

**American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Sutton (Mass.), Records, c. 1683-c.1868; 1940

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "S"
Microforms Room

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

four manuscript boxes; two microfilm reels

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For information about Sutton, see: William Benedict and Hiram Tracy, comp., *History of the Town of Sutton* (Worcester: Sanford & Company, 1878). For biographical information concerning the ministers mentioned in this collection, see: Frederick Lewis Weis, *Colonial Clergy of New England* (Lancaster, Mass.: n.p., 1936), pp. 99, 132.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Most of the collection was probably from the estate of Christopher Columbus Baldwin. Several items were the gift of the Rev. Herbert E. Lombard, 1918. The records of the First Congregational Church (Sutton, Mass.) were the gift of Carole Dorris, 1977. The welfare records were acquired from the Sutton Free Public Library, 1978.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Sutton, Worcester County, Massachusetts is one of the oldest towns in the county, and it originally comprised what is now Millbury (incorporated as a separate town in 1813) and portions of several other adjoining towns that were subsequently incorporated separately. The original territory was purchased from John Wampus and a band of Nipmuc Indians. The purchasers' title was confirmed by the General Court in 1704, and the town was incorporated under the name Sutton in 1715. The early settlement was primarily due to the efforts of the proprietors of the township who, in 1715, granted four thousand acres of land to the first thirty settlers on the condition that they begin work on the land within six weeks.

This collection documents much of the early history of Sutton and is especially valuable for the manuscripts of some of the first families to settle in the town. There is substantive material pertaining to the following families: Allen (from Sudbury, Mass.), Barton, Carriel, Elliot, Goddard, Hall, Hicks, Holman, LeBaron, Lovell, Marble, Putnam, Stockwell, Waite, and Waters. Evidently this material was gathered together by Christopher Columbus Baldwin (1800-1835). There are also miscellaneous genealogical notes and letters to Baldwin about Sutton families, as well as four bound volumes of Baldwin's manuscript notes gathered in preparation for his history of Sutton. The volumes include a

predominant amount of genealogical material although there are also transcriptions of muster rolls and various local records, some original documents, and lists of town officers. Baldwin's history was not completed.

The collection also includes wills; correspondence, legal documents, and town reports, 1710-1846; a poll list, c.1839 (with designations of political party affiliation); tax lists for 1826, 1867-1868; records of the Union Library Society of the Second Parish in Sutton, 1779-1786; a small collection of autographs of residents; materials pertaining to a branch of the General Society in the County of Worcester for the Reformation of Morals, c.1815; tax and birth records, c.1849-c.1852; and inscriptions in Sutton cemeteries, copied by M. S. Holden in 1940, and a small booklet of Sutton epitaphs.

There are records of the Proprietors of Sutton, including warrants for meetings, records of proceedings, surveys and plans, etc., c.1714-c.1809.

The two reels of microfilm include the records of the First Congregational Church (Sutton, Mass.), c.1720-c.1834 (the originals are owned by the First Church of Sutton), and public welfare records, 1819-1829 (the originals are deposited in the Sutton Free Public Library).

The First Congregational Church (Sutton, Mass.) was founded in 1720 with the settlement of the Rev. John McKinstry (1677-1754). In 1729 David Hall (1704-1789) was ordained as the new minister and served for nearly sixty years. Among the records are lists of admissions and dismissions, 1729-c.1820; public confessions, 1736-1782; baptisms, 1728-1826; marriages, 1799-1825; and deaths (including causes), 1769-1798. Included are records of church meetings and votes, the church covenant, and details of Hall's acceptance and ordination in 1729, as well as a lengthy record of the church's remonstrance against a decision of an Ecclesiastical Council, 1748, concerning a dispute with the Second Church of Sutton.

The public welfare records contain accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and receipts issued to individuals for "trouble and expenses incurred on account of providing for" various indigent families in Sutton. The accounts include specific foodstuffs, medicine, wood, board, and consultative visits, all charged to the town. There are several letters written to the town of Sutton by the town governments of Millbury and Grafton, Mass., assessing Sutton's share of the support of specific persons, as well as letters sent to Sutton from Fitchburg, Mass., for the same purpose.

**American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

SUTTON (MASS.), RECORDS, C.1683-C.1868; 1940
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BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		Materials concerning Sutton (Mass.) families
1	1	Allen, 1695-1845
	2	Barton, 1737-1800
	3	Carriel, 1753-1810
	4	Elliot, 1762-1794
	5	Goddard, 1753-1787
	6	Hall, 1683-1785 [David Hall's diary is at MHS]
	7	Hicks, 1726-1772
	8	Holman, 1729-1742
	9	LeBaron, 1783-1808
	10	Lovell, 1709-1773
	11	Marble, 1709-1789
	12	Putnam, 1749-1808
2	1	Stockwell, 1720-1799
	2	Waite, 1708-1762
	3	Waters, 1701-1805
	4	Miscellaneous genealogical notes and letters to C. C. Baldwin with information concerning Sutton families
		Miscellaneous Documents
	5	Wills
	6	Correspondence, legal documents, and town reports, 1710-1846
3	1	Poll list, c.1839 (with designations of political party affiliations)
	2	Town and county tax list for 1826
	3	Personal property tax lists, 1867-1868
	4	Records of the Union Library Society of the Second Parish in Sutton, 1779-1786
	5	Autographs of residents
	6	Materials pertaining to a brand of the General Society in the County of Worcester for the Reformation of Morals, c.1815
	7	Tax and birth records, c.1849-c.1852
	8	Inscriptions in Sutton cemeteries, 1940; Booklet of Sutton epitaphs
	9	Records of the Proprietors of Sutton, including warrants for meetings, records of proceedings, surveys and plans, etc., c.1714-c.1809
4		C. C. Baldwin's manuscript notes on the history of Sutton, in four bound volumes