



# Epsom Historical Association

## NEWSLETTER

*Catch up to the Past*

May 2003

### **Next Member Meeting** Sunday May 18 at 2:30 I.O.O.F. Hall

#### **The Plight of Epsom Family Cemeteries**

Epsom has over forty cemeteries and the majority of these are small, sometimes hidden, family cemeteries. During the last five years all the known cemeteries have been visited and the gravestones re-recorded and photographed. This was a major step in starting to preserve the information that these resting places offer to those doing genealogy research and just knowing the location of the burial of many of the town's citizens. Even though this much has been done to recover information, the physical condition of the majority of these cemeteries is what one might expect after decades of neglect and abandonment. The Epsom Historical Association is embarking on a program to help preserve these old burial grounds.

The meeting this month will focus on many of these cemeteries, featuring the photographs taken of the gravestones, and linking these with the genealogy of these families, allowing us once again the opportunity of learning about many of Epsom's historic families and citizens of the past. Please join us for this fascinating look at the plight of Epsom Family Cemeteries. A short business meeting and refreshments will round out the afternoons program.



### **MYSTERY PHOTO**

Looks like a quiet afternoon in town as these two gentlemen relax on the porch of a familiar Epsom location about 1915. It is unknown who they are, but you should be able to figure out where...or can you?

### **KUDOS**

Jay and Lisa Cote got our Cemetery Project off to an early start by cleaning out the Cate Cemetery on New Orchard Road. During the cleaning operation they unearthed the gravestone of John, son of Samuel & Abigail Cate, who died Oct. 25, 1815 AE. 9 mo. This stone was buried and was unable to be located during the time that the photographs were taken (it has now been done). This was one of Epsom's unknown cemeteries, but a note of the gravesite and the gravestones was left behind in the notes of George Yeaton which enabled it to be located. Thanks to Jay and Lisa !

## *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.

## *Inscriptions from Cemetery No. 10*

Joseph Sherburne Cemetery, on  
New Orchard Road in Kimball field.

### **Leavitt**

Lucinda, dau. of Thomas and Mary Leavitt died  
Apr. 13, 1828 ae 23 yrs.

### **Pitman**

Elizabeth (Peverly) Pitman (mother of Olive and wife  
of Ezekiel) DIED July 21, 1817 ae 99 Y ?? 19 D

### **Sherburne**

Joseph Sherburne DIED Sept. 1, 1807 ae 62 Rev.  
Soldier.

Olive (Pitman) Sherburn, DIED Dec. 18, 1832 aged  
83

John Sherburn, (son of Joseph), DIED April 20,  
1822 ae 42

James Sherburn, In memory of, who died Oct. 30,  
1851 ae 60 y'rs 10 mo's.

Sally (Prescott) Sherburn, who died Sept. 28, 1852  
ae 53 y'rs & 8 mo's.

Alvah Jason, Son of James and Sally Sherburn,  
DIED Sept. 10, 1852 ae 26 y'rs 6 mo's

### **Sherburn**

William (Jr.), son of David & Betsey S. Sherburn  
DIED Sept. 8, 1822 ae 13 yrs & 11 mo's

Sarah, dau'r of David & Betsey S. Sherburn DIED  
Feb. 18, 1826 ae 7 yrs, 11 mos. (stone mostly  
disintegrated)

David Sherburn, DIED Aug. 18, 1856 ae 76.

Betsey S. (Sherburne Moses), Wife of David  
Sherburn, DIED Apr. 28, 1869 age 82.

William Sherburn DIED Feb. 23, 1855 ae 31 yrs &  
10 mo.

William Sherburn (Nathaniel 4, John 3, John 2, John  
1) DIED June 23, 1808 ae 62.

Sarah, (Muchmore), his wife, Died Feb. 18, 1829  
ae 81.

# DUES NOTICE

## MARCH IS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MONTH

Annual dues for the Epsom Historical Association are due during the month of March for the coming year. Our programs are open to the public, but members receive our Newsletter about a half dozen times per year (including an expanded edition in January); are able to serve as officers and on committees, and includes invitations to special member events. Dues can be paid at the March member meeting or by sending your family membership check in the amount of **\$5.00** to:

Epsom Historical Association  
c/o Lisa Cote, Treasurer  
202 New Orchard Road  
Epsom, NH 03234

*An asterisk (\*) after your last name on the address label from this mailing indicates that you are paid for the coming year. **Note: The next newsletter will be sent only to current members.***

As a part of our membership drive, this newsletter has been sent to prospective members - more than doubling our normal mailing. Please help spread the word to interested individuals so they also can enjoy with us the preservation of Epsom History!

# 2003 Projects

The officers of the Epsom Historical Association have embarked on several projects for 2003, many of which were outlined in the previous newsletter. Committees are now being formed to facilitate and implement these projects, and members are urged to join any committee in which they have an interest. Among them are the following:

**CEMETERIES** - To start an 'adopt' a cemetery program to help preserve and maintain some of the old forgotten family cemeteries with local businesses, individuals and organizations.

**HISTORIC SITES** - to look into signs, plaques and markers for historic sites; to draw up a list of historic sites and structures in Epsom; to help maintain and outfit our new home.

**FUNDRAISING** - to begin to explore and raise funds for carrying out our 2003 projects.

**PUBLICATIONS** - to determine what type of publication(s) to work on.

**LIBRARY** - the cataloging, re-typing and care of existing files belonging to the Epsom Historical Association.

If you can help or are interested in any of the above, please contact any Epsom Historical Association officer. We will discuss these further at the member meeting.

### ***VISIT the EHA online***

Look back at past meetings  
Agendas and Minutes  
Calendar of Events

<http://www.2eha.net/epsom/ehapage.htm>