the settler and his wife Bathsheba Hanchett had six children: twins Mary and Bathsheba (Mary died young), a second Mary, Sara, Hannah and Joseph. Hannah also died young. *Fuller Genealogy* by David Johnson, *Soldiers in King Phillip's War* by George M. Bodge, and H. S. Sheldon's *History of Suffield 1670-1749*.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL *by Anne Borg*

This year's ice cream social was great fun. It was well attended, and people enjoyed visiting on the lawn on a lovely, not too hot, summer evening.

Ice cream and fixings were provided at cost by Wilma's Scoop du Jour, to whom we owe a big thank you! Thanks, too, to all the servers and those who helped with set-up and clean-up.



Anne Borg and Jim Baker crank out that homemade ice cream at the SHS social.

Here's the recipe for our homemade ice cream:

SWEET CREAM BASE

- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 cups heavy or whipping cream
- 1 cup milk

Whisk the eggs until light and fluffy. Whisk in sugar, gradually, then continue whisking until completely blended, about 1 min. more. Pour in cream and milk. Whisk to blend.

or, if you don't want to use raw eggs:

- 2 cups heavy or whipping cream
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup half & half

Follow directions above.

ORANGE CREAM DREAM

Add 1/3 cup frozen orange juice and 2 teaspoons vanilla to the sweet cream base and blend. Pour into ice cream maker and freeze following manufacturer's directions.

(From: Ben & Jerry's *Homemade Ice Cream & Dessert Book*)



State Representative Ruth Fahrbach brings Lester Smith thanks from the community and the State for his 80th birthday.

BIRTHDAY BASH

On Saturday, August 18th, friends and family celebrated Lester Smith's milestone birthday by throwing him a townwide surprise party. Ruth Fahrbach read a proclamation from Gov. Rell declaring August 20th to be "Lester Smith Day" in Connecticut. *Suffield Observer* cohorts secretly published a special edition devoted to Lester. He was honored for all his many contributions of time and effort in Suffield over the years, and the party constituted a public and hearty THANK YOU!

In lieu of gifts, a special fund was set up to help realize a long-time dream of Lester's. He has, as long as he's been Curator of the King House Museum, wanted to restore a Suffield cigar peddler's wagon owned by the Historical Society.

Restoration estimate is \$10,000. If you would like to help make Lester's dream a reality, you may send a tax-deductible donation to The Lester Smith Fund, c/o Ruth Zimmerman, P.O. Box 648, Suffield.

WORK DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, October 13, 9 AM to noon is our scheduled fall work day. We will be cleaning and closing up the house and doing some yard work. Please call Anne Borg, 668-7841, to help out or just come.

CURATOR'S REPORT

by Lester Smith

It's been a good summer, starting slow in May, but with more typical visitation in the months since, including a number of particularly interesting visitors. Chatting with folks who bring us more information than we can provide them is an enjoyable benefit of staffing the King House Museum.

As we bring this regular season to a close, we're beginning to plan our customary Holiday-fest weekend, December 1 and 2.

This year the special loan exhibit will be Trains, Planes, and Cars: Toys & Models, Old & New. We depend on members and other friends to lend items for these exhibits, so we need your

help! Please call and discuss what you can part with for a short while to make this exhibit another success. As always, the rooms will be staffed with docents on station to protect your cherished items.

And again I'd like to remind you that the Society's collections, on exhibit and in storage for future reference and exhibit, have been assembled through the actions of generous donors. We welcome donations that will help us preserve and interpret Suffield's interesting past. We especially seek old household items, local tobacco and cigar material, and memorabilia of many kinds.

ELEANOR PHELPS

We are sad to note the death in July of Evelyn Phelps, a long-time member of the Society and regular docent at the King House Museum, where for many years she was herself a pleasant feature of an enjoyable tour.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ...

September is membership renewal time. Renewing now will guarantee that you will receive the new brochure outlining the programs for the upcoming year, continue getting updates through our quarterly newsletter and receive email program reminders. It also means that our programs and projects can continue for the preservation of Suffield history. We depend on your contributions for this work, and we thank you for your continued support.

New members are also welcome to use this application. Mail it to Gary Mandirola or bring it to our booth at Suffield on the Green. We'd like to welcome you personally and give you additional information about our organization.



Membership Renewal Notice

I/we subscribe to the mission of the Suffield Historical Society as published in its newsletter and wish to be included in its membership.

Miss/Ms/Mr./Mrs. _____

Address _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Dues: Individuals \$10 Family \$15

Youth (under 18) \$2 Patron \$25

Donation _____

Please check any committee or committees that are of interest to you.

_____ Collections _____ Development

_____ Docents _____ Exhibitions

_____ Property _____ Membership

_____ Program _____ Special Events

_____ Publicity and Marketing

The Internal Revenue Service has granted tax exempt status to the Suffield Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to
Suffield Historical Society, c/o Gary Mandirola, 1600 North Street, Suffield, CT 06078.

⁴ UPCOMING EVENTS

SUFFIELD ON THE GREEN

Saturday, September 8 Sunday, September 9
*Members please call Art Sikes at 668-0414
to volunteer to help staff our booth.*

AUTO SHOW

Sunday, September 9 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
King House
*with organizers, Bill Gozzo and Bob Sullivan.
Bring your antique, classic, or special car!*

EAST GRANBY CIGAR FACTORY

Wednesday, September 19 7:30 PM
Kent Memorial Library
*Small-shop cigar making through the career of
Peter Grohman, German immigrant,
Civil War veteran, and local cigar maker.
Presentation by Dr. Bruce Clouette of Mansfield.*

5TH ANNUAL ART SHOW AND SALE

Saturday, September 22 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
King House

*Tobacco Valley Artists Association
(Raindate: Saturday, September 29)*

Suffield Historical Society

**P.O. Box 893
Suffield, Connecticut 06078**

(860) 668-5256

www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org

King House Museum
232 South Main Street

Open to the Public
Wednesdays and Saturdays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
May through September

EDWARD TAYLOR'S WESTFIELD

Tuesday, October 16 7:30 PM
Kent Memorial Library
*Dr. Walter L. Powell of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
will discuss the common heritage between
Suffield and Westfield from 1674 through 1729.*

HALLOWEEN AT THE KING HOUSE

Wednesday, October 31 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
King House
*Costumed Society members will welcome trick-
or-treaters of all ages. Stop by if you dare!*

SONGS OF THE GASLIGHT ERA

Wednesday, November 14 7:30 PM
Kent Memorial Library
*John Root's diverse repertoire offer insights into
customs, lifestyles, and values of bygone days.*

HOLIDAYFEST

Sat., Dec 1 and Sun., Dec 2 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
King House
Trains, Planes, & Cars: Toys & Models, Old & New