

THE HISTORY OF THE T. B. SUTTON GENERAL STORE GRANVILLE, TN

Granville is a beautiful riverboat community near the edge of the Jackson/Smith County line in Tennessee.

The **T.B. (Ben) Sutton General Store** dates back to 1870 when it was purchased by **W. H. Ragland** at the Chancery Court - Clerk and Master sale. On June 7, 1880, Ragland sold the store to **A.S. Cooper** and **James Hargis** for \$100.00. For the next 45 years, the store was owned by the Cooper family primarily along with several other individuals at various times. In the 1890's, it went by the name of **Hargis & Son General Merchandise and Country Produce**. In 1901, it changed to **Shepherd & Cooper**. In 1906, it was **Cooper & Brown**, and then **B.F. Cooper General Merchandise**. In May, 1925, B.F. Cooper sold the store to **A.H. Willoughby**, trustee, Bank of Granville. On May 7, 1925, **Ben Sutton** bought the store from Willoughby and became the most remembered store owner of our times. Sutton operated the store for over 45 years closing it shortly before his death. **John Clemons** operated the store for a short period in the early 1970's before closing the store permanently. The store remained closed, becoming run down and in need of much repair and restoration.

The annual Heritage Day celebration in May, 2000, brought **Harold** and **Beverly Sutton** to the Granville community for the first time. Sutton discovered the old store and noticed that it shared the same name as his father, **Ben Sutton**. Although they could not tie their heritage to **T.B. Sutton**, they fell in love with the old store, and on July 11, 2000, purchased the store and all its contents. The store was nearly in ruins and almost un-restorable. The feed room was almost on the ground with all the store fixtures in this room. Sutton began remodeling the facility by raising the feed room up 37 ½ inches and repairing the foundation and wood siding - all the while being heralded for maintaining the character and charm of the old general store.

After months of restoration work, the store re-opened once again on May 26, 2001, as part of the Heritage Day celebrations. The Suttons' began selling gift items, hand-dipped ice cream, chips, and cola, along with hosting Bluegrass bands on Saturday nights. The Suttons have preserved history in a great manner and have touched thousands of lives with the store. In September, 2007, Harold and Beverly Sutton donated the store, contents, and property to the Granville Museum, Inc., in order that the store could once again be a viable part of society and operate within the community of Granville.

The future remains exciting for the **T.B. Sutton General Store** now open and featuring spectacular catered lunches and dinners for tour groups, events, and club meetings. The store offers a wide variety of unique merchandise for sale including Granville memorabilia, cookbooks, Case knives, Boker knives, Key brand overalls, Stetson and Dodd hats. They feature handmade items such as Sterling silver and 14K gold jewelry, hand carved walking sticks, cross stitched items by Grandma Dee Dee, hand painted collectible Santa figurines by Alenia, and are a featured Eden Angels dealer. Visitors will find the store stocked with unique and hard to find gift items, old time candies, jams, jellies, and relished that have been enjoyed by all for many years.

Directions to Granville: (From Nashville) Take I-40E and exit 258. Turn left at the end of the ramp. Take the Hwy 53/Hwy 70 ramp toward Cookeville. At the Chestnut Mound Post Office (on the right) and the Corner Market (on the left), take a left onto Hwy 53 for 5.3 miles, turn right onto Clover Street. The museum is on the left.
(From Knoxville/Cookeville) Take I-40W and exit 268. Turn right at the end of the ramp and travel about 5 miles until the road ends at Hwy 70. Turn left. At the Chestnut Mound Post Office (on the left) and Corner Market (on the right), turn right onto Hwy 53. Proceed 5.3 miles, turn right onto Clover Street. The museum is on the left.

SUTTON GENERAL STORE

Just a stone's throw from the banks of the Cumberland River stands the Ben Sutton General Merchandise Store and Grocery. Built in 1880, it continuously served the families of the Granville, Tennessee area until the 1970's. The two story building's unique style features a balcony with many of the products the store offered for sale during its 90 years of service. The original building has much of the same interior fixtures

it had at the turn of the 20th century. The store contains a dining room offering family style dining for groups of 40 by reservation. Furnishings and memorabilia are on display; very unique gifts and merchandise are for sale. Walking back in time will be fun, interesting and educational.

T.B. Sutton General Store is now open Wednesday thru Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Each Saturday you can join us for a family-style dinner and a live radio-broadcast bluegrass music performance.

Sutton General Store Family Style Meals

Reserved Seating Available for up to 42 Persons Each Meal

Call the store phone 931-653-4151 for reservations.

The family style meals feature the finest in Tennessee Cooking with an assortment of menus from which to choose.

Meals include: Soup, Meats, Three Vegetables, Bread, Dessert and Drink

Lunch/Dinner Music is provided by a Player Piano and Storytelling is also featured.

Cost: Lunch \$18 and Dinner \$20 per person

<http://www.ajlambert.com>