



Epsom Historical Association NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past

May 2008 No. 2

Next meeting:

Native People of New England



The Epsom Historical Association meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2:00 pm, Sunday at the old Town Hall. Tim Patterson returns with more information on the native people of New England, following up on his October 2007

presentation. The history and culture of the native people of New England will be discussed by Tim Patterson, as he shares his personal story of being raised in a Canadian Algonquin family. Tim and his family are residents of Epsom and are well known and respected in our community. A short business meeting will begin the afternoon with refreshments following. The program is open to the public and is free of charge.

2008 Epsom Historical Association Officers

President - Harvey Harkness

Vice President - Phil Yeaton

Secretary - Elsie Fife

Treasurer - Penny Yeaton

email - epsomhistory@aol.com

IN OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Members of the Epsom Historical Association who provide their email addresses receive their newsletter via email. This electronic version is an expanded version which contains many more pages, photos and articles. If you wish to upgrade to this more complete version, please email epsomhistory@aol.com.

IN THIS EDITION:

Genealogy - Ephraim Berry Family

Rev War Pension Papers of Benjamin Berry

Epsom History Website gets new design

Next Historical Association meeting information

Fowler-Lovejoy Cemetery Inscriptions

McClary Family Obits from old newspapers

SPECIAL - History of the Epsom Honor Roll

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OPENS RESEARCH CENTER

The Epsom Historical Association opens its research area in the basement of the Epsom Public Library's Historical Center, Wednesday evenings during the month of May from 7 to 9 pm. The area houses the files and archives of the Epsom Historical Association, including original manuscripts, photos and research materials for town history and genealogy. Future plans call for the upstairs to be a museum of town artifacts, and also contains the historical items belonging to the Epsom Public Library.

People who have items to donate to the growing collection, or have photos and other items of historical interest that can be scanned as part of the Historical Associations electronic archives, are encouraged to bring them to the center. Hours will be extended to include Saturday morning hours during the summer months. Feel free to drop in for a visit !

GENEALOGY - EPHRAIM BERRY FAMILY

BACKGROUND. Not much in the way of research has been done on the any of the various Berry families which had ties to the early settlers of Epsom. From old town records, we do know the following: William Berry of Rye, in 1723, was appointed to raise money there for the early proprietors to work with. Thomas Berry was a member of a committee to select the center of the town in 1729.

Thomas Berry in 1732 served on a committee to select the 20 families to have home lots.

Thomas Berry of Rye, in 1732 drew home lot No. 3.

Zachariah Berry of Rye, in 1732 drew home lot No. 8.

Ebenezer Berry of Rye, in 1732 drew home lot No. 9.

The following Berry's drew lots other than the 20 original home lots:

Joshua Berry, #34; William Berry, #35; James Berry, #40; Samuel Berry #42; Nathaniel Berry #46; Nehemiah Berry, #64; Thomas Berry, along with William Bucknell and Isaac Foss, #88; John Berry, along with William Perkins, #89; and Ebenezer Berry, #102.

In 1733, Thomas Berry was a Selectman.

In 1740, Thomas Berry was a Selectman.

In 1743, Deacon Nathan Marden married Susanna Berry, daughter of Nehemiah Berry & Sarah Rand.

John Mark Moses writes that Samuel Wallace willed to his son William Wallace his "fifty-acre lot in Epsom on the north side of the road" between Joahua Berry's land on the east and parsonage land on the west.

In 1749, William Berry was selected surveyor or highways.

In 1750 Ephraim Berry was chosen tythingman.

In 1750, Joshua Berry was chosen highway surveyor.

In 1752, Joshua Berry was a Selectman.

James Berry was town clerk 1745-1748.

In 1762, Ephraim Berry was one of the signers of a petition to have tax money restored.

Lot No. 6, next to that of Rev. Tucke, is called by John Mark Moses the 'lot of Joshua & Ephraim Berry'.

In April of 1773 Joshua Berry of Greenland, according to John Mark Moses 'deeded John Berry of Epsom the western half of home lot No. 6, on the north side of the road, bounded westerly on land of Rev. John Tucke - two days later John and wife Deborah deeded this land to Amos Morrill'.

In 1776, Ephraim Berry signed the Association Test in Epsom.

A Benjamin Berry enlisted in Captain Drew's company, Revolutionary War.

1790 Census, Thomas Berry is the only family of the name in Epsom. Later a Levi Berry appears.

In 1807, Jeremiah Page wills part of his homestead to daughters Sarah Berry and Abigail Bickford.

It would appear that from the early settlement of the town that there were families of the surname Berry from both Rye and Greenland. From the town records it would appear also that it is primarily the Greenland line that is mentioned most often - Joshua and Ephraim. From the book of Sylvia Fitts Getchell "The Berry's by the Beach" she gives some genealogy (excerpt):

"CHILDREN OF WILLIAM AND SABINA (LOCKE) BERRY:

1. Thomas Berry b. 8 Oct. 1690; d. 28 Je. 1760; m. by 1715, Mehitabel Dearborn.

2. Joshua Berry, m. 13 Dec. 1716, Abiah Philbrook, dau. of John Philbrook. Apparently lived for a time in Epsom and in Greenland, N.H."

From the ministerial records of Greenland, Ephraim Berry, son of Joshua, was baptized in 1723. This gives us a direct connection to a father and son. Other sources, unconfirmed, gives Joshua additional children, Rachel and Joshua. It is likely there were others, but for this article, the establishment of Joshua Berry of Greenland and son Ephraim living in Epsom on one of the original home lots, will suffice.

THE SEARCH. The reason for the search for information on this family arose from collecting information and pension information on Epsom's Revolutionary War veterans. Among the names of those who served from Epsom was a Benjamin Berry. His widow filed for his pension, and it is among the pension papers we learn the following. That Benjamin Berry was from Epsom, and served in the Revolutionary War, probably serving at least twice. He apparently never returned to Epsom, but did go to Durham where he married Sobriety Duda (daughter of Benimore Durrell who changed the family name to Duda), and on an over extended furlough, was reported as a deserter. His new wife's brothers returned him to complete his service. He and his wife Sobriety had two children, Sally and Joseph. Sally married first a Smith and later a Morrill and resided in Maine, the brother died before he was married. Sobriety (Duda) Berry also removed to Maine. Benjamin went to sea and died about 1784 of yellow fever in South Carolina. His wife remained his widow. The question was how to connect Benjamin Berry to a Berry family in Epsom. The pension information came from Heritage Quest online through a partnership with the New England Historic Genealogical Society. This partnership has since dissolved, and it was learned that as valuable as it was to retrieve these pension records, they were, in many cases, incomplete. More recently, a new site, Footnote.com, has released images of Revolutionary War pensions, and are complete. Using the new site, the records of Benjamin Berry's widow's pension records revealed additional pages, including the following:

"I Sarah Chandler of Farmington in the County of Franklin and State of Maine on oath depose and say that I am eighty four years of age and was born in Epsom, New Hampshire and am the daughter of Ephraim Berry, deceased. I left Epsom New Hampshire about seventy years ago and removed from that place to Gilmantown, N.H., staid there about one year and a half and then went to Winthrop, State of Maine, do not remember how long I resided there; I then moved to Farmington (Maine) where I have resided ever since, some fifty five years. I had the following brothers; John Berry, Thomas Berry, Joshua Berry and Benjamin Berry. I have always understood that my brother Benjamin was a soldier of the Revolution."

From the information contained in the pension file and additional information, we can add to the genealogy the following:

CHILDREN OF EPHRAIM BERRY:

1. John Berry

2. Thomas Berry

3. Joshua Berry

4. Benjamin Berry, m. Sobriety Duda in Durham, NH, by Reverend Mr. Adams;
children:

- Sally, married first Smith; second, Morrill; children Fanny, Rosannah, William M.,
Nathaniel, Asa, Gardner.

- Joseph, d. unmarried in Massachusetts

5. Sarah, b. Epsom abt. 1763, d. Farmington, ME., 24 Jan. 1851, m. Col. Moses Chandler, b. 26
Aug. 1757, Westford, MA, d. 27 Apr. 1828, Farmington, ME.

children:

- Nehemiah, b. May 18, 1790, Winthrop, ME.

- Sarah, b. July 10, 1792, Farmington, ME

- Moses, b. 1796/1799, ME

Also seen online was an unsupported reference to the wife of Ephraim Berry being Abigail Blake, but no entry for such a marriage has yet been found in records or Blake genealogy. There is still research to do, in particular, deeds and probate, which may provide some additional leads to connecting members to this family. If anyone has additional information to contribute, please contact the Epsom Historical Association. Additional addendums will be added as more information is gathered on the Berry's of Epsom.

BENJAMIN BERRY REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION PAPERS

I Abigail Watson of Durham in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire on oath depose and say that I am ninety years of age and upwards, I was born in Durham aforesaid and have always lived in this town from my birth. I was well acquainted with Sobriety Duda in my younger days, who was about my age. I lived in the same neighborhood with her until she was married, she was the daughter of Benmore Duda, and recollect two brothers of hers named Lemuel and Asa. There was another brother by the name of Obadiah and I think he was the oldest, there was a brother called Joseph who died when he was young; the daughters were Sobe, as she was called, Phebe and Patience – Phebe and Patience married men by the name of Durgin, they have been dead many years. Sobe married a man who was a soldier and was said to have been a soldier by the people of the neighborhood. Sobe Berry was a widow about sixty years ago and lived at one time in a little house in the road in the neighborhood where she was born and had one or two children. Benjamin Berry was not a native of Durham and I never was acquainted with him till about the time he was married. He had been in the place a short time before they were married. It is said that he was a deserter and that he was taken up and carried back into the army. Benjamin Berry died about the time of the close of the Revolutionary War and I should judge he had been married four or five years before his death, perhaps more. There never was any question that Sobe Duda was lawfully married to Benjamin Berry and I never heard the fact disputed or questioned and it was always said they were married by Parson Adams. I never heard of or saw any other man by the name of Benjamin Berry. – Abigail Watson (her mark)

May 21, 1847

Sir, I have received with your letter of May 17, 1847 Military Land Warrant No. 2437 issued to Polly Merrill the sole heir of Benjamin Berry, deceased, who was a private in Regiment of the New

Hampshire line commanded by Col. Reed in the Revolutionary War for one hundred acres of land and given at the Dept of the Interior (?) on the 16th May 1849. I am very Respectfully your obt. Servant. F. Bradford

Sobriety Berry, widow of Benjamin Berry, who was a private in the revolutionary war, certificate of pension issued 1848 #4522

State of Maine, County of Piscataqua Ss

On this eighth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty seven, personally appeared before me the subscriber Judge of Probate in and for the County aforesaid, Sobriety Berry, a resident of Wellington in said County, aged ninety one years who being duly sworn according to law, doth, upon her oath make the following declaration in order to receive the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836.

And this declarant states that her husband Benjamin Berry was a resident of Epsom, State of New Hampshire in the line of the Revolutionary War and was a soldier in the Continental Army and served, she believes, nearly the whole of the war. Her husband enlisted for ___ the war and she believes was in the Regiment to which Major or Colonel Winborn Adams belonged for she has heard her husband speak of that officer and say that he was killed in battle. This declarant states that when her husband had been in the service two or three years he had a furlough to go home and overstayed his furlough and was returned a deserter. He was taken up after he had remained at home some time and again entered the service and remained in the service to the end of the war and had an honorable discharge. This declarant states that her husband was taken up by her brother Lemuel Duda when she believes was Ensign in the Continental Army and went back into service with him. She was married and had one child before her husband came out of the army. This declarant is unable to state the names of the officers under which her husband served but she heard him name many officers of the army but has forgotten their names. After the close of the war of the Revolution he sailed from Portsmouth, she

believes, with Capt. Chapman. Her oldest child is now living and is about seventy years of age.

And this declarant says that she was married to Benjamin Berry in Durham, New Hampshire by the Reverend Mr. Adams more then seventy one years ago and at the time of her marriage was a resident of Durham and lived in that town while her husband was in the service and that her husband died soon after the close of the war as she here before stated, and she has remained a widow ever since. She therefore claims a pension by virtue of the act aforesaid and __ the following testimony in support of her claim. Sobriety Berry (her mark)

State of Maine

I Sally Morrill, heir at law of Benjamin Berry, do upon oath testify and declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief that said Benjamin Berry did enter the service of the United States in Epsom, NH for term of __ in 1777 and served as a private soldier under the command of Col. Reed and that he continued in the service aforesaid until the end of the war and was honorably discharged.

I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the bounty land promised to the soldiers of the Revolution on the part of the United States, nor do I believe that the said Benjamin Berry ever received the same in his life time or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever.

In testimony I hereunto set my hand and seal this eighth day of June 1847.

Sally Morrill

I Asa Smith of Wellington in the County of Piscataqua and State of Maine now common act in Portland in the County of Cumberland and State aforesaid on oath depose testify and say that I was thirty nine years of age on the seventh of April last; I was born in the town of Union, Lincoln County and resided there till I was about thirteen years of age. Since that time, about twenty six years, I have resided in Wellington. I am the son of Sally Morrill by her first husband, Nicholas Smith, my father. Sobriety Berry is my grandmother and lived in the

town of Union when I was a boy and resided there with my father. Soon after my father and his family moved to Wellington or Bridgetown, as it was then called, my grandmother removed there also and has continued there to the present time. She has lived in Solon a few years out of that time. She now lives with me. I have often heard Sobriety Berry, my grandmother, speak of the Revolutionary services of her husband, Benjamin Berry, and also about his death. She has told me that her husband served during the war and that at one time he over-stayed his furlough and for fear of punishment, tried to keep out of the way and secreted himself in a house but was finally taken up by her brother, Lemuel Duda and carried back into the army. She says that after the close of the war he went to South Carolina and died there of the yellow fever. My mother, Sally Morrill is the only child living of Benjamin Berry. She has always told me that she was born in Old Durham, as she calls the name of the town in N.H. She had one brother by the name of Joseph Berry who died before he was married and left no children. From the information that I have received from my mother and grandmother, I have no doubt but Benjamin Berry, my grandfather, served during the war of the Revolution and was entitled to Bounty Land as a ____ and that he died soon after the war. My grandmother has always told me that she was married before her husband left the service and even before he was taken up and carried back into the army.

Asa Smith

I Eleazer Bennett of Durham in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire, on oath depose and say that I am ninety seven years of age and upwards. I was born in Old Durham, New Hampshire, so called, and have resided in the same town the whole of my life excepting the time I was in the war of the Revolution and some short periods when I worked out in my younger days. I served under Capt. Winborn Adams and Capt. Alpheus Chesley in 1775 and 1776 at Cambridge, having entered Capt. Winborn Adams Company as a substitute for Trueworthy Durgin the first of September 1775 and remained in said company three months. After I had served three months under

Benjamin Berry Pension Papers cont.

Capt. Adams, I was discharged and came home and immediately after enlisted under Capt. Chesley and served under him four months, being the term of two several enlistments, and was discharged a few days after the British troops left Boston which was on or about the 17th of March 1776. My next enlistment and service was under Capt. Smith Emerson in 1776 which service was performed in the State of New York and was in the battle of Long Island at which time General Sullivan was taken prisoner. This last service was three months.

I was well acquainted with Benmore Duda who was a near neighbor to me in the time of the Revolutionary War and who lived a tenant twenty two years under Col. Joseph Smith. During the whole of the twenty two years I was intimately acquainted with said Benmore Duda and his family, he had two wives while he lived here, the maiden name of the first was Crummet and of the second, Bickford. The sons by the first wife were as follows, viz, Obadiah, Asa, Lemuel and Joseph who died young. He also had the following daughters by his first wife viz, Phebe who married David Durgin and died soon after she was married; Patience, who married Joseph Durgin cousin to David Durgin; and Sobriety who married Benjamin Berry, who was a soldier of the Revolution at the time she was married to him. Benjamin Berry was not a native of Durham, but came to this town a soldier on furlough in the time of the war, and put up or stopped at Benmore Duda's – became acquainted with Sobriety his daughter and was married to her a short time after he came to this town. They went together to Parson Adams and were married at his house. I did not see them married but recollect the circumstance well because the family of Benmore Duda were opposed to the match and we used to laugh about it. They went to the ministers on foot, the distance of more than two miles to be married. While Benjamin Berry was in Durham at this time, he was sick or pretended to be and overstayed his furlough and then tried to conceal himself. He was taken up however and carried back into the army. I thin I saw him once afterwards and that was after the war. He died soon after the war and left Sobriety a widow who lived in Durham and

vicinity a number of years. The oldest child of Sobriety Berry was named Sally, who was born in Durham soon after her mother's marriage. Sally Berry married a man by the name of Smith in Loudon, she having gone to Loudon a short time before her marriage to keep house for a brother in law of mine by the name of Ephraim Clough. She also had a son by the name of Joseph Berry who learned a shoe makers trade and died without children in some town in Massachusetts and left some property for his mother. Sobriety Berry and her daughter Sally (after the marriage of the latter) went into the State of Maine and I have not heard from her since until I was informed about her by Mr. Coe, Town Clerk of Durham two or three weeks ago. There never was any question but Sobriety Duda was lawfully married to Benjamin Berry in the time of the Revolutionary War. Benjamin Berry when in Durham at the time of his marriage wore a soldiers dress and was reputed to have been a soldier on furlough of the Continental Army. I do not know of any of the family of Benmore Duda now living, some members of the family have changed their names from Duda to Durrell or Durell and some of the dame of Durrell or Durell are living in this vicinity, but I believe they are descendants of Nicholas Duda, otherwise Durell, who was a brother of Benmore. Lemuel Duda, the brother of Sobriety Berry was in the service as I understand the whole of the Revolutionary War.

Eleazer Bennett (his mark)

[Note: In a volume "Bounty Land Script-Act of 1833" are many names of Revolutionary War soldiers and heirs who were issued bounty land scrip in place of military bounty land warrants given for their service. Entries run from 1833-1970. It authorized veterans to surrender unsatisfied bounty land warrants and get in their place certificates of scrip which could be exchanged at any land office in Indiana, Ohio or Illinois. In this volume the following NH entry is shown]

BERRY, Benjamin, Pri, cert 11380. 1855-sole heir: Sally Merrill (her heirs: Fanny and Rosannah Marble; Wm. M; Nath., Asa & Gardner Smith; Jane Davis; Lucy Hamilton).

CEMETERY

INSCRIPTIONS

FOWLER-LOVEJOY

No. 4

Fowler-Lovejoy Cemetery, on old Lovejoy Farm near Martin Hill Road, Epsom, NH

Fowler

[Samuel Fowler](#) DIED March 5, 1860 ae 84 yrs. 9 mos. 26 ds.

[Betsey \(Davis\) Fowler](#) wife of Samuel Fowler, DIED Jan. 16, 1836 ae 53 yrs. 10 mos. 12 ds.

[Simonds Fowler](#) DIED Oct. 4, 1866 ae 61 yrs. 2 mos. & 14 ds.

[Lucinda Holt](#), wife of Simonds Fowler, DIED June 7, 1893 ae 87 yrs. 4 mos. & 12 ds.

[Symonds Fowler](#), In Memory of, who died Apr. 6, 1821 Aged 86 years (Rev. War Vet)

[Hannah \(Weeks\) Fowler](#), In Memory of, wife of Symonds Fowler, who died Dec. 9, 1807, aged 69 years

[H.F.](#) DIED Dec. 9, 1807, 69 s (original of above)

Fowler

[Winthrop Fowler](#) DIED Sept. 22, 1861 ae 73 yrs. 5 mos. 3 ds.

[Abigail \(Davis\)](#) wife of Winthrop Fowler DIED Oct. 27, 1859 ae 69 yrs. 6 mos 7 ds.

Their children

[Simonds](#), In memory of, son of Winthrop and Abigail Fowler who died Dec. 23, 1827 born Mar. 25, 1823

[Winthrop](#), In memory of, son of Winthrop and Abigail Fowler, who died July 21, 1825 born June 28, 1825

[Abigail](#), In memory of. daughter of Winthrop and Abigail Fowler who died July 16, 1814 born July 4, 1812

[Hannah](#), In memory of, daughter of Winthrop and Abigail Fowler who died April 7, 1821 born Sept. 5, 1810

Lovejoy

[Herbert Lovejoy](#) DIED July 9, 1880 ae 73 yrs 11 mo

[Hannah C. \(Critchett\)](#) his wife died June 1, 1903 ae 86 yrs. 8 mo.

Children of Herbert and Hannah Lovejoy

[Sarah E.](#) Died Feb. 7, 1846 ae 2 y'rs 10 mo 7 d's

[C. Jennie](#) Died Aug. 27, 1862 ae 6 yr's 11 mo's

[John Lovejoy](#) DIED April 5, 1881 ae 79 yrs. 7 mos.

[Judith M. \(Critchett\)](#) his wife died June 2, 1885 ae 80 yrs. 10 mos.

[John Lewis](#), Son of John & Judith Lovejoy, died Nov. 22, 1841 AE. 22 months & 19 days

[Mrs. Mary \(Green\) Lovejoy](#), In Memory of, Wife of Mr. John Lovejoy, who died July 1, 1830 aged 27 years

[Benjamin F.](#), Son of John & Mary Lovejoy, died July 16, 1830 aged 1 year & 6 days

[Zebediah Lovejoy](#) DIED Sept. 7, 1847 ae 69

[Sally, \(Nee Fowler\)](#) his first wife died Dec. 23, 1831 ae 50

[Sarah \(Marden, m. 1st B. Critchett\)](#), his second wife, died Aug. 5, 1861 age 83

Marden

[Annie F. \(Fowler\)](#) wife of Alonzo Marden, DIED May 25, 1872 ae 34 yrs. 2 mos. & 3 ds.



HISTORY OF THE EPSOM HONOR ROLL

(How it came to be)



Book originally property of the Epsom Public Library, a gift of the Elwood O. Wells Post No. 112, American Legion. Compiled by Post Historian Gilbert H. Knowles.

THE EPSOM HONOR ROLL

(on grounds of the Public Library, Epsom, N.H.)

History of the Permanent Honor Roll, including complete record of the Dedication Ceremony held on Memorial Day 1963.

The Elwood O. Wells Post, American Legion, was organized on November 11th, 1953. The following May, 1954, the new Post assumed full responsibility for the observance of Memorial Day in the town of Epsom. The inspiring exercises at the Epsom Baptist Church were followed by a grand parade to Hopkinson Cemetery. Several years earlier the Epsom Woman's Club had erected an Honor Roll on the grounds of the Public Library. This structure, honoring men and women who went from Epsom into World War II, although made of wood with the names painted on, was quite good looking and under ordinary conditions would have stood up for a long time. On this 1954 Memorial Day the parade paused at the Honor Roll and little Miss Kathleen Wells, daughter of Elwood O. Wells, placed a floral decoration. Kathleen, then ten years old, was accompanied by Mrs. Anna Yeaton, who was the first President of the Auxiliary.

In this same year (1954) a fast traveling tropical hurricane struck New Hampshire and the wood-constructed Honor Roll was completely demolished. The date was August 31st. It was the general feeling that something more permanent was needed in the way of replacement and in the summer of 1955 the Woman's Club communicated with the Elwood O. Wells Post about the matter. Charles R. Miner, then Post Commander, attended one of the meetings of the Woman's club to talk matters over. Subsequently the Club turned the whole project over to the new American Legion Post, together with a sum of money to start a fund for a permanent monument.



Photo: The old Epsom Public Library with the Honor Roll to the left.

Thus the Elwood O. Wells Post assumed responsibility for the Honor Roll. The organization took over the project on a long-range basis knowing that a lot of work would be involved and that in some way a lot more money would have to be made available. The Post voted that the monument, when erected, would carry eligible names pertaining to World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict. The local American Legion had a great many uses for its meager income. Various fund raising projects were tried out. A few were successful but others barely paid expenses. Nevertheless, small sums from time to time were added to the "Honor Roll Fund" which was kept in a special savings account.

Time rolled along. In the Elwood O. Wells Post the personnel of officers changed and interest in the long-range project bogged down somewhat. Some of the members, however, were bound to keep the idea alive and so the Honor Roll continued to be

mentioned from time to time in the course of regular Post meetings. Finally it was determined to tackle the problem anew and make a big effort to carry through. The year was 1960. Donald R. Perry, then Post commander, appointed a special Honor Roll committee, including Gilbert H. Knowles, Charles R. Miner and Robert F. Demers. The Commander designated Knowles as chairman.



Photo: Close-up of the Epsom Honor Roll.

In the course of the 1960 Memorial Day address, which was delivered by Gilbert Knowles, the Honor Roll project was brought to the attention of the people of the Town. Subsequently the Committee went to work in earnest on the lists of names eligible for the Honor Roll. This proved to be a long and somewhat pains-taking job, involving a considerable amount of correspondence. One letter followed the addressee around through several foreign countries before the answer came back. In the last analysis the records of the Adjutant General's office proved the most helpful and reliable source of information. James Walter Mitchell, who followed Perry as Post commander, retained the same committee members, including also Past Commander Perry.

The lists of names eligible for the Honor Roll were completed in 1962 and the remaining need was more money. After the success of its 1961 Minstrel show the Post had built up the "Honor Roll Fund" to a little more than two hundred dollars. It was felt that the Honor Roll monument was a matter of interest to the whole Town and that the necessary funds could be raised by soliciting. However, after some discussion in one of the Post meetings it was voted to ask directly for an appropriation. This would perhaps be

the simpler and quicker way. The chairman of the Honor Roll Committee explained the project at the open meeting of the Epsom Budget Committee and later, in their closed session, said Budget Committee approved an appropriation for the monument. The Selectmen, who had shown every willingness to cooperate all along, inserted the following article in the Town Warrant:

"Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 (to be used with a fund now in the hands of the Elwood O. Wells Post A L) for a permanent Honor Roll to be erected on the grounds of the Epsom Public Library."

The money was duly appropriated by the voters at the Town Meeting, March 12th, 1963, and the Honor Roll Committee pushed ahead with the hope of having the monument ready for the dedication on Memorial Day. The Committee contacted a number of monument companies requesting bids. The highest figure was \$1372.00. All but one company requested a larger sum for the monument than was available. Mr. L. Sherman Elliott of Nottingham, a salesman for the Union Marble & Granite Works, was most helpful to the Committee. He brought the whole problem to the attention of Mr. Robert L. Lowe, the manager-owner of the monument company at Union, and both Mr. Lowe and Mr. Elliott met with the Committee in Epsom. Mr. Lowe gladly gave the benefit of his long experience with honor rolls and war memorials which made it comparatively easy to determine the type of monument that would be best for Epsom. An admirable plan was worked out whereby Epsom would have an Honor Roll monument erected on scheduled time for the sum of money that was available.

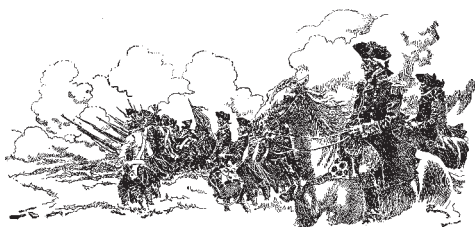
The four members of the Committee, together with Mr. Neil G. Reid (representing the Selectmen) journeyed to the show rooms of the Union Marble and Granite Works in Rochester for another meeting with Mr. Lowe and Mr. Elliott. Samples of finished monuments and lettering were examined and final details pertaining to the Epsom Honor Roll were worked out. The Committee would be responsible for putting in the cement foundation on the Library grounds. Mr. Lowe would give the Barre granite; the

cutting, finishing and lettering would be done at the plant in Union and the monument would be erected prior to May 30th.

One Sunday afternoon on the grounds of the Epsom Public Library, members of the Committee, the Post Commander, the president of the Woman's Club, the Library Trustees and the Librarian met together and marked the exact location for the Honor Roll. Some ten days later the cement foundation was put in by the four members of the Committee, assisted by Commander John Johnson, Senior Vice Commander Albert J. Yeaton, Louis A. Demers, and Albert J. Yeaton Jr. (all Post members). A trench five feet deep was dug and then filled with stones and cement to make a permanent solid base that would not be moved by frost. Then to make a final check on the lettering just before the names were sand-blasted into the stone, Louis A. Demers, acting for the Committee, made a trip to the plant at Union, NH. Demers noted several errors which were promptly corrected and the workmen then went ahead with the sandblasting. The monument was delivered and erected May 25th. It was immediately veiled with white sheeting.



Photo: 1963 Memorial Day Parade approaching the Public Library.



DEDICATION OF THE PERMANENT HONOR ROLL May 30, 1963

(On the grounds of the Epsom Public Library)

Rev. Franklin Parker of Chichester delivered the 1963 Memorial Day address at the Epsom Baptist Church in the afternoon of Thursday, May 30th. Others taking part included Rev. Robert J. Meakim, local pastor; Mr. Philip N. Yeaton, soloist; Mrs. Grace McKay, organist; and the Epsom Band directed by Mr. Charles Downs.

The roadsides were lined with people as the colorful parade moved up from the Church to the Library. The weather was fair and the temperature was comfortably warm. The dedication of the Honor Roll was under the direction of Gilbert H. Knowles who was the speaker. The ceremony opened with a selection by the band. After the music stopped, the speaker, standing near the veiled monument, began as follows:

“Just three years ago in my address at the Epsom Baptist Church I made the remark that some Memorial Day we would have the dedication of a permanent Honor Roll. That day has now arrived!”

“This project, started actually by the Woman's Club, and given a substantial boost at the last Town Meeting, has been brought to completion by the Elwood O. Wells Post. Although we of the Committee have experienced many ups and downs, we have forged persistently on and the permanent Honor Roll is now a reality. During these last months the original plan to make use of both stone and bronze has been discarded in favor of a monument made entirely of granite. Time, we believe, will prove the wisdom of this change.”

“On behalf of the full Committee I desire to express thanks to all who have helped in any way with this project: - the Epsom Woman's Club; the Elwood O. Wells Post; the Board of Selectmen; Library Trustees; tax payers of the town; - Mr. Robert Lowe of Union; Mr. Sherman Elliott of Nottingham; and others. We are especially grateful for the help and cooperation received from the office of the Adjutant General in Concord, without which our committee, I

fear, would still be groping in the wilderness. Recalling, however, that Epsom's own General Michael McClary served for twenty-one consecutive years as Adjutant General of New Hampshire, I conclude that no other town has better credentials to call upon that department."

"We have a number of special guests here this afternoon; I will only attempt to name a few of them. We have Mr. Walter Wells and son from Center Barnstead; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hackett and Mrs. Charlotte Day from Rochester; Mr. Ferdinand Zinn, a World War I veteran who has come all the way from Patterson, N.J. for the occasion; Mr. Sherman Elliott of Nottingham; Mrs. Robert Whitaker and Dr. Everett Lombard of Concord; and others that I could mention if there were time to do so. We are especially fortunate to have with us this afternoon Miss Kathleen Wells, a student at the University of New Hampshire and the daughter of Captain Elwood Osgood Wells for whom the local American Legion Post is named; and at this time Mrs. Evelyn Johnson, representing the Woman's Club, will cut the ribbons and Miss Kathleen Wells will unveil the Honor Roll."

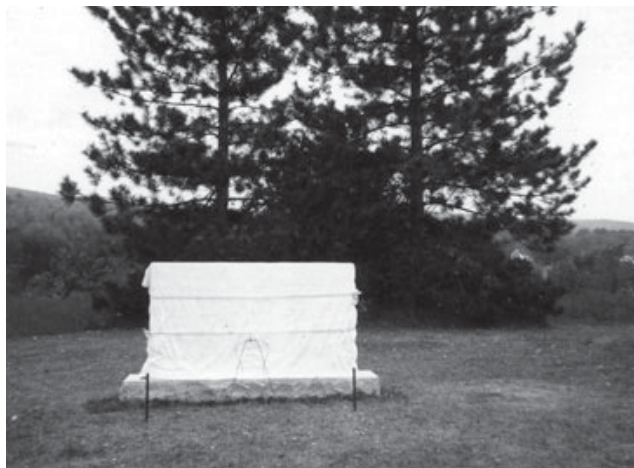


Photo: The monument before unveiling.

(Using a pair of scissors Mrs. Johnson quickly slit the several strands of ribbon and Miss Wells stepped forward and removed the coverings, revealing the beautiful monument.)

"And now the flags!" the speaker continued, "Miss Sharon Cofran and Mr. Ray Kelley, representing the

Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts, will place the flags. – (Flags were carefully set in place, one at either side and just in front of the monument.)

"And Miss Susan Johnson, daughter of Commander and Mrs. Johnson, representing the Elwood O. Wells Post and Auxiliary, and all the people of Epsom, - will place the decoration; the wreath." (The wreath was set in place in a wire frame that had been prepared to receive it, just between the flags.)

As Miss Johnson stepped back the speaker raised his right arm and with fore-finger pointed to the sky, pronounced the dedication in the following words, -

"We now dedicate this monument to the memory of those who fell in the service of our country. We dedicate it in the name of those who offered their lives that Justice, Freedom and Democracy might survive to be the victorious ideals of the peoples of the world."

After a short pause the speaker asked, "Do the Selectmen accept this monument for the Town of Epsom?"

Mr. John B. Yeaton, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, responded, formally accepting the Honor Roll for the Town.

"And being the Town's monument" the speaker said, "it becomes the duty of all of us to guard and protect it." (pause) – "We will ask Mr. Parker to lead us in prayer."

Rev. Franklin Parker stepped up to the Honor Roll and gave the prayer in words appropriate and well chosen for the occasion. When he had finished Commander John Johnson of the Elwood O. Wells Post gave the order to the commander of the Firing Squad to fire salutes. When the noise of the rifles had ceased, taps were sounded by members of the band. The dedication was over and the parade re-formed and started on for another ceremony at Hopkinson Cemetery. Many people, however, lingered around the Library to examine more closely the beautiful stone and read the names.

The Honor Roll monument is made of Barre granite, done in what is known as satin finish. The main stone, which carries 98 names, is five feet long and is mounted on a somewhat longer base of the same material. The Union Marble & Granite Works received \$700.00 for their part. The balance of the fund was used to buy the cement for the foundation.

PERSONNEL OF BOARDS, ORGANIZATIONS, etc.

WHEN HONOR ROLL WAS ERECTED

Board of Selectmen

John B. Yeaton, Chairman

Elmore A. Bickford

Neil G. Reid

Library Trustees

William B. Moore

Phylis M. LaClair

Frances B. Allen

Librarian

Marjorie A. Yeaton

President of the Woman's Club

Evelyn P. Johnson

ELWOOD O. WELLS POST No. 112, AMERICAN LEGION

Officers of the Post

John Johnson, Commander

Albert J. Yeaton Sr., Vice Commander

Rene G. Bonefant, Junior Vice Commander

Robert F. Demers, Adjutant

Robert F. Demers, Finance Officer

J. Walter Mitchell, Chaplain

Gilbert H. Knowles, Historian

Charles R. Miner, Service Officer

Robert Backus, Sergeant-at-arms

President of the Auxiliary

Jacqueline L. Palmer

Honor Roll Committee 1960-1963

Gilbert H. Knowles, Chairman

Charles R. Miner

Robert F. Demers

Donald R. Perry

Color Bearers (May 30, 1963)

Robert F. Demers & Charles W. Cushman

Color Guards

J. Walter Mitchell & E.S. Mitchell

The Firing Squad

Commander; Charles R. Miner

Riflemen: Donald R. Perry, Elmer Palmer,
Theodore Bailey, Robert Miner, Albert Grandmont,



Photo: Taken immediately after the dedication. Standing, left is Miss Kathleen Wells of Rochester who unveiled the Honor Roll; center, Gilbert H. Knowles who pronounced the dedication; right, Mrs. Evelyn P. Johnson who cut the ribbons binding the coverings.

McCLARY FAMILY DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARIES FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS

McCLARY, Capt. Andrew

8-6-1811

Farmers Cabinet

DIED - In Washington City, Capt. Andrew McClary, of the War Department, formerly of Epsom, N.H. and son of the brave Maj. McClary who fell in the field of battle on Bunker's Hill.

M'CLARY, Anne

1-23-1826

NH Patriot

In this town (Concord), on Monday morning last, of consumption, Miss Anne McClary, aged 25, youngest daughter of the late Hon. James H. McClary of Epsom. Notwithstanding disease had preyed upon an enfeebled her for about two years, she preserved her hopes of life and cheerful spirits until a short time before her death. She as amiable, lovely, prepossessing; a widowed mother and two sisters are among those who mourn her premature exit.

McCLARY, Eliza

7-24-1863

New Hampshire Statesman

In this city [Concord] on Monday evening last, after illness of five years, sustained with fortitude and Christian resignation, Eliza McClary, aged 69 - daughter of the late James H. McClary, of Epsom, and granddaughter of Gen. Michael McClary, of the War of the Revolution

McCLARY, Elizabeth (Harvey)

10-16-1807

Newburyport Herald

In Epsom, N.H. Mrs. Elizabeth McClary, relict of the late Hon. John McClary.

M'CLARY, Mrs. Elizabeth (Dearborn)

5-17-1828

New Hampshire Statesman and Concord Register
DIED - In this town [Concord] the 9th inst Mrs. Elizabeth McClary, widow of the late James H. McClary Esq., of Epsom, aged 67.

McCLARY, Col. James H.

7-24-1810

NH Patriot

DIED - At Epsom, Col. James H. McClary. He was interred with military and Masonic honors.

McCLARY, John

7-7-1801

Newburyport Herald

At Epsom, (N.H.) The Hon. John McClary, aged 82. A Whig in '75 and a Federalist in '98.

McCLARY, Capt. John

1-26-1808

NH Gazette

DIED - At Fort Adams in November last, Capt. John McClary, of the first Regiment of Infantry in the army of the U.S. aged 40 years, formerly of Epsom, N.H., and son of the late Major McClary who fell in the battle at Bunker's Hill.

McCLARY Esq., John

12-22-1821

Portsmouth Journal

In Epsom, John McClary Esq. aged 37, son of Michael McClary, Marshal of this District. The deceased was killed, almost instantly, by the fall of a piece of timber from the frame of a shed under which he was standing. From his earliest youth he possessed in a remarkable degree the affection of his friends, and the confidence of his fellow-citizens. He was repeatedly elected a representative from his native town in the Legislature of this State, and two years ago he was chosen a Senator, by the fourth district. The kindness of his manners, the frankness of his temper, and the uprightness of his conduct will not soon be effaced from the memory of those who knew him.

McCLARY, Gen. Michael

4-5-1824

NH Patriot and Gazette

Departed this life at Epsom, N.H. on Saturday evening, March 27, a few minutes before twelve o'clock, Gen. MICHAEL McCLARY, aged 71 years. He had been confined to his house about eight weeks; a sharp humor, which had troubled him

for some months, was followed by several succeeding strokes of paralysis, one of which, more powerful than those which preceded is supposed to have ended his mortal career. Funeral services were performed at the meeting-house on Tuesday, where a great number of people attended to pay their last respects to the remains of one of our most estimable and distinguished citizens.

We are not possessed of those ample materials by which we should be able to do justice to the character and services of Gen. McClary. He was grandson of Andrew McClary, a native of Ireland, who was an early settler of Epsom, and nephew of Maj. Andrew McClary, who fell at battle of Breed's Hill, June 17, 1775, after the Americans had retreated from the hill, while attempting to rally the troops in a new attack of the enemy.

The nephew, then only twenty-two years old, was an ensign in Capt. Moore's company and Col. Stark's regiment, from whose cool and determined bravery on that day, occupying the ground in rear of a rail fence and under the light cover of a few handfuls of new mown hay, such astonishing havoc was made in the ranks of the British regulars. Under the fire of this regiment, twice were the mercenaries driven back; and it was not until their stock of ammunition was expended that the New Hampshire troops left their ground. Stark and the McClary's and Moore, all descendants of Ireland, were truly congenial spirits; for cool intrepidity and valor, perhaps their superiors are not to be found in the annals of our country.

It is melancholy to reflect, that with the death of this last revolutionary patriot, there remains not in this State one McClary of the male line to keep in remembrance the name; yet the good and glorious deed, the virtues and the patriotism of men of this name, will not be obliterated so long as the faithful page of history shall tell us of times past and gone. But a few years since there lived two promising sons of Gen. McClary. One of them, often the inmate of our social circles, having reaped his full share of early earthly honors, was suddenly and in an unexpected manner, arrested by the band of death; and we have but too strong reason to believe that this tragical event precipitated the death of the father, whose life seemed to be bound up in that of the son.

The other, who emulating the spirit of his ancestors had entered the service of his country at the commencement of the late war, has departed for the world of spirits in a land of strangers.

Few men in this State have filled an active life with more usefulness than the deceased Gen. McClary. Successively a representative and senator in the State Legislature from the time of the first formation of the government until the year 1801, he was that year appointed by Mr. Jefferson marshal for the District of New Hampshire, which office he filled until vacated by a voluntary resignation a few weeks previous to his death; in the same time, he was for several years Adjutant General for the State of New Hampshire; it had been repeatedly urged on him by many of his fellow citizens to stand as a candidate for Governor, but this he invariably declined; indeed, there was scarcely any office in the gift of the people which would not have been freely and spontaneously bestowed upon him.

Within the whole compass of our acquaintance in this State, we know of no man, the extent of whose personal influence exceeded that of the deceased; this influence resulted from his known integrity and consistency of character, as well as from that patriotism which never tired in the cause of his country.

Gen. McClary, although not a professor of religion, was a liberal supporter of the religious institutions of the State; and if an opinion may be formed of the quantum of goodness from deeds of charity and beneficence- if we are to consider that servant who obeyed without a promise as more acceptable than he who promised but obeyed not; then who shall say that the deceased was not a Christian?

McCLARY, Sarah (Dearborn)

3-23-1844

Dover Gazette & Strafford Advertiser

In Epsom, February 27th, Mrs. Sarah McClary,
relic of the late Gen. McClary of Epsom



EPSOM HISTORY ON THE WEB

Recent comments from the guest book:

‘Thank you! For the hardwork and the dedication! Without someone taking the time to save paths to the past, no one would ever be able to look back! Great Job!’

‘I enjoy your site and hope to visit New Hampshire this year. Keep up the good work!’

‘Fantastic amount of information, well presented. A great example of how to save town history from a slow, dusty, death.’

‘We are very pleased to find your great Town site full of info on our Ames who settled there. Thank you for all the hard work in the development of the site so those of us who live afar can get a better understanding of the Town of Epsom and where our kin once lived.’

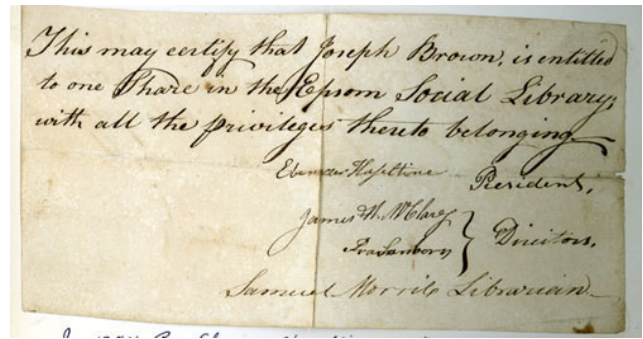
‘I have found this to be the most informative genealogy web sites on the web.’

‘This is such a great historical site with fabulous information that’s easy to read and easy to find. Wish they were all like this!’

NEW @ EPSOMHISTORY.COM

Obituaries and Death Notices from old papers - a collection of hundreds of old notices of Epsom and Epsom related deaths and obituaries. The NEW obits pages are found via the research page and can be searched alphabetically by surname.

Over 2,000 Scanned Images - Images of diaries, Dolbeer’s Death Records, Temperance Society records, Civil War letters and many more. From the Epsom History home page, click the museum link, and from there click ‘research’.



An 1801 privilege for use of the Epsom Social Library belonging to Joseph Brown and signed by Rev. Ebenezer Hazeltine, James H. McClary, Ira Sanborn and Samuel Morrill. Just one of the more than 2000 images now online at Epsomhistory.com.

Updates - Our own genealogy database on our server and the one hosted on Rootsweb World Connect have been updated. Our own database has many new photos of individuals, and nearly 500 names have been added to each. From the home page click the research link, and from that page click ‘genealogy’.

NOTES ABOUT ARTICLES IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Ephraim Berry lived on Center Hill, just beyond where the old tavern stood, a neighbor to Rev. Tucke and Simon Ames Heath. This area will be the topic of our July meeting.

The Epsom Honor Roll is now located outside the American Legion Hall on Short Falls Road. It replaced an earlier wood structure that stood at the the old library that was destroyed in a storm and was erected primarily through the efforts of the Woman’s Club. The article is part of the ongoing project of putting together a history of all the Epsom veterans. Photos of participants of the Civil War, Spanish American War and both World Wars are being sought for the project. These can be brought to the Museum (old Library) on any Wednesday evening that it is open, for scanning.



EPSOM HISTORY WEB SITE GETS NEW DESIGN

The Epsom History web site launched its new design in mid-April, with easier access to the Historical Association pages and the library & museum housed at the Epsom Public Library's Historical Center. With the release of Microsoft's Vista operating system and the updated Internet Explorer web browser - and with newer computers with rectangular screens and higher resolution; the look and design of web sites over the last year have begun to change and adapt to them. The large number of households which have changed to one of the many forms of high speed access has allowed for sites to grow and add additional content.

The newly designed Epsom History pages have a new sleeker appearance; a slightly different structure to some of the research categories; and an additional 2,000 scanned original images of documents and diaries. The site, which celebrates 10 years online, has seen over a million page hits, and the capacity for adding additional content has been significantly increased. epsomhistory.com

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEXT PROGRAM



JULY 13 - "East Street Revisited"

The story of Epsom's first settlers remains one of the most popular topics presented by the Historical Association. The journey continues with discussion of the early history of our town including particular families and individuals, homes and businesses, local government and other surprising notes of interest. The program will be held at the site of Epsom's early center, at the McClary Cemetery and will conclude with an ice cream social. 2:00 PM