



Epsom Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past

March 2004

***Phil Yeaton on New Rye
Josh Brigham on Eagle Project
New Night: Friday, March 19th***

New Time: 7:00

New Place: Town Hall

***EPSOM HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
OPENS NEW YEAR OF
PROGRAMS***

The Epsom Historical Association opens its new year of programs trying new dates, times and places in hopes to make its programs easier for people to attend. The Association will focus its programs on New Rye and theatre and will offer its first program of the year with a talk on New Rye and its families with Phil Yeaton as your host. The program will also include a talk by Josh Brigham and his Eagle Project and the work done in the New Rye Cemetery. The evening will also offer people an opportunity to view the work done on the old town hall restoration and see what additional work the Association needs to do before beginning to use the old office space.

Help us get the year off to an outstanding start and attend this informative talk by Phil and Josh. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm and refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Annual Dues for the Epsom Historical Association are due the month of March. There is an increase in the amount for this year. Future newsletters will be mailed to paid members only. They can be paid at the upcoming meeting or mailed to Lisa Cote, EHA Treasurer, 202 New Orchard Road, Epsom, NH, 03234.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER - \$5.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00

TOWN HALL ON STATE HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER

As of January 26, 2004, the Epsom Town Hall has been placed on the N.H. State Register of Historic Places. Located on the 1st New Hampshire Turnpike, it was built 1850-1851 by Jonathan Knowles at a cost of \$654.00.

The old town hall served as the community's focal point and the seat of town government from 1850 until about a decade ago when it became too small to serve the town in that capacity. It also served as a temporary police department and meeting place. Many memorable events, meetings and receptions were held within its walls. A certificate will be hung at a re-dedication during the month of May. Its acceptance as a State historic site makes the building possibly eligible for the National Historic Register.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE GETS NEW CHAIRMAN

The Cemetery Committee of the Epsom Historical Association has a new chairman - Jay Cote. Jay will undertake our efforts to clean up many of the small family cemeteries located through town. Any members interested in joining the committee should contact Jay at JayCote@prodigy.net or calling 736-4439.

WORK DAYS AT EPSOM TOWN HALL

The Epsom Historical Association will be preparing the old office area of the town hall for occupancy with two major work sessions. The first of the two work days will be to clean the office, and that will be on Saturday, April 20th at 10:00 am. The following week, Saturday, April 27th, will be to paint the area and finish the office so it can be set up during the month of May. The office area will include desks, computer with online access, and many of the Associations files. The town hall also will hold all of the items donated to the Historical Association. If you can help on either of these days, please contact Harvey Harkness at 736-4571.

McClary Sign Update

Through the efforts of Fred Noyes, Ed Nutter, Harriet Cady, Carleton Rand and the the EHA , plans to have an historical roadside sign about Andrew McClary have been submitted for approval to the N.H. Division of Historical Resources and Department of Transportation. The inscription would read:

MAJOR ANDREW McCLARY

The highest ranking American officer to be killed at the battle of Bunker Hill. An Epsom resident, a participant in the December 1774 raid on Fort William and Mary at Newcastle. the earliest overt act of the Revolutionary period. Upon receipt of the impending attack at Bunker Hill, McClary left his plow in the furrow on his farm just south of here and lead the local patriots to Medford, Ma. Appointed Major by Col. John Stark, he was felled by a British cannonball as the battle ended. Prompting the eulogy "His sun went down at noon on the day that ushered in our nation's birth."

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES MAJOR PROJECT The Book A 200 YEAR CHRONOLOGY OF THE TOWN OF EPSOM

The Epsom Historical Association announces a 3 to 5 year plan to publish the first complete history of the town of Epsom. The book will focus on the first 200 years, 1727-1927, with short addendums carrying the history even further forward. The chronology will follow the growth of the town from its incorporation through the development of each section, from Center Hill, to Epsom Center, Gossville and New Rye. The history will follow a chronology of the town based on whatever materials are available through State Archives and EHA archives, including stories, diaries, day books, photos and other items. The previous histories by Rev. Curtis, John Dolbeer and John Mark Moses will be included along with reprints of any Historical Association holdings that the Epsom Historical Association has, or has yet to receive.

In the coming year, the Epsom Historical Association will appeal to the Epsom community for any papers, photos and items of historical interest that can contribute to this town history to see that the most complete historical record of the town can be written. It is our hope that no part of available history be left out.

The history will probably be two volumes, hardbound, with the second volume primarily a more complete genealogy of Epsom Early Settlers. If you have, or know of people with materials that can be used in this project, you are asked to contact any officer of the Epsom Historical Association.

2004 Epsom Historical Association Officers

President - Harvey Harkness

Vice President - T.J. Rand

Secretary - Elsie Fife

Treasurer - Lisa Cote