



Epsom Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past Jan. 2009 No. 1

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 2009

The Epsom Historical Association begins a new year with high hopes and expectations due to the job well done by President Harvey Harkness and the 2008 officers. Even with what appears to be an economically challenged year ahead, the Association could be poised to continue its work in preserving Epsom History.

The results of the first major fundraising event taken on by the Historical Association were successful in two ways. First, it raised the money needed to pay the utilities at the old library, should an agreement be reached to stay another year. Secondly, it raised the membership to 90 members, an all time high. Of the 500 tickets sold, 123 people checked off they were interested in a one year free membership. Forms were mailed to all of them, and 44 became members. In addition, many members renewed through calendar ticket purchases, and several more joined outright. The offer of free membership expired with the raffle drawings.

Even with the sale of all our tickets and additional members, challenges remain. Though money has been raised to remain at the old library, there are no funds to actually carry on any of the work to archive, increase and maintain current archives. The increase in new members needs to translate into active members helping with projects and volunteering on committees to keep the Association active in preserving the town's past. As of this writing, no agreement has been signed to continue the museum project.

With this in mind, there are many projects that can be undertaken by the Historical Association. Which and how many can be undertaken will depend on interest and

Your Recipes Wanted

The Epsom Historical Association wants to include your recipes in its cookbook! All categories welcome—time-tested, new discoveries, quick and easy, family favorites, seasonal, and anything from Epsom cooks and kitchens. Whether you're new to town or lived here forever, or used to live here, join in this important fundraising project! Credit will be given to all participants. Also seeking any photos of local cooks, restaurants, gatherings, and local lore, with permission for use. Submission deadline: April 1, 2009. Email entries to epsomcookbook@dishmail.net or mail to: EHA Cookbook Project, PO Box 814, Epsom NH 03234.

WELCOME, cont.

participation by the membership. Some of the goals and projects to be considered:

Increase membership – This remains the number one goal. The more members, the greater the interest in preserving our past, this being the best way to stimulate growth, raise revenue and put projects in motion. Awareness of our activities and goals is best spread through active members and participation.

Collect, catalog and increase historical items – Many items in our collections still need to be cataloged; many other items need to be transcribed and scanned, including old town reports; our album of photos needs to be updated; continue to collect and or borrow for scanning old photos, items, deeds, records pertaining to Epsom's past. (*cont last page*)

***Horace Bacon Morse
writing to his wife
Abigail Elizabeth
(Ware) Morse
from Pools-Vill, MD
during the Civil War.***

Submitted courtesy of Nicholas
M. Sanborn for the Newsletter.

Pools-Vill MD Jan 9th/1863
My Dear Wife.

Last night Miles Kimball-Fay & Sherman arrived in Camp with a two horse load of "Good Things" for Co. I. This morning at 9 o'clock we all had a feast of Poultry, potatoes & onions. All were supplied to their utmost satisfaction. The twelve puding are to be dealt out some other time. probably on Sunday morning. Every thing was worthy of the men & the people they represented. You cannot think how much good such visits do. If the people could realise it, such visits would be more frequent. Mr. Kimball brot. from you my watch & a one Dollar bill. The box was all safe & sound-just the right sise and the contents just what I wanted. Sister Lucy sent me a small bottle of Honey. It was just large enough, just small enough, for if we have to move, I can carry it. I sent a letter to Capt. Drurry, & one to you yesterday. That to the Capt. had reference entirely to our State aid. Mr K. says you feel very anxious about me, & that I do not write you all about my condition & health, & that I should give him all the particulars. I told him I could not tell him any thing that I had allready communicated to you. As to my getting into the Canal, it took place about one o'clock at night. I wanted to make water & went on to the outside of the boat, for that purpose. There were two canal boats together. The ice was so strong ahead, that the boats were compeled to stop abreast in a wide place. They were 3 or 4 feet apart; the water

(which was not frozen between them) appeared all the same color as the platform (which was only about 18 inches wide) on which I stood, & I stepped one step to much & of course "dropped". All was still & quiet aboard. I thought at first that I was "gone" my mouth filled by the slosh of the water & the shock of such a cold bath was greate. But in a moment, by the strength granted me from above, of God, I was as composed I am now in writing about it. I reache out my hands & touched both boats & that with my floating blankets kept me up till help arrived. I gave directions where I was, & how I could best be relieved. I does seem possible I could have done so, but I did all who saw it attested to the fact, & I recd. benefit as to my health, from the occurence.

I am now on what is called the water guard. We bring water for all camp uses from 1/4 to 1/2 a mile. A detail of eight men is made each day, & a Corporal must take charge of them & see that the water is brought. I do not like to be out myself as I should have to be if our camp or provost or Picket. so I told Orderly to put me on this duty.

Saturday. We are here in a comfortable snow storm. The men are all in bed but Sargt. Reed who has gone to start the fire for Breakfast. I have made a fire here in the tent, & all is comfortable. I do not cough 1/2 as much as I did & am in hopes to get quite well before long. What ever may be my experience, I hope to have strength to cheerfully acquiess in His will, who knows what is best for us. We should in His time do all that wisdom & experience directs to secure the needed blessings of health & life. these I trust I shall attend to. Write me about the Parish meeting & what they did about the Bonds. There only a few on the sick list now, in fact none that are particularly sick. Coughs and rumatic complaints prevail. I shall acknowledge the S-S collection after I have had a chance to use it. But shall write the W L C soon. In regard to Prune (?) buying. You know.

If I do not write any more, Good by & love,
From H. B. Morse

MISSING PAGES

Genealogy

In the May 2008 newsletter appeared genealogy information on the Berry family in Epsom. From that research, there was a Levi Berry who married Abigail Page in Epsom, Nov. 21, 1793, and the hunt for more information on the PAGE family in Epsom began.

The Page surname is fairly common in early New Hampshire, and there are many in the Epsom History database, many however, are disconnected. Generally a good starting point is John Mark Moses "Some Early Settlers of Epsom" printed about 1910 in the old Granite Monthly magazine. This was the basis for the entire Epsom Early Settlers database now online. Information on the Page family was pretty much limited to one paragraph. Our genealogy data is one of the few places any information on this particular Page family is recorded. The information from John Mark Moses:

"An adjoining owner to the east, next Pittsfield line, was Jeremiah Page (1739-1807 Jeremiah4, Christopher3, Thomas2, Robert1). He was there in 1776. He had married Lydia Philbrick in 1769. His will made in 1807, bequeathed to daughters Abigail Bickford and Sarah Berry; to son John (1779-1871) the homestead, reserving rights to 'my wife and his mother'; also to sons Jeremiah and Daniel, the latter having land in Lot 44. John married Huldah Locke in 1800. 'The aged widow Page' died in 1840 aged 92."

The information is important, as the will generally contains the birth order of the children, which in this instance would produce the following list of children of Jeremiah and Lydia (Philbrick) Page:

Abigail

Sarah

John

Jeremiah

Daniel

The easiest to trace was the son John, who received the homestead farm of his father, and indeed, he and his wife Huldah Locke remained there until they

died. In fact, they are buried in the local family cemetery, presumably with parents Jeremiah and Lydia (though their graves are probably marked by some of the fieldstones still present). If Jeremiah and Lydia were in Epsom by 1776, at least his son John (1779-1871) and later siblings were born in Epsom. It appears as though the rest of his brothers and sisters left Epsom.

A Sarah Page is in the church records of Rev. Ebenezer Hazeltine – Nov. 21, 1793, Levi Berry of Barrington to Sally Page of Epsom, marriage. Levi Berry was already in the Epsom genealogy database, so the connection was easy. There are also records of their children - and an online search provided photos of their gravestones in Alexandria, New Hampshire. Dates and ages from these gravestones helped prove the relationship. In 1850 census he was living with his son Jeremiah Berry in Alexandria – remember his mother was Sarah Page whose father was Jeremiah Page of Epsom.

Finding the graves of Levi Berry and his wife Sarah Page bore even more fruit. Buried in the same cemetery is Abigail Page, wife of Jeremiah Page, died Nov. 5, 1847. Locke genealogy verifies this Abigail as Abigail Locke, daughter of William Locke and Abigail Saunders of Rye, who also moved to Alexandria and are buried there. The mystery is there is no grave marker or record of the death of Jeremiah Page. The family ties were further strengthened by the Locke genealogy, as Abigail's sister Huldah married John Page, brother to Jeremiah, who, as mentioned above, resided in Epsom.

Still, another brother, Daniel, the youngest child of Jeremiah Page and Lydia Philbrick, is buried in the Crawford cemetery in Alexandria. His Feb. 6, 1810 marriage to Betsy Sanders, daughter of William and Sarah Sanders of Rye, is found in the history of that town. Additional genealogy on these families by Madilyn Brown was provided by some of the kind people in Alexandria.

With the exception of Abigail, the first named daughter in the Will of Jeremiah Page, Levi Berry and his wife Sarah Page; Jeremiah Page and his wife Abigail Locke; and Daniel Page and his wife Betsey Sanders, all resided in Alexandria. John Page and his

wife Huldah Locke, resided in Epsom, which seemed to account for the family – but the death of Jeremiah and his place of burial remained unknown. A trip to the NH Archives and vital records was made to look for any information on Jeremiah or his sister Abigail, first named sibling in the Will of her father. No luck. No vital records; so not to waste a trip, the original Will of Jeremiah Page, mentioned by John Mark Moses, was made available through the archives. John Mark Moses was pretty meticulous in his research, but reading the original Will, he neglected to mention another brother – Reuben Page.

The Will left money to daughter Abigail Bickford and her sister Sarah Page. Money was also left to son Reuben Page. Land to Jeremiah and Daniel Page, with son John getting the homestead farm and named Executor. So – who was Reuben Page?

A quick online search found a descendant, and sure enough, in the History of Rye, Reuben Page, son of Jeremiah of Epsom, was christened in Rye, NH July 28, 1776. He married Abigail Berry of Barrington in New Durham, March 6, 1798. His date of birth, based on age at time of death, would be Aug. 13, 1772. This would place him as third born in the family, just as he is mentioned in the Will.

Finally, there is the first born and first daughter mentioned in the Will as Abigail Bickford. This is what was known:

From the marriage records of Rev. Ebenezer Hazeltine:

Aug. 22, 1792 John Bickford to Abigail Page (a year later Nov. 21, 1793 is when the 2nd daughter Sarah Page married Levi Berry)

From the History of Durham – John Bickford: One of the proprietors of Barnstead. Perhaps settled first in Epsom, NH before removing to Barnstead. They had 7 children. He deeded his farm in Epsom, NH to his son John in 1801 (?)

A John, John Jr. and a Jonathan Bickford appear in the town agricultural and poll census for 1795, but not 1806.

Nothing from John Mark Moses, and no other John or Jonathan Bickford in the database that fit the period. The only hint were the deeds mentioned in

the history of Durham, so it was back to the archives to do deed research, and the following documents were found:

September 2, 1797 – John Bickford of Epsom to Jonathan Bickford of the same Epsom, land being part of the Lot numbered fifty in said town at the westerly end of land owned by Enoch Brown then to run westerly to land of Ephraim Davis to contain eleven acres eighteen rods. Signed by John Bickford.

May 13, 1801 John Bickford Senior of Meredith to John Bickford Junr. of the same Meredith, my homestead farm in Epsom, part of the Lot Numbered 50 in the Second Range beginning at Enoch Brown's land and running westwardly till it comes to Mr. Ephraim Davises Land, excepting seven rods which I deeded to Jonathan Marston, said seven rods was measured of the North side of said Lott containing one hundred acres more or less. Signed John and Phebe Bickford.

December 1, 1801 John Bickford of Meredith to Paul Brewster of Barrington, a certain piece of land situate in Epsom, being a hundred acres more or less in the second range numbered 50 being the westardly end of said Lott beginning at Mr. Enoch Browns land and running westardly till it comes to Ephraim Davises land and to carry the whole width of said lott, being all the land I own in said lott. Signed by John and Abigail Bickford.

The Bickford's from the History of Durham are pretty much accounted for. Whether these are indeed the Bickford's mentioned in the deeds found at the archives is unsure at best, but John Bickford who married a Lydia unknown, did move to Barnstead, along with his son John who married Nancy Hodgdon. All of them are buried in Barnstead. This pretty much eliminates them from any connection to Abigail Page. There is also a documented family of a John Bickford who helped settle Wolfeboro, who also had a son John.

The three deeds together mention a John Sr., John Jr. and a Jonathan Bickford, just as seen in the 1795 agricultural poll and census. John and Jonathan can be interchangeable, and the designation of Sr. and Jr. do not necessarily mean they are father and son, but possibly just seniority at the time in Epsom. The only

other John Bickford in town would have been only 5 years old at the time, son of Thomas Bickford and Olive Haynes, so he is excluded. There do not seem to be any other candidates for these Bickford's and could possibly be another line of the family which did not stay long in Epsom – or are related yet unknown and unconnected members of the Epsom line of the family.

So it is known a Jonathan Bickford was in Epsom and married Abigail Page. By 1801 a John/Jonathan Bickford and wife Abigail are living in Meredith. From a history of Meredith and from a book “New Hampshire Family Records” by William Copeley, come the following Bible records:

BICKFORD & BRYANT FAMILY RECORDS

Births

Jonathan Bickford – born Nov. 16, 1766

Abigail Bickford – his wife, May 12, 1769

Children

Lydia Bickford – born July 22, 1789

Bracket Bickford – born Apr. 1, 1791

Jonathan Bickford – born Feb. 6, 1793

Phebe Bickford – born Jan. 4, 1795

John Bickford – born June 26, 1798

Ebenezer Bickford – born Oct. 5, 1800

Priscilla Bickford – born Sept. 19, 1803

James Bickford – born Oct. 5, 1805

Abigail Bickford – born July 27, 1810

From the 1800 US Census for Meredith, NH

Jonathan Bickford

3 males under 10 (likely Bracket, Jonathan and John from Family Bible entry)

1 male 26-44 (Jonathan Bickford)

1 female under 10 (Phebe)

1 female 10-15 (Lydia)

1 female 26-44 (Abigail Bickford)

From the ROBINSON BURYING GROUND in Meredith, NH

John Bickford, died 11 February 1848, age 80 (this would put birth year as 1768)

Abigail, wife of John Bickford, died 10 April 1859 age 88 (this would put birth year as 1771)

Ebenezer Bickford, died 3 September 1849 age 56

Betsey Bickford, wife of Ebenezer Bickford died 18 December 1850 age 57

So the deed of May 13, 1801 for a homestead farm in Epsom from John Bickford Sr. and wife Phebe to John Jr. of the same Meredith is followed by basically the same land being sold to Paul Brewster by John and Abigail Bickford of Meredith in December 1 of the same year. The family bible of Jonathan and Abigail Bickford, records which appear in “Meredith, N.H. Annals and Genealogies” say they lived on the sound end of Bear Island on Meredith Neck. The family includes a daughter named Phebe, the same name as the wife of John Bickford Sr. in the deed of May 1801 and Lydia, the name of Abigail's mother. The birth date of Abigail of 1769 would place her just ahead of her sister Sarah, born 1770 who married Levi Berry, which places her as the first child of Jeremiah and Lydia Page, as placed in his Will of 1807.

This does leave some questions. The calculated birth year of Abigail (and John) from the cemetery inscriptions are close, but do not match the bible entries. The bible entries also list births of two children, Lydia in 1789 and Bracket in 1791, which precede the marriage date in Epsom of Jonathan Bickford and Abigail Page of Aug. 22, 1792. A search for a Bracket Bickford, a rather unusual name, in the Census records, came up empty. Just who or when the entries were placed in the bible is unknown, though it dates from 1813 (Copeley) or 1830 (Meredith Annals). The 1800 census would seem to confirm the children as listed in the family bible.

Despite the inconsistencies of the two children born before the Epsom marriage date and the difference in years of birth from the bible and gravestones of John and Abigail, it would appear that this would be the Abigail Page, daughter of Jeremiah Page and Lydia. Though the identity of John/Jonathan Bickford remains a mystery, perhaps more information on this family will surface in the future that will identify Jonathan Bickford and reveal what happened to Jeremiah Page of Alexandria. (cont.)

MISSING PAGES, cont.

Summation:

Jeremiah Page (1739-1807) married Feb. 27, 1769 in Rye, New Hampshire, **Lydia Philbrick** (abt. 1748 – 1840, parents unknown, Records of John Dolbeer “The aged widow Page died in March 23, 1840 aged 92”)

Children:

Abigail (1769-1859) married Aug. 22, 1792 in Epsom, Jonathan Bickford (1766-1848), parents unknown, resided Meredith, NH

Sarah (1770-1849) married Nov. 21, 1793 in Epsom, Levi Berry (1769-1854) son of Nathaniel & Abigail (Rand) Berry, resided Alexandria, NH

Reuben (1772-1849) married March 6, 1798 in New Durham, Abigail Berry (1777-1854) daughter of Stephen Berry and Judith Foss, resided Somersworth, NH

John (1779-1871) married Sept. 1, 1799 in Epsom, Huldah Locke (1783-1849) daughter of William Locke and Abigail Sanders, resided Epsom

Jeremiah (abt. 1781-?) married Abigail Locke (1781-1847) daughter of William Locke and Abigail Sanders, resided Alexandria, NH

Daniel (1788-1863) married Feb. 6, 1810, Betsey Sanders (1785-1843) daughter of William and Sarah Sanders, resided Alexandria, NH

Additional notes on PAGE genealogy from John Mark Moses:

“Mrs. Mehitable Page” died in 1846 aged 87. A Simeon Page, with small family, was in town in 1790, perhaps husband of Mehitable.”

A Simeon Page, younger brother to Jeremiah (1739-1807), married Mehitable Bickford Nov. 11, 1779. The old town records give two children, Mercy, born 1781 and Elizabeth Drake Page, born March 1, 1784. Jeremiah and Simeon’s parents were Jeremiah Page born 1708 in Hampton, died Epsom 1786 and Elizabeth Drake born 1712 in Hampton, death date unknown. Her maiden name Drake, being the middle name of the second child of Simeon & Mehitable helps prove the relationship.

WILL of Jeremiah Page - 1807

In the name of God, Amen. I, Jeremiah Page of Epsom in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, Husbandman, being weak of Body but of sound mind memory and understanding so make this my last Will and Testament in name following; that is to say after recommending my Body to the dust and my Spirit to the tender Mercies of Him who gave it:

First of all I will that all my just debts be paid by my Executor.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Abigail Bickford one Dollar.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Berry one Dollar.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my Son Reuben Page three Dollars.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my Son John Page all the Land I own where my buildings now stand joining easterly upon the Road, southerly upon Daniel Philbrick, Westerly upon Moses Gove, Northerly upon James and David Drake together with the Buildings thereon excepting one half the House which I reserve for my Wife as long as she remains my widow. The House is to be my son John’s if my wife should marry or at her decease – he my son John Page is to keep the house in good repair.

Item. I will that my son John Page summer and winter for my wife and his Mother one horse, two boros, and six sheep, the stock to be well kept, and likewise to furnish or provide for her yearly one hundred weight of good Pork, one hundred weight of good Beef, twelve Bushels Wheat, five Barrels Cyder, twenty weight of Flac well dressed, five Bushels Potatoes, two Bushels Turnips, one Bushel Beans and as much green sauce as is necessary for her use.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my Wife one Horse, two cows and six sheep and all the Household furniture all to be at her disposal.

Item. I give devise and bequeath likewise to mu Son John Page all my Personal Estate that is not before bequeathed together with the farming utensils.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Jeremiah Page a fifty Acre lot of Land in Hebron or Plymouth, Number one in the second division in the third Range in said Plymouth as laid out and bounded. Also an undivided half of the lot No. two in the same Range be the same more or less, said land lying and being in the County of Grafton & State of New Hampshire.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my son Daniel Page all the land I own in Epsom aforesaid, but what I have before bequeathed being thirty Acres more or less in Lot No. 44 in the first Range of Lots in Epsom.

I will that the money my son Jeremiah Page shall earn this season ne at his own disposal – and that the legacies be paid to the respective legatees in six months after my decease by my Executor.

I will that my son John Page furnish or provide my wife with wood yearly enough for one fire.

And lastly I constitute and appoint my son John Page sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament – And I do hereby revoke all by me heretofore made and ratify and confirm this and this only to be my last Will and Testament – In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourth Day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and seven.

Signed, sealed and declared by Jeremiah (X his mark) Page

The above named Jeremiah Page as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto set or names as witnesses thereto in the presence of the said Testator and in the presence of each other. Samuel Morrill, Moses Gove, David Drake. The words “the stock to be well kept” and “or Plymouth” interlined before signed.

Will of Jeremiah Page, late of Epsom, deceased, proved by oath of Saml Morrill and David Drake Sept. 23, 1807. Recorded.

CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

No. 36

Brown Cemetery No. 2, On Barton Road
in field across from former Kenneth Barton home.



Brown

Samuel Brown, DIED May 30, 1882. AE. 77.

Betsey (Page), Wife of Samuel Brown, DIED April 8, 1876, AE. 70.

Susan T., dau'r of Samuel and Betsey Brown, DIED Sept. 28, 1853, AE. 20 yrs & 5 mos.

Page

John (an illegible stone d. December 13, 1871 abt. 91)

Huldah (Locke) Wife of John Page DIED May 28, 1849 AE. 65 yrs & 9 mos.

William Henry, Son of John and Mahala B. (Lane) Page, Born Apr. 23, 1845 Died May. 28, 1849

also several field stones, of which some may be Sarah Page 1818-1833, Jeremiah Page (died 1807) and his wife Lydia Philbrick (died 1840).



CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

The Epsom Historical Association would like to thank all the people who bought and helped us to sell the 500 Calendar Raffle Tickets in our first money raising project. Below is a list of the lucky winners - thanks again everyone !!

DATE	TICKET #	WINNER
1-Dec	117	David Yeaton
2-Dec	293	Charles Yeaton
3-Dec	444	Nancy Nordberg
4-Dec	495	Matt Simon
5-Dec	284	Armand Claris
6-Dec	1	Virginia Drew
7-Dec	76	David Grant
8-Dec	275	Deb Smith
9-Dec	324	JimMihachik
10-Dec	51	Brian Keane
11-Dec	181	Rachel Eames
12-Dec	339	Rich Dougherty
13-Dec	386	Nancy Wheeler
14-Dec	71	Mabel Wilson
15-Dec	13	Brenda Mento
16-Dec	444	Nancy Nordberg
17-Dec	180	Rick Belanger
18-Dec	132	Phil Yeaton
19-Dec	64	Doug Nutter
20-Dec	158	Cerina Yeaton
21-Dec	63	Parmida Nutter
22-Dec	440	Richard Procter
23-Dec	240	Barbara Harkness
24-Dec	284	Armand Claris
25-Dec	363	Philip Verrill
26-Dec	424	Tim Hanagan
27-Dec	152	Carn Pludra-Olsen
28-Dec	171	Tamara Krenn
29-Dec	388	Chrissy Schultz
30-Dec	68	Doug Nutter
31-Dec	308	Joffa Raymond

Epsomhistory.com update:

GRAVESTONE PHOTOS ENHANCED

Over the past several months, all the gravestone photos online at Epsomhistory.com have been rescanned at both a higher resolution and much larger size. With the increase in storage on the server holding all the web content for the website, two major projects have been undertaken. Last summer nearly 2500 photos from various sources were increased in size and resolution, replacing the previous smaller photos. In addition, a new search engine was added with thumbnail images for each scrapbook, making it easier to browse and find photos. The 1700 gravestone photos are from pictures taken from 1998 to 2000 of all the gravestones in all the known Epsom cemeteries, prior to 1940. The original photos are kept in a series of 8 albums. Originally the photos were scanned and reduced in size to save space prior to being put on the website. The past few months, every photo was re-scanned at a slightly larger size and a much higher resolution. They were then sent up to the server replacing the smaller versions on the website. The result is that the photos will appear much larger and in much greater detail. They are best viewed with computers with a higher screen resolution and newer versions of Internet Explorer.

To view the photos: go to Epsomhistory.com; at the homepage, click on Research; on the Research page click Cemeteries: on the Cemetery page, click GRAVESTONE PHOTOS. On the next page you will see a list of cemeteries, click on the cemetery in which you would like to view a gravestone. The cemetery page will open with a list of gravestones by Surname. Click the person for whom you would like to view the gravestone.

cont. from first page

Revenue/fundraising – Our ability to preserve items requires office materials and computer programs; our endowment plan needs to grow to make our history available for future generations; should we retain a museum at the old library, this will require funding as well.

Recipes, Recipes, Recipes – Recipes are needed to complete our upcoming cookbook project. This is also a fundraiser for our organization.

Historical Site Map – Develop a list of historical town sites and old cemeteries for inclusion on an historic map of Epsom.

Cemetery Preservation – Teams formed or adopt a cemetery program to include other town organizations, to work with current landowners with small cemeteries to clean them up on a regular basis. Also, work on the old portion of the McClary and other cemeteries where about a dozen gravestones are toppled, broken or lost each year.

Recognition – Provide a program to recognize organizations and individuals who have contributed to help preserve Epsom history.

Programs and Activities – Continue to provide programs and displays in the community throughout the year as well as Epsom Historical Association member's only events. Includes working with Epsom Central Schools to develop programs.

This is just a sampling of possible events in which members can work together, and have a great time in preserving and promoting town history. In these tough economic times, many of the projects just require care, volunteers and a spirit of doing a service for the community with little cost, yet with huge results.

So we call on you, our new members, to contact the Historical Association by email (epsomhistory@aol.com); by phone (603-736-4407); or by mail (P.O. Box 814, Epsom, NH, 03234) to let us know of your interest as we put this year's committees together to preserve the history of Epsom.

In Our Electronic Edition

*Members of the Epsom Historical Association receive via email an expanded copy of the newsletter with additional articles and photos. If you would like to receive the e-edition, please forward your email address to epsomhistory@aol.com. **IN THIS EDITION***

Civil War Letter of H.B. Morse

Missing Pages – genealogy of Jeremiah Page family
Will of Jeremiah Page 1807

Brown Cemetery #2 Inscriptions

Calendar Raffle Drawing Winners

Gravestone Photos enlarged online

Tentative 2009 Program Schedule

Sunday March 22 – Tom Graham, historian for the New Hampshire National Guard, returns with a new PowerPoint program on New Hampshire and the Revolutionary War. Epsom Public Library, 2:00 pm.

Friday May 1 – *SPECIAL PRESENTATION* with the Epsom Public Library, a repeat of the early history of Epsom presented June 2001 with a new Part 2 to be presented in the fall. Epsom Public Library, 7:00 pm.

Sunday May 17 – Epsom History through old Newspapers. From death and tax notices to fires and a variety of news events, learn more about the history of Epsom as read by the people living in town during the actual events. Epsom Public Library, 2:00 pm.

Sunday July 12 – Recipe Cookbook kick-off and summer social. Time and place to be determined.

Sunday September 13 – History of the Old Meetinghouse. A look back at the formation of the Epsom Free Will Baptist Society through the building of the old meetinghouse. Old Meetinghouse, 2:00 pm

Friday October 16 – *SPECIAL PRESENTATION* of Part Two of early Epsom History from the formation of the first Church, the Revolutionary War to the beginning of the Civil War. Epsom Public Library, 7:00 pm.

Sunday November 15 - History of the Bickford and Huckins mill with personal anecdotes, photos and stories concerning the mill presented by Al Bickford. Epsom Public Library, 7:00 pm

Sunday December 6 – A members only event – the annual Christmas Social, details to be announced. Epsom Public Library, 5:00 pm.