



Epsom Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past

Mar. 2010 No. 1

EPSOM BRASS BAND THROUGH THE YEARS

Sunday Afternoon 2 pm

Mar. 28, Epsom Public Library

The Epsom Historical Association will present a program on the "Epsom Brass Band Through the Years" with Bruce and Penny Graham. The organization has a proud heritage and long history, and few musical organizations can boast of a similar longevity. The program will include photographs, documentation of events and performances, a display, anecdotes, and reminiscences. Many residents can remember the many years Johnny B. Yeaton played the bass drum and oversaw the bands many activities, as his father before him.

The program will start following a short business meeting, and will be followed by refreshments. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The presentation will be held at the Epsom Public Library, Sunday, March 28th beginning at 2 PM.

March is Membership Month

The majority of our membership have the month of March as their renewal date. For those members, renewal forms have been enclosed. These forms can be either mailed to the Historical Association, or paid at the March meeting.

OLD LIBRARY UPDATE

Restoration work following the furnace blow back of last October has been completed. The work included a new ceiling downstairs, as well as replacing parts of several walls. New electrical fixtures, back door, heating vents and paint concluded the work in the basement. Upstairs, a complete cleaning, holes in the walls filled, new floor in the old office and bathroom, fresh paint and new carpet on the stairs completed the upstairs.

REUBEN SANBORN AND MARGARET UNKNOWN, NO LONGER

The Sanborn Genealogy (V.C. Sanborn) has never identified the wife of Reuben Sanborn (1699- died Epsom) of Hampton, just simply known as Margaret unknown. In many online genealogies she is given as Margaret Richardson. This Margaret Richardson was the daughter of Joseph Richardson of Newbury, Mass, born Sept. 27, 1699 (Newbury, MA, vital records). This same Margaret, in other online genealogies, is given as the wife of Benjamin Norton, married Feb. 14, 1722 (Newbury, MA, vital records). So, was this Margaret the wife of Reuben Sanborn, or Benjamin Norton, or unknown? Nowhere was proof, no record appears for Reuben Sanborn and any Margaret Richardson having been married, though online it is given as Hampton, NH.

Two documents have come to light which resolve the issue. The first is the will of Joseph Richardson of Newbury, who died there May 4, 1724. In the will, among other items, is the following: "I give and bequeath unto my two Daughters Sarah and Margaret Richardson and to their heires or assigns to be Equally Divided between them only itt is my Desire, that when my Son Daniel or Either of my Daughters Sarah or Margaret Shall see Cause to Sell any of the Lands or Meadow I have here given them, that If there Brother or Either of them will then give as much as any other Person that then itt shall be sold unto them, itt is to be under stood that the other halfe of my Land Meadow or Swamp so as I here give to my Daughters Sarah and Margaret And Intended only of the Lands Meadow or Swamp Lying by Emery's Meadow. I do also give unto the vallue of six Shillings per Annum unto my Daughter Sarah out of that halfe of my orchard which is not given unto my wife, During my said Daughters Single Life in the whole

Twelve Shillings per annum during her Single Life"

The will is dated April 7, 1724. This is significant as in the will, Margaret is not listed with a married name, therefor at the time of the will she is a single person. She could not, then, be the Margaret who married two years earlier, Benjamin Norton.

The children of Joseph and Margaret (Godfrey) Richardson, (the birth of children given in Newbury, MA vital records) are : Mary, William, Joseph, Elizabeth, Daniel, Sarah, Thomas, Margaret, Caleb. We know from probate and vital records that son William died May 7, 1743. Further probate records show the disposition of his property. An excerpt follows:

"May 23, 1743 "We Reuben Sanborn of Hampton in the province of New Hampshire in New England, yeoman, and Margaret his wife for inconsideration of forty two pounds in money of old tenor to us in hand paid by Daniel Richardson of Newbury in the province of Massachusetts Bay....our right title interests and shares in the real estate left by her brother William Richardson at his decease..."

Signed, Reuben Sanborn (his mark) Margaret Sanborn, personally appeared before Jabez Smith, Justice of the Peace. Recorded July 14, 1763."

This clearly shows the relationship between Margaret and her brothers, children of Joseph and Margaret Richardson, and the terms are signed by her husband, Reuben Sanborn of Hampton. Between the two documents, even without a marriage record, the relationship is proven that the wife of Reuben Sanborn was this Margaret Richardson.

Reuben and sons Reuben and Eliphalet came to Epsom in 1760, buying the property of Charles McCoy. This area is known to this day as Sanborn Hill. The death dates and burial place of Reuben and Margaret is unknown, but is likely the McClary Cemetery where son Eliphalet rests.

Hello Jane, Goodbye Margaret

Samuel Wallace (ca 1739-1800) brought his family to Epsom shortly before he died here in 1800. They settled on Sanborn Hill Road, New Rye end, and is buried in the Brown –Wallace Cemetery on that road. The family property passed to his son, Joseph Chase Wallace, who continued to reside in town until after 1840. Early Wallace family research (Boston Transcript and articles by John Mark Moses) speculated he died in Epsom, and that was verified when the Epsom Cemetery Book was revised in 1998. In addition, his wife, Jane aka Jenny, is buried beside him. The stones are fieldstones with just initials (S.W. and J.W.) and dates. His wife's identity was speculated by some, to be Jane Chase, but left by many others (as in the Cemetery Book) as Jane Unknown. Her son Joseph provided the strongest evidence having Chase as his middle name.

Again by deed, we find that Samuel is one of the creditors to the estate of the Rev. Stephen Chase (Rockingham Probate #5093) of New Castle. Stephen Chase does not leave a will and administration to his estate is given to his son. Two of his sons, Stephen and John are also creditors. He had a daughter Jane Chase who was born at Lynn, Mass. on 7 January 1739/40 and recorded as "Jenney" daughter of the Rev. Stephen Chase. He was born at Newbury on 26 October 1705 and died at New Castle on 1 January 1778. He graduated Harvard College in 1728 and married Jane Wingate, the daughter of Joshua and Mary (Lunt) Wingate. After his ministry at the second church of Lynn (which would later become Lynnfield), he accepted a post at New Castle where he served from 1750 to his death.

Since Jane is the correct age, based on her death in Epsom vital records, and that Samuel was in New Castle circa 1769, his wife Jane appears on deeds releasing dower, and that in the 1800

Epsom census she is referred to as "Jenny", it would seem accurate to identify her as the wife of Samuel Wallace. Hello Jane Chase.

Samuel also had a daughter Margaret "Peggy" Wallace. She was presumed married to John Dowst in 1821. The Boston Transcript articles on the Wallace Family, nor John Mark Moses make any such claim. The will of her father Samuel gives "to daughter Peggie Treadie \$100", but was not understood until recently that this daughter, Margaret "Peggy" married on 22 August 1790 at New Castle as his second wife, Edward TREDICK, son of Henry and Elizabeth (---) Tredick. (New Castle Town Records 3:265. That leaves the spouse of John Dowst, also a Margaret "Peggy" Wallace as unknown. For now, good-bye Margaret.



Brown-Wallace Cemetery

S.W. (Samuel Wallace) D 1800 ae 63

J.W. (Jane aka Jenny Chase, wife of Samuel) D 1821 ae 82

EPSOM BUNKER HILL CASUALTY IDENTIFIED

Epsom history and lore abounds about the death of Andrew McClary at Bunker Hill, but as it turns out, he was not the only casualty from the town of Epsom at the famed battle. The fact that a John Wallace from Epsom was killed at Bunker has appeared in early town histories. He is mentioned in the 1823 history by Rev. Jonathan Curtis, and again by John Dolbeer in his sketch of Epsom history. New Hampshire State Papers mention three John Wallaces at Bunker Hill, two of which later appear in pension papers, leaving one unknown John Wallace. There is no official record of any John Wallace having died at the battle, with the exception of it in the aforementioned histories. There is no John Wallace in town records before 1776, other than one "John Woles", who in 1750 was chosen assessor in Epsom.

In 1776 there were several Wallace families in town, as shown by those who signed the Association Test, ie. Ebenezer, Weymouth, Nathaniel, George and Abraham. There was also, albeit a little earlier, a William Wallace family. Of those residing in Epsom in 1776, Weymouth Wallace and Ebenezer Wallace were participants in the war, Nathaniel and Abraham both had young families. Ebenezer was the son of George Wallace, one of the earliest settlers.

From probate and vital records, it was known that George and his wife Margaret (McClary) had daughters, Martha, Margaret, Hannah, Jane and Elizabeth. Two sons were known from the will, Ebenezer of Epsom and George of Deerfield, brothers who took part in the Revolution. This is how the family has been recorded, until now.

In December of 2009, a Jeff Hardy signed the guest book at EpsomHistory.com, leaving information that he had launched a new website, www.georgebwallace.org. On the website are many articles and sources documenting George Benjamin Wallace, born Epsom, son John, son of George Wallace of Deerfield, son of George and Margaret (McClary) Wallace. Among the primary sources, is a short autobiography by George Benjamin Wallace, which covered the early years of his life in Epsom, an excerpt follows:

"My Great Grand Father George married Margret McClary Sister to Andrew McClary that was killed on Bunkers hill, and Uncle to General Michel McClary who served through the war. My Grand Father George and brothers John and Ebeneser onely sons of G Grand Father. John killed on Bunker hill, where Major Andrew McClary his Uncle fell."

George Benjamin Wallace, from his first hand account, gives his grandfather George as having two brothers – John and Ebenzer; John having been killed at Bunker Hill along with Andrew McClary, sons of George and Margaret (McClary) Wallace. Placement of John in the family is left to circumstantial evidence.

George Wallace mentions his entire family in his will of 1781, and in the case of his daughter Jane, who had married James Gray and died in 1772, left to her son John Gray (who died 1784 before the will was proved). With no mention of any spouse or other grandchildren, it can be assumed John was never married, and if so, had no surviving children. The earlier daughters of George and Margaret were baptized in Rye, the last daughter is mentioned in Epsom records, and there is no known baptism for any of the sons. Knowing this, it seems that John would be, perhaps, among the youngest of the children, and is placed as likely the last, having been born between 1752 and 1756.

IN OUR ELECTRONIC EDITION

- Members of the Epsom Historical Association who provide email addresses, receive an expanded version of the newsletter by email. In this edition:

Reuben Sanborn and Margaret Unknown, no longer, solves just who the wife of Reuben Sanborn was, which up to this time was uncertain.

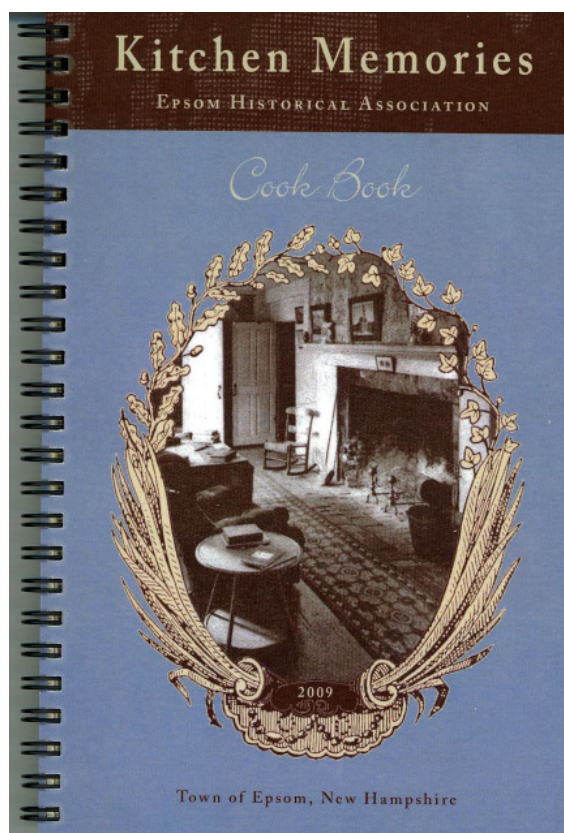
Hello Jane, Goodbye Margaret - Recent research identifies the wife of Samuel Wallace of Epsom, and questions the identity of their daughter.

Bunker Hill Casualty- Listed in some of the early histories, this person has finally been linked to an Epsom family, an unknown hero of the Revolution.

NEW ADDITION TO OUR GROWING COLLECTION

Tim Cofran donated a small strong-box of old deeds that had been held by his father, attorney George Cofran of Pembroke. Nearly 30 deeds were included, several as early as 1801 and up to the turn of the last century. The deeds appear mainly to be from the Moses family, including Samuel, James and Mark. Among the properties mentioned is what was known for many years as the Cass place in New Rye, sold to James Moses from John Wallace, part of the estate of Ebenezer Wallace, who received the property from his father George Wallace. George Wallace was one of the town's earliest settlers.

KITCHEN MEMORIES \$14.95



The Epsom Historical Association debuted its new cookbook "Kitchen Memories" on Sunday July 12th, complete with samples of selected recipes, at the Epsom Public Library. One hundred of the cookbooks were sold during the day, and the remainder were sold within days of the event. The 170 page cookbook features submitted and other recipes along with related historical photos from the Association's digital archives, with some old remedies from various sources. Complete with a helpful index, the book is divided into seven categories: Appetizers & Dips; Breakfast, Brunch and Breads; Cookies and Bars; Desserts; Main Dishes and Casser-oles; Salads, Sides, Soups and Stews; and finally, This & That. The book is available for purchase at Historical Association meetings and through the Epsom Public Library.