

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Settler John Sutton (Part 12)

With proven roots in Bertie County, NC, John Sutton (ca. 1730-bef. 1773) arrived in the unsettled swampland of Bucklesberry of old Dobbs County by 1750. There he grew his family. John's assumed wife was Ann Turner Sutton who may have been the mother of his children, although neither has been proven.

John fathered three proven sons—Benjamin, John Jr., and William. Mentioned in several early Censuses and documents, evidence suggests he had four other purported sons—James, Richard, Simon and Thomas. As second generation Bucklesberrians, John's seven sons were all born 1752-1773 and were deceased by 1837. Not all remained in Bucklesberry, though. Descendants of several sons have never been determined or cannot be traced in Census records.

James Sutton moved away from Bucklesberry by 1810. He is listed in the Wayne County Census that year as head of household with six others, presumably his wife and children. Not listed or named in subsequent Censuses for Wayne or nearby counties, James' descendants are untraceable.

Simon Sutton also moved away from Bucklesberry by 1810. The Census lists him in neighboring Duplin County as head of household with six others, likely his wife and children. He was deceased by the 1820 Census, which names his widow Mary Sutton as head of household with three others, probably his children. In the 1830 and 1840 Censuses, Mary is listed with fewer household members. The 1850 Census, first to name all members of a household, identified Mary as head of household living alone. She is not listed in the 1860 Census, which indicates she was deceased. Although unproven, some of the other Sutton heads of household listed in the 1860 Census for Duplin County may have been Simon's and Mary's descendants.

Richard Sutton is listed as head of household in the 1800 Census for Lenoir County where he was probably living in Bucklesberry. By the 1810 Census, his widow Susana Sutton is named head of household, signaling Richard's death sometime after the 1800 Census. In the household with Susana are four younger ones, assumed to be their children.

The only descendant of Richard [Sr.] and Susanna that can be traced in later Censuses is the youngest male child (under age 10 years) identified in the 1810 Census. Probably the namesake of his father, the lad is listed as adult Richard Sutton [Jr.] in subsequent Censuses. He is head of household in the 1830 and 1840 Censuses with a wife and four younger ones, presumably his children. By 1850 when Census takers named all household members, Richard [Jr.], then age 49,

is listed with his wife Susan, age 47, and only one child named Richard Sutton, seven years of age. He may have been their youngest surviving child or possibly their grandchild. Not named at all in the 1850 Census but counted in the previous 1830 and 1840 Census households are Richard [Jr.'s] and Susan's four children, making them untraceable after 1850.

A decade later, the seven-year-old Richard Sutton is 18 years of age in the 1860 Census and a farm laborer living in the household of William H. Whitfield of the Bear Creek/Moseley Hall community. The elder Richard [Jr.], however, is listed in the household of Bucklesberry relative Josiah Sutton Sr. (1810-1898). In the next 1870 Census, Richard [Jr.], age 70, is found in the household of another Bucklesberry relative Elizabeth Sutton Wood (1827-1894) and her husband Dempsey Wood (1816-1882), where he is listed the last time in the 1880 Census. The younger Richard Sutton drops off the Census radar altogether after 1870.

Thomas Sutton was believed to have deceased by 1800. There is no evidence that he ever married or had children. More on the lineage of settler John Sutton will be shared in an upcoming Bucklesberry article.