

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Epsom Old Homes Project Continues

The extensive project researching and preparing for publication a book about all the old homes in Epsom, built prior to 1900, continues. Carole Brown, chairperson for the project is encouraged by some of the work done by committee members in learning how to search for titles, deeds and other information to establish the history of many of these structures. In addition to the research, the committee will try to locate early photographs of many of the houses, such as the one shown here, (recently loaned to the EHA - along with many other wonderful photos, by Al Bickford, to add to the archives) to supplement the publication.



There is still plenty of time for interested persons to help with the project, whether to help with research on their own home, and hopefully to aid in the research of many others. Please feel free to contact Carole Brown at the meeting, or give her a call.

SUMMER IS OVER

Are you ready for another wonderful year of Epsom Historical Association Programs ?

The Epsom Historical Association kicks off the fall with a presentation by Michael Vrakatitsis on his recent Eagle Scout project - a video on the history of the Town of Epsom. Mike will discuss how the video was made, and his purpose in doing the project. It will also be interesting to hear his thoughts on the history of the town after preparing such an extensive presentation.

The meeting will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 20, commencing at 2:30 pm. Members are encouraged to invite other interested persons who may be interested in joining the Historical Association - and at the same time give Mike Vrakatitsis a good audience with which to share his hard work and effort.

EARLY SETTLERS WEB SITE **Now Part of Merrimack** **Country GenWeb Project**

People from all over the world can find the Epsom Early Settlers Web Site by accessing the US GenWeb Project and following the links to State, County and Town sites. Now included is the entire 1790 census for the town, (with children and spouse names if known); 10,600 people in the database, the 1850 Map of Epsom, AND the complete updated Cemetery Book - all searchable by surname. The Cemetery book gives the Cemetery, date of death and age (if on the stone) and maiden names of spouses. There are over 3,000 names in the index. Members can still access the site directly from:

<http://home.ici.net/~tjrand>

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PAST PROGRAMS

Many thanks go to Dick and Joan Fowler for hosting this year's Ice Cream Social. It was a great day for an outdoor event, and Dick's "Town Crier" certainly was informative and entertaining. Thanks also go to Charlie and Phil Yeaton for bringing their display of unusual antiques. Besides being fun as to guessing what they all were, for some they even brought back memories.

The Epsom Old Home Day display was again well received. In addition to the albums and display of framed pictures, the EHA had two computers on hand. One contained the search database of the pictures in the archives; the other a genealogy database of Epsom Early Settlers. Both seemed to attract a lot of interest. Also on hand was a display explaining the old homes book project. Thanks go to Bob Tripp, Dick Fowler, Phil Yeaton, Carole Brown and Carleton Rand for spending time with those Epsom Citizens who stopped by, and also to Jim McGuire for bringing his computer and answering questions about the database he developed to search the photos.

DUES NOTICE

The Association recently 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.....

New pictures have been loaned to the Epsom Historical Association to be scanned and added to our photo archives. These include photos from the family of Ruth Krenn; from Al Bickford; and from William Haslet Jones. Thanks to all of them for enriching the history of Epsom....Album No. 8 of photos has been completed, and once the people in the photos have been identified and indexed, it will be placed in the files of the Association at the Epsom Library.

The Epsom Cemetery Book - Revised

Between the years of 1944 and 1947 a project was undertaken by Evelyn Piper Rowell, Chairman of the Genealogical Records, N.H.D.A.R., to record the inscriptions from cemeteries in Epsom, New Hampshire. The results included inscriptions from 28 cemeteries, plus one in Allenstown and one in Deerfield which had close Epsom ties. The final work, which contained an alphabetical index besides the inscriptions, was placed at the New Hampshire Historical Association, and Epsom Public Library, where they remain to this day. Six of the cemeteries were copied by the Epsom Woman's Club, and Arthur Wells of town helped locate many of the cemeteries. For fifty years this was the definitive work on Epsom Cemeteries.

Over a decade ago a new list was compiled by Leigh and Neil English and discussed by the Epsom Historical Association. At that time several cemeteries which were missed back in the forties were added, which brought the number of cemeteries to nearly 35.

In the last two years work was begun to revise the original Rowell work. In the process, hundred's of errors were found in the reading of dates and names from the original survey. Well over a hundred gravestones had been completely missed and yet others, in smaller plots, which had remained buried since before 1944, have been uncovered. The number of cemeteries now stands at 42, and all the gravestones prior to 1940 have been photographed. In addition, research has disclosed the maiden names of hundred's of wives whose identities had been unknown.

The newly revised **EPSOM CEMETERY BOOK** contains an index of over 3100 names, 1200 more than the original cemetery book. We will always be grateful for the work of Evelyn Piper Rowell, but the revised work affords future researchers into Epsom's past a more accurate account of information contained within the walls of Epsom's many cemeteries.

The new Epsom Cemetery Book merely revised the earlier book, and only in a few instances were the inscriptions added of people who died after 1944 -and that was primarily in instances where names were added to previously recorded gravestones. The book also contains the records of Jonathan Dolbeer, clerk of the old Congregational Church, and his nephew Calvin, who recorded deaths in Epsom from 1819 to 1874. The revised book also contains information relative to the placement of flags for veterans, and known veterans have the war in which they participated indicated in bold type.

The Epsom Cemetery Book has been placed in the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, and in the Epsom Public Library. A few extra copies have been made and are available for purchase at a cost of \$35.00. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Epsom Historical Association.

THE EPSOM CEMETERY BOOK (1998) 246 pages