

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Ice Cream Social July 19

The next meeting of the Epsom Historical Association will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 19, commencing at 2:30 pm. The meeting, an ice cream social, will be held at the home of Dick and Joan Fowler, Short Falls Corner. During the afternoon the Epsom Town Crier will be on hand to bring us up to date on the news of yesteryear, complete with local gossip (what were your descendants up to?). A display of some Epsom interesting artifacts and other items will be on hand which should illicit some interesting discussion.



In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held in the IOOF Hall. Overflow parking will also be at the IOOF Hall. Those attending the social are requested to bring a lawn chair.

HOUSE COMMITTEE CONTINUES WORK

The Epsom Historical Association's committee working on recording all the old houses in Epsom prior to 1900 has continued meeting each month. After an informative meeting with Kathy O'Connor on researching and tracing deeds and probate, the committee now turns to identifying all the homes that need to be included in the project. The basis for this work will be the 1892 and 1858 maps of the town which identifies all the homes and their residents during those time periods. Members of the committee have copies of the 1892 maps to use in identifying homes, and then matching them with current occupants.

Members wishing to join the committee to help work on this enormous task should contact chairperson Carole Brown at 736-4407.

EARLY SETTLERS **NEW WEB SITE**

A new, larger and faster access web site is now available for those interested in tracing ancestry of Epsom's early settlers. The site also includes the entire 1790 census for the town (with children and spouse names if known); rotating biographical sketches on Epsom people of the past; and a page for keeping up with the activities of the Historical Association. It is definitely a must visit web site for anyone interested in Epsom History. Check it often as it changes and grows. <http://home.ici.net/~tjrand/>

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PAST PROGRAMS

The last three meetings of the Epsom Historical Society each had 32 or more members present, and it is hoped that this interest level continues and increases as the organization becomes more active. The last meeting in May was a presentation on the life of Thomas Wiggin and early history of the town of Stratham. This outstanding program was presented by descendant Peter Wiggin.

The March meeting was based on the memoirs of George H. Yeaton and presented by Richard Fowler.

The meeting in January had as its program a discussion of the houses on Goboro Road, based on the recorded memory of Benjamin M. Towle. The program was presented by Carleton Rand, grandson of B.M. Towle and proved to be a lively discussion with much added to the presentation by those in attendance.

DUES NOTICE

At the last meeting, the Association voted to once again collect a nominal fee for yearly dues. Members will receive notice of upcoming meetings through the EHA Newsletter. If you wish to join, contact Carleton Rand at 736-9695 or attend the next meeting.

Ramblings.....

Two new photos were loaned to the Historical Society by Louise Dowst and Hattie Bickford. One shows the old covered bridge next to the newly constructed bridge - certainly a rare photo; the other a nice picture of the old Tavern. The photos have been scanned and will become part of the EHA collection....The old gravestones in the McClary Cemetery and the Gossville Cemetery have now been photographed, next will be the Cemetery at Short Falls....The next officers meeting will be held the week following Old Home Day, the agenda will be a discussion of how the day went, and the planning of programs for the next year.

Do You Recognize this gentleman? He was born in Epsom March 12, 1827. Find out all about him by attending the Ice Cream Social on July 19, or visit the Epsom Early Settlers Website.



AMBITIOUS E.H.A. OLD HOME DAY PLANS ANNOUNCED

People visiting the Pavillion at Webster Park on Old Home Day will find an ambitious display of projects relative to the various projects being undertaken and maintained by the Epsom Historical Association. The EHA officers have decided to once again have on display, and for purchase, selections from the photo archives. These are framed computer generated copies of pictures in the Associations albums, and proceeds from their sales benefit the association. The actual albums will be available for people to look through, complete this year with a computer program which can search and locate specific people, places and buildings located in the albums. Also available will be a computer in which people that are descendants of Epsom early settlers can look up their ancestors. It is hoped that additional information may be obtained from residents during the day to further increase the database of individuals. Information on the Epsom Old Houses project will be available in hopes of stimulating still more interest and information. The day will also be used to invite people to join the Epsom Historical Association. Any members who are available for the day and who could help out with answering peoples questions and with the maintaining of the displays should contact Carleton Rand at 736-9695.