

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Thomas Sutton

The La Grange Historical Society will honor several deceased individuals buried at Fairview Cemetery at its annual cemetery tour event on Saturday, April 28, 4:00 PM. One of the honorees is Samuel Ivey (S.I.) Sutton (1834-1904).

S.I.'s purported father was Thomas Sutton (about 1782-1853), son of Benjamin Sutton (about 1752-1837) and Sarah Hardy Sutton (1759-1846). He never married, that we know of. Little is written about Thomas, but available records indicate the following brief timeline of events:

1828 (age 46): He was living in Lenoir County; he purchased farming and household goods from his brother-in-law, Joshua Barwick who was married to his sister, Winifred Sutton.

1832 (age 50): His father, Benjamin's will states that Thomas had previously been given land, stock, and household goods.

1840 (age 58): He was the probable male, age 50-60, listed in Lenoir county Census and living in the household with his widowed mother, Sarah Hardy Sutton in Bucklesberry; his purported son, S.I., was likely the male age 5-10 also living in the household.

1850 (age 68): He is listed in the Lenoir County Census as a farmer, apparently a sharecropper; there is no indication that he owned land at the time; S.I. was the only other individual living in the household with him.

1853 (age 71): He and S.I. sold two properties of land jointly owned, one to James M. Harper and the other to Samuel W. Scarborough; he apparently gifted two other properties of land to S.I.; he died in Wayne County with no will; his estate file indicates he owned a mercantile store or shop; there is no indication that he owned land at his death.

The estate file states that Thomas owed \$500.00 at the time of his death to James H. Everett, Wayne County attorney, and Joseph Everett Kennedy, Wayne County contractor. Upon naming Mr. Everett as administrator of Thomas' estate, the court authorized Mr. Everett to sell remaining items in Thomas' shop to satisfy his debt.

Items auctioned from Thomas' shop on July 10, 1857 included the following: Bible/other book; bird cage; bottles (1/2 doz.); bowls; box; box of paper; brandy; buckets (4); cherry brandy; cigars (20 boxes); cognac brandy; cordial; crackers; decanters (7); gin; glass jars (9); jug and lamp;

kegs (3); lemon syrup; looking glass; malaga wine; measures; mugs (4 lots); mustard; pitchers (14); plates, scales and weights; soap; stove; tobacco; tray; trumpery (2 lots); tumblers; vinegar (2 bottles); wagon; whiskey (2 bottles); and yeast powders.

Thomas' brother, John Sutton (about 1779-1858), purchased the jug and lamp, one lot of trumpery, looking glass, tray, and scales and weights. Listed as Joseph Sutton in the estate file, Thomas' nephew, Josiah Sutton, Sr. (1810-1898) purchased two pitchers and one lot of mugs.

The estate file also indicated Thomas held notes against 55 individuals at the time of his death who collectively owed \$282.95 on account. The four with the highest tabs were Calvin Jones, \$40.15, Harper Smith, \$24.05, Isaac Ransom, \$18.13, and Thomas's brother, Benjamin Sutton, Jr. (1795-1864) who owed \$28.89.