



# Epsom Historical Association

## NEWSLETTER

*Catch up to the Past* Mar. 2009 No. 2

### **New Hampshire and the War Against the Common Enemy**

**Epsom Historical Association  
Begins Programs for 2009**

**Sunday March 22, 2009**

**Epsom Public Library, 2:00 pm**

National Guard Historian Thomas Graham returns to the Epsom Historical Association with its first program of 2009. The program is a new powerpoint presentation about New Hampshire and the Revolutionary War, focusing on several key places in the State that had important contributing roles in the war against the common enemy, Great Britain. A mention of Epsom participants in the Revolution will be included as part of the presentation.

The program is free and open to the public and will be held at the Epsom Public Library on Sunday, March 22 beginning at 2 pm. A brief business meeting will precede the program and refreshments will follow.

### ***Your Recipes Wanted April 1st Deadline***

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](mailto:epsomcookbook@dishmail.net) or mail to: EHA Cookbook Project, PO Box 814, Epsom NH 03234.

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### **MEMORIES of the SUNCOOK BANK Topic of Allenstown Historical Society Program**

Sunday April 2, 2009

6:30 pm., MRF Building

Suncook Business Park. Rt. 28 North.

The Suncook Bank was a pivotal part of the area, and its impact will be discussed along with photographs from the old Suncook Bank.

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION

## CATO FISK

3299 PENSION for Cato Fisk

Apr. 6, 1818

Cato Fisk

New Hampshire, private

[Note: Cato Fisk appears in the Epsom death records of Jonathan Dolbeer, March 1824]

I Cato Fisk, now of Deerfield in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire testify and declare that I enlisted as a soldier in the company commanded by Capt. William Rowell of the second Regiment in the New Hampshire line of the American Army in the Revolutionary War in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven and served without any intermission from the time of my first enlistment to the seventh day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three at which time I was honorably discharged from \_\_\_ and am now in reduced circumstances in live and am in need of assistance from my Country for support.

Deerfield, April 6, 1818

Cato X Fisk (his mark)

Rockingham SS – State of New Hampshire

On the day and year above named the above Declaration was made and sworn before me. - Hall Burgin – Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Rockingham aforesaid.

Schedule containing the whole estate and income of Cato Fisk (his necessary clothing and bedding excepted) on the 18 day of June 1820, and annexed to his oath: A small hut, small barn standing on another man's land – 40.00

1 cow – 13

1 pig – 3

8 old chairs – 1.50

2 old tables – 1

Iron ware – 1.50

Cooking knives and forks - .75

Scythe and \_\_\_ - .75

One old Ox (or axe?) - .67

State of New Hampshire, Rockingham SS

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820, personally appeared in open court at Concord, before John Harvey and Hall Burgin; Esqrs., Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, Cato Fisk aged 60 years, resident in Deerfield, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: That he enlisted in the spring of the year 1778 into the company commanded by Captain William Rowell of the Second New Hampshire Regiment of the Continental \_\_\_ commanded by Colonel George Reed for during the war there he served the full term of his enlistment and was discharged in June 1783 as will more fully appear by his original declaration made in order to obtain a pension which declaration is dated the sixth day of April 1818. That he received a pension the number of his pension Certificate is 5.299.

My occupation is that of a laborer but am not of sufficient ability to pursue it as formerly by reason of age and infirmities I have. In my family residing with me, my wife aged 53 years, two sons, James and Ebenezer, James aged about 28 years and non corpus mentis (?); Ebenezer aged about 24 years who has been sick for several weeks confined to his bed; and a grand daughter Louisa aged three years.

Sworn and declared at Concord on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820 before us. - John Harvey and Hall Burgin

W 14719 Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Suffolk SS

On this twenty eighth day of December AD Eighteen Hundred and twenty seven, personally appeared before me, William Simmons, one of the Justices Court for the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth

of Massachusetts – Elsa Fiske, a resident of the City of Boston in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth aforesaid, aged about seventy three years, widow, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision on the act of congress, that she is the widow of Cato Fiske, formerly of Exeter in the State of New Hampshire, deceased, who was a private in the Army of the Revolution, that she hereunto annexes two original certificates by which it will appear that said Cato Fiske received a pension for his revolutionary services and that she presents the particulars of his service will appear in the proper office at Washington. She further declares that she was married to the said Cato Fiske by the Reverend Nathaniel Trask at Brentwood in New Hampshire in the month of March, as she believed in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three, but she knows that it was before the close of the revolutionary war because the said Cato Fiske was at the time of the marriage apart from the army on furlough and afterwards returned to it and served in it for sometime before the close of said revolutionary war, that she cannot remember the day of the death of her said husband, but he died she thinks about thirteen years ago and that she has remained a widow ever since, as will more fully appear by references to the proof hereto amassed.

Elas X Fiske (her mark)

I Sarah West of Brentwood in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, aged seventy years and upwards, do testify, declare and say, that in the fall of the year 1780 I used to live with the late Rev. Nathaniel Trask of said Brentwood, and lived with him until I was out of my time, and made his house my home for several years, after I was out of my time and until I was married. Soon after I went to Mr. Trask's a colored woman came to line in the neighborhood of Mr. Trask's, not a quarter of a mile from his house – she used to be called Aunt Sellars (?) – a colored girl by the name of Else Huso used to live with her and was after at Mr. Trask's. I knew her well. She was courted by a colored man, Cato Fisk, and I remember her being published to Cato and I laughed

at her about it. This was in the winter of 1782-3 and in the spring of 1783 the said Cato Fisk and Else Huso were married. I was not present at their wedding but I recollect on a Sunday after their publication was out I heard Mr. Trask say that he was going over to Aunt Sellars to marry Cato and Else and after he returned the same evening – he spoke about the wedding of the colored couple. Jonathan Trask, a son of the minister was invited by Cato to attend the wedding and did attend it, and told me about it after he came home. The next day after they were married I went into Aunt Sellars, and wished Else joy of her marriage. Cato was there at the door cutting wood. Else continued some time at Brentwood after she was married and until Cato and her moved to Exeter which I think must have been the next fall or winter, but I don't remember the time. I several times saw her when she lived at Exeter where she was several years – she had no children until she had been married several years. I have been acquainted with Else ever since her first going to Brentwood and she had always borne a good character for truth and industry, and was much set by her neighbors wherever she lived. Cato was not much in Brentwood after he was married until after he removed to Exeter. He was a drummer in the Army and a fiddler at home. He continued in the Army several months after he was married as I suppose, and until about the time he moved his wife to Exeter. I went to live with Mr. Trask's in the fall after the dark day, and Cato and Else were married a little more than two years afterwards in the spring and early in the spring, but I cannot remember the day of the month, nor the month with certainty, although I think it was the month of March.

The Rev. Mr. Trask and his son Jonathan have been dead many years and not one of Mr. Trask's children is now living. - Sarah X West (her mark)

State of New Hampshire, Rockingham SS - January 16, 1838

Then the said Sarah West (who I certify \_\_\_ a fair reputation for truth and whose statements are entitled to credit) made solemn oath that the foregoing affidavit by her \_\_\_ is true. (?)

Before me, Joseph Graves, Jus. Peace

Excerpt from:  
HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COMPILED BY LOELLA MARDEN  
BUNKER  
FOR THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1727-1927  
**Revolutionary War.**

The events which made the Revolutionary War necessary had aroused the people of Epsom, so when the news of the Battle of Lexington was brought to town by a "swift rider blowing a horn" the people were not wholly unprepared.

Captain Andrew McClary was plowing in the "old muster field." It is said that he left his plow in the furrow and hurried to obey the call. His horse was a large iron gray one and so vicious that no one else could ride or govern him. McClary could jump upon his back and govern him with ease "by the power of his arm."

The sturdy men of the Suncook Valley seized their guns and powder horns and started for the fray. They came from blazed paths and crooked roads. These men reached Nottingham about one o'clock, where they found a company of about sixty men, their number increasing the company to some over ninety. They left this place about one o'clock in the afternoon. They reached Haverhill at sunset, having walked twenty-seven miles in six hours. They stopped at Andover for supper, and then started on a night march, and on the morning of the 21st at sunrise they were parading on Cambridge Common. Those from Epsom had travelled seventy miles in less than twenty-four hours. Doesn't that show what kind of stuff the men were made of who lived here one hundred and fifty two years ago? Can you imagine how these men looked? Some wore broad-

tailed black coats, worsted stockings and three-cornered hats; others were dressed in home spun but all were wearing long stockings, knee and shoe buckles and heavy cow hide shoes.

I imagine their guns were as different as their clothes. We are told that only one gun had a bayonet. Powder horns were carried instead of cartridge boxes.

When the New Hampshire troops arrived at Medford they were divided into two regiments. The larger one chose Stark as their Captain and McClary for Major. For the next few weeks McClary was busy in training his men. On June 16th Col. Stark's regiment had orders to march to Bunker Hill. They formed in front of a house used as an arsenal and each man was given one gill of powder, fifteen balls and one flint.

It was after the battle of Bunker Hill that Maj. Mc-Clary was killed by a shot from one of the frigates anchored in the Charles and Mystic Rivers. He was said to have been the handsomest man in the army and the favorite of the New Hampshire troops. Thirty-four men took that wonderful march but at least eight of them did not come back alive. The names of the men who served in the Revolutionary War are given below:

Benjamin Berry, John Bickford, Samuel Bickford, James Blake, John Jenness, Osom Locke, killed at Bennington, Francis Locke, died at Chimney Point; Samuel Locke, Major Andrew McClary, killed at Bunker Hill; Captain Michel McClary, John McClary, died of a wound at Albany; Lieut. Andrew McGaffey, wounded at Bunker Hill; Neal McGaffey, Amos Morrill, Jethro Pettengill, Abraham Pettengill, died at Chimney Point; Benjamin Pettengill, Peter Pomp, a negro, died at Valley Forge; Simon Sanborn, died at Chimney Point; Noah St. Clair, wounded at St. Johns; John Wallace, killed at Bunker Hill; Weymouth Wallace, wounded at

Bunker Hill; Theophilus Cass, Solomon Chapman, William McCrillis, killed at Bunker Hill; Capt. James Gray, Jonathan Chase, Richard Drowt, John Dyer, Moses Lock, John Mason, Samuel Goss, Eliphalet Sanborn, Samuel Lear.

The town voted in 1776 that all the men who went to Cambridge should be paid one-half dollar per day.

The following is a copy of a vote passed by the town relative to the men in the Revolutionary War, March 21, 1781, it was "Voted, a Gift or Consideration to each of those soldiers who are engaged during the war in the Continental service for the town of Epsom five Heifers on the follow-ing conditions, according to the continuance in the service of the states, viz: for three years service from this date, five of three year old heifers; for two years service five two year old heifers; for one years service, five yearlings."

In 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary War, a large liberty pole was erected, and the scattered families of the Suncook Valley met to celebrate the declaration of peace. This pole was raised on Maj. Andrew McClary's farm, and it was afterwards taken to one of the school houses and placed a certain number of feet from the building, and was used to test the children's eyes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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.

## CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS No. 8

**James Sherburne Cemetery**, on road leading to Sherburne Homestead/Al Bickord.

### Lake

[Moses L.](#), In memory of, son of Mr. John Lake & Mrs. Sarah (Moses)Lake, who died Nov. 23, 1822 ae 7 yrs

[James L.](#), In memory of, son of Mr. John Lake & Mrs. Sarah Lake who died Aug. 18, 1824 aged 1 month

### Moses

[Jane Moses](#) DIED Aug. 17, 1867 ae 82 yrs 10 ms. & 8 days

[Mr. James Moses](#), In Memory of, Who died Aug. 17, 1819 AEt. 62

[Mrs. Elizabeth \(Sherburne\) Moses](#), wife of Mr. James Moses, In memory of, who died Nov. 3, 1826 aged 77

[James Moses Jr.](#) DIED Oct. 30, 1812 ae 30

[Mark Moses](#) DIED March 11, 1811 ae 30 yrs 1 mo 22 days (barely legible)

### Sherburne

[Capt. James M. Sherburne](#) DIED Nov. 10, 1867 ae 56 ys. 11 ms.

[Betsey C. \(Blake\)](#), wife of James M. Sherburn, DIED April 20, 1854 ae 41 y'rs 6 mo & 20 d's

[Adele](#), Dau. of Capt. James M. & Betsey C. Sherburne DIED Apr. 9, 1869 ae 19 yrs. 22 dys.

[Charles H.](#), son of Capt. James M. & Betsey C. Sherburn, DIED Sept. 14, 1855 ae 9 y'rs 9 mo. & 9 d's.

[Emeline P.](#), dau.of Capt. James M. & Betsey C. Sherburn DIED Feb. 20, 1853 ae 8 y'rs 9 m0. & 10 d's.

[Mary E.](#) dau. of Capt. James M. & Betsey C. Sherburn DIED July 16, 1853 ae 1 y'r 3 mo. & 23 d's

[Charles H.](#), son of Capt. James M. & Betsey C. Cherburn , DIED Aug. 9, 1854 ae 4 mo's.

[Charles H.](#), son of James M. & Lucy C. d 1861 ae 1 mo. (not found)

## 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.

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**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.

## EPSOM REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER'S GRAVES

Ebenezer Brackett, Brackett-Libbey Cemetery

Samuel Davis, Brown Davis Cemetery

James Gray, McClary Cemetery

John Ham, McClary Cemetery

Jeremiah Haynes, Haynes Cemetery

Nathaniel Kineson, Short Falls Cemetery

Francis Locke, McClary Cemetery

Samuel Locke, McClary Cemetery

Michael McClary, McClary Cemetery

William McCrillis, McClary Cemetery

Peter Pomp, McClary Cemetery

Eliphalet Sanborn, McClary Cemetery

Joseph Sherburne, Joseph Sherburne Cemetery

Seth Bartlett, McClary Cemetery

Enoch Brown, Brown Cemetery

Jonathan Curtis, McClary Cemetery

Nicholas Dolbeer, New Rye Cemetery

Mark Emerson, McClary Cemetery

Symonds Fowler, Fowler-Lovejoy Cemetery

Samuel Goss, Gossville Cemetery

Samuel Lear, Lear Cemetery

Samuel Libbey, Brackett-Libbey Cemetery

Ephraim Locke, McClary Cemetery

Daniel Philbrick, Barton-Philbrick Cemetery

Levi Robinson, Short Falls Cemetery

Simeon Towle, Gossville Cemetery

William Yeaton, Yeaton Cemetery