

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Settler John Sutton (Part 7)

Some historical mysteries remain unsolved. Others are eventually untangled as new research and technology emerges. One mystery that has plagued folks in Bucklesberry for generations is the origins of John Sutton (ca. 1730-bef. 1773), one of the community's first settlers. This mystery, however, has been conclusively solved.

Circumstantial evidence, including his father's will, a deed and his son's bride, discussed in previous articles, strongly pointed to the probability that John migrated to Bucklesberry by 1750 from Bertie County, NC. Results from a multi-phase YDNA-67 study conducted in 2016 definitively confirmed that descendants of John Sutton from Lenoir County genetically matched Sutton descendants from Bertie and neighboring Perquimans Counties, putting the matter to rest for good.

With John's whereabouts firmly established, numerous Internet genealogical blogs and discussion sites need to be corrected. Undocumented and unconfirmed speculations bandied about for many years regarding John's origins prior to his arrival in Bucklesberry have now been effectively debunked. Reiterating, genetic evidence has conclusively proved John Sutton lived in Bertie County before his move to Bucklesberry.

His origins no longer a mystery, John Sutton's paternal ancestry can be confidently traced to early Colonial America through wills, court records and other historical documents. John's parents were Thomas Sutton, Sr. (1699-1750) and Elizabeth Luerton Sutton (1705-aft. 1730) of Bertie County.

John's paternal grandparents were Joseph Sutton, Sr. (1673-1723) and Parthenia Durant Sutton (1675-bef. 1723) of Perquimans County. John's paternal great-grandparents were Nathaniel Sutton (ca. 1644-1682) and Deborah Astine Sutton (1668-ca. 1732) of Perquimans County. Finally, John's twice paternal great-grandparents were George Sutton (ca. 1613-1669) and Sarah Tilden Sutton (1613-1677) of Perquimans County.

George Sutton was the earliest known patriarch of John's paternal line to immigrate to seventeenth century America. He was among 197 confirmed passengers on the ship *Hercules* that sailed from England in February-March 1634, landing in Scituate, MA near Boston.

George was a servant of yeoman Nathaniel Tilden, also a passenger on the ship. Both were from Tenterden Parish, Kent County, England. In 1636, George married Nathaniel's daughter Sarah Tilden (1613-1677).

According to Scituate historical records, George and Sarah built the 43rd house in the town on the current Greenfield Lane by 1636. For the next several decades, they lived in Scituate where they grew their family of seven known children. The last published record of George in Scituate was a 1666 petition he filed with the court to purchase a plot of Indian land on the west side of Scituate.

By 1671, George and Sarah had moved away from Scituate and found permanent residence in Perquimans County, NC after living a brief period of time in New York and Virginia. Why they left Scituate to begin with is uncertain.

More about John Sutton and his life in Bucklesberry will be shared in an upcoming article.