



Epsom Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past September 2007

EARLY EPSOM SCHOOLS TOPIC OF FIRST FALL MEETING

The history of the early schools of Epsom will be featured in the first fall meeting of the Epsom Historical Association. The program will follow the the growth of the Epsom Schools from the first one room school to the 10 districts that had been established by the time of the Civil War. The information will include information from early town records, diaries, school reports, teacher records, town reports and other data. In addition to the timeline of the growth of the schools, early records from each of the 10 districts will be presented. Some of the early records will be displayed along with books, photos and others items provided for the meeting, many provided by Phil Yeaton.

A special location has been chosen for this fall meeting - the old Short Falls Schoolhouse, courtesy of the American Legion, who have retained the bulding as part of the Legion Hall. The Sunday, September 23rd meeting will begin at 2 pm, and will include a business meeting and refreshments. The program is open to the public.



OLD MEETINGHOUSE WORK CONTINUES

The old meetinghouse has been moved into position and awaits the final foundation before being lowered at its new home near the new Epsom Public Library. The Friends of the Meetinghouse have overseen the work and reported progress regularly to the town Board of Selectpersons. Once the 1861 building is on its foundation, it is hoped further restoration can proceed, though much of it may hinge on obtaining additional funds and grants.

Common Ancestor	Child	Grandchild	G-grandchild	G-g-grandchild
Child	Sister or Brother	Nephew or Niece	Grand-nephew or niece	G-grand-nephew or niece
Grandchild	Nephew or Niece	First cousin	First cousin, once removed	First cousin, twice removed
G-grandchild	Grand-nephew or niece	First cousin, once removed	Second cousin	Second cousin, once removed
G-g-grandchild	G-grand-nephew or niece	First cousin, twice removed	Second cousin, once removed	Third cousin

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE RELATIONSHIP CHART

1. Pick two people in your family and figure out which ancestor they have in common. For example, if you chose yourself and a cousin, you would have a grandparent in common.
 2. Look at the top row of the chart and find the first person's relationship to the common ancestor.
 3. Look at the far left column of the chart and find the second person's relationship to the common ancestor.
 4. Determine where the row and column containing those two relationships meet.
- Chart and instructions from Ancestry.com

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ARCHIVES

Recent photos loaned to the Historical Association by Frank Quimby and Edward and Glenna Nutter, have been added to our digital archives. Many of the photos are not found in our current archives, so we were excited and pleased to receive them. Thanks!

Also new are two ledgers from the old Gossville Garage (later Huckins); plus minutes of the Ladie's Sewing Circle and annual meeting minutes of the former Epsom Baptist Church. These items courtesy of Carole Brown. Thanks Carol! Also new is a Locke-Allen family Bible; and some old school warrants and other papers from the Epsom Town offices - thanks for thinking of us !!

ARCHIVING PROGRESS

Thanks to Phil Yeaton and other volunteers, we have a good start to databasing all of the holdings of the Epsom Historical Association. Each item is given an ID code and location along with several descriptions of the item, which will make it easy to locate and search for items and topics in our new computer. To date, nearly two hundred items have been done, primarily original documents in our fireproof file cabinet; and a wealth of articles on Epsom History in our heavy duty file cabinet. A few collections of like materials have been inventoried, boxed and labeled.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BEGINS TO READY OLD LIBRARY

Members of the Epsom Historical Association began work at the old library this summer in hopes to have a place in town to research Epsom history and to house memorabilia and historical artifacts for public viewing. The project, an agreement with the library trustees to establish an Historical Center, will allow the Epsom Historical Association to establish a research library and museum at the site.

Once the old library was emptied, the first phase of the project began, which was to clean the downstairs so the Association could establish itself and move their files over and begin to archive and database its holdings. The floor was washed and the walls and ceilings received new paint. The file cabinets and office furniture were moved in, supplemented with a conference table and chairs. Next the new computer system was put in place and connected to the internet. Most of the Association's paper files were moved in, and the filing and computer work began.

Phase two was to begin work upstairs. The old glass cabinet in the hallway was moved back to its original location in what was the children's room. Next, the 5 free standing stacks in the center of the stack room were removed, leaving the three original stacks that were against the walls. The interior side of the entrance door was painted to match the interior trim, replacing the white color, and the old aluminum door removed. Curtains were made to hang on the original entrances to the stack room and what was originally the reference room. All the original redwood trim has been cleaned and varnished, with the result being absolutely stunning. Some of the old bookcases have been removed, and a new rail will be installed around the descending stairs. The set of interior swinging double doors will be re-installed.

At this point estimates for painting, electrical work, ceiling work and floor finishing were received, with the total to complete the project coming to about \$6,000.00. The work has come to a standstill until the Association can begin fundraising efforts to raise the additional money to continue the project.

The eventual museum display upstairs will include all the items of historical importance that were originally housed there, including the civil war memorabilia and the Prang prints on the walls. Red, white and blue bunting which was found in a closet, will hang on either side of the fireplace. An old 45 star gold fringed flag was also in the library. The silk flag is in very poor condition, but was removed from the upper portion of its standard, and re-wrapped for storage. The bottom of the standard was found and when screwed together, with the large eagle on the top, measures an impressive 9 1/2 feet. It is hoped we can get a contribution to buy a 5x8 foot replacement flag to display on the standard, which still has the original silk braid on it. A floor stand will also need to be found.

Items of historic interest will be displayed and labeled on the remaining shelves and in whatever display cases or cabinets the Association can afford. Once the upstairs museum is ready to set up, it is hoped that other items of historic interest will be donated to the Historical Association to be placed on permanent display. Those who might have items should contact the Epsom Historical Association, as it would help in the set up and planning of displays. The library trustees and members of the Epsom Historical Association will provide volunteers to eventually set regular hours, and additionally open the downstairs library and research center by appointment.

There are many items and photos which will need preparation before they are displayed. Old ribbons and clothing need special attention; old pictures need to be re-framed and matted; other old paper items and books need to be put in archival sleeves or envelopes. Photos and documents need to be scanned into the computer, and there is a need for blank computer disks to back up the files. At this point, the Association does not have all the materials it needs to properly protect many of its historic items. Setting up a facility that preserves the heritage of Epsom for access by researchers, townspeople and school children, will be the focus of much of the activity of the Historical Association the next several years. Your help is welcome, either in our fundraising efforts, or in helping build our collection as a contributor, or helping finish the upstairs, and finally helping to archive and database our holdings.

INTERESTING OLD LIBRARY INFORMATION

Town Report 1902

Paid Wm. H. Thompson for labor building chimney, fireplace and piers 47.88

For mantel 24.00

Murdock Grate Company. 5.55

For hematite red - .85

1903

Paid H.W. Osgood, chairs, curtains, mats. Etc. 27.57

For stove and freight on same – 4.15

Foss and Osgood, stove-pipe etc. – 7.30

1905

The kindness of George H. Hoyt Post in permitting us to hang in our library the pictures that formerly adorned Grand Army Hall, adds greatly to its attractiveness and is truly appreciated.

Paid G.F. Batchelder, varnishing outside of Library, 9.25

1906

Our venerable citizen, Benjamin Bickford, gave us quite a number of books, many of them being valuable for their age. Among them was the bible used in the pulpit of the Old Meeting House, nearly, if not quite, a century ago.

1910

Paid for stove, 21.00

Stovepipe - .50

Freight on stove .25

1911

Received from sale of stove 1.00

1915

Paid painting library 42.48

1916

Arrangements have been made for establishing a branch library at Short Falls as soon as new catalogues can be issued, which will be in the near future.

1919

The trustees have received the following gifts for the library, viz.:

From Horace W. Edmunds, Epsom, portrait of George H. Hoyt.

1921

Expenditures

C.S. Hall, glass for door 1.75

1925

The Library has been painted during the year, and an appropriate sign has been affixed to the building.

1930

Electric lights have been installed in the library the last year.

A Branch library has been established in the home of Mrs. Walter B. Wells in the New Rye District, Mrs. Wells having charge of the same.

The trustees ask the assistance of all interested in compiling a post card collection of town view of Epsom, placing the same on file in the library.

1944 Trustee's records

Voted to repair and paint the front door of library building.

1947 Trustee's records

A new oil burning heater was purchased and installed.

1948 Trustee's records

Discussed the inadequate winter heating of the book stack room and the reading room.

1949 Trustee's records

Voted to ask George A. Stevens to continue scraping off the cracked paint and re-paint front of library.

1956 Trustee's letter

Voted to accept gift by friends of our library, to have Huckins Oil Company install the proposed five cold air ducts installed under the floor of the library from several corners of the rooms, a Delta oil-fired floor level furnace Model FL 81.

1957 Trustee's minutes

Voted to cut down and remove the pine trees at the front door of the library building.

The trustee's inquired for the Capt. Locke sword and learned that it is at the home of George Hill Yeaton in Gossville for safe keeping.

1959 Trustee's minutes

The trustees are firm in their policy that no "reference books" be taken from the library reading room.

1961 Trustee's minutes

New shelving has been installed in the charging room providing much needed additional space for Bookmobile books, books being returned and books in process



BELOW LEFT - The old stack room with the five free standing stacks removed.

ABOVE - The downstairs office, library and research area.

BELOW - The old children's room, formerly the reference room with the glass cabinet.



From the Epsom Town Records:

1793, July 15

To the Selectmen of the town of Epsom

A number of the inhabitants of the Western district in Epsom humbly shew; That we have been and still are desirous to promote public schools in said town for the instruction of our children and of late we have used every excitation in our power to have a suitable schoolhouse in the district completed for that design, but every such effort proves abortive owing (as we humbly conceive) to some among us who from their conduct seem to demonstrate a total disregard to the best interests of their families by depriving their children of the means of instruction thereby rendering them in a great degree useless members of society and by such conduct of theirs we being classed with them are debarred of that for our children which we esteem as inestimable blessing.

This our grievance and in this situation we cannot rest easy, to see our numerous offspring which are instrumental of bringing into existence trained up like so many heathens or brutes, in a civilized world would, and for such neglect we cannot answer neither to God nor our consciences and for which they well have good reason to curse rather than bless us. We therefore seek to the town of Epsom for redress as we know no other remedy and pray that a meeting of said town may be warned as soon as may be that this grievance may be duly considered and some method adopted and put in execution, that shall remove the A pan out of the camp and give us speedy relief in finishing the schoolhouse already begun that a school may be had seasonably for the purpose aforesaid.

James Gray, Geo. Yewin, Simeon Towle, Samuel Bickford, Reuben Yewin, Thomas Bickford, Sylvanus Moses, Richard Rand, John Prescott, Jonathan Prescott Junr, Abraham Wallace.

In this month's Electronic Edition -

- View photos of the work being done to the interior of the old Epsom Public Library.
- See what's new in our archives.
- Progress report on our archiving project
- Coming events and EHA news
- Genealogical Relationship Chart

EXTRA HISTORICAL OCT. ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Epsom Historical Association has added an extra meeting to its schedule of events for this fall. The meeting will be held at the old Epsom Town Hall on Sunday the 21st at 2:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Tim Patterson who will deliver a talk on the times of the French and Indian War, and in particular on the Indians and their life style. The Historical Association will meet again in November at the new Epsom Public Library, the meeting topic to be announced.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Historical Association has finally begun 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. Donations towards office supplies would really be welcomed. Email us at Epsomhistory@aol.com or call Harvey Harkness at 736-4571 if you are able to participate/donate 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

Visit us online www.epsomhistory.com