



Epsom Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past

March 2003

Next Member Meeting Sunday March 16 at 2:30 New Rye Church

Larry Berkson from the Pittsfield Historical Society our guest on Sunday March 16 at the New Rye Church. Mr. Berkson has been a major influence in making the Pittsfield Historical Society an active and growing organization serving that community. He has authored several books and continues to lead the way with projects that help promote their society and preserve the heritage of the town of Pittsfield. Among the many projects is their historic trail with the establishment of markers and signs; Frank Lyman Park; the Harrison Thyng memorial, and cataloging and putting together a printed resource on the many cemeteries in Pittsfield.

One of the factors which greatly enhanced the ability of the Pittsfield Historical Society to grow in terms of membership was when they found a building which they could call home. As we endeavor to grow and increase the town's awareness of its past through our organization, Mr. Berkson's experience and remarks will be both timely and of great interest.

Our business meeting will precede Mr. Berkson's program. Please join us for a wonderful Sunday afternoon program at the New Rye Church!



A HOME, AT LAST

Recently the Selectmen of Epsom gave approval for the use at the old town hall, of office and storage space for the Epsom Historical Association. This includes use of the old office, vestibule and kitchen area, with possible additional storage upstairs. The main hall, upon completion, should be available for meetings. This is a major step in the growing Epsom Historical Association, and to preserving historical artifacts from the town's past. Long ago a need was realized that many people had items of interest to donate to the Association, but the lack of a place to store these items prevented them from being placed where they could be preserved and available for occasional display. In addition, the office area will provide a space where original documents can be stored, along with having a place for doing additional town historic research. Plans currently call for setting up these areas in the spring when the weather gets better, and to hopefully have the office manned during certain hours in the warmer months. Our thanks to the Restoration Committee and the selectmen for their efforts on our behalf.

NEW EHA LOGO UNVEILED

The officers of the Epsom Historical Association voted to select the logo design done by Ray Ring for the town's 250th anniversary as the official logo for the association. In an effort to give the Epsom Historical Association more visibility in the community, it was sensed that some type of identity would be helpful. Choosing Mr. Ring's design further perpetuates his efforts on behalf of the town during its anniversary, and also it celebrates the date of the founding of the town, and its war hero of the Revolution, Andrew McClary. The use of the logo at EHA activities, displays, website, stationary and so forth will help give a visual aspect to our association as we continue to grow and preserve Epsom's past. At the same time, the phrase 'catch up to the past' would be incorporated as a slogan in raising community interest in our endeavors. Watch for both as the Epsom Historical Association begins to increase awareness of our Epsom heritage!



Copy of the Ray Ring 250th logo. The EHA adds to the outside the founding of the town 1727 and our name as a new logo.

Inscriptions from Cemetery No. 31

Perkins Philbrick Cemetery

off North Road

Philbrick

Oliver, In memory of, son of Perkins and Hannah (Furnald) Philbrick who died Nov. 22, 1821 AE. 15 yrs & 3 mo

Olive (Garland), wife of Perkins Philbrick, Born North Hampton, N.H., Apr. 12, 1759; Married Mar. 27, 1785; Died Oct. 28, 1803.

In Memory of Joseph Philbrick who died March 2, 1835

John H., In memory of, son of Joseph & Martha W. (Ham) Philbrick, died July 6, 1832 AE. 3 yr' 7 ms & 12 ds

Mr. Perkins Philbrick died Feb. 1, 1838, AE. 79 years

Inscriptions from

Cemetery No. 32

Wallace Cemetery off Colby Road.

Wallace

Mr. Abraham Wallace died Dec. 6, 1817 Aged 73 years

Mrs. Hepsibah (Blake) Wallace wife of Abraham Wallace died Nov. 1, 1816 Aged 71 years

H.W. (probably Hannah, died Oct. 16, 1790)

P.J.

MC CLARY, MICHAEL

Sarah, widow

November 15, 1836 Sarah McClary of Epsom, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, eighty-one years of age, deposed:

that she is the widow of Michael McClary, late of Epsom, N.H., who was a Captain in the Revolutionary War;

that soon after the battle of Lexington, in 1775, her husband "raised a number of men and marched to Boston; was in the battle of Bunker Hill where his uncle, Major ANDREW MC CLARY, was killed;"

that January 1, 1776, he was appointed First Lieutenant in the Fifth regiment of foot commanded by Col. John Stark, and was afterwards made a Captain,

that her husband continued to serve as Captain until the spring or summer of 1779 when he resigned on account of ill health "but with fixed determination of returning to the service should his health be restored;" that his health had been declining for some time previous to their marriage;

that during his service, her husband was at the capture of Burgoyne, and she believes at most of the battles fought in the Northern and Middle states;

that she was married at North Hampton, N.H., by Rev. David Macclure, then Pastor of the church there, October 1, 1778, her maiden name being Sally Dearborn; and lived with her father in North Hampton while her husband continued in service; but when he resigned, she immediately moved to Epsom, the place of her husband's residence, which was July 14, 1779; and that her husband died March 27, 1824.

Sarah McClary.

November 15, 1836 Josiah Sanborn of Epsom, N.H., seventy-three years of age, testified that he lived in Epsom during the Revolutionary war and at that time was "well acquainted with the late Gen. Michael McClary of Epsom;" knew that he went to Boston in 1775 as a Ensign; served seven or eight months; then enlisted for a year; and then was employed to enlist men for three years for the war; that he was in the expedition to Canada; was at the Surrender of Burgoyne; then joined Washington's army and was at the Battle of Monmouth, etc.

Josiah Sanborn.

October 20, 1834 Rev. Jonathan French of North Hampton, N.H., testified the records of marriages, solemnized by his "predecessors in the ministry in this place, commencing in the year 1767" are in his possession; and that he finds among them in the handwriting of Rev. David Macclure, the following:

1778, October 1, Michael McClary of Epsom and Sally Dearborn of North Hampton.

Jona. French, Pastor of the Church in North Hampton, N.H.

November 5, 1836 DAN WOODMAN of Rockingham County, N.H., eight-eight years of age, testified that he joined the army under Gen. Gates at Bemis Heights in 1777 and McClary was there then; remained with the army except for a furlough, until the summer of 1779.

His Mark

(The commission of Michael McClary as First Lieutenant in Col. John Stark's Fifth regiment of foot, signed John Hancock, President, dated January 1, 1776, is on file in the Department. BMD.)

From memorandum on file it appears that Sarah McClary, eighty-four, was living in 1840 at Epsom, N.H., with Jonathan Steele. BMD.

DUES NOTICE

MARCH IS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MONTH

Annual dues for the Epsom Historical Association are due during the month of March for the coming year. Our programs are open to the public, but members receive our Newsletter about a half dozen times per year (including an expanded edition in January); are able to serve as officers and on committees, and includes invitations to special member events. Dues can be paid at the March member meeting or by sending your family membership check in the amount of **\$5.00** to:

Epsom Historical Association
c/o Lisa Cote, Treasurer
202 New Orchard Road
Epsom, NH 03234

An asterisk () after your last name on the address label from this mailing indicates that you are paid for the coming year. **Note: The next newsletter will be sent only to current members.***

As a part of our membership drive, this newsletter has been sent to prospective members - more than doubling our normal mailing. Please help spread the word to interested individuals so they also can enjoy with us the preservation of Epsom History!

2003 Projects

The officers of the Epsom Historical Association have embarked on several projects for 2003, many of which were outlined in the previous newsletter. Committees are now being formed to facilitate and implement these projects, and members are urged to join any committee in which they have an interest. Among them are the following:

CEMETERIES - To start an 'adopt' a cemetery program to help preserve and maintain some of the old forgotten family cemeteries with local businesses, individuals and organizations.

HISTORIC SITES - to look into signs, plaques and markers for historic sites; to draw up a list of historic sites and structures in Epsom; to help maintain and outfit our new home.

FUNDRAISING - to begin to explore and raise funds for carrying out our 2003 projects.

PUBLICATIONS - to determine what type of publication(s) to work on.

LIBRARY - the cataloging, re-typing and care of existing files belonging to the Epsom Historical Association.

If you can help or are interested in any of the above, please contact any Epsom Historical Association officer. We will discuss these further at the member meeting.

VISIT the EHA online

Look back at past meetings
Agendas and Minutes
Calendar of Events

<http://www.2eha.net/epsom/ehapage.htm>