

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 2003

Officers Meet - Goals Set for 2003

The new officers of the Epsom Historical Association met in January to discuss its agenda and plans for the 2003 calendar year. Much of this newsletter contains information that grew out of discussions and decisions made by the officers at that time. Increased membership was named as our most important goal for the year, as it is our best way to enlarge our base and stimulate interest in our activities. The success of any of the EHA's endeavors to save and stimulate items relative to the history of Epsom will be directly attributed to public awareness of our efforts and our goals. It is hoped our current membership will help in this regard with word of mouth to friends and other interested people; the EHA will continue with its schedule of meetings and the use of the newsletter; and it is hoped that the EHA can have a presence at town functions with some type of traveling display.

Other discussion centered around the current holdings of the historical association, in particular the files and materials held at the library. This would also grow to include items that are of interest to the Association, but which are not currently part of our archives. It was also decided to continue to try and archive via computer as much as possible; to expand information on the internet and increase awareness of the EHA online; to examine the condition of family cemeteries and see if anything can be done for them; to increase activity in increasing funds for the association as well as update our non-profit status; to gain more volunteers for helping with genealogical requests; and to continue making publications available. In order to facilitate some of these plans, the original committees as outlined in the charter were re-instated with new chairman (see related article) and they are looking for volunteers to be on these committees. The minutes of the meeting are online at <http://www.2eha.net/epsom/janminutes.htm>.

ANNUAL DUES DATE SET

The Officers of the Epsom Historical Association voted to set an annual dues date. The decision will make it easier for members to know when they are due, and make it easier for the association to keep track of membership.

ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

Membership remains the same as a single family membership at \$5.00. In order to bring everyone to the same expiration date, anyone paying dues from last Old Home Day to January 1st will be credited with membership through March 2004. Any dues collected from now through the March meeting will be good through March 2004. Dues paid later in the year will have to be renewed March 2004 regardless of how many months have passed. ***IF YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL HAS AN * AFTER THE LAST NAME, YOU ARE PAID.*** All others will need to renew by the end of March. Checks may be made out to the *EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION* and mailed to:

Lisa Cote, EHA Treasurer
202 New Orchard Road
Epsom, NH 03234

Dues will also be accepted at our next meeting which will be held March 16, 2003. Time and place will be announced in the next newsletter.

2003 Officers Elected

At the November meeting of the Epsom Historical Association the nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the coming year. It was voted and approved with the following: T.J. Rand, President; Fred Clark, Vice President; Elsie Fife, Secretary; and Lisa Cote, Treasurer. The officers appointed T.J. Rand, 'historian'. The officers went back to the bylaws and re-established the original standing committees as follows:

Library Committee: "responsible for collecting, cataloging, the care, arrangement, and repair of books, manuscripts, newspapers, and other historical source material. *Chairperson, Nancy Claris*; members, T.J. Rand, Elsie Fife.

Publications Committee: "responsible for finding ways and means for publishing joint or individual research studies." *Phil Yeaton, Chairperson*; members Carleton Rand and Charlie Yeaton. T.J. will continue newsletter.

Historic Sites Committee: "responsible for establishing the historic validity for sites proposed for marking; for marking historical sites; for arranging historical tours." Also space & home for the Association. *Harvey Harkness, Chairperson*.

Program Committee: "responsible for arranging suitable programs." *Fred Clark, Chairperson*; members as chosen by the nominating committee, Dick and Joan Fowler, Glenna Nutter, Harvey Harkness, Carleton Rand, advisor.

Nominating Committee: to be appointed as needed at a later date.

The officers decided to remain as a committee for finances, and appoint additional committees and chairpersons for additional projects during the year. Anyone interested in helping and serving on any of the above committees should contact the chairperson. Nancy Claris and Lisa Cote will also serve as a refreshment committee, and would also welcome your help in providing refreshments for our member meetings.

2003 Meeting/Activity Tentative Schedule

March 16, Sunday, 2:30, Place TBA

our Guest, Larry Berkson

May 18, Sunday, Program to be announced

Sept 21, Sunday, Program to be announced

Nov 16, Sunday, Program to be announced

July 13, Sunday, tentative outing

Aug 9, 2003 - Old Home day

Next Officers meeting Friday, Feb 21, 2003 at the Epsom Library, 7 p m. Officers and committees will meet the months of no regular meeting and as needed.

The Bear at the New Orchard Road School House in the Year 1893

One day the teacher, at the New Orchard road school, had some of the scholars at the blackboard doing their arithmetic problems.

One of the scholars was Charles S. Bickford and instead of doing what he was supposed to do, at the blackboard he was gazing out of the window which was beside the blackboard.

The teacher was quick to notice him and said, "Charlie what are you so interested in outside the school house?" Quickly Charlie replied, "There is a bear outside the school house."

"Then you had better go out and kill it," the teacher said. Charlie obediently went outside, pausing only long enough to grab a broom.

We scholars in the school room could hear him pounding, with the broom under the window, soon he came back into the school room and said: "I have killed the bear."

By George H. Yeaton, one of the scholars, at the time, Charlie killed the bear, in the year 1893. It is now the year 1963.

Of course there was no bear in the school yard.

***GUESTBOOK ENTRY EXCERPTS FROM
EPSOM EARLY SETTLERS WEBSITE
SINCE OLD HOME DAY***

I really enjoy going over your site. Thanks for your help on my Gordon line.

Saturday, August 17th 2002 - 02:42:46 PM

Great Site! Thanks for putting it together.

Wednesday, August 28th 2002 - 12:12:51 PM

Your site is wonderful.

Saturday, September 28th 2002 - 01:51:51 AM

Great Information!

Sunday, October 6th 2002 - 10:35:25 PM

This site is wonderful

Monday, October 7th 2002 - 08:00:34 AM

Your Website is the best-best-best!

Tuesday, October 8th 2002 - 10:10:50 PM

The site is absolutely intriguing to go through. Very nicely done and appreciate all the hard work and effort put into the daily upkeep of this site. Again we appreciate all of the help.

Sunday, October 20th 2002 - 12:42:56 AM

Your site is phenomenal! Everything I've looked for is easily accessible. Your cemetery photos are tremendous for those of us who live far away from New Hampshire.

Wednesday, October 30th 2002 - 10:11:47 AM

Excellent website. I wish more of my ancestors came from Epsom to hear more about them from you. Dorcas Savory PATTEE wife of James MARDEN are all I have here. You've taken good care (of) them.

Sunday, November 24th 2002 - 10:26:18 AM

Fantastic job. Must be one of the best sites in the State.

Monday, December 16th 2002 - 08:07:49 PM

Enjoy this info

Tuesday, December 24th 2002 - 02:41:52 PM

You've done such a wonderful job for Epsom and the state. Putting your site into my favorites.

Sunday, December 29th 2002 - 01:12:39 PM

This site is absolutely fantastic with all the history available. Many thanks to those who have transcribed the records and for the many hours of work that has gone into this site.

Monday, January 13th 2003 - 05:06:23 PM

Cool !! i was just surfing for New Hampshire History and found your website. I can't wait to...read all about it !!I appreciate that you've taken the time to do this. Thank You

Friday, January 17th 2003 - 09:43:02 AM

You people should be really proud of the job that you have done on this website. It stands high above over what most other communities in the USA offer. Best Wishes!

Tuesday, January 21st 2003 - 12:45:47 PM

your hard work in developing this source of information is greatly appreciated. I have been working on the Sherburne Family Tree occasionally over the last 2 or 3 years and this website has been a great help. Thanks!

Sunday, November 24th 2002 - 02:49:14 PM

Have you visited
Epsom Early Settlers Website
Recently?

Catch Up with the Past !

www.2eha.net

Epsom Historical Association

Year End Review 2002

The Epsom Historical Association held 40 family memberships by the end of 2002, and continued its regular Newsletter and member meetings. Among the topics presented were the following:

March – THE SEIZURE of HIS MAJESTY’S FORT WILLIAM AND MARY (of which Epsom’s Andrew McClary was a participant), presented by Thomas Kehr of the New Hampshire Society Sons of the American Revolution.

May – EPSOM MEMORIES of WORLD WAR II, a round table hosted by Joan Fowler with members of the Association.

August Old Home Day – A highlight of the year was the presentation given on Old Home Day in conjunction with Epsom’s 275th Anniversary. During this celebration a large display of artifacts and antiques was shown at the Legion Hall courtesy of Phil and Charlie Yeaton. Also at the Hall was a computer slide show of old Epsom Photos, and a computer available for genealogy research. Three lectures were given in the old Short Falls School (part of the Legion facility) on the History of East Street, and each was followed by a bus tour of Center Hill Road, with transportation courtesy of Phil Dail. The last stop of the tour was a visit to the old town hall to view its restoration, and additional Epsom Historical artifacts were on display. Each member of the tour received a copy of “EAST STREET, Road to Settling Epsom, NH” prepared by the Association.

November – CHICHESTER HISTORY, a slide show of Chichester buildings and structures by Walter Sanborn, Chichester, NH, historian.

The Epsom Historical Association also continued its list of publications with the fifth in a series of books by Phil Yeaton, EPSOM SCHOOLS. The EHA also continues a strong presence on the Internet, and continues to use modern technology to scan many old photographs loaned to us by Epsom residents.

We cannot thank those residents enough for allowing these historical items to be preserved in this manner and made available for future researchers. The Association also continues to accept items of historical interest to its archives that remain available at the Epsom Public Library.

Finally, thanks to Carleton Rand for the last five years of leadership at the helm of the Epsom Historical Association.

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CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

No. 30

Yeaton Cemetery No. 2, North Road

Belanger

Catherine Y. Belanger (Yeaton dau. of J.P. and J.A. Yeaton), June 1, 1924 - July 21, 1994

Yeaton

Alvah L. Yeaton Jan. 12, 1860–Jan. 7, 1928

John P. Yeaton Nov. 6, 1895–Dec. 8, 1961

Jessie A. Keene, his wife, Apr. 9, 1895–Aug. 21, 1960

William H. Yeaton , Killed at Manchester, Feb. 7, 1870 AE. 27 yrs. 7 mos. 18 dys.

William Yeaton DIED July 3, 1830. AE. 47.

Elizabeth (Ham), wife of William Yeaton, died Aug. 10, 1867. AE. 79 y’rs 8 mo.

Warren Yeaton Died Nov. 7, 1890. AE. 72 ys. 1 mo. 10 ds.

Catherine A. (Angeline Yeaton), Wife of Warren Yeaton, Died May. 26, 1900. AE. 80 ys. 4 ms. 24 ds.

Thomas M., son of Warren & Catharine Yeaton, died Dec. 11, 1846 AE. 5 mo’s. 11 ds.

Warren. Son of Alvah L. & Etta (Bartlett), DIED May 4, 1891, AE. 6 dys

Warren A., son of J. P. & J. A. Yeaton, Apr. 9, 1926–Apr. 13, 1926

WHO WAS ANDREW McCLARY?

Reprinted with kind permission from the NHSSAR January 2003 Newsletter and Hans Jackson.

A British cannonball nearly eradicated the name of Andrew McClary from the annals of American history. An obsolete fort on the Maine shore of Portsmouth Harbor bears his name, but few outside of McClary's hometown of Epsom, NH recall who he was or what our nation lost when he fell. Compatriots of the NHSSAR, the heirs to his legacy, undoubtedly should remember.

Innkeeper Andrew McClary was in his mid-forties in December of 1774 when he stormed the gates of Fort William and Mary in Newcastle. An early revolutionary, McClary was (like John Stark) a member of Rogers' Rangers during the French and Indian War. Standing over six feet in height and carrying more than 200 pounds of muscle, McClary was a popular, confident and committed leader. He was chosen one of three delegates to negotiate the surrender of Fort William & Mary in spite of the fact that he may have spoken with a stutter.

Four months after engaging in the first colonial capture of a British military installation in America, McClary learned of the slaughter of American citizens at Lexington and Concord. He raced from his home in Epsom and was, within 24 hours, rallying troops in Massachusetts. By the end of April 1775, New Hampshire troops had elected him second in command to Colonel John Stark and Major McClary was drilling men in Medford. Within two months, he was leading those same men to Charlestown Neck to take part in the first major engagement of the Revolutionary War: the Battle of Bunker Hill.

At Charlestown Neck, McClary discovered that the substantially ineffective fire of British frigates anchored in the Charles and Mystic Rivers had halted two regiments from another colony dead in their tracks. Incensed, McClary confronted their commanders, stating that "if they did not intend to move on he wished them to open and let the New Hampshire regiment pass through." According to one of McClary's captains - Henry Dearborn (later Secretary of War to President

Thomas Jefferson) - the regiments stepped aside for the New Hampshiremen. Major McClary and his men proceeded to their position and fought valiantly through the day. British frigates were still firing cannonades at the Neck when the fighting appeared to be over and Captain Dearborn joined McClary for "some spirit and water." According to Dearborn:

"[McClary] was animated and sanguine in the result of the conflict for independence, from the glorious display of valor which had distinguished his countrymen on that memorable day. He soon observed that the British troops on Bunker Hill were in motion, and said he would go and reconnoiter them to see whether they were coming out over the Neck; at the same time he directed me to march my company down the road towards Charlestown. We were then at Tuft's House near Ploughed Hill. I immediately made a forward movement to the position he directed me to take, and halted, while he proceeded to the old pound which stood on the site now occupied as a tavern house, not far from the entrance to the Neck. After having satisfied himself that the enemy did not intend to leave the strong position on the heights, he was returning towards me, and when within twelve or fifteen rods of where I stood with my company, a random shot from one of the frigates lying near where the center of Cragie's Bridge now is, passed through his body, and put to flight one of the most heroic souls that ever animated man. He leaped two or three feet from the ground, pitched forward, and fell dead upon his face. I had him carried to Medford, where he was interred with all the respect and honors we could exhibit to the manes of a great and good man . . . He was among the first officers of the army, possessing a sound judgment, of undaunted bravery, enterprising, ardent and sealous [sic] both as a patriot and a soldier. His loss was severely felt by his compatriots in arms, while his country was deprived of the services of one of her most promising and distinguished champions of liberty."

According to one account, McClary "was returning with Lieut. Col. Robinson and others, and observed that the shot commissioned to kill him was not yet cast,

when a cannon ball from the Glasgow tore him in pieces. No smaller weapon seemed worthy to destroy the gigantic hero.”

Forty years after Bunker Hill, Secretary of War Dearborn continued to lament the loss of McClary: “With all the bravery of Stark, he possessed greater mental endowments; with the natural ability of [Major General John] Sullivan, he combined the magic power to incite his men to noble deeds; with the popularity of General Poor, he was more cool and discreet. In fact he combined more completely than any of his associates the elements that tend to make a popular and successful commander, and had his life been spared he would doubtless have ranked among the most able and noted officers of the Revolution.”

The NHSSAR salutes one of the earliest heroes of the American Revolution, Major Andrew McClary of Epsom. In the words of the Major’s obituary: “May his name be held in respect by all lovers of liberty to the end of time, while the names of the sons of tyranny are despised and disgraced, and nothing left of them but the badges of their perfidy and infamy. May the widow be respected for his sake, and may his children inherit his spirit, but not meet with his fall.”

You can visit the New Hampshire Society Sons of the American Revolution Website at <http://www.sar.org/nhssar/>

A side note of interest, the State recently denied the possibility of erecting a Roadside marker to Andrew McClary. Ed.



Monument at the site of the home of Andrew McClary on Center Hill.



A likeness of Andrew McClary graced the seal for Epsom’s 250th Anniversary in 1977.

HELP US GROW !

We hope you enjoyed this extended newsletter. Newsletters are sent out before each member meeting plus one extended version in January.

R E M E M B E R

Only Epsom Historical Association members receive the Newsletter, so renew today! AND - don’t you know someone who might like to receive it? For only \$5.00 it is a bargain. Simply

send dues to:

Lisa Cote, EHA Treasurer
202 New Orchard Road
Epsom, NH 03234

catch up to the past!