

EDWIN OLIVER SUTTON

Oliver was born in on the 18th January 1902 in Hankow, China,
the son of the Rev Henry B Sutton a long serving Wesleyan Methodist Missionary.

He entered the Wesleyan Methodist ministry in 1925
and married Christine C Harvey at Belmont Methodist Church, Stoke, Devonport in Sep 1936.

They had three children:

Richard Harvey (born 1939),
Virginia Mary (born 1945) and
Adrian H (born Maidenhead 1949)

Public information on Oliver's ministry is scanty to but there are a few scraps of informatuion concerning
Oliver's father's long service in the China Mission field

Oliver died on the 10th February 1997 in Devonport

MINISTER MARRIED

Father Takes Part In Ceremony At Devonport

When a Methodist minister was married at Belmont Methodist Church, Stoke, Devonport, on Saturday, his father was one of the officiating ministers, and another minister was best man.

The bridegroom was Rev. Oliver Sutton, a minister of the Devonport Circuit, and his father (Rev. H. B. Sutton, a Methodist minister, of London) and Rev. G. C. Williams (superintendent of the Devonport Circuit) officiated. Another Methodist minister (Rev. C. E. Stephenson, of Torpoint) was best man.

Miss Christina Harvey, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Harvey, of 3, Park-street, Stoke, who was the bride, has been assistant secretary of the Wesley Guild at Belmont Church. She was given away by her brother, Maj. R. E. Harvey, and wore a princess gown of white marocain with a roll collar and cuffs. Her embroidered net veil, which was lent by a friend, was held in place by a coronet of diamanté, and she carried a sheaf of lilies.

Novel style green hoods to match their crêpe de Chine dresses were worn by the bridesmaids, Miss Betty Read, friend, and Miss Enid Hambling, cousin of the bride. Their gowns were trimmed with gold tassels and they wore gold lace mittens and carried gold chrysanthemums.

The bride's going-away outfit was a grey costume with a hat and blouse of green.

The wedding reception was at Belmont Church School-room, and Messrs. Williams, of Union-street, Plymouth, carried out the catering arrangements.

The Rev. HENRY B. SUTTON next addressed the meeting, and in the course of his remarks he said he was glad to say "thank you" to Banbury for all they had done for the China mission. He wanted to take them to a most interesting district in Methodism—namely, Central China, which was associated with the names of many Methodist pioneers in missionary work. He went to China twenty-one years ago, and he had nothing to say but words of encouragement. When he went there were five circuits and now there were twenty-one, with a membership of four hundred thousand. He could not help thinking that God must have a great purpose for China or he would not have allowed her to keep together as she had as a nation. For three years he laboured in the northern province, and, though hard, the work was most interesting and encouraging. He proceeded to give some thrilling descriptions of the Boxer riots, and said that terrible as the slaughter was it was nothing compared with what the Germans had done in this war. In those riots ten to fifteen thousand Christians were put to death, and it was a sad experience. The speaker paid a high tribute to the pioneer work of David Hill at the church he was last privileged to work in. He had lived to see the first self-supporting church in Central China, which was at Hankow. They had also a native missionary society, and they had in the central society two native evangelists. They were trying to develop the work on those lines and there was much joy in the service. They were trying to advance by means of medical work and general education, and there was nothing but progress to report. The revolution had resulted in the protection of Christians. Many of the heathen temples had been turned into schools, and the opium traffic was being curtailed considerably and foot-binding was becoming a diminishing custom. A great deal of good work was being done amongst the women and girls by British ladies, acting as agents of the Women's Auxiliary, in all parts of China. The officials were giving Christian workers the open door everywhere. One could not tell what God had in view in China, but in the building up of that great country the Wesleyan Church would have a leading place.

Banbury Guardian October 11 1917

Child Life in China.

The Rev. Henry B. Sutton followed with one of the most refreshingly unconventional addresses ever delivered in the church. After saying how glad he was to see Mr. Hawley again, and to see so many young people present, he invited them to imagine him a Chinese boy, and he would tell them his autobiography. He told stories of the superstition and idolatry of the Chinese. Every genuine Chinese idol, he said, had a hole in the back, and worshippers would write their prayers and place them in the hole, because that was the way to the idol's heart. Mr. Sutton amused his hearers with an account of a Chinese feast, and said he had eaten eggs fifteen years old. The older they were the more they were esteemed. In China, he said, the boys got the chocolate and the girls had the paper (so to speak). The girls' feet were enclosed in cramping shoes from earliest years, and often they cried through the night with pain. No one would want to marry a girl who had not small feet. He appealed to them to help to give every boy and every girl a chance.

Banbury Guardian 8 May 1928