

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 2003

Officers Meet - Goals Set for 2003

The new officers of the Epsom Historical Association met in January to discuss its agenda and plans for the 2003 calendar year. Much of this newsletter contains information that grew out of discussions and decisions made by the officers at that time. Increased membership was named as our most important goal for the year, as it is our best way to enlarge our base and stimulate interest in our activities. The success of any of the EHA's endeavors to save and stimulate items relative to the history of Epsom will be directly attributed to public awareness of our efforts and our goals. It is hoped our current membership will help in this regard with word of mouth to friends and other interested people; the EHA will continue with its schedule of meetings and the use of the newsletter; and it is hoped that the EHA can have a presence at town functions with some type of traveling display.

Other discussion centered around the current holdings of the historical association, in particular the files and materials held at the library. This would also grow to include items that are of interest to the Association, but which are not currently part of our archives. It was also decided to continue to try and archive via computer as much as possible; to expand information on the internet and increase awareness of the EHA online; to examine the condition of family cemeteries and see if anything can be done for them; to increase activity in increasing funds for the association as well as update our non-profit status; to gain more volunteers for helping with genealogical requests; and to continue making publications available. In order to facilitate some of these plans, the original committees as outlined in the charter were re-instated with new chairman (see related article) and they are looking for volunteers to be on these committees. The minutes of the meeting are online at <http://www.2eha.net/epsom/janminutes.htm>.

NEW BOOKS

The Epsom Historical Association premiered two new books during Old Home Day last August. The first is the fifth in a series by Phil Yeaton, the latest is **EPSOM SCHOOLS**, 67 pages with an additional 20+ pages of photos. Contents include the following:

EPSOM SCHOOL DISTRICTS - A description of the ten districts.

INTERESTING SEGMENTS OF EPSOM SCHOOL HISTORY

POPULATION OF EPSOM & SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS

HONOR ROLL OF EPSOM STUDENTS 1879-1922

EPSOM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS 1916-1926

THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE & EPSOM SCHOLARS
by George H. Yeaton

SCHOLARS IN EPSOM'S NEW RYE SCHOOL IN THE
SUMMER OF 1849 and CENTER SCHOOL 1859.

THE BEAR AT THE NEW ORCHARD ROAD SCHOOL by
George H. Yeaton

SCHOOL MEMORIES OF THE ONE ROOM SCHOOLS by
Charles B. Yeaton

A DREAM OF WINTER MORNING SEVENTY YEARS AGO
by George H. Yeaton 1892-1962

MY MEMORIES OF THE SHORT FALLS & NEW RYE
SCHOOLS by Philip S. Yeaton.

Copies of the book are available at the Epsom Public Library
for \$12.00.

The second is **EAST STREET Road to Settling Epsom, NH**. This is a 33 page book written for the town's 275th anniversary and was the companion book for the bus tour given on Old Home Day. It is a history of the original home lots on East Street, now part of Center Hill Road. There are only a few copies left and will not be reprinted - truly a collectors item. This book is also available at the Epsom Public Library for \$10.00.

OLD HOME DAY EHA REVIEW

The Epsom Historical Associations special presentation for the towns 275th anniversary Old Home Day was a smashing success. The 3 tours of East Street generated 96 people taking advantage of Dail Transportation's donation of a bus and driver to visit the landmarks and learn about the settling of the first street in Epsom. Each tour started with a half-hour lecture in the old Short Falls schoolhouse (currently part of the Legion Hall), given by Carleton Rand, Philip Yeaton and Elsie Fife. The tour ended with a look at the on-going Town Hall renovations and some special town historic items. A special exhibit was open in the function room of the Legion Hall consisting of a map of East Street with framed photos of exisiting and former homes, framed by Artistic Expressions of Epsom. A large collection of books and school memorabilia was on display courtesty of Phil Yeaton; and a wealth of antiques and artifacts was also on display through the generosity of Charlie Yeaton.

The Historical Association also had two computers on hand, the first with a continuous slide show of old Epsom postcards, and one for genealogy research. A display about the Epsom Early Settlers website (www.2eha.net) and additional framed old photos of Epsom rounded out the exhibit. Two new Historical Association publications were presented. One is the fifth publication by Phil Yeaton, featuring 90 plus pages about Epsom schools; the other, 'East Street', was presented free to each family taking the tour. Both publications are available for purchase at the Epsom Public Library, proceeds to benefit the Historical Association. Working during the day at the exhibit were Dick Fowler, Joyce Rand and Lisa Cote, along with help from Judy Rand, Megan Rand and Jay Carroll.

FOUL ON FRITZ

Once again Epsom History took a hit when Fritz Weatherbee visited Epsom and presented a short segment on Andrew McClary aired during a recent CHRONICLE program on WMUR. With the old McClary home in the background, it was proclaimed as the home of Andrew McClary, who died at Bunker Hill, and the house where he was born. In fact, the home was actually that of his older brother John McClary; the Andrew McClary house was across the street. Members of the summer East Street tour during Old Home Day got to see the monument across the street from the John McClary home which correctly names that site as the home of Andrew McClary. Guess Fritz didn't read carefully the monument. If you haven't read it----

On this site stood the home of
MAJ. ANDREW McCLARY

Who leaving his plow in the
furrow hastened to respond
to his country's call and was

killed at the battle of

BUNKER HILL

Erected by the Centre Historic Club 1905

TOWN HALL RESTORATION CONTINUES

The Town Hall Restoration committee continues its work on bringing the 1850 structure back to life and public use. To date the back office section is almost complete, and the main hall should recieve its paint job in November, courtesy of the Lions Club. During the summer and early fall the front steps were replaced, handicap access added, and sill work done. Photos of the work can be found at the Epsom Library Website: (www.epsomlibrary.com).

WELCOME

Mehitabel Lambert

Sometimes the most rewarding parts of genealogical research is the finding of the maiden names of spouses which were previously unknown. Such was the case recently. Around 1820 Dr. John Proctor came to practice medicine in Epsom with his wife Mehitabel. She died January 8, 1823 here in Epsom and is buried along with her husband in the McClary Cemetery (the stone is lying on the ground....). She was simply listed as Mehitabel, his wife. For years, and in all the cemetery books, this was all we knew of her. Now, through browsing the internet and quite by accident, she has been found - the daughter of Thomas Lambert and Apphia Gage of Rowley MA; she married the Doctor in Rowley in 1814. There are no known children at this point. After she died, Dr. Proctor married a local girl, Catherine Gray, daughter of James Gray, one of Epsom's Revolutionary War Veterans. She would have been about 43 and apparently still single. The Doctor died in 1837, and his second wife, Catherine Gray died in 1854, Georgetown, MA. She also is buried in the McClary Cemetery. *Welcome Back Mehitabel !!*

MEET

Lucinda Libbey

You might be surprised at the number of people who pass through town and stop at the Town Offices or Library seeking information on their ancestors. A recent visitor was seeking information on the location of the home and site of his ancestors, the WADLEIGHS. (cont.)

Meet Lucinda Libbey (cont.)



It is unique when doing genealogy to actually put a face with a name.

Thanks to an ancestor passing through town, we can look into the eyes of Lucinda Libbey.

Wadleigh is not a common name in

the annals of Epsom History, but indeed, Daniel Foster Wadleigh married Epsom native Lucinda Libbey here in town on December 16, 1842. The Wadleighs were from Kensington, and the Libbeys were very prevalent in Epsom during this period. Lucinda was the daughter of David Libbey and Martha Dolbeer, born here and the family lived in the Epsom/Allenstown area. The family home, where the marriage took place was eventually the home of Michael M. Libbey up off Swamp Road. There is some mystery still to just where the original family settled as the homestead went out of the family for some time. Lucinda and Daniel Wadleigh had their own home for a while before leaving Epsom about 1856 and ending up in Missouri where they both died. Their first child was born in Kensington, and the next 5 were born in Epsom.

Can you place this house?



WHAT'S NEW ONLINE ???

It was a busy summer for the Epsom Early Settlers Website and that of the Epsom Public Library - both with some historical items of interest. First, many of the artifacts seen at the Epsom Town Hall during the Old Home Day Tour can be seen at the Library website, including the Meetinghouse Bible and Congregational Church Lecturn. Go to www.epsomlibrary.com and click on the COLLECTIONS button. If you haven't visited the Library website recently, it has a bit of a new look.

Epsom Early Settlers Website (www.2eha.net) has added over **600** photos. These include many from the Epsom Historical Association archives, and many more from private individuals who kindly allowed pictures and postcards to be scanned. There are four categories - 1) People and Portraits; 2) Kids and Babies; 3) Postcards and Places; and 4) Houses and Homesteads. Perhaps your home, business or ancestor appears? Check it out - Its called the GALLERY - and PLEASE let us know if you have additional photos, postcards etc. to add - we would love to see it grow!!!

ALSO ONLINE @ EPSOM EARLY SETTLERS

Dolbeer Death Records 1819-1874
Epsom Baptisms 1761-1774
Epsom Baptisms 1815-1824
Epsom Baptisms 1827-1858
Epsom Christian Church Baptisms
Epsom Births from old town books
Epsom Deaths 1761-1850
Epsom Deaths 1850 -1877
Epsom Deaths 1877-1900
Epsom Marriages 1761-1877
Epsom Marriages 1877-1900
History of Epsom - J.H. Dolbeer complete

AND BIOGRAPHIES

Elwood O. Wells, Capt.
John Dolbeer
William Goss
George Benjamin Wallace
Andrew McClary, Maj.
Benjamin Lovering Locke
David Clark
Benjamin F. Webster
Charles C. Doe
Nathan Bickford
Orren Strong Sanders, Dr.
David Morrill Philbrick
Samuel Martin
James Gray
Noah Martin

It's Easy....
www.2eha.net

click on

Epsom Early Settlers

(links also to Epsom Library & vice versa - go to www.epsomlibrary.com and select the Epsom History button)