

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWS

from old Newspapers

EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAM
May 17, 2009

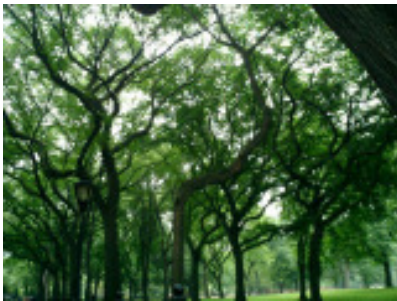
Welcome to the NEWS of Epsom from old newspapers.

(1759)



On June 23, 1759, a large red horse with a star in his forehead, and a little lame in his off fore foot, has been seen in Epsom, and may be the same advertised as lost earlier this month by Andrew Aramour. Whoever can prove this animal is their horse can have him back by inquiring of John McClary.

(1761)



Trees have illegally been cut and taken off the town common. Proprietors of the town are to meet at the Inn of Jonathan Longfellow in Rye on April 15th 1761 to choose a committee to prosecute those who have cut and carried lumber off the common. Nathan Marden, clerk for the town, said the meeting is scheduled for 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

(1764)



A number of inhabitants of the town have sent a petition to the General Assembly asking permission for the town to sell certain Lands with the money raised being applied to the building of a convenient and proper Meeting House for the public worship of God. The petition will be heard on the second day of the sitting of the Assembly after the first day of August 1764, and any person may appear and show cause why the Prayer of the towns people should not be granted. The last four years, Rev. Tuck has had to preach in various home. Among the 27

residents signing the petition were the McClary's, George Wallace, Nathan Marden, Ephraim Locke, the Sanborn's, Libbey's, Abraham Wallace, the Blake's, Blazo's, Samuel Bickford, Thomas Haines, Ephraim Berry, Benson Ham, and John McGaffey.

(1774)



Many of the inhabitants of Greenland got together December 17th 1774 at the house of Mr. John Folsom, Innholder, and erected a Liberty Pole, and through several passed votes, discovered the firmest attachment to the Cause of Liberty and a fixed determination to defend the privilege of Americans with their Lives and Fortunes. Not all were in the spirit, however, as Col. March of Greenland entered his dissent, saying “none but lazy, idle Fellows, such as your Andrew McClary’s and Joseph Cilley’s would have anything to do with such business”, and that he would indemnify anyone that would cut the pole down. Mr. Folsom later denied having made any such remarks.

(1775)



Major Michael McClary and his friends headed to Pembroke, and bought a pound of tea from the retailer Mr. Dix, and during the purchase, Mr. Dix threw out certain verbal hints that did not intend to allay the intentions of his visitors, which was to commence with a “tea party” at his establishment. On the following morning this pound of tea was burned in the street before Mr. Dix’s store, in the presence of a large number of *liberty men*. Dix had in the meantime fastened the door of his store, and armed himself with loaded muster – and swore if the damned

whigs broke open his store, he would shoot them as fast as seven devils could carry them out. The cry being made for more tea, the brave and daring McClary, with one jump, stove in the door; entered with sword in hand, and disarmed the Tory Dix before he recovered from his surprise. His well stored chests of tea were emptied upon the fire, and himself compelled to sign the agreement of the patriots – that he would sell or drink no more tea. Thus ended the tea party at Pembroke, NH.

(1776)



Amos Morrill, from the Camp on Winter Hill, Feb. 12, 1776, issued a reward of five dollars for the return of Benjamin Berry to the Camp at Winter Hill. Berry, some time ago, according to the statement, deserted from the company under Morrill’s command in Colonel Starks regiment. Berry, a fellow about 20 years of age, about 5 feet 8 inches high, formerly belonged to Epsom.

(1784)



Monday, December the 13th, 1784, John Gray, about 16 years old, in attempting to lead a very unruly horse of his father's to water, made the end of the halter fast around his wrist, the horse in prancing hove him down and ran away with him, dragged him over a four board fence and through the field, until the halter broke. The family supposed the young man had gone to spend the evening with his relations, were unconcerned about him until the next morning,

when to their great surprise, they found the blood on the fence where the horse had dragged the young man over, then following the blood, after some time, found him at a considerable distance alive, but perfectly helpless and senseless; he died, as most of his bones were broken. He was the son of Major James Gray and his late wife, Jane Wallace.

(1787)



This April, to be let and entered upon is the farm where the widow Mary Tucke now lives, containing one hundred acres with a good dwelling house and barn. The farm has produced 8 tons of good English hay, 16 barrels of cyder and 50 bushels of Indian Corn. Interested parties can contact Mary Tuck in Epsom or Daniel Pierce in Portsmouth.

(1792)

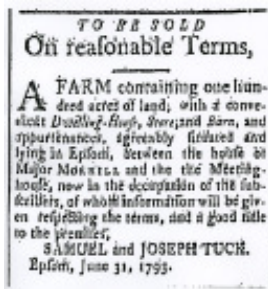


On Tuesday, April 3rd 1792, the dwelling house of Col. Samuel Osgood accidentally took fire. The family managed to save some provisions and furniture and presumably stayed with family which resided close by at the Echo Family Farm. The property was bought by the Osgood's in 1777 from the McGaffey family.

(1793)

A farm containing one hundred acres of land, with a convenient Dwelling House, store and barn is for sale by Samuel and Joseph Tucke. It is located between the house of Major Morrill and the

Meetinghouse. The property was formerly that owned by Rev. John Tucke, and known as the Old Tavern. The property was previously available for rent.



Also, Major Amos Morrill is moving to St. Alban's, Vermont, and this August, is selling his property in Epsom. The first lot is about 175 acres, pleasantly situated near the meeting house, and will serve for two small farms, having been improved as such, and on it are two houses, three barns and out houses, and is well situated for a trader, tradesman or innholder. A second parcel with house and barn, containing about 90 acres includes a good privilege for saw and grist mills.

(1795)



On Wednesday the 28th, 1795, as a large company of gentlemen and ladies from Epsom, out for a party of pleasure, were crossing the river at Tucker's ferry when the horses belonging to one of the sleighs went over the eastern bank and took a fall, then rolled over and broke the sleigh to pieces. The passengers were thrown so violently upon the ice, that Miss Hannah Dickey, has since been resigned of all sense, and almost of all emotion, her life pronounced extremely dubious, but expected to survive.

(1798)



David Lawrence Morrill has for sale three quarters of an acre of land on which is a beautiful garden, a small house and barn, recently finished. Mr. Morrill practiced medicine in Epsom from 1793 to 1800 when he moved to Goffstown. He later became a preacher, politician and Governor of the State of New Hampshire in 1824. His first wife was Jane Wallace of Epsom who died in Goffstown in 1823.

(1800)



Jonathan Pearson is offering for sale, within one hundred rods of the meetinghouse, and on the main road leading through Epsom, about 30 acres of good land with a good house, thirty three feet by thirty, and one story high, with a convenient shop for a clothier, complete with press, shears and more. The property includes two convenient barns, a good well and pretty orchards, also a fulling mill in complete order, standing on an excellent stream. There is also an outlet of six acres of good woodland within one mile of the dwelling house.

(1801)



John McClary died June 16, 1801. Son of immigrant Andrew McClary, the family early on distinguished themselves among the “Sons of Liberty” in New Hampshire, and took a very active and conspicuous part in the American Revolution, both in the Field and in the Cabinet. John McClary, upon the commencement of the war ,was appointed one of the Executives of the State, then known by the name of “The Committee of Safety,” and continued to act during the most trying period of the Revolution. Possessed of firmness and decision, properly tempered with prudence, discretion, and sustaining an unimpeachable character which gave him the confidence of the people, he was of essential service to the state. He was a dispassionate Whig of '75 and a consistent Federalist of '98. Having for many years retired from public life to domestic enjoyment.

COMMENTARY

For such a prominent family, the end of the surname McClary in Epsom lasted only 4 generations.

Major Andrew McClary, younger brother to John McClary, died at Bunker Hill. Andrew’s son John died at Fort Adams in November of 1808. Capt. John McClary was of the first Regiment of Infantry in the army of the U.S. and was forty years old. Another son of Major Andrew was his namesake Andrew. A Captain, he was employed in the War Department in Washington, D.C., he died in that City in August of 1811. Just a year earlier, in Epsom, the first born son of Major Andrew McClary, James Harvey, passed away at age 47. None of the grandchildren of Maj. McClary remained in Epsom.

John McClary had three sons, the youngest, also named Andrew, died while attending Dummer Academy at age 16. His namesake son John, died in Albany, New York during the Revolution.



As the country moved to 1812, the only McClary of Epsom was the third son of John and grandson of the immigrant Andrew, Michael McClary. Michael lived in the homestead of his father, built about 1741 for his father, a structure which still stands today. He had a son John, also known as Jonathan, born in 1785, and a second son, Andrew, born in 1787. His son John took after his grandfather John. He met an untimely death on the 13th of December, 1821 – In raising a frame of a shed at Mr. John Chesley’s. Both broadsides gave way and were precipitated to the ground....the plate falling directly upon him while he was standing under it, which crushed him to the ground, broke his spine and he expired in a very few minutes. He was a member of the Legislature and also a member of the State Senate.

His brother Andrew was active in the Army and in recruiting for the War of 1812. He was presumed drowned at sea.

The loss of John McClary fell hard on the family, breaking the spirit of his aging father, Michael McClary. The General, as he was rightly called, an active participant during the Revolutionary War, Adjutant General for the State of New Hampshire, Senator, declined candidate for Governor of the State, and U.S. Marshall, died just three years after the tragic death of his son, passing away March 27, 1824. His widow outlived him almost twenty years. His funeral at the meetinghouse was attended by a great number of people, with Rev. Jonathan Curtis officiating.

(1802)



A farm is for sale this September, containing about one hundred and twenty acres with good building, within fifty rods of the Meetinghouse – interest persons should contact Jonathan Locke.

(1802)



This May 1802, the President has dismissed Bradbury Cilley Esq. from the office of Marshall of New Hampshire and appointed Michael McClary Esq. in his place. The Honorable McClary in virtue of his acceptance of the office of Marshall of this district, has left the State Senate, being replaced by the Honorable James Harvey McClary, a Federalist. The Senate is now filled with 9 Federalists and 3 Democrats.

(1802)



Bradbury Kenniston, a Private in the Artillerists of the United States, was directed on the first of May 1802, to report to the Post Office in Portsmouth after letters and papers belonging to the Officers of his Garrison; and after receiving the papers at the Post Office, deserted the service of the United States. Kenniston, born in Epsom, is 24 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches in height, black eyes with black short hair and dark complexion, and was last seen in a regimental coat and short blue pantaloons and boots. A twenty dollar reward has been posted for anyone who can secure him in any jail until he can be returned to Amos Stoddard, Capt at Fort Constitution. Any and all expenses will be reimbursed.

(1807)



The Directors of the N.H. Turnpike have voted to farm out for one year, the toll that may be collected at the several gates on the road, and will be done so at public auction to the highest bidder. Toll from gates No. 5 and 6, being the two upper gates, will be auctioned at Godfrey's Tavern at Epsom on the 20th of March.

(1808)



Thursday, the 16th of March at the Epsom Meetinghouse, the Honorable Timothy Walker, Esquire, heard the complaint against Benjamin Cilley of Nottingham, for beating and abusing Abner Clough of Loudon, by giving him sundry blows with the butt end of a whip on the left side of his head and neck at the house of Levi Towle of Epping last February 11th. Clough left in a sleigh after the incident to return home to Loudon and died there the next morning. The body was exhumed on the 9th of March for examination, leading to the arrest of Mr. Cilley. After hearing the case over three days, with a very large

audience of both sexes attending, it was ordered that Benjamin Cilley be sent to the prison in Exeter to be tried at the next session of the Superior Court in that county.

(1815)



Jonathan Brown, Nov. 19, 1815, posted a one cent reward for an indentured apprentice boy who has run away. The name of the boy is Samuel Prescott, and Mr. Brown also advises that he will pay no debts that the boy may contract since the time of his disappearance.

(1815)

A farm, in the fourth range of Lots containing 100 acres of excellent land, including a new barn 46 by 42 and 125 young apple trees is for sale, this May 1815, by Mark French. The lot includes about 30 acres is cleared and fit for mowing, the rest is well timbered with white oak, white pine, yellow pine and the easterly end of the lot joins on the Suncook river, where stands a new sawmill and grist mill.



Mark French, February 5, 1816, also has for sale that pleasant and noted Stand, for a Tavern and Store, in Epsom on the NH Turnpike Road. The house and store are handsomely finished, in good repair, and exceeded by none between Concord and Portsmouth, for trade or a Tavern, or both. With it is a good barn, shed and an excellent well of never failing water. The land is of the best quality and implanted with fruit trees. Immediate possession can be given. Interested person can inquire of the subscriber on the premises.

(1816)



Mark French, of Epsom, had been apprehended in Albany for Robbery, a large quantity of plunder being found in his possession.

Mark French, identified through various papers found in his possession, arrived in Albany, NY September 20th, 1816, and telling locals he was near

destitute, obtained a written license from the Mayor to ask of the citizens charity, and actually received from various persons, sums of money. Stating he was from Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Mr. French told of his being ill and wished to collect enough money to return home. He pawned some goods and clothing at a local establishment and boarded a steam boat to New York, returning to Albany November 5th, staying at the Columbian Hotel, owned by a Mr. Fobes. Mr. French told Mr. Fobes he was from Montreal, was poor and destitute of money. Mr. Fobes was getting ready to head to Whitehall when he noticed his trunk had been broken into, his pocket book and money missing, that which he had counted not a half hour before. Suspicion fell on the new lodger, Mr. French. Fobes, unable to confront, went to the police, described what was missing from his trunk, including a five dollar bill drawn on the Middle District Bank.

Fobes kept watch on Mark French, who appeared to be begging by day and at night visited houses of ill-fame, gambling away his charity. Fobes took it upon himself to check out the belongings of Mr. French, finding among his baggage his pocket book, money, and five dollar bill drawn on the Middle District Bank. He grabbed French by the collar and took him to the local police. Mark French was examined and committed to prison. From the manner in which the goods were found stowed away, French probably had stolen them from various persons, and at various times the articles were rolled with old clothes in many small bundles. There was no doubt they had been stolen in New York and Albany. He had also a large assortment of clothing which he had plundered. Mark French appears to be about 50 years of age, stout made, sandy complexion, and about five feet nine or ten inches in height.

(1819)



The barn belonging to Webster Salter of New Rye was struck by lightning on September 8th, 1819. The large barn was nearly new and at the time housed close to 40 tons of hay, contained grain and building materials for erecting a new house.

(1819)



Capt. Isaac Osgood, in a fit of derangement, put an end to his existence by cutting his throat on Wednesday, November 3, 1819. James Babb was on the scene shortly after the incident and stated "he had been partially deranged for some time and indulged the idea that poverty would soon overtake him and that his family would come to want. - he was probably as independent as to property as any farmer in town. - he arose in the morning, directed his nephew to go to the barn and find the cattle then took the pail and went to the pen and fed the swine- set the pail down, took off

his hat, lay himself down on the floor, his head on a block, and deliberately as it would be seen, performed the fatal operation and died very soon after.

I saw him soon after the deed was performed. This scene was awful and solemn."

Isaac was a Capt. of a militia unit and he was the son of Col. Samuel Osgood, who passed away a month and 10 days after his youngest son.

(1820)



The privateer ship Rolla, of Newburyport, which, Dec. 28, 1820, was driven by a violent storm on Nauset Beach, in Eastham, and all but three of her crew and passengers were lost. The ship from Surinam, bound to Newburyport, with a cargo of molasses and thirteen thousand dollars in spices, was driven ashore on Nauset beach in the night. The vessel being old, was soon rendered a complete wreck. Among the seamen was William Coffin Moody, the only child of Benjamin Moody, a lawyer in Epsom, NH - a young man of great purity and energy of character, who had early formed a passion for

sea life. His father, Benjamin Moody Esquire, passed away exactly ten months prior to his son Willie, leaving just the widow Elizabeth Coffin Moody. Willie was 19 years old.

(1821)



A child of Robert Knox, aged about two years, died a couple of weeks after pulling from a table a vessel of hot fat which fell into its bosom. Burial was February 8th, 1821 in the McClary Cemetery. The mother, Polly Dole Cilley Knox, was the daughter of Col. Daniel and Hannah Plummer Cilley.

(1821)



Illness has brought tragedy to the household of Amos and Nancy Libbey Davis. On July 15th, daughter Mehitable age 9, died of a sore throat, followed on July 29th by William age 7 and Samuel age 5 on August first. Son Winthrop died the following December, a month shy of his first birthday. All the children were buried in the family lot on New Rye

Road near the Allenstown/Epsom border.

(1824)



To be sold at Auction Tuesday, the second day of March 1824 will be a Grist Mill with two runs of stones on the Suncook River, at the Short Falls. Included also is a small house and barn with three acres of good land near the mill. The buildings and mill have been recently erected and are in good repair. Interested parties should contact Benjamin Robinson.

(1824)



A barn filled with hay belonging to Mr. Joseph Brown burnt down on August 9th, 1824, again in New Rye.

(1824)



Charles Henry Lord, aged 6, son of Capt. Edward Dearborn Lord and Betsey Osgood, was killed Sept. 18, 1824, while visiting a fulling mill where his clothes got entangled in the gearing of a water-wheel.

(1825)



At midnight preceding the 19th of December , 1824, the barn of Josiah Sanborn, Esq., together with its contents of 30 tons of hay, 20 head of cattle, including a yoke of large fat oxen, a horse and various other articles was consumed by fire. The house, which was attached to the barn by a shed, was preserved thanks to the efforts of the neighbors. The scene, so late at night, was described as sublime and awful in appearance. The Sanborn Hill barn was not insured, and the loss, from the assumed arson, was about \$1000.00.

(1825)



It may not perhaps be generally known in this State that a purchase has been made of the New Hampshire Turnpike Road leading from Concord, through Northwood, Epsom and Durham to Piscataqua Bridge, in order to afford a greater facility and encouragement to those conveying their produce to the Portsmouth market. This is now a FREE ROAD. It is well made, its course as direct as possible, avoiding the mountainous ridges. The distance on this road from Concord

Bridge to Portsmouth is 43 miles, and may be travelled in about half a day.

(1825)



A new manufacturing business has been established this February 1825 at Short Falls. The new firm, PARK & KINNESON was formed by Richard Park and Nehemiah Kinneson and will begin making paper. The new firm is offering to pay cash for unsorted rags, and for those of a good quality, they will pay the highest price.

(1826)



Mr. Joseph H. Lawrence recently published a notice on May 8, 1826, forbidding anyone to pay any debts of his estranged wife. As written by Mr. Lawrence –

“Whereas Martha my wife has left my bed & board and separated herself from me ever since June the twenty-seventh day 1822, declaring her fixed determination never more to return or live with me; and since that time has continued to live separate from me in such manner as best suited her views; often repeating her determination not to return to me or perform any of the duties of a wife; but as we are commanded to render good for evil, for that reason I offered to give her a lease of a complete well furnished

dwelling house, delightfully situated on a small farm, about one quarter of a mile from my homestead farm during her natural life; also to deliver her two children into her care, and in addition to that I offered to maintain her and the children, and provide everything necessary for their comfort in sickness and in health. But she has such an ungoverned temper and disposition, that she utterly refuses to comply with said offer; but chooses rather to stroll about from place to place and live in a gross and lewd manner, inconsistent with and repugnant to her marriage vows; it is said in the Scripture at the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established; and at the mouths of three respectable eye witnesses, I have a full, sufficient reason to believe that she, the said Martha, has been guilty of the crime of adultery. Therefore I do hereby forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account, for I am determined not to pay any debts of her contracting from the above mentioned time she left my house up to this date, and from this date to the end of time. – Joseph Laurence”

(1827)



In Lowell, Mass, Nov. 23, 1827, Martha Jenness aged 27, wife of Mr. Jonathan Jenness, formerly of Rye, and daughter of Mr. Daniel Philbrick of Epsom, having endured a pulmonary disease of about nine years. About two years since she became a member of the Free Will Baptist Church in Epsom, but Providence saw fit to dismiss her from her membership there by death, and we trust to unite with the Church triumphant in heaven. During her confinement she would often express a desire to go hence and be with God. She was brought back to her father's for burial in the McClary Cemetery.

(1828)



The annual Fourth of July celebration for 1828 included the fine Light Infantry company commanded by Capt. Samuel Wells and was held at the inn of William Yeaton Jr., and was attended by a respectable number of the democratic-republicans. Many sentiments were delivered and was accompanied by the discharge of musketry. Colonel Daniel Cilley presided and the toastmaster was William Ham Jr..

(1829)



To be sold in Epsom, May 1829, the farm commonly called the Parsonage farm, lying opposite the meeting house. It contains nearly sixty acres of good land, with a house suitable for two families, and in good repair. Included is a barn and shed, interested persons should contact the Postmaster for Epsom, James Babb, or William West of Concord.

(1830)



One of the buildings attached to the Powder Manufactory of Oliver M. Whipple, Esq. In Lowell, exploded on the 5th of January 1830. Some of the shingles were found half a mile off. Mr. Joseph Robinson, of Epsom, N.H. was the only person in the mill, one of his brother having left it in a few moments earlier . Mr. Robinson threw himself on his face, but was found dreadfully bruised, and both eyes destroyed. He leaves a wife Sally Stickney and three children, Lavina, Stickney and Joseph.

(1830)



Two horses were stolen the night of August 16th, 1830. One, a large black horse, long bodied and limbed, with a white stripe in his face, a white mark around the breast, occasioned by a gall from the harness; a long switch tail, and had not been docked, was stolen from Thomas D. Merrill, who offers a 60 dollar reward. The other, also black and five years old, had a white star between the eyes, and a little white on the nose, and with white hind feet. This horse, belonged to John Wallace, who also offers a reward of 60 dollars. It

is noted that a young man, about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches, with dark eyes and hair, fair complexion and generally known as an essence peddler, about 25 years of age, left his family at the time the horses were taken and has not been seen in the neighborhood since. The person suspected is said to be well skilled in painting horses, and the marks described by the owners of the stolen horses, may not distinctly appear upon quick examination of the animals.

(1831)



The Senate and House in General Court released the names of several persons whom now have permission to assume new names. Among them are William Keniston of Epsom who may take the name of William Johnson; and Jemima H. Keniston taking the name Jemima H. Johnson; and likewise Samuel W. Keniston, Elizabeth Ann Keniston, Joseph H. Keniston, and John S. Keniston, may also take the Johnson surname. In Allenstown, Robert, John, Thomas, Sally, Rolinda, Jane, Catherine, Harriet and Robert Jr. Trickey will assume the new surname of Appleton. Other Trickey's in neighboring towns assuming the same new last name, includes Samuel of Pembroke, Mary of Hooksett and Edwin of Chichester.

(1831)



The dwelling house of Mr. John Chesley was burnt just before the fourth of July in 1831. There is no doubt that the fire was deliberate in nature. Fire had twice before been applied to Mr. Chesley's barn and twice had gone out. The house was so much on fire before it was discovered that only a small portion of furniture in the front part was saved. Note that the house was rebuilt, and later taken down and moved.

(1832)



The Kennison and Park Paper mill is for sale, after a run of seven years. The sale will be held April 2, 1832. The mill is in complete running order, and in addition to the mill being for sale, is a dwelling house and barn within 20 rods of the mill - with a good well and a young orchard . A second dwelling house and barn within 50 rods of the mill is also for sale, along with the Grist Mill, where the town bridge crosses from one mill to the other. Interested persons can contact Nehemiah Kennison on the premises or Richard Park in Tauton, Mass.

(1833)



On Sunday night, the 5th of May 1833, three barns of Daniel Cilley Esq. were consumed. The dwelling house, the Cilley Tavern, was saved with much difficulty. There is no doubt the fire was set, as the town has for a few years been unfortunate in fires and in the suspicion at least, that it is infested with a few miscreants, who have been responsible for them. The town held a special meeting on June 3rd and adopted a resolution empowering the Selectmen- Eliphalet Wiggin, Nathan Bickford and Thomas D.

Merrill, to offer a \$500.00 reward to any person or persons who can furnish evidence sufficient to convict any who have been guilty of the crime.



AND HERE IS THE REST OF THE STORY: After the death of Daniel Cilley, the property was sold to William Goss in 1855 who reopened the tavern as the Suncook Valley House. On Thursday the 26th of 1859, the William Goss barn was burnt. The structure was either rebuilt or repaired. Chapin Osgood bought the property in 1894, and the wood barn was burnt down on April 6, 1896, the fire being of unknown origin, with the old hotel partly damaged. Chapin Osgood quickly rebuilt the barn, only to have a lightning strike destroy the stable and further damage was done to the dwelling house and hotel.



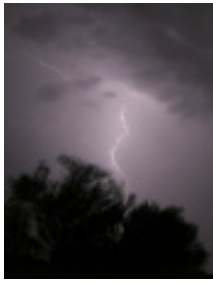
This forced Osgood to sell out, and Edgar F. White ran the hotel, newly named the "Gossville Hotel", later selling to Charles Sumner Hall. Several people have since owned the property, with the hotel and barn being later separated by deed. The barn once again burned on July 21, 2008, a result of arson.

(1833)



December 15th, 1833, Saturday night at one AM, the schoolhouse in the Mountain District was discovered to be on fire. The wind, blowing from the northeast, kept the flames from the neighboring buildings. The school house was pretty much destroyed by the time it was discovered with all the books, stationery and items belonging to the scholars were all destroyed. Damage was estimated at about \$200 dollars. Students for the term were sent to the New Rye District School until the new Mountain District Schoolhouse was built.

(1835)



Last June 11, 1835, a vicious storm hit the area with severe lightning strikes. On the farm of James Sherburne, six cattle were killed in his yard by a single shock of lightning. Mr. Sherburne was standing within a few feet of them, but escaped without injury. His home is the Sherburne homestead on the hill overlooking Gossville.

(1836)



On August 2nd 1836 Jeremiah, son of John S. Haynes, aged 22, went into the vicinity of the Suncook river after dinner for the purpose of removing sheep from one pasture to another. His protracted absence prompted fears of his father and friends, who soon went to the banks of the stream where they found his clothes — apparently in the situation in which he had deposited them when taken off for the purpose of bathing. A short search discovered his lifeless corpse at the bottom. He was an most deserving young man, and his death is deeply lamented by his family and friends.

(1838)



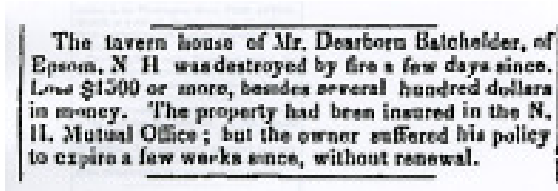
This last week of September, 1838, John F. Drew was convicted of entering the dwelling house of Eleanor Brown, and stealing, in the night. Though found guilty, the sentence was suspended on the question arising as to the ownership of the dwelling, as alleged in the indictment.

(1838)



This October 1838, the New Hampshire Historical Society was the beneficiary of a gift from Miss Eliza McClary — a set of bronze weights, a century old, brought out of Ireland by the ancestors of the Epsom McClary family. It is not immediately known if they remain in the hands of the New Hampshire Historical Association's museum.

(1839)



The tavern house of Mr. Dearborn Batchelder was destroyed by fire Wednesday March 30th, 1839. The loss of \$1500 or more, besides several hundred dollars in money, was suffered by Mr. Batchelder, who up until a few weeks prior to the blaze was insured in the NH Mutual Office, but the policy recently lapsed.

The tavern was located near the entrance to Center Hill Road on the First New Hampshire Turnpike.

(1842)



A barn belonging to Mr. Chesley was burned March 29, 1842 along with about a dozen head of cattle. A person by the name of Hoit was committed to prison under the charge of setting it on fire. The youth, identified as 13 year old Samuel Hoyt, was found guilty in September of that year and sentenced to one day solitary confinement and three years hard labor in the State Prison.

(1842)



George W. Howe died August 19, 1842, 24 hours after being so violently kicked by a horse as to cause his death. He was assisting a neighbor in ploughing - the horse being employed before oxen as part of the team. In some way the chain by which the horse was attached to the oxen became disengaged, and as Mr. Howe was about to hook it, he was struck in the lower part of the abdomen by both hind feet of the horse, with such force that all appearances of life was for the time destroyed. By active and persevering efforts of his

companions, they succeeded in resuscitating the vital spark, and he was removed to his home, where he lingered in the most excruciating agony about twenty four hours. He was a very respectable young man, about 23 years of age, leaving a young wife and infant child. He was the son of Jacob Howe and Martha Lake and was buried in Chichester.

(1848)



September 14th, 1848, just after dawn, the large three story house, which, for many years has stood so boldly in the traveller's eye as he passed on either of the leading roads through Epsom, owned by Mr. Joseph Lawrence, was consumed by fire. The house was built in 1807 and replaced the original Andrew McClary homestead which burnt shortly after it was purchased by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence rebuilt on the same location, that home still standing.

(1849)



The overseers of the poor on April 9, 1849, announced a list of town paupers for whom they are making ample provisions for their support. The overseers will claim any of their earnings and will not be responsible for any debts they contract. Those listed were James H. Haynes, Adeline Haynes, Alvira Haynes, Sarah E. Haynes, Harvey D. Haynes, Octavia T. Haynes, Martha A. Haynes, Reuben White, Eliza White, Keziah White, Sally White, Abigail Towle, Betsy Ames, Moses Locke, David Dickey, Elijah Pettengill, Meriam Barton, Thomas Moses, Benjamin W.M. Moses, James E.C. Moses and Elizabeth Moses. The town overseers include William Ham, Jonathan L. Cilley and George Sanders, who expect the town to purchase a location for a Town Poor Farm in the next year.

(1849)



August 6, 1849 - W.P. and J.L. Cilley are offering for sale their farm, well known as the Cilley place, lying on the Turnpike Road and near the center of the town, and close to the line of the contemplated Railroad from Hooksett to Pittsfield. The home place contains upward of 200 acres, a large proportion of which is mowing and tillage, the buildings are two good dwelling houses, two barns with sheds, and all other out buildings – suitable for two families. The farm will be auctioned on the 20th of February, 1850.

(1849)



Abram S. Haynes, feeling he fell short in some business transactions, committed suicide by drowning himself in the river near what is called "the Forks." Prior to the incident he hid a note in a bed in a tenement in the same building occupied by a Mr. Goodhue. Just at dark, Mrs. Goodhue went to lay down a child when the note was discovered. Signed August 8, 1849 and signed Abram S. Haynes, the note read "You will find my body in the Big river by Cilley's. Trouble of mind

causes me to do this. It is hard for me to part with my dear wife and little son, but I do not want to live. I want all my folks to be good to my wife and son, for they always treated me affectionately. So farewell, dear wife, my heaven protect you."

A search was immediately made but the body was not found till near midnight. Mr. Haynes, 25 years of age, was an industrious and enterprising young man, leaving behind his wife Elizabeth and son Hiram H.

(1849)

The town of Epsom will sell its old meetinghouse, built in 1764. The auction will be held on

AUCTION.
Will be sold at Public Auction, on Saturday, the 8th day of September next, at four o'clock P. M., on the premises, the old Congregational meeting house in Epsom. The building is about 50 feet by 40, the timber in the frame is large and with the rest of the wood work is believed to be sound and good.
Conditions at time and place of sale.
FREDERICK SANBORN, } Committee
MOSES P. GRAY, } of the
JONATHAN L. CILLEY, } Proprietors.
Epsom, Aug. 20, 1849. 33

Saturday, the 8th of September, 1849 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on the premises. It is the old Congregational meetinghouse, and is about 50 feet by 40, the timber in the frame is large and with the rest of the wood work is believed to be sound and good. The Committee of the Proprietors are in charge of the sale and information may be made of Frederick Sanborn, Moses P. Gray and Jonathan L. Cilley.

(1851)



On Saturday evening, the last day of August 1851, Reuben Sanborn, in a state of intoxication, was returning to his home from a day's work, with his scythe and broad axe, when he apparently fell upon his tools, and cut his arm severely. Some local individuals took his tools from him and again started him along. He was found the next morning dead by the side of the road, within half mile of his home. He had bled profusely and probably became faint and was unable to proceed and perished from exposure to the night air.

(1868)



The house and out-buildings of Mr. Daniel Locke were burned on Tuesday, December 15th, 1868. The loss of the household furniture, cattle, hay, grain and farming utensils was heavy.

(1869)



The barn of Mr. James C. Yeaton, at Jenness's Corner was consumed by fire on November 12, 1869, and with it eight horses, harnesses and grain. The loss falls on a Mr. Keenan, who is a contractor on the Suncook Valley Railroad.

(1870)



A New Store, opened in the Suncook Valley February, 1870.

William and son John A. Goss, offer for sale at their new Store just opened at Goss' Village, a good variety of West India Goods and Groceries at extremely low prices. Having purchased goods for cash in Boston and vicinity, at a great discount, they are prepared to place them before the public lower than they can be bought elsewhere in this vicinity. They also solicit a liberal patronage and invite one and all to come and examine the of stock goods for themselves. Their Motto - Quick Sales and Small Profits.



Part of the building housing the new store was formerly the old Epsom Free Will Baptist Church, moved to this location in 1861. Later William Goss sold the store to Silver and Robinson, later it became Silver and Hall, and still later was owned by Silver and Young. For many years it housed the Gossville Post Office and was known as the Gossville Store.

Goss also runs the Suncook Valley House.

(1871)



On October 4th, the freight of the Suncook Valley Railroad station was raided by Charles Blaisdel and William S. Morrill of Chichester. Flour, raisins and other groceries were stolen. Both men were captured and tried before Justice Thomas H. Thorndike of Pittsfield, who demanded \$600 bail of each. They having no money on them, they were committed to jail and are likely to go before the grand jury. The property stolen was owned by Epsom and Northwood residents. One of the men is

reputed a desperate rascal and the other as his dupe, but which is which was not readily ascertained.

(1876)



The body of a man was found floating in the Merrimack river at Concord on Sunday morning, June 11th 1876, which evidently had been in the water some five or six days. The body was identified as Charles T. Cofran, an insane man, who escaped from the asylum the prior Monday.

(1884)



Mr. [Jacob] Freeze Robinson is moving his family to Suncook where he has gone into the Dry Goods business with the Johnson's of Pembroke. He has been in business with Mr. Silver at Gossville for the past 12 years as the Silver and Robinson store, but sold out recently to Charles Sumner Hall. In addition, Mr. Charles S. Hall has been appointed depot master, Mr. Robinson having resigned the position when he moved to Pembroke.

(1884)



There is a brass band being organized at Gossville. The band has appeared at the Tilton Fairgrounds, and in addition to concerts and Memorial Day programs here in Epsom, has offers to perform in area towns. The band is under the direction of William A. Sanders. Other members include Fred Yeaton, William Knowles, Walter H. Tripp, Maurice Philbrick, Edwin Yeaton , Charles S. Bickford, Andrew and Charles M. Steele. The

group is the predecessor to the Epsom Town Band.

(1896)



The Gossville Carriage Company is having a boom in business. New work is coming every day from neighbors, and people from Chichester, Loudon, and Northwood, and in every instance is quickly and satisfactorily done. A new coach is well under way for stage driver C.J. Brown which will add much to the line when completed. C.J. Brown, who has moved to Epsom to run the public Suncook Valley

house at Gossville, also has a livery in connection with it, and is eager to meet and entertain the traveling public. His new coach will be run on the Epsom and Northwood stage line, was dedicated Wednesday June 17, 1896. It is a good sample of the work Gossville Carriage company can put out. It is made upon honor and no one need be afraid to ride in it.



The elegant new stage placed upon the Northwood and Epsom line was christened last week with a free ride given to a number of out town officials and prominent citizens by specialized invitation from the proprietor, C.J. Brown. The party numbered 17 and started from Epsom depot on arrival of the up train at about 11:30 o'clock. The stage was gaily decorated and drawn by four handsome horses, and was driven by the proprietor himself.

Several members of the party were provided with fish horns, cow bells and other musical instruments, which awoke the echoes along the hills and announced their progress to the wandering inhabitants along the route.

A short stop was made at Northwood Narrows, where the guests were greeted by a cheering crowd waving handkerchiefs, who flocked to doors and windows to view their passage through the village. The next stop was made at Northwood Center for dinner. Here the party sat down to a first class spread at the Harvey House and shortly after dinner the return trip was begun.

At the Narrows a stop was made at the post office where Postmaster C.H. Sherman treated the party to cigars. Arriving back at Gossville, the store of Silver and Hall was visited and all were refreshed.

(1897)

Edward White, having leased the Suncook Valley House, most recently conducted by C.J. Brown, has now changed the name of the house calling it the Gossville Hotel and will make every effort to please the public. He will also run a free transportation carriage to and from the depot.

E.F. White, the proprietor of the newly named Gossville Hotel, is having quite a good run of trade as people begin to appreciate the accommodations. He is renovating the house all over inside,



painting and papering and trying to please all who patronize him. His register shows well for the first week, having the following names: S.H. Sterling, R. Forsett, Manchester; C.H. Farron, Concord; H.J. Morgan, Ansonia, Conn.; W.H. Kenney, Woburn, Mass.; Mrs. Ida F. Greenleaf, A.F. Holmes, Northwood; L.F. Smith, Thomas C. Brown, Boston; Park G. Hall and lady, Pittsfield; W.W. Reynolds, Providence, R.I.; Frank Manning and

wife, Northwood; E.H. Haskill, York, Maine; George P. Wood and wife, Newmarket; H.M. Clark, Deerfield; A.E. Gleason, Durham.

(1916)



During the terrible thunder storm which swept over this section Wednesday afternoon of August 22, 1916, the buildings at the center owned by Miss Amanda Hall, were destroyed. A bolt of lightning entered the barn, which was full of hay, and instantly the structure was ablaze. Luther Hall, who was the only person on the premises, his sister being at Hedding Camp Ground, succeeded in rescuing the livestock. Neighbors and other

townspeople hastened to his assistance and dynamiting was resorted to in order to save this fine old colonial house which was a landmark of historic Epsom; but without avail. Some of the furniture was saved but many valuable articles were lost in the flames, including the farm implements and silverware.

(1925)



Sunday, September 25, 1925, The little town of Epsom was horrified when Charles Sumner Hall, 72, wealthy timber dealer and realtor became temporarily insane, murdered Mrs. Grace Snow, 82, as she lay in her bed in her little cottage home at the center of the village, and then locked himself in the bathroom of his hotel next door and drowned himself in the tub.



Mr. Hall was a lifelong resident of Gossville, a part of Epsom, and had recently retired from active participation in the lumber business. Suffering from insomnia, he consulted Dr. Robert O. Blood of Concord, on Friday and then returned to Epsom where he made his home with his nephew George M. Hall. His condition seemed to be improved Saturday and he went to bed as usual.



When the nephew arose at about 7:15 o'clock yesterday morning, the aged man had left the house. The family was not surprised for the elder Mr. Hall had often gone for a short walk before breakfast. However, when he did not appear for breakfast, his nephew went out to look for him, believing he would locate him at his office, a hundred yards down the Old Turnpike. The office doors were locked.

Looking about the farm, at the rear of the office, the nephew found no trace of the aged realtor. Thinking that he might have wandered away, he then notified L. Ashton Thorp of Manchester, attorney for the family, and the lawyer immediately motored to Epsom.



Together the two men began their search for the missing man. They pried open a window of the one story office, but found no signs of his having been there. About 18 feet west of the office was the bungalow home of Mrs. Snow, widow, who lived alone. To that house the two men went. They rapped at the front door, but received no response. They tried the back door and it swung open before them.

Lying in a pool of blood on the bed, her nightgown drenched from the blood that had run from an ugly bullet wound in her temple, the found the aged Mrs. Snow, dead. Her head was badly battered and it was apparent from her condition that an attempt had been made to strangle her with a towel before the gun was fired to kill her. Mr. Hall was nowhere to be found.

Believing that this was a case for the County authorities, the two men immediately notified Sherriff George A. Wooster. The Sherriff summoned Deputy George E. Belisle, County Solicitor Herbert W. Ranie and Medical Referee Loren A. Sanders. In company with Captain Ed Silva, Chief George A. S., Kimball, Chauffeur Abraham Cushing of the Concord Police force and Dr. D.C. McIvor, they went to the scene of the murder. There they were reinforced by Constable George Huckins of Epsom.



When the police began to investigate, they were told by a young woman of the village that the elder Mr. Hall had gone into the Sumner House, of which he is owner, but which had been idle since Sept. 1st, when Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, who had been running it, gave up their lease. They broke in and found that all the doors of the

ground floor were open, save the bathroom door and this had obviously been fastened from the inside. The splintered it and made an entry.

Lying curled up in the tub half full of water was the body of Hall, dead from drowning. In his right hand he still clutched the revolver from which five shells, four loaded and one empty, had fallen into the water in the tub. There were no signs of his own blood on his body and the police judged that he had resorted to drowning after the revolver failed to discharge. It was an old style weapon and evidently was rusty from lack of use.



The county authorities and police stated that they had no doubt but what the aged man had committed the murder of the aged widow and then drowned himself. Mrs. Snow and Mr. Hall had always been friendly, and there was no reason to believe that there had been any quarrel. Hall had been accustomed to drop into the home next to his office and converse with her and it is

assumed that when he became insane he immediately repaired to that place with peculiar mental hallucinations.

Mrs. Snow, like Mr. Hall, was born in Epsom. For a time she lived away from the town, but moved back about 15 years ago when her husband died. A former town librarian, she is survived by a son Albert of Newmarket, NH. Mr. Hall's wife died several years ago and leaves no children.

And that WAS the news. Thanks for joining us and have a pleasant evening.