

Royal Horse Guards / Samuel Sutton

Ron Sutton

The ongoing media interest shown towards the military careers of Prince William and Prince Harry prompted me to examine the military career of my EPG man's father also named Samuel Sutton. Prince William's and Prince Harry's parent unit is the Blues and Royals, a cavalry unit of the Royal Household Cavalry Regiment which was formed in 1969 by the amalgamation of the Royal Horse Guards (Blues) and the Royal Dragoons (the Royals).

The Royal Horse Guards, (RGH) was founded in August 1650 in Newcastle on Tyne by Sir Arthur Hesselrigge on the orders of Oliver Cromwell as the Regiment of Cuirassiers. The regiment became the Earl of Oxford's regiment during the reign of Charles II. As the regiment's uniform was blue in colour at the time, it was nicknamed the "Oxford Blues" which in time shortened to the "Blues". In 1750 the regiment became the Royal Horse Guards Blue and eventually in 1877 **The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues)**. The regiment was especially favoured by George III and, with the appointment of the Duke of Wellington as its Colonel, was elevated to the status

of Household Cavalry in 1803. The regiment earned battle honours at Dettingen, Austria 1743, Warburg, North West Germany 1760, Beaumont and Willems, Belgium 1794 Peninsula Wars, Spain and France 1812 -1815, Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt 1882, the Relief of Kimberley and Paardeberg in South Africa 1899-1900. The regiment also served in both World Wars.

Samuel Sutton Snr was born in Loughborough, County of Leicester, England c1787 and his parents being of the Anglican faith was baptized at the All Saints Church, (now Holy Trinity), Church Gate, Loughborough on the 13th February 1790.¹ Nothing is known of his early childhood however; at some stage he received training as a tailor probably from his father. He enlisted in the **Royal Horse Guards** on the 6th October 1806 having stated he was 16 years old. His Attestation documents list him as being six foot tall with fair complexion, sandy hair and grey eyes. He stated his occupation as tailor and was given the initial rank of Private Trooper.

¹ Register of Baptisms, Parish Records, All Saints Church, Loughborough

His early military career saw him stationed at the Cavalry Barracks at Windsor with the **Royal Horse Guards** having the responsibility of protecting the Royal Family of George III and ceremonial duties.² During his service at Windsor he met his future wife Sarah Cox (born c1787). Their first child **Samuel**, (my EPG man) was born in October 1810. During the period 25th December 1812 – 24th December 1813, Samuel was listed as serving in Captain George William Villier's Troop, which included cavalry duties in Spain during the Peninsular War. On the 25th December 1813 he was transferred to Captain John Taylor's Troop and was at the battle of Toulouse, France on the 10th April 1814 and was awarded the Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 with clasp "Toulouse"^{3,4} In June 1814 the Blues returned to England and Samuel was discharged at Cavalry Barracks on the 8th August 1814.⁵ The Blues returned to France in 1815 and were at Waterloo and the victory advance to Paris.



Trooper, 5th (or Royal Irish) Regiment of Dragoons (Lancers)

AN AWARD FOR RON

I attended the AGM of the WA Genealogical Society, held at State Library. Among other awards presented, it was wonderful to see 'one of our own'

RON SUTTON

receive a WAGS SOCIETY AWARD.

As you know Ron had to prematurely resign from his position as Treasurer and the Award was presented for the following:

Ron initiated and compiled a database of members of the EPG Group and their soldier ancestors;

Ron developed a mailing list program to simplify the mailing of our newsletter to an Australia Post standard in order to reduce postage costs;

He also improved the system to allow our Group to send our Newsletter to those members who requested such a service;

As Treasurer, Ron was instrumental in simplifying the bookkeeping system of the Group Financial Records;

Ron also was the negotiator with our Bank to reduce bank costs.

I am sure we all wish Ron the best of good health.

It is pleasing to hear Ron will still be involved in some capacity in the coming year when we can use his knowledge and expertise to assist in the erection of a Plaque at Lake Claremont (Butler's Swamp). That subject is of interest to Ron in that his ancestor, Samuel Sutton, was granted land in the area.

Jean McDonald

² The National Archives, Kew, London WO 25/873 Service Returns 1806

³ Ditto, WO 12/59 Pay and Muster Rolls.

⁴ Ditto, WO 100/03 War Medal Schedule.

⁵ Ditto, WO 12/59, Pay and Muster Rolls.