



# Epsom Historical Association **NEWSLETTER**

*Catch up to the Past*

March 2008 No. 1

## **EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ACCEPTS INVITATION TO ATTEND CHICHESTER MARCH MEETING**

The Epsom Historical Association has accepted to join in a joint program with the Chichester Historical Society as its first program of the year. The program will be presented at the Chichester Grange/Town Office Building at 54 Main Street in Chichester on Thursday evening, March 13. The hour long meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and will feature presenters Gordon and Marion Jones, owners and operators of a Chichester Dairy farm, who will discuss the history of their family farm, its current operations, and what has been done to make the farm a successful enterprise.

### **2008 Epsom Historical Association Officers**

President - Harvey Harkness  
Vice President - Phil Yeaton  
Secretary - Elsie Fife  
Treasurer - Penny Yeaton  
email - [epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:epsomhistory@aol.com)

## ***MARCH IS DUES MONTH***

Family membership dues of \$15.00 or single membership of \$10.00 are renewable this month, and our next newsletter will be mailed to the updated membership list based on those renewals and new memberships. Checks can be made out to the Epsom Historical Association and mailed to our mailing address:

**Epsom Historical Association**

**c/o Penny Graham, Treasurer**

**P.O. Box 814**

**Epsom, NH 03234**

DOWNLOAD ONLINE MEMBERSHIP  
FORM AT [http://www.epsomhistory.com/  
epsom/eha/Membership Form.pdf](http://www.epsomhistory.com/epsom/eha/Membership%20Form.pdf)

## **IN OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

Members of the Epsom Historical Association who provide their email addresses receive their newsletter via email. This electronic version is an expanded version which contains many more pages, photos and articles. If you wish to upgrade to this more complete version, please email [epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:epsomhistory@aol.com).

### **IN THIS EDITION:**

*World War I Letter from Forrest E. Ambrose*

*Two Locke obits from old newspapers*

*Yeaton Cemetery Inscriptions (Black Hall Road)*

*Excerpt School District No. 1 Report 1848*

*"Our Schools" an 1899 Old Home Day Address  
by Mrs. J.W. Fowler*

*What's new online at [epsomhistory.com](http://www.epsomhistory.com)*

*Genealogy - Levi Bean Bickford*

*Photo - Train at Short Falls Depot*

# Letters from the Boys

## WWI News of Camp and Field from “Those Doing Their Bit”

Five letters were written in 1918 and published in local papers. Three letters were from Frank E. Ambrose, and two from his brother Forrest E. Ambrose. They detail their time in training and conclude with letters from France. All five letters appear on the Epsom History web site. Reprinted here is the first letter from Forrest E. Ambrose:



Dear Epsom Friends:

As it would be quite an undertaking to write to you all individually, I will send just a few words, so you all will be able to hear from me.

I realize that I haven't been in the service long, but long enough to know what army life is, I have got accustomed to it now and am

beginning to like it, even if it isn't as easy and pleasant as civilian life.

Nearly all the boys who came from Fort Slocum when I did have been transferred to other Regiments and Companies, so we are scattered all over the camp. I am assigned to Headquarters Co., and my name has been put on the “preferred list” to be held here for a while. As soon as I learned this I applied to be transferred to another Regiment. As I knew the other boys would probably be moving, and perhaps out of camp soon, I wanted to go with them. Our Adjutant told my Lieutenant for whom I am working, that he wouldn't consider my transfer until he first got his permission to let me go. I have tried to persuade him to let me go but without any results. He got another man to help do the work and promoted me to Corporal. It isn't very much but the pay is \$6.00 more a month and that looks good to any soldier. There are 125 in our Company and five of us were made Corporals and one sergeant.

The work that I am doing is very interesting and I like it very much. There is always something to do but I have had someone to help me, it has been much better. The Lieutenant for whom I work is the Regiment Mess Officer. His duties are to receive orders for food supplies from each Company of the regiment each day and then purchase them, so as to deliver them the following day. A great deal of this is brought from the Camp Quartermaster here. The remainder is bought in Washington and brought each day by truck.

As President Wilson was to speak at Mt. Vernon yesterday, two other fellows and I hiked out to hear him. We thought we could get there quicker by cutting across and going through the woods but as we lost the trail, it took much longer. The President went from Washington to Mt. Vernon on his yacht the Mayflower, and was met by the marine Guard and the marine Band. Both sides of the walk from the dock to Washington's new Tomb were lined with soldiers and behind them thousands of other people, waiting anxiously to see him and hear his speech. It was made from a large stump directly in front and only a few feet from the tomb. I was fortunate to get within about fifty feet of him, being near enough to see him very plainly but not near enough to hear much of his speech. He spoke very low and in such a crowd as was there, it was impossible to hear very much. His many friends who were with him carried wreaths of handsome flowers. After the speech the “Star Spangled Banner” was sung by McCormack, a great singer, and other patriotic music given by the band.

I will have to close for this time as it is nearly time for “Taps.” We are called to Quarters at 9:45 and taps are sounded at 10 o'clock sharp. We must be in bed at that time or we may get some extra duties the next day if the sergeant finds that we are out when he comes around to inspect the barracks to see that everything is quiet and peaceful. Of course we Corporals get by with some of that work because we get in with the sergeant. (I wonder why?) This is leaving me well and happy and hope it will find you the same. I will be pleased to hear from all of you but please don't be disappointed if you shouldn't get an answer. Yours very truly,

Corporal Forrest E. Ambrose

Headquarters Co. 5th Engineers, Training Regiment,  
Camp A.A. Humphreys, VA.

# FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS

## Obituary of “YANKEE” LOCKE

1-6-1880 Boston Daily Advertiser

### GEORGE E. LOCKE

YANKEE LOCKE – George E. Locke, the comedian, better known as “Yankee” Locke, died yesterday noon at his home in Dracut, aged 62 years. He had a diseased bone removed from his leg three weeks ago, and the diseased matter from it circulating through his system caused his death. Mr. Locke was born in Epsom, NH in 1817. He made his debut as *Las Casas* in “Pizarro” at Boylston Hall, in this city, under the management of Wyzeman Marshall, while yet in his teens. His next engagement was as walking gentleman at the Dorrance-street Theatre, Providence, about 1837, and he subsequently played three years at the Boston Museum. His first “star” engagement was at the old National Theatre in this city in May, 1850, and his first appearance in New York was at the old National Theatre in that city, under A.H. Purdy’s management as *Solomon Siran* in “Jonathan in England.” He went to California in 1861 and spent some time on the Pacific coast. Of late years he has played very little out of New England, being chiefly engaged in managing companies upon that circuit. His last appearance in Boston was at the Howard Athenaeum, where he played *Barantray Root* in “Mike Martin” in support of Miss Kate Fisher, during the week of January 6, 1870. Since then he has played with a number of small companies in other Massachusetts cities.

(Son of Samuel Locke & Lydia Buzzell)

3-28-1883 Boston Daily Advertiser

### BENJAMIN L. LOCKE



General Benjamin L. Locke, whose death occurred at Winchester, MA., on Monday, was born in Epsom, NH, July 28, 1802. Soon after attaining his majority he became a successful farmer upon his own account,

and also engaged in trade. In 1828 he built the Suncook House in Epsom and was its landlord for the long period of 32 years. Under the faithful management of General Locke and his wife, to whom he was married May 5, 1825, the Suncook Hotel gained a widely extended reputation. In civil life he and received many local honors, including clerk, treasurer and selectman of his town, and treasurer of the county. For 15 years he was connected with the state militia. He was commissioned captain of company B, eighteenth regiment September 29, 1825; lieutenant colonel June 22, 1830; colonel September 24, 1830; brigadier-general, third brigade, first division July 1, 1834; and major-general of that division June 29, 1838. His last commission he resigned June 10, 1840. In 1866 the deceased removed to Chichester and in 1873 to Winchester. General Locke was a gentleman of the old school, and a citizen of the highest integrity. Possessed of an active public spirit, he exerted a strong influence for all good works and enterprises. He left a widow, one son, James L. Locke of the Boston & Lowell depot in Boston, and four daughters. The burial will occur at Epsom on Wednesday.

(McClary Cemetery, son of Levi Locke)

# CEMETERY

## INSCRIPTIONS



**No. 5 Yeaton Cemetery**, on Black Hall Road, in field by old Yeaton Homestead.

### Edwards

[Stella \(Estella\) Yeaton Edwards](#) (footstone) 1862 - 1896

### Mathes

[Col. Valentine Mathes](#) died July 23, 1838 ae 69  
[Mary \(Crommers\)](#), wife of Col. Valentine Mathes, died March 27, 1846 ae 73.

### Sargent

[Lizzie Yeaton](#), wife of Harrison E. Sargent May 15, 1837–July 12, 1887

### Towle

[Simeon Towle](#) DIED April 3, 1872 ae 72 yrs 1 mo. & 25 ds.  
[Hannah \(Yeaton\)](#), wife of Simeon Towle, DIED Jan. 30, 1874 ae 77 yrs 11 mos. & 8 ds  
[Olive S.](#), Dau of Mr. Simeon & Mrs. Hannah Towle, died July 15, 1830 ae 3 Ys 1 Mo 2 days  
[Charles A.](#) Son of Mr. Simeon & Mrs. Hannah Towle, died July 21, 1830 ae 5 Yrs. 8 Mo. 7 days  
[Emma Y. Towle](#) DIED Apr. 1, 1887 ae 53 ys. 17 ds  
[Charles W. Towle](#) died Dec. 24, 1899 ae 59  
[Rebecca G. \(Towne\)](#) his wife, died Nov. 7, 1905 ae 66

### Yeaton

[Ida L.](#), dau of William & Caroline A. Yeaton DIED Oct. 1, 1857 ae 2 y's & 1 mo.

### Yeaton

[James C. Yeaton](#) DIED June 8, 1884 ae 56 ys. 4 ms. 3 ds.  
[Hannah D. \(Drake Towle\)](#), his wife died Oct. 25, 1906 ae 73 ys. 10 ms. 27 ds.  
[James H. Yeaton](#), 1875 - 1947  
[Lizzie H. \(Elizabeth Hall\) Yeaton](#), 1861 - 1954  
[Samuel T. Yeaton](#) DIED Jan. 31, 1864 ae 73 yrs. 8 dys.  
[Sally \(Cochran\)](#), wife of Samuel T. Yeaton, DIED Mar. 21, 1873 ae 79  
[John Yeaton](#) DIED June 10, 1881 ae 76 ys. 6 ms.  
[Sarah, \(Bickford\)](#) his wife, Died Nov. 5, 1859 ae 49 ys. 6 ms.  
[Caroline, \(Bickford\)](#) his (2nd) wife (widow of Samuel Cilley and sister of first wife) Died Aug. 6, 1894 ae 70 ys 6 ms

### Yeaton

[Solomon M. Yeaton](#) 1813–1886  
[Mary A. Hilliard](#), his wife, 1819–1911

### Yeaton

[Mr. William Yeaton](#) died June 14, 1831 (Revolutionary War)  
[Hannah \(Towle\)](#), wife of William Yeaton, died Dec. 22, 1843 ae 81 years  
[J.Y.](#) (fieldstone) D. N. 14, 1828 Age 40 (Jonathan Yeaton)  
[John Yeaton](#) DIED May 12, 1861 ae 80 yrs. 4 mo.  
[Mrs. Betsey \(Towle\)](#), wife of John Yeton, died April 29, 1833 aged 43 yrs.  
[Daniel](#), Son of John & Rebekah Yeaton, died Sept. 4, 1825 aged 4 yrs 7 mo & 20 dys  
[William](#), son of John & Rebekah Yeaton, died Oct. 21, 1828 (partially buried)  
[Levi T. Yeaton](#) DIED Oct. 30, 1846 ae 42  
[Mary \(Mathes\)](#) wife of Levi T. Yeaton, died Aug. 24, 1844 ae 40  
[An infant son](#) of Levi T. & Mary Yeaton died June 6, 1830  
[Levi](#), son of Levi T. & Mary Yeaton, DIED June 23, 1848 ae 14 y'rs 4 mo.

### Yeton

[Hopley Yeton](#) DIED Aug. 11, 1856 ae 55.



## **RECORDS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1 CENTER HILL SCHOOL, EPSOM 1847 - 1883 (Excerpt)**

The record book for the School District No. for the years 1847-1883 contains over 200 pages which have been scanned and transcribed to be added to the digital collection of the Epsom Historical Association. It contains many names of teachers, yearly election results for Moderator, Clerk and Prudential Committee, and in most years, the budget. Below is the beginning entries. The entire transcription is online at [Epsomhistory.com](http://Epsomhistory.com).

At a legal meeting duly notified and holden at the Schoolhouse in District No. 1 on the twenty fifth day of March A.D. 1848

Benvolio Sanborn was Chosen Moderator of said meeting and sworn

B.L. Locke Clerk of said District and sworn

George Sanders was chosen Prudential Committee for said District

Read the report of last year's committee, voted to accept the report

Voted that the balance of school money now in the hands of the last years committee be paid to the above named committee, it being \$7.76

Voted that the Clerk of said district purchase a Book of Record for said District and call on the committee for the pay for the same.

Voted that the Prudential Committee be invited to employ the last years Mistress Sarah E. Locke to teach the summer school.

Voted that the summer school commence on the first Monday after the twentieth of May next.

Voted that one third of the school money ne expended in a summer school.

Voted that the winter school commence on the first Monday after the twentieth of November next.

Voted to sell three cords of wood at auction, for the use of winter school.

Edward T. Sanders is to furnish the first cord at two dollars and thirty eight cents per cord 2.38

Job Sanders the second cord for 2.33

Edward T. Sanders the third cord for 2.32

Sold the ashes that may be made the ensuing year to B. Hall for twenty cents.

Report of 1847

Received of Selectmen \$120.19

Received of John Chesley for ashes .23

Total 120.42

To paid Sarah E. Locke \$39.00

To paid Thomas Steele 64.90

To paid for three cords wood ^.32

Other expenses 2.44 = 112.66

Unexpended 7.76

Paid this balance to George Sanders. Joseph Lawrence Jr.

March 25, 1847 Meeting Dissolved. B. L. Locke, Clerk

March 24, 1849

The inhabitants of District No. 1 met at the Schoolhouse in said District agreeable to previous notice and proceeded as follows:

Chose Thomas D. Merrill moderator and sworn

Chose B.L. Locke District clerk and sworn

Chose Henry F. Sanborn Prudential School Committee and sworn

The report of last year's committee was read

Voted to accept the report

**(cont. next page)**

## District No. 1 records, cont.

Voted that one third of the school money be expended in a summer school

Voted that the summer school commence on the first Monday after the twentieth of May next

Voted that Sarah E. Locke keep the summer school

Voted that Mr. H. Sanborn keep the winter school

Voted that the winter school commence on the first Monday after the twentieth of November next

Voted to sell three cords of wood for the use of the school

Josiah C. Chesley is to furnish the three cords at two dollars and forty cents per cord

Sold the ashes to J.C. Hall for seventeen cents

Voted that there be no singing school kept in the schoolhouse while the day school is keeping.

Meeting dissolved. B.L. Locke Clerk

REPORT of George Sanders Dr~

To money rec'd of Joseph Lawrence Jr. 7.75

To money rec'd of Selectmen 98.25

To money rec'd for ashes .20

TOTAL \$106.20

Cr by Thomas D. Merrill for broom 17 wire .08 .25

By paid for dipper 8 and repairing pail 2 .10

By paid John Chesley 18 lb funnel 6/4 1.17

By paid for glass & setting 50 broom 28 .78

By paid glass 12 book of record 75 .87

By paid for three cords of wood 7.03

By paid Wm Sanders 12 .12

By paid Sarah E. Locke 35.45

By paid G.B. Ramsey 60.22

TOTAL 105.99

## “OUR SCHOOLS”

### An address by Mrs. J.W. Fowler at the First Epsom Old Home Day 1899

It seems from little information that our forefathers immediately after settlement, consisting of twenty can be obtained from the town records families, reserved one hundred acres of land for the benefit of schools, and a meeting was held at the house of Capt. Andrew McClary on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1876, according to a notice by the Selectmen, to consult about the building of a schoolhouse. First, voted that the size of the schoolhouse be 21 feet in length, and 17 in breadth. This meeting adjourned until the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, at which time it was voted to build the schoolhouse on the school lot where the selectmen thought proper, and the cost to be paid in land or money. Ensign McGaffey, being the contractor and builder. Later on a complaint was made to Lieut. Ephraim Locke, grand juror, that the town had neglected to keep a stated school and May 22, 1780, a meeting was held, and a vote passed to raise what money the selectmen thought necessary that year for the support of schools. The next year two meetings were called, at the first one they voted to raise 100 pounds lawful money for schools, but at the second meeting, March 26, 1781, they voted to sell the schoolhouse at auction to the highest bidder, and the amount received be appropriated to the use of the town. It appears from what follows that this caused division and hard feeling among the intelligent part of the inhabitants; as a brief extract from a petition to the selectmen shows: “To the selectmen of the town of Epsom: That we ever have been and still are desirous to promote public schools in said town, for the instruction of our children, and of late used every exertion in our power to have a suitable schoolhouse in the district completed for that design, but every such effort proves abortive, owing to some among us who, from their conduct, seem to demonstrate a total disregard to the nest interest of their families, by depriving their children of the means of instruction, and thereby rendering them, in a great degree, useless members of society. We therefore seek to the town for redress, as we know of no other remedy, and pray that a meeting of said town may be warned as soon as may be,

that this our grievance may be considered, and some method adopted to put in execution that shall remove the dissension among us, and give us speedy relief in finishing the schoolhouse already begun, that a school may be had seasonably for the purpose aforesaid." This was signed by James Gray and ten other citizens of the town July 15, 1798. The 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, a meeting was held and 10 pounds was voted to be raised to be expended in finishing the schoolhouse; and should there be a surplus, the same should be laid out for school-keeping the present year. As near as I can ascertain this schoolhouse was situated at the Center, very near where the present one now stands. We have been informed that there was a schoolhouse at an earlier period situated near Joseph Lawrence's residence. Also that schools were kept in some private houses, still inhabited. May 19, 1808, the town was divided into six school districts. In 1825 Josiah Sanborn, Hanover Dickey and Winthrop Fowler, were chosen a committee to sub-divide it; but it was not thought expedient to do so until January 1833, at which time it was changed to ten with two Unions. In a few years time it was again altered, so at the present time we have but seven. Very little information can be obtained as regards the early teachers of the town, but James Gray is said to have been a school teacher before the Revolutionary war, and tradition tells of Master Sutton, Casey, Thomas D. Merrill, Master Batchelder, noted for the severity of his punishment; School Master Ham, General Locke, John Chesley Esq., Hersey, the latter having taught several terms, as I have been informed in the Short Falls district. On one day as the story goes it was the custom (when the school master was asked by some of the large scholars, to do an example in arithmetic) that he invited some one of his large pupils to hear the small classes read. At this time one scholar who did not present a very tidy appearance, commenced the sentence, "Time was once when I was young and fair." Coming to the word fair, the reader not knowing what it was, the sub-teacher told her clean; this caused much laughter, attracting the attention of the Esq. He remarked, "Be careful, young man." Of these old-time school teachers I can only remember three of them as citizens, General Locke, Mr. Chesley, Esq. Ham, the later as superintending school committee. After visiting a certain school in town, being somewhat absent

minded, he got into his carriage, without untying his balky horse; some of the boys seeing it, exclaimed "Mr. Ham, your horse is hitched" to which the Esq. replied "Very well, very well, he'll go directly." Briefly I will allude to the wages of some of our early teachers. Among some old papers have been found the following receipts:

"Received 2 lbs. 8 shillings for 8 weeks' school keeping over the river in 1784, by me Joseph Goss, Epsom, March 8, 1785"

"The town of Epsom to Elizabeth Emery, Dr To teaching school, in school district No. 4, in Epsom, 7 weeks at 1 dollar per week, \$7.00. Received payment, Elizabeth Emery, Epsom, July 17, 1833"

This venerable lady is still living in Suncook, N.H. Though comparatively very small this was the usual price paid our lay teachers, besides the pleasant or disagreeable task of boarding round, as it was called just as the teacher found it among her scholars: the length of stay in each family varying according to the number of children sent from the home to school. This sum slowly increased from \$1 to \$3.50 per week to as recent a date as 1865. As the inhabitants increased the old schoolhouse at the Center was insufficient to accommodate all of the scholars, who were large enough to attend school, and as many new seats as there was possible room for, were put in, and during some winter terms, boards were placed across the aisles. Here the lad and lass from 7 years to men and women, were wont to sit for six long hours, with, perhaps, from one-half to an hour at noon, and a few minutes recess in the forenoon and after. Well, I do remember the Sanborns, Halls, Lockes, Hoyts, Weeks, Chesleys, Griffins and Lawrences, who came to this box of learning as well as many others less in number to receive instruction from Henry F. Sanborn, Edwin B. Harvey and others. The former being a very successful teacher in governing a school of seventy five or eighty scholars; his sharp black eye and frowned forehead were usually good enough to quell the ill behavior of all except the most stubborn pupils, then some one of his most trusty boys were sent with jackknife, down to the gulf to cut a bunch of alders, of which a supply usually were found over the blackboard.

Some select schools were taught here by B. Van Dame, Mrs. V.G. Ramsey, Harriet McCutcheon, and later by some of our local teachers. As the length

of schools were not over twenty weeks a year in the largest districts, and some of the smallest, perhaps twelve, this afforded the larger scholars very little schooling, so in 1854 the town hall was fitted up by certain interested citizens, purchasing the old seats that had been removed from Pittsfield Academy and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, of that year, Samuel G. Lane began a school, which proved to be both interesting and profitable, and for the next six years a school was kept there every autumn, taught by the following persons: James, W. Webster, taught two terms, and still is teaching in Boston, Mass.; Cyrus O. Brown, George W. Morrill and Thomas M. Chase, each taught one term. Still later other private schools were taught here by our resident teachers.

Thus far I have only spoken of some of the male teachers of our town, and were I to attempt to count the female ones my efforts would be a failure, as they have been so numerous, that it reminds one of "Mrs. Partington's men," that they numbered one of the less usual when they got married.

But I feel that this history would quite incomplete without giving special mention to some of our lady teachers who have gone from this good old town. In memory I recall Mrs. Susan Brown Forbes of Byfield, Mass., Miss Jennie Harvey of Exeter, only recently resigning from school labors, Mrs. Abbie Wallace McAlister of Englewood, Ill., these having pursued this avocation for nearly a quarter of a century.

There are many many others who have done credit to themselves and the town. Perhaps there are no residents among us at the present time that were engaged in town a greater number of terms than Mrs. Lucy Bickford Sherburne and Mrs. Mary Libby Dowst. Fearing my imperfect history may be too lengthy will go no farther, only hoping that the present generation may so improve their much greater school district privileges, that as many useful men and women, may go out from the town of Epsom (or remain here) as in past generations.

## NEW ONLINE

[www.epsomhistory.com](http://www.epsomhistory.com)

The Epsom History web site, also home to the Historical Association, and formerly called 'Epsom Early Settlers,' has a new look. Also new items have been added recently including the transcription of over 200 pages of the **records of the Epsom Center School** 1848 to 1883. The minutes of the meetings include the results of the elections, and shows their struggles to maintain the structure and eventually to build the building that is still standing on Center Hill. The financial reports gives many names of the teachers and the terms they taught, and insight into the cost of many of the items used to support the school.

### **Two sermons by Rev. Jonathan Curtis**

from 1815 have also been transcribed and added online. Given on the same day, the morning sermon was about Fasting; the afternoon sermon on Thanksgiving. The sermons were based on the Fast Holiday in New Hampshire and the National Day of Thanksgiving following the ending of the War of 1812.

**Five letters** published in local papers in 1918 were from Frank E. and Forrest E. Ambrose, which discuss their training and ultimately arriving in France. There are three letters from Frank and two from Forrest, of which one appears in this newsletter. All five appear online.

**Over 300 people** have been added to the genealogy database at Rootsweb World Connect. Additional information from newspapers have been added to many individuals, including marriage and death notices and obituaries. This updated information from newspapers will appear online at a later date. In addition, burials in Pittsfield cemeteries have been added to certain individuals.

*From 1914 - Mrs. Lilla Wells had her horse killed recently. The horse was thirty-seven years old last June. In 1877 Charles Henry Hall cut down a large lot of grass and told his son, Hollis, if he would rake up the hay before dark that day he would give him this colt, then about four weeks old. Hollis raked the hay and received the cold. He raised this colt until twenty years old or more, then gave it to Harvey Wells and he in turn gave it to his brother, who died, and his widow had the horse killed recently. The horse had been in constant use all these years.*



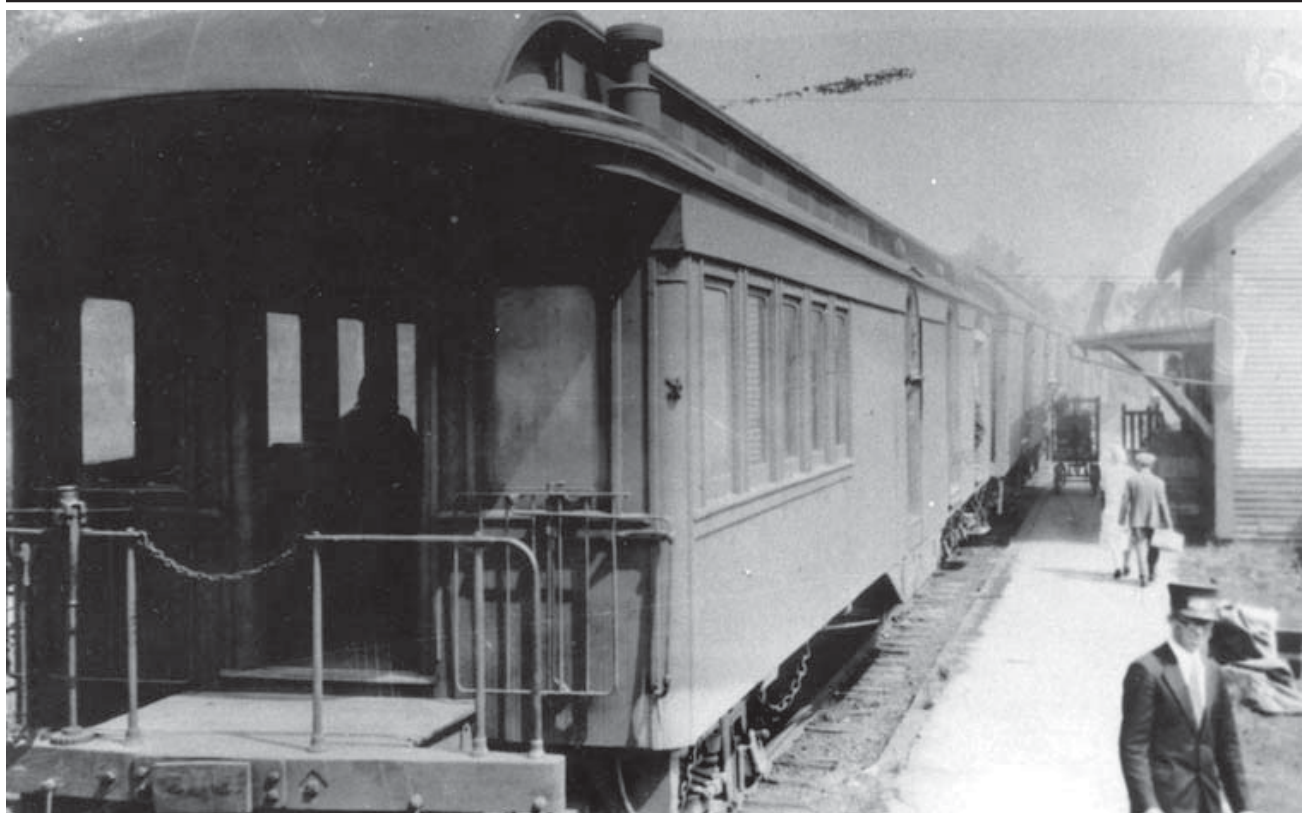
## ***GENEALOGY - Previously unknown Levi Bean Bickford***

In researching genealogy of Epsom's early settlers, a previously unknown son of Thomas and Keziah (Collins) Bickford was found. Not much is known of the family. Thomas was the son of Benjamin Bickford (1749) and his wife Hannah Locke. They apparently moved to Epsom after 1785. Three sons are known, Benjamin who died young; and Samuel and Thomas who remained in Epsom. Samuel had several wives and many children; Thomas married Keziah Collins before 1811, but the place and any information on her parents remain unknown.

Of the known children of Thomas and Keziah, the most is known of Silas G. Bickford and his wife Laura Sanborn, as they were residents of the town. Robert C. lived in Deerfield; James R. died at age 26 unmarried; and Keziah D. married Abraham Sanborn of Deerfield and resided in Concord. That is as much as was known until recently.

In the vital records of Massachusetts, quite by accident, the name Levi Bean Bickford, paper maker, was found. His records give his parents as Thomas and Keziah of Epsom, and he was born here May 25, 1816. On September 4 of 1839, in Ashburnham, Mass., he married a Lydia Kennison, who died in Hyde Park, in 1868. He took as his second wife, Lomelia Ann Cady, the daughter of James Bigelow Cady and his wife Betsey. Lomelia was born May 25, 1829 in Alstead, Mass. She was the widow of Elwin (Alvin) Ozro Brigham who died in 1865 during the attack on Fort Steadman, Virginia at the last battle before Petersburg, VA. The marriage to Levi took place on June 16, 1870 at Hyde Park.

Levi Bean Bickford died August 26, 1888 and is buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Hyde Park. His second wife was still living in 1910. No children by either marriage.



*Re-produced photo of Suncook Valley RR, passenger train at the Short Falls Station, Epsom, NH, probably about 1935-1940, Coach #2 E.J. Stapleton, Conductor; from H.T. Moulton Collection.*

# EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2008 SCHEDULE

The Epsom Historical Association recently announced its planned programs for the 2008 season. Programs are subject to last minutes changes.

## MAY 18 - "Native People of New England"



The history and culture of the native people of New England will be discussed by Tim Patterson, as he shares his personal story of being raised in a Canadian Algonquin family. Tim and his family are residents of Epsom and are well known and respected in our community.

Meeting to be held at the old town hall. 2:00 PM



## JULY 13 - "East Street Revisited"

The story of Epsom's first settlers remains one of the most popular topics presented by the Historical Association. The journey continues with discussion of the early history of our town including particular families and individuals, homes and businesses, local government and other surprising notes of interest. The program will be held at the site of Epsom's early center, at the McClary Cemetery and will conclude with an ice cream social. 2:00 PM

## SEPTEMBER 21 - "General John Stark - An American Hero"



Richard Wright will present an entertaining impersonation of General John Stark, a genuine hero of the American Revolution. Mr. Wright is a member of the New Hampshire Society of the Sons of the American Revolution who has received accolades for his presentation of the character and personality of the legendary John Stark. Old Epsom town hall. 2:00 PM

## NOVEMBER 16 - "The Lost Art of Making Shoes"



Bruce Graham is a local craftsman who has revived the once common art of making shoes the time honored way of one at a time. Bruce will demonstrate the process step by step including materials, tools, shaping, styles and many

other aspects of the trade. Bruce's presentation is interesting and entertaining and contrasts the creativity of the past with the mass production of today. Old Epsom Town Hall. 2:00 PM

## DECEMBER 7 - "Celebrating a Victorian Christmas"



Enjoy the customs of an old fashioned Victorian Christmas. You are welcome to wear period clothing and any other items which you may wish to share. Special activities for children

will be provided. This is an annual family centered event for both young and old - a good time will be held by all! Town Complex/Epsom Public Library. 5:00 - 7:00 PM