



# Epsom Historical Association

## NEWSLETTER

*Catch up to the Past*

May 2007

### Meet First Lady

### Jane Appleton Pierce

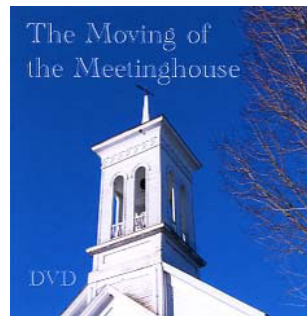
**May 20, 2007, 2:00 pm**

The next meeting of the Epsom Historical Association will be Sunday afternoon May 20, at the old Epsom Town Hall starting at 2:00 pm. Our guest will be Virginia Gerseny who will present a program as Jane Appleton Pierce, wife of the only President from New Hampshire, Franklin Pierce. Recent books have initiated new interest in the country's 14th President, and the family story is one of tragedy. As the President struggled with States Rights in an ever dividing political struggle, the family also struggled with the death of their son.

The program presents an outstanding opportunity to learn about New Hampshire's only national first family. From their marriage late in their lives through her struggles as first lady and later ill health, it is a story that should be heard. Portraying Jane Appleton Pierce, Virginia brings the story home in a wonderful perspective.

The program will be preceded by a business meeting and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

### NEW DVD AVAILABLE



The Epsom Historical Association has made available a second DVD 'The Moving of the Meetinghouse'.

Running just over half an hour, the DVD includes 20 minutes of video showing the

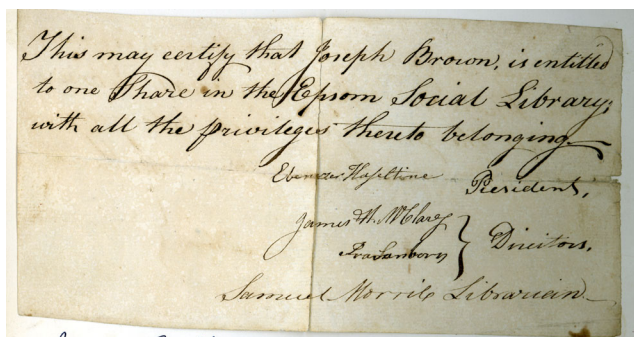
meetinghouse coming down Route 4, around the town hall, and being set in place. The ringing of the bell is also included. This is followed by a slide show of pictures of the move, and ends with bonus video of the interior of the church before it was moved. For those who did not view the move, or wish to have an historical record of that historic day in February 2007, arrangements to purchase the DVD can be made by contacting the Historical Association. Cost is only \$15.00. Email us to reserve and make arrangements to buy a copy at [epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:epsomhistory@aol.com).



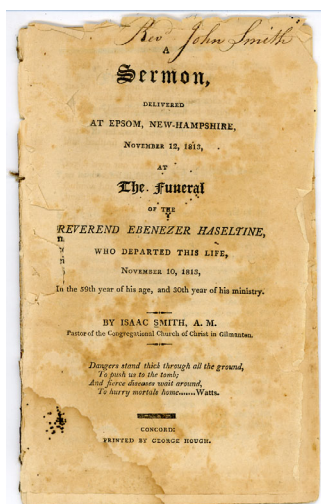
**Can you help us identify this family dwelling ?**

## NEW IN OUR ARCHIVES

As we continue to archive the holdings in the Historical Association's collection, more new items have been received. We cannot thank enough the individuals who graciously have loaned items to be scanned and added to the archives. Here are some recent items that are new and some that have been archived from our collection:



This is a note to Joseph Brown providing a privilege to use the books in the Epsom Social Library. He was one of the original proprietors of the library, and since the note is not dated, and it does not indicate a renewal, it would appear that it might signify his original proprietorship. This would date this item to about 1800. Signed by Ebenezer Hazeltine (died 1813), Ira Sanborn and James H. McClary (died 1810). Item from the old minutes ledger of the Epsom Library Trustees. Forerunner of library card?

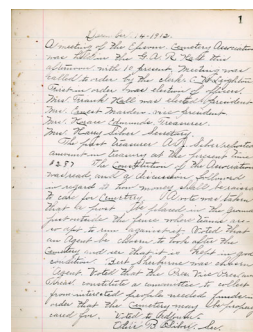
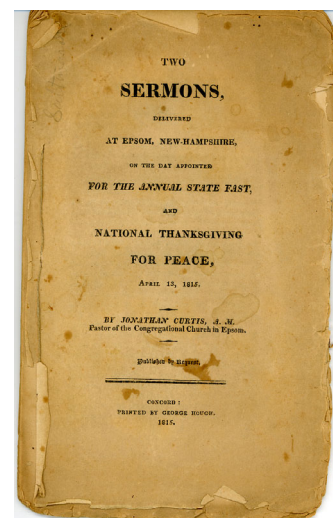


A Funeral Sermon by Isaac Smith for Rev. Ebenezer Hazeltine who died suddenly in 1813 in the '59th year of his age, and 30th year of his ministry.' This original printing of the sermon was found amongst the files of the Epsom Historical Association. The sermon has been transcribed and it can

be found on the Epsom Early Settlers web site at [www.epsomhistory.com](http://www.epsomhistory.com).

Two Fast Day Sermons given in Epsom April 1815 by Rev. Jonathan Curtis. Rev. Curtis was hired by the Congregational Society in January of 1815, succeeding the late Ebenezer Hazeltine. The town previously hired their ministers, but not agreeing on Mr. Curtis, the Congregational Society was

formed and they hired him. A rift had developed which later saw the forming of the Free Will Baptist Society in 1824. The two sermons were given on the same day, the first at the AM meeting, the second after lunch, as was the custom. The printing of the sermon was found among the stacks at the new Epsom Public Library. It is being transcribed and will appear in the future on the web site.



The Gossville Cemetery Association's trustees decided to have the Clerk's minutes of the Association scanned and archived. The records date from 1912 and go to the present. The early officers of note were Emma Hall, President and Alice Silver, Secretary. The first

few meetings the organization was called the Epsom Cemetery Association, but a new and revised constitution was adopted and the name was changed to the current Gossville Cemetery Association. Also included in the records are the signatures of members who signed the book agreeing to the new bylaws. The cemetery was deeded to the organization by the widow of Stickney Robinson several years after his death. Since the book seems to start in 1912, it would indicate that there was probably an earlier record book which probably began in the early 1870's - Harry Silver is mentioned as the early treasurer.





These pictures are of Wheelock G. Robinson's gravesite. This location is marked by a simple cement headstone with an attached name plate. This location is adjacent to his blacksmith shop and located approximately 100 meters from the house site. Cedar and Douglas fir trees are growing from the grave plot.



At the house location is a collapsed cabin and a partially standing fireplace. Also, there is a substantial refuse dump. Some of the artifacts shown are handmade hooks possibly made by Wheelock, as well as horseshoes, drill and stove parts.

## FOLLOW UP - Stickney Robinson Journal

In the last newsletter there was an excerpt from the journal of Stickney Robinson during his several year stay in California 1858-1860. Later in the journal he mentions several times visiting his son, Wheelock G. Robinson. Stickney returned to Epsom, but Wheelock stayed in California. In a book containing genealogy of the Ferrin family (Stickney Robinson married Miriam Ferrin), it gives this information: "Children (Robinson): Miriam, b. 17 Oct. 1837; **Wheelock G., b. 18 July 1839, in 1923 residing in California;** Benjamin S., b. 1 May 1840; Mary L., b. 2 April 1845 and d. 3 Aug. 1846; Joseph L., b. 17 April 1847, m. Clara Robinson".

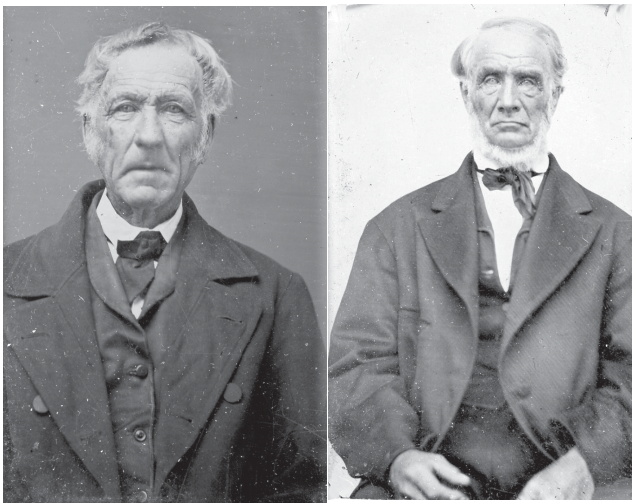
Based on that information, the hunt was on to find more information on Wheelock, and perhaps to find when he died. He was found in the 1900 census in Long Valley, Mendocino County; in 1910 he is listed as W.G. Robinson, Westport, Mendocino County, California, aged 70, single. He could not be found in the 1920 census.

Out of the blue last month, an email from Phil Carnahan from Ukiah, CA, revealed that a burial for Wheelock G. Robinson was found on Red Mountain in Mendocino County - and from the California Death Index "Robinson, Wheelock G., age 83 years, died San Francisco, 10 Aug. 1914." He was also going to try and follow up with a photo and obit. There is a ten year discrepancy with the age, which a photo or obit might shed some light on. In any event, the information helps complete some background on what happened to Wheelock G. Robinson.



## NEW PHOTO COLLECTION AND ITEMS LOANED

Through the generosity and courtesy of John and Ruth Brown, many new photographs and items were loaned to the Epsom Historical Association to be scanned and added to the digital archives. Among the photos were portraits of the Burnham family, included Alphonse Burnham, Jeremiah Gordon Burnham, James McCutcheon Burnham, Sarah Worth Burnham, Mary Jane Wells Burnham, Maude and Doris Burnham, plus the George Pike and Bowen families.



Above: The brothers Burnham, left Alphonse J. (1800-1881) and Jeremiah Gordon (1787-1851).



The items loaned also include much of the genealogy of the Burnham family compiled by Doris Burnham Stevens; an autograph book of Celia Mason Brown, and the marriage certificate of William C. Burnham and Hattie A. Pike. The papers were photocopied for the Historical Association files, and the photos and other items were scanned for the digital archives. The photo collection will be added to the Epsom Early Settlers web site. Above a glass photo of Mary Jane Wells (1837-1895) daughter of Theophilus Wells and Lucy M. Critchett. She married in 1856, James McCutcheon Burnham. Our thanks to Ruth and John for loaning these items for preservation.

## COTTERELL CONNECTION? Unsolved Genealogy

It puzzled me for a long time. In the Gossville Cemetery:

John Cotterell, DIED at Fortress Monroe, March 23, 1863, AE 24. A soldier of the 11th Reg. NHV

John T. Cotterell, DIED Apr. 23, 1898, AE 62.

One John born 1839, the other 1835. Were they related? They could not be brothers? Who were the parents? Where are they buried?



Researching old houses and census info, and with other sources, some of the mystery was figured out. John T. Cotterell lived at Short Falls Corner. He is mentioned in many town records, and served several town offices. He was born in England, son of John Cotterell and Martha Minett. This is confirmed in family records, and that one of his children who died young, was named Minett Wallace Cotterell.

The other John, was John F. Cotterell. His parents lived in Epsom, Thomas Cotterell, born about 1802 in England, who married Jane Tripp, daughter of John Tripp and Sally Gordon. They appear in the 1850 census of Epsom with three children. They appear in 1870 in the Haverhill, MA. census. Thomas died there April 16, 1877, son of Thomas and Lydia Cotterell. The death of his wife, Jane, is

COTTERELL CONNECTION, cont.  
in Haverhill, MA, Oct. 16, 1878. Thomas and Jane had at least two other children: Sarah Jane who married a Jesse Holden and lived in Haverhill; and Mary A. who married a Horace Holden.

The question still remains as there is a connection between Thomas, father of John (F.) Cotterell who died in the Civil War while the family was in Epsom; and John Cotterell who was the father of John T. Cotterell. Both were born in England during a similar time period. Coincidence there were two Cotterell families in Epsom? Thomas & Jane Cotterell's children were born in New York State including John F.. John T. Cotterell was born in England.



Above is a picture of John T. Cotterell, his wife Clara A. Sanders, and daughter Bertha Thizra Cotterell. John had a sister name Thizra. Bertha married Bryant T. Langley of Epsom. Photo courtesy of Bonnie Eberly, a Langley descendant, who has worked with Epsom Early Settlers on Langley and Cotterell family genealogy. I believe there may be a portrait picture of John T. at the IOOF Hall.

## Poor Farm Cemetery

on Black Hall Road, near Cutter's Barn on knoll.

### INSCRIPTIONS

#### Goss

[Samuel Goss](#) DIED Aug. 5, 1834 in the 44th year of his age.

[Susan G. \(Towle\)](#), His Wife, Died Dec. 18, 1873 ae 78

#### Rowell

[William Harris](#), Son of Asa T. and Abigail S. (Moulton) Rowell, died March 27, 1842 ae 5 y'rs & 16 days

#### Towle/Toowle

[Mr. Joseph Towle](#) departed this life Aug. 5th 1828 in his 62 year

[Mrs. Sarah \(Wallace\) Toowle](#) (wife of Joseph Towle) Died July 10, 1846 ae 71

#### Yeaton

[Mr. E. Haseltine Yeaton](#) Died June 28, 1846 ae 32.

Note: Robert Cutter was laid to rest in this cemetery

## MUSEUM NOTES



Volunteers are needed to help get the old library ready for use by the Epsom Historical Association once the Library Trustees have finished moving items out. Together the organizations will work to promote the new Epsom Historical Center. First step will be to clean and paint the downstairs. Second, set up the Historical Association Office and Research Center. If you can help with either project, please contact Harvey Harkness or Carole Brown. Thanks!

## IN THE ELECTRONIC ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Members of the Epsom Historical Association who provide their email addresses receive their newsletter by email. This electronic newsletter includes additional pages of information with many more photos, most in color. The electronic news is a way we can provide more information to our members and saves money on printing and mailing costs. In this edition of the electronic newsletter:

***NEW ITEMS RECIEVED FOR ARCHIVES*** - some great new print items added from as early as 1800.

***WHEELOCK G. ROBINSON GRAVESITE*** - Land use survey in California unearths Epsom resident's burial and home.

***NEW PHOTO COLLECTION ADDED*** - a great collection of places and portraits of some Epsom residents dating back to the early 1850's.

***COTTERELL CONNECTION ?*** - John F. Cotterell (1839-1863) and John T. Cotterell (1835-1898) are both buried in the Gossville Cemetery - are they related?

***CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS*** - the Poor Farm Cemetery, families who lived on the site prior to its becoming the poor farm.

***MUSEUM UPDATE*** - the Historical Association is looking for volunteers to help clean, paint and set up the downstairs of the old library. Contact Harvey Harkness.



Have you met Gene Nealogist? He is the new talking head with tips for using the Epsom Early Settlers web site - just find the buttons labeled "Ask Gene." It is kind of tacky, but brings a little levity to the web site. Visit him at [www.epsomhistory.com/epsom/](http://www.epsomhistory.com/epsom/)

## COMPUTER SYSTEM PURCHASED

At long last the Epsom Historical Association, with the aid of your donations and recent DVD sales, has purchased a new computer, monitor, laser and ink jet printer. This is the first step in getting the tools and equipment needed for the Historical Association to begin to properly archive and inventory its holdings. The computer system still needs additional software in order for any of this work to begin - office, OCR, and document storage are among the programs and items needed. In addition, paper, photo paper, storage disks and a portable back-up drive will be needed to begin to make information available to researchers. If you can help as a volunteer or perhaps contribute towards our goal to add to our computer system, either email us at [epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:epsomhistory@aol.com) or call Harvey Harkness at 736-4571. Thanks to our donors!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Historical Association is getting set to finally begin to organize and archive its holdings. The work will require filing and organizing papers in the files; databasing and archiving properly documents and photos; organizing old town reports; and databasing historic items that have been donated. Your help in setting up our research library and museum would be greatly appreciated. Email us at [Epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:Epsomhistory@aol.com) or call Harvey Harkness at 736-4571 if you are able to participate in this worthwhile effort.

### **2007 Historical Association Officers**

President - Harvey Harkness

Vice President - Phil Yeaton

Secretary - Elsie Fife

Treasurer - Penny Yeaton

email - [epsomhistory@aol.com](mailto:epsomhistory@aol.com)

**Visit us online [www.epsomhistory.com](http://www.epsomhistory.com)**