



# Epsom Historical Association

## NEWSLETTER

*Catch up to the Past*

January 2007

### LIBRARY & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP

The Epsom Public Library, as it has moved to its new location, will retain the old building to house its historical items, preserving them in their original setting. The Epsom Historical Association will be the caretakers of the collection, and will house its own collection there as well, setting up a research Library and Museum. This is perhaps the most important decision made in decades to preserve Epsom's rich heritage. For the first time, there will be a place in which donated items can be stored and put on display for the benefit of the community. Items to be displayed will include permanent items and items on loan from individuals. Special tours and programs will be made available to organizations and school groups. The Library and Museum will also become a place for people, taking advantage of the many databases and information belonging to the Historical Association, to go for research. This becomes an ideal time for those who have items they would like to donate to do so. Contact Phil Yeaton at 225-9567 or email the Epsom Historical Association at [Epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:Epsomhistory@aol.com). The local business community will be asked to be partners in an endeavor to help defray the operating costs. Official opening is tentatively set for Memorial Day weekend 2007, at which time regular hours will commence.



### HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OFFERS **HISTORIC PHOTOS DVD**

Just in time for Christmas, the Epsom Historical Association is pleased to offer the EPSOM HISTORIC PHOTOS SLIDESHOW DVD. The DVD is a slide show of 350 old photos and postcards from the Associations archived pictures. There are 15 chapters, and included are the Short Falls Covered Bridge, the McClary House, Trains and Depots, One Room Schools, the Old Parsonage, Early Stores, Lodgings, Churches, the Old Tavern, Industry, the Old Library, Business, Transportation and Road Making. These old photos and cards sell for between 5 and 10 dollars each - but you can have them in a DVD show for \$35.00. Available at the library OR to reserve your copy, [Epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:Epsomhistory@aol.com).

### *Mystery Photo Answer*



Did you guess the surname of the family that occupied this old house? No longer standing, it was located in the part of town called "New Portsmouth" and was the home of the Tarleton family. A single stone with family names on it is nearby in the woods near a stone wall.

# MOSES LOCKE AND FAMILY

In researching John GODFREY of Northwood, who married a daughter of Moses Locke, several discrepancies have appeared in various records, which will effect significantly the genealogy as printed and accepted in the Locke Genealogy of the family of Moses LOCKE of Kensington.

First, three comparisons of the births of the children of Moses Locke:

| LOCKE GENEALOGY                  | EPSOM TOWN RECORDS          | KENSINGTON PARISH RECORDS  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Mehitable Oct. 18, 1757          | Mehetbell october 18th 1757 | Mehitable Nov. 4, 1757   |
| Ann (called Sally) March 9, 1760 | Anna march ye 9th 1760      | Ann Apr 13, 1760   |
| Jonathan Apl. 6, 1762            | Jonathan aprel ye 6th 1762  | Jonathan Apr 19, 1762  |
| Annah (Hannah) May 4, 1764       | Hannah may ye 4th 1764      | Hannah May 6, 1764   |
| Mary July 9, 1766                | Mary july ye 9th 1766       | Mary Sept 6, 1766  |
| Elijah May 4, 1768               | Elijah may ye 4th 1768      | Elijah July 4, 1768  |
| Richard Sept 20, 1770            | Richard Sept ye 20th 1770   | (family now in Epsom so no other births of family in Kensington records) |
| Moses Mar 13, 1773               | Moses march ye 13th 1773    |  |
| James Munroe Mar 4, 1776         | Jeames march ye 4th 1776    |  |

It would appear as the Locke Genealogy (*A History and Genealogy of CAPTAIN JOHN LOCKE* by Arthur H. Locke, A.M., reprint 1993 Heritage Books) took its list of children and dates of birth from the Epsom Town Books, available at the NH State Archives. It is not sourced, and several things remain unknown. The first under Locke Genealogy, is Ann being called Sally. The Epsom records give only the name Anna. This becomes confusing as the fourth child is given in Epsom as Hannah, but Locke Genealogy, for reason unknown, spells the name Annah and assumes it as (Hannah). Locke goes further and assigns the following spouses:

Ann (called Sally) b. March 9, 1760, m. Nov. 24, 1785, John GODFREY Jr.

Annah (Hannah) b. in Kensington, May 4, 1764, m. in Epsom, March 5, 1789, Hon. Josiah SANBORN

In all three, the second child is clearly Ann or Anna. The fourth child in Epsom and Kensington records is clearly Hannah. This becomes important, as it will appear that the Locke Genealogy attached the wrong spouses to these two children of Moses Locke and Mary Organ.

The Kensington Parish records (transcribed at NH Historical Society LIBRARY 929.3778b K36sk, Kensington Vital Records compiled by Rev. Roland D. Sawyer), list dates slightly different than those in the Epsom records, probably the later baptisms of each, but the names are similar to the Epsom records, with the second child Ann in Kensington records becoming Anna in Epsom records.

The entries in the old Epsom town records were done at a later date by various town clerks, with the information probably coming by interviewing family members. Since the original parish records of Kensington precede those of Epsom, and was recorded at the time of birth or baptism, the order of the births in those records should be of greater weight and considered the more accurate source. The Locke Genealogy apparently was unaware of, or did not have access to, the parish records, and further, made some bad assumptions. As a result, the information about the children of Moses Locke requires further study - in particular Ann (called Sally) and Annah (Hannah).

The Godfrey family is mentioned in the History of Northwood by John Mark Moses, and as he states, most of the family removed to Vermont, so there is little known or written of this family compared to other early settlers of Northwood. The early Northwood histories tried to link the marriage of Mary Batchelder, daughter of Henry and Mary (Marston) Batchelder to a Moses Godfrey born 1719, son of John Godfrey and Abigail Greeley. In fact, the History of Hampton by Dow shows that marriage, said Mary having been born in 1735. Moses suggested that she more likely married Moses Godfrey, son of Ebenezer and Patience (Johnson) as he was born Oct. 28, 1733, as the birth dates for each are a better match. Ebenezer born 1706 was a brother to Moses born 1719. Again, Dow says that this Moses, son of Ebenezer, "prob. settled at Northwood." Both items appear in Dow's History of Hampton, Volume 2, page 729. Among the children of Moses and Mary were John, Molley, who died young, James, Simon and Dorothy. The father Moses, and sons James and Simon removed to Vermont. Dorothy married Philip Hoitt who died in 1819 - Dorothy, born about 1772, died 1852, are buried in a Hoitt family cemetery in Northwood. This leaves the son, John Godfrey.

Locke writes "Ann Locke (called Sally) born in Epsom, Feb. 13, or March 9, 1760, married Nov. 24, 1785, John Godfrey, Jr., of Northwood who died there Jan. 25, 1820". The marriage date does not appear in either Epsom or Northwood records, nor does a death date appear in 1820 Northwood records for a John Godfrey. What does appear is the following:

Northwood Congregational Church Records

1827, June 2, Mr. Godfrey (John Jr. aged 35.)

1834, Nov. 15, old Mr. Godfrey

Prentice (Rev.) Death Records of Northwood

1837, June 10, old Mr. Godfrey

Northwood Cemetery Book "Everlastings" compiled by Sherman Elliott, Jr. 1998

Fairview Cemetery, Lot 5

Godfrey, Hannah L. (James) 1761-1837

Godfrey, John C. 1760-1834

Baptist Church Cemetery

Godfrey, John 1793-1827

In 2006, the Godfrey graves at the Fairview Cemetery were broken and almost completely covered by grass. Using a trowel, soft brush, and a little digging, a more exact inscription of each could be read:

John Godfrey, DIED, Nov 19, 1834 Aged 74 yrs

Hannah L, wife of John Godfrey, DIED June 10, 1837 AE 76 yrs

The "Everlastings" book gives a middle initial 'C' to John which does not appear on the stone. The (James) entry after Hannah, was added by the compiler from his best research into possible maiden name. Though John and Hannah had a daughter Abigail who married a Samuel James, there is no connection known that would suggest that Hannah was a James - in fact, her gravestone is clearly marked Hannah L - the 'L' for maiden name Locke. Her age at date of death would put her birth as about 1761, but if the record used to calculate her death was that recorded in the Epsom town books, Epsom being a border town and likely source for such information, was not exactly known by existing family members, it would produce an inaccurate date of birth. That is most likely the case in this instance. There is no doubt that the wife of John Godfrey was Hannah Locke, the 4th and not the 2nd child, of Moses and Mary Locke, and is given incorrectly in the Locke Genealogy.



“A History and Genealogy of Capt. John Locke” gives as the children of John Godfrey:

John Godfrey, married in Northwood, died there, had children Mary, Marilla, Elizabeth born 1811, Harriet born 1817, and Sarah. This John Godfrey probably the one who died 1827 age 35 and is buried in the Baptist Church Cemetery in Northwood, NH. No mention of a wife.

Moses Godfrey, married a \_\_\_ Woodbury, moved from Canada to California. [could not locate in any US Census, though there are those of the name in Vermont].

Abigail Godfrey, married Samuel James of Northwood.[2 of their children, John S. and Calistia J. are buried next to their grandparents in the Fairview Cemetery, Northwood, NH]

Mary Ann Godfrey, married John Bachelder of Northwood and lived in Vermont.

There is another possible spouse of John Godfrey, a “Hannah” Locke, born 2 February 1761, daughter of Elijah Locke, which would be a better match for the gravestone age.

Josiah Sanborn, son of Eliphalet Sanborn and Margaret (Wallace) Sanborn, married in Epsom, March 5, 1789, Miss Anna Locke of Epsom (Epsom Town Records). Josiah died in 1842, and is buried with his wife in the McClary Cemetery in Epsom, NH. Her inscription reads “Anna, wife of Josiah Sanborn Esq, died Aug. 18, 1838 in the 79 year of her age.” Ann Moses, the second child of Moses Locke, was born in Kensington in 1760, which links closely with her age at death. If she was the 4th child, she would have been closer to age 75 at her death. As she appears as Ann in the Kensington records, and Anna on her gravestone and the Epsom records, it would correctly place her as the second child. Had Arthur Locke kept to these original names, he likely would not have matched up their spouses incorrectly. The Sanborn Genealogy gives correctly Anna’s date of birth, as it shows in the old town records.

Thanks to Nicholas M. Sanborn and Donald Hayes for information in regards to this article.

Below left, mostly buried grave of Hannah L., wife of John Godfrey, DIED June 10, 1835, AE 76 yrs. in the Fairview Cemetery, Lot 5, in Northwood, NH. The photo of Hannah L. Godfrey has the shadows enhanced to more easily read the inscription.

Below right, Anna, wife of Josiah Sanborn, Esq., died Aug. 18, 1838 in the 79 year of her age. The grave stone is in the McClary Cemetery, Center Hill Road, Epsom, NH.



## CIVIL WAR SOLDIER PICTURE RESTORED

Years ago Tiny Palmer dropped off to the library a framed picture of a young man. The frame, some 30x27 inches, was wrapped in a sheet and tied with rope. The picture, apparently a charcoal drawing, was on canvas which had fallen out of the frame, held by black tape and rotting leather straps. The glass was still in one piece, but quite dirty. The framed picture was stored in the furnace room, and later removed to the storage trailer. With the move of the Library, the old frame and contents surfaced once again and turned over to the Historical Association. With the aid of Brett Rand or Artistic Expressions, the entire piece was taken apart, a new mat added, cleaned and put back together. The original mat remains on the rear of the frame. The picture is of John D Dow born in Epsom 1846, Civil War soldier of Epsom who



fought among other places, Fredericksburg and Vicksburg. In April 1865 he was in the hospital at Camp Nelson in Kentucky. Out of the service on disability, he returned to Epsom where he married Nov. 1865, Lizzie Libbey. He died age 21 years 8 months, November 18, 1867, in Epsom.

## Our Last Meeting N.H. Militia



November 19 at 2 pm, the old Epsom Town Hall was the location for the November meeting of the Epsom Historical Association which featured a program on the early NH Militia.

Traveling back in time and touring through New Hampshire's military history from its beginnings in 1623 to the present day National Guard, Tom Graham II will present a 25 minute video overview of the past 370 years of New Hampshire's impressive military history. Mr. Graham serves as the historian for the New Hampshire National Guard and took questions after the presentation.

Epsom played an important role, with members of its militia making the trek to Bunker Hill, and maintained a strong militia (the 18th Regiment) throughout the first half of the 1800's. Prominent citizens of the local militia included members of the McClary family, Simon Ames Heath, John Ham, Daniel Cilley, James Babb, Josiah Crosby and General Benjamin L. Locke.

The program was open to the public and refreshments were served by Nancy Claris and Mary Frambach. Officers were elected for 2007, and remain the same as the past year: Harvey Harkness, President; Phil Yeaton, Vice President; Elsie Fife, Secretary; and Penny Graham, Treasurer.

## CLOCK & TEMPERANCE RECORDS PURCHASED AT AUCTION



The Epsom Historical Association recently purchased two items at a local auction to add to its collection of Epsom historical items. The first is the clock which for many years hung in the Gossville School. The clock is circa 1890 and is a E. Ingraham "Dew Drop" Model, manufactured in

Bristol, Connecticut. The history of Ingraham clocks dates back to mid 19th century. This company was owned by Elias Ingraham who was a notable case-maker for the clocks, and worked with many partners. Elias was succeeded by his son Edward Ingraham who was famous for applying black enamel paint to wooden clock cases. The Gossville School that still stands today was built in 1894, with an addition added in 1924. The clock likely dates between those dates.

The record book of the Epsom Temperance Society dates from its founding in 1835 and runs through 1859. It contains its original constitution as well as its renewal in 1841. The records book contains minutes of its meetings, election of all officers, and names of those at the meetings who have newly "signed the pledge." This is the only source currently known with information on this society.

### REMINDER

#### *Special Election*

Feb. 13, 2006

Epsom Central School

To Save the old Meetinghouse

## NEW RYE SCHOOL SCHOLARS circa 1858

Names of the Scholars of our School

Some may wish to know the names of those who attend this Institute. So, in rhyme I'll try to tell the same. Though of Poets bright wit I am destitute of Andrews there is one Ella; Browns six George E., Harriet and Laura, Sarah and John C. with Charles Albert we think these enough. Though it leaves room for Ancel whose surname is Clough. Elva Cass, Wyman and Albert. Anna Chapman. A Charles, Claraett, who is twelve years old they say. And then these are Does, James Amos and Walter, with Mary Abby Fife, who we think never will falter.

Sarah Dolbeer and Alonso who we may well call the squire, next Haynes Mary Jane and grave Jeremiah; then Lewis Healey and Thomas A. Lear with Flora and Nancy who seldom are here, then Calvin; and Susan A. Straw and James S, next comes the Sanders, Mary Anna the less, next Woodman John P., and Mary E. Wells, while Philbricks the number to 34 swells.

[If Clara Etta Chapman, born 1846 is age 12, that would put this school class about the year 1858. The families are New Rye, so that is most likely the New Rye School District No. 9, teacher remains unknown.]

Based on the above, the students are the following.

Ella Andrews, George E. Brown, Harriet Brown, Laura Brown, Sarah Brown, John Calvin Brown, Charles Albert Brown, Ansel Clough, Elva Azilla Cass, William Wyman Cass, Albert S. Cass, Annie M. Chapman, Clara Etta Chapman, Charles Chapman, James Doe, Amos Doe, Walter Doe, Mary Abby Fife, Sarah Dolbeer, Alonzo Dolbeer, Mary Jane Haynes, Jeremiah Haynes, Lewis Healey, Thomas Alvin Lear, Flora Ann Lear, Nancy Davis Lear, Josiah Calvin Lear, Susan A. Straw, James S. Straw, Mary Ann Sanders. J ohn P. Woodman, Mary E. Wells, and Philbricks, Julia Irene and Annie B. Philbrick making 34.



## ARCHIVING COLLECTION CONTINUES

Items in the Epsom Historical Associations collection continue to be archived. The process is to scan all the old original records, preserving them in digital formats. Many of the old documents are extremely fragile, and having them scanned will allow researchers to access the documents without having to handle the originals. The scanned copies preserve the look and content of the originals, and allow researchers to be able to zoom in and out when viewing them to reveal detail and more easily read the documents. This same process has been used on items loaned to the Association, giving the Association digital copies of these items for preservation while allowing the owners to keep the originals. The type of items that are scanned include probate documents, many with signatures of early settlers of the town; records of deaths; church records; records of organizations and committees; family pages from family bibles; personal diaries and many other items. After items are scanned and stored on disc, they can then be read and transcribed. Other items, not quite so old, are photocopied as opposed to scanned. This process again allows researchers to access information without having to handle original copies - and also allows individuals to loan items to be photocopied and keep their originals. Among these items are town records, articles on local history, memoirs, pension records and many others.

Digital archived copies in the collection also includes items of Epsom history sent to us online by people across the country through the Epsom Early Settlers web site.

All of the photos in the Historical Association's collection had previously been archived, and the Association continues to solicit for other families in town to loan old photographs and postcards to add to our archives.

Future archiving will include databasing what has been done to date - and to photograph physical items in the collection and add those as well. All the paper files need to be organized, copied and databased. Collections need to be organized and filed in storage boxes; old documents need to be deposited in acid free enclosures which have yet to be purchased.

## WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

On July 21st, 1824, a group of residents met at the Epsom Center School and established the Epsom Free Will Baptist Church. Headed by Arthur Caverno, the following residents became the first members - Arthur Caverno, Nathan Bickford, Daniel Philbrick, Ephraim Locke, Lucretia Tarleton, Mary Marden, Elizabeth Currier and Sally Osgood. The group met at various locations, including the old meetinghouse on Center Hill. The town, no longer supporting any particular church, saw the Congregationalist start their own Society in 1815, and with the use of the old meetinghouse being in dispute, built their own called "the Vestry" nearby in July 1822. The Free Will Baptists decided to build their own building, and by September 1834, were meeting in their new building which sat where the current Cumberland Farms is being constructed. Rev. Moses Quimby returned for his second pastorate here in 1860, and among his goals was the building of a new house of worship, noting that the current building was 'an old ill-constructed thing, hardly fit to worship in'. By April of 1861, over two thousand dollars had been raised, yet there was some division over where it would be built. The next month the issue was settled as William Goss bought and moved the old building so that the new structure could be built on the same site. In fact, the congregation met in the meetinghouse while it was on the road May 12 of that year, and continued to meet in the old house and the Congregational house until the new one was completed. The frame was up by June 21, 1861, and the building was dedicated Christmas Day of that year. The Ladies Sewing Circle, established in 1882, paid the cost of adding the vestry in 1888, and later water and lights. Stain glass windows were donated by Major Stokes: Nathan Bickford & William Goss; William Tripp; Deacon Thomas Bickford by Silas Bickford; John C. and Martha Rand Hall; Winthrop Fowler and Ephraim Locke; Nathan Bickford.

A tradition was long-standing to ring the bell in the steeple at midnight on the fourth of July. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to see history repeat itself in the moving of the building - and perhaps renew an old tradition and once more hear the tolling of the bell.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Historical Association is getting set to finally begin to organize and archive its holdings. The work will require filing and organizing papers in the files; databasing and archiving properly documents and photos; organizing old town reports; and databasing historic items that have been donated. The association also is in desperate need of updating our computer system. Our current computer is old, slow, and does not have the capacity to even come close to housing our electronic archives. We will need to scan much that we have in our files, and any new items that come our way. The computer will also hold genealogical information and will become an important research tool down the road. A one hundred dollar contribution towards this project has been received to date. If you can help as a volunteer or perhaps contribute towards our \$500.00 goal to upgrade our computer system, either email us at [Epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:Epsomhistory@aol.com) or call Phil Yeaton at 225-9567.

## IN THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Members of the Epsom Historical Association can opt to have the expanded 8 page newsletter emailed to them as opposed to the regular mailing of the two page highlights. The electronic version allows us to provide more news, information and photos, saving money on the mailed version. In this edition of the electronic edition:

Moses Locke & family-Anna and Hannah Locke  
Civil War Soldier Picture restored  
Our Last meeting on the NH Militia  
Clock & Temperance Records purchased  
New Rye School Students 1858  
Archiving Our Holdings  
Will History repeat itself? - the Meetinghouse

## NEW ONLINE

Additions to Epsom Early Settlers web site:

- \*Epsom Burials @ Old North Cemetery, Concord*
- \*Epsom Civil War Soldiers History GAR forms*
- \*Catherine A. Yeaton Diaries 1882, 1885, 1886, 1895*
- \*Epsom Temperance Records 1835-1860*
- \*Clough & Allied Families Genealogy by Rosilla Clough Heath*
- \*Walter L. Brackett Family Correspondence*
- \*Walter G. Brackett Civil War Letters Home*
- \*Students of Joseph V. Wallace 1842-43*
- \*Old Home Day & other Ribbons from 1892*
- \* New Rye Scholars circa 1858*

