



Stony Brook **CURRENTS**

Vol. VII, No. 2

A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

April 2012

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

President

Edward Chase, III

Vice President

Arthur Sikes, Jr.

Treasurer

Gary Mandirola

Secretary

Nancy Noble

Historian & Curator

Lester Smith

Committee Chairmen

Samuel S. Fuller, *Investments*

Robert C. Stewart

Programs & Events

Arthur Sikes, Jr.

Membership

Barry Sisk, *Long-Range Planning*

Trustees

Frank Beneski

Anne Borg

Christopher Childs

Blair Childs

Terry Mandirola

Norman Noble

Jason Qua

James Reeves

Margaret Shaughnessy

Barry Sisk

Robert Stewart

IN MEMORIAM

Hawley Rising, Suffield's former Town and Society historian and great contributor to the record of our town's activities left this life on February 17, in Sebring, Florida. He was 86.

Until only a few years ago, he had commuted yearly back to Yankeeland. Now he will make his final return for interment May 19 (at 1:00) in the old Zion Hill Cemetery, next to the First Baptist Church. He served as historian there, too, writing the church's history and sharing his entertaining stories in one of the summer services each year.

As a youth in 1940, Hawley was a founding member of the Suffield Historical Society, and his interest in history continued. (Among the founders, now only Marion Holloway Richardson survives.) Fortunately, Hawley also had an interest in photography, and his immense collection of 35-mm slide photos and historical photo-reproductions is a valued Society asset, now digitized for preservation and convenient use. The slides formed the basis for his annual lecture at our Society meetings, but his delightful commentary outshone the pictures. Hawley also loved nature and captured many lovely floral images in his photography.

Hawley became a skilled genealogist, too, and he assembled a number of local family histories, now preserved in the Kent Memorial Library.

Living at Rising's Corner across from the old Abel Rising homestead, Hawley operated Rising's Orchard, the family apple farm. But when his winter pruning tasks gave him time, he managed to make a number of challenging vacation trips. Driving for weeks in rural Mexico didn't faze him, and on one trip to the Middle East, he left the escorted group in Egypt and spent some solo time in Dubrovnik and other spots that now seem a bit scary. Interesting typescript journals of these trips are preserved in the archives at the library.

– Lester Smith

ORIGINAL SUFFIELD PROPRIETORS HUGH, SAMUEL AND PETER ROE

by Edward Chase

Born in England about 1617, Hugh Roe immigrated to the New World with his wife, and his name appears in the records of Weymouth, Mass. when he was in his early thirties. During the following years, three daughters were born, his wife died, and he soon married again.¹ From this second union four children were born, including Samuel (b. 1656) and Peter (b. ca 1662). These two sons along with their father each became Original Proprietors of Suffield. Hugh Roe's name is among the voters at Suffield's first Town Meeting in 1682.

Hugh left Weymouth in 1658. Five years later, he is listed as a "Sealer of Leather" in Hartford. This title indicates his experience in the processing of hides and his ability to properly grade them.

In 1674, Hugh received a 60-acre land grant in Suffield while Samuel was granted one for 50 acres. Both lots were on the east side of High Street (now South Main Street), and bounded on the North by the "Road to Feather Street" (now Bridge Street).²

The following year, Suffield was burned by native warriors in the early months of King Philip's War. White settlers abandoned Suffield until the war's end. At the time of the resettlement in 1678, Peter Roe was granted 40 acres on the east side of High Street. His lot ran along what is now North Main and was the third lot south from "the Road to Springfield" (now Mapleton Avenue).

Peter married Sarah Remington (the daughter of Thomas and Mehitable Remington) in 1689. Much changed the circumstances of this bright, ambitious entrepreneur in the following decades. His brother Samuel died in 1688; his father Hugh, in 1689. Peter inherited both their lands in Suffield. He and Sarah became the parents of ten children.

Peter became one of the leading figures of Suffield's early development. Between 1689 and his death in 1740, he is mentioned 44 times in the Town Meeting records and held many offices, including Tythingman and numerous elections as Selectman.

Peter, like his father, was not averse to strongly voicing his opinions on controversial issues. He was a leader in the vote to oust Suffield's first minister, the Reverend John Younglove. Admonished and fined by the Court for his criticism of

Rev. Younglove, Peter continued to push for removal of this clergyman and ultimately prevailed.

According to Robert H. Alcorn's *The Biography of a Town*, Peter was also a leader in the effort to expand the voting list to include people who were not proprietors of Suffield. In this battle, Peter and his cohorts were fined for disrupting the Town Meeting. But again Peter prevailed. The rules were changed to expand the voting list to include non-proprietors.³

Peter was a partner in establishing an iron works in Suffield in 1721. He and his descendants became involved in iron works throughout Connecticut. As his family grew, many left Suffield to take advantage of the opportunities that their wealth and businesses afforded them. By 1790, the name for most family members was spelled "Rowe," and it disappeared in both spellings from Suffield records.

Peter's grandson Moses Rowe II built his house on South Main in 1772 on the original grant of Hugh Roe. Although there are undoubtedly current residents who are descendants of Hugh and Peter Roe, this house is the only contemporary reminder of the Roe proprietors.



- 1 Any evidence of the name of Hugh Roe's first wife is a mystery. His second wife was Abigail, but her surname was unknown.
- 2 Samuel's lot was north of his father's, which was bounded on the south by the lot of Thomas Spencer. Later this land was owned by Steven Taylor as ten acres were given to Taylor in a land swap.
- 3 Hezekiah Sheldon seems to be selective in what information about the expulsion of Younglove and the voting rights controversy he published in his *A Documentary History of Suffield*.

References:

- Genealogies from Kent Memorial Library and the SHS website.
History of Suffield Conn., H. Sheldon, 1879.
 Various histories and genealogies available on the internet.
The Biography of a Town, Robert Alcorn, 1970.

WORK DAY APRIL 21

Don your gloves and come on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to noon to help ready the King House and grounds for the May opening.



NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Pattiann Verbjar.

A WARMING GIFT

Thank you to Anne, Ray and John Quenneville for the donation of a great old parlor stove for the King House barn. The stove has been used for forty years in the house built by I. Luther Spencer in about 1855. Now it's installed in our barn, perhaps to warm a winter event.

Three good pushers escorted the new addition to our collection across the street (no tow vehicle was needed). Shown pushing in the photograph are L to R: Bob Borg, Art Sikes, and Bill Fournier. Approaching on the sidewalk is John Quenneville.

OFFICERS SLATE FOR 2012

The following officers and trustees comprise the slate to be voted on at our Annual Meeting on May 16: Vice President, Art Sikes; Treasurer, Gary Mandirola; Historian, Lester Smith; Trustees, Anne Borg, Norman Noble and Jason Qua.

SUFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

This year the Society will visit three industrial and historical sites. The coach leaves from King House **promptly at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 12, 2012**. Our first stop will be at the Mole Hollow Candle Factory in Sturbridge, Mass. Mole Hollow is a family-owned business that produces candles using artisanal methods and premium materials. They have a shop that sells factory seconds and premium products in a variety of sizes and fragrances.

Our coach will then proceed to Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, Mass. where we will visit three historic houses: the Birthplace of John Adams, the "Old House" and the Birthplace of John Quincy Adams. Lunch will be served on the bus as we proceed to the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum in Chestnut Hill. The Waterworks Museum interprets unique stories of one of the country's first metropolitan water systems through exhibitions and programs on engineering, architecture and public health. We will tour the Great Engines Hall and explore iconic 1880s architecture. Cost – including lunch, admission fees, transportation and tips – is \$60.00. **Expected return time is 6:15 PM.**



Count me (us) in! Enclosed is a check for \$60.00 per person made out to the *Suffield Historical Society*. Send it to: *Ed Chase, 33 Abraham Terrace, Suffield, CT 06078*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Town, State & Zip _____ (Phone) _____

Suffield Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 893
Suffield, Connecticut 06078
(860) 668-5256
www.SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ENFIELD, CT
PERMIT NO. 315

King House Museum
232 South Main Street

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

Newsletter Editor
Maggie Philippon

UPCOMING EVENTS

A FRENCH SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCE IN THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

Wednesday, April 11 7:30 p.m.
Bissell Inn

Frank Molander reenacts the experiences of the Royal Roussillon Regiment and highlights of the French and Indian War from the perspective of a Frenchman who fought.

WORK DAY

Saturday, April 21 9 a.m. - Noon
King Museum House plus barns and grounds
Join us in preparing our properties for the spring opening in May. Bring your own gloves. Bringing your own tools for handling the yard jobs can be very helpful.

FIELD TRIP

Saturday, May 12 8:00 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
from the King House
Look inside for details.

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS ALEX: GONCZEWSKI: HIS CAREER AS A WOODWORKER & CRAFTSMAN

Wednesday, May 16 7:30 p.m.
Kent Memorial Library

Alex created beautifully handcrafted furniture in Suffield and surrounding towns. He also built several houses in town. His daughter, Arlyne Alexander, will show photos of some of his work and talk about his life in Suffield.

SLIDE SHOW OF OLD SUFFIELD

Wednesday, June 13
Kent Memorial Library 7:30 p.m.
Lester Smith and Anne Borg join forces for a slide presentation about Old Suffield using digitized photographs from the late Hawley Rising collection.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Tuesday, July 17 5:30 p.m.
King House lawn