



museum WITHOUT WALLS

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Sutton Family

In 1839 the Sutton family, consisting of John Sutton, his wife Eleanor and son Henry, left Ireland and arrived on the WA coast aboard the ship, the "Hindoo". John Sutton came as an indentured servant to James Tate and worked for him until 1843 farming the Peel region.

He then rented a block of land where he later opened a small inn (the 'Wayside Inn'), which was mostly used by mail coaches for overnight stops. Around this time (1848) John Sutton applied for the lease of the Mandurah ferry, which was granted by Thomas Peel. The ferry was used to transport people, horses and carts across the dangerous estuary. In 1852, the Government bought the ferry back from Thomas Peel and appointed Sutton as the ferry-keeper. Sutton operated the ferry free of charge to the public and in return was given a sizeable amount of land around the southern estuary, as well as a publican's license for his Inn and finance to keep the ferry maintained.

John Sutton died in 1857, followed by his son Henry in 1861. This left his wife Eleanor Sutton the difficult job of managing the farm, inn and ferry service. She wrote home for help to relatives in Ireland and her nephew, also called Henry Sutton, was sent over in 1862.

Eleanor died in 1868, leaving the Sutton estate to her nephew, Henry. Henry married Jane McLarty in 1866 and ran the ferry service until 1871 when he purchased 200 acres of land. Henry built the Sutton farm (including a barn and sleeping quarters) and in 1881, built a homestead on the property. Henry, Jane and their 10 children (7 daughters and 3 sons) lived on and ran the farm for many years. Even after the death of Jane (in 1905) and Henry (in 1921, aged 85), the Sutton estate was run by the Suttons', although not always owned by them.

The Sutton children all had important roles in the development of various sectors of the Mandurah community, including membership on the Murray Roads Board, farming and running one of Mandurah's corner stores (run by Violet Sutton, nee Cooper). The Sutton family was a hardworking family who made their success in the Peel region, becoming a valuable part of the growth of Mandurah.



museum without walls

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Time line

John Sutton

1840 -1843

In 1839 the Sutton family, consisting of John Sutton, his wife Eleanor and son Henry, left Ireland and arrived on the WA coast aboard the ship, the *Hindoo* in 1840.

John Sutton came as an indentured servant to James Tate and worked for him until 1843 farming in the Peel region. He then rented a block of land on the west bank of the Mandurah estuary on part of Henry Hall's 200 acres and occupied Hall's cottage.

1844

In 1844 he took up the ferry licence.

1846 -1849

He started a small inn and in 1846 he obtained an innkeeper's licence. The inn was mostly used by mail coaches for overnight stops.

In 1848 John Sutton applied for the lease of the Mandurah ferry, which was granted by Thomas Peel. The ferry was used to transport people, horses and carts across the dangerous estuary.

In 1849 he completed building the *Wayside Inn*.

1852

In 1852, the Government bought the ferry back from Thomas Peel and appointed Sutton as the ferry-keeper. Sutton operated the ferry free of charge to the public and in return was given 10 000 acres around the southern estuary, as well as a publican's licence for his Inn and finance to keep the ferry maintained.

1857 - 1861

John Sutton died in 1857, followed by his son in 1861. Henry died from pneumonia after contracting measles in 1861.

1862 - 1868

John Sutton's wife, Eleanor Sutton was left with the difficult job of managing the farm, inn and ferry service. She wrote home for help to relatives in Ireland and her nephew, also called Henry Sutton, was sent over in 1862.

1862 Fire destroyed some farm buildings and a quantity of corn.

Eleanor died in 1868, leaving the Sutton estate to her nephew.



MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Sutton Family cont'd

Henry Sutton

1862

1862 Henry Sutton, Eleanor and Henry's nephew arrived.

1866 - 1868

1866 He married Jane McLarty, daughter of John McLarty of *Blythewood*. Jane and Henry had three sons and seven daughters.

1868 he inherited the Sutton estate and became one of the Mandurah community mainstays.

1871 - 1877

1871 he bought 200 acres with Hall's Cottage from Henry Hall.

Sutton kept milking cows and by 1877 they were 70-80 cows.

1881 - 1885

In 1881 the farm and buildings were established including the homestead. The homestead was used by the community for social gatherings including dances until the Agricultural Hall was built.

In 1885 they expanded and built a milking shed. The Suttons were one of the few employers in Mandurah. However, by the mid 1890s bottled milk was introduced and the dairy declined.

1905

1905 Jane Sutton died.

1921

1921 Henry Sutton died.

1926

In 1926 the farm was sold to Joe Cooper under the condition that Suttons would have the first option for buying it back if it went to market, which they did in 1947.

Henry Sutton had 10 children, all had important roles in the development of various sectors of the Mandurah community, including membership on the Murray Roads Board, farming, and running one of Mandurah's corner stores.

References:

Burgess, J. 1988. *Mandurah – Water Under the Bridge*. Town of Mandurah.

Richards, R. 1978. *The Murray District of WA: A History*. Shire of Murray.

Richards, R. 1993. *Murray and Mandurah*. Shire of Murray.