

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Hardy Sutton (Part 2)

The youngest of ten surviving children, Hardy Sutton (1803-1861) was the son of Revolutionary War Patriot Benjamin Sutton, Sr. (ca. 1752-1837) and Sarah Hardy Sutton (1759-1846). He was a third generation Bucklesberry farmer.

Scant information is available on Hardy. There is no known photograph and no published obituary. Fortunately, the Clellan Thomas Sutton Collection of Bucklesberry documents contains six receipts that provide a glimpse into his life and his values. For example, he honorably paid his debts. Three receipts show he made payments on credit accounts he held with nearby merchants.

Hardy and his wife Annie Hill Sutton (1807-1881) were committed to the education of their children. By 1836, six of fourteen surviving children had been born, several school-aged at the time: Nancy, age 11; Thomas, age 10; Elizabeth, age 9; William Harmon, age 4; Richard, age 3; and Lemuel Hardy, age 1. Of the three remaining receipts in the Collection bearing Hardy's name, two indicate he paid a local educator in 1836 for school tuition:

1836: "1836 May 31<sup>st</sup> } Mr. Hardy Sutton Dr To Lewis Uzzell for tuition 228 Days @ 4 1/10 c,  
H. Sutton a/c \$9.32 [+] 2.00 [=] \$11.32 [-] 4.59 [=] 7.73"

1836: "Sir please to pay Lewis Uzzell two Dollars and that will settle accts with you and me  
August 26th 1836 D G Daly Mr. Hardy Sutton"

The 1860 Census verifies Lewis Uzzell's occupation as a school teacher, then 55 years of age and living alone in Wayne County. When he taught Hardy's and Annie's children in 1836, he was a young educator in his twenties. The 1870 Census records an aging Lewis and his elderly mother Rebecca Kirkpatrick Dunn Uzzell (1782-1878) living in a household together in Wayne County.

Lewis was probably no stranger to Hardy and Annie. They likely knew him and other Uzzell relatives living in the area. The relationship between the Sutton and Uzzell families was longstanding, stretching back to the founding years of Bucklesberry in the mid-1700s. In addition to the Herrings and Suttons, the Uzzells were among the original settlers in then-Old Dobbs County, all migrating from Bertie County around 1750.

Lewis' mother Rebecca married Major Uzzell (1777-1841) of Wayne County. Major was the son of Elisha Uzzell (1736-1798), who was the son of Thomas Uzzell, Jr. (1715-1772). Thomas, Jr.

was born in the Isle of Wright, VA, where his father Thomas Uzzell, Sr. (1680-1748/51) from France also lived and died.

One of Elisha's brothers was Thomas Uzzell, III (ca. 1750-1828), known as 'Bucklesberry Thomas' or 'Revolutionary Tom' to differentiate him from his father and grandfather of the same name. The death dates of Thomas, III and several of his children are prominently recorded in the Hardy and Annie Hill Sutton Bible, suggesting an unusually special relationship between the two families. In his will, Hardy bequeathed to his son Junius Eli Sutton (1847-1931) an Uzzell farm that was either purchased or inherited.

Various papers in the Clellan Thomas Sutton Collection indicate that Hardy's father Benjamin Sutton, Sr. (ca. 1752-1837) and grandfather John Sutton (ca. 1725-bef. 1773) were also associated with the Uzzell family. Two surveys of land purchased by John Sutton in 1757 and after 1773 identify adjoining land owned by Thomas Uzzell, Jr. In his role as clerk, Thomas, Jr., receipted taxes paid by Benjamin Sutton from 1790 to 1797. Interestingly, Thomas, Jr. paid an invoice on Benjamin's behalf in a 1796 receipt.