

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Firemen Enjoy Social Hour As Blaze Checked

Mr. Clark of Epsom Shows
Appreciation For Help In Night

(EPSOM, Jan. 8, [1938]) - The Epsom fire truck, driven by Albert J. Yeaton, responded to a call for help at the home of Ernest F. Clark in the Mountain district about 11 o'clock on Thursday evening. Nine members of the department and three other men were on hand. The fire was checked by using carbon tetrachloride bombs, and water from the booster tank, and burned out without damage.

Mr. Clark had coffee and doughnuts served to the firemen, and a social hour was enjoyed.

Fire Dept At Epsom Elects Its Officers

Clarence E. Bartlett Re-elected
Chief at Annual Meeting

EPSOM, Jan. 26, (1938) - Clarence E. Bartlett was reelected chief of the Epsom Fire department on Monday night at the annual meeting held at the town hall. The other officers elected are: Deputy chief, Gossville company, Millard J. Yeaton; lieutenant, Walter A. Sawyer; McCoy company deputy chief, Harold S. Bickford; lieutenant Albert J. Yeaton; South Side company deputy chief, Joseph Santa Paula; lieutenant, William E. Yeaton; clerk Henry Dowst; and treasurer, Fred W. Yeaton.

The Epsom Fire truck is housed in a heated garage adjoining the town hall, and is kept ready at all times to answer calls. The booster tank carries 200 gallons of water available for instant use; and in many cases this amount of water suffices to control the fire. The truck was called to 14 fires in 1937. The losses in 12 of the fires were slight, but one 50 ft. brooder house burned completely, as did the home of William Rogers just over the Deerfield line. The department is composed entirely of volunteer members.

Additional Fire Calls:

(Dec. 29, 1937) The fire truck responded to a call for help at the home of William Rogers, just over the Deerfield line on Griffin road, on Christmas Eve, and helped save furniture and clothing, although it was impossible to save the dwelling. The Rogers family are now housed in the home of Lloyd Hart on adjoining property.

(Jan. 4, 1938) A chimney fire at the home of Albert H. Stevens in Jug City, was brought under control without damage by the Epsom Fire Department on Sunday morning.

(Jan. 24, 1938) - A chimney fire at the home of Elbridge Bartlett on the Goborough road was extinguished with small damage by the Epsom Fire department. Water leaking around the chimney constituted the chief loss.

(Jan. 26, 1938) - The Epsom Fire department was called on Monday to combat a fire at the house formerly belonging to Leslie Long, but sold last week to Narcisse Forest of Concord. The new owner had been removing wall paper and left the old paper burning in the stove. The fire spread through the partitions and smoke was seen pouring out of the building by neighbors who called the fire department. Loss was estimated at \$300. This is the third fire extinguished by the department this month.

(Feb. 7, 1938) The Epsom fire department truck was called for a chimney fire Saturday afternoon at the home of John H. Howard in New Rye, just before the close of the caucus; and about 20 members of the department responded. The thimbles around the stovepipes were red hot, and some of the woodwork was scorched. The fire was brought under control and the chimney cleaned out.

Another call for a fire at the home of Arthur Locke on the New Orchard road was received about 7 o'clock on Saturday evening. This was also a chimney fire, but sparks on the roof started a smoulder; and the fire started to run through the partitions in the house. The dwelling was saved by the quick response of the fire department. This is the first fire extinguished by the department since January 1. **CONT. on Back Page**

Epsom Man Is Injured When Hit By Tree

Verne MacKenzie, 24, Is
Trapped While Chopping in
Woods
Released by Osborne; Taken to
Hospital
Suffers Compound Fracture Of
Leg, Numerous Body Bruises

EPSOM, Feb. 22 (1938) - Verne MacKenzie, 24, was seriously injured today when a large tree fell on him while he was chopping. He received a compound fracture of the right leg and painful body bruises. James Osborne, with whom he was working, managed to get MacKenzie from under the tree and applied a splint to the leg. He was then taken to Osborne's home. Dr. F.D. Argue of Pittsfield was called. The doctor ordered him sent to the hospital at once and he was taken by Rev. Ralph Osborn to the Margaret Pillsbury hospital where he was treated by Dr. James W. Jameson. MacKenzie lived alone with his mother, Mrs. Florence MacKenzie, a widow.

Freak Four-Legged Chick At Epsom Has Home Over Stove

EPSOM, March 1 (1938) - A freak four-legged chick, one of 1,400 normal 'New Hampshires' hatched here on Friday at Highland poultry farms, was said to be in good health today by the owner, Ralph L. Cass. Mr. Cass said today, however, that he thinks it is doubtful if the chick will live very long, although he is apparently well and unconcerned over extra flesh and a pair of legs which have sprouted, in reverse fashion, back of the usual pair. The chicken is being cared for by the Casses in a box over their kitchen stove, as it was felt he would be safer there than with the rest of the brood. The owner says the chick seems happy and that he "cheeps" all the time, although for some puzzling reason fails to eat as much as he should - that is Mr. Cass' worry.

(Jan. 5, 1938) The Epsom snow plow made its appearance on New Year's Day for the first time in over a year and a half. The plow was not used at all during the winter of 1936-1937 as the snowfall never amounted to more than three inches at any time during that season.

(Jan. 14, 1938) Mr. and Mrs. Olaf A. Ring and Stirling MacGregor escaped injury when their cars collided on Wednesday noon at the entrance of the covered bridge at Short Falls. Both cars were damaged, and the Ring car had to be taken to the garage on the wrecker for repairs.

(March 10, 1938) Jean Hutchinson of the Mountain district is reported to be ill with scarlet fever; and as a result the New Rye and Short Falls schools will be closed until further notice.

The milk house at the Epsom railroad station was sold at auction on Saturday by the Epsom selectmen. Frank W. Sawyer purchased the building for \$12.50.

(March 25, 1938) - Mr. and Mrs. John Brown and sons, John and James, are moving into their new home on the New Rye road. The attractive six room house has been built largely by Mr. Brown himself.

Epsom Social Is Slated For Friday Night Admission Will Vary With Size of Each One's Feet

EPSOM Aug. 29, 1939 - The Baptist Fellowship class will have a social and entertainment in the Town hall on Friday evening at 8' o'clock. Featured on the program will be the Nelson Sisters of Canterbury with their piano accordians. Refreshments will be on sale. Admission will vary with the size of each one's feet, the number of pennies agreeing with the size of the sock.

It is estimated that over seven million feet of lumber was damaged by the hurricane in Epsom, according to selectmen (1938).

OBITS

Hollis Hall

Epsom, Jan. 12 (1938) - Funeral services for Hollis Hall of Epsom Center were conducted at his home on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Ralph T. Osborn, pastor of the Baptist church. P. Leclair Towle of Chichester soloist sang "In The Garden" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer," by request. The bearers were N. Scott Munroe, noble grand of Evergreen Lodge, I.O.O.F., Norman Munroe, chaplain; Albert D. Sherburne and George H. Haynes also of EvergreenLodge; and two nephews, George Riley of Haverhill, Mass., and Dana Parker of Groveland. Burial was in the family lot in McClary cemetery at Epsom Center, with John H. Perkins of Pittsfield in charge of arrangements. Among the out of town relatives at the funeral services of Hollis Hall on Tuesday were Miss Caroline Yeaton and Adolph Ackermann of Portland, Me.; Miss Phyllis Brown of Newton, Mass.; Benjamin Hall and Max Hall of Marlboro; Gardner Hall of Rochester; Mr. and Mrs. George Riley of Haverhill, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Dana Parker of Groveland, Ma.; Mrs. Arthur Bickford, Leon Bickford and Miss Verna Bickford of Elkins; Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hall, Mrs. Franklin Davis and John Sullivan of Portsmouth; Mrs. Harold Garland of Newington; Frank Sullivan, Amesbury, Mass.; Mrs. Cecelia Brown and Arthur Young of Concord; Mrs. Amanda Noyes, Portsmouth; and Mrs. Elmer Drake of Dover.

Nathan J. Goss

Epsom, July 6 (1938) - Rev. Ralph Barnes of Northwood conducted the committal service for Nathan Jonathan Goss at the Gossville cemetery on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Goss was a native of Epsom, and was grandson of the late William Goss for whom the Gossville section of Epsom was named. Mr. Goss had lived in California for 20 years, and had been employed in the Los Angeles Post Office for 18 years. In his youth he attended Pittsfield High School, graduating in 1918; and four of his former classmates were at the funeral service: Mrs. Marian Richardson Fowler of Pembroke; Albert Page of Manchester; Lester Emerson of New Rochelle, N.Y., and Franklin Harvey of Chichester. Others from out of town at the service were Mr. Goss' mother, Mrs. Ida M. Goss; his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Davis and Miss Dorothy Davis, all of Los Angeles; Mrs. Charles C. Goss of Dover; Fred Quimby of Northwood; and Charles Rogers of Pittsfield.

Epsom, July 7 (1938) - Committal services were held this afternoon at the Gossville Cemetery for Nathan J. Goss of Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Goss died in that city on March 4; and the body was accompanied East by Mrs. Ida Leighton Goss. Mr. Goss was born in Epsom on April 7, 1898, the son of the late Nathan J. Goss and Ida Leighton Goss. Interment was in the family lot. Funeral arrangements were ub charge of Joel W. Steward of Northwood.

Woman's Club of Epsom Has Annual Election

Mrs. Philbrick Reelected As President; Events Are Planned

EPSOM, May 8, (1939) - The Woman's Club of Epsom met at the Baptist vestry Friday afternoon for annual reports and election of officers. Mrs. Doris B. Philbrick was reelected president. Other officers are: Vice president, Mrs. Bernice P. Cox; secretary, Mrs. Flora N. Fife; treasurer, Mrs. Amy K. Bartlett; and auditor Mrs. Alice E. Foster.

The club previously voted to make a record of the old private cemeteries in town, and Mrs. Philbrick, the president, appointed committees in 16 sections of Epsom to work on the lists. As many of these old private burying grounds have never been recorded officially, and the old families have moved away or died, it is felt that this project will be of historical value to the town records. Information will be sought from older residents who have personal recollections connected with these cemeteries.

EPSOM, June 7 (1939) - Miss Dorothy Bartlett suffered a painful injury to the thumb on her left hand on Saturday when she cut herself with a hatchet, necessitating seven stiches to close the wound. She has to carry her hand in a sling.

Epsom Circle Honors Its First President

EPSOM, July 14, 1939 - The Baptist Sewing Circle gave a party at the vestry on Wednesday afternoon in honor of the founder and first president, Mrs. Sarah C.G. Avery of Lexington, Mass., and the last president, Miss Nellie F. Sherburne of Gossville. Mrs. Avery, who is visiting at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. Burnham, is 92 years of age; and the Circle was founded 57 years ago when Mrs. Avery's husband was pastor of the church.

Mrs. Loella M. Bunker, who gave a talk on the early history of the organization, recalled Mrs. Avery's Saturday afternoon singing class which she held for the small children of the Sunday school. Miss Sherburne, who served as president of the circle for the past three years, is the granddaughter of the first vice-president, Mrs. Lucy Coolidge Sherburne. Both Mrs. Avery and Miss Sherburne were called on for remarks. Pictures of the two presidents were taken, and enlarged copies will be given to them as souvenirs of the occasion. **[anybody ever see these pictures?]**

Jitterbugs Banned At Dances Of Grange At Short Falls

SHORT FALLS, Feb. 23, 1939 - "Jitterbugs" have been interfering with the dignity and rhythm of the old fashioned dancers at the semi weekly invitation dances held by McClary Grange at Odd Fellows hall, Short Falls. This week, the grange committee announced once and for all, that no "jitterbugging" will be allowed. McClary grange is holding an old fashioned invitation dance on Friday evening.

Epsom Firemen Extinguish Blaze

EPSOM, Jan. 24, 1940 - Prompt action on the part of the Epsom fire department last night, saved buildings belonging to Mrs. Bertha M. Haynes of New Rye.

Investigating a smell of smoke about 9 o'clock, Mrs. Haynes found that the barn connected with her dwelling house was reeking with fumes from a smouldering fire under the floor.

A call for help was telephoned to the fire department, and the fire truck was brought to the scene in a few minutes. The 200 gallons of water carried on the truck were used, and the tank was kept filled by a bucket brigade to the well.

In response to the alarm, about 30 men from all parts of town were on hand to help. A neighbor notified McClary Grange, which was in session at Short Falls, and the meeting was closed to enable members to help at the fire.

When the floor boards of the barn were pulled up, an area nearly 15 feet square was found to be smouldering. Many of the two-inch planks had been charred nearly an inch in depth, and some of them had live coals glowing.

Members of the department worked about two hours before pronouncing the danger averted. A watcher was left in the building to prevent a recurrence of the fire.

About this newsletter...

Several people have taken the time to comment on how they enjoyed the articles taken from the scrapbooks of Helen Lombard and repeated in the last couple EHA newsletters. As they have been popular, a double dose of articles between 1938-1940 are printed in this extended newsletter for your further enjoyment.

Meetings for the Epsom Historical Association will resume in March and the program will be announced in the March newsletter.

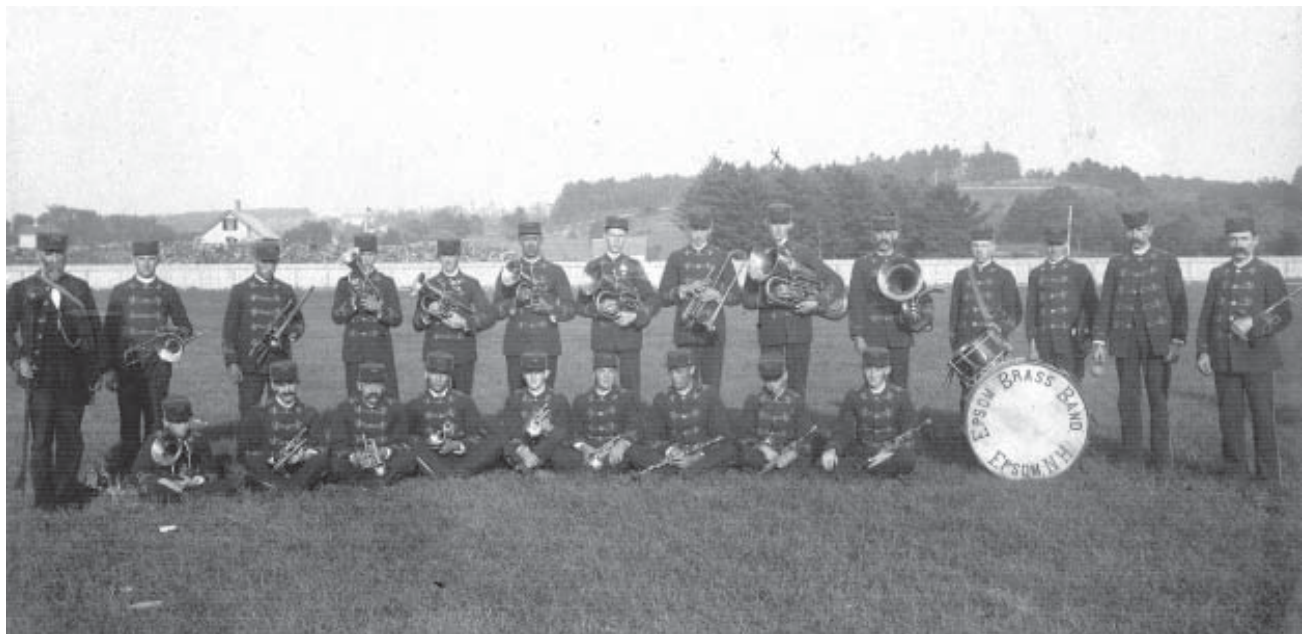
Until then...

West Point's Top Spot to Epsom Youth

EPSOM, June 17, 1940 - The Epsom town hall was the scene of a colorful gathering Saturday night, when the townspeople gave a reception in honor of Lt. Harold C. Brown, who graduated last week at the head of his class at the United States Military Academy at West Point. More than 200 names were registered in the guest book which was given to Lt. Brown as a souvenir of the occasion. In the receiving line with Lt. Brown were his mother, Mrs. Harold C. Brown; his grandmother, Mrs. Nellie B. Brown; and his two younger brothers, Robert and David Brown. Lt. Brown wore his dress uniform and the handsome daber which was presented to him at West Point as leader of the graduating class.

Bolt Fires Epsom Barn; Home Saved

EPSOM, Sept. 23 1940 - A fire set by lightning destroyed the barn and shed of Thomas R. Yeaton, Saturday afternoon, and the house was saved by the determined efforts of the Epsom fire department, assisted by fire trucks from Concord, Chichester and Pittsfield. It was feared that the shed and house which were attached would go, and every piece of furniture was moved from the house. Sunday morning, while the ruins were still burning a group of about 15 men gathered and erected a large shed to provide shelter for the live stock. Electrical connections were repaired and much of the furniture moved back into the house. The same thunder storm put out the lights in the Epsom and New Orchard districts.



Picture of Old Brass Band Is Given Epsom

Walter H. Tripp Makes Presentation at Public Library

EPSOM, Sept. 28, 1938 - Walter H. Tripp, representing the old Epsom Brass Band, presented and enlarged, framed picture of that organization to the town of Epsom at the public library last Saturday afternoon. The picture was accepted by George H. Yeaton as chairman of the board of Selectmen, and George G. Ring in behalf of the library trustees.

The original band was organized in 1891, largely through the efforts of the late Albert L. Sanders who acted as the band leader for many years. There were 23 members, most of whom had no previous musical training. Mr. Sanders spared no efforts to make the band a success; and for many years the group played for Memorial Day programs, and other public gatherings in town. On several occasions trips were made to other communities to play at political rallies and fairs. The band once served as escort to the Suncook Odd Fellows' canton at a funeral of one of Pembroke's leading citizens, marching to and from the cemetery playing hymns.

The young men who made up the band were all about 21 years of age when the group was organized, and ever since have carried a brotherly feeling towards each other. Band members who spoke at the presentation on Saturday, besides Mr. Tripp were Charles M. Steele and Bert French of Portsmouth. Other surviving members are Andrew M. Steele of Beverly, Mass.; Loren D. Sanders of Franklin, Ohio, prominent

in city government and a 32nd degree mason; Bertel R. Foss, now in the poultry business in Concord; Maurice C. Philbrick, now serving his 42nd term as Epsom town clerk; Charles S. Bickford, former Epsom tax collector, now living in Allenstown; William C. Brown of Wells Beach, Me.; William H. Knowles, Epsom postmaster and former representative; Waldo A. Holmes of Penacook; and George N. Fiske of Manchester, prominent physician, veteran of the World war with rank of colonel in the Medical Corps. These former members contributed toward the picture.

Present at the library program on Saturday afternoon were George H. Yeaton, Almon M. Worth and Frank E. Hurd, selectmen; George G. Ring, Mrs. Florence L. Yeaton and Mrs. Margery C. Yeaton, library trustees; Miss Hester E. Bickford and Mrs. Mabel Y. Bartlett, librarians; Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Tripp, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice C. Philbrick, Miss Blanche C. Philbrick, Mrs. Melvina Sanders, Mrs. Frank Hurd, Charles M. Steele, Mrs. Flora D. Sullivan, Mrs. Edith F. Dutton of Suncook; Mr. and Mrs. Bert French of Portsmouth; Mrs. Charles Wilson, Quincy, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Shattuck, Mrs. L.C. Cutting and granddaughter of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



more fire calls.....

(Feb. 16, 1938) - The Epsom fire truck responded to a call for help at the home of Mrs. Evelyn S. Yeaton and Mrs. Elizabeth Yeaton on the Black Hall road on Tuesday morning. A chimney fire was taken care of without difficulty. The two women were alone in the house at the time of the fire.

(July 6, 1938) - The Epsom Fire department was called on Tuesday forenoon to the home of Herbert Yeaton on the Deerfield road, to extinguish a fire of undertermined origin. The fire was first brought to notice by thick smoke issuing from the attic; and flames were discovered in the partitions around a large chimney, although there was no fire in the stove. A large number of men belonging to the fire department responded to the call for help, and most of the furniture was taken from the house. The fire was brought under control with comparatively small damage, using the water carried on the department truck. The portable pump brought water from a brook to keep the booster tank filled. The Deerfield Fire truck stood by to give assistance if needed.

Bolts Miss Dynamite At Epsom But Rip Off Heads Of Nails

(abt. Aug. 1, 1938) Lightning went on a tear in Epsom in last night's freak cloudburst.

But it might have been worse.

When it struck the garage of Road Agent Eldon W. Howard last night, it shattered windows, splintered a shovel handle and departed through the floor between the front wheels of the road agent's car, tactfully avoiding 10 sticks of dynamite and 50 caps stored there for blasting purposes. The car was undamaged. Two separate fires were set by lightning at the Samuel Bickford home where plaster was ripped off every nailhead in a downstairs room walled with plaster covered sheet-rock. Entering the upper story of the house, lightning took the top off a desk and set fire to papers and books then traveled to the pantry where a curtain took fire. Both fires were extinguished by the three badly frightened members of the family without calling the fire department.

(May 17, 1939) The Epsom fire truck, James M. Steele driving, was called for a chimney fire at the home of Roland LaFleur in New Rye on Monday afternoon. The fire was extinguished without damage.

Burt D. Young, who had been postmaster at the Gossville office since October, 1914, retired today. Mr. Young and his predecessor, Andrew J. Silver, were the only postmasters who held that office at Gossville since it was opened in 1881.

Buildings of Epsom Burns

Family Had Left Home Because Of Storm
EPSOM, Sept. 24, (1938) - N. Scott Munroe of the Mountain district lost by fire a two story building on Wednesday night. The upper story was used as a dwelling, the first floor as grain storage, and the cellar for incubators. During the wind storm, the roof was ripped off the brooder house, and Mr. Munroe went out to repair the damage.

Mrs. Munroe alarmed by the storm took her five children, the oldest 11 years old, and went to the nearby home of Mr. Munroe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Munroe. All electric lights were off and a kerosene lamp was left burning on the dining room table. Shortly before midnight, the whole house was seen to be in flames, and it is supposed that a window blew in and the lamp was overturned. The Munroes saved only the night clothing and coats which they were wearing. Much of the damage was covered by insurance.

Mr. Munroe rushed to the home of a neighbor, Ernest Clark, to telephone but found all the lines out of commission. Mr. Clark drove to Short Falls and Epsom to arouse neighbors to help with the fire. The Epsom fire truck was driven to the scene of the fire in time to save the main house, pumping water from two wells on to the roof. Mrs. Norman Munroe who has been seriously ill for several weeks, was in the house at the time.

As a result of the storm, innumerable trees were broken down, and about 18 electric light poles were down in Epsom. Roofs were stripped from barns and houses, and many small structures were blown over. Riad crews spent the day clearing trees and debris from the main highways. All the electric light and power and telephone services were out of commission. Epsom schools were closed on Thursday. Two large poplar trees were blown against the house of Mrs. Samuel S. Yeaton during the storm. A large elm tree fell on the porch at the home of Mrs. Annie M. Fowler. Several chimneys were reported missing, including that on Odd Fellows hall, and one at the home of Russell S. Yeaton. A garage at the home of Mrs. Lizzie J. Bickford was blown from its foundation into a field; and the barn at the Mill House was demolished. The roof was stripped from a large two story brooder house belonging to Howard S. Allen. Several pine groves were laid flat, every tree broken. The old horse sheds at the New Rye church were blown over; and a row of poplars near the New Rye cemetery fell on the ornamental iron fence and demolished it.