

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume I Number 3 May 1998

HISTORIC HOMES OF EPSOM PROJECT UNDERWAY

The home of Carole Brown was the site of the first meeting of the committee which will begin assembling a publication detailing the history and background of many of the town's old homes and buildings. The first meeting was held Thursday evening, May 7, with ten attending.

At the first meeting strategies were discussed on how to proceed with the research and publication of a book on historical homes and buildings for the town of Epsom. Each member of the committee will be receiving a copy of the 1858 map of the town which shows the houses and occupants for that period. It was agreed to compare this map to that of the 1892 map and set a tentative cap on researching houses built before 1900.

The next meeting of the committee will again be at Carole Brown's on Thursday evening May 28 beginning at 7:00 pm. It is hoped that the meeting will be of a workshop style with Cathy O'Connor present to discuss how to research old property and deeds. If you are interested in helping with the project please contact Carole at 736-4407.



An Event in Epsom's past. Can you figure where and when? Answer May 17th!

Peter Wiggin to speak on Great Bay Archaeology Dig

Peter Wiggin of Stratham, a landscape architect by trade but also an amateur archaeologist, will tell the Epsom Historical Association of his adventures when he decided to clean up and investigate the old Wiggin graveyard where the first three generations of Wiggins are buried near the shores of Great Bay.

It turned into a huge project in which the State of New Hampshire and its official archaeologist became involved. The result was reestablishment of the cemetery, mapping of stone walls, tracing the course of settlement from the Bay up Depot Road to King's Highway and discovery of Capt. Wiggin's original home site, also the site of a prehistoric Indian encampment.

Artifacts were recovered at the various sites.

Capt. Wiggin was originally at Dover Point very early and then relocated to Squamscot (Stratham). Many of his descendants still reside in Strafford and Carroll counties.

Mr. Peter Wiggin has spoken numerous times on this subject, and has also expanded its genealogy portion. The meeting will be held **Sunday, May 17, 1998** at the I.O.O.F. Hall beginning at 2:30 p.m.

EARLY SETTLER GRAVESITES IDENTIFIED

The photographing of the gravestones in the old section of the McClary Cemetery on Center Hill has brought to light the identity of some of the burial sites of several of Epsom's early settlers. The early Cemetery Book done in the 1940's by Evelyn Piper Rowell gives incomplete data, as the stones at the time were unreadable to the naked eye. The identity of a couple were surmised by John Mark Moses in an article written nearly a century ago for the *Granite Monthly* magazine. Those found were the following:

1787 F.L. (Francis Locke, selectman 1744)
E.F. B.F. 10, 1730 D M 7, 1798 (Ephraim Locke)
E.L.J. B. M. 6, 1761 D. F. 7, 1771 (E. Locke Jr.)

Ephraim Locke was moderator in town 1773-1775, represented the town in the legislature and was a Revolutionary soldier (should get a flag?). The three grave markers are roughly engraved fieldstones, and that of Francis Locke is almost impossible to find.

Other graves located and not in the Cemetery Books include those of William and Nancy (Hopkinson) Ham and their son George W. Ham; and that of Sally (Wiggin) Cilley, wife of Bradbury who died at the age of 19.

Ramblings.....

The Strafford County Genealogical Society will be presenting a program on the various ongoing projects to preserve Epsom's heritage and genealogy database of Early Settlers. The program will also include the photo archive project and Cemetery Book project, including the photographing for posterity the family cemeteries, and the old portions of the larger town cemeteries. The meeting will be held at the Dover Public Library, Saturday afternoon, June 6, at 1:00 pm..... The Epsom Woman's Club has requested the Epsom Historical Association present a program on the early history of the town, to be presented by EHA President Carleton Rand.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PAST PROGRAMS

The last two 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 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. The amount of \$2.00 per person will go to help defray the cost of EHA Newsletters. The next newsletter will be sent only to those who have paid. If you wish to continue to receive a copy and be kept up to date on meetings and future plans and projects, you should make arrangements to join by contacting Carleton Rand at 736-9695 or attend the next meeting.

EPSOM EARLY SETTLERS WEB SITE PRESENCE GROWS

A web site is available which shows the genealogy of many of Epsom's Early Settlers. Containing over 7,200 individuals and highlighting over 30 family lines, it is available through the Family Tree Maker website homepages, or you can access it direct at:

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/r/a/n/T-J-Rand/index.html>. It is a work in progress, so you should check it out regularly. Any additional information or corrections to data can be given to the Epsom Historical Association. If you visit the site you will find it may take a while to load as the file is quite large. Reports on individual family lines can be added, which will be quicker to access and easier to read. If you wish to see a particular family report, contact the Association.