

# **Clog Clatters in Old Sutton**

*Being a series of recollections of a childhood spent in Sutton, St. Helens*

**By Frank Bamber**

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**Dedication**

*I take the liberty to dedicate this book “Clog Clatters” to my wife Elsie, daughter Rita, and sons, Brian and Frank.*

*Also to my friend Chris Coffey for the interest he has shown.*

*And to all my friends, both Committee members and all members of the Sutton Historic Society.*

*Frank Bamber  
1995*

### Introduction

*By word of mouth and through speech first, but far more by writing, man has been able to put something of himself beyond death.*

*In tradition and in books, people have been able to put something of themselves, and an integral part of their individualism in rows of small black marks on a page or pages.*

*So after the writer has passed on, something of him or herself persists:*

*about the people one grew up amongst;  
about the kind of world they lived in;  
A kind of reflection of conditions in that particular period of their lives.*

*Frank Bamber  
1995*



Wilf Wilson, Frank Bamber (centre) and Les Fairclough, in Walkers Lane 1928

## **Old Sutton**

Smoke rising from copper slag and coal fires  
Screens all the past from view  
A chink of light my pen aspires  
To scribe Old Sutton True.

Ellam's Bridge that spans our brook  
Thro' Sutton we love so well  
Our historic society takes a searching look  
Of times we love to tell.

The shadows cast of loved ones gone  
Are etched upon the old day scene.  
Edward Borrows was such a one -  
He harnessed iron to steam.

And up our brook to the waterfall  
Was the old mill by the dam.  
A picnic place enjoyed by all,  
That miller's name was Lamb.

Another name comes to the fore -  
Michael Hughes to Sherdley came.  
He brought with him the copper ore  
And Sutton's coal brought him fame.

In flats to Runcorn he did sail  
And loaded wagons on the Runcorn Gap.  
His task of smelting did not fail.  
He helped put Sutton on the map.

Providence itself has left its mark,  
They talk of it as the Glacier Stone.  
Its resting place in Sutton Park,  
Silent and still it stands there alone.

Hugh Morris's gift to Mary of Cockersand  
From Eltonhead to stone which stands to the south,  
From Sutton came fully six acres of land  
For hospital and abbey at old Cockermouth.

The Lancashire engineers did a fine job.  
In 1871 they built the old Battery Cob.  
For a battery range they took such a measure  
It was loved by us kids, it brought endless hours of pleasure.

A variety of bird life our strappers did unfold  
The remarkable white blackbirds and sparrows of Bold.  
You'd glimpse them at Webster's if one tarried that long,  
The eerie call of peewit contrasts with larks' songs.

The old Sutton Moss would welcome us there  
To jump its wide ditches for challenge or dare.  
There were pyramids of cut turf left there to dry,  
We left them untouched as we ran and passed by.

And on the old tip we played football and cricket -  
An orange box became a fashionable wicket.  
Another game played was the old pitch and toss,  
Some lads would gain, at another lad's loss.

They've gone, the Convent House and Old Trip Shaws  
They've gone, Borrows House, The Phoenix and Old Sutton Moss  
The spoilers, the Council with unfeeling laws.  
Gone is part of our heritage - it's our Sutton's loss.

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