

# Sutton Farmstead ~1848 - ~ 1947

and other Iron Creek neighbors

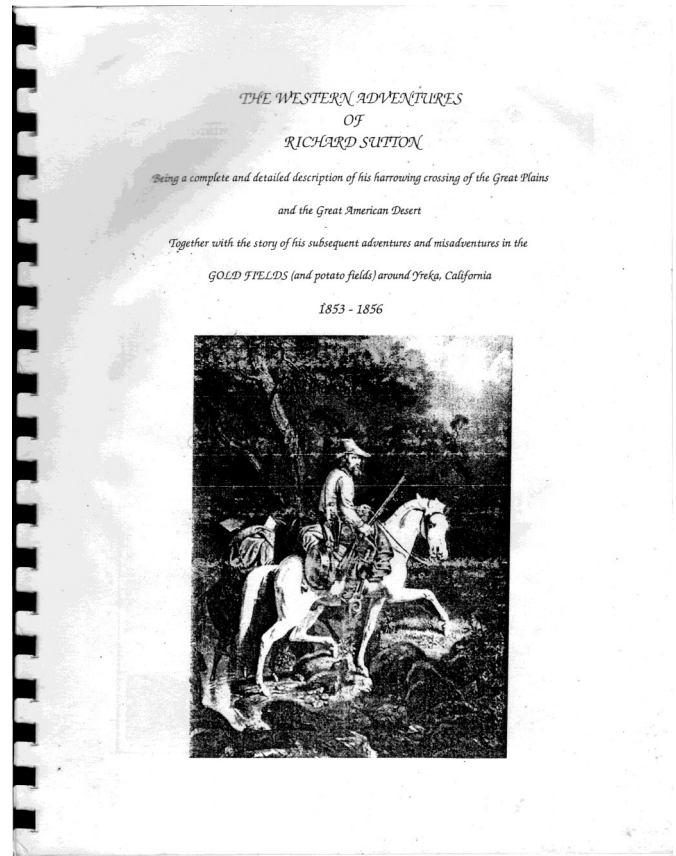
Compiled by Sybil Kolon 3/12/2023



Date unknown - Sutton Farmhouse circa 1900

Documents and personal accounts collected to date about 11703 Noggles Road, Manchester Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan 48158

## Richard Sutton 1812-1884 about 1856



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### IRON CREEK AND NICHOLS SCHOOL JESSE M. D. ALLEN

I was first introduced to Iron Creek when I was five years old. My foster mother, Mrs. Theodore Allen, has brought me from her new home in East Saginaw, Michigan, to her old home on the bank of the Creek to show me, her foster child, to her mother and her step-father, Mary and James Nowlen.

When we arrived in Jackson, she left me sitting in the depot with her satchel by my side, and went out on the street to look about. It was her good fortune to encounter John and Charley Loucks, who lived within walking distance of the Nowlen Place. They were in Jackson with their farm team and lumber wagon, and cordially offered her a ride. Gladly accepting, she took me and her satchel to the wagon, and we began the long, lumbering, eighteen mile drive. John did the driving. Charley was a delicate looking boy on crutches. I liked him.

We reached the Loucks farm house some time after dark, and declining further help, started out at once to walk home. It was rather frightening walking through the woods, and the little city girl clung tightly to her mother's hand, he walked in silence. But when we came out into the moonlight, descended a round hill, and presently stood upon a low wooden bridge over a stream. Mother said, "This is Iron Creek, and we are almost there."

We passed one house, all dark, and there was the Creek again, flowing by the roadside. There were logs sunk crosswise in the oozy road. Mother called it the "Gorduroy," and led me cordially across. Then we tramped up a stony slope and went in at a little gate. The house was dark, but a tall, thin, old gentleman let us in, and called into the bedroom and up stairs.

At once Grandmother appeared, a very straight elderly Irish lady, who welcomed us with kisses. And down the stairs came a tall and willowy young woman, followed by a short blond young man. These were Mother's youngest sister and her husband, Aunt Mary and Uncle Tommy Rushton, recently married.

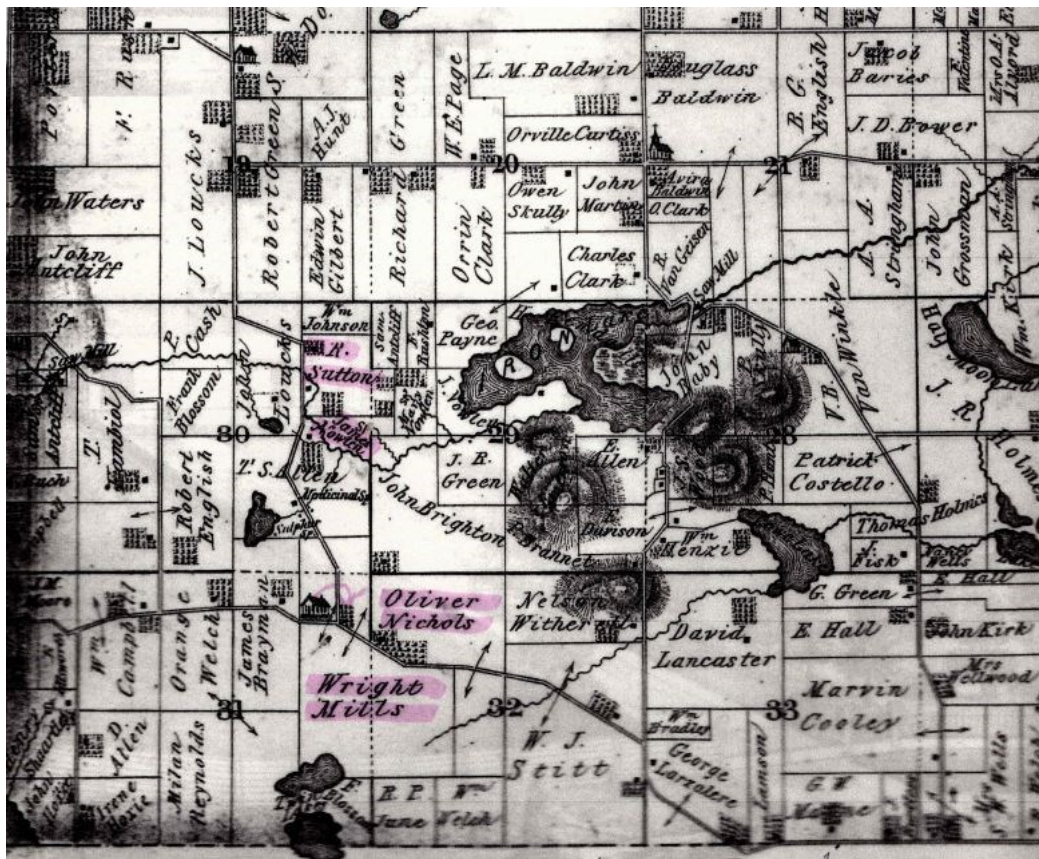
And now, for some exciting minutes, I was the center of attention. There were exclamations about my light hair and dark eyes, and my dimpled hands; Grandmother said I was like a little leprechaun, and Mother boasted of how brave I had been waiting for her in the depot in Jackson.

The next morning, I stood by Grandfather's chair and watched curiously while he pounded coffee in a mortar with a pestle. These were new words to me. In Saginaw we had a little coffee-mill that hung on the wall a step toward the big red coffee grinder later seen in the coffee stores.

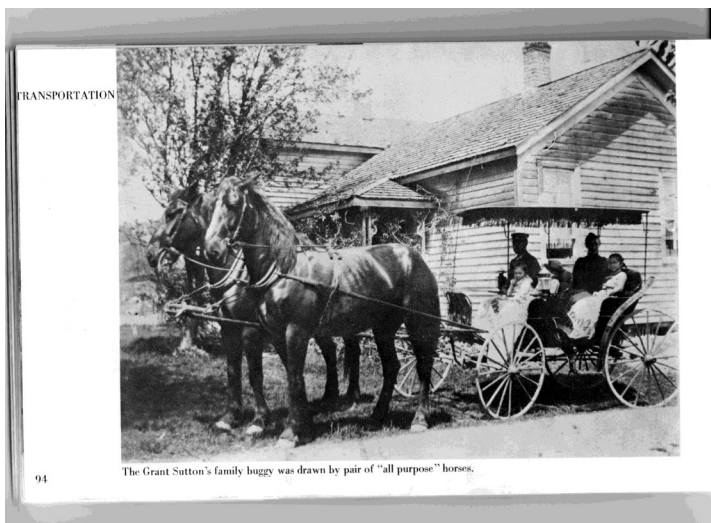
Richard Sutton returned to Michigan in 1856 after three years of not getting rich in the Gold Rush. His letters home were saved and used to create the story of his western adventures (above).

Richard and his fifth wife, Ann Matthews Sutton, built the original two-story section of the farmhouse at 11703 Noggles Road in about 1858.

The Iron Creek and Nichols School account (left) was written by Jesse Allen in 1947, the niece of Richard's wife. Jesse moved there in about 1870. Jesse and other relatives were nearby neighbors. Her classmates included one of Richard Sutton's children, Grant, who took over the farmstead after his father died.



1874 plat map, southwest Manchester Township, highlighting several neighbors listed in the Iron Creek and Nichols School account of the 1870s. Notice the Nichols School House on the north side of Wellwood, just west of Noggles



The Grant Sutton's family buggy was drawn by pair of "all purpose" horses.



Remodeling by Louis & Rose Kolongowski about 1949

Grant Sutton Family, about 1902 - the little girl in the front was born in 1898.



**Jesse Bowins Sutton & Grant Sutton  
1890**

Neighborhood lore has it that the log cabin at right resided at three locations along Noggles Road: 1) one mile north of Wellwood, just south of the major curve; 2) across from the Sutton farmhouse; and 3) at what is now 11993 Noggles Road, about a quarter mile north of Wellwood

The 1870 census shows Richard's oldest son, Edward, and his wife, lived just north of them. Unless it was right next to them, the next habitable site is at 11677 Noggles Road, where a few old bricks and pottery shards were found during excavation in 1982.

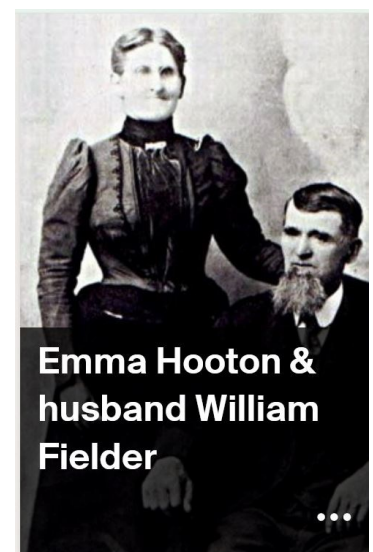
Grant was about 16 when his father died in 1884. His two older brothers had likely moved out by then. He had two younger siblings and likely became "the man of the house." His mother, Ann, eventually moved into Manchester. That may have coincided with Grant's marriage to Sarah "Jesse" Bowins on Christmas day, 1889, as they raised their children in the same house. [need to check 1900 census; & others]



Three Emma's: Emma Wolff, Emma Fielder and Emma Buell in the 1940s. [I plan to re-search when Emma Fielder lived there, she would be seen smoking a pipe on her porch]



EB\_Sutton\_1919



**Emma Hooton & husband William Fielder**



Rose Kolongowski with work crew ~1949



1950s - grandchildren visiting.



Mid-1960s - notice small pine trees in front

2022 - pine trees ~72 years old

