

# ***BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE EPSOM CITIZENS***

**Nathan Bickford  
Deacon John Cate  
Daniel Gilman Chesley  
David Clark  
Charles Currier Doe  
John Dolbeer  
William Goss  
Capt. James Gray  
Benjamin Lovering Locke  
Gov. Noah Martin  
Samuel Martin  
David Morrill Philbrick  
Dr. Orren Strong Sanders  
James Bickford Tennant  
George Benjamin Wallace  
Benjamin Franklin Webster  
Elwood O. Wells  
James Yeaton  
George Sanders Jr.  
Judge Walter Henry Sanborn**

*From various sources notated with articles. Includes many photos.*

## *Biographies of Epsom Citizens*

### **NATHAN BICKFORD** - from Hurd

History of Merrimack County



Bickford was born in Epsom, N. H., December 2, 1797. He was the son of Thomas and Olive (Haynes) Bickford. Thomas was a farmer, shoemaker and tanner, and at one period of his life was quite a prosperous and successful man; but most of his substance was spent before his death. He had a family of seven children, viz., - John, Mehitable, Samuel, Nathan, Daniel, Olive and Dearborn.

Nathan was born at the old Bickford homestead, near the present village of Gossville. When he was a lad of sufficient age he went to serve an apprenticeship as clothier with a Mr. Currier. His service expired when he was nineteen, and he twenty-third year, when he remained till his twenty-third year, when he returned to his native town and bought out a clothing and carding-mill on Suncook River. He met with success in this enterprise and continued it for more than a dozen years, when, leasing his mill business to another party, he embarked in the lumber trade. At this he did, for a period of about ten years, quite a large business, rafting down the Suncook and Merrimack Rivers. In the mean time he conducted farming on a considerable scale, having purchased, about 1830, a farm lying adjacent to his mill.

After he relinquished the lumber business he gave his entire attention to his farm, and added to the original tract at intervals during his life. He was a man who was held in high esteem by his fellow-townsmen, and he had ample proof of their confidence by the various positions of office and trust in which they played him. He was selectman of his town for many years and held various minor offices. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1836, and throughout a long and busy life he retained the implicit confidence and sincere respect of those who knew him.

In politics he was an advocate of Free-Soil party, and upon the organization of the Republican party and up to the time of his death he affiliated with that party.

In religious matters he was a Free-Will Baptists and contributed largely to the support of that church. He was a man of large benevolence and generosity, and gave of his means freely and with unstinted hand to all worthy charities.

He married, May 12, 1823, Eliza W., daughter of Robert and Hannah (Osgood) Dickey, of Epsom. They had five children, -

Susan G., born February 25, 1824; married Rev. Jonathan A. Knowles. They have two children and reside in Manchester, N. H.

Salina O., born August 5, 1829; married Captain Arthur C. Locke. One child living. She died June 2, 1877.

Eliza A., born July 25, 1833; died, unmarried, December, 1878.

Morrill D., born October 3, 1836; married Eliza J. Hoyt, of Epsom, November 28, 1862. They have two bright and accomplished daughters, - Susie A. and Addie E. He was elected Representative of Epsom to the State Legislature in 1885. He has always kept up the lumber trade which was started by his father.

Alfred P. married Lizzie J., daughter of William and Maryett Goss, of Epsom. They have four children, - William P., Nathan A., Alfred G. and Harry M. He has always conducted the farm of his father.

Nathan Bickford died January 15, 1879, aged eighty-one. Mrs. Bickford still survives (1885), aged seventy-six.

## **Deacon John Cate (1732-1821)**

from the Valley Times Thursday, August 4, 1870

There are many worthy men whose names are not prominent in military exploits or great business enterprises who have by example and precept filled an important part in the everyday civil and religious life of Society. Such a man was Dea. John Cate, of Epsom.

As early as 1860 we find the names of John and James Cate, two brothers from England, enrolled among the taxpayers of Hampton. Their descendants are not numerous but some branches of the family emigrated to the frontier towns, some to Epsom, Northwood and Meredith. The Christian names John and James have been retained, in the different generations, with the usual Puritan custom.

John, the subject of this sketch, was born in Greenland, 1733 and in 1766 married Abigail Sherburne of Portsmouth, a familiar and prominent family name in Colonial times.

They moved to Londonderry and lived for a time in the Scotch Irish Settlement under Father McGregor. In some unknown reason they moved from there to Epsom about 1750 and settled on what was called New Orchard road where they passed the remainder of their long and useful lives.

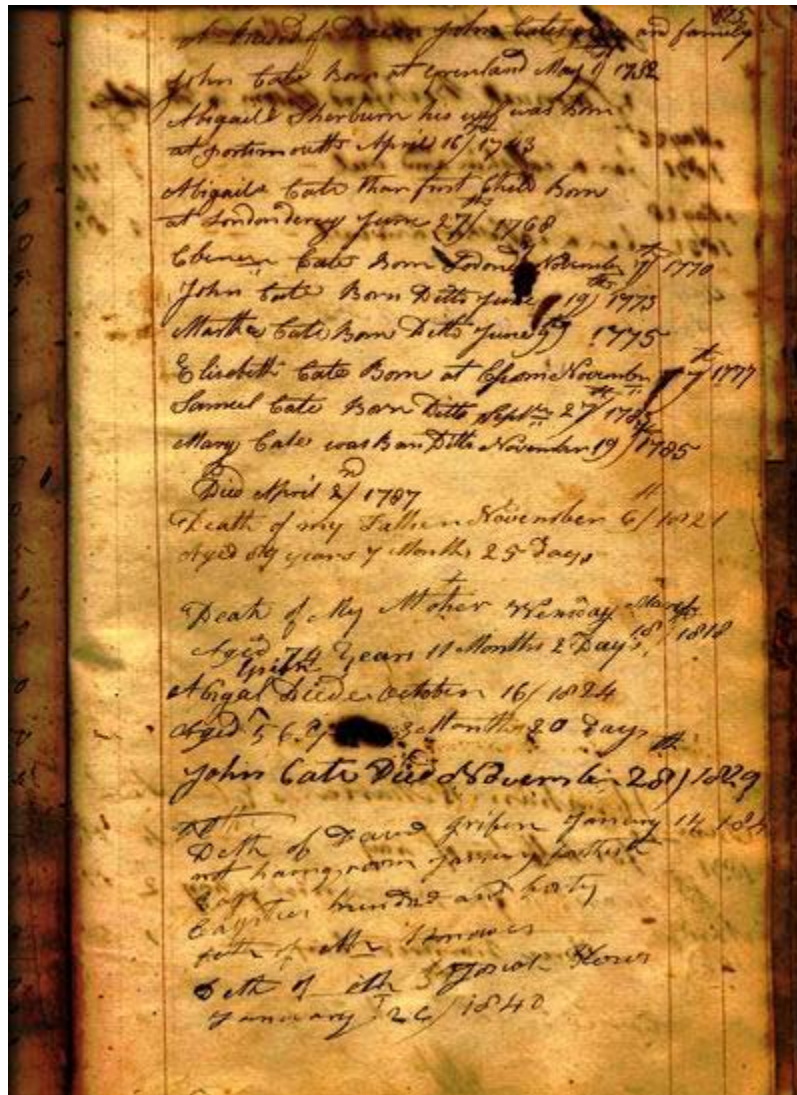
Dea. John Cate was intimately connected with the town and church affairs for over fifty years, during its most prosperous and eventful history. His patriotism or integrity was never questioned and though age had crept on at the time of the war he took an active part in aiding soldiers and serving the town. The Records reads, John Cate Selectman for the town of Epsom the other being absent in the war. Until the day of his death he wore his three cornered hat as one of the sons of Liberty and daily prayed for his posterity and his country.

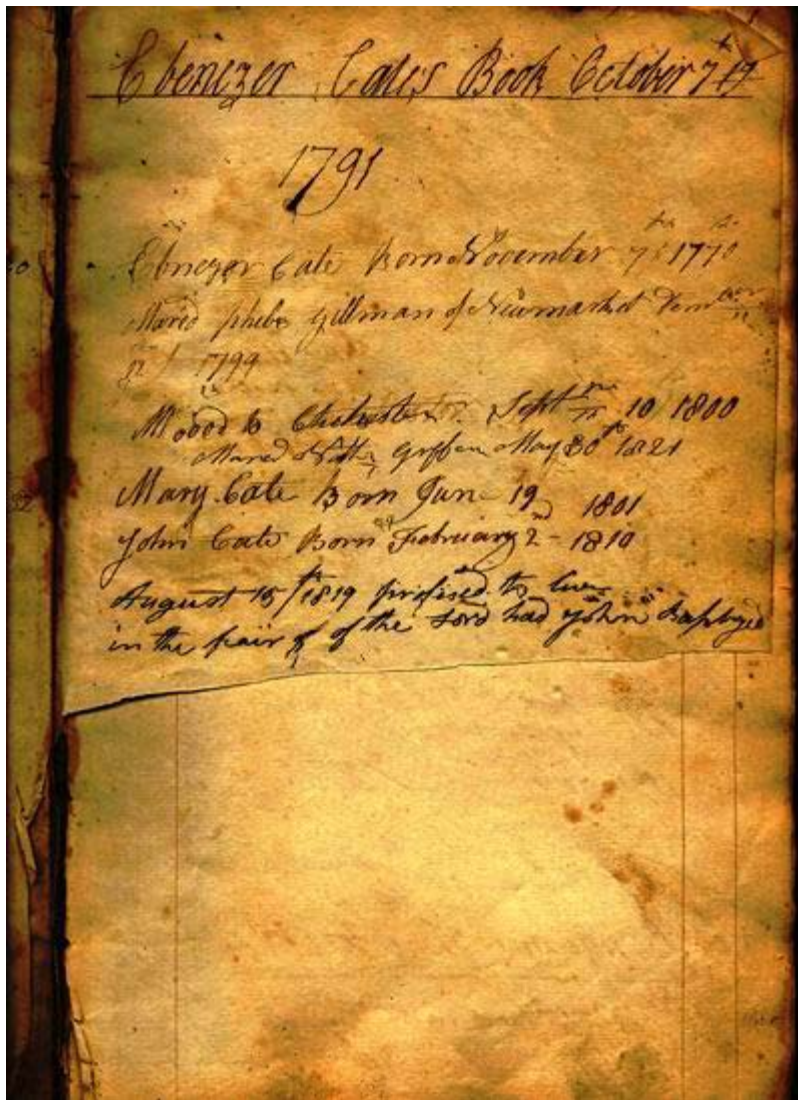
He was the first Deacon in Epsom and one of the leading men in church offices. The church records of Epsom belong to the Historical Society at Concord and a copy of them is in the possession of Samuel G. Drake, Esq., the historian of Boston, a grandson of Rev. John Tuck the first minister of Epsom and no name appears in these so frequently as Dea. John Cate. He clung with tenacity to his church creed and to old manners and customs. For many years with

Dea. Locke he occupied the Deacon's seat and with a huge white wig and long staff by his side would read or deacon off the hymn and sing with a nasal twang according to the custom of "ye olden times."

He died of old age. Rev. Jonathan Curtis preached the funeral sermon from the text, "And he worshipped leaning upon his staff." He left three sons; Ebenezer, John and Samuel, who have all followed their father to his long home. His grandson John Sherburne Cate lives upon the old homestead settled one hundred and twenty years ago or more. Dea. John Cate was a man of great simplicity of character, pure motives, industrious, frugal and a devoted Christian. His long life, trusting faith and exemplary habits have a lasting influence. He felt great personal responsibility and discharged his duties with caution and conscientious fidelity. The Sabbath was a day of rest to him and was sanctified in his own house. In society he was a peacemaker and he ever aimed to keep a conscience void of offence towards God.

Greg Wythe has a daybook from the son of John Cate, Ebenezer. In the book is a personal page of his family information, and a family page with vital records of the family.





## DAVID CLARK (1817-1878)



David Clark was born in Epsom, New Hampshire May 18, 1817, the fifth child of James Clark and his second wife, Hannah Robinson. David Clark attended Epsom schools, and sometime after 1830, along with his brother Dustin Clark, left Epsom for Lowell, Massachusetts. While there he met, and on May 16, 1839, married Harriet Nevell Wilson of Dracut. Between 1840 and 1856 they had children David Franklin, Henry Dustin, Harriet Augusta, Mary Jane, John Wilson, Abbie Frances, and Frederick Newton Clark. Of these children, Henry Dustin and Mary Jane died young, and all were probably born at Lowell. By 1850, David Clark and his wife were living in Lowell with three children, his trade as carpenter; also in Lowell were his brother Dustin with 2 children, and the mother of Dustin's wife, Betsey Robinson, with three daughters. David Clark, as

did so many others, decided to seek new fortune in California, and left the port of Boston for New York City, and left New York for Nicaragua at 3 pm, Feb. 5, 1852. In ten days the ship arrived at Greytown (San Juan del Norte) on the east coast of Nicaragua. In a matter of eight hours, they were boating up river, through rapids, taking two days to reach Lake Nicaragua. The trip was considered difficult, but the vista was incredible, with the nearby volcanoes, wild birds and monkeys, making it a fascinating experience. On February 19 they had navigated the 100 mile long lake and landed at Virgin Bay at 9 am, and by 3 pm started by mule for a 13 mile trip to San Juan del Sud. San Juan del Sud was the port where most vessels began their trip up the pacific coast to California. Here it was a three day wait to find and board a vessel for the next leg of the journey. The wait was not a most pleasant one, as explained by the Maritime Heritage Project (<http://www.maritimeheritage.org/>) "*Accommodations were spare, and both men and women shared quarters, sleeping on dirt floors. When the ships were in, men from the villages carried passengers through the shallow, warm ocean to small boats which then delivered them to the ships.*" David Clark boarded the "North America" on the twenty-third of February, and at 9 pm the next day, began the voyage up the coast of Central America, to Mexico, and north to California. For the first two days it was smooth sailing, but around midnight of the 27th, trouble begins.



The S.S. North America was built by Lawrence and Sneed in New York City and was a wooden sidewheel steamer with 2 decks, 4 masts, a round stern and no head. It measured 260 ft. 6 inches by 33 feet 9 inches by 20 feet 6 inches; and her vertical beam engine was built by Morgan Iron Works of New York. The vessel was owned and operated by Vanderbilt's Independent Line. The Capt. was veteran J.G. Blethen. From various sources and newspaper articles, the following events were described with some detail, to then give the following account. By the Captain's count there were 952 passengers on board, which included a crew of one hundred or

more. After a few days out, and between 11 and midnight on the 27th of February, the North America was wrecked 42 miles east of Acapulco. The New York Daily Times, March 9, 1852, reported it this way: 'Only a few boatloads.. left the ship before morning, there not being the least danger. At daylight, the whole number landed, with a portion of the provisions, bedding, sails, and carpets, and erected tents on the beach... We found the vessel firmly embedded in the hard sand, side to the beach, partially filled with water, the sea breaking over her quarter... and persons were wading backward and forward to the ship. Under these circumstances the passengers' baggage and freight were packed off as fast as possible on the backs of mules. The steamer, at the time of the wreck, had some \$5,000 or \$6,000 on board, but the purser, as a matter of course, reports it all stolen, with the exception of less than a thousand dollars. There must be in the whole number (of passengers) at least forty women and a hundred children. We are afraid the worst is yet to come, if the agent at San Francisco does not send relief. God only knows the suffering there will be...'

David Clark, somewhere on a beach in Mexico, two days after the wreck, writes to his beloved wife and children (freely transcribed from his diary) - *Feb. 27 - pleasant and expecting to get to Acapulco sometime in the night, and wouldn't you know Mrs. Clark, that about eleven at night we ran ashore on the coast of Mexico, and there we pounded all night. They got a line on shore and we began going ashore about 4 in the morning. I stayed on the old craft until about 9. We all got ashore safe and commenced a California city at short notice. The*

*steamer is a wreck, and we have about 60 in our camp, including a doctor, a baker, and a first rate cook and plenty of good provisions - we live like pigs in the clover!*



He concludes for the day, and resumes the letter from Acapulco March 6th 1852 (continued freely transcribed) - *I spend a few moments to let you know that I am well. We started from the wreck on Tuesday noon, went to St. Marks Wednesday, Thursday, and arrived (Acapulco) Friday noon, a three day journey. Eight of us hired 5 mules for \$50.00 and packed two with baggage, and rode the other three. We camped out nights and, Mrs. Clark, we saw every kind of wild animal that you ever heard of, except for the elephant ! When we started from the wreck we went about three miles to a river that we waded, then we crossed a lake about as wide as the Merrimack River. The water was about 18 inches and muc about 18 inches. I waded, and one of the mules that had the baggage on fell down and wet it all. I was riding one on the mules and they wanted me to get off, but I would not, so when I came to the center, the mule fell down, and where do you expect I was then ? In the mud !! (photo left, Mrs. Harriet Wilson Clark*

*Acapulco March 8, 1852 - We are all well and I have plenty to eat and drink. We can lay in our camp and look out on the Pacific and see the whales. I can see two now spouting. I did not go into town yesterday, but I could hear the music. They had cock-fighting. You should see our nice china dishes made of clam shells. We have some girls that rode the mules all alone up and down the mountains, some as steep as the roof of a house in some places, and don't you think that the ladies rode straddle. There are lots of oranges growing here, some trees have 10 or 12 bushels - coconuts...and the woods are filled with wild flowers and plants; birds; and now and then a snake about 8 or ten feet long; tigers; and we saw a bear in*



*central america that weighed 1500 pounds that came from California that they were taking to New York to put in a museum.*

Those passengers with money were able to book passage on other ships, those who did not did the best they could to find there way either back east or to California. Many ships stopped and took 20 or 30 individuals, and David Clark booked passage on the Northern



Light. He boarded that vessel on April 22, 1852 about 10 am and left Acapulco at 1 pm on the 24th. He arrived at San Francisco May 20, 1852 at about 4 pm, staying at the main hotel. The next day he made his way up river, heading to Stockton. (Photos, David Clark and his wife



Harriett)

David Clark returned to Massachusetts and gathered up the equipment and tools he would need to establish a permanent home in California. On his return he began to build the house that wife Harriet would need before bringing herself and the children to join him. He began a successful mill and lumber operation that was later run by several of his sons. From the Maripose Gazette of Sat.

May 24, 1879 - "Died - at Clark's Mill, Sun. May 18, 1879, David Clark, a native of New Hampshire, aged 63 years. Sudden death has taken one of our oldest and respected citizens. We have known Mr, Clark for upwards of 25 yrs. and was a faithful husband and father. He leaves a widow and 4 children." Harriet his wife died January 8, 1885.

*Early photos of David Clark and his wife taken circa 1850, probably Lowell, MA. Next pictures taken after they removed to California including the homestead during the 1860's. Information and photos courtesy of Roena D. Wilson and Penny Vail. Additional Information on the S.S. North America from the Maritime Heritage Website.*

## Charles Currier Doe (1823-1898)

from the Hurd History of Merrimack County



Charles Currier Doe was born in Durham, N. H., July 21, 1823. He is the son of James and Patience (Langley) Doe, and grandson of John Doe. His father, James Doe, was a farmer, and when Charles C. was but two years of age removed to the town of Lee, in Strafford County, where he resided ten years. He then spent about a year each in Newmarket and Nottingham, when he removed to Barrington, where he made his home for several years. He then moved to Grafton, and there his wife died (1845). Mr. Doe continued to reside there, making his home with his eldest son, till 1856, when he came to Pittsfield, where he died (1862).

He reared a family of eight children, -

John, married Abby Davis and resides in Pittsfield; has two children, a son and daughter.

Nancy, married John Garland, of Nottingham. They have one daughter.

Drucilla married, first, L. Kimball; no issue. Second, Moses Brown, of Andover. By this marriage she had two children. She is now deceased.

Abigail, married John T. Gilman; resides in Deerfield; has two sons.

Charles C., subject of this sketch.



Gilman L., married Nancy Ellenwood. They reside in Iowa; have three sons.

Mary J., married David Garland, of Nottingham. They have one son.

Hezekiah H., married - Sleeper; had one son. Hezekiah enlisted in Company B, North Regiment New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, and died in hospital at Nicholasville, Ky., August 1863.

Charles C. Doe, like so many of the sons of the yeomanry of New England, had but limited facilities for obtaining an education, the public school of the town in which his father chanced to reside affording the only opportunity he enjoyed. Being one of a somewhat numerous family, in very moderate circumstances, he had to contribute his share of labor to the support of the family as soon as he was old enough for his services to be of any avail. When he was sixteen years of age he hired out away from home to work on a farm, and from that time till he attained his majority his wages went to the support of his parents. December 15, 1845, he married Mehitable P., daughter of Amos and Nancy (Libby) Davis, of Epsom, N. H., and went to reside with his father-in-law and manage the farm. Mr. Davis lived but a few months after his daughter's marriage. There still remained, however, three old people in the family, - Mrs. Davis, her mother (Mrs. Libby) and a bachelor brother of Mrs. Davis. Mr. Doe took charge of the farm and assumed the care of the old people, a trust which he most faithfully performed to the time of their death.

He has followed farming as his chief occupation through life, and has been successful. In addition to farm labor, however, he has usually employed the winter months in teaming and lumbering; and for many years, while his sons were growing up to manhood, they employed their time at shoemaking and thus added to the family exchequer.

Mr. Doe represented his town in the Legislature during the two years of 1865 and 1866. He has been selectman of his town and has been a member of the Christian Church for more than forty years.

Mrs. Doe's ancestors, both on the paternal and maternal sides, came from Rye, N. H., to Epsom, about a century ago, when this country was almost an unbroken wilderness. Her grandfather, Davis, settled on the spot where Mrs. Doe now resides. The old homestead has never been out of the possession of the family. Her grandfather, Libby, was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, and her uncle was in the War of 1812.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Doe are, -

Walter C., born November 12, 1846; married Elva Cass, of Epsom; resides in Lynn, Mass.; is a shoemaker by trade.

Amos, born September 11, 1849; married Mellie Hobnan, of Dixfield, Me.; resides in Boston; is by trade a carpenter.

James A., born March 7 1852; married Augusta Ladd, of Deerfield, N. H.; resides in Manchester; is a surveyor of lumber, etc., in a large sash and blind-factory and lumber-yard.

Sarah A., born November 1, 1854; married Calvin D. Clark, of Barnstead, N. H. He was for four years engaged in the grocery trade in Pittsfield, N. H., but in 1884 he sold out his business

and went to reside with his father-in-law on the farm.

George W., the youngest of the family, was born August 24, 1857; died December 17, 1883; unmarried. He always resided with his parents. He was a young man of bright intelligence and more than ordinary ingenuity in mechanical matters.

Mr. Charles C. Doe is an honest, upright, sincere man; unobtrusive, attending strictly to his own affairs, and of a generous, manly, frank disposition. The world would be better for more such men.

## John Dolbeer (1827-1902)



John Dolbeer was born in Epsom March 12, 1827, the son of Nicholas Dolbeer and Esther Chase of New Rye. The Dolbeer's were important citizens in Epsom right through the turn of the century, including his uncle Jonathan, who left a diary listing the deaths in Epsom from 1819 to 1854, which was carried on by Calvin, brother to the John Dolbeer of this sketch. A product of Epsom schools, he left the family farm in 1850 at the age of 23 and set out to the California gold rush to make his fortune. By 1853 he had made connections in the Humboldt Bay area to establish the Bay Mill. Through failure and fires he survives and by 1864 teams with William Carson to form the Dolbeer and Carson Lumber Company. The company grows, and John Dolbeer becomes one of the most famous and influential personages in the Redwood industry in the State of California. His several patents showed his ingenuity in problem solving, and he had an impact in

all facets of the industry, from the actual lumbering operation itself, to transporting and exporting - even owning the barks and brigs to bring the lumber to worldwide markets. Among his most useful and successful patents was that for the spool or steam donkey. This machine simply was a steam engine mounted on a wooden skid which would enable loggers to move giant logs across long distances to adjacent railways. In 1872, late in life, he married Harriet Schander, and in 1873 his son, Chase Dolbeer was born. He established his home on Lombard Street in San Francisco. Four years later, in 1877, the Dolbeers had their daughter, Bertha. Business continued to thrive, despite the fact that the Dolbeer & Carson Bay Mill burned down twice. It is about the time of the second fire that the personal life of Jonathan Dolbeer turns tragic. In 1879, Harriet commits suicide, and was called by the San Francisco Call "a suffering invalid" and in 1886, his son Chase was thrown from a wagon and died at the age of 13. John Dolbeer died in San Francisco from a heart ailment on August 17, 1902. The bulk of his estate went to his lone surviving daughter Bertha, and was worth nearly one million dollars. Additional sums were given to several charities, and relatives in Epsom, including his niece Ellen Dolbeer Hall (daughter of his brother Calvin) and her husband, Charles Sumner Hall. His family endured yet a final tragedy when on July 9, 1904, his daughter Bertha committed suicide at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, putting the battle for



the estate in the California Courts through 1908. Despite all the personal troubles, John Dolbeer left a lasting legacy in the redwood industry of California which continues to this day. His legacy in Epsom comes from a visit to his home in 1900. At the time, Epsom was searching for a new library building, and J.H. Dolbeer was on the library committee, which met during John Dolbeer's visit, and at which he was in attendance for a meeting. He offered, if the town would build, to furnish all the redwood lumber they would need to complete a building, inside and out. Well, the land was donated by Charles Sumner Hall, and Mr. Dolbeer was true to his word, and the current Epsom Public Library became a legacy to the town in which this respected and much admired person was born.

Picture - John Dolbeer from San Francisco Call 8/18/ 1902 from photocopy provided by David B. Harrison.

Picture - Dolbeer Steam Donkey, horizontal spool design, currently on display Fort. Humboldt, Eureka, CA. Photo taken by and courtesy of David B. Harrison, Belmont, CA.

Sources: David B. Harrison and "History of the Epsom Library: The One Hundred Years" by Peg Daniels.

## William Goss Family



Without a doubt, William Goss was one of the outstanding personages of Epsom in the mid 1800's. His grandfather, Samuel Goss, bought property in Epsom from his brother Joseph around 1780, coming to Epsom from Greenland, NH. Samuel married Abigail Lucas of Pembroke in 1779 and had at least six children, of which four sons settled in town. His first wife died in 1824 and married second, Elizabeth Gorden (a story in herself, marrying first Benjamin Burnham and second John Cochran). Among his sons was Jonathan, born in Epsom July 16, 1793, who married in 1816, Sally Yeaton (she, daughter of William Yeaton and Hannah Towle). He settled in the area of Jug City and was by trade a blacksmith and farmer. He was a man of enormous strength and served in the War of 1812. He and wife Sally had seven children;

Noah, William, Hannah Y., Nancy L., Mary C., Sally and Andrew J. Goss.

William Goss inherited his father's activity and energy, and worked on his father's farm and helped on occasion in the shop. He remained at home with his parents until about the age of 25 when he married Maryetta Abbott of Pembroke (daughter of William Abbott and Esther Fowler) on June 02, 1846. At that time he settled upon a farm that adjoined that of his fathers and in 1848 sold his one undivided half of a Shingle Mill to Stickney Robinson. In March of 1855, he bought from William P. Cilley the *Cilley Tavern* and Farm near what was then called Epsom Center. The *Cilley Tavern* had been operated by Daniel Cilley since it was built around 1803, and continued to be run by his widow and children until she died. Settling the estate of his parents, William P. Cilley put the tavern up for sale and was bought by William Goss - and

with it considerable land and property. His labors and hard work paid off as he continued to expand his business dealings. The *Cilley Tavern* became the *Suncook Valley House*, and in 1861, in dealing with the Free Will Baptists, was instrumental in building the present Epsom Baptist Church. He bought the old building and by deed sold them the land where the new church was located, and moved the old building down past the hotel on what was then the Rand Road. The old church was raised, with the church (second floor) being dedicated Sept. 20, 1883 as the G.A.R. Hall (see photo on the web page for Brief Early History of Epsom). At some point the store was run by his son Jonathan A. Goss, who sold it about Jan. 1873 to Andrew J. Silver and Jacob F. Robinson. The Goss family holdings and fortunes continued to grow with the addition in Epsom of the Suncook Valley Railroad around 1861. As the business began to flourish, more housing was needed in the area, and William Goss began to move houses from other parts of town down to the area of the hotel and store. Included in these were the homestead of his father, and his previous home from the Jug City area of Epsom.

By 1883 business was good, and William Goss found himself owning over 50% of the shares in a new venture, the Epsom Shoe Factory Company. The new company built a factory at the end of Black Hall Road, on the Little Suncook River, near the Freewill Baptist Church and the Prescott Bridge. Complete with power, the Directors in 1885 subleased some (if not all) the factory to Mitchell, Finney and Jackman - and signing the agreement with William Goss were Directors Andrew J. Silver and Morrill D. Bickford. In what was a fairly sparse area of Epsom was now a new and complete village, all through the efforts of William Goss. With the new factory, a successful hotel, store and mills, new church and homes, the area prospered, and as early as 1882, while William Goss was still living, the area became known as *Gossville* in his honor.

His wife died in May of 1873 and William Goss married on Dec. 23, 1873, Sally Rebecca Randall, widow of John K. Crockett. She and Mr. Crockett had one daughter, Annie Rebecca Crockett, who later married James A. Yeaton. William's second wife outlived him by about seven years, running the hotel after his death until she died. As part of settling the estate, the hotel complex was sold to Chapin Osgood.

William Goss and his first wife, Maryetta Abbott, had four children - 1) John Abbott Goss, born Aug. 26, 1847 who married Electa Ann Carpenter; 2) Elizabeth J., born Sept. 2, 1849 and married Alfred Porter Bickford, 3) Noah William Goss, born July 12, 1861 and married Clara Jackson; and 4) Nathan Jonathan Goss, who married Ida M. Leighton. Little is known of Noah, other than he removed to Pittsfield. John Abbott Goss also removed to Pittsfield where he became prominent in the banking business and ran the Opera House there. Nathan J. Goss stayed in Epsom for some time, running for a while the Epsom Shoe Factory Company, but later joined his son in California, where he, his wife, and son Nathan Jr. all died. William Goss, his two spouses, Nathan Goss and his family, are all buried in the Gossville/Hopkinson Cemetery, Epsom, NH. Below, children of William Goss and Maryetta Abbott - left to right, John A. Goss, Elizabeth J. Goss and Nathan J. Goss



## Capt. James Gray (1749-1822) from Hurd's History of Merrimack County

The Gray Family. - Another family that was prominent in town for many years, but leaves no male descendent bearing their name, was that of Captain James Gray.

Mr. Gray was born in Newburyport, Mass., October 8, 1749. He came to Epsom when nineteen years of age and was employed by the town to teach school.

In July, 1769, he married Jane Wallace, who lived but a few years.

At the breaking out of the war Mr. Gray at once joined the American forces and received a captain's commission in the First New Hampshire Regiment.

As will be seen by the accompanying papers, he was appointed an enlisting officer by Colonel Marshall, of Boston, and did valiant service at Ticonderoga.

He married, for a second wife, Susannah Parsons, of Newbury, Mass., daughter of Rev. Moses Parsons and sister to Judge Theophilus Parsons. About 1778 they moved to Epsom, bringing into town the first chaise ever owned in that place.

They lived for several years in the house of the widow of Rev. John Tucke, the first settled minister in town, which we understand to have been where George W. Bachelidor now lives. They then moved on to Sandborn's Hill, and owned and occupied the farm now owned by Samuel Quimby. Afterwards they bought on the turnpike, on what has ever since been known as "Gray's Hill."

He had a grist-mill on the Little Suncook River, near where the mill of Horace Bickford now stands. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1788, and was also town clerk, selectman and representative.

His appointment or commission as coroner for the county of Rockingham, dated December 25, 1784, signed by Mesheck Weare, President of the State, is still in a good state of preservation, in the hands of his daughter, Mrs. Susan M. G. Perkins.

He was a teacher of vocal music and for several years was church chorister.

The mother of Mr. Gray was with him when he first came to town, and she was employed as a school-teacher.

Moses Parsons Gray, the oldest son of James and Susannah Gray, was born in Epsom June 29, 1779. When quite a small boy he went to Byfield, Mass., to live with his Grandmother Parsons, with whom he moved to Boston and attended school there. At the age of fifteen years he became a clerk in a store for a short time, but soon entered his uncle's employ as a sailor, that he might learn the art of navigation. When he became of age, he took command of the ship "Diana" and made several voyages to the West Indies and other foreign ports, having, while following the sea, visited Spain, Portugal and Russia.

When about thirty years of age, he returned to Epsom, where he resided until his death, which occurred November 8, 1858. After coming to Epsom he taught school in the Cilley District and

also in the Centre District.

While in Boston, after he had left school, he employed his spare moments in the study of surveying, which art he was very frequently called upon to practice while in Epsom, there being hardly a division line in the town but what he was acquainted with, and he was often called to other towns in the capacity of a surveyor. A plan of the town drawn by him is now in the possession of the town.

Although he never studied law, yet his reading and his intercourse with his uncle, Chief Justice Parsons, made him familiar with much that pertained to the profession, so that he was often called upon to assist in the settlement of disputes.

While he was hardly ever elected to any office by the town, yet he very frequently assisted those who were elected, and his peculiar handwriting can be found in several places upon the records.

Theodore Parsons Gray, born August 8, 1781, followed the sea, and was killed by falling from aloft to the main-deck, September 20, 1796, and was buried in "that vast cemetery where there are no monuments."

Katharine L. Gray, born February 19, 1783, married Dr. John Proctor, and lived in Epsom, where he died in June, 1837. She died in Georgetown, Mass., March, 1854. They left no children.

Lucretia B. Gray, born May 5, 1785, married William Brown and lived in Epsom, where she died May 11, 1875, leaving one son and two daughters, one of whom, Mrs. Susan E. P. Forbes, has recently purchased "Fatherland Farm," the old Parsons homestead, at Byfield, Mass., where she spends her summers.

James H. Gray, born June 29, 1787, was also a sailor, and died when but twenty-three years of age, upon an island off the coast of Florida.

Judith Parsons Gray, born March 12, 1789, married John Rand, of Epsom.

Of the eight children born to them, only one had died, - James G., who died December, 1850.

The following found among the well preserved papers of the late Captain James Gray, we deem of sufficient interest to be given a place in the history of Epsom:

Letter from Captain Gray to his wife.

"CHARLESTOWN (No. 4), May 18th, 1777.

"My Dear Susie: As I would not, if possible, let any opportunity of writing to you pass unnoticed, therefore I embrace the present by the post to Exeter, viz. : Mr. Waldo. I arrived here last Tuesday at night, as you will find by my Journal, transmitted to your Father; but it was attended with some difficulty, the roads being so excessively miry and my horse taken sick that I was obliged to walk a considerable part of the way ; but at present am very well. I expect on Tuesday next to take my departure for Ticonderoga, to put my baggage upon my horse & travel through the woods, which journey is eighty miles from here. When I left Exeter I forgot my Coffe pot and thought not of it until I got to Keene, so that I am now at a loss how to make use of my

coffee. Since I came here I have heard from my Brother, by Mr. Tucker, who left him about a fortnight since in good health and high spirits. Capt. McClary has been very ill here, but has marched since through the woods.

“My Love and duty to the family. The reason of my putting my Baggage upon my horse or going on foot is because the wagon cannot get through the woods.”

Letter from Captain James Gray to his father-in-law, the original being in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. A. W. Perkins, of Chichester.

“TICONDEROGA, June 26, 1777.

“Hon. Sir: The last letter which I sent you by Col. Little I hope came safe to hand. I have now the pleasure, by Dr. Conner, of Exeter, to write a second. The Wednesday after the date of my first I set of from No. 4 for Ticonderoga. Our wagon not being able to carry our Baggage through the woods, I was obliged to load mine upon my horse and venture my body upon my Legs through to my Journey’s end, which, perhaps, may be said to be no small risqué. However, after a tedious Journey, I arrived at Ticonderoga, distance from No. 4 eighty miles, the 28th of May. Nothing worthy of observation has occurred to me since I came into Camp until the 17th instant, at which time the Camp at Ticonderoga was alarmed by the report of small arms at about half a mile distant from the Line, in the woods, which proved to be a party of Indians, about thirty in number, which lay in ambush for us and had then fired upon some of our men as they were returning from duty into Camp, three of which were killed and one carried off by the Savages, upon which a scouting-party was immediately sent in pursuit of them; but so precipitate was their retreat that we could not overtake them; but in their hurry to Crown Point they were met by a party of Rangers, eleven in number, who readily gave them fire. The Indians returned the same, upon which three or four rounds were exchanged, when the Commander of the party of Rangers, Lieut. Little, received a wound in the arm & was obliged to retreat with the loss of three men. The next day a scouting-party came upon the same grounds, where they found one Indian dead and took another who could not keep up with his party; him they brought into Camp and now have him confined.

“Sir: If I am not too tedious, I would observe that those four men who were killed and taken belonged to one Company and one mess, and the fifth, who was the only one left of the mess, was the next day standing with his gun loaded in his hands, leaning his chin upon the muzzle of his gun, when it went off, as he was talking with his Brother, and drove the whole charge through his head, dashing his brains through the side of the house by which they were standing.

“I have just received news from Ticonderoga that the British Troops are landed at Crown Point; this I believe to be depended upon as a fact, so that we are now preparing for Battle.

“Gen. St. Clair has the Command of the Troops in this department. We have fit for duty about 3000 men and about 1000 unfit for duty, by reason of disorders that are incident to Camp life.

“The 18th I was ordered, with my Company, to take command of this post, where we are to keep Garrison within the stockade. How long we shall remain here I can’t say. I will endeavor to write again by the post who goes and comes through this Garrison.

“A letter, sir, would be very acceptable.

"My Duty and respects to all.

"Your Son,

"JAMES GRAY.

"REV. MOSES PARSONS, Newbury Falls.

"To be left at Mr. Davenport's Tavern."

Upon the bank of an old document, headed "return of the 3d New Hampshire Regiment of Foot, in the service of the United States, commanded by Col. Alexander Scannel, Ticonderoga, June 28, 1777," in which Captains Gray and McClary, of this town, were reported as on duty, the former with thirty-nine men and the latter with forty-nine, is found the following in Captian Gray's beautiful writing:

"Sunday, 6th July 1777, - Retreated from Sheensboro' & lost all my money, Baggage, &c. Lodged in the woods at Night.

"Monday, 7th, - Got into Fort Ann at 6 in ye morning; everything in the utmost confusion; nothing to eat. At 11 o'clock A.M. was ordered to take the Command of a party upon a scout and marched with 150 men besides 17 Rangers; had not marched from Garrison into the woods more than half a mile, after detaching my front, Rear and flanking Guards, when we met with a party of Regulars and gave them fire, which was Returned by the enemy, who then gave back. I then pursued them with close fire till they betook themselves to the top of a mountain. At the foot of this mountain we posted our selves and continued our fire until 6 P.M., when a reinforcement of 150 more joined me; but night approaching obliged me to return with my party to Garrison, after finding one of my party killed and 3 wounded, and three of the enemy killed by our first fire.

"Tuesday Morning, 8th, - Myself, with Capt. Hutchins, with the same number of men, marched to the aforesaid mountain and attacked the enemy very warmly. The engagement lasted about 2 hours, at which time the Commander of yo Garrison sent Colo. Ransleur with a small party of militia to reinforce us. We then advanced (firing) up the hill, where we found the enemy's surgeon dressing a Capt's Leg. Those, with two of their wounded soldiers, we took and sent in, and a number of our own people, men & women, who were the day before cut off by the enemy, we retook. At last, finding out ammunition gone and none to be had in Garrison, ordered off my wounded and some of the dead, and formed a retreat. Much fatigued when I returned and found no refreshments, neither meat or drink; immediately a Council was called and the prisoners who were retaken brot upon examination, who gave information that an express just arrived before we made this second attack and gave the enemy intelligence that a reinforcement of 2000, with Indians, were near at hand to join them, at which time they were to make a general attack upon us. It was then determined upon to retreat to fort Edward, after setting fire the Garrison. Accordingly, the wounded were sent off, except one, who was one of my own Company; him the Surgeon thot proper not to order off, that he would soon expire, or that if he was likely to live, the enemy, when they took possession, would take care of him. This I knew not of till we were ordered to march, at which time I turned back alone (my Company being gone) to the rear of the Army, where I found him. I then picked up a tent & fastened it between two poles, laid him upon it, and hired four soldiers to carry him. I took their four guns



with my own and carried them to fort Edward; this was about 3 o'clock P.M.; rained very hard; distance from fort Ann to Fort Edward, 14 miles; arrived at Fort Edward at 10 in the Evening; no Barracks nor Tents to go into; therefore laid down in the rain and slept upon the ground; the fatigue of this day I believe I shall always remember.

“Colo Ransleur, wounded; Capt Weare, wounded; Ensign Walcutt, killed; Isaac Davis, a sergeant in my company, killed. Our loss is the two skirmishes about 15; the Enemy's unknown.

“Wednesdy 9th, - I found my self very much indisposed, having no cloths to shift myself with & nothing to eat or drink, but walking about to make myself warm. Upon parade I met Capt. Peters (a Dutchman), a gentleman I never had seen but once before; he seeing me in my helpless situation took me to his tent, gave me a dram, then ordered some warm breakfast for me. Here I refreshed. He then procured barracks for my Company and furnished with Blankets to lodge on. I then sent my wounded men off to Albany. Applied for kettles for my Compy, but in vain; obliged to mix our flour in our hats and bake it upon Chips before the fire and broil our salt beef upon the coals.

“Thur. 10th, - Confined to my barrack; sent for a Doctor - none could attend - no appetite to food.

“Frid. 11, - Applied by an officer to Gen. Schuyler to go down the river to recruit my health; could not obtain it.

“Sat. 12th, - Gens St. Clair, Poor, Patterson & Termo arrived. Gen. Nixon's Brigade marched into camp in the Evening. Gen1 Poor, having heard that I was sick, came with Colo Long & Maj. McClintock to see me and gave me liberty to go to Saratoga to recruit.

“Sun. 13th, - Set off on horseback and rode to Fort Miller, where I met with Col. Scammell, then proceeded to Saratoga, but the inhabitants being alarmed by the Tories, who every night were plundering houses, were moving off; therefore, I was obliged to ride until 12 at night before I could get a lodging. Lodged at Mr. Van Vaiters.

“Mondy 14th, - Set off and well to Still Watter; could get no entertainment; rode to 'Half-Moon.'”

Upon the above return is the following:

“BILL OF LOSS.

## Benjamin Lovering Locke (1802-1883)



A recent visit to Epsom by Charlotte Hatfield of Maine resulted in the donation to the Epsom Historical Association of reprints of early photos of the Benjamin Lovering Locke family. These photos would probably be the earliest photos taken of Epsom residents seen to date. Based on the people in the photo, the year it was taken was 1850, as it matches perfectly the family as it would have appeared that year in the census.

He was the son of Levi Locke and Hannah Prescott, who moved to Epsom

sometime after 1780. They resided at Lockes Hill, and Levi and his wife are both buried in the cemetery there (their names carved in a large rock which kind of reminds you of Plymouth Rock). According to the Genealogy of Capt. John Locke, Benjamin Lovering Locke was born Rye, but research by Charlootee Hatfield gives it as Epsom. He was married in Chichester by Rev. Carpenter on May 5, 1825 to Hannah Parker Moses, daughter of James Moses Jr. (1783-1812) and Betsey Chesley (1790-1860). In the fall of that year he was commissioned Captain of Co. B., Eighteenth Regiment of the State Militia, working up in rank by the time he resigned his last commission in 1840, to Major General. He retained the title General for most of his life.

In 1828 he built his hotel, which he called the Suncook House and he is referred to in various census lists as merchant and Tavernkeeper. He ran this operation for 32 years. In addition he purchased the home lot of Nathan Libbey, and continued to add to his holdings, giving as his occupation by 1860 as Hotel and Farmer. By 1860 his real estate was valued at \$3,000 and his personal estate, \$1400.00. He probably sold the hotel around 1866 to Henry Knox when he moved to Chichester, as by 1870 his real estate value was about five hundred dollars, and his personal worth \$4000. Henry Knox later sold the building to Henry S. Knowles in 1876.

His children were all born in Epsom and were:

***Lucinda Maria***, b. Mar. 30, 1826, married **William McMurphy**.

***Henrietta Clarinda***, b. May 5, 1828, d. Feb. 1830

***Almira Elizabeth***, b. Jan. 11, 1830, married **Joseph G. Whidden**

***James Lovering Locke***, b. May 14, 1832, married **Sarah Maria Swallow**.

***Marianna Jane Locke***, b. May 5, 1834, and married **William Hawes**.

***Ann Lovering Locke***, b. Sept. 9, 1836, married **George W. Lane**

***a still born daughter***, b. May 1, 1838

***Adela Augusta Locke***, b. Sept. 4, 1840, married **John D. Gale**

***Sarah Merrill Locke***, b. Dec. 28, 1843, d. 1860

***Benjamin Locke***, b. Dec. 28, 1843, d. 1844

***William T. Estes***, b. July 5, 1850, d. Jan. 1861

Benjamin L. Locke died Mar. 26, 1883, his wife Hannah Jan. 26, 1885, both in Winchester, MA, and were buried under the old willow tree in the McClary Cemetery.



*Harriet Parker Moses, wife of Benjamin L. Locke, and family portrait circa 1850*



# Noah Martin (1801-1863)



Noah Martin was born on July 26, 1801 in Epsom, New Hampshire, son of Samuel Martin, a shoemaker of probable Scotch-Irish descent, and Sally (Cochran) Martin. He had seven brothers and sisters: Mary, Thomas, James, Elizabeth, Caroline and Nancy Martin. He married on Oct. 25, 1825, Mary Jane Woodbury, daughter of Dr. Robert Woodbury of Barrington, NH, and had two daughters, Elizabeth A. and Caroline M. Martin. Noah Martin attended Epsom District schools and had private tutoring from the Rev. Jonathan Curtis before attending Pembroke Academy. He apprenticed under physicians in Pembroke and Deerfield, New Hampshire for three years before attending the Dartmouth College medical school, from which he graduated in the class of 1824. He practiced medicine in Pembroke (1824-1825), Great Falls (1825-1834) and in Dover from 1834, where he later was founder and first president of the Dover Medical

Association in 1849. He was a member of the Strafford District Medical Society from 1835-1863; its president 1841-1842, and in 1836 was elected a fellow of the New Hampshire Medical society and was its president in 1858. Among other duties he was a member of the American Medical Association, president of the Strafford County Savings Bank (1844-1852), Director of the Dover Bank (1847-1855) and Director of the Strafford Bank (1860-1863). His service also included being elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1853, and became its vice president in 1855; a member of the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1855; and was a trustee of the New Hampshire Reform School from 1855 to 1863. Further, his strong interest in agriculture saw him as an incorporator of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society and was its vice president from 1849 to 1851.

Politically, he was a Jacksonian Democrat, and as such was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1830, 1832 and 1837. During the years 1835 and 1836 he was a member of the state Senate. As a Democrat he was elected Governor of the State of New Hampshire in 1852 defeating John Atwood of the Free Soil party (30,800 votes to 9,497), and Thomas E. Sawyer, a Whig (19,857 votes). He was re-elected in 1853 (30,934 votes) defeating John F. White of the Free Soil party (7,995 votes) and James Bell, the Whig candidate (17,590 votes).

As Governor, Samuel Martin proposed a state Agricultural Commission and urged that agriculture came under the responsibility of state educational institutions and cautioned the legislature against chartering competitive railroad lines where there was enough business to support only one, urging them to make railroads penally responsible for loss of life or injury through carelessness. He was an advocate for private rather than state ownership of public utilities and natural resources.

He was Governor of New Hampshire at the same time as New Hampshire's native son Franklin Pierce was President, and the Governor advocated the enforcement of the national fugitive slave law (made legal by the Supreme Court, 1857, *Dred Scott* decision). During the time of his governorship the state continued with economic expansion and prosperity.

Following his two years as Governor, Noah Martin returned to Dover and his medical practice where he died May 28, 1863. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity and the Order of Odd-Fellows.

*Information from the 20th Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans; an article by Frank C. Meyers, NHHS; and the "History of Belknap and Merrimack Counties by Hurd."*

*Portrait copied by A. Tenney from original by N.B. Onthank. Presented by his widow (1873).*

*Location: State House, Second Floor, Corridor, West Face, Beginning at Room 208*

*Article from Hurd's HISTORY OF MERRIMACK & BELKNAP COUNTIES*

## NOAH MARTIN, M.D.

The active and energetic family of Martin has impressed itself on many nationalities, and those bearing that name have attained eminence in various fields of honor and usefulness. The American family goes back through Scotch-Irish stock to the time when France and Scotland were so intimately connected, and, perhaps, to the time when William, the Conqueror, marshaled his adherents and retainers for the bloody battle of Sanguelac or Hastings, which decided the fate of England and changed the course of civilization, for on the list of those who accompanied him were several of the name. In France it has been an illustrious name in law, science and literature. Five of the Popes have borne the name. Everywhere we find among the members of the Martin family ambitious hard-working, successful, men of more than ordinary ability.

Early in the eighteenth century, when the stalwart and freedom-loving defenders of Londonderry, Ireland, emigrated to America to found a new Londonderry in a land where religious persecution should not seek their blood, Nathaniel Martin, the earnest man, with Margaret Mitchell, his wife, and son William, were among the early settlers who made a home in this wild and strange country. Nowhere in America have been found more honest virtues or more sterling qualities than were in this notable settlement, and the descendants of these people may well look with pride upon their Scotch-Irish ancestry.

William (2) was born in 1712; married Hannah Cochrane. Their children were Mary, James, Nathaniel, William, Robert, Samuel and Hannah.

Samuel (3), born May 26, 1762; married Sally, eldest daughter of Major James Cochrane, of Pembroke, N.H., and had Polly, Thomas, James, Noah and Nancy.

Noah (4), born in Epsom, N.H., July 26, 1801; married, October 25, 1825, Mary Jane, daughter of Dr. Robert Woodbury, of Barrington, and had two daughters, -Elizabeth A. and Caroline M. He died May 28, 1863, of apoplexy. Mrs. Martin died June 30, 1880.

Noah Martin, M.D., was studious from early life, and, his tastes leading him in that direction, he elected to follow the study of medicine, and persevered through many difficulties until he had acquired a thorough classical and professional education. After the usual attendance at the district schools and private tuition of Rev. Jonathan Curtis, he became a pupil at Pembroke Academy, where he had the benefit of instruction from those able preceptors, the Rev. Amos Burnham and Professor John Vose. His professional studies were commenced in the office of Dr. Pillsbury, of Pembroke, with whom he remained one year, and he finished his preparatory

medical education with Dr. Graves, of Deerfield, being with him two years. He then entered the Medical Department at Dartmouth College, and was graduated in the class of 1824, and soon after was associated with Dr. Graves and in practice in Deerfield one year. In 1825, Dr. Martin removed to Great Falls, and, being a thorough student, he felt that to keep abreast of his profession he must have a catholicity of thought ... his wife lived to be ninety-three. Mary Sanders, (twin sister of George) married Nathaniel Twombly, of Barrington. They have four children.

George Sanders, Jr., has always pursued that oldest and most honorable calling among men, farming, and has proved himself the right man in the right place. To be convinced of his wisdom and care, you have only to look on his fields and meadows, his walls and buildings, his barns and stalls, his stacks and cribs. But, with all these cares, he has identified himself with the civil and religious interests of the town, has been selectman for several years, and is an earnest and liberal member of the Free-Will Baptist Church. Democratic in politics, he represented Epsom in the Legislature of 1874-75.

This family, for several generations, have been mostly "tillers of the soil," industrious, careful, practical working people, doing their duties well in the sphere of life to which they were called. They have been men of good judgment, active temperament, strong physique, and have performed their share of the public matters of the town, and discharged their social, public and religious duties conscientiously.

## Samuel Martin (1828-1916)



Prominent among the families dating back to the pioneer settlements of this section of the State, and members of which have in every generation have been agriculturists, is that from which Samuel Martin traces his ancestry. This branch of the Martin family is "Scotch-Irish," - that is, they were of Scotch lineage, born on Irish soil, - and it was necessary that a people of one nationality and born on alien soil should have a distinctive name, hence the appellation of "Scotch-Irish."

The line of descent to Samuel is Nathaniel (1), William (2), Samuel (3), James (4), Samuel (5). William (2), born in 1712, the great-grandfather of Samuel, accompanied his parents to America when very young, and his childhood was passed amid the privations incident to the pioneer life of the new country., and in the labor of converting the wilderness and rough, stony soil into fruitful fields. His father, Nathaniel Martin (1), was a robust, persevering and adventurous man, of sterling worth, and much esteemed. His mother, Margaret (Mitchell) Martin, was a true-hearted woman, who did not hesitate to follow her husband into a new and almost uninhabited region, and to brave the hardships appertaining, if there they could only find that which their firmly-fixed faith so strongly desired': "Freedom to worship God." William (2) attained manhood, inherited the qualities of his parents, became "a tiller of the soil," and, in due time, married Sally, eldest daughter of Major James Cochrane of Pembroke. He followed the occupation of his father, that of farming, and also learned the

shoemaker's trade. He made his home in Pembroke, and was an industrious and honored citizen. He died July 6, 1828. His children were Polly, Thomas, James (4), Noah (see biography of Dr. Martin) and Nancy. James (4) was born in Pembroke, N. H., July 1, 1799. He was a resident of Epsom, where he had a large farm, which he cultivated. Intelligent and thoughtful, he kept himself cognizant of matters pertaining to public affairs, held numerous town offices and also served as representative for the town of Epsom. He married Elsie Bailey. Their children were Sally (born December 25, 1822, now Mrs. Sleeper; has four children), Samuel, James (born January 5, 1830; now residing in St. Louis; has three children), and Thomas (born July 1, 1832; has three children, and is living in Wisconsin.)

Samuel Martin, eldest son of James and Elsie (Bailey) Martin, was born in Epsom January 28, 1828. From a mere lad until he was fourteen years of age Samuel worked at farming, assisting his father in his labors. He then went to Dover, N. H., and made his home for three years with his uncle, Dr. Noah Martin, afterwards Governor, who kindly gave him the opportunity of availing himself of the valuable instruction of the eminent John R. Varney, whose enthusiasm in this calling was such as to inspire his pupils to laudable endeavor and friendly rivalry, and of whom the historian writes: "He left a record of a life of true manliness, consistency and purity." Improving these favorable circumstances, the young man acquired quite a proficiency in the studies pursued. Returning to Epsom, he remained a year, and would try his fortune in another field of labor, and went to Boston, where he entered the employ of S.T. Parker, dealer in West India goods. He continued with this firm about two years; then made a change of employers and business, engaging with Cutler & Co., furniture dealers, to whom he gave faithful service for several more years, until, in 1851, he returned to his native place, preferring its pure air, pleasant surroundings and quiet, rural occupations, and commenced farming and lumbering in company with his father. Since his death Mr. Martin has added one hundred and sixteen acres to his farm, while he has a large holding of real estate (two hundred acres) in Allenstown.

Mr. Martin is a consistent and unswerving Democrat, and as such represented his town in the Legislature of 1868-69. He is an honorable and estimable citizen, and has been elected to many offices of trust; has served as selectman for twelve years and town treasurer nine years, faithfully performing the duties entrusted to him.

Inheriting a strong physique from his sturdy Scotch ancestry, together with many excellent characteristics of heart and mind, Mr. Martin is a representative farmer and worthy descendant of those men of activity, earnest labor and endurance who were important factors in the formation of the American character.

Article from the Hurd History of Merrinack County.

## David Morrill Philbrick (1823-1902)

D. M. Philbrick was born August 26, 1823, in the north part of the town of Epsom, N. H. He is the son of Daniel and Polly (Locke) Philbrick, and grandson of Daniel and Ruth (Morrill) Philbrick. His paternal grandfather was a native of Hampton, Rockingham County, N. H., and moved to Epsom when a young man, and when the virgin forest of the "Catamount" and surrounding hills was almost unbroken.



The Philbricks belong to that sturdy, self-reliant and self-contained class of men who have played so important a part in the rise and progress of civilization in New England. In the county of Rockingham, and in other parts of Eastern New Hampshire, the name is a frequent one, and all hearing it show unmistakable evidence of descent from the same common progenitors. They are calm, earnest, industrious, preserving men and women, with the reputation of being law-abiding and just, useful citizens. Daniel Philbrick, Sr., became quite a large land-holder in Epsom. He had a family of twelve children, of whom Daniel was one. Daniel settled on a part of his father's farm, where his son David M. now resides, and was a tiller of the soil all his life. He had a family of eight children, of whom David M.

was the only son. The names of the children were Abigail, died in childhood. Ruth, married first a Mason; second a Merrill; has four children. Mary, unmarried, resides with David M. Asenath, unmarried, resides with David M. Abigail (2d), married E. B. Sargent; has four children. Betsy, married Stephen F. Ring; no issue. David M., subject of this biography. Peggy Almira, married George Buffum; has one child.

David M. Philbrick may be fairly said to stand as a representative farmer of his town and section. He has all his life made agriculture his chief pursuit, and by constant and intelligently directed effort he has made it a success. He owns, in various tracts, about six hundred acres of land, a very large farm for New Hampshire. He is probably the largest land-owner in town. In the winters, after work on the farm is impracticable, he has employed his time in cutting and hauling wood and lumber.

He is a man who is respected and confided in by his neighbors and townsmen, and was chosen to represent them in the Legislature in 1876 and 1877. He has been selectman of Epsom two years, and surveyor of highways twenty-five years. In politics he is a Democrat.

He married, November 27, 1850, Sarah A., daughter of John and Margaret (Wallace) Stearns, of Deerfield, N. H. Their children are: A babe (unnamed), died in infancy. Clara I., married Frank Buffum, of Berwick, Me.; has five children. Daniel. David F., died aged seventeen. Mary A., married George Giles, of Pittsfield, N. H.; no offspring. John S., Susan M., George H., and Augustus T.

Mrs. Philbrick's grandparents were John and Ruth Stearns, both natives and New Hampshire, and descended from the early Pilgrim stock.

Article from the Hurd History of Merrimack County

## Dr. Orren Strong Sanders (b. Epsom, 1820)

Orren Strong Sanders, M.D., Boston Mass., was born in Epsom, Merrimack County, N. H., September 24, 1820. He is the eldest son of Colonel Job and Pollie Sanders, being the senior of four sons. The palms of his hands were hardened before he reached his teens in handling

the implements of an industrious farmer.

At the age of thirteen years and a half he went to live with General Joseph Low, Concord, N. H., for one year as a servant, receiving for his services two months' schooling and fifty dollars, the whole of which sum, with the exception of five dollars, he gave to his father.

The succeeding year he served seven months as a farm-hand with Judge Whittemore, Pembroke, N. H., for nine dollars a month, rising early and working late. During the following winter he attended the town school in his father's district.

In April, when fifteen years and a half old, he went to Northwood, N. H., to learn the trade of a carpenter with the late Luther and William Tasker, receiving fifty dollars and three months' schooling that year.



In March, 1836, as soon as the district school closed in Epsom, he decided to change his purpose in life, and, with his neighbor and friend, Henry F. Sanborn, went on foot, with a bundle of clothes, a few books in hand and seventeen dollars in his pocket, seventeen miles to Gilmanton, N. H., where he commenced in earnest to obtain, in the middle of the spring term, an education. In the summer term he again went to Gilmanton, boarding himself, with three other students, for ninety cents each a week.

In the autumn of the same year, a younger brother desiring to attend school, he changed his plan, and went to Pembroke, N. H., it being less than half the distance to "Old Gilmanton," and there he continued his studies for several successive terms, practicing the economical method of "playing house-keeping."

Shortly after he had attained his sixteenth birthday he commenced his first school in Chichester, N. H., known as the Meeting-House, or Reed District, for the sum of eight dollars a month and "boarded round." This school had about thirty scholars enrolled, and the sixteen dollars appropriated to the object of education for the winter months secured for them the benefit of young Sanders' earnest efforts to stimulate them to increased mental activity, to make up for brevity of opportunity.

The following winter this persevering youth was reengaged to instruct in the same district, and at the termination of this school term he commenced teaching the school in Bear Hill District, and at the end of twelve weeks closed his efforts with a brilliant exhibition.

In the following autumn he spent fourteen weeks in Northwood, teaching in the lower part of the town; following this school, he served as teacher in the "Young District," in Barrington, returning to Northwood the succeeding winter, and gave another term of services in the same locality as before.

His last and final experience as "school-master" was in the Cilley District, in his native town, where he was favored with a large attendance and secured a successful result.



Six months after he had passed his nineteenth birthday he commenced the study of medicines with Dr. Hanover Dickey, Epsom. In the autumn of 1841 he attended his first course of medical lectures at Dartmouth College, after which he pursued his medical studies in the anatomical laboratory with Dr. Haynes, Concord. When he had completed his studies in anatomy, physiology and hygiene with Dr. Haynes he entered the office of Drs. Chadburne and Buck, with four other students, forming an interesting class, with daily recitations, taking up several branches of the medical course.

In the spring of 1843 he went to Lowell, Mass., and entered the office of Drs. Wheelock, Graves and Allen. In this new relation he had not only the assistance of Dr. Allen as a private medical tutor, but saw much practice with Dr. Graves. In the fall of 1843 he graduated at the very popular medical college, Castleton, Vt.

On the 27th of November, 1843, he united in matrimony with his present wife, Miss Drusilla, eldest daughter of S. M. Morse, Esq., Effingham, N. H. In December following he commenced the practice of medicine in Centre Effingham, where he remained till June, 1847. He then moved to Chichester, where he entered upon a large and lucrative practice; but in the autumn of 1848 he became interested in the science of homeopathy, as best embodying the true principles of healing. At this time he disposed of medicines and equipments, and went to Boston, entering the office of Dr. Samuel Gregg, a distinguished homeopathic physician; remaining with him, investigating, by study and observation, this new method of the healing art, for eighteen months; and from that time to the present Dr. Sanders has followed his profession in Boston, and has been, from the first, conspicuous among the physicians of that city for his extensive and lucrative practice and his successful treatment of disease.

The habits of industry and frugality, formed in youth and student-life, not only gave to Dr. Sanders a vigorous constitution, but laid a broad foundation for that power of endurance so essential to enable him to bear that long, continuous professional strain which has secured him unparalleled success and a high professional reputation.

While he is a "medical winner" in every sense of the term, with aspirations ever for the right, he has enjoyed the confidence of his numerous friends, not only in the city government and Masonic fraternities, but also of the members of the church to which he has so long been attached.

His generosity has been equal to his success, and he has contributed with no stinted hand to public institutions, and freely given aid to the deserving poor. He is ever ready to give his support to any worthy object; and if his large-hearted charities, for the most part secretly performed, find no place in newspaper reports, they are written in letters of light by the recording angel in the Book of Life.

His munificence in establishing the "Home for Little Wanderers" is but one of the many grand and noble acts of his life.

For several terms Dr. Sanders was a member of the Boston School Board, and, despite the exigent demands made upon his time by his extensive practice, he was unflinching in his attendance, and his utterances were always valued for their suggestiveness and practicability. In fact, industrial education has long been with the doctor a favorite study, and he has written some excellent essays on the subject.

He is not, in any sense of the term, a politician, and yet he has always endeavored, from a consideration of the duties of citizenship, to make himself familiar with the ever-varying phases of political life, to thoroughly comprehend the tendency of each political movement and to give his intelligent support to the public welfare. His judgment has frequently been appealed to, his influence solicited and nominations to office have been tendered him by appreciative friends; but hitherto his professional tastes and duties have led him to decline to have his name appear in the list of political aspirants.

Within the pale of his profession, however, honors have been thrust upon him, and on the medical platform he has been a frequent and eloquent speaker.

In 1872 he delivered, before the Massachusetts Homeopathic Medical Society, a masterly oration on "Progress without Change of Law." In 1875, before the same body, his address on "Dynamization" was pronounced to be an able production; and in 1878, when elected president of the society, his oration on "Homeopathy, the Aggressive Science of Medicine," was received by the audience as a new revelation of the triumphant progress of *similia similibus curantur*. He has frequently lectured before the Ladies' Boston Physiological Society, and his lucid expositions of hygienic law were always listened to with marked appreciation; and the records of other medical societies will bear witness to his readiness to contribute his quota of original thought to the medical knowledge of the day. His article on cholera, which appeared in the Boston Globe July 5, 1885, is exhaustive of the subject and has attracted much attention.

As a speaker, he is forcible and earnest, and his appearance on a platform is such as to at once win the sympathies of an audience. As a writer, his style is vigorous and terse; and his clear-cut sentences make it peculiarly attractive. If his studies had been so directed, he might have excelled as an orator or obtained a conspicuous place in the ranks of literature.

We give an engraving of his present commodious residence, at 511 Columbus Avenue, Boston, which was finished in 1872. This house, which is his own property, and which was erected at a cost of some hundred thousand dollars, was designed throughout by himself, and seems to indicate that, if he had not been a doctor, he might have become eminent as an architect. The sanitary appliances are perfect, the decorations in excellent taste, the arrangements for comfort and convenience the best possible, and from basement to attic it bears testimony to the high development of the doctor's constructive faculties.

The lion, life-size, which is placed in couchant attitude on the corner of the house, and is a conspicuous ornament to the avenue, was carved from a block of granite selected by the doctor himself, and, as a work of art, may compare favorably with the famous lions of Landseer, which adorn Trafalgar Square, in London.

To my own knowledge, the benevolent deeds done by this physician during his residence in the city of his adoption are sufficiently numerous to fill a volume, but in such an outline sketch as this it would be impossible to enumerate them, and I can only say, in closing, that what Dr. Sanders has done for God and humanity is but an example of what other young men may accomplish, if they will only model their lives after his perseverance, self-denial and unblemished habits. "M."

# George Benjamin Wallace (1817- 1900)

## Born in Epsom 1817 - Mormon man of Prominence

from *Our Pioneer Heritage Volume 9, The Heroic Pioneer , Worthy Pioneer, Emigrant's Guide*



*George Benjamin Wallace* was born February 16, 1817, in Epsom, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, the son of John Wallace and Mary True. They had a family of 12 children, 7 girls and 5 boys. His mother died when he was about eleven years of age. George worked hard and helped on the farm, and also learned the trade of carpentry. Later on, when John Wallace became ill, he requested George to remain at home offering him one-half of his possessions if he would help him manage the farm. His decision was in the negative, as he was planning marriage with a distant relative and a very different career. When he was twenty-three years old he married Mary C. McMurphy who was born April 27, 1818, at Boston, Massachusetts. This marriage

was performed either the 13th or 14th of February, 1840, in Boston, where they resided for some time, George becoming a building contractor. They were affiliated with the First Baptist Church.

Mormonism was brought to the attention of George by Elder Freeman Nickerson and “after conversing with him for about fifteen minutes, I was convinced I was building upon a sandy foundation. I invited him to go home with me and we spent the time from about 10 a.m. until evening, conversing in the parlor. I was convinced he was a servant of the living God. I purchased the only Book of Mormon he had.” George was baptized in December 1842 by Elder Nickerson.

The following is taken from the journal of George Benjamin Wallace:

March 5th, 1845. Church meeting. I laid before the Saints the necessity of gathering to Nauvoo immediately to help build the House of the Lord and to prepare for their endowments, stating to them that I had been called to go to Nauvoo by Elder Ezra Taft Benson, leaving my wife and children until I can return; stating to them that I had one dollar to assist me in getting there; stating to the Saints that if they thought it was the will of God that they should help me to obtain money to go with, for them to come forward and do so; and they immediately raised money to take me to Nauvoo, and I blessed them in the name of the Lord. I ordained Brother Rogers to preside over them and he was received by unanimous vote, after which I received a vote of thanks for my past services and a letter of recommendation by unanimous vote.

March 7th, Friday. Left New Bedford with family for Boston to start from there on the 11th in company with others.

March 18th, Monday. Saw my wife and the children aboard the cars for New Hampshire and bid them farewell. Oh! May the Angel of the Lord protect them.

April 8th, Tuesday morning. Arrived in Nauvoo, Illinois. In good health after four weeks in company with about forty Saints. The yearly Conference was in session.

May 24th, Saturday morning at Nauvoo. 6 o'clock. The apostles, bishops, elders and Saints of God of the last days gathered around the Temple to witness the last cornerstone placed on the southeast corner of the Temple by Brigham Young, president of the entire church. A band played two tunes, after which the stone was laid in place. Then they prayed to God to protect and deliver us from the hand of our enemies, that we might be permitted to finish the Temple and receive our endowments. The whole multitude shouted, 'Hosannah, Amen' until the Heavens, as it were, said Amen. Then the people dispersed to hallow the day. (End of journal.)

Later, George returned to Boston as a missionary for the Church. It is not known whether his wife, Mary, joined the Church. He endeavored to persuade her to return to Nauvoo with him but she and her people were now very bitter against the principles of the Church, particularly polygamy. They did not want her to have anything whatever to do with it. This condition culminated in a separation between them, after a marriage of four years. She took their three children, Emma A., James Barnay and Sarah Ellen and returned to her parents. George returned to Nauvoo saying, "I feel I have done my full duty toward my wife Mary, and toward my God." He could not deny the faith; he had joined the Church completely, but it was tremendously difficult for him to give up his family.

There was previously, under date of January 29, 1844, a political meeting held in Nauvoo, at which time Joseph Smith was nominated for the President of the United States and on the 17th of the following May, at a state convention held there, the nomination was sustained. Mr. Wallace campaigned for Joseph Smith and delivered a political speech in Faneuil Hall in Boston. He was ordained a high priest October 18, 1844, and was given a patriarchial blessing by John Smith April 10, 1845, in the Nauvoo Temple. He acted as undertaker during some of the terrifying times in Nauvoo. While George Wallace was presiding elder of the Boston Branch of the Church, Howes Crowell and his wife, Melissa Mandana King Crowell, requested a recommend transferring their membership from Boston Branch to Nauvoo. Later, when George went to Nauvoo, he again met Melissa who was heartbroken with grief at the death of her husband and their two children. Their friendship ripened into love and they were married June 4, 1845, in Nauvoo. When the Saints were leaving this ill-fated city, the Wallaces fitted themselves out for the long journey west and left for Winter Quarters where they spent the winter of 1846–47. Their first child, Mary Melissa, was born January 8, 1847, and a few months later they started their trek to Utah.

George Benjamin Wallace was appointed captain over fifty in Abraham O. Smoot's company of one hundred, which was organized June 17, 1847, on the west bank of the Horn River. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley September 26, 1847, and camped in the Old Fort. Their baby girl, Mary Melissa, died September 27, 1847, the day after their arrival. She was buried on a hillside in the northeastern part of the Valley. George Crowell Wallace was born June 12, 1848, died August 14, 1848, and is also buried there. The little girl, Mary Melissa, was the first person buried in that area.

George and Melissa built a log cabin inside the Old Fort. In this cabin four persons were set apart and ordained apostles, in a meeting held by the First Presidency of the Church. They were Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards. On February 22, 1849, in this home, when the Valley was divided into two wards, bishops of Salt Lake Valley wards were ordained under the direction of President Young, with President Heber C. Kimball, the Twelve Apostles and others. The next day another meeting was held in this log

cabin home and Reynolds Cahoon and George Wallace were set apart as counselors to John W. Young in the High Priests Quorum; and Daniel Spencer was set apart as president of Salt Lake Stake.

The corner of First North and Second West Street was chosen by George Wallace as his property. It was then thought that this would be the future business street. The Union Hotel was built on the opposite corner and John Squires built a barber shop on the Wallace corner. The hotel was eventually used for a first class school known as the Union Academy, and still later the building was used as a temporary headquarters for the University of Deseret, Deseret Hospital and finally as a warehouse for the Salt Lake Knitting Works. George built a one-room adobe house near the corner. The bricks were made from a mixture of red clay and fine gravel; the roof was covered with boards and the cracks filled with rags. After it was completed, he moved the little log room, their first home in the Old Fort, to their new homesite.

On September 20, 1849, another child was born to George and Melissa whom they named Louisa King. She was one month old when George was called as one of the first missionaries to be sent from Utah, leaving for Great Britain, October 18, 1849. He gave a neighbor a yoke of oxen and several acres of land to look after Melissa and her little girl and to furnish fuel and other meagre necessities. She was given a dress by Vilate, wife of Heber C. Kimball, who advised her to reverse the material to the other side and Melissa made a fine dress for herself. Melissa learned to do work she had never done before, such as milking cows, growing a garden, raising livestock, taking in boarders, sharing her little dwelling with another family in exchange for fuel. She had a great faith and an undaunted spirit. Before George left for his mission she was concerned about a timepiece as the only one they owned was a silver watch he had brought from Boston. She asked him what she would do if he took the watch. President Young said, "Brother Wallace, if you will leave that watch with your wife, I will promise you that you will come home with a gold one." This promise was fulfilled for he did come home with a gold watch and chain, a gift from the Saints while on his mission. Before he left Salt Lake City, a little elderly lady at the depot pressed his hand in 'God speed' and left enough money in it to pay his fare and a few cents over. The Lord blessed him so he was able to send a little money home to Melissa and was able to bring back a parasol for her, the only thing she requested from him in the way of a gift.

Mr. Wallace, highly respected and loved by the Saints, remained in Great Britain nearly three years as first counselor to President Franklin D. Richards. He had issued a small circular among the Saints and friends with whom he labored to help pay his expenses home, and as a result had a purse of \$800 in cash, also many other presents given to him by the Saints. He boarded the steamer *Canada* for the trip home, leaving Liverpool March 20, 1852, arriving in Boston approximately May 31, 1852. He went directly to Epsom, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, in an endeavor to see his estranged wife, Mary C. McMurphy. She was not at home and he was unable to locate her, so he reluctantly left Epsom for his home in the Salt Lake Valley.

In obedience to the law of plural marriage, George Benjamin Wallace under date of October 15, 1852, married the three Davis sisters, Lydia, Hannah and Martha, whom he had converted to the Church when in England. The parents, Edward and Sarah Drabble Davis of London, Middlesex, England, were also baptized. Lydia Davis, born June 15, 1830, died March 8, 1869, Salt Lake City, Utah; Hannah Davis, born May 4, 1832, died February 5, 1896, Granger,

Salt Lake County, Utah; Martha Davis, born January 9, 1836, died October 7, 1913, Salt Lake City.

Three or four more rooms were added to the original red brick room and the family increased at a rapid rate. For Melissa it was quite a period of adjustment. Years later, on one occasion, Mr. Wallace received complimentary tickets from a circus manager for himself and family. Imagine the look of dismay on the manager's face when he saw George, his four wives and twenty or more children march past him!

In 1860 Mr. Wallace was chosen to act as second counselor to President Daniel Spencer of the Salt Lake Stake. In 1866 he was first counselor, and in 1874 was called to preside over the Salt Lake Stake, which position he held for about two years. In 1867 he was instrumental, with others, in organizing Brighton Ward on the west side of Jordan River. In October 1869 he filled another mission to the Eastern States. He left home in a wagon, accompanied by Nathan Eldredge. This mission was short as he returned the following April. He had charge of the territorial farm located where the Fairgrounds now stand, receiving this appointment from President Brigham Young. From 1877 until his death in 1900 he was president of the High Priests Quorum in Salt Lake Stake.

In 1875 George homesteaded 120 acres of land in Granger, where his wife, Hannah, lived. Martha and her sister Lydia resided at the home located at 168 North 2nd West, Salt Lake City. Melissa lived there for awhile, until her son Howes built her a home on Second Avenue in Salt Lake. Mr. Wallace planted the first trees in the community of Granger and his first nursery business stood where West High School now stands. During the years of hardship the large Wallace families experienced, George was loving, patient and kind. He never aspired to any public office, either ecclesiastical or civil. He was not particularly shy, but never put himself forward. If his services were required, he was always ready and willing to respond. The last twenty-five years of his life were spent on his homestead; most of his family were now married, leaving him



almost free from worry. During his residence on the farm, raids were made on many known polygamists but he seemed unafraid, traveling back and forth from the city home to the farm, visiting his wives with utmost concern. He was arrested and imprisoned for a term.

George Benjamin Wallace died January 30, 1900, at his home in Granger, Salt Lake County, Utah. Funeral services were held in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square, when high tribute was paid him. —Geneva Watson Graham

## Benjamin Franklin Webster (1824-



1916)

### Benefactor

Richard Webster and his wife Mary 'Polly' Philbrick, left Rye and settled in Epsom, NH to raise their family. He was a shoemaker by trade. He later returned to Rye where he had previously taught school in addition to farming. The family appears in Epsom in the 1820, 1830 and 1840 US Census. His third son and sixth child was born in Epsom September 7, 1824, and was named Benjamin Franklin Webster. From the Stearns

Genealogy:

*"(he) received his primary education in the public schools of that town (Epsom). He was also a student at Pembroke and in Rye. At the age of seventeen years he went to Portsmouth and was employed by Benjamin Norton as an apprentice to the carpenter's trade. He was a ship joiner for several years and since then has been engaged in building operations in Portsmouth. His operations have included the erection of the following notable buildings: The Kearsarge House, the Cabot street school house, remodeled three churches, also built many residences. In politics he is an ardent and enthusiastic Republican. He is a valued member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the thirty-second degree. He was married, January 2, 1849, to Sarah A. Senter, and they have a son and daughter, Merit V, and Stella C. Webster."*

Though as an adult, Benjamin Webster did not live in Epsom, he never forgot his roots there. In three transactions in 1902, he purchased land of Warren Tripp, Horace Fowler and Abby J. Holt, land in the amount of about 26 acres. This land was developed into a park for town use, not much different than it appears today. The original plans still exist, showing even the current ball field as it is today. In his will, he writes *"I give and bequeath to the Town of Epsom New Hampshire, or the Old Home week Society of that town, or in whatever way my executor may determine (if I have not previously disposed of it) the land at Short Falls in Epsom that I purchased of Warren Tripp and Mr. Fowler to have and to hold as a Park, and if not wanted for that purpose to revert to my estate."* The town accepted the gift that same year.

*Photo from Stearns Genealogy of N.H.*

## Elwood O. Wells (1917-1944)

Elwood Osgood Wells was born in Epsom on August 20, 1917 to Walter Brackett Wells and Sophronia M. Yeaton. He attended Epsom Schools and graduated on June 19, 1931. He then went on to Pembroke

Academy where he played baseball, played cornet in the orchestra and participated in prize speaking contests., winning one such event in 1933. Elwood also appeared in plays at Pembroke before graduating June 20, 1935. He next attended the University of New Hampshire where he was a member of the cross country team, member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, American Society of Civil Engineers, the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society and the ROTC.



It was June 2, 1941, following his junior yer at UNH, that he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces, entering Parks Air College in St. Louis, Illinois. By September he advances to

Aviation Cadet at Randolph Field in Texas, then being transferred to an advanced flying school in November at Victoria, Texas. Mr. Wells was commissioned a Lieutenant in January of 1942 and began instructing cadets at Enid, Oklahoma. On January 14, 1943, back at Durham, NH, he married Miss Dorothy Head of Epping, NH,

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Head. On June 2 of that year he was shipped over seas as part of the India-China Transport Service. While he was overseas, the birth of a daughter, Kathleen Mildred Wells, took place January 7, 1944 in Exeter, NH.



Excerpts from Newspaper Clippings:

### ***EPSOM OFFICER MISSING AS HE STARTS LEAVE***

#### ***Pilot Scheduled to Return Home from India Base***

*EPSOM, Sept. 1, (1944) - Last week Capt. Elwood O. Wells, 27, wrote to his father, Walter B. Wells, Center Barnstead, that he was starting home on leave Aug. 25.*



*Today the father has been informed by the War Department that his son has been missing since that date. This morning the father did not know whether his son was lost on his last flight with the Air Transport Command or on his homeward journey.*

*Capt. Wells was a pilot in the India-China area, based in North India, and had been making every other day flights.*





*His wife, Dorothy Head Wells, and their daughter, Kathleen, whom he has never seen, live in Epping.*

*Captain Wells was making a flight from a base in India to China over "the hump," the Himalaya mountains, with supplies and did not return. It is beleived by his family that this was his final scheduled flight before he was to start home on leave.*

**EPSOM HONOR CAPTAIN WELLS, KILLED IN ASIA**

***Bombers Dip in Salute To Flier Lost in Himalayas.***

*EPSOM, Oct. 10 (1944) - A memorial service for Capt. Elwood O. Wells was held Sunday afternoon at the New Rye church. The church was crowed with his relatives, friends and neighbors. A volley was fired over the Wells lot in the New Rye cemetery, and the bugle call "taps" was played following prayers. Two Liberators from Grenier Field flew over the cemetery, dipping their wings in salute. The body of Capt. Wells lies with his plane where it crashed in the Himalaya mountains on Aug. 25. Flowers were placed on the grave of Capt. Wells' mother, Mrs. Sophronia Y. Wells.*

**FAMILY AWAITS BODY OF WELLS**

*BARNSTEAD, May 15 (1948) - Word has been recieved by Walter B. Wells of Center Barnstead that the body of his con, Capt. Elwood Wells, is being returned home from Honolulu, aboard the army transport Cardinal O'Connor.*

*Capt. Wells served in the Air Transport Command in the India-China Wing in*

*1943-44, where on Aug. 25 just five days following his birthday anniversary he was killed in action on his 150th mission over the Himalyan mountains. He was the holder of the air medal, distinguished flying cross and a presidential citation.. Capt. Wells will be buried in the New Rye cemetery at Epsom.*

A memorial service was held on Oct. 8, 1944 with burial June 5, 1948. The American Legion Post #112 is named in honor of Elwood O. Wells.

SCRAPBOOK - Elwood O. Wells





## Daniel Gilman Chesley (1837-1919)

Daniel Gilman Chesley , one of the largest land-owners of Epsom, Merrimack County , was born upon the farm he now occupies, July 2, 1837 , son of John and Joanna (Tibbetts) Chesley . The Chesley family is believed to be of English origin; and the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Lemuel Chesley , who resided in Lee, N.H.

His son, John Chesley, Sr. , grandfather of Daniel Gilman , was born in Lee . When a young man he went to Chichester, N.H. , where he learned blacksmithing of James Blake . After his marriage he settled in Epsom and continued to work at his trade for some time. He also followed agricultural pursuits quite extensively in this town, and kept a hotel. He died at the age of sixty years. He married Betsey Blake , sister of James Blake , with whom he served his apprenticeship. Betsey Blake was a daughter of Samuel Blake , one of the first settlers of Epsom , who purchased from the Indians a large tract of land near the centre of the town for the paltry sum of ten shillings, and turned in his jack-knife for one shilling of that sum. Samuel Blake , generally called Sergeant Blake , came to Epsom at the age of fifteen; and several years later his father, Lieutenant Blake , moved into town. In the early days the frontier settlers were kept in a state of almost continual alarm by the incursions of the Indians, whose ferocity and cruelty were doubtless very much averted by friendly conciliating conduct on the part of the white inhabitants toward them. This was particularly the case in the course pursued by Sergeant Blake . Being himself a skilful marksman and an expert hunter, evincing traits of character and abilities in their view of the highest order, he soon gained their respect; and by kind treatment he secured their friendship to such a degree that, though they had opportunities, they would not injure him even in time of war. An industrious pioneer, he cleared and improved a good farm, which is now owned by his descendants, Daniel Gilman Chesley and John Augustus Chesley . John and Betsey (Blake) Chesley had a family of six children; namely, John , Samuel M. , Betsey , Jonathan S. , James B. , and Josiah C. , none of whom are now living. The death of Mrs. Betsey B. Chesley occurred previous to that of her husband.

John Chesley, Jr. , Daniel G. Chesley 's father, was born in Epsom , and was a lifelong resident

of this town. In his younger days he was engaged in teaching school: but he later served an apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade, and followed it in connection with farming during his active period. He succeeded to the ownership of the Blake homestead, and resided here until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-three years and six months old. His wife, Joanna Tibbetts , whom he married August 21, 1834 , was born in Madbury, N.H. , daughter of Israel and Susan (Emerson) Tibbetts . Her grandfather on her mother's side, Smith Emerson , was an officer in the Revolutionary War. His wife was a Thompson. Her grandmother Tibbetts 's maiden name was Joanna Fulchar . Eleven children were born to John and Joanna (Tibbetts) Chesley , and of these three are deceased; namely, Margaret Ann , Ellen Frances , and Etta Oryntha . The eight living are: Almira Blake ; Daniel Gilman , the subject of this sketch; John Augustus ; Lizzie Joanna ; Lydia Addie ; Emma Susan ; Edward Monroe ; and Ellen Frances . Almira Blake Chesley married Alfred Kimball , of Haverhill, Mass. , and her children are: Clara Wood , Susie Clarke , Myrtle Lydia , Everett Alfred , and Arthur Russell . Lizzie J. is the wife of Warren Kimball , of Haverhill, Mass. , and the mother of Alice Graham , Victor Orange , and Lizzie Wood . Lydia Addie is now Mrs. Charles W. French , of Warrensburg, Ill. , and has five children—Herbert , Clara , Laura , Olive , and another whose name is unknown to the present writer. Emma Susan married Orange E. Sackett , resides in Central City, Neb. , and has seven children—Lizzie Kimball , Arthur Russell , Dwight , Alton Veasey , Robert McKinley , Hazel , and Mira . Edward M. Chesley married for his first wife Flora Ayer ; and by that union there was one child, Etta , who died at the age of four years. His Ella Rugg , of Haverhill, Mass. ; and the children by this union are: Charlotte F. , Edward G. , and Marion . Ellen F. is now the widow of Charles W. Martin , late of Pittsfield, N.H. , and has no children. Margaret Ann married Daniel Yeaton , of Epsom . Mrs. Joanna T. Chesley is now residing at the homestead, and has reached the age of nearly eighty-one years. She is a member of the Congregational church.

Daniel Gilman Chesley acquired a good education in schools in his native town, in Pittsfield , and Pembroke . After completing his studies, he engaged in educational work, and taught twenty-nine (mostly winter) terms of school in Illinois and New Hampshire . He eventually settled at the homestead, where he now resides; and he devotes his time and attention to the cultivation of his farm with the same energy and perseverance which characterized his ancestors.

On November 25, 1888 , Mr. Chesley married Olive Elnora Sanborn , a daughter of Nathan B. and Ruth (Cousens) Sanborn . Her father was a native of Gilmanton, N.H. , the son of Jonathan T. and Hannah (Page) Sanborn ; and his mother was the daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Page , the latter being a cousin of Daniel Webster , and also related to the Greeley family of which Horace Greeley was a member. Ruth Ann Cousens , a native of Kennebunk, Me. , was a daughter of Jeremiah M. and Eliza (Kimball) Cousens , the former a soldier in the War of 1812 . Olive Elnora Sanborn was born in Thornton, N.H. , where her parents, who were industrious farming people, resided for a period of twelve years, removing then to Gilmanton , where they passed the remainder of their days. Nathan B. Sanborn was identified with public affairs, and served as a Selectman in Thornton . He lived to be seventy years old, and his wife to the age of sixty-six. They had a family of seven children, of whom six are now living. Olive E. (Mrs. Chesley) was the third-born. She was educated in the schools of Gilmanton , graduated from Gilmanton Academy, and became a teacher in the public schools, teaching previous to her marriage twenty-eight terms of school in New Hampshire and Maine . She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Chesley have three children: Elnora Sanborn , who

was born September 1, 1889 ; Mabel Florence , born September 4, 1893 ; and John Gilman , born March 29, 1895 .

In politics Mr. Chesley is a Democrat. He served as Superintendent of Schools for fifteen years, was a member of the School Board six years, was Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for two years, Town Treasurer four years, and Town Clerk two years. He has also held other offices and is now Auditor. He stands high in the estimation of his fellow-townsmen, who regard him as one of the most upright, conscientious, and worthy of citizens. From the Merrimack & Sullivan Counties Biographical Review.

## Hon. James Bickford Tennant

(1847-1915)



Hon. James B. Tennant , one of the most prominent business men of Epsom and an ex-member of the New Hampshire Senate, was born in Deerfield, N.H. , May 26, 1847 , son of Arthur and Ruth O. (Sanborn) Tennant . He comes of English stock. His great-grandfather was an early settler in Portsmouth, N.H. Thomas Tennant , the grandfather, who was born in Haverhill, N.H. , April 10, 1771 , owned and cultivated farms in Wentworth and Hampton, N.H. , during the active period of his life. His last days were passed in Wentworth , and he was about eighty years old when he died. He married Sarah Goodwin , who, born in Wentworth , March 12, 1777 , died at the age of seventy-six. He and his wife reared seven children, of whom Arthur , James B.

Tennant 's father, was the third-born. Of these the only survivor is William , who married Harriet Libby , of Rumney, N.H. , and has three children—Ira , Helen , and Lula .

Arthur Tennant was born in Wentworth , September 18, 1812 . When a very young man he learned the cooper's trade, which he afterward followed in connection with farming. At first he settled in Pembroke . Later he moved to Epsom and then to Deerfield , where he continued to till the soil for several years. He was largely interested in the live-stock business, and was also engaged in lumbering to some extent. He was a man of considerable prominence in public affairs, having served as a Selectman and in other town offices; and he was one of the first supporters of the Republican party in this State. His death, which occurred in Pembroke , April 9, 1880 , caused general regret, as he was highly esteemed as an able and upright business man. His remains were interred in Deerfield . Arthur Tennant first married Ruth O. Sanborn , daughter of John Sanborn , a pioneer settler of Deerfield . Of the ten children born to this union, two are living—Emma O. and James B. Emma O. is the widow of Charles B. Fowler , late of Pembroke ; and her son, Alvah T. Fowler , is now a student at Dartmouth College. For his second wife Arthur Tennant married Lizzie Fellows , of Deerfield , who had no children. Both he and his first wife were members of the Free Will Baptist church.

James B. Tennant acquired his early education in the common schools of Deerfield . Subsequently he was a pupil of the Pembroke Academy and the New Hampton Institute, duly

graduating from the latter school. In 1869 he established himself in general mercantile business in Epsom , and now conducts a well-stocked country store. He is also extensively engaged in the lumber business as a member of the firms of Tripp & Tennant & Tripp and Fellows & Tennant. One of the firms controls large tracts of timber land in New Hampshire and Vermont , and also owns and operates saw-mills in various places for the manufacture of lumber. Another enterprise of Mr. Tennant 's is brick-making, which he carries on in Pembroke . He is a director of several insurance companies and of the Suncook Valley Railroad. He has been station agent at Short Falls since 1869 , and is now one of the oldest station agents on the Concord & Montreal Railway. From 1870 to 1889 he was Postmaster at Short Falls . This position he resigned when elected to the State Senate, and Mrs. Tennant has since held that appointment. In politics Mr. Tennant is a Republican. From 1882 to 1888 he was one of the Commissioners of Merrimack County . He was elected a State Senator in 1889 , and was a member of the House of Representatives for the years 1891 and 1892 , taking part in the last annual and the first biennial session of the legislature. He has never sought for a town office; but after the death of the Town Treasurer, who was elected to serve the present year, he was persuaded to take charge of the town's finances for the unexpired term.

On February 10, 1873 , Mr. Tennant was united in marriage with Ella M. Fowler . She is a daughter of Samuel and Elvira N. (Critchett) Fowler , of Epsom , who had six children, of whom there are living—James W. , Horace , and Josie M. Mr. and Mrs. Tennant have no children. Mr. Tennant is a Mason of the thirty-second degree. He has occupied all the important chairs in Evergreen Lodge, I. O. O. F., Epsom , and was its Secretary for several years; and he is a member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. In the course of his life he has visited nearly every State in the Union, including the extreme southern part and the Pacific slope, thereby greatly enhancing his knowledge of the wealth and business possibilities of the country. From the Merrimack & Sullivan Counties Biographical Review.

## James Yeaton (1832-1906)

James Yeaton , a well-known farmer of Epsom, Merrimack County , was born in this town, January 11, 1832 , son of John and Sarah (Bickford) Yeaton . His ancestors for several generations were prosperous farmers in this State; and his great-grandfather, John Yeaton (first) , was a pioneer settler in Epsom . John Yeaton, second , grandfather of James , was a native of this town, and resided here his entire life. A successful farmer, he accumulated considerable property. He was a Democrat in politics and a Congregationalist in his religious views. At his death he was about eighty-one years old. He was three times married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Bickford , died at the age of twenty-five. Of her two sons who attained maturity, John was the elder. The father married for his second wife a Miss Towle , who had three children, none of whom are living. His third marriage, which was made with the widow of William Yeaton , resulted in no children.

John Yeaton, third , was born in Epsom , March 29, 1804 . He was reared to farming, which he followed successfully during his active period; and he died at the age of seventy-six years, leaving a good estate. He was one of the prominent men of his day. While not an office-seeker for himself, he took an active part in securing the election of capable officials. In politics he acted with the Free Soil party, but later became a Republican. He was a member of the Free

Will Baptist church. His first wife, Sarah Bickford Yeaton , whom he married December 25, 1828 , was a daughter of Samuel Bickford , of Epsom . She died at the age of forty-nine years, leaving five of her six children; namely, James , Sarah E. , Daniel , Vianna R. , and Betsy A. Daniel Yeaton married Annie B. Rowell , of Chichester, N.H. , and has three children—Alfred D. , Minot R. , and Alice B. Vianna R. is now the widow of Elbridge Batchelder , late of Epsom , and has two children—George E. and Edith G. Betsy A. married for her first husband Thomas B. Robinson , of Epsom , by whom she had two sons—Bert and Elmer . She is now the wife of John Brown , of Northwood, N.H. John Yeaton, third , married for his second wife Mrs. Caroline Cilly , the widow of Samuel Cilly , late of Lowell, Mass. , and a sister of his first wife. By this union there were two children: Stella R. , who is no longer living; and Fred W.

James Yeaton was educated in the schools of his native town and at Pembroke Academy. After leaving school, he learned the shoemaker's trade in Deerfield, N.H. , and followed it for three winters. He then engaged in agriculture. In 1878 he purchased his present farm of sixty acres. On March 3, 1858 , he contracted his first marriage with Martha A. Randall , daughter of Francis D. Randall , of Deerfield, N.H. Of her three children Edwin Randall Yeaton is living. June 25, 1860 , he married Ella M. Eastman , of this town, and now has one child—Albert James , who was born May 26, 1896 . Mrs. Martha Yeaton died at the age of thirty-six. On April 9, 1874 , Mr. Yeaton entered his second marriage with Annie R. Crockett , whose mother was a sister of his first wife. She was born in Concord , March 30, 1853 , daughter of John K. and Sally Rebecca (Randall) Crockett . The children of this union are: John C. , who was born May 19, 1875 ; Helen E. P. , born July 22, 1878 ; and George Hill , born December 21, 1883 .

Mr. Yeaton is a member of the Free Will Baptist church. In politics he is a Democrat. He served as Town Clerk for two years in succession, and has been several times elected a member of the Board of Selectmen. As a public official he was able and efficient. He is much respected by his townsmen. From the Merrimack & Sullivan Counties Biographical Review.



*James Yeaton, Annie his wife and son George Hill Yeaton*

## George Sanders Jr. (1804-1886)



One of the representative agriculturalists of this section, whose keen practicality, industry and devotion to that science well deserves more than a mere mention, is George Sanders, Jr. He is the son of George and Polly (Twombly) Sanders, and was born in Epsom, NH, November 6, 1832. The ancestor of the American Family of Sanders was Christopher Sanders, who came from England in 1671. We cannot fully trace the line to George, nor tell from which one of the sons of Christopher he is descended.

The great-grandfather of the one of whom we now write was George Sanders, a resident of Rye, NH., where he passed his days, a quiet and useful citizen. His son John, the pioneer of the family in this town, was born in Rye, and when a young man came to Epsom, married and became a resident. He was a stalwart man, vigorous and energetic, and devoted himself to his farm with all the force of his strong nature, and as a citizen, was much respected. About 1850 he removed to Concord, where he resided until his death, March 13, 1870, aged nearly eighty nine years. George Sanders, Sr., son of John and Anna Sanders, married Polly Towmbly, of Barrington. They had three children, -- George and Mary (twins), and John. Mr. Sanders, inheriting the strong physique and hardy nature of his father, became a farmer, and in 1832, shortly after his marriage, he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, and by unremitting labors and constant care he brought the land into such a state of cultivation that it soon became remunerative, and he was able to increase his first ownership in land some hundreds of acres by adding to it at various times, and at present the Sanders family have five hundred and thirty acres in their possession. It is located in different tracts, but the home-farm is considered one of the best farms in the town of Epsom. Mr. Sanders, Sr., has been selectman, and held some minor town offices. His religious convictions are in accord with the Free Will Baptists, of which church he has been a member about twenty years. He is now living, at the age of eighty one. Mrs. Sanders died December 22, 1884, aged eighty-one.

George Sanders Jr., could hardly have consistently followed any other vocation than that of the farmer; having been born and passed his childhood days where everything about him revealed the bounteous gifts of Mother Nature, and also inheriting, in some measure, from his father and grandfather the characteristics of a good agriculturalist. He received a good common-school education, supplemented by a term at Pembroke Academy. He has always resided on the old place. He married, January 5, 1875, Nancy A., daughter of David and Mary Ann (Carr) White, of Antrim, N.H., a descendant in the fifth generation of John White (1) of Ireland, whose son Patrick (2), studied for the priesthood; but renouncing his faith in the doctrine of the Catholic Church, he was obliged to flee to this country, where he made a home. David (3), son of Patrick, married Sarah Dutton, of Peterborough, and when the clarion notes of the trumpet called the brave and the willing to their country's defense, he responded and proved a faithful soldier to his father's adopted land. David (4) married Mary Ann Carr, a descendant of William Carr, a prominent man in the early days of Goffstown. Mr. Carr, in 1787, went to Antrim and built the house and settled on a farm which is now occupied by David White. He married Ann

Boyce of Bedford, and died at the age of eighty-three years; his wife lived to be ninety-three. Mary Sanders, (twin sister of George) married Nathaniel Twombly, of Barrington. They have four children.

George Sanders, Jr., has always pursued that oldest and most honorable calling among men, farming, and has proved himself the right man in the right place. To be convinced of his wisdom and care, you have only to look on his fields and meadows, his walls and buildings, his barns and stalls, his stacks and cribs. But, with all these cares, he has identified himself with the civil and religious interests of the town, has been selectman for several years, and is an earnest and liberal member of the Free-Will Baptist Church. Democratic in politics, he represented Epsom in the Legislature of 1874-75.

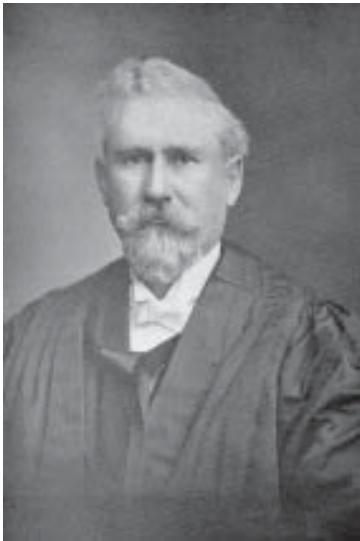
This family, for several generations, have been mostly "tillers of the soil," industrious, careful, practical working people, doing their duties well in the sphere of life to which they were called. They have been men of good judgment, active temperament, strong physique, and have performed their share of the public matters of the town, and discharged their social, public and religious duties conscientiously.

from Hurd's Atlas of Merrimack and Belknap Counties

## JUDGE WALTER HENRY SANBORN

**Excerpts from a brief account of his ancestry and life**

**By Luther Ely Smith written on the occasion of his 35 years of service in 1927**



Walter Henry Sanborn, son of Henry F. and Eunice Davis Sanborn, was born October 19, 1845, on "Sanborn's Hill" at Epsom, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, on the ancestral homestead where his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him were born. The family was of English descent and the name was originally spelled "Sambourne."

Reuben, the son of Josiah, who was born April 19, 1699, at Hampton, was known as Reuben "Sanborn." In 1760 he bought 800 acres of land in the town of Epsom, moved upon it, and built the first Sanborn house, which he occupied until his death. This farm is on the side of McCoy's Mountain, and was known as "Sanborn's Hill." It is located in the South Central region of New Hampshire and commands an excellent view of Mt. Washington. It has been under cultivation and has descended to the eldest son of each generation from 1760 to the present time.

Eliphalet Sanborn, son of Reuben, was born in Hampton July 28, 1730, and removed with his father to Epsom in 1760. He took an active and prominent part in both civil and military affairs, serving with the Colonial troops under Wolfe in 1758 in the French and Indian War. On September 3, 1776, he enlisted in the Continental Army and served through the Revolution. During the years 1773, 1775, 1776 and 1777 he held the position of Town Clerk of Epsom, an office of great responsibility and influence even in time of peace in a commonwealth governed



as New Hampshire was, largely through the pure democracy of the "town meeting." In 1772 Eliphalet Sanborn was elected a selectman of his town, and he was re-elected in 1773 and 1774. He died from lingering effects of wounds received in the Revolutionary War.

Josiah Sanborn, the great-grandfather of Judge Sanborn, eldest son of Eliphalet, was born on the old homestead in Epsom, October 4, 1763, and died there on June 14, 1842. In the year 1794 he removed the first house and erected the house of 16 rooms, which with three large barns, is still standing upon the estate and constitutes Judge Sanborn's summer home. He served as selectman of the town of Epsom for twenty years, as a representative in the Legislature for eight terms, and as a member of the State Senate for three terms.

Frederick Sanborn, the son of Josiah, was born on the old homestead October 27, 1789, and died there on May 9, 1881. On March 20, 1816, he married Lucy L. Sargent, the daughter of Reverend Benjamin Sargent of Pittsfield, New Hampshire. During a large portion of his life Frederick Sanborn was a Deacon in the Congregational Church at Epsom. He left two sons, Henry F. Sanborn, born on February 26, 1819, and John B. Sanborn, later of St. Paul, Minnesota, born on December 15, 1826.

Benjamin Sargent, the father of Judge Sanborn's grandmother, Lucy Sargent Sanborn, wife of Frederick Sanborn, entered the Continental Army as a drummer boy at the age of fifteen and served until the close of the Revolutionary War. He then became a Baptist minister and preached at Pittsfield, New Hampshire, until his death, which occurred at an advanced age, while he was in the pulpit reading a hymn.

Henry F. Sanborn, father of Judge Sanborn, entered Dartmouth College, but typhoid fever and failing health compelled him to abandon hope of a professional career, and he devoted his life to education and farming. He was elected selectman of Epsom for six terms, a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1855, and a member of the State Senate in 1866 and again in 1867, when that body consisted of only twelve members. In 1843 he married Eunice Davis of Princeton, Massachusetts.

Walter Henry Sanborn, the subject of this sketch, was the oldest child of Henry F. and Eunice Davis Sanborn, and was born in Epsom October 19, 1845. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm, attending the common school of the town, and he was a student during the winter term for two years in the neighboring academy. In the spring and summer, and at other times when he was able, he helped his father with the crops.

In the summer of 1863, after the hay crop had been gathered, Judge Sanborn's father and Mr. Cate, father of Ahlmon F. Cate, a crony of young Walter's, told the two boys that they might go to a fitting school to prepare themselves for admission to Dartmouth. They went to Meriden, New Hampshire, and interviewed the principal of a school there, who informed them that in view of their scanty scholastic attainments, at least two years more would be required to fit them for college. This further delay did not appeal to the boys. They left their trunks at Meriden, walked seven miles to the nearest railroad station, went to Dartmouth and requested an immediate examination for admission. Largely through the kindness of Professor Patterson, afterwards United States Senator from New Hampshire, they were permitted to enter college on condition that within the first year they make up the work in which they were deficient, in addition to doing their regular work. The boys accepted these terms, and during their freshman year passed all their entrance conditions, which included the reading of three books of Homer.

In July, 1867, Judge Sanborn graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Taking the course as a whole he led his class for the entire period, and by virtue of that achievement became, under the rules of the Faculty, Valedictorian of his class. At the commencement exercises he delivered both the Greek oration and the valedictory address.

In order to secure funds to help with his education, he taught during the winter term of about three months, beginning in December, in the village school at Princeton, Massachusetts, in 1862; at Deerfield, New Hampshire, in 1863; at West Westminster, Vermont, in 1864; at West Boylston, Massachusetts in 1865; and at Stratford, Vermont in 1866. Just as he returned to college from Stratford, in the winter that he taught there, the chairman of the school board at Milford, New Hampshire, came to Dartmouth College and asked the president if there was not someone in the senior class whom he could get to take the high school at Milford. The president recommended "Sanborn, '67," who took the position of principal and taught there three months, returning to Dartmouth in time for graduation with his class.

Upon leaving Dartmouth, he resumed the principalship of the Milford High School, a position he held until 1870. At the same time he read law in the office of Hon. Bainbridge Wadleigh of Milford, afterwards United States Senator from New Hampshire. In 1870, Dartmouth conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

In February, 1870, declining an increase in salary, he resigned his position as principal of the Milford High School and went to St. Paul, Minnesota. On January 28, 1871, he was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Minnesota. On May 1, 1871, he formed a law partnership with his uncle, General John B. Sanborn.

On November 10, 1874, Judge Sanborn was married to Emily F. Bruce of Milford, New Hampshire. Four children were born to them - Grace, wife of C.G. Hartin of St. Paul; Marian, wife of Grant Van Sant of St. Paul; Bruce W., a member of the law firm of Sanborn, Graves & Andre of St. Paul; and Henry F., General Agent of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad at Chicago.

On February 10, 1892, the name of Walter H. Sanborn of St. Paul to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit was sent to the Senate, and on March 17, 1892, the nomination was confirmed and the Commission signed. Judge Sanborn took his seat upon the bench at the opening of the May session of the October term in St. Luis on May 2, 1892. On June 3, 1903, upon the resignation of Judge Henry C. Caldwell, Judge Sanborn became, by virtue of the seniority of his Commission as Circuit Judge, Presiding Judge of the Court, and since that date he has met and discharged with promptness and distinction the full burden of the duties of that important post. On April 8, 1927, the Bar Association of St. Louis tendered to Walter Henry Sanborn, Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court of Appeals of the Eighth Federal Judicial Circuit and senior Circuit Judge of the United States, a testimonial dinner in appreciation of his thirty-five years of distinguished service as United States Circuit Judge.