

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL MEETING DAY & TIME The EPSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY and EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Present a Program on the HISTORY OF EPSOM

The Epsom Public Library, through a recent survey, found that the number one subject of interest for a program would be one on Epsom History. In order to meet this need the library has asked the Epsom Historical Association to present such a program, and the result will be a special program to be presented

**Thursday June 7, 2001
7:00 pm I.O.O.F. Hall.**

The business meeting portion of the EHA will be dispensed with in order to present a full one hour program. Since the History of Epsom cannot be fully told in such a short time period, this program will focus on the Chartering of the town in 1727 through the 1790 census. There are many great stories that fill this era of settling the town, particularly along East street, what is now Center Hill. Learn about the 20 home lots, the first garrison, the Indians, the first settler, first minister and meeting house, Epsom during the Revolution, and the expansion of the town off East Street.

Who will be the caretaker of Epsom's past? The town was fortunate enough to have people like Gilbert Knowles, Loella Bunker and George H. Yeaton, who took the time to write about Epsom's History. The following is from George H. Yeaton:

Instead of traveling long distances to visit places of historical interest, let us commence at home, in Epsom and places nearby.

Visit Fort Mountain, then the ledges on the New Orchard Road, with the foot prints in the now solid ledge; the bear den on Nuds Hill, just over the Pittsfield town line.

This was the place where Ebenezer Barton had a terrific fight with a bear.

On the old Range Road are the Lamprey Ledges, the Devils Den and the leaning rock nearby. Then there is the bears den on Cata-mont Mt., in South Pittsfield, in which the bear lived who chased the hunter.

The spot at Epsom, Old Center, where Mrs. Isabella McCoy was captured by the Indians August 21, 1747. The first cemetery in Epsom. The spot where the Epsom Block House stood. The old muster field. The old McClary House. Where the first church in Epsom stood. "Yeaton's Tavern" where the Toll-Gate was located and where they came from Pittsfield, on horseback, to pick up the mail for that town, where the stage from Portsmouth to Concord dropped it off. (cont.)

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The first official turnpike built in the State of New Hampshire passed through Epsom by way of Yeaton's Tavern. At "Yeaton Four Corners."

Then come with me to the old McClary field where Major McClary left his plow in the furrow and leaping on his horse started for Nottingham, and then on to Cambridge, Massachusetts, when the news reached Epsom of the battle of Lexington. There are many old houses in Epsom that have a history connected with them, homes that have been built 175 to 200 years.

Then one might call at Mr. and Mrs. Knights and ask to see the old Indian grinding stone, which came from the home of Mrs.

Katherine Knight, where she lived when a girl in the town of Deerfield. This old stone mortar is made in a rock which is three feet in length, two in width and one foot in depth. The cavity is seven inches deep at its lowest point gradually becoming less and less until it reaches the outlet, the cavity is fifteen inches in width and sixteen in length.

There is in Rochester, N.H., at the home of John S. Clark, who formerly lived in Epsom and Pittsfield, a similar stone, which I think came from "Nuds Hill" just over the Epsom-Pittsfield town line, on the Pittsfield side.

These two old Indian relics are very similar to the one on Fort Mountain, except that I understand the one on the Mt. is made in a solid ledge.

There is a small one in a large rock at the outlet of the "Wallace" or "Gulf" brook.

I wish that at these old historical events and records could have been written in a more attractive and interesting manner.

*George H. Yeaton, at Gossville, in
1962*

There are three Indian places in Epsom that history tells us were much used by the Indians for camping grounds.

There is one on the Little Suncook river near where the present, Baptist Church stands at this date 1963. This was an ideal location, here they could catch all the fish they wanted, some to eat daily, other fish they would dry and keep for use in the winter months, the poorer kind would be used for fertilizer, burying a large fish in each hill of corn when planting.

As late as the year 1870 a small patch of Indian corn would be found growing on the shore of the river on the south side, seeding itself from year to year.

Another favorite camping place was on the Wallace brook, evidence of the Indians using this spot for camping hunting and fishing is that near the mouth of the brook, where it empties itself into the river, there is a large rock with a place made in it to pound corn into meal.

Then there is the strong evidence that Indians lived at or near Fort Mountain. The cave in the side of the mountain, the large pounding bowl made in a ledge, and it was near this mountain, so history tells us, that the lead mine was located from which the Indians obtained the lead which they traded with Sergeant Blake, which he made into bullets.

If you should visit Fort Mountain, and while you are looking at the old Indian pounding mill, just picture to yourself a small group of Indian women standing stolidly nearby, waiting their turn at the corn mill, and after they have finished pounding their corn into meal, silently and in single file leaving the mountain for their camp nearby, each with a small leather pouch filled with corn meal.