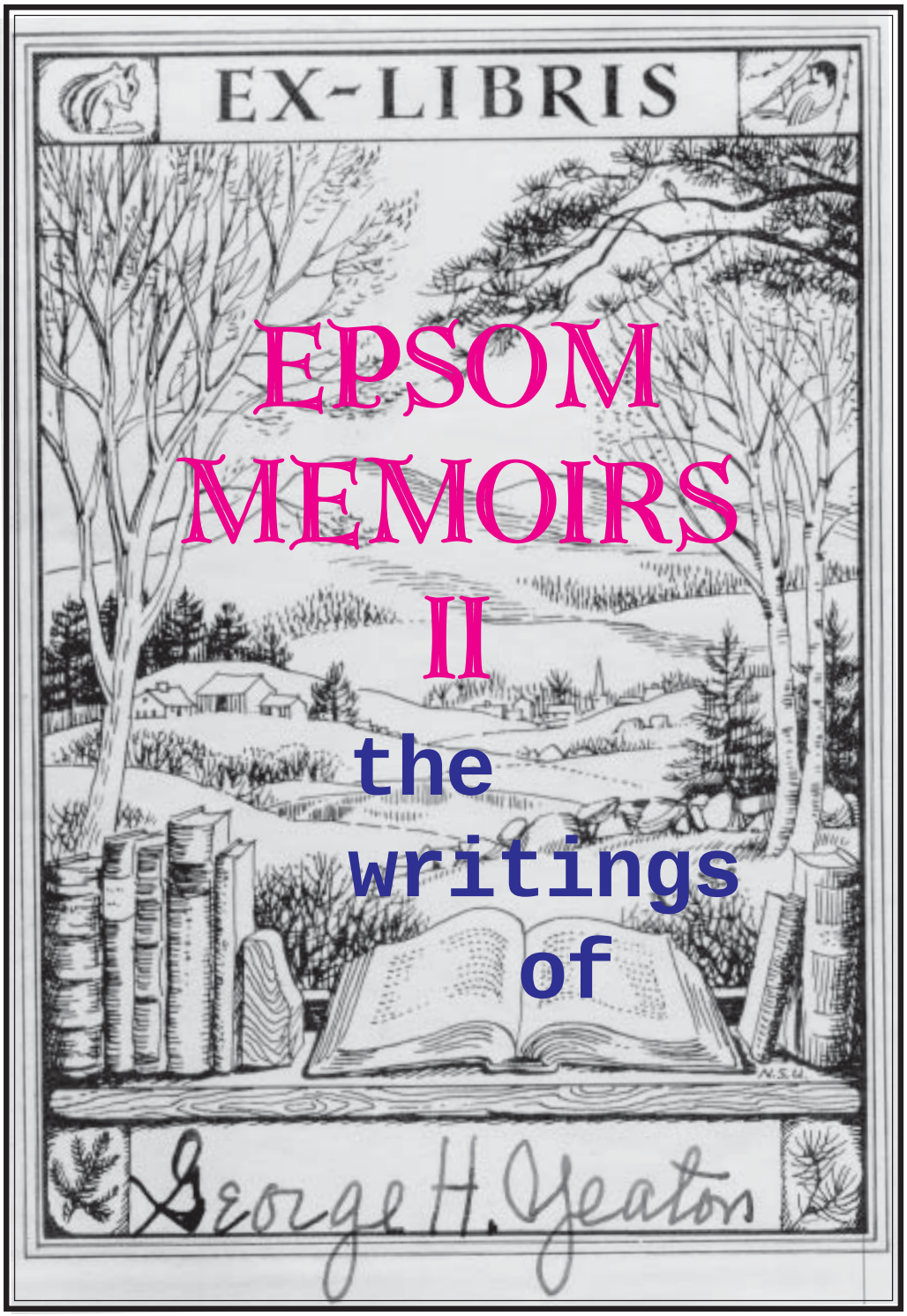

EPSOM MEMOIRS II

the writings of

Preface

"Epsom Memoirs II" is a second collection of memories put to paper by long time Epsom resident George H. Yeaton between the years 1958 and 1965. The manuscripts used are part of photocopies and originals that are part of the Epsom Historical Association collection or copied from originals through the courtesy of Bruce and Penny (Yeaton) Graham. It appears that Mr. Yeaton made several copies of many of his stories and recollections, some of whom he sent to various people to read. As he recopied them, he often added other items of interest as he thought of them, therefore the different copies vary slightly. In such cases they are in this collection twice to include all his thoughts and memories.

The collection also includes hand-written copies of old town records, lists of town teachers, and a wealth of other information. Since these items are not in narrative form, they are not included here.

Some of the photos are from the Epsom Historical Association files or from Bruce and Penny Graham. I thank them for letting them be copied for this editon.

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LIFE ON A FARM YEARS AGO
MARCH 1890 AND MARCH 1962

At this season of the year my father and my older brother would be finishing "working up" our wood pile, nearly fifteen cords. In those days the trees were cut "sled length" in the woods. This was the quickest and the easiest way to "get up" a woodpile, we had a yoke of oxen which were used to haul the wood to the dooryard.

At this date wood was "fitted" by hand. The large logs that were to be used for wood had to be cut into stove wood length with a crosscut saw. This small job was done by my father and brother, as I was not old enough to handle one end of a saw. They always planned to do most of the sawing in the afternoon then at night stand the sawed blocks of wood on end in this position they would freeze and the more frost in the chunks, the easier they would split the next morning.

The splitting was done by the use of wedges and a mallet or more commonly called a maul. My father made his own mauls, he would find a white oak log eight inches in diameter, remove the bark, cut a twelve inch length from it, put an iron band on each end, bore a hole on the side six inches from each end, make a rugged handle and drive it into the section of oak log and there you were, ready to split the big chunks of wood.

George Yeaton with his dog and parents in front of thehomestead on New Orchard Rd.

I would be with them at the woodpile mostly watching and asking questions, my time would come later when the wood box needed to be filled.

Occasionally one or two crows would be seen flying about. In those days the old people, if they saw a crow in the month of March would say "the heart of winter is broken, I saw a crow fly over the other day." It was in the month of March that the hogs were slaughtered and taken to market, sometimes to Pittsfield or Suncook, or sold to the local stores in Epsom. These hogs were the shoats which my father had bought the previous fall and had been fattening during the winter months feeding them boiled potatoes and pumpkins mixed with meal.

In our cellar kitchen there was a large set kettle, this was used to cook the hog feed in. At butchering time we used this same kettle to heat water in, as one must have plenty of hot water to scald the hogs with so that the bristles could be easily removed with the liberal use of powdered rosin.

A butcher would come to our farm, kill and dress as many hogs as we had for fifty cents each. We would heat the water, furnish the rosin and help in handling the hogs.

After finishing the woodpile and slaughtering the hogs, we would tap the maple trees and make some syrup. We had no regular maple orchard or sap house, but there were plenty of maple trees in the dooryard, beside the highway and scattered over the farm. My mother would boil the sap into syrup in the house over the kitchen stove.

The next event came the first day of April when the Selectmen would come to take inventory. They always came by way of the New Orchard Road on their first day of taking inventory.

Commencing at the lower end of the road, they would reach our place about nine or nine-thirty in the morning. This was a busy morning, carding the cattle, making things tidy about the yard and in the barn. On this day we always swept the long barn floor <u>before the Selectmen got there.</u>

The month of April was the odd jobs month, besides taking care of the live stock, bagging the ears of corn in the corn barn and taking the corn to the grist mill where they ground it cob and all. Then there were the potatoes to sort over, keeping only enough to eat and plant. The rest we would sell.

Some years in the month of April there were snow drifts left in the roads, after much of the road was free of snow, then whoever had charge of the highways would get men to shovel out these drifts so that the entire road would be made passable with horses and wheels. I can well remember riding through drifts after they had been shoveled out. The snow on each side of the road would be as high as the horses back and in many places the drifts would extend for a considerable distance (the first part of April). April was the month that the farmers would look after the farm implements needed for the early spring work. If plow points on cutters on the "breaking up" plows were badly worn, they must be replaced.

The month of April being one of the short months of the year, before one realized it, spring came. Then with the cleaning of the barn, plowing, fencing (pasturing time was May 20) taking off the storm windows, hauling away the banking, opening up the cellar windows and getting the pen ready for the pigs, which my father would soon buy, there were not many idle days.

Then there was the soft-soap to be made. My father would place an old vinegar barrel just outside the cellar-kitchen door. This barrel rested on a raised platform, made of boards a little larger than the barrel and having quite a large groove on the sides and back end, but made so that it came together in the front with an outlet at the edge. The barrel had some small holes in the bottom. Next my father would bring out the wood ashes, which he had been saving during the winter months, filling the barrel with the ashes. He would then add several pails of water, this would cause the lye from the ashes to form and drip out onto the platform, from the small holes in the barrel, filling the grooves with lye. This lye was caught as it drifted from the platform in a wooded tub or large wooden pail. It would take two or three days for a barrel of ashes and water to leach out. He may have added more ashes and water to the barrel from day to day. After the lye had all leached out he would hang some large kettles on the crane in the fireplace that was in the cellar-kitchen, put the lye into the large iron kettle, together with the "soap grease" that my mother had been saving since the last soap making. This mixture had to be cooked a considerable length of time. It was then taken off, allowed to cool and then put into the soap barrel in the cellar.

This barrel was a queer looking barrel, it was made of heavy staves (straight staves). It was much larger at one end than the other. The large end was the end on which it stood, the smaller end open. There was always a long wooden paddle in the barrel which was used to stir the soap. My mother had a bowl which she only used to bring the soap up in from the cellar. I can well remember this bowl and bringing it up the stairs filled with soft-soap.

By the last of May the spring work was done, including the planting, all but the beans, some late garden seeds and the hills of cucumbers. Cucumbers should be planted the first day of June, before sunrise, and then the cucumber bugs will not trouble them. As beans will sprout and come up quickly, it was not a good idea to plant them too early on account of the late frosts we were apt to have the first part of June.

The corn which would be up would be killed by a late frost, but it would grow again, it only set it back a few days. Potatoes the same, but not the beans.

In the month of May the hens would be traveling around the dooryard with their broods of chickens. My mother would set a number of hens in the month of April. Strange how each little chicken would know its own mother and would only follow her.

The District school commenced its spring term about May 1st and that meant back to school for me. But there were other things outside of school that interested me for it was in the latter part of April and the early part of May when the large suckers came up the brook from the Little Suncook River at the shoe factory pond. The suckers also came down the brook from Odiorne Pond. These fish twelve to twenty inches in length. They had great times catching these suckers in the brook near the Ames farm. The men would come with lanterns and spears in the night, as this was a good time to get the fish.

In the early spring season, suckers were good eating, many families would capture a lot of the fish and salt them down in barrels. In this way they could have fish at any season of the year.
In dressing this kind of fish the best way was to skin them, cut off their heads and about two inches of the tail. These two inches of a suckers tail were full of small bones, and when you cut off the two inches, you not only got rid of these small bones, but eliminated the muddy flavor which some folks thought the suckers had.
To salt down fish: first, remove the skin, cut off the head and tail, put a layer of fish in the barrel, sprinkle on some salt, then more fish and more salt. The moisture from the fish with the salt made its own brine.
Mrs. Yeaton and myself got caught in a heavy rainstorm in the town of Gilmanton, NH many years ago, as it was nearly night, the family on who we were calling asked us to stay over night. The next morning for breakfast we had fish, baked in milk or cream. After we had eaten we were told that the fish we had just eaten were suckers they had caught in the spring and salted down in a barrel.
This family lived on the shore of Loon Pond and a small brook emptied into the pond near their house. These fish came up the brook in large numbers n the early spring. I can still remember how good these fish tasted (after fifty years).
I remember another time in the early spring, several men, of whom I was one of the group, were repairing a section of the road near the Epsom-Deerfield town line. The brook which crossed the highway, near where we ate our noon lunch, was alive with large suckers. I suppose that they came from the Suncook Lake. We all caught as many as we wanted to take home. One man who had a small family, one other beside himself, only wanted one fish. He soon caught the one he wanted, which was the largest sucker I think that I ever saw. We caught most of these fish with our hands, you simply found a large fish lying close to the bank, or a large rock, a quick grab and you had your fish. I brought home around a dozen of the big fellows.
The brook from Odiorne Pond ran through the pasture and field not far from my home where I lived as a boy.
This was also a trout stream and many the trout I have caught in this brook.
I also spent many hours fishing at Odiorne Pond when young. It abounded with fish of all kinds which were native to our New Hampshire ponds, such as Pickeral, Horned Pout, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Eels. Large Black Turtles and other kinds of fish. But that is all changed now. The State of New Hampshire has cleaned out all of these fish and stocked the pond with Bass, the kind that the sporting fisherman like to catch.
And speaking about horned-pout, a cousin of mine from Haverhill, Massachusetts and myself went fishing one afternoon in the Little Suncook River. Just before dark we came to the Shoe Factory Pond and on the side next to the Baptist Church we threw in our lines and in less than two hours we had caught sixty or more horned-pout, all of good size. At that time there was no limit on the numbers of pout one could catch.
Years afterwards I went horned-pout fishing in the big Suncook River, used a boat. Oh yes! We caught some fish, but not to be compared to the ones I had caught many years before. These last ones were all small fish.
Now back to the brook trout again. There was a small brook (and still is), which came from the old "Tannery" pond on the New Orchard Road. It joined the Odiorne Pond brook shortly before that brook empties into the river. As a boy I caught a lot of trout from this small brook, in come places it was not over a foot or fifteen inches in width, most of the trout would be six or seven inches long, but one day, I caught a native brook rout in the Odiorne Pond brook. Not to be compared with the trout of today, which our streams are stocked with (trout from the fish hatcheries).
It finally came the last of June and then the New Orchard road school closed its doors for the summer vacation, then with fishing, swimming, playing baseball, Sunday School and Fourth of July picnics, helping with the haying a little, picking blueberries for my mother to can and soon the summer was gone.

We would set a few traps for the woodchucks that were eating up the beans, watch the early apple trees so that I would not miss the first ripe one, then it was time to go back to the New Orchard Road school.
Now the blue jay could be seen and heard, especially if you went anywhere near a field of corn.
In the early part of September the farmers would commence to shock their field corn or instead of shocking it they would cut the stocks on the hills of corn. Albion Locke who lived on Locke's Hill, a high hill where the frosts come late in the fall, would cut the stocks.
My father and his near neighbor Mr. Dotey, would shock their corn. Either way had its advantages but whichever way a person did it, it was advisable to do it before the frosts came. About this same time the beans must be pulled and stacked. After that came potato digging time and if one had any cranberries on their farm it was best to pick them before the hard frosts came.
The month of October was apple picking time, that meant work for everyone on the farm. The best winter apples were picked and put in barrels in the house cellar, falls and seconds were pealed, quartered and strung on twine, then hung on the apple drying racks. To protect the drying apples from the flies, we would cover the apple racks and apples with a screen or cheesecloth.
At one end of our orchard there were two or more large pumpkin-sweet apple trees, the apples from these trees were mostly made into boiled cider apple sauce, a few were kept to eat in the winter months.
My folks always made a barrel of boiled cider apple sauce, the barrel was kept in a back room where there was no heat and when the weather became cold the barrel of sauce would freeze, then we would be obliged to use a heavy knife to cut it into small chunks before one could get any from the barrel. My, but it was good, sometimes when my mother made doughnuts she would fill a part of the "batch" with this boiled cider apple sauce, others she would fill with mincemeat. She made a "batch" of doughnuts every week, and pies: apple, mince, pumpkin, squash and cranberry. Always had pies on hand of some kind, besides the kind mentioned above there would sometimes be a custard or lemon pie to eat for supper, then there were the blueberry and rhubarb pies in their season.
Molasses cookies: have not seen or tasted a molasses cookie like the ones she used to make. Oh! My wife is a wonderful cook, but somehow her cookies to not taste like the ones my mother made when I was a boy. (Perhaps it is in me). Then the apple dumplings with the sauce she made to eat on them or if one preferred, cream and sugar, either way, they always went.
The apples not made in use of any other way went into cider-apples.
In the fall the companies which made vinegar would buy these apples, delivered at the railroad station, where they were loaded into box cars.
We would keep some to make into cider to fill the vinegar barrel which was in the corn barn and every fall my father would boil down a whole barrel of sweet cider into boiled cider. This was how we got the boiled cider to put into the mince meat, the apple sauce and mix with the summer drink, made with, so much molasses, so much ginger, so much boiled cider and so much sugar, then after we had put these ingredients in the jug, fill it with water.
In making the boiled cider we would first get out the big old copper kettle, hang it in the fire place, on the crane, fill the kettle with sweet cider, then boil it until it became of the right consistency. A barrel of sweet cider would only make a few gallons.
When all the harvesting was done it was something to look at in our house cellar. Bins of potatoes, rows of barrels filled with apples, boxes full of beets, turnips, then the pork barrels filled with salt pork, the barrel of soft-soap, the row of jugs filled with boiled cider.
And then the shelves in the dairy, row after row and tier after tier of canned fruits, berries and such, which my mother had put up during the summer and early fall. There were cans of blueberries, blackberries, pears, grapes, apple sauce, apple jelly, currants, gooseberries, cranberries, crab-apples, strawberries, maple syrup, picked beets and small cucumbers.

Then there were the stone crocks filled with cucumbers pickled in brine, pickled pigs feet and sliced hog shoulders.
These hog shoulders were sliced quite thick, first they would put some sage leaves, salt and pepper into the stone crock, then a layer of the sliced shoulder, then more sage leaves, salt and pepper and so on until the crock was full. We had a row of sage bushes in our garden near the gooseberry and currant bushes.
It was in the spring when we had the sliced shoulders to eat. My older brother was especially fond of meat preserved this way. I can still remember the aroma that came from the kitchen when this meat was frying.
Then there were always one or more crocks filled with butter which had been "packed down" in the months of June and September.
The cabbages, pumpkins and squash were kept in the coolest part of the cellar, they would keep better in a cool dry place. The butternuts were gathered in the late fall and spread on the floor in a vacant chamber or in the shed room, together with the chestnuts.
Cranberries which were not canned would keep in a chamber or similar place the would stand quite a lot of cold weather before they would freeze.
Right away after harvesting was done, stove wood was put in the shed. This must be tiered in the shed as twelve or fifteen cords of stove wood just thrown in would take up a lot of space.
By this time the corn was all husked and put in the big slatted bin in the corn barn. Then the men came with their thresher and threshed the grain, we raised mostly oats. The grain was then put in the big bin in the corn barn. In one corner of the corn barn was the vinegar barrel and then in the space between the corn crib and the oat bin there were a row of barrels, empty stone barrels, ready for the beans after they were threshed. A different kind in each barrel, pea beans, red kidney beans, yellow eyed beans, horticulture beans. There were two kinds of these beans, the bush cranberry and the pole cranberry bean. We sometimes raised a few black beans, can't remember their name.
Then there were the long traces of field corn, which was to be saved for seed, to plant the next spring, also a few traces of popcorn and some of sweet corn. These were hung from spikes driven in the floor timbers of the overhead floor in the corn barn.
Then there was another row spikes from which would be hung pieces of meat, which would freeze solid and keep all through the winter months (if we did eat it up). This meat would be part pork and half beef.
I think I forgot to mention the long row of Bartlett pear trees just in back of the house. We would eat all we wanted of the pears, my mother would can a lot and then there was a plenty we could not use.
Then there was the very large pear tree (for a pear tree) near the corn barn, the pears from this pear tree made wonderful preserves, the pears were a little larger than a Bartlett pear and of a more solid or meaty texture, much darker when cooked. There were also some pomegranate trees quite near the back shed, and two or more grapevines, one was a Concord grape.
In those days a good farm was certainly a land of plenty.
There were plenty of wild strawberries one could have for the picking.
We did not have any chestnut trees on our land, if one wanted chestnuts, they woud go up on Sanborn Hill or in that vicinity. The crab apples, which my mother would can, either came from my older brother's farm or our next door neighbor Perley Giles.
Then there were the home cured hams and bacon, the purple plums from the plum trees and the large red cherries. The cherry trees were large trees and bore large red cherries which, when they were dead ripe, turned much darker.
There is one thing, which I feel quite sure I forgot to mention about the apples we used to bake. My mother would wash a number of the large pumpkin sweet apples, which came from the southeast corner of the orchard, and bake them in a large cookie or biscuit tin. My but they were good eating with milk, or cream on them. Then there was another kind of sweet apple that grew in the same orchard; they too were baked in the same way.

The way which we baked the Baldwin apple was a little different, first one would take out the core, then fill the cavity with sugar and cinnamon, then bake. I wonder if folks bake apples in this modern day and age? It has been many years since I have seen or tasted one. Sometimes in the early spring one would see a flock of wild geese flying north. They would always be in formation, the old gander in the lead, the rest of the large birds would form directly behind their leader, in two lines forming a V shaped line. They most always flew high and some time in the early evening they could not be seen, but by their HONK, HONK, HONK one would know that they were passing in their flight to the open waters of northern New Hampshire, Maine or Canada.
In the month of November they would be seen or heard on their migratory flight to the southern waters where they would spend the winter months.

THE COUNTIES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The State of New Hampshire was not divided into counties until the year 1769. In later years the counties were divided into more counties so that today 1962 we have ten counties instead of the original five that were established in the year 176.

Name of County	Date Established	County Seat
Rockingham	1769	Exeter
Strafford	1769	Dover
Hillsborough	1769	Nashua
Cheshire	1769	Keene
Grafton	1769	Haverhill
Coos	1803	Lancaster
Merrimack	1823	Concord
Sullivan	1827	Newport
Carroll	1840	Ossipee
Belknap	1840	Laconia

In March 1934 the State Planning Board submitted as follows:
New Hampshire has an area in square miles of 9,210,848. It is divided in the ten different counties as follows:

Belknap 467,787	Carroll 996, 866
Cheshire 711,913	Coos 1,811,861
Grafton 1,746,235	Hillsborough 881,109
Merrimack 961,900	Rockingham 705,722
Strafford 387,596	Sullivan 548,859

CENSUS AND POPULATION OF EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

In 1767 –
40 Married men under 60 years
40 married women
5 men over 60 years
2 widows
No record made of young people or children.
The US Census gives total population of 194 for years 1767.

In 1773 –
53 Married men under 60 years
53 married women
1 man over sixty years
18 unmarried men
4 widows
109 unmarried women
86 under 16 years of age
2 slaves
No record of small children unless they are included under age 16 (probably were)
A total of 326

Population of Epsom, New Hampshire
1767 to 1960 and other records

1767 – 194	1773 – 326	1791 – 799
1800 – 1034	1810 – 1156	1820 – 1336
1823 – 1336	1830 – 1418	1840 – 1205
1850 – 1366	1855 – 1365	1860 – 1216
1870 – 993	1880 – 909	1890 – 815
1900 – 771	1910 – 725	1920 – 655
1930 – 678	1940 – 797	1950 – 756
	1960 – 1002	

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
AND HOW THEY DERIVED THEIR NAME

Many years ago when ships were approaching the shores of New England, the granite peaks in northern New Hampshire were often the first land sighted by the ships when they were at sea. The tops of these high mountain peaks when covered with snow shone in the sun, thus they became to sailors "the white mountains." The Indians in the early days lived in awe of these mountains, called them the "white hills", but with the coming of the white men the mysterious mountains and valleys were penetrated and made the nations greatest memorial by naming some of the high peaks after the early presidents of the United States – Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. This range of mountains eight miles long and two miles wide are known as the Presidential range.

Some items of interest about New Hampshire.

The largest boulder in the world is "Churchill Rock" and is in the town of Nottingham, NH
84 percent of New Hampshire is forest covered.
3.2 per cent is covered with water.
12.8 per cent highways, dooryards, cultivated field and cleared land.
The State of New Hampshire owns all of the Connecticut River. The western boundary of New Hampshire is at the bank of the Connecticut River at the Vermont side.
There were no public executions in New Hampshire during the first one hundred and sixteen years of its existence (1623-1739) but – on the twenty-first day of December 1739, two women were hung in Portsmouth for the murder of an infant. Their names were Sarah Simpson and Penelope Kenney.

In the year 1805 the New Hampshire Iron Factory was incorporated. This iron factory was at Franconia, NH and was in operation for many years.
In the year 1692 the population of the State was estimated at five thousand. In the year 1736 ten thousand. In 1771 it was said to contain between sixty and seventy thousand inhabitants. In the year 1790, the State had a population of one hundred and forty two thousand. Another writer (Francis H. Goodall) states that the Madison Boulder at the foot of Mount Chocorua "is said to be the largest boulder in New Hampshire and one of the largest in the world".

EPSOM AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

As I have previously stated, the town of Epsom, New Hampshire, is older than any of the abutting six towns, Chichester, Pittsfield, Northwood, Deerfield, Allenstown and Pembroke. These are the towns. Epsom was granted May 18, 1727, Chichester was granted May 20, 1727. Pittsfield was set off from the northern part of the grant to Chichester. It was incorporated as Pittsfield in 1782 and settled in 1784. Northwood was set off from Nottingham and made a parish in 1773, it was originally called "North Woods." The first settlements were 1763 by Increase Batchelder, John Batchelder and Moses Godfrey of North Hampton, and Solomon Bickford of Durham. Deerfield was included in the grant to Nottingham in 1722 to about two hundred men from Boston and vicinity by the Governor of Massachusetts in payment for "services rendered and grievances endured". A petition to the Governor by these men the previous year asked for a township to be named "New Boston" but the name actually given to it was Nottingham. In 1750 a small settlement was made in the western part of Nottingham and this settlement was set of as a separate parish. In 1756 this parish petitioned to be incorporated and while Governor Wentworth was considering this petition, a Mr. Batchelder killed a very large, fat deer in the settlement and gave it to the Governor, which so pleased His Excellency he named the town Deerfield. It was incorporated in 1766. In 1762 four men with "axe and gun" went into the wild unsettled part of northern Nottingham and made clearings, one going as far as the "Narrows". When this settlement had three hundred inhabitants, in 1773, it was chartered as Northwood.
Allenstown was incorporated July 2, 1831, although settlers were there as early as 1747. In 1759 a part of the town was incorporated with Pembroke. In 1815, a part of Bow was annexed. In 1853 part of Hooksett was annexed to Allenstown. Pembroke was granted in 1728 and was known as "Suncook" and "Lovewell's Town". It was incorporated in 1759 and the name changed to Pembroke. In 1763 the town was divided into two parishes. In 1798 a dispute between Pembroke and Allenstown was settled by extending the boundary of Pembroke to the Suncook River. In 1804 all of Bow lying east of the Merrimack River was annexed to Pembroke and Concord. Thus we have, Epsom, May 18, 1727
Chichester May 20, 1727
Pittsfield 1782
Northwood 1773
Deerfield 1766
Allenstown 1831
Pembroke 1759

PROPRIETORS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TURNPIKE ROAD

This was the name of the first company in New Hampshire to build a turnpike road.
The petition for incorporation set forth that communication between the seacoast and the interior parts of the state might be made much more easy, convenient, and less expensive than hitherto by a direct road from Concord to the Piscataqua Bridge, but that the "expensiveness" of such an undertaking would render it

difficult of a accomplishment otherwise that by an incorporated company "to be" indemnified by a toll for the sums that should be expended "by it". This company's road was promptly completed, covering a distance of thirty-six miles and passing through the towns of Concord, Pembroke. Chichester, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Barrington, Lee and Durham. This turnpike was completed in the year 1798, or about that year. Its eastern terminus was at the Piscataqua Bridge.
The western end was at the "Federal Bridge" over the Merrimack River at Concord. In the year 1803 an additional act was passed which allowed the building of a branch turnpike leaving the main road on the "Dark Plains" about two and a half miles from the "Federal Bridge" and running southwesterly to the Concord Bridge. The Federal Bridge was built in 1798. Before that time to cross the Merrimack river one must use the ferry. The first ferry was established in 1727. At a later date (1785) Tucker's Ferry was in operation at the same place. This ferry was at the east end of the Pennecook Street Bridge over the Merrimack River. The first ferry was established by Ebenezer Eastman.

THE TOWN OF SANBORNTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Recently (July 2, 1952), I had the occasion to visit the town of Sanbornton and found out some interesting history of the town to which I have added other information that I have found.
Sanbornton, New Hampshire was granted in 1748 by the Masonian Proprietors to John Sanborn of Hampton and others, and called Sanborntown, twelve of the grantees being Sanborns.
The northwestern corner of the land claimed by Massachusetts was within the limits of the town until 1789 and the township is referred to as "Crotchtown" in the Massachusetts records because of its situation in the fork of the Winnipesaukee and Pemigewasett rivers. The activities of the Indians prevented permanent settlement until 1764, when clearings were begun by Moses and Thomas Danforth, Solomon Copp, Daniel Fifield, Samuel Sheppard and Andrew Rowens.
In 1770 Sanbornton was incorporated having at this time "upwards of forty families". In 1827 Sanbornton ranked as the third town in the State of New Hampshire, Londonderry and Gilmanton standing first and second. In 1828 part of the town was cut off to form Franklin, and in 1869 the part of the town known as "Sanbornton Bridge" was set off and incorporated as Tilton. The town of Sanbornton is in the County of Belknap. Its population in the year 1950 was 755.
The Sanbornton Public Library was "instituted" in the year 1796.
The Sanbornton Congregational Church was organized in the year 1771.
At this date (1962) Rev. Robert H. Sargent of Manchester is the Pastor.
From "The New England Gazetteer by John Hayward in the year 1839.
"Sanbornton, N.H.: Strafford Co., has New Hampton and Meredith on the North, Gilmanton on the east and South East, Franklin on the South and west and is 20 miles North from Concord, 60 miles North West from Portsmouth, 9 miles West from Gilford. The bay between Sanbornton and Meredith is three miles in width. There is a gulf in this town extending nearly a mile through very hard rocky ground 38 feet in depth, the walls from 18 to 100 feet asunder and the sides so nearly corresponding as to favor an opinion that they were once united. There is also a cavern in the declivity of a hill, which may be entered in a horizontal direction to the distance 20 feet. This town was once the residence of a powerful tribe of Indians, or at least a place where they resorted for defence. On the Winnepisiog at the head of Little Bay are found the remains of an ancient fortification. It consisted of six walls, one extending along the river and across a point of land into the bay, and the others in right angles connected by a circular wall in the rear. Traces of these walls are yet to be seen, though most of the stones of which they were composed have been removed to the dam thrown across the river at this place. Within the fort have been found numbers of Indian relics, implements, &c and also on an island in the bay.

When the first settlers of Sanbornton arrived these walls were breast high and large oaks were growing within their enclosure. This town was settled in 1765 and 1766 by John Sanborn, David Dustin, Andrew Rowen and others. It was incorporated in 1770. Population 1830 was 2,866."
Note (compared with 755 in the year 1950). I did not copy all that was in the article under the heading Sanbornton as it had already been covered on the preceding page of this article.
The following from Statistical Gazetteer of New Hampshire by Alonzo J. Fogg (extract)
"Sanbornton Square was the first settled part of the town, and at one time, was the seat of considerable trade. There are two church edifices, a school house, store, post office, and several dwelling houses."
This book being published in the year 1874 it reads Belknap County "Belknap County established in the year 1840"
From the book "New Hampshire as it" (?) by Edwin A. Charlton in 1856, we find, in part, that the population was 1685. "In the declivity of a neighboring hill is a cavern which may be entered in a horizontal direction some 25 or 30 feet". "The Citizens Bank was incorporated in 1853, Capital $50000.="
The first Baptist Church of Sanbornton was founded in the year 1791. At the present date 1962 the name of Rev. David P. Picciano is on the church record as pastor.
John Crockett, born July 20, 1766, he was ordained over the First Baptist Church in Sanbornton, N.H. Sept. 3, 1794 which relation was continued till his death Feb. 7, 1833 (39 years). I am a direct descendant of this John Crockett who was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sanbornton, N.H.
George H. Yeaton of Epsom, New Hampshire, 1962.
A ____ great great uncle of mine. GHY as he was a brother to my Great Great Grandfather Samuel Crockett. My Great Grandfather was Samuel Crockett Jr., My Grandfather John K. Crockett.
By the Census of 1960 the town of Sanbornton has a population of 736.

GILMANTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Although the town of Gilmanton does not border Epsom, we think of it as a neighboring town. Gilmanton was incorporated in the year 1727, the same year as Epsom's incorporation and the town of Epsom is mentioned frequently in the first settler's of Gilmanton's history. The charter of Gilmanton was signed on the 20th of May by his Majesty's Colonial Governor John Wentworth, but no settlement was made until December 26, 1761 through fear of Indians.
On June 25, 1736, a party of men started from the Block House in Epsom and cleared a pathway to Wilson Hill in Gilmanton, this hill is at the place that the Sanborn homestead was afterwards built the home of George Wilson Sanborn and later the home of Prof. Jeremiah Wilson Sanborn. When the party of men reached this hill they built a Block House, eighteen feet square, and called it White Hall.
In 1738 a party of twenty men were in Gilmanton for a time and did some exploring. The next mention of anyone going to Gilmanton was in the winter of 1749 and 1750. They made their camp in the shell of a large pine tree. Here they passed the winter hunting and fishing. They selected lots and cut some trees, but they left in the spring on account of Indian hostilities, and did not return.
There was not other attempt made to settle in Gilmanton until 1761, when on December 26, 1761, Benjamin Mudgett and Hannah, his bride, arrived in the town, having come that day from Epsom through a dense forest, a distance of twelve or more miles, on snow shoes. The fall previous Mr. Mudgett had been in Gilmanton and built a camp of some sort. It is said that long before they reached this camp, Mrs. Mudgett became so tired that frequent stops were made that she could rest, and at one stop Mrs. Mudgett sat down on the cold snow saying to her husband, "I may as well die here as anywhere," but a fresh start was made and they eventually reached the camp as the shades of night were closing in around them, in the howling wilderness, separated from all friends and their families. The next year (1762) nine families moved into Gilmanton. On the 19th of January 1763 Jeremiah Conner moved into town, he came from Exeter. There

were eight miles of woods from Ruben Sanborns, the last house in Chichester, to their home in Gilmanton. That same year in the month of March, Jeremiah Richardson and John Fox came with their families, having come from Epsom on snowshoes, the women each bringing an infant in her arms, and the men hauling each a bed and other articles on hand sleds. These families came from homes in Exeter. Samuel Gilman and his family moved into town and settled where Captain Jonathan Brown once lived.
In the year 1764 Captain John Moody settled in town and he had no neighbors nearer than four miles. Thus began the settlement of Gilmanton, N.H..

Note: History tells us that Mrs. Mudgett was the first white woman who set foot on the soil of Gilmanton and she passed this first night in town with no other woman nearer than Epsom. Mrs. Mudgett lived in Gilmanton until the inhabitants had increased in number to more than five thousand. She died in Meredith July 9, 1834, aged ninety-five years.
She was the mother of the first male child born in Gilmanton, named Samuel Mudgett, born February 15, 1764.
In the year 1827 Gilmanton N.H. ranked as the second town in New Hampshire, Sanbornton as third and Londonderry first. (I suppose it meant the most important towns in the State). Taken from records of the town of Sanbornton by the State, by the census of 1960 Sanbornton has a population 857, Londonderry 2,457, Gilmanton 736.

Addendum

Mrs. Hannah Mudgett who with her husband Benjamin, arrived in Gilmanton on the 26th of December 1761, was the daughter of Joshua Bean of Brentwood, N.H., who had a family of twenty-one children. About the year 1780 the Joshua Bean family came to Gilmanton to live.
On December 27th, 1761, John Mudgett with his wife arrived in Gilmanton and on the 10th day of January 1762, Orlando Weed and wife joined them. This made three families who lived in the town the winter of 1762. It is said that the snow was nearly six feet deep that winter in Gilmanton.
Gilmanton is a town with a rich historical background and in writing this sketch there were many more families who deserve mention, but, as I never lived in the town or have any of the old town records, I am unable to write about the families that are omitted. But I do wish to close with this statement. Anyone can feel justly proud who can say I am a resident of the town or that my ancestors were natives of Gilmanton, New Hampshire.
Signed, George H. Yeaton of Epsom, N.H. August 1963

NEW HAMPSHIRE SNAKE ITEMS

News Items taken from old newspapers

1871 – Charles Hodgdon of Rochester recently killed a blacksnake in his field, which measured six feet four inches in length.
1872 – A party of men in Stark looking for cattle in a pasture recently came upon a burrow of snakes in a hollow log and killed 102 of them.
1961 – When I told Thomas R. Yeaton about the big snake that chased Everett A. Dow and about Turtles that would walk away with a man standing on its back, he said I believe Everett's stories for when a boy my father sent some of my brothers and myself to salt the sheep. While salting the sheep we saw a large black snake with a white ring around its neck. We boys commenced to throw sticks and stones at the snake and the next we knew the snake was coming straight for us, we ran and the snake chased us for a ways. I also

saw a turtle about as large as a half-bushel basket, when I stepped on its back it started to walk away taking me with him.
Mrs. Elijah Dow of South Pittsfield has killed two black snakes this season, one was four feet in length
1874 – In a newspaper printed in the year 1874 appeared the following. Frank Wells caught a turtle in a brook near Pleasant Pond in New London, last week weighing thirty-four pounds. George Locke of West Hopkinton killed forty black snakes, May 4th, most of them large ones weighing in all thirty-five pounds. A. Merrill killed a large striped snake in the road on the morning of January 4th.
1877 – An item in the Danville news in 1877 reads that a few days ago Guy G. March discovered in an old cellar at the head of "Tucker Road" a den of black snakes. They numbered eighteen. One measured six feet, another five and one-half feet and the rest were smaller.
1874 – News item of May 9, 1874. Miss Ellen Watson on Wednesday killed two black snakes, one measuring five feet and two inches and the other six feet and six inches (Pittsfield News)
Hooksett items of 1872 – Mrs. Rufus Fuller of Hooksett hearing some children scream near General Head's house, went to ascertain the cause and found a rattlesnake four and one half feet long, which she killed.
1877- In Springfield, NH, a black snake eight feet long was killed here a few days ago.

"BARE ISLAND" AND THE BIG SNAKE WHICH LIVED THERE

"Bare Island" in Epsom is near the center of the town and is quite a large island with an area of approximately one hundred and twenty-five acres. This island was evidently the result of a disagreement among the waters of the Big Suncook River whose source is at the Suncook Lake in Barnstead, NH. The river found its way through the town of Barnstead, Pittsfield and Chichester. From there it continued it journey into the town of Epsom. When nearly half way through the town, it became uncertain as to the direction to pursue on its way to join the waters of the Merrimack River. At this point it made a large ox bow turn and headed back towards Barnstead, then another turn and the river was flowing towards the south again. It is quite evident that there had been some disagreement among the waters in the river. At this time it was making its uncertain way through the town of Epsom. The waters from the Little Suncook River empties into the Big Suncook River near this place and the waters from this river probably had ideas of it own as to the direction to take, for hardly had they made the last turn, when at the first feasible opportunity some of the waters (probably those from the Little Suncook) left the stream and turning abruptly towards the south, made a river of its own. There has been a dam built across the river at this place, where the waters left their traveling companion. But in spite of the efforts of man, certain of the waters continue to take this shorter way.
The rest of the Big Suncook (not quite as large now) continued on its aimless leisurely way towards the west until it came to high bluffs, all it could now do was to turn and go between them. By doing this the river once more headed in the right direction.
After traveling in this direction for some distance it made an easterly turn and came directly into the path of its separated waters. At this place there is quite a large area flooded and we assume that at this meeting the two streams came to an understanding and settled their disagreement, as from there on the two streams continued together to the Merrimack River. As the result of this division of the river "Bare Island" was formed. On this island many years ago lived a large snake. Two men were on the island hunting for some cattle which were pastured there. Suddenly they saw this huge snake dark brown or black, as large as a six inch stove pipe and a rod long (16 and ½ feet). The snake was afterwards seen by a man who was hunting on this island. He tried to shoot the snake but in his excitement of the agility of the snake, caused him to shoot the snake in the tail instead of the head.

The snake was not aggressive to anyone who came upon it, but seemed only intent to get away. The two men who first saw the huge snake said they could follow its course away from them by the swaying of the bushes and small trees as it made its way through them. The men's names were James C, Yeaton and James Yeaton. The hunter who tried to shoot the snake was named Hoyt, I think it was Eden Hoyt.
One conjecture of the snake presence on the island was that it had escaped from a traveling circus and came to the island. Another theory advanced was that it was a native of the island and having no one to molest it and with plenty to eat, had grown to this enormous size and a good old age. After a time it disappeared from the island and where it went or what became of it, well, that is also conjecture.
Some of the preceding is imaginary (about the waters of the river disagreeing) but the snake story is truth. The above and foregoing story about the snake was narrated to me by one of the two men who first saw the huge snake. I was a small boy at the time he told me about it seventy-five years ago. By George H. Yeaton, in the year 1967.

ABOUT BEARS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

News Items taken from old newspapers

1874 – Jefferson, six bears have been caught in the vicinity of this town within a short time.
1871 – The big bear which committed such extensive depredations in the sheep folds in Rumney and Campton will do so no more. He got his foot in a thirty pound trap on Monday night of last week, and on the following morning was pursued and overtaken by a party of hunters. He was over eight feet long, and weighed 325 pounds and yielded six gallons of oil.
1876 – John O. Cobb of Hart's Location caught and killed four bears in the month of August 1876.
1876 – Colebrook, Fletcher J. Gamsby found a bear about two years old in one of his traps and a wolverine in another.
1876 – Miland, three boys named Peabody killed a bear in this town recently which netted them $28.00, $9.00 for his skin, $9.00 for his flesh and $10.00 for his bounty.
1872 – Mr. D.W. Carter of Ossipee caught a large black bear weighing 400 pounds, her cub weighed 67 pounds. Mr. Carter has caught two others this fall, all on Chocorua Mountain.

THEY KNOW HOW TO RAISE PIGS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

News Items taken from old newspapers

1876 – North Boscawen, the superintendent of the county farm recently killed a pig which dressed 753 pounds. It was eighteen months old.
1870 – William Lefton of Bow lately slaughtered a Chester Co. hog which measured 6 ft. and 8 inches in length, six feet in girt and weighed 640 pounds.
1874 – Mr. W.C. French of Northfield Depot slaughtered a White Chester hog on the 26th, 19 months old which weighed 889 pounds after hanging 24 hours. The lard weighed 139 pounds. Girt of hog six and one half feet. His live weight when 13 months old was 300 lbs.
1874 – George W. French of Hopkinton has killed nine hogs this year, their weights were 601 lbs., 500 lbs., 536 lbs., 545 lbs., 468 lbs. Three that weighed 400 lbs. each and one that weighed 468 lbs.
1870 – four hogs killed in Holderness weighed as follows, 650 lbs., 522 lbs., 515 lbs., and one which weighed 510 lbs., total weight for the four hogs 2198 lbs.
1870 – C.H. Butman of Pittsfield lately killed a pig that was only seven months and three days old which weighed 363 pounds.

1870 – George F. Cummings of Holderness recently killed a hog 19 months old which weighed 819 pounds. T.C. Ryder of Dunbarton a few days since slaughtered a hog about two years old which weighed 836 pounds.
1873 – Ruel Durkee of Croydon beats all creation on raising big hogs. Two years ago he slaughtered two which weighed – one 948 pounds, the other 823 pounds. This year the dressed weight of a hog only twenty months old was 1042 pounds.
1874 – From Sullivan County again, Cooper's big hog was slaughtered last Saturday, dead weight 1077 pounds. Estimated live weight 1300 pounds.
1874 – Lemuel P. Cooper of Croydon has a pig which girts 7 ft. 2 inches estimated to weight 1300 pounds.
1870 – N.P. Blodgett of Newbury recently killed a hog which weighed 714 pounds when dressed.
1871 – John Nesmith of Hancock lately killed a hog which weighed 770 pounds when dressed.

HAPPENINGS ON THE NEW ORCHARD ROAD

The below happened in Epsom on the New Orchard Road 1916-1921-1927 - 3 men, neighbors.
In the year 1916 a man committed suicide by shooting himself with a shotgun.
In the year 1921 his neighbor killed himself, he also used a shotgun.
A man who lived on the same road a short distance from these two men, made the remark "if this comes any closer to me I shall move away" or similar words. In the year 1927 this last man took his own life, with a shotgun. One mile distance from the first to the last suicide.
On Sunday morning September 30, 1962, John H. Kelley went to the store at the Epsom Traffic Circle and tried to buy some shot gun shells. At this store they did not have any shells so he could not purchase any. Mr. Kelley informed them at the store that he was intending to shoot himself with his shotgun and that he needed two shells. He called at Roscoe W. Quimby's filling station and bid him good-bye telling him that he would not be seeing him again.
As far as we know he next visited George W. Knowles' home. At this place he helped in the morning moving a refrigerator. George thanked him for his help, and John Kelley then said, now you can do me a favor, "I want two 12 gauge shot gun shells, loaded with buck shot." Mr. Knowles asked Mr. Kelley what he wanted buckshot shells for at this season of the year. The answer John Kelley gave him was "I have a job to do over on the North Road and then I intend to use the remaining shell to kill myself with." George Knowles talked with John Kelley trying to persuade him to get that sort of an idea out of his mind.
After leaving the Knowles residence he next went to the home of Thomas R. Yeaton, asking for the shot gun shells. Now I think that Mr. Yeaton had shells, but refused to let Mr. Kelley have any and he then talked with John for about one half hour trying to advise him against doing anything like killing himself, but all to no purpose.
Immediately after he left Thomas Yeaton telephoned to the parents of John H. Kelley, George P. and Esther Kelley who live on the North Road. They started out to find their son John, but before they found him he had gone to Northwood Narrows, procured shells for his gun and just before he came to Epsom Village and his home, he drove off the main highway onto a little used road and committed suicide. He was in his small truck when they found him. The truck was later taken away by friends of the family and burned.

THE UNKNOWN MAN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN GOSSVILLE NEW HAMPSHIRE

About the year 1887

In the spring of 1915, Mrs. Ida M. Goss, who lived in the village of Gossville sent her young son, Nathan, out to the garden, quite close to her house, to bury a hen which had died. This was on a Sunday afternoon.

Nathan went to the small plot of ground which had been used many years as a garden. He had hardly commenced to dig when his shovel struck something hard. Thinking it was a stone, he pried it out but instead of a stone it was the skull of a human being.

There was much excitement for a time. The county coroner came from Concord and examined the skull and other bones of the skeleton; he said it was the skeleton of a man who had been buried twenty-five years or possibly a little longer.

Mrs. Goss said, well, if it has been buried there all that time, cover it up and let it remain there. But after sleeping, if she did sleep that night, she changed her mind and on the following morning I received a phone call from her, asking me to come and get the skeleton. As I was chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Epsom, at that time I complied with her request. Moving the remains to the cemetery at Gossville and burying them in the town lot. I made some inquiry of some of the older citizens around town and found one man who came up with this story.

"A large two story house near where the human bones were found, was used at the time this man was probably killed, as a boarding house. This was when the Epsom Shoe Factory was operating, employing sixty or seventy hands, the shoe factory was just across the river from the boarding house and this person I interviewed said, that as a boy and young man, he worked at the shoe factory and could well remember one of the men, who boarded at the boarding house, across the river, coming into the shop one morning, looking as if he had been in a fight and saying, "There was a terrible fight over to the house last night."

Another person told me that a Mr. James Clark, who lived not far from the boarding house, came into the store in the village saying "They have killed a man at the boarding house, I found a man's clothes hidden behind a large rock up in the wood just back of the boarding house."

Not much attention was paid to this man's story as there was no one missing from the village or who worked at the shoe factory. But the dates, the man who came into the factory that morning telling about the terrible fight, the clothes hidden by the rock, the skeleton found in later years and the coroners report, all add up to a man being killed at the boarding house and at that time.

The house is still standing and is used for a dwelling by one or more families. The large shoe factory is gone having been burned in the year 1916.

In the days that this man was thought to have been killed, men would travel from place to place working for a time, then move on to some town where there was a shoe factory that could offer them employment. There was also a great number of "Pack Peddlers" who traveled the country staying at night wherever they could find lodgings. Men like those just mentioned who had no permanent home, would not be missed from any community.

BURIED IN "FRIENDS CEMETERY" ON CATAMOUNT IN THE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD, N.H.

On the Thompson Lot

Lewis Thompson born September 23, 1819, died February 18, 1862, age at death 42 years and 5 months. He was born in Epsom and died in Epsom, lived at the Thompson place on the "hill" – in later years known as the "Babb Farm". This was a large farm on the east side of the North Road near Chestnut Pond.

Elizabeth Locke, wife of Lewis Thompson, was the daughter of Edward Locke and Elizabeth (Meader) Locke. She was born in Barrington July 6, 1820. Died November 23, 1898, age 78 years 4 mo 16 days.

Lewis and Elizabeth Thompson were married September 2, 1841. On November 20, 1864 Elizabeth Thompson married for her second husband, Israel Durgin of Northwood, NH, who was born October 20, 1797. He died in Pittsfield, NH December 12, 1880. He is buried in this cemetery on the Thompson lot.

The children of Lewis and Elizabeth Thompson were: 1) Lydia M. who was born November 21, 1843, died January 24, 1907, age 63 y 2 m 3 d. She was born in Epsom and died in Epsom. Lydia M. Thompson married Dec. 25, 1862 Joseph Prescott Locke, who was born in Epsom June 30, 1842, died in Epsom February 12, 1911. He was the son of Simeon Prescott Locke and Sally B. (Cass) Locke. Joseph and his wife lived on the New Orchard Road where they both died. They had no children. He is buried on the Thompson Lot as is his wife Lydia M. Thompson. Joseph P. Locke age at death 68 y 7 m 18 d.
2) Sarah W. Thompson born December 27, 1845 married September 20, 1883, Henry Arnett. Had no children.
3) Mary A. Thompson born December 3, 1847, married November 22, 1871, Wilber F. Fernald. They lived in Dover and had a son Ernest W. Fernald born May 6, 1875 and another son Ralph S. Fernald born July 25, 1883.
4) Henry F. Thompson, born July 31, 1852, died May 1, 1867, age at death 14 yrs 9 mo. This their only son is buried in the Thompson lot.
5) Lucy L. Thompson born April 14, 1856 married first on November 17, 1883 George W. Friel. They had a son Arthur Onley Friel born May 31, 1880. She married for her second husband in the year 1900, Charles A. Bean of Warner, NH.
Arthur O. Friel was born at Detroit Michigan May 31, 1885. Died at Concord, NH January 27, 1959. He was a graduate of Yale University, a newspaperman, author, explorer, listed in Who's who in America, taught at High School in Manchester after his graduation from Yale. One of the first white men to explore the headwaters of the Orinoco River in South America. A member of the Explorer's club of New York.
He went to school at the New Orchard Road school in Epsom. At that time he was staying with his Uncle Joseph and Aunt Lydia Locke. When his mother lived in Epsom they lived in the cottage at Gossville, (where I now live 1962). At that time he attended the school at Gossville. We were together a great deal as boys and one summer when he was at Yale University, during vacation, he worked for me haying, that must have been in the year 1906. Arthur was on the Roll of Honor in the years 1896-1897 at Gossville School, in the year 1899 at New Orchard Road school. He then left town to attend High School, then to college.
Mrs. Bessie G. Friel, widow of Arthur O. Friel, now lives in Concord, NH (1962). She was the daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Knowlton of Manchester, NH. Her father, Mr. Knowlton was at one time Mayor of Manchester, NH.

THE THOMPSON FARM IN EPSOM, NH

The oldest tax record that I have available of Tax Payers in Epsom is in the year 1846. In the year 1846 Arnold Thompson was taxed for 123 acres of land value $1107.00, buildings $325.00, one horse $70.00, eleven cattle $212.00, six sheep $800.00. Lewis Thompson one horse $35.00, seven cattle $122.00, ten sheep $18.00.
A few years later the land was taxed thus: Arnold Thompson 83 acres and Lewis Thompson for 41 acres. In the year 1862 Arnold Thompson was taxed the same but Lewis Thompson was "Heirs of Lewis Thompson". In the year 1864 the tax record reads Arnold Thompson, "heirs of" 124 acres and no livestock. During the years 1846 to 1863 much livestock was taxed to Arnold and Lewis Thompson.
Records on the gravestone in the Friend Cemetery, Pittsfield, NH read thus: Lewis Thompson, born September 23, 1819, Died February 18, 1862. Age 42 yrs and 5 months. He was born in Epsom, Died in Epsom. I would assume from this record that the Thompson farm on the "Hill" was owned and occupied by the Thompson family as far back as 1800, perhaps at an earlier date.
Note: In the years 1846 and 1847, Arnold and Lewis Thompson were taxed for 123 acres of land and much livestock. These are the oldest town record that I can locate at this time. (1962)

DANIEL PHILBRICK FAMILY

Daniel Philbrick, son of Daniel Philbrick and Margaret (Ayers) Philbrick, was born Sept. 4, 1753 in Hampton, NH, came to Epsom, married Ruth Merrill. Daniel Philbrick died in Epsom in 1835 aged 82 years. Ruth his wife died October 22, 1848 aged 92 years, both buried in the cemetery on the farm where they lived. Perkins Philbrick and John Philbrick, brothers of Daniel, also settled in Epsom about the same time as their brother Daniel did and near him. Perkins Philbrick died in 1838 aged 80 years and the widow of John Philbrick died in 1855 aged 96 years. These three brothers had sisters Mary, called Molly who married Jonathan Marston. Mary was born Sept. 5, 1766. Another sister, Abigail born Feb. 1769, died unmarried June 23, 1862. I think that this Mary or "Molly" (Philbrick) Marston and her sister Abigail or "Nabby" Philbrick, were the Aunt "Nabby" and Aunt "Molly", sisters who came to Epsom when their brother Daniel Philbrick ("King David's father) who was in his last sickness. (He died in 1835). There were other brothers and sisters in this family. Jonathan Philbrick born January 28, 1756 married March 5, 1780, Esther Dow, daughter of Benjamin Dow of Kingston. Perkins Philbrick born July 23, 1758. John Philbrick born Jan. 27, 1761. Rachel Philbrick born Sept. 12, 1763, married Thomas Leavitt on Feb. 10, 1785. She died Dec. 9, 1843.

Minah Philbrick born Aug. 24, 1803, married Eben Fogg. She was the daughter of Perkins Philbrick and his wife Olive (Garland) Philbrick. Minah Philbrick born in Epsom was adopted by her Uncle Simon Garland of North Hampton, NH

2) Jonthan Philbrick born Jan. 28, 1756, died May 19, 1822, he married on March 5, 1780 Esther Dow. Lived in Hampton.

3) Perkins Philbrick, born July 23, 1758, a farmer in Epsom. Married first Mar. 27, 1785, Olive Garland, born in North Hampton Apr. 12, 1759, 8 children, she died Oct. 28, 1803. He married 2nd on July 21, 1805, Hannah Furnald, born in Barrington, Oct. 5, 1767, had five children and died Mar. 30, 1855. Perkins Philbrick died Feb. 1, 1838, age near 80 years.

4) John Philbrick born Jan. 27, 1861, married Aug. 24, 1791, Abhial Green of Kensington, born Sept. 10, 1759. Died at Epsom, Dec. 10, 1853. John Philbrick died July 25, 1826. They had for children: Phebe born April 20, 1794, died July 14, 1859.

5) Rachel, born Sept. 12, 1763, married Thomas Leavitt and died Dec. 9, 1843.

6) Molly, born Sept. 4, 1766, married Jonathan Marston and died Aug. 16, 1849

Mary or Molly was born Sept. 4, 1766, died Aug. 16, 1849, and married Jonathan Marston Dec. 12, 1793..

7) Abigail born Feb. 16, 1769, died June 23, 1862, not married.

8) Sally Philbrick who married Jonathan Elkins, was born Nov. 24, 1772. Died May 11, 1811. She was married Nov. 26, 1795. Their daughter Margaret lived at her Uncle David Philbricks. She married a man from Porter, Maine. She had a brother Harvey born about 1802.

THE BLAKE FAMILY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

It is supposed that "the first one by the name of Blake who came to this country was William Blake who came to Dorchester, Massachusetts with his family in the year 1630 in the ship 'Mary and John', one by the name of Jasper Blake being one of the family."

This family came from Little Baddow, in Essex County, England and it is also supposed that Jasper Blake was one of the early settlers of Hampton, NH.

1) Jasper Blake died at Hampton Feb. 11, 1673. His wife was Deborah Dalton, she died Dec. 20, 1678. Their children were Deborah, Timothy, Israel, Jasper, John, Sarah, Joshua, Samuel, Dorothy and Philemon.

2) Timothy Blake married Naomi Sleeper in 1679, died 1718. His children, Moses, Israel, Aaron, Deborah, Naomi, Ruth and Samuel.
3) Israel Blake, settled in Nottingham, married Leah unknown, died April 1753. His children: Deborah, wife of Ebenezer Tucker; Sarah, wife of Ephraim Elkins; Eliza, wife of Obadiah Griffin; Jedediah, Joseph, Israel and Benjamin.
4) Joseph Blake born Feb. 2, 1711, married and lived in Epping, died about 1763. His children were Joseph, born Oct. 28, 1740, died March 9, 1810; Theophilus, born March 27, 1742, died Aug. 7, 1822; Mehitable, wife of ___ Swain, died Aug. 7, 1896; Sherburne born Oct. 29, 1745, died March 2, 1822; Asahel, died Sept. 1822; Sarah, wife of John Harvey, died Dec. 5, 1837. Sarah Blake, who married John Harvey was born in 1748. John Harvey built the Hotel at Northwood Center in 1781. This hotel was known for many years as the "Harvey House" and still standing (1962);
5) Jonathan Blake, born Dec. 7, 1753 or 1754 settled in Northwood about 1770, together with his brothers Sherburne and Asahel. This place is known as "Blakes' Hill." He married Mary Dow who was born at Epping Dec. 26, 1758. He died Nov. 4, 1825. Their children were Jonathan, died Jan. 19, 1825; Marcy Norris; John Lauris; Dudley Dow, born 1792, died March 6, 1862 – his first wife was Martha Marston of Deerfield, died Sept. 6, 1848 age 52 years. Their children, Mary, Martha and John. Mr. Blake married for his second wife Elizabeth Locke Hayes, widow of the late James C. Locke.
6) John Lauris Blake, born Dec. 21, 1788,married Louisa Gray Richmond June 25, 1814. She died Jan. 3, 1816; married Mary Howe Dec. 6, 1816. He died July 6, 1857. His children were: Henry Kirk, born Dec. 26, 1815, died July 4, 1834; Alexander Vietts, born July 26, 1818; Louisa Richmond, born Feb. 6, 1822, and married George F. Taylor; John Lauris born March 25, 1831, married Oct. 20, 1858, Angeline N. Holbrook. They had one daughter Annie Holbrook born Aug. 22, 1859.

Descendants of the Blakes of Blake's Hill still live in Northwood. Mrs. Bessie B. Sherman and her son, with his family, Herbert A. Sherman, who own and operated a large and modern garage in Northwood, 1961.

THE BLAKE FAMILY OF EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS FROM 1733 TO 1822

John Blake of Greenland was the son of John Blake who was the son of Jasper Blake of Hampton, who was one of the early settlers of Hampton. This John Blake who came from Greenland helped in the settlement of Epsom, but he himself was of Greenland "as late as March 2, 1741-42". He was in Epsom Dec. 2, 1743 and was moderator at a meeting held by the proprietors in Epsom at that time. His son Samuel Blake came to Epsom as early as 1733, he was only fifteen years old at the time. He bought one hundred acres of land from the Indians paying them ten shillings for the land and gave them his jack-knife for one shilling. This is the home farm of Mrs. Eleanora (Chesley) Nutter (1962). Mrs. Nutter is a direct descendant of Sergeant Samuel Blake.

Samuel Blake's first wife was Sarah Libby of Rye, they were married Nov. 24, 1743. She was the daughter of Jacob and Sarah Libbey. His second wife was Esther Bickford, the daughter of Thomas and Esther (Adams) Bickford of Madbury. Mrs. Hester (Bickford) Pickard is a direct descendant of Esther Bickford Blake, the second wife of Samuel Blake. He died August 19, 1801 age 83 years. His wife Esther Bickford died June 27, 1804 age 68 years. His will under date of Aug. 22, 1797 named thirteen children, the first three by his first wife, the others by his second wife. Their names were: Hepzibah, who married Abraham Wallace of Epsom 2) Mary married Simeon Chapman, also of Epsom

3) Mehitable became the wife of William Moses of Chichester, the son of Mark Moses of Epsom 4) Esther married Josiah Knowles, who lived on the New Orchard Road in Epsom, the farm is now owned and occupied by Walter B. Chase. Josiah Knowles died year 1840 age 85 years. His wife, Esther Blake died in 1822 at age 61 years. They are both buried in the Knowles Cemetery on the New Orchard Road opposite the Josiah Knowles (now W.B. Chase 1962) large colonial style house. Josiah Knowles was the son of Jonathan Knowles 5) Sarah Blake married Jonathan Fellows of Chichester 6) Abigail Blake married Simeon Locke of Locke's Hill, Epsom 7) Rebecca Blake married Thomas Lake of Chichester 8) Mercy Blake married Joseph Goss 9) Temperance Blake married Joseph Knowles 10) Hannah Blake married Robert Lake of Chichester 11) Samuel Blake Jr. 12) Elizabeth Blake married John Chesley of Epsom, son of Lemuel,son of Lemuel of Durham 13) James Blake married Jane Sherburne, lived in Chichester. Another record reads that there were sixteen children, fourteen girls and all had large families. James Blake who married Jane Sherburne is said to have a large family of children, as nearly all the others.

There were other Blake's that lived in Epsom. Thomas Blake, the son of John Blake Sr.. Jethro Blake came to Epsom from Epping, lived in Epsom to old age. Thomas, who moved to Chichester, another son Benjamin of Epsom in 1762-1765 moved to Wolfeboro, N.H.. A Dearborn Blake was of Epsom in 1754.

All the Blakes of the New England States are descendants of William Blake who came to this country about the year 1630 according to the old records I have read.

So there is no question about the ancestry of Sarah Blake who married John Foss of Strafford, or of Eliza Blake who married James L. Foss of Barnstead, although I find no record of the children of Samuel Blake's sons and daughters except that they all had large families and lived in Epsom and the neighboring towns.

FOSS AND BLAKE

John Foss, the son of Mark and Amy (Thompson) Foss was born in Strafford May 6, 1757. He married Sarah Blake who died December 17, 1822. They are both buried in the cemetery at the rear of Strafford Academy.

John Foss was a soldier of the Revolution enlisting July 10, 1781 in Captain Joshua Woodman's company. The children of John and Sarah Blake Foss were: Sarah, Betsey, Jonathan, James, Priscilla, Abigail and John B.. Jonathan Foss, the eldest son was born on March 22, 1790 at Strafford, NH. He owned a farm at Strafford Ridge and in the year 1817 exchanged it for one of twenty-seven acres in Center Barnstead, owned at that time by Colonel W. Lyford.

This farm was covered with timber, which he cleared off, and the village of Center Barnstead was built on the site. When Jonathan Foss moved to his farm in Barnstead there was a small house, a shed and a one-house gristmill on it. He lived on this farm until his death in the year 1876 at the age of eighty-six years.

He married in Strafford, Margaret Bean, who died in the course of a year. He married second in Barnstead, a widow, Alice Ham, the daughter of Nathaniel and Dolly (Marshall) Nutter, she came from Newington, NH. Their children were: Eli H, James L., Jonathan, Nancy, Margaret, Dorothy, Mary Ann and John.

James L. Foss, their second son, married Eliza Blake, they lived in Barnstead, NH.

Nancy Foss married Nathan Aikens. Margaret Foss married Samuel S. Shackford. Dorothy Foss married Levi C. Scruton. Mary Ann married Jeremiah Hackett.

Eli Ham Foss, the eldest child of Jonathan and Alice (Nutter) Foss, was born in Center Barnstead July 16, 1819. He married August 23, 1844, Mary Ann Furber, born March 12, 1818, the daughter of

Edmund and Deborah (Walker) Furber of Alton, both members of old families of Center Barnstead. Mrs. Foss died October 25, 1888 at age seventy years. Mr. Foss lived many years after the death of his wife, he was alive in the year 1906.
Mr. and Mrs. Foss had for children: Oscar Foss, who had a large business in wood and lumber for many years, he married November 5, 1871, Sarah Ursula Young, the daughter of Oliver H.P. and Emily J. (Tuttle) Young. The other children of Jonathan and Alice Foss were Mary Ann, Nellie D. and Estie. Mary Ann married John F. Chesley and had two children. Nellie married Reuben G. York; Estie married Emory L. Tuttle, had one child.

Jasper Blake who settled in Hampton in 1640 was a relative of the then famous British Admiral Robert Blake. Joshua Blake's son Jeremiah Blake lived in Hampton Falls, N.H., where his son Enoch (1) was born. Enoch Blake (1) served in the Revolutionary War under General Stark. In the year 1787 he moved to Pittsfield. His wife was Hannah Eastman, they had children, one of whom was named Enoch Blake (2). This son was born in Pittsfield August 22, 1796. Enoch Blake (2) was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married Lydia Smith, the daughter of Josiah and Bathseba Rand Smith of Chichester. They were the parents of five children. Their oldest son Francis Blake, was born September 3, 1837 in Hampton. Later the family lived in Pittsfield. This Francis Blake was the great-grandson of Jeremiah Blake, son of Joshua. Francis Blake married in the year 1866, someone from Kingston. They had several children and lived in Pittsfield.

WORTH FAMILY

On a map of the town of Epsom compiled in the year 1858, what is now known as the Worth house was marked J. Tripp. A.C. Parson lived on the opposite corner, J. Burnham at the four corners as did T. Wells. W.Yeaton Jr. lived at the top of the hill where George E. Batchelder lived in later years. Mrs. Robinson at the place now owned by the Krenn family. The S. Worth house was at the foot of the hill located very near the home of Rev. Ernest Russell (1962). J. Brown just beyond, at the Henry S. Moore place (1962). J. Spurlin at the L.S. Batchelder home (1962).

Rev. Edmund Worth is mentioned in the history of East Weare Church in the years 1830 to 1843. John Worths name is mentioned many times. John was a native of Weare or rather he came to Weare about the year 1770. He served as clerk of the east Weare church for many years, a member of the Committee of Safety year 1777. He is named on the list of men who went to Ticonderoga. In the year 1781 John Worth was selectman of Weare. In 1783 a new church was formed, John Worth was one of the twenty-seven persons who signed a new covenant in forming the new church, He held other important offices in the town of Weare, N.H.
Joseph Worth bought land in Gossville in 1769. His son, John and his wife Anna, and a John Jr., and wife Mary (Danforth) all united with the Epsom Church 1767-1773. None of them signed the Association Test in Epsom, they may have all lived in Chichester. The land at Gossville seems to have been occupied by Benjamin Goodwin, probably a son-in-law. He and wife Lydia had children 1770-1790 Gilman, Joseph Worth, Nathan, Jacob, Anna, Benjamin, Lydia Worth, Rhoda Colby and Timothy. The 1790 census found no Worth families in Epsom or vicinity. A Joseph Worth of Epsom married Hannah Tripp in 1799. They had children Joseph, Sally who married Jeremiah Burnham, Richard T. (1804-1891), John, James and Samuel.

MOSES FAMILY

Samuel Moses from Greenland, was of Epsom in 1760, first at Gossville. In 1769 he sold there and bought Lot No. 67 at the mountain. He lived there till 1800 when he sold to his brother James and went to Meredith where several of his sons had preceded him. The place has since been owned by descendants of James, the present owner being Mrs. James Tripp (1910). Samuel's father Mark Moses (1702-1789) was in Epsom by 1762, a little above Gossville. His sons, Sylvanus (1754-1832) and James (1758-1819) succeeded him and added to the estate till it included some two hundred acres, reaching from the river to the New Orchard Road. Sylvanus lived near the river; James at A.D. Sherburne's place (present owner Miss Nellie F. Sherburne, Albert D. Sherburne's daughter 1960). James Moses is buried in a cemetery on the Sherburne farm, he died August 17, 1819, age 62 years. Other Moses buried in same cemetery – Jane Moses, died August 17, 1867, age 82 years, 10 months, 8 days; Moses I son of John and Sarah died 1822, age 23 years. James Moses, son of John and Sarah died 1824 age 11 years. Elizabeth, wife of James Moses (who died August 17, 1819, age 62) died November 3, 1826, James Jr. died October 30, 1812, age 30 years. Mark Moses died March 11, 1811, aged 30 years, 1 month, 22 days. [ed. Note – the James and Moses above are actually sons of John and Sarah (Moses) Lake]

THE LOCKE FAMILY OF LOCKE'S HILL EPSOM, NH

Jonathan Locke born in Rye, NH March 15, 1702 married March 2, 1727, Sarah Haines, daughter of William and Mary (Lewis) Haines of Greenland, NH. They were the parents of twelve children of whom their fifth child, a son, was named David Locke born August 24, 1735. He married first on February 9, 1758, Hannah Lovering, another record gives the name of his first wife as Anna Lovering of Kensington, NH. They were married Feb. 9, 1758. She was the daughter of John Lovering and was born March 11, 1739 O.S., died in Rye Sept. 23, 1807. He married second on March 24, 1809, widow Olive (Marden) Elkins, who was born January 6, 1747, died December 4, 1835. This David Locke was known as Deacon David Locke, but I find no record of what church he was a Deacon. He lived about one mile from the Center Church in Rye, NH. He was selectman in 1777-79, again in 1783 and 1784 also moderator in 1785. He hired soldiers in Rye in 1781 for the Revolutionary War. He lived in Rye and in Epsom on "Locke's Hill" and died Rye June 3, 1810, leaving thirteen children, all married. The children were:

1) Reuben Locke, born April 26, 1758, married in Epsom, March 27, 1791, Phebe Chapman.
2) Simeon Locke, born March 21, 1760, married in Epsom, January 29, 1784, Abigail Blake of Epsom. She was the daughter of Samuel Blake and his second wife Esther (Bickford) Blake. Abigail Blake was born February 23, 1776, died July 13, 1839. This Simeon Locke was the first of the three to settle on Locke's Hill in Epsom.
3) Sarah Locke born November 21, 1761, married in Portsmouth November 15, 1780, Joshua Webster, married 2nd Solomon Waterhouse.
4) Mary Locke born May 7, 1763 or '64 married in Hampton November 3, 1785, Josiah B. Sanborn.
5) David Locke. Deacon David was born Nov. 24, 1765, married May 31, 1789 Anna Towle of Hampton and moved to Epsom, "Locke's Hill". This Deacon David Locke was the second of the three brothers to settle on Locke's Hill June 1792.
6) Jonathan Locke, born February 19, 1768, married 1st December 23, 1790, Miss Lydia Hall, second December 1826, Mrs. Hannah (Tarlton) Beals.

7) Levi Locke born February 7, 1770, married in Hampton Falls, NH, August 31, 1796, Hannah Prescott. Levi Locke was the third brother to come to Epsom and settle on Locke's Hill.
8) Rev. Dr. John Locke, born May 22, 1772, married Abigail Dearborn of North Hampton.
9) Annah Locke, born March 27, 1774, married Jan. 2, 1792, Timothy Prescott.
10) Dr. William Locke, born April 9, 1776, married Oct. 23, 1800, Esther Knowles of Epsom or Pembroke, NH. Their son Albion Locke married Mary Anna Locke, the daughter of Deacon David Locke and his wife Polly Carleton.
11) Abigail D. Locke born November 20, 1778, married January 2, 1797, her second cousin, Capt. Bickford Lang. He was born in Rye Nov. 6, 1774, died in Huntington, Ohio April 5, 1861. He was a Lieutenant in NH State Militia in 1812 and a Captain in 1814 when he and fourteen of his men volunteered for active service. He was placed in command at Fort Sullivan in the State of Maine. In the year 1800 he moved to Epsom, New Rye District and lived there until he went to Ohio in 1837. He was a blacksmith when in Epsom.
12) Benjamin Locke born December 28, 1780, married October 18, 1801 Miss Pamelia Connor.
13) Nancy Locke born March 9, 1785, married in Greenland April 2, 1801, Morris Lamprey.

Locke's Hill derived its name from the three brothers that settled on this hill. They were Simeon, David and Levi Locke. Locke's Hill in Epsom, NH, elevation 600 feet is in the third range of lots, about the center of Lot numbers 102-103-104, extending to the range way on the east. The first Locke to settle on Locke's Hill was Simeon Locke, born in Rye, NH March 21, 1760, married in Epsom, January 29, 1784, Abigail Blake of Epsom, the daughter of Samuel Blake and his wife Esther (Bickford) Blake. Abigail Blake was born February 23, 1766, died July 13, 1839.

Simeon Locke and his brother Reuben Locke enlisted in Captain Parson's Company July 4, 1777 and served in the Revolutionary War. In the early days it was customary to cast oxen on their side when shoeing them. Helping in this work when quite young he lost an eye by an ox throwing back his horn, but in spite of this handicap he became an excellent marksman. At the close of the war in 1783 he came to Epsom. At that time bridle paths and blazed trees were the means of reaching many parts of the town. Simeon Locke first settled in a clearing located about half a mile west of the Sherburne road in the north part of the town. A few years later he bought and moved upon the farm on the top of Locke's Hill where he was joined in June 1792 by his brother David, who settled on the next farm, south and in 1799 or 1800 by his brother Levi who settled on the next farm north. The three brothers at this time owned all the beautiful round topped hill and much of the land in the adjoining valley. To the south of them stretched the valleys of the Suncook and the Merrimack.

The road over Locke's Hill was laid out in 1784. In the same year a William Ordeon sometimes spelt Odiorne, had a house at or near what was later know as the Ames place – but he lived mostly in Durham. Arthur C. Locke had in the year 1960 the original brass door knockers from the home of his great grandfather Levi Locke which had the date 1799 on it. In his younger days Simeon P. Locke, son of Levi, was "Choir Master" at the Congregational Church in Epsom. This was the church building that was built in the year 1845 and torn down in 1909. It was at this site of the present Knowles house, now occupied by Gilbert H. Knowles (1962). In those early days the church service consisted of two, hour-long sermons, with one-hour intermissions. It is said that Simeon P. Locke would at the time of the one-hour intermission, go to his home on Locke's Hill, feed forty head of cattle and return in time to lead the singing of the first hymn at the second service. He did not have the means of travel we now have (1952) but went on foot, he was a fast walker and ran much of the way, especially down the hills (as told by his son Joseph P. Locke when I was a boy) Geo. H. Yeaton

After the death of Levi Locke in the year 1850, the farm was kept by his family or some of his descendants until the year 195? when it was sold to other parties having been in the Locke family for more than one hundred and fifty years.
The original Locke homestead was kept by the descendants of the David Locke family until the year 1915, it was then sold to Charles A. Reid. It is still owned by a member of that family, Neil G. Reid. It is quite evident that after Simeon Locke moved to the intervals of East Concord, that David Locke moved to the original homestead on Locke's Hill. As all that remains of his home is some of the old foundations and a well to mark its location. It was in the year 1818 that Simeon Locke moved to East Concord, where he died August 12, 1839.
I believe that the view from Locke's Hill is the most beautiful to be found from any home for many miles. "Locke's Hill" (the name) is only a memory now as the Reid family having lived there nearly fifty years, it is naturally and properly called Reid's Hill.

ALBION LOCKE OF LOCKE'S HILL

Albion Locke was born in Lyman, April 28, 1822, died in Epsom September 4, 1901. He was the son of Doctor William Locke and his wife Esther (Knowles) Locke. Dr. Locke was a physician in Lyman until 1824, he then went to Irasburg, Vermont, where he died March 3, 1841. He was born in Rye April 9, 1776, married Esther Knowles of Epsom, daughter of Simeon Knowles of Pembroke. Esther Knowles was born November 29, 1781 and died January 3, 1874.
Albion Locke came to Locke's Hill in the year 1848 and on June 15, 1848 married Mary Ann Locke, the daughter of Deacon David Locke and his wife Mary or Polly (Carleton) Locke. Mary Ann Locke was born May 10, 1821, died March 10, 1906. Born and died in Epsom, Locke's Hill, her father Deacon David Locke died January 29, 1872.
After the death of Deacon Locke, Albion Locke devoted all of his time in the operation of the farm. Previous to this he had owned and operated the mills at Epsom, "Slab City", at that time there was a sawmill on one side of the road and a gristmill on the other side, using the same water to run both mills. I suppose that the dam was at the same place that the one was in later years. As there were long stacks and piles of slabs at the sides of the road, this part of Epsom became known as "Slab City".
The present gristmill was built about the year 1880 by Henry S. Knowles, who bought the store in 1876 and a little later bought the mills.
There was a large orchard on the Locke Hill farm which Albion Locke improved and enlarged by setting out many young fruit trees and grafting the older ones and at that date was the largest and best fruit orchard in this vicinity.
The old gristmill built and operated by Henry S. Knowles about 1880 was torn down about the middle of October 1966.

ALBION LOCKE and his ROAD PROJECT

In the years 1896 and 1897, Albion Locke, one of the large land owners and farm operators in Epsom, tried to interest the town of Epsom and went to much expense himself, to have a new road built which would connect the New Orchard Road with Epsom Depot and the village of Gossville, making it a much shorter distance to these places and at the same time eliminating eight hills, all on the New Orchard Road from the schoolhouse to the end of the road at the turnpike. The proposed road would have had only three its entire length.
There was at this time several winter roads which let to the depot and were much in use in the winter months.

Mr. Locke was one of those who made much use of the winter road from the New Orchard Road schoolhouse to Gossville Village and Epsom Depot. He shipped his milk on the train from the Epsom Station, he hauled much wood and lumber over this winter road. A man of good judgment, not content to continue on in the same old ruts and practices, perhaps a little visionary. At first he purposed that a road be built from the junction of the Locke and Sherburne roads with the New Orchard Road at the schoolhouse following the winter road to Epsom R.R. Station, having a connecting road leaving the New Orchard Road on the west side between the Perly Giles place and the James Yeaton farm buildings. As he could not get much support on this project, he then hired a surveryor and laid out a road from the end of the Range Road near the buildings of Joseph P. Locke (now owned by Mrs. Grace A. MacKay 1962). This survey left the New Orchard Road on the west, running south-westerly through the pasture of Samuel W. Bickford and joined the turnpike, now known as Route 4-9-202, at the foot of "Gray's Hill" later called "Holmes Hill". This was an ideal route for a road to be built, one small brook to cross and one cattle pass to build.
A road with no hills, level ground or a slight downgrade all the way from the Range Road to the turnpike, but the selectmen and others went against Mr. Locke and his proposed road, they could only see a small increase in their taxes and failed to see the advantages of this road. One of the Selectmen even said "If I was to go up the New Orchard Road from Gossville, I would go the long way around and climb the long steep hill rather than go by way of the proposed road, even if it was a shorter way and no hills to climb". Why are people so against progress?

The first official turnpike built in the State of New Hampshire was the one from Concord to Piscataqua Bridge in Durham. This turnpike was built across Epsom the entire width of the town (from Chichester to Northwood). The company building it was incorporated in June 1796. The town or Epsom is 6 miles long and four and one half miles in width.
It is curious how uniformly the first roads took hilly routes. Epsom began with its Canterbury road going over the hill north of Gossville and its "road to Pembroke" over Sanborn's Hill both roads were soon superseded by easy roads through the valleys.

THE SATURLEY'S OF EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

From the year 1793 to the year 1867
Taken from old records of the town of Epsom

In the year 1793 Joseph Saturley was living in the town of Epsom and was taxed thus: one poll, 3 acres of tillage, 10 acres of mowing, 14 acres of pasture and 73 acres of unimproved land together with one cow, two year olds, money on hand or at interest L. O. S-17,-D.6.
He was taxed about the same during the following years with some additions to the acreage and live stock, always taxed for buildings and under some dates, more money. In the year 1815, under the heading "Marks of Cattle, Sheep and Hogs" – Joseph Satruley's mark for sheep and cattle was 'a crop off the left ear, a swallows tail in the right ear and a half penny under each ear.'
About the year 1816, Joseph Saturley's name is followed by the name John L. Saturley, taxed for one poll, one cow and one three year old. In the year 1825 Joseph Saturley is taxed as follows – one poll, one horse, one ox, two cows, one three year old, one acre tillage, 3 acres hay, 8 acres pasture, 55 acres of unimproved land and buildings.
In the year 1825 Joseph Saturley is taxed as follows: one poll, one horse, one ox, two cows, one 3 year old, one acre tillage, 3 acres hay, 8 acres pasture, 55 acres of unimproved land and buildings.
John L. Saturley taxed exactly the same except he did not have any buildings on his list. I assume they were father and son, as in the year 1793, under births in the town of Epsom, the following: John Lamprey

Saturley, born June 18, 1793, the son of Joseph and Mary Saturley. Recorded by D.L. Morrill, Town Clerk.
In the year 1858 Joseph Saturley is taxed for one poll. Land, buildings and live stock, the same year Samuel Saturley is taxed one poll. Joseph Saturley is taxed in the year 1859 in Epsom. In the year 1860 John Saturley is taxed for real and personal estate in Epsom. Joseph Saturley taxed in the year 1867.
In the year 1863 Joseph Saturley is in one record as enlisting in the Fifteenth New Hampshire Regiment (Heavy Artillery) Company G, his age at the time, 37 years.
I would assume that this last named Joseph Saturley was the son of John L. Saturley and the grandson of Joseph Saturley Sr.
Three generations of the Saturley family from 1793-1867, a period of 74 years.
Fifty years later, John L. Saturley was taxed 8 acres of land in Epsom - Non Resident as he was a resident of Chichester.

NASON

In the year 1793, William Nason is taxed in Epsom for the following: 1 poll, 6 acres pasture, 1 horse, 1 cow, 1 2 year old, 27 acres unimproved land. In the year 1794, 1 poll, 2 acres tillage, 8 acres mowing, 28 acres pasture, 1 horse, 2 oxen, 3 cows, 1 3 year old, 3 1 year old, no. of acres 134 owned. Year 1795 1 poll, 2 tillage, 8 mowing, 12 pasture, 1 horse, 1- 1 year old, 2 oxen, 1 cow, 1 3 year old cattle, 137 no. of acres of unimproved land.
I find no William Nason on the Tax papers of Epsom, NH after the above date 1795.
Dec. 22, 1775, Sarah Nason married John Baker (of Epping). March 7, 1785, Miss Betty Nason of Chichester married Isachar Ring.
In the list of members of the first church in Epsom, organized in the year 1761, the name of Widow Nason is one of them, there were thirteen original members. At a later date the name Widow Sarah Nason is on a list of church members who had removed from the town of Epsom.
Then, from the Locke Genealogy comes this information:
Asa Locke, born in 1762 married in Epsom March 4, 1784, Widow Mary (Fletcher) Nason Shaw. Asa Locke was the son of Lieut. Ephraim Locke, born in Rye NH Feb. 10, 1730 and his wife Comfort Dowrst, born August 21, 1731. They were married May 14, 1752. Comfort Dowrst was a native of Epsom (notice how Dowst is spelled). Lieut Ephraim Locke was a Revolutionary War Soldier, he died March 7, 1798.
More about Asa Locke, born in 1763, married in Epsom March 4, 1784, Mrs. Mary (Fletcher) Nason Shaw of Vermont who was born in 1758 and died February 12, 1844.
After their marriage, Asa Locke moved to Vermont first to St. Albans, then to Richford, and then to Springfield, VT. He died in St. Albans Vermont November 19, 1847.
They were the parents of four sons – Richard, born April 13, 1792, married first Jan. 22, 1817, Mercy Munson, married second March 8, 1820, Julia Parker, married third October 1853, Evaline G. Foot.
2) William M. born 1793 married Abigail Withey
3) Veranus, born July 15, 1800, married in 1825 Statira Jenne
4) Levi, died young
5) A daughter named Sally who married John Munsel, they lived in Sharon, VT, no children.
6) Lydia, married Warren Kathen, lived in Plattsburg, Vermont, had two sons and one daughter.
7) Nancy, who married Daniel Kirby, emigrated to Ohio in an ox team, lived there several years, then came back to Canada. Had four children.
8) Mary, married George Richardson, had five children.

And from the history of Rye, NH by Parsons, we find that Asa Locke, born 1763, son of Ephraim and Comfort (Dowst) Locke of Epsom, married Widow Mary (Nason) Shaw, removed to Vermont.
William Nason, wife and one son and 4 daughters came to St. Albans, Vermont from Epsom, NH 1796. Their effects were brought in four sleighs and one ox team. They were 7 days on the road. On their arrival they were entertained by Major Amos Morrill who lived at St. Albans Bay. They next moved to the farm from which they afterward occupied 1 mile south of St. Albans (village). A small framed house stood upon this lot in which Mr. Nason opened a tavern (it had been a store) – Mr. Nason enlarged the building. Mr. N ran the tavern during his life. It closed Dec. 1810.
1962 note: There is a Nason Street now in St. Albans, Vermont.

MORRILL OF EPSOM, NH

In the list of names of men who served in the Revolutionary War from Epsom, New Hampshire, there is a Captain Amos Morrill who commanded a company of soldiers from Epsom. In the year 1767, Nathan Morrill and wife became members of the early church at Epsom. I think that their home was in Deerfield at the time.
I find no record of anyone by the name of Gilman in Epsom, but there were many families by that name in nearby towns, especially in the town of Gilmanton, NH

Major Amos Morrill (ex-major of Revolutionary War) bought Governor's rights of Georgia and St. Albans, VT, 1000 acres in 1794 (about). With family he lived to an advanced age. He was a blacksmith and wealthy. The house he built previous to 1800 was made with nails of his own manufacture.

Captain John Gilman came to St. Alban's Vt. from Epsom, NH during the year 1793 with his wife and daughter and his father-in-law, Major Morrill.
Margaret Morrill was his second wife by whom he had one son (he had had 3 daughters and 3 sons by a previous marriage) He took a prominent part in local military affairs.
Capt. Gilman was a industrious man of religious tendencies and became a well to do farmer, also a blacksmith.
He built a large house on Main St. He died Aug. 31, 1845, at 76 years.

THE BATCHELDER FAMILY OF EPSOM NH
of the DEARBORN BATCHELDER LINE

Dearborn Batchelder born in the year March 30, 1778 died February 16, 1860, age 81 years, 11 months. Mary Batchelder, his wife born about the year 1782, died February 13, 1859, age 77 years. Both are buried in the McClary Cemetery at Center Hill, Epsom.
Dearborn Batchelder, who was born in Northwood, NH married Polly Nealy, born in Meredith, N.H.. Their son George W. Batchelder was born in Meredith and died in Epsom march 26, 1889, age 73 years, 5 mo. 19 days. He married Abigail B. Wells who died December 14, 1881, aged 69 years. They are both buried in the McClary Cemetery. They had for children four sons and one daughter, perhaps others. The daughters name was Lucetta M., she died at Epsom November 29, 1905, age 68 yrs 5 mo 18 days. (never married), lived with her brother Alonzo who married Carrie E. Page, she died February 14, 1894 age 45 yrs. Carrie E. Page was the daughter of James D. and Elizabeth (Locke) Page.
Alonzo married second Laura Abbie Haynes of Deerfield, NH, the daughter of Jonathan P. Haynes and his wife Abbie Maloon. Laura A. (Haynes) Batchelder died at Epsom December 17, 1947, age 80 yrs 1 mo 10 days. She was born in Bedford, her father in Deerfield and her mother in Epping. Alonzo and Laura A.

Batchelder had one daughter born July 11, 1902 named Doris Abbie who married August 25, 1927, Ellsworth Blake Philbrick. They had one son born September 1, 1933 named Maurice Crawford Philbrick.
Alonzo Batchelder died January 3, 1905, age 61 years.
By his first wife he had two daughters. First, Hattie L., born 1870 married October 18, 1888 Albert D. Sherburne, the son of James M. and Lucy (Bickford) Sherburne of Epsom.
Albert D. and Hattie L. Sherburne had one daughter named Nellie Florence born April 23, 1889, not married at this date, July 1963. Hattie L. Sherburne died October 13, 1932 age 62 yrs 8 mo 20 days. Albert D. Sherburne died October 19, 1947 age 82 yrs 4 mo 23 days.
The second daughter of Alonzo and Carrie (Page) Batchelder, Myrtie E., born January 16, 1873, married Clarence H. Sanborn, who was born March 29, 1875 and died March 21, 1943. He was son of Henry M. Sanborn and his wife Laura J. Brown of Chichester. His age at death was 67 yrs 11 mo 22 days. Myrtie E. (Batchelder) Sanborn died October 10, 1936 age at death 64 yrs 5 mo 24 days. Clarence H. and Myrtie E. Sanborn did not have any children.
The third child of George W. Batchelder and his wife Abigail B. (Wells) Batchelder was a son named Orison Batchelder, born 1838 and died December 13, 1884 age 46 yrs 4 mo 21 days. He married Ann Marie Clark who died January 24, 1917 at Nashua, NH, age at death 76 yrs 3 mo 19 days. She was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, he father born in Epsom, mother in Winslow, Maine. Fathers name John Clark, mother's maiden name Rebecca Withee. They are buried in the McClary Cemetery.
The fourth child of George W. and Abigail B. (Wells) Batchelder, a son, Charles Batchelder, who lived in Pittsfield, NH.
The fifth, a son name Elbridge G. Batchelder, who was born in 1842 and died May 15, 1884, age 42 yrs. He served in the Civil War, Eleventh New Hampshire Volunteers, Company E. wounded October 1, 1864, rank of Corporal. He married Vienna R. Yeaton, the daughter of John Yeaton 3rd and Sarah (Bickford) Yeaton. Vienna R. Batchelder died February 5, 1915, age 73 yrs 2 mo 11 days.
Elbridge G. and Vienna R. Batchelder had for children; first a son born in the year 1866, died September 26, 1932, age 66 yrs, name George E. Batchelder. He married on June 4, 1888 Nettie A. Stewart, the daughter of Alanson Stewart and his wife Mary (Carleton) Stewart. Nettie A. Batchelder was born September 24, 1869 and died December 18, 1939, age at death 70 yrs 2 mo 24 days. They had children – Leonard Stewart, born June 12, 1893.
1) Leonard Stewart Batchelder married August 12, 1925, Sarah Blanch Harvey of Northwood, NH, the daughter of Ladd P. Harvey and wife Mary F. Mallard.
2) Percy Carleton, born December 23, 1896, married July 29, 1922, Gladys Pickard

2) Chester Yeaton, born December 23, 1896, married December 25, 1920, Harriet Lydia Harvey. Children; a son Harvey W. Batchelder, born April 16, 1924.

The second child of Elbridge G. and Vienna R. was a daughter that they named Edith G. Batchelder; she was born in the year 1872 and died March 20. 1933, age 61 years, 1 mo and 30 days. She married on December 22, 1897 Ansel C. Heath, who was born in the year 1874, and died March 2, 1928. age 53 years 3 mo 20 days. He was the son of Christopher S. Heath and Rosilla W. (Clough) Heath.
Abigail B. Wells, wife of George W. Batchelder was born in Allenstown, New Hampshire. The mother of Carrie M. Page, (wife of Alonzo Batchelder) was Elizabeth P. Locke, the daughter of Deacon David Locke and his wife Polly (Carleton) Locke of Locke's Hill, Epsom. She was a sister to Mary Ann Locke who married Albion Locke.
In the McClary Cemetery there is buried Charles N. Batchelder, who died December 20, 1840, aged 22.
Samuel Batchelder died March 7, 1891, age 66 y 5m 6 days
Keziah White, his wife, died April 27, 1911, age 72 yrs 8 mo 12 days.

Adaline Batchelder, wife of Darius Philbrick died February 16, 1895, born Sept. 25, 1818.
William Yeaton, born July 29, 1793 married Sarah Blake Locke, the daughter of Simeon Locke, his wife Abigail (Blake) Locke. She was born March 28, 1801.
William Yeaton and Sarah Blake Locke were married December 28, 1825.
Simeon Locke was the first of the three Locke brothers who settled on Locke's Hill in Epsom.
In the year 1792 his brother David Locke came and in the year 1800 Levi Locke came. Read the Locke Genealogy for more details.

LOCKE – PAGE – BATCHELDER and YEATON

Deacon David Locke, born in Epsom on Locke's Hill May 23, 1790, died in Epsom January 29, 1872. Married in Canaan November 28, 1819, Polly Carleton, who was born in Canaan February 12, 1798, died in Epsom September 24, 1867. Deacon David Locke lived in Epsom all his life.
His daughter Mary Ann Locke born May 10, 1821, died in Epsom March 10, 1906, aged 85 yrs. She married Albion Locke on June 15, 1848. The second daughter Elizabeth P. Locke born April 23, 1823, married on April 15, 1846, James D. Page who was born in Ryegate, Vermont in the year 1819. They lived in Epsom and are buried in the Cemetery at Center Hill.
James D. Page died May 2, 1891 age 72 yrs 3 mo. Elizabeth P. Page died October 2, 1886 age 63 y. 5 m. Albion Locke born 1822 died 1901. Mary Ann Locke born 1821 died 1906.
The children of James D. Page and his wife Elizabeth P. Locke were: Albion Locke Page born in 1847 married Flora Evans, they lived in Pittsfield. Carrie E. Page was born in Penacook March 1849, died in Epsom February 15, 1894, age 45 years. She married in the year 1869 Alonzo E. Batchelder who had a brother Elbridge G. Batchelder who married Vienna R. Yeaton of Epsom. She was the aunt of George H. Yeaton (the write of this article) as she was the sister of his father, James Yeaton, who lived on the New Orchard Road in Epsom. James and Elizabeth Page had a son Harvey Page who died November 4,1865, age 8 years, 3 months and 13 days.
Miss Dora E. Page, the daughter of Albion L. and Flora (Evans) Page lives in the village of Pittsfield, NH at this date July 1963.
Albion Locke, born in Lyman April 28, 1822, died in Epsom September 4, 1901, married June 15, 1848, Mary Ann Locke. He came to Locke's Hill from Irasburg, Vermont about the year 1847. He was a miller at 'Slab City' Epsom in the year 1870. The children of Albion and Mary Ann Locke were: Flora Esther, born in Epsom June 2, 1854, married September 8, 1875, Edward O. Sanderson, born May 18, 1836, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Frost) Sanderson. Edward O. Sanderson was in the dry goods business in Pittsfield. They had a daughter Helen Locke Sanderson, born in Pittsfield May 20, 1880, married in Boston May 3, 1905, John E. Marston, born in Chichester, June 15, 1870, they lived in Pittsfield and had a son John Bennett born July 23, 1908. The second daughter of Albion and Mary Ann Locke was Ada Eldora, born in Epsom Feb. 12, 1862, married in Epsom Charles E. Cilley, born in Northwood September 17, 1861. Charles E. and Ada E. (Locke) Cilley had one daughter, Helen Marie Cilley, born in Epsom May 20, 1896.
Charles E. Cilley died in Pittsfield June 1942.

BATCHELDER FAMILY

Simon Batchelder was the son of Davis Batchelder who came from North Hampton and settled in what is now called Bow Street (Northwood). His mother was Mary Taylor of Hampton whose children were Henry, born June5, 1755, Simon, Mary, and one that died in infancy. Mr. Davis Batchelder's second wife was Ruth Palmer of North Hampton, and his third wife a widow Marston of the same town. By the last two

wives he had fourteen children, he came to Northwood about 1770 and died October 5, 1816, aged eighty-four.

Simon, his son, was born March 5, 1758, married Rachel, daughter of Benjamin Johnson April 4, 1778. She was born November 14, 1756 and died January 5, 1830. Their children were: Levi, born Sept. 10, 1779, died November 11, 1781; Mary, born April 19, 1782, married Nicholas Durrell of Northwood and went to Bradford to live where he died August 1845 and where she died in the year 1873, they had one daughter who married Levi O. Colby of Warner, and one son; Martha, born March 3, 1784, married Hazen Horn of Gilmanton where he died July 3, 1843 and she died August 31, 1848, leaving five daughters – Ann who married Albert Cressy of Newark, NJ – Martha married John S. Rollins of Fisherville – Alice C. who married Charles Wingate of Northwood and died September 28, 1869 – Mary P. lived in Gilmanton year 1878 – Elizabeth A. became the wife of Theodore Bohnstedt, she is now a widow and resided in Boston 1878; Simon, born Feb. 28, 1786, died December 14, 1844, age at death fifty-eight, he married for his first wife Sally, the daughter of Henry Batchelder. Their children: a daughter named Matilda B., born June 22, 1811, who married Hazen Hill February 8, 1832, their children – Lorenzo B., Henry, Francis, and Sarah Matilda. Lorenzo enlisted in the First Main Cavalry in the fall of 1861 and was shot from his horse in the battle of Winchester during Ban's retreat, thus rendered incapable of further active service in the field, but was retained in the provost marshal's office till the close of the war, afterwards he was assistant postmaster at Augusta Maine. Henry enlisted as first sergeant, afterwards promoted to the rank of Capt. in Company I Seventh Maine Volunteers August 21, 1861 and was killed in the battle of Spotsylvania May 18, 1864. Sarah lived with her parents in Manchester, Maine (1878).

Simon Batchelder's second wife was Mrs. Elizabeth B. Pease, daughter of Col. Isaac Waldron of Barrington. She was born September 9, 1789, married Mr. Batchelder June 2, 1816, and died September 19, 1820. Their children were: George W., born February 26, 1817, a merchant in Bloomington, Ill and Elizabeth Ann, born October 18, 1818, died October 18, 1821.

Mr. Batchelder's third wife was Miss Hannah B. Waldron, sister to the second wife. She was born April 11, 1794, married May 29, 1825. Their children were: Elizabeth, born March 1, 1826, the wife of William W. Stackpole of Newmarket, having three children; Alfred, born November 12, 1827 and died October 20, 1828; Edwin, born November 26, 1830, was in the army during the Rebellion, married and lived in Exeter (1878).

Hannah, born April 16, 1788, became the second wife of Joseph Greeley of Gilmanton and died September 8, 1859.

Levi, born July 31, 1790, married Mary Sherburne, born Feb. 27, 1800 and died in Manchester September 11, 1861, leaving one daughter Mary Elizabeth born May 22, 1823 who in June 1841 married John M. Harvey, grandson of the late Honorable John Harvey of Northwood. They had one child, Arianna Wallace, who died May 15, 1848, aged three years; he died in Manchester March 19, 1848 and then his widow August 1, 1856 became the wife of Dr. John S. Elliott of Manchester who died November 29, 1876.

Benjamin, youngest child of Simon Batchelder the elder, was born August 15, 1796, married for his first wife, Mary Crockett, sister of the late John L. Crockett, November 27, 1823; she died May 28, 1835, aged thirty-seven, leaving one daughter, Ann Maria, born July 25, 1825, who became the wife of Samuel S. Moore, they lived in Northwood, (1878) having one son, Albert B. Moore.

Mr. Benjamin Batchelder married for his second wife, Mehitable, widow of the late Samuel Sherburne and daughter of Col. William Berry of Pittsfield. She died Oct. 27, 1872 aged sixty-six. Mr. Batchelder died April 19, 1864, aged sixty-seven.

Simon Batchelder responded to the first call for soldiers in the first year of the war of the Revolution and served in all, under three different enlistments, twenty months. He was at Winter Hill, near Boston,

Newport, Rhode Island and Ticonderoga, New York. He received from his grateful country for many years an annual stipend of $66.66.

Mr. Batchelder was one of the original members of the Congregational Church, was chosen a Deacon September 22, 1817, which office he discharged until his death March 10, 1847, aged eighty-nine years and five days. He was 'a good man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and devout men carried him to his burial' with sincere 'lamentation.'

Some of the other children of Davis Batchelder in addition to those named above were: Jonathan, born Feb. 14, 1765; Comfort, born May 23, 1766; Davis, born August 22, 1768; Benjamin, born July 3, 1770; Hannah, born June 1, 1772 and Joseph born August 6, 1774.

Henry Batchelder, brother of Deacon Simon, was born June 5, 1755 and died about 1812; his wife, Miss Reynols, born January 1755, died 1815. He built the house where S.S. Moore lived in the year 1878 and died there; he was Captain of a company and was the leader of the choir in the Congregational Church for many years. Their children were: Dearborn, born March 30, 1778; Molly born October 8, 1779; Charlotte born March 2, 1782, died May 28, 1786; Nancy, born January 1, 1874; patty born June 26, 1786; Sally born May 25, 1788; Charlotte born April 10, 1791.

Dearborn Batchelder's wife was a Nealley, sister of the late Captain Joseph Nealley; lived in Meredith, afterwards in Epsom, where he died leaving a large family of children.

Molly married Charles Danielson, lived and died in Northwood leaving one son, Charles, and two daughters Lucinda and Matilda. The son was killed by a railroad car at Great Falls – Lucinda married Ephraim Grant and lived in the State of Maine leaving children, one of them being the wife of Emery Bartlett. Matilda became the wife of Joseph Hill and died leaving children Charles H. and George W. of Concord.

Patty Batchelder married John Durgin, lived and died leaving two children, one married Hosea Knowlton of Chichester.

Nancy Batchelder married Samuel Durgin, lived and died in Maine leaving several children.

Charlotte Batchelder became the wife of John Wiggin Jr. and died June 22, 1825, she was the mother of Rev. Henry B. Wiggin.

Sally Batchelder, another daughter of Capt. Henry Batchelder became the wife of Simon Batchelder, the son of Deacon Simon Batchelder, and died leaving one daughter whom married Hazen Hill, son of Jonathan Hill, they lived in Maine.

Adaline Batchelder daughter of Capt. Henry Batchelder became the wife of John Harvey, the son of Hon, John Harvey.

Harriet Batchelder daughter of Capt. Henry married a Mr. Thompson, they lived in the State of Maine and both died in Maine

A HISTORY OF THE OLD AARON MARSH HOUSE OF EPSOM NEW HAMPSHIRE FROM 1844-1952

The Paul A. Caswell house, home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Caswell, which is situated on the westerly side of Route number 28 near the Epsom Traffic Circle, has a history connected with it.

In the year 1844 this house was located on the turnpike Route 202, about ½ mile west of the present Epsom Traffic Circle (1962) on the southerly side of the highway nearly opposite the present home of Clayton Mason and at the exact place where Mr. and Mrs. Bruce K. Eppelsheimer have a pottery and gift shop.

According to the tax records of the town of Epsom, at this early date (1844) it was the house of Aaron Marsh and in the year 1858 a map of the town shoes it as the home of Aaron Marsh. On this same map there is no house at the place where the Caswell house stands today. Aaron Marsh continued to pay tax and

we assume that he lived there until the year 1862 or later. The next tax record is that George W. Marden Jr. owned the place. This was in the year 1875, and shortly after that date George W. Batchelder had the building moved to their present location.

George W. Lane of Chichester, using several yoke of oxen in moving the house, moved the main house all intact. At the time George W. Lane moved the house the roads were all dirt roads, sandy in may places, so it was a long hard haul to the top of "Brimstone Hill". It is said that when George W. Lane arrived on the morning agreed upon to move the house, he came from his home forgetting to bring the necessary chains and that George W. Marden was quite upset over this oversight of Mr. Lane. But chains were procured and the house was moved to its present location, where it has remained for nearly ninety years.

On a later map of Epsom, made about the year 1878, it shows that George W. Marden lived at the exact spot where the Caswell house now stands. These two maps of Epsom together with the tax records, show conclusive evidence that the history of this house is authentic.

There is a Charles T. Marsh who lived in Epsom and was born in July 1831, probably a son of Aaron Marsh, who married Judith Bickford, born in 1825. Their daughter Mary E. Marsh, born May 1861. All three of this family are buried in the Gossville Cemetery. One old record indicates that this Charles T. Marsh owned or lived at the Marsh homestead. Charles Marsh died in 1872 and George W. Marden owned the house in the year 1875. Without any doubt the present Caswell house was built many years before the records commenced, as of the year 1844.

There has been a few minor changes made on the exterior of the house, but on the whole it looks very much the same as it did when I first saw it sixty-five years ago.

After the death of George W. Marden, January 29, 1903, the house was kept by his son Ernest R. Marden for a time. A number of different people has owned it since the death of George W. Marden. Charlotte E. Yeaton owned it in the years 1910-1921 – may have owned it before that date. Charlotte E. Yeaton was the wife of Captain George D. Yeaton, a Police Captain in Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Yeaton was the daughter of George W. and Elmira (Davis) Taylor. George W. Taylor was a retired sea captain and lived at this house until his death November 27, 1916, his daughter Charlotte E. Yeaton died July 1, 1917. It was soon sold to Rev. George Skinner, he and his family were there until his death January 8, 1929. His family continued to live there until about the year 1940, they then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Curtis, who lived at the old Marsh house about one and one-half years.

They in turn sold to Bowman F. Stone, at that time Mr. Stone was the manager of the Merrimack Farmers Exchange at Epsom. Bowman F. Stone was living there in the year 1845, he in turn sold to William Osborn from Concord, N.H. One or more different families were there until it was purchased in the year 1953 by Mr. and Mrs. Caswell, the present owners.

Mrs. Donna R. Caswell has asked me to write up some of the history of their home and on the morning that I was completing this sketch I heard the sad news of her sudden death. (Sept. 24, 1962 – George H. Yeaton, at Epsom, NH)

PEARL A. EDMUNDS BROWN

Pearl Adelia Edmunds was born in Epsom, NH June 19, 1887. She was the daughter of Everett B. Edmunds, born in Chichester, NH and Carrie M. (Dotey) Edmunds, born in Dublin. Pearl went to school in Epsom when young, she was on the Roll of Honor the year 1894 at the New Orchard Road School. She lived on the New Orcahrd Road at that time, later her parents moved to Pittsfield, NH and after a time her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dotey went to Pittsfield to live. Pearl graduated from Pittsfield High School, June 1907, age twenty years at the time. She read the Class History at her graduation. I think that she taught school in Gilmanton after she graduated.

She married Burt Brown and they lived in Canterbury for a time. They had either a son or a daughter, I think it was a son, for recently a man by the name of Brown was trying to find out when she died and where she was buried. Said he was her son. Pearl and Burt Brown were separated. I have been told that Pearl A. (Edmunds) Brown dropped dead on the streets of Boston a number of years ago. Its now 1962. I did not see Pearl after she was around eighteen years ago. Her father and mother are buried in the cemetery at Pittsfield, as are her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Dotey.
Pearl is not buried at that cemetery. Her grandmother Edmunds had a lot in Chichester, NH but I find no record that she is buried there.
Pearl could not have been more than fifty years old when she died. Probably not as old as fifty, perhaps forty would be nearer. On the back cover of this folio is a picture of Pearl as I last knew her. Geo. H. Yeaton, Gossville, NH. April 11, 1962

THEY STILL USE FREIGHT TRAINS IN THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

On July 29, 1962 when on a motor trip in the State of Vermont, we saw at Bellows Falls, between the highway and the Connecticut River, a long freight train powered by three diesel engines.
On August 11, 1960, at Bethel Maine, near Locke Mills, a large lumber mill, a long freight train was passing through the town. There were from fifty to one hundred cars in the train.
And in Newbury, Vermont a long train, mostly box cars, being hauled by six or seven diesel engines.
From: The New England Almanac, by Dudley Leavitt, for the year 1844.
September 6, 1843. Tuesday evening, about 7 o'clock the cars first came into Concord, N.H. and were welcomed by the discharge of a cannon and the cheers of many ladies, gentlemen and children. In the same year, there were in the United States 4442 miles of railroads, which are said to have cost at least $1000,000,000; which is the fortieth part as much as all the property in the United States has been estimated at. A round sum to be laid out on (iron) highways.

REMINISCENCE
Winter roads of Epsom, New Hampshire

Winter roads were in use many years ago and some were used as late as the year 1920, although not as much at that date. There were many such roads in Epsom, some of considerable length, but at this writing I will only tell of the one of which I was most familiar. This was the one which commenced at the New Orchard road schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was at the junction of the Locke Hill road with the Sherburne and New Orchard Roads.
The ox and horse teams of those early days left the highway at the corner of the school yard keeping on the north side of the Odiorne Pond brook for a long distance. The first land one crossed was the land of Frank Holt, later Cyrus Lewis, later owners Woodbury, Western and others until at this present date (1963) the first land crossed is owned by Walter B. Chase. Except for a small strip of land which Lewis sold to James O. Fiske, that his cattle and sheep could come to the brook for water. The next land was the large field of Henry C. Dotey, from there into the field of James Yeaton. When the road left his field it crossed the pasture of Samuel B. Stanley (now Yeaton's). Next they came to the William Goss meadow crossing it at its lower end and at one place very near to the book, as one left the meadow there was a stone culvert, for at this place a small brook crossed the road entering the Ordione Pond brook close by.
After leaving the Goss pasture the road crossed the land of Albert D. Sherburne. At this point the brook ran to the east or in a southerly direction and the road more to the west – it was some distance across the Sherburne pasture into the old "mill field," across this field, still on land of Sherburne and on into more pasture land of Sherburne continuing all the way to the yard of Albert D. Sherburne. As one crossed his

dooryard one entered the town highway which lead to the Epsom R.R. Station, where in those days vast quantities of wood and lumber was shipped by freight trains.
This was a busy place in those days as teams came from all parts of Epsom, from Chichester, Deerfield and Northwood, with loads of wood and lumber. Much freight and express came in on the trains for Epsom as it did for Deerfield and Northwood, as the last named towns had no railroad in their town.
Besides loading wood and lumber direct from the sleds, there was a great deal of wood and lumber stacked and piled on the land near the railroad. This would be loaded on the cars later.
One day I counted twenty-five horses and mules at the depot wharf at the same time, all had brought loads of lumber. This was in the summer time and the reason there was one horse more than twelve pair was that Will Breen was using a three horse team that day. Some of the teams would load up with freight express and grain to take back to Northwood with them for the stores in that town.
Now, not all who came over this winter road from the New Orchard, Sherburne and Lock Hill roads unloaded their loads at the depot, as many of the teams continued on to the sawmill of George H. Burnham. Mr. Burnham, besides doing custom sawing of lumber and shingles, bought large quantities of logs, which he manufactured. As at that time he, Mr. Burnham, operated a box shop in addition to his sawmill and other sidelines such as clapboards, laths, etc. Others who used this winter road would take their milk and eggs to the train, or some might sell wood in Gossville village. Some of the ones who used this road were Albion Locke, Charles E. Cilley, William T. Grant, who drove an ox team for Albion Locke; Henry C. Ames, Horace Locke, Mayland P. Ames, S. Lucas Clark, Silas B. Paige and others from South Pittsfield. Other men who did not live on the Sherburne, Locke Hill or New Orchard roads made much use of this road. Large amounts of wood, logs, sawed lumber as well as hemlock bark came from this section of the town.
One day I saw a team with a casket loaded on their sled on their way to the cemetery at Gossville. The body in the casket was one of those who died of spotted fever (the winter of 1905) when an epidemic of this disease struck in South Pittsfield.
Hay from the Goss meadow was hauled over this road each summer for many years.
This road from the New Orchard road schoolhouse to the home of Albert D. Sherburne was quite level and a little down grade most of the way. On its entire length there was only one short hill to go over and the horses, as well as their drivers, knew when they were about to come to this rise in the road, and how the horses would quicken their pace to get a good start, when they reached this place in the road.
In later years when I became old enough to own and drive a pair of horses, I would use this road when I came home after a days work with my horses hauling lumber from Northwood and I have carried my milk to the Epsom depot by this old road. I would leave the regular path in my fathers field cross the bridge by the old Cate mill site, and come through the pasture a short ways to my barn. There was another way which I sometimes used through the Stanley pasture. Will tell about that later.
I remember going on wheels to the R.R. Station where Silver and Young were unloading cars of grain and getting a two horse load of grain, going and coming by way of this winter road. One winter, Charles S. Hall, who had a lot of wood cut between the Range Road and the Locke Hill Road, used this old winter road in hauling the wood. He had one or more teams of his own, hiring others to help haul, but this was not all who made much use of this winter road, for a lot of teaming was done by the Barton brothers. David Barton, Albert Barton and Lewis Barton. Others from the upper end of the Range Road – David M. Philbrick, his sons Henry and Augustus, others from that same section of Epsom were Frank Wheeler, Warren Hilliard and others from the upper end of the Range Road and some from South Pittsfield.
Now when they came down the Range Road and reached a place near the foot of a hill, they would cross the pasture of Samuel B. Stanley (at this date 1962) of George F. Dowst, coming a short distance across his field onto the New Orchard road, to the Stanley dooryard then turning to the right, go a few rods and turn into a path directly in front of the Perley C. Giles house (now the Chase home 1962). After a short distance in this pasture which belonged to Samuel B. Stanley, they would cross a brook and join the road which

came up from the New Orchard Road schoolhouse, then continue on the same road to the depot or Gossville village. Thus from where these two roads came together there was double the travel from there to the depot. The junction of these roads was in the Stanley pasture just below the James Yeaton field. Now a short cut from our house to this same path was from the dooryard by the barn and on into the Stanley pasture across the brook and there you had three roads coming together at the same place. There was for many years a bridge across the brook in the Stanley pasture. In later years I built one, as the original bridge had become of no use.

There was another winter road which came down through the valley, starting at this end of Odiorne Pond in the Albion Locke, or the Philbrick pasture after leaving the Locke pasture then continued southerly through the wood lot (now Bartons), then across the Holt or Lewis pasture (now Walter B. Chase 1962) into the pasture of Henry E. Dotey, next into the wood and timber lot of James Yeaton on into the Stanley pasture where it joined the road which came from the Range Road. One could now continue in this winter road to the New Orchard Road and so on to the Epsom depot, by taking the winter road which was directly in front of the Giles house.

Another winter road joining the other three making four all convening into one route to the Epsom depot.

The beauty of the horse teams was the bells which were attached to each horse, some teamsters had two bells on each horse, these bells, many of them were deep toned and could be heard from a long distance, and when several teams were traveling this road at the same time, no one but those who have heard their musical tones ringing in the cold winter air can appreciate their beauty.

But this era is past and gone. Now when I am out in my yard or driveway on a winters day, what do I hear? Not the sweet music of bells but the sound of an automobile horn, the squealing of tires, or the screeching of brakes. Oh well, we are now living in modern times and an old man, like myself (79) can not be expected to appreciate the beauty of these times. The blare of the automobile horn, the squealing of tires and the screeching of brakes.

More about the winter roads of long ago. There was another old winter road which came from the west side of Odione Pond. One could enter the road about half way between the Ames farm buildings and the Levi Locke homestead as its course was parallel with the town highway and came quite close to it, as this point at the foot of a steep hill. It was on the east side of the highway and after it left the Ames pasture it crossed the Albion Locke land and a section of the Levi Locke first land. Now someone had done much work on this road in the days long gone. There was quite a long stretch of this road on a side hill and someone had made a road on the side hill by cutting down the high side and building up the low side until they had a nice wide roadway, there were other places that had been improved to make the road much better. Of course this work was done when the ground was not frozen.

It was down grade most of the way from where one entered the road, not very steep at any place.

As one left the big woods they came into the Albion Locke field at its lower end near the meadow. At this place it joined the road, which came from the east, the one previous mentioned which came from the Range Road or not far from it. The road from this point continued on across the fields of Albion Locke and William T. Grant. As they left the Grant field near his house, the winter road joined the Locke Hill road, then on to the New Orchard Road schoolhouse and started for Gossville by way of the of winter highway which left the town highway at this place.

We now have eight branch roads, which were all merged into one before it reached the Goss meadow.

It was the custom of the empty teams when meeting loaded teams to turn completely out of the road, if it were possible.

The Locke field is now the Reid field, Grant field now the Carroll Clark field.

As a boy living on the New Orchard Road, I would look out of the living room window many times, watching the teams in the winter season, hauling the loads of logs and wood across my fathers back field. Most of the teams were two horse teams, but Albion Locke always had a team of oxen (big ones). If I was

out of doors I could hear the bells of the horse teams, sometimes before they came in sight, and although one could not see the teams which left the main road just before my fathers field turned to come out at the Perley Giles place, one could hear the bells from these teams.

When teams from this main winter highway as well as those which came from the seven branch roads, came to the Albert D. Sherburne buildings, they passed right through the dooryard and very close to the house. There is one member of the Sherburne family left, who as a young girl saw the string of teams passing to and from the Epsom depot. This is Miss Nellie F. Sherburne, and although not quite as old as myself, she tells me that she can well remember when this road was used by all these teams going to and from the depot or village from morning until night over this winter highway. I can think of no one else other than Miss Sherburne and myself who is left of those which saw the teams passing to and from over this winter road, and can remember the music of the bells on the horses. I can remember of George V. Pike telling me that as a young man, he worked for David Barton, driving a four ox team hauling wood to the Epsom depot over the winter road.

That was a long time ago as George V. Pike was born in the year 1864 or 1865. It is now the year 1962. I have been told that my father and older brother used some of these winter highways before I was born (I was born in the year 1882). Most of the men who drove the horse teams took great pride in the looks of their horses and the harnesses trimmed with red, white and blue ringed tassels on the horses bridle, the brass on the harnesses polished until it glistened in the sun. The horses clean and well groomed, some with ribbons braided in their manes and forelocks.

I now live in the village of Gossville and many times have looked at the Sherburne house and buildings including the stretch of road which passed the house and thought of the men who drove their teams over this stretch of road in the winter (years ago). There are not many of those left, none of the older ones, and very few of the ones who made the last use of old winter roads. At this writing I can think of only two, Myron B. Kimball and myself. It is now the month of January 1962. I left the New Orchard Road in the year 1936 and my son John and myself made some use of the old road from the farm to my home in the village of Gossville, but after a few years we gave up this way of travel between the two homes as most of our traveling was done by the use of automobiles and trucks. From where I lived I only need to look out my kitchen window to see a part of this road and the Sherburne buildings. I am not certain but I think that the part of this road which I can see from my home here in Gossville was at one time what was once the old "Canterbury Road" as "going over the hill north of Gossville", and today January 1962, one could not get through the old winter highway that saw so much traffic in the old days, except on foot, and they tell me that tress and bushes are commencing to obliterate the road in many places.

WHICH WAY IS THE SHORTEST WAY HOME?
AS MEASURED BY THE BARTON BROTHERS

One day while unloading their loads of lumber at the Epsom Depot, David and Albert Barton, the two brothers who lived near the north end of the Range Road, after some discussion decided to find out in this way, which was the shortest way. Albert would go by the winter road, which passed through the Sherburne dooryard by way of the Goss meadow joining the New Orchard Road at the Perley Giles home and from there to the Range Road. The other brother, David, was to go by way of Gossville Village, then down the turnpike to Philbrick's Corner, at the end of the New Orchard Road, up over the hills to the Range Road. Well, they left the Epsom Depot wharf at exactly the same time. Albert by way of the old winter road, and David by way of Gossville Village. Who got there first? Why David Barton was at the junction of the two roads when his brother Albert got there.

The next night when they left for home, David went by the way of the old winter road and his brother Albert the main road. Who do you suppose was the first to be at the junction of the winter road with the Range

Road? Why David Barton was there first. So the question still remains, which is the shortest way home, but one question was settled. David's horses were faster walkers than his brother Albert's.

DISCONTINUED ROADS AND ROADS CLOSED
or
SUBJECT TO GATES AND BARS IN THE TOWN OF EPSOM, NH

When the question came up at our annual town meeting relative to the closing of a section of a certain road or roads or sections of a road, it at first seemed the logical thing to do. After one or more votes to discontinue certain roads or sections of roads, the town would also vote to close sections of roads subject to gates and bars. This was much better for the landowners on these roads but as time went on too many roads were closed that way.

Most of the sections of the roads closed left the remaining part of the road a dead end road. Now this is not good for those who live on these dead end roads.

At this date, 1962, we have in the town of Epsom several miles of road that are closed, subject to gates and bars, with many dead end roads as the result. Some of the bad results of this closing of roads are: Homes located on these dead end roads cannot be as valuable for purposes of taxation, they will not sell as readily in most cases, usually a much longer distance to reach these homes in case of a fire.

If there is a forest fire where much valuable timber land is situated on both sides of a closed road, fire trucks and equipment cannot use these roads, for a road closed a period of six or eight years becomes unfit for travel. The bushes have encroached on the roads. Trees and large limbs have fallen across the highway, culvert or bridge has fallen in, a washout has occurred. Now that means that if the road was in shape to travel on there is a good chance that a fire could be stopped at a highway, otherwise it would probably continue across the closed road and burn many more valuable acres of growing trees.

Today, 1962, there are a number of saddle horses owned in most towns, now horses do not like to travel on our hard surfaced roads, neither is it good in many cases for the roads if it is a soft top road. If a hard top road, it is not good for the horse's feet.

The State of New Hampshire spends money encouraging the tourist to come to our state. Now we much have something to offer the tourist if we want them to stay in town more than a few hours at night.

Now let us think about our dirt or gravel surfaced roads which are closed subject to gates and bars, or closed permanently. At this date we have a road, which is neither closed to gates and bars or in any other way, but it is not fit to travel on. There are two sets of buildings on this section of road.

Some time back a man from Massachusetts was interested in one of the large farms on this road. He wanted a place, not as a farm but where he could live near a trout brook and a pond. Now this farm seemed the ideal place and he was very much interested in buying it, but when he tried to go to this place with his car, he got into trouble on account of the condition of the road. I think he changed his mind after that experience about buying this farm, anyway, he never came back. This farm was the Ames farm, a fine trout brook flows through the farm not far from the house and the lands extend to the shore or Odiorne Pond. Also this road from the Reid farm to the Pittsfield Road would be a fine place for saddle horses to be used on, as long as it is kept a dirt or gravel surfaced highway.

Another man came to Epsom, his home was in California, he was much interested in the other place on this road, the Tilton farm. He visited the place then went through the road beyond the buildings to the Pittsfield road. He did not buy the place.

The view from Reid's Hill is one of the scenic attractions of Epsom. Another road that should be kept open and in condition for travel is the Range Road. But, the lower end of this road is closed, this leaves the four large farms at the other end of this road on a dead end road, and to get from any of these homes, one must

leave by the way of South Pittsfield. The section of the Range Road which is closed is a short cut to the New Orchard Road or to the main road in Epsom.

In case of fire at any of theses four farms our Epsom fire department trucks and men must go by the way of Pittsfield to reach them. It was not long ago that there was a bad fire on this dead end road (the Range Road), in which one adult and two children were burned to death in the house.

There is another reason why the Range Road should be kept open. On the section of the road which is closed there are many places of interest and beauty such as: The Lamprey Ledges, the Devil's Den, the Leaning Rock and Odiorne Pond." This road should be kept a dirt or gravel surfaced road and in suitable condition for saddle horses and slow automobile travel. A drive over this road is well worth the time a person would go a long ways to find anything equal to the scenery at the Lamprey Ledges.

A section of the turnpike in Epsom has been closed subject to gates and bars. This is all wrong for it is a section of the first official turnpike built in New Hampshire. Epsom should keep this road open for travel as a matter of historical value to the town. This turnpike was completed from the Merrimack River at Concord to the Piscataqua River in Durham about the year 1800. And in the year 1830 the population of Epsom was 1,418, and up to this time was the most important town and the natural center of the Suncook Valley. The town of Epsom is older than any of the six abutting towns.

Epsom's population in 1920 was 655, in 1930, 678, it is now 1,002, year 1960, and if the people of Epsom are interested in seeing the town grow in population and prosperity, let us have better roads and instead of closing any more of our highways, it would be much better to open up some of those which are closed.

The new houses which are being built in Epsom are built on our improved roads. This plainly proves that if we want more homes to tax, we must have good roads. John Fulton, of Gossville has bought a track of land on the old Mountain Road in Epsom and last season operated it for use as a trailer camp. This is an ideal location for such an enterprise and the highway, which leads from the Center Hill road to this trailer camp site, should be made of sufficient width to allow two trailers to pass, also keep the road in good shape. I think a black surfaced road would be economical for this section of the Mountain Road.

I understand that quite a large tract of land, near Fort Mountain, has been sold, to be used as a boys camp, if this project materializes this would mean they would use the road now closed subject to gates and bars.

The prospect that the town will eventually be using all these roads which are now closed, I believe, is only a matter of time. How long a time I could not estimate, but the rapidity of Epsom's increase in population, the new homes being built, boys camp, trailer parks. We now have two trailer parks in Epsom, the increase use of Webster Park and many other enterprises all indicate that the town of Epsom is coming back to the size and importance it was in the year 1830 when its population was 1,418 and as I have already stated, one of the most important towns in the vicinity. And another thing which is detrimental to a town is the closing of sections of the rural roads, is that the town has less mileage in their class five roads therefore your town does not receive as much money from the state for class five road construction and less from the Duncan Fund, as this money is on the number of miles of class five roads in any town.

THE PROGRESS OF THE ROAD MACHINE or ROAD GRADER IN THE TOWN OF EPSOM From 1888 to 1960

According to the town records, Epsom bought a road machine in the year 1888. The record reads thus: May 14 J. Haddock for road machine, in part. Fred S. Heath, for freight on road machine, $7.05 (+ down payment of $58.00) - Then under date of March 1, 1889, Pittsfield National Bank for note on account of road machine $208.57.

Eight oxen were used in handling the machine.

No. 2 – Under Highway account for the year ending February 15, 1804, is this item: J. Haddock road machine $220.50. B.H. Fowler freight on road machine $4.50. In the use of this new machine horse commenced to replace the oxen, graduating from eight oxen to four oxen and from four horses until in a few years it was all horses which were used to operate this machine.

No. 3 – In the year 1923 the town bought a new road machine from Berger Mfg. Company for $375.00, this was a much lighter machine requiring only four horses to haul this one. In the year 1930 or a little later date, the road machine which was purchased in the year 1903 or 1904 was converted to a tractor drawn machine. After a few years it was discarded altogether and other smaller graders were bought by the town and used drawn by one pair of horses. Next they bought a machine which they used a truck to haul it with.

Soon after that the town bought a power grader. At his date 1962, it is all heavy machinery which us used in town for road construction and maintenance.

When we used the eight-horse road machine, it was hard work for the horses and for the men who drove them. We would meet at the appointed place at 7 a.m., sometimes it would mean several miles of travel to reach the section of highway we were to work on, and as a good teamster, never drove horses to work faster than a walk, it would mean an early start from home. We had to bring our whiffletrees, spreader, a neck yoke which was used with pole straps, and a cable chain, also a small trace chain. The man who occupied the drivers seat on the front of the machine, drove the pole horses and the next pair, he must bring a set of long reins (four horse reins). This required a man who was a good four-horse teamster as he not only guided the four horses under his control but had the authority over the other teamsters. The machine operator would give the teamster on the drivers seat orders to turn to the right of the left or hard to the right or the left.

Although he used the words gee (meaning turn to the off side) or haw (meaning turn to the near side), all teamsters knew the meaning of these two words, GEE and HAW in those days.

In hitching eight horses to the road machine it was necessary to attach a heavy cable chain to the front axle of the machine, fastened to the under side of the pole. Another chain would be attached to this and then another – all but the pole horses pulled by these chains, as the chain was run beneath each pair of horses, the spreader attached and then fastened at the horses breast by using the short neck yoke and the small trace chain, and so on to the next team. It needed a pair of horses for the lead teams which were quick on their feet as they would be required to move faster than the others when the string of horses turned to the right or left.

We did try having only one driver for the four lead horses but it was hard for the driver and not as satisfactory. It required good teamsters who would exercise good judgment and caution to turn eight horses around in a narrow road hardly room for two teams to pass side by side. It was rugged work for the man who operated the road machine.

But now, in the year 1962, the road machinery is all motor powered. The day of the oxen and horses is a thing of the past, only a memory to the few older residents of the town. In the year 1888 there were 186 oxen or 93 pair. That same year there were 222 horses or 11 pair in the town of Epsom. In the year 1958 there were in the town of Epsom, 4 oxen and 22 horses - 1888 to 1958, 70 years between these two dates. Of these 22 horses, many were saddle horses.

ROADS from the EARLY SETTLERS OF EPSOM, NH by John Mark Moses, published in the year 1910
With other addition records by George H. Yeaton

It is curious how uniformly the first roads took hilly routes. Epsom began with its Canterbury Road going over the hill north of Gossville, and its "Road to Pembroke" over Sanborn's Hill, both were soon superseded by easy roads through the valleys. November 28, 1768, there was laid out a road from a point a little west of the town house, on or near the present route of the Turnpike, to Prescott Bridge, thence over the Yeaton road as far as the branch road to F.W. Yeatons. Land damages were paid to Thomas Hines, John Cass, Jeremiah Prescott and Benjamin Shephard. In 1772 this road was referred to as 'the road which leads from John Cass's to Shephards mill'. Ten years later it was extended to Allenstown, the extension beginning '8 or 10 rods south of Nathaniel Wallace's house'. In 17?2, a road was laid out from a point eight rods north of Prescott Bridge northwesterly through Gossville, up the Rand Road, 324 rods in all, to a point ten rods east of the Great Bridge. It went from Prescott's land into land improved by Benjamin Goodwin. The turnpike was not built until about 1800. As early as April 23, 1761, Ebenezer Barton was chosen surveyor of the "road leading to New Orchard, so called". In 1774 this road was laid out "as it goes" (New Orchard) from near Shurkins mill to Chichester (now Pittsfield) near Ebenezer Bartons. The same year the North Road was laid out from Deerfield to what was then the town of Chichester (note by George H. Yeaton, Pittsfield was originally a part of the town of Chichester, as Pittsfield was not incorporated until the year 1782, twenty-one years after the New Orchard and North Roads were laid out) near Abraham Greens.

This was joined in 1780 by a road from East Street, starting just east of Mr. Tuck's land (note by George H. Yeaton, East Street commenced at Epsom Center and was the road east of the First Church built in Epsom, at Center Hill and went in a westerly direction).

The Northwood road from Thomas Babbs by way of the Pettingill Bridge and Prescott Hill was laid out in 1782. Note Thomas Babb lived at the farm owned in the year 1940 by Walter J. Philbrick, the house burned several years later. Pettingill Bridge. note-Prescott Hill is the long hill a short distance below the John P. Yeaton farm, "Pettingill Bridge" was afterwards know as the "Gulf Brook Bridge". The John P. Yeaton farm is at the junction of the Northwood Road and the North Road.

The road to Northwood is now closed at this junction subject to gates and bars 1951. The Mountain and Locke roads followed two years later. The former went "as it goes" to the land of Samuel Moses, then on the rangeway to Allenstown line. The latter over Locke's Hill passing southwest of the Odiorne house , to Pittsfield line near George Sanborns.

Shurskins Mill stood where the Knowles Gristmill now stand (1962), it may have been the first sawmill standing as it did on public land on the main road. In the year 1773 Ephraim Locke sold his brother Francis, seven eights of it, together with all the eastern half of the village on the north side of the road. Samuel Bickford owned westward from him. In 1785 the mill was called Locke's Mill. Samuel Locke then bought eight acres west of it, between the road and the river. Note – at this point I will explain more about the road previously mentioned, meaning the road which started at East Street, as Epsom Center. This road began at the buildings now owned 1960 by Herbert Yeaton, north to the Little Suncook River, crossing the land now owned by Albert F. Yeaton and continued in the same direction to the schoolhouse on the North Road. This

road from East Street to the North Road Schoolhouse on the North Road was one of the three range roads in Epsom, or rather a section of one range road.
Prescott Bridge previously mentioned is now known as the "Shoe Factory Bridge", it is the bridge near the Epsom Baptist Church. The change in its name came when a large shoe factory was built near the bridge in the year 1881. The building was burned in the year 1916.
There is a legend connected with the building of the turnpike through the town of Epsom. The legend is that in building this road the company in charge of its construction had planned to built it on the level ground just back of the now Epsom Town Library and Huckins garage, connecting with the present highway near the old railroad crossing. But Colonel Cilley made a deal with the construction company to build the road past his home. The deal being that Colonel Cilley was to furnish a barrel of rum if the road was built up the hill near his home. The road was built up the hill, Colonel Cilley furnished the barrel of rum. It is said that Colonel Cilley rolled a barrel of rum out near the hill. This hill derived its name of "Rum Hill". Years ago, the help building bridges and highways would be paid so much money a day and one or more gills of rum each day in addition (from old Epsom Town Records). Another legend is that Colonel Cilley had two slaves at one time, but I have no official records that he did.

THE TOLL GATE AT YEATON'S FOUR CORNER'S EPSOM, NH

The North Road was laid out in the year 1761, from Deerfield to what was at that time the town of Chichester (now Pittsfield – note, the town of Pittsfield was originally part of the town of Chichester as Pittsfield was not incorporated until the year 1782, 21 years after the North Road was laid out).
The North road from Thomas Babb's [Thomas Babb lived at what was in later years known as the Walter J. Philbrick place] by way of Pettingill bridge [now known as the Gulf Brook bridge] and Prescott Hill [the hill on the old turnpike a short distance below Yeaton's four corners, easterly. A short distance beyond 'Prescott Hill' the road turned sharply to the left, now known as the Hoyt Road, this road led to Northwood Narrows] was laid out in the year 1782.
The first official turnpike built in New Hampshire was the one from Concord to the Piscataqua bridge in Durham, passing through Yeaton's Corner. This turnpike was built across the town of Epsom, the entire width of the town, from Chichester to Northwood, fuor and one half miles. The company building it was incorporated in June 1796. When this turnpike was completed about the year 1800, a Toll Gate was installed at the junction of the turnpike with the North road, at Yeaton's four corners in Epsom. It was at this time that Yeaton's Four Corners became a place of much importance and a landmark for the surrounding towns. When a post office was established in the town of Pittsfield, they came by horseback from Pittsfield Upper City to Yeaton's Corner in Epsom to get the mail, where the stage moving between Portsmouth and Concord, left it at the Toll Gate. The stage made a round trip once every two days from Portsmouth to Concord one day, then from Concord to Portsmouth the following day.
In later years when the droves of cattle passed through Epsom on their way to the pastures in Gilmanton Mountains, the always planned to stop at Yeaton's Four Corners overnight, herding the cattle in the large barnyard or the small pasture close by.
William Yeaton 3rd, the son of William Yeaton 2nd was born in the year 1783 and died July 3, 1830, age 47 years. As a young man he left his fathers home on the Black Hall Road in Epsom, at or near the location of the Epsom Central School, and settled at Yeaton's corner. In the year 1807 he was taxed for one hundred acres of land and buildings in Epsom. On May 11, 1808, he married Elizabeth (Betsey) Ham, born 1788, died August 10, 1867.
The original house at the four corners is still standing, it is on the north side of the turnpike at the corner of the North Road. Before it was converted into a tool shed, it contained two rooms with a fireplace in each room, plastered, and of the style that the frame houses were built by the early settlers. The original barn was

located just above the present one, on the same side of the North Road. William Yeaton 3rd was the Toll Gate Tender and he also kept open tavern at this place.
The large old colonial style house "Yeaton's Tavern" must have been built shortly after the turnpike passed through Epsom, as it is of the style and construction of the early 1800's. One of the Yeaton Tavern signs had the date 1813 on it, another 1814. In the old Epsom town records we find that William Yeaton 3rd was given a license form time to time to keep Open Tavern in the town of Epsom.
The staunch old house with its wide paneled double doors between two large rooms, where when they were opened, formed a spacious dance hall used by the guests at the Old Tavern for a night of dancing, is still one of the old land marks of Epsom, and if the old house could talk they would tell us much of the history and the legends of those early days; the gay parties, the romances, quarrels, business deals, political discussions and plans, together with the births and deaths that took place within its walls. The narrative would fill a large volume with interesting reading.
The old tavern with its other buildings and large farm was in the William Yeaton family for more than one hundred and fifty years. William Yeaton 3rd and his wife Betsey, together with many of their descendants are buried in the Yeaton family cemetery nearby on the North Road.
William Yeaton 3rd was the great-great Uncle of the one who wrote this "brief sketch". Written by George H. Yeaton at Epsom, New Hampshire, May, 1963.
Catherine A. Yeaton, the daughter of William Yeaton 3rd and his wife Elizabeth (Betsey) Ham, was born January 2, 1820, and died May 26, 1900, age 80 years, 4 months 24 days. Catherine A. Yeaton married on February 25, 1841, her cousin Warren Yeaton, the son of John Yeaton and his wife Betsy Towle.
Warren Yeaton was born September 2, 1818 and died November 7, 1890, age 72 years, 1 month, 10 days.
Warren and Catherine lived at "Yeaton's Tavern" which was and still is one of the old landmarks of Epsom and the old House-Block at the corner of the house is still there. Anyone familiar with the old tavern could show you where the wine cellar is located and which room was the "tap" or "bar-room".
A visit to the old cider mill just across the road, where in the days long gone the horses walking in a large circle, turned the huge wooden screw that ground the apples into pulp ready for the cider press.

THE LOCKE ON THE HEN HOUSE DOOR AT "YEATON'S TAVERN"

In later years a man who lived near Yeaton's Corner and had several young men at his home, who would not hesitate to steal a few hens, came to Mrs. Yeaton's one day and said "Catherine, I want you to put a lock on your hen house door for I overheard the boys talking about stealing your hens come night".
Mrs. Yeaton's reply was as she looked her neighbor straight in the eye, "I shall not put a lock on my hen house door and if my hens are stolen you J_____" calling him by his given name "will pay me for them".
Mrs. Yeaton did not lock her hen house, neither were her hens stolen.

OLD BRIDGES IN THE TOWN OF EPSOM, NH

The first bridge over the Big Suncook River in Epsom was known as the Old Canterbury Bridge, built around the year __ . In the Journal of the Provincial Legislature, February 23, 1744, is a record of the Canterbury Petition. It is supposed that the petition must have reference to the first bridge built in Epsom over the Big Suncook River. It was under date of July the 28th, 1758, that Nathan Marden, town clerk of Epsom, entered the following in the old Epsom Town Record Book.

"We whose names are underwritten being appointed a committee to run out and fil on the highway from Nottingham to Chichester town. Laid out and planned it as followeth. Signed Capt. Andrew McClary, Capt. John Clark, Joshua Cesy."

Under date of August 22, 1791, Rockingham, agreeable to Warrant the inhabitants met and proceeded as follows:
1st Chose Amos Morrill, Moderator to preside at said meeting.
2nd Voted to raise half a days work to each single poll in Epsom and other estates in proportion to be worked out on the great bridge in Epsom, now began, at three shillings per day.
3rd Voted that the committee appointed to superintend the building the great bridge in Epsom be authorized to call on the Selectmen of said town to furnish them with such quantities of Rum as they shall think will be necessary to be expended in finishing the aforesaid Bridge.

In the Selectmen's report, dated February 24, 1831 expended
By paid for timber and labor to rebuild the Short Falls Bridge so called and rum etc.$112,67
By paid for timber and labor and rum and plank etc. to build a bridge near Nathan Bickford. $75.36
By paid for timber plank and stone and labor, rum etc to repair the Steep gully bridge so called and other bridges in town.

HARVESTING ICE IN THE YEAR 1905

The first thing to do was to clean the sawdust out of the ice house, leaving about one foot of sawdust in the bottom, this layer of sawdust must be smooth and level as much depended on having the first layer of ice level and solid. The next thing that one had to do was the clean the snow off from the pond where they were planning to cut the ice. If the snow was not to hard and frozen, one could use a hand snow scoop but usually we would have to use steel show shovels.

For equipment to use, first an inch thick board twelve feet in length and twelve inches in width with a short piece of narrow board fastened on each end. Next a marker, these were made from an old hoe. A blacksmith would cut off the blade then sharpen the curved shank that was left on the end of the handle leaving it shaped like a three cornered file pointed at the end and a little wider, about two inches, from the sharp end. One must have a sharp ice chisel; this would be about four feet in length. Then the ice saws, at that time everyone used the regular cross-cut saws, the same as were used in cutting lumber, as the regular ice saws did not come into use for some time after this date.
Now we would mark out the ice. One man could do this, but two could do it much quicker and easily. The ice area to be cut was marked off in eighteen-inch squares with the use of the board previously mentioned and the use of the marker or markers if there were two men. When they got through marking the ice field, it looked like a huge checkerboard. The next step was to cut a hole in the ice at one corner of the marked ice.

This was when the ice chisel came into use, after cutting the hole through the ice, someone would proceed to cut out the "header". This was done by sawing down the first marked line, then they would set over about ten inches and saw a parallel cut of the same length. We had to be careful and not let the saw cut wider on the underside as that would interfere with removing the header. An experienced ice cutter would cut under a little in this way the header could be easily removed after cutting it into pieces that could be handled with the use of the ice tongs.

Then two men would commence to cut out the blocks of ice, one man would saw lengthwise and the other could cut the long strip of ice into blocks eighteen inches square. As the man who was sawing lengthwise, he must, at the beginning of each strip, saw out a short "header" but only one short header each time. If one cut more than that, the ice might break if one walked on the edge of the ice. Now a third man was needed to pull out the cakes of ice placing them in rows. But he must be sure and put something under them, as he blocks of ice, being wet when taken out of the water, had a tendency to freeze to ice on the pond. It did not take much under them to keep them from freezing down – pieces of wood of most any description. The man who did the pulling out also helped load the teams, so he was kept quite busy. As the ice cutter increased the size of the cut over area, the pull out man must use a pike-pole to guide the cakes to the point where he wished to take them from the water.

There was one man who stayed at the icehouse, helping to unload the teams and packing the ice tier upon tier until the building was full. Leaving about twelve inches on all four sides away from the side of the building. This space would be filled later with sawdust as well as placing from one to two feet of sawdust on top of the ice. In packing the ice one would sprinkle a little sawdust over the top of each layer as this not only kept it level, but the cakes would come out much easier the following summer. Any spaces between the cakes of ice would be filled with sawdust also; this would prevent the cakes from freezing together. Wide planks were used in unloading the ice, upon which the ice cakes were slid from the sled into the icehouse. There, now we have the ice harvested for another year. The board, the markers, ice chisel, saws, ice tongs, shovels and pike-pole must be stored until another winter. The ox teams and the horses used in this work must have on sharp shoes, and most of the men wore creepers or spikes in the heels of their shoes or boots.

STONEWALLS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Does anyone have any idea of how many miles of stonewall there are in the State of New Hampshire?

In touring through the State of New Hampshire, have you ever taken any notice of the miles and miles there are of stone walls bordering the highway on both sides? I am referring to the country towns, or if you are walking through the fields and pastures, you will come upon stonewall running in every direction. Did you ever stop and think of the hard work that our ancestors did in the building of these stone walls, of the many long days spent in doing this work?

My father when in the prime of life built a lot of stonewalls. He and Mr. Burnham would take the job of building stonewalls for other farmers and landowners. One fall after they had done their harvesting, they two with one other man who they hired to drive their oxen and haul stone, built one mile of stonewall. I think that the received one dollar and twenty-five cents per rod. I am not quite sure, but I think he said, "A days work was three rods of stone wall in length". I remember asking him "where do you get the stones with which you built the walls from?" His answer was "Oh, lying around on the ground near by and some we dug up out of the ground".

It was something like seventy years ago that he told me this story about building some wall. It is now the year 1963 – Geo.H. Yeaton

There is a stonewall on Locke's Hill at the Levi Locke farm that was built more than sixty years ago and when I last saw this wall it was in fine shape. My father James Yeaton had charge of the building of it.

Miss Josephine S. Tilton, a granddaughter of Levi Locke, kept boarders at the Levi Locke homestead in the summer months and she wanted a stonewall built from the front porch to the corner of the family cemetery. The wall was built about three feet in height and the same in width, with very large flat rocks used on the top so that when it was completed, a person could step from the front porch onto the wall and walk its entire length. The large rocks on the top were quite smooth and level. They used the smaller stones for the foundation to place the large rocks on.

My father has been gone these many years. Horace F. Locke, one of the men who helped with the building of it, is buried in the Locke cemetery at the end of the wall, as is Miss Josephine S. Tilton. Joseph P. Locke, who worked on the project, is now long time gone and is buried in the Friends cemetery at South Pittsfield – but the stonewall still remains.

WEBSTER PARK, EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Just a few words about Benjamin F. Webster, who gave the park to the town of Epsom. Benjamin F. Webster, the son of Richard and Mary (Philbrick) Webster, was born in the town of Epsom, Short Falls, on September 2, 1824. He attended the local school in this part of the town and later went to Pembroke Academy. When a young man he went to Portsmouth where he became a successful building contractor. About the year 1900, Mr. Webster, who was much interested in his native town, offered to make a public park for the town of Epsom. He purchased a track of land containing twenty-five acres and had this land made suitable for a public park. Blanchard H. Fowler had charge of much of the work done on the park grounds. This consisted of clearing the land, setting out a large number of tress, making a small pond and the construction of roads through the park. A summer house was built in the town of Suncook and moved all intact to the west bank of the Suncook River, on park land, but in later years was moved from there to its present location. Mr. Webster paid for all the work and expense in the construction and improvement of the park and continued to pay the taxes on it until the year 1904 when a vote taken at a town meeting, held on March 14, 1904, on a motion made by John H. Dolbeer, exempted it from taxation as long as it was used as a public park.

Benjamin F. Webster died about the year 1915 and at the following town meeting on a motion made by Charles W. Leighton, it was voted to accept Webster Park as a gift from Mr. Webster, also in the year 1907 he gave the Epsom Public Library a gift of one thousand dollars, the interest of which was to be used in the purchase of non-fiction books.

At the Epsom Town Meeting held March 1928, it was voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be used in the care and improvement of Webster Park and to appoint a three member board of Park Commissioners to have charge of the same. The following persons were selected and appointed: Blanchard H. Fowler, Benjamin M. Towle and Grover T. Stevens. These men served the town faithfully and well for many years.

The present bandstand was built about the year 1931 and the refreshment stand about the same time. At the present time there is still one member of the original commissioners serving on the board. Today we have one of the largest and most conveniently located town parks in this area – thanks to Mr. Webster and the former park commissioners, with the help of other generous and public spirited citizens.

Written for Old Home Day program by George H. Yeaton, August 8, 1964

Read by Robert F. Whittaker during the program at Epsom Old Home Day 1964. In the year 1830 Epsom had a population of 1418 citizens and was considered the most important town in the Suncook Valley.

REMINISCENES – AFTER SIXTY YEARS
IN THE YEAR 1893 AND THE YEAR 1963

It is now the month of January 1963 and as I sit in my home in the village of Gossville and look out the window at the snow covering the ground, the large windrows of snow on each side of the highway, left there by the motor driven snowplows and listen to the automobiles and trucks passing by the front of my house, my memory takes me back to the January's of long ago when I, as a small boy was living with my parents and other members of the family, at the farm on the New Orchard Road.

There have been many changes in this past seventy years and as I think of the old families that were living on the New Orchard Road, the Locke Hill and the Sherburne Roads at that time, there are none of them left except myself. From Philbrick's corner to the Pittsfield town line on any of these three roads, or on the Range Road, from where it leaves the New Orchard Road to Pittsfield line.

There have been changes in the way we dress and the way we live, as this was before the days of automobiles, trucks, tractors and many of the modern things we how have. In those days we rode behind a horse summer and winter. The roads were "broken out" in the winter after a snowstorm with oxen and much shoveling by manpower. After the big snowstorm in March 1888, they started on the Locke Hill road with oxen breaking the road and when they got to the end of the New Orchard Road at Philbrick's corner they had a string of oxen and steers either twenty or twenty-four in number, I am not quite sure as I was less than five years old at the time. But I do know that there were all of ten pair of cattle, all from the farms along the Locke Hill and New Orchard roads. For lighting our homes we used kerosene lamps, kept our homes warm by the use of wood stoves and fireplaces. There was one family that used a coal stove in one of their rooms. A few of the old families had candles, but only used them occasionally.

Our mother knit most of the stockings and many of the mittens that we wore in the winter months. Leather boots and felt boots were what we wore to protect our feet from the snow and cold. These were the days of the district schools, the New Orchard school was District number 5. There were ten districts in Epsom at that time. I learned to shovel snow and bring in the wood to fill the wood box at an early age. Three of our near neighbors made shoes by hand, the husband and wife working together. They also did some farming, as the shoe business was not as rushing in the warm weather as it was in the winter months. Each family would have one or more cows, a horse, some hens and always two fat hogs to "dress off" each fall, some would have hogs to "dress off" in the spring as well as the fall. They would have a large garden besides raising potatoes and beans.

As a boy I sometimes worked for a neighbor and among the stories that he told me there is one that I still remember about a load of hay. Now it seems that a farmer had sold a load of hay that was to be delivered, and that he might get an early start, he loaded the hay the afternoon before the day of delivery. The man who told me the story said that he had occasion to go by this man's house on foot, about four o'clock the next morning, a lad was leaning against the load of hay and just as he came abreast of the mans dooryard he was carrying pails of water up the latter and dumping it on the load of hay. *Now why did the man do that?*

Many years ago a farmer in Epsom pulled and made a small stack of beans on a large flat rock in his field. Now later in the fall a man passing through the field near the stack of beans thought to himself, that stack of beans is ready to put under cover. So a few minutes later, seeing the man in his yard he said to him "you should get those beans under cover" or something to that effect. Well, this farmer, like many of the natives of New England, did not like to be told when or how he should do things on his farm. Result – the stack of beans remained on the large rock until time and the elements took care of it. I saw the stack of beans many times myself but did not presume to tell the owner how or when to do his work.

Had all that I could do looking after my own farm work.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FOURTH THEY RANG THE BELL

As had been the custom for many years, the young men of Epsom went to the Baptist Church expecting to ring the church bell but when they arrived there they found the buildings locked and two men inside the church who refused to let them in. One was the janitor, the other a Deacon of the church. Now I doubt if the janitor was opposed to their ringing the bell, but the Deacon was determined that the church bell would not be rung and the janitor being a younger brother of the Deacon and being hired by him as janitor, what could he do but help.

Well – when the young men found that they could not get in to ring the bell they took counsel among themselves and with the advice and help of older men in the community, the procured long ladders and ropes and back to the church they went. They put the ladders up and were soon in the belfry, thinking to ring the bell from there without the aid of the rope.

When the Deacon and janitor heard them on the roof and climbing to the belfry, they grasped the rope inside the church and held it firmly, thus preventing the bell being rung.

After a few futile tries by the men in the belfry to ring the bell, what did they do but cut the rope where it was fastened to the bell wheel and down the rope went onto the heads of the two men inside the church. The now jubilant bell ringers fastened a rope to the bell, let it down over the roof, across the highway, it being a long rope, and there they rung the bell by pulling on the attached rope. Now something else happened. The Deacon, not to be defeated in his plan, went to the home of the Town Constable, that office could only do his duty so, he went to the church expecting to find a group of teenage boys but, when he approached the group at the side of the road, the first person he saw was one of the older men of the community and a near neighbor of the constable.

Constable Ayer said to this man "what are you doing here?" – the reply was "ringing the bell" at the same time giving the rope a sharp pull. It was now about four o'clock in the A.M., July 4th, and the constable turned, got into his carriage and started for home. After this unsuccessful attempt to stop the church bell from being rung on the fourth of July, no opposition was ever made to stop this old tradition.

THEY MADE THE COW SWALLOW THE APPLE

One evening Henry E. Dotey who lived on the New Orchard Road in Epsom, called several of his neighbors to his home to help with a cow of his that had been eating apples and got one lodged in her throat.

There were several suggestion made by the ones who had come to help Mr. Dotey with his cow. One man said to hold a block of wood on one side of her neck where the apple was and by striking it with a wooden mallet against the block you could crush the apple. Another one said to make the cow run and jump over a fence that would make her cough and then she would swallow the apple. Meantime, the poor cow was having difficulty in breathing.

About this time Charles E. Cilley, who lived on Locke's Hill, came and Mr. Dotey asked his advice on what to do. Mr. Cilley said he thought the apple cold be dislodged by the use of a goad stick. He, Mr. Cilley, had either done such a thing, or had seen someone else. Mr. Dotey asked Charles Cilley to try and get the apple some way. Someone got a goad-stick and Mr. Cilley inserted the butt end of the stick in the cows mouth, while some of the other men held her head in the air and kept her mouth open, then Mr. Cilley, using great care, pushed the goad-stick down her throat until it reached the apple. He then drew the stick back about two inches and with a quick push, dislodged the apple, the cow gave a swallow, and down the apple went the rest of the way. Soon the cow was breathing naturally again. This incident happened more than sixty

years ago but I can clearly recall how carefully Mr. Cilley was in using the goad-stick, as there was great danger of injuring the cow's throat.
A person can look back over the years that are gone and think of the many persons that they once knew, and they will appreciate more and more, in memory, those with whom they were associated in the years long gone.
I worked with and for Mr. Cilley, played in a band that he directed. He did not use tobacco in any form or intoxicants, a clean talking person I cannot recall of ever hearing him use a profane word. He operated his large farm in a profitable and thrifty manner. A good man to work with or for, worked hard, paid his bills, a good citizen and a kind and accommodating neighbor.
He was a fine musician, especially with a violin. His buildings were always kept in good repair, all farm machinery and farm implements housed and ready for use. His cattle and horses always looked thrifty and well fed. Mr. and Mrs. Cilley had one daughter for a family, and after she went away to school they were left all alone. Mrs. Cilley's health was not very good and after a time the sold the farm, built a nice house in Pittsfield village where they resided the remainder of their lives.
This was when Epsom lost another of their old families. Mrs. Ada E. Cilley did not live many years after they made their home in Pittsfield. After a time, Mr. Cilley married Edith Maxfield of Pittsfield, NH. Charles E. Cilley died June 1942. Edith (Maxfield) Cilley is still living, as of March 1962, in Pittsfield. Mr. Cilley was 81 years old when he died.

MORE REMINISCENES OF 1910

In the winter of 1910 I had business to transact at the Probate Court at Concord and as Mr. D. Gilman Chesley had to be at the same place that day, he, Mr. Chesley, said that I might ride to Concord with him. At that date if you went to Concord from Epsom over the highway in the wintertime it was either by foot or by horse and sleigh. I met Mr. Chesley at Epsom "Slab City" in the A.M., when we arrived in Concord, Mr. Chesley stabled his horse at the livery stable of, I am quite sure, run by "Bud" Willey, at this time.
After attending to our business at the Probate Court Office, we went back to the stable for the team. This was early in the P.M.
As we seated ourselves in the sleigh, ready to start for Epsom, Mr. Chesley looked at his watch noting the time. Just before we came to the end of the New Orchard road where I was to leave and continue on my way home (about one mile up the New Orchard Road), Mr. Chesley again looked at his watch. It had been exactly one hour since we had left the stable on Park Street in Concord. Mr. Chesley did not use a whip. I don't know if he even had one in the sleigh. The distance from "Slab City" Epsom to Concord was in those days before the straightening of the road, cutting the tops from the hill and filling the low places, was twelve miles. So even fifty-one years ago we were not so very slow in going places. Geo. H. Yeaton in 1961

ROCKS IN THE RUBBER BOOTS

In the year 1907 and 1908 my brother Edwin R. Yeaton was Representative from the town of Epsom to the General Court at Concord, New Hampshire. At this time he was living on Sanborn Hill, operating Judge Sanborn's three farms. One day while he was attending the General Court at Concord, a man who we will call Mr. F and who made a business of traveling about the country towns buying old papers, old clothes, rags and especially old discarded rubber foot wear, came to Sanborn Hill. Now, when my brother was away from the farm, his regular hired man, a Mr. B, had charge of the farm and the other help. Now it seems that Mr. B had at some time previously dealt with Mr. F., and their business transactions had not pleased Mr. B., and on this day when Mr. B. saw Mr. F. coming into the yard, he decided to get even with him.

So, in some way he managed to put a number of rocks inside the old rubber boots he planned to sell him. Mr. F. weighed the old rubber footwear including the collection of rocks, paid Mr. B., and after loading them onto his wagon, went on his way to the next farm. In some way he discovered that he had bought a number of pounds of rocks at my brothers, so! When he came to the next house he asked them "who lives at the Judge Sanborn farm?" He was told that Edwin R. Yeaton lived there.
After a few days my brother received a summons to appear at Police Court in Concord to answer a charge against him, filed by a Mr. F. My brother went on the day and at the time appointed. The Judge called my brother before him, read the charge against Edwin R. Yeaton and turning to Mr. F. said this man is Edwin R. Yeaton who lives on Sanborn Hill in Epsom "is this the man who sold you rubber boots filled with rocks?" Mr. F. looked closely at my brother then slowly said "no, this is not the man."
The case was then dismissed by the Judge.
Now when my brother received the court notice he already knew what his hired man had done, but knew that he himself had a solid alibi, as it was on record that he was at the General Court on the day he was accused of selling rocks to Mr. F.

NATURAL DEATHS & ODD CIRCUMSTANCES

Was it just a coincident or is it dangerous to take a bath in the winter? Charles Ames, who lived on the Locke Hill Road in Epsom, had some business to transact in the village of Pittsfield, so directly after taking a bath he went to Pittsfield. The next day he was stricken with Pneumonia and died February 4, 1887 at the age of 70 years, 2 months and 20 days. His family believes that the bath he had taken just before leaving for Pittsfield village caused him to have pneumonia

AN APPLE A DAY WILL KEEP THE DOCTOR AWAY, BUT !

Franklin D. Holt, who lived on the New Orchard Road, just before he retired for the night, ate one or more apples and before morning he was dead. His family always mentioned his eating an apple or apples before retiring on the night that he died.
It was an old New England custom to have baked beans on Saturday night for supper. Charles H. Palmer who lived in the village of Gossville, following this old New England custom, had baked beans for his Saturday night supper. Before morning he had died. This was on December 31, 1927. As he left his family to retire, Charles H. Palmer wished them all a Happy New Year, as the following day would be the beginning of a new year.
Mr. Palmer was 68 years, 10 months and 30 days old at his death.

CLANKING CHAINS AT MIDNIGHT

In the year 1889 in Epsom, a young man who lived on the main road in the town was returning to his home after spending the evening with a young lady who he later married. Now, in the village of Epsom lived an older brother of mine and he owned a horse which had the disagreeable habit of kicking the partition of the stall in the night. Just as this young man was passing by the barn, where the kicking horse was kept, he suddenly heard the clanking of a chain.
It was just about midnight, the hour when all the countryside is silent and when only weird or uncanny noises are even heard. Well this young man was not only startled, but also a little upset and commenced to walk a little faster and the next thing he was running, soon he came to the brow of a long hill and as he continued down this long hill he gained speed and before he came to the bottom of the hill his feet scarcely touched the ground, he soon came to the driveway of his home but he was running so fast that he could not make the

sharp turn into the driveway, so being obliged to continue on in a straight line. He went as far as the Baptist church and making a large circle around the building he was once more headed for home, and by the time he arrived at the driveway was able to make the turn into the driveway and was soon safe in his home.
Now my brother, to cure the horse from kicking, had attached a short length of chain to one of the horses legs, by means of a strap and when the horse moved the leg with the chain fastened to it, any one passing at that moment could hear a chain clanking.

EPSOM BOUGHT A HEARSE

In the year 1889, the town of Epsom bought a hearse. The day is was brought into town a group of men were looking at it and as it passed by them, one young man of twenty years made this remark; "I would like to have a ride in that thing" or words to that effect. It is said that he was the first to ride in the hearse – this at his own funeral.
At the time of the First World War a young man from a nearby town was helping Tom Carr, the Station Agent at the Epsom Railroad. I had occasion to go to the station one P.M. to get a load of freight. In the freight depot there were several caskets in boxes. This young man when he saw them, jumped upon one and lying on his back, closed his eyes, folded his hands across his chest and made himself appear as a dead person. A short time afterwards he left for Army Camp and in less than a month from the time he laid himself on one of the caskets, he was brought home on the train, but this time he was inside a casket.

JUST AN OLD STORY AND THE RECOLLECTION OF AN OLD MAN

In these modern days, it is now the year 1963, of central oil heating of our homes, when all that is required of the home owner is to make out the checks to pay the oil and electric bills, push button driving of our automobiles, getting our hot water from the electric heated water tanks, dialing a telephone to talk with our next door neighbor or with our relatives or friends many miles away. Preparing a meal from tin, glass or paper containers and watching TV with our grandchildren when they should be preparing their school lessons for the next day. Oh Well! I could go on and on in this strain but memory take me back to seventy-five years ago when as a small boy my father, who was born January 11, 1832, told me, among other stories, of the "old days" about the time that he as a small boy, slept in a trundle bed in the kitchen at his home and of watching, one cold winter morning about four o'clock , his father "strike fire" in the fireplace. Now either through neglect or carelessness they had "lost their fire" in the night. It was the custom to bury live coals in the ashes in the fireplace when they retired at night, as that was before the days of matches. He said that his father, my grandfather, got out the box of tinder and "struck fire" by using a flintlock gun. My father always ended this story with the words "and Will has the old gun". Will was my father's younger brother who lived at the old Yeaton homestead, at the end of the lane.
George H. Yeaton, Winter of 1963

Just a few words about "lamp-lighters". I can remember when it was quite a common practice to use them; they were made by rolling squares of old newspapers into a small tightly rolled cylinders about the size of a pencil. One end was rolled so that it would be in a point, the other end would be a little larger with the end folded over at the extreme end.
These lighters were used to light fires or lamps after one had lighted a lamp or started a fire in the fireplace or stove, thus economizing in their use of matches. There was one family in Epsom that claimed that they only used one match each day. That would be early in the morning.

Tonight I am living in memory, an evening spent with my father and mother together with my brother and sister on the old home farm in the winter of 1890. Around six o'clock my father and brother come in from doing the barn "chores", bringing with them the pails of milk which my mother would strain in large tin pans and put the pans on shelves in the milk cupboard.

In a few minutes we would all be seated around the supper table. We all had good healthy appetites, did not find fault with what was on the table for supper, did not leave our plates half full of food when we left the table. We were hungry and there was plenty of good wholesome food on the table.

After we had finished our supper my father and my brother John would go back to the barn and finish up the chores. During this time my mother with the help of my sister Elisabeth, would clean up the supper things and wash the dishes. By this time the men folks were back in from the barn. Now we would all gather in the long living room, my father with his newspaper, my mother with her mending and my brother, sister and myself around the large table in the center of the room with our schoolbooks.

There was a large kerosene-burning lamp with a large painted globe on it in the center of the table, also a large dish of red apples. My brother would be seated on one side of the table, my sister opposite him, I would be at one end and sometimes my mother would be sitting across from me with her sewing, but more often she would be in her working chair darning stockings or mending overalls.

As my brother was several years older than I was, also my sister was a few years older, so we did not have much in common about out school work. All I can remember about was the arithmetic problems which we all three worked on.

Around eight-thirty my father would light the lantern and leave for the barn for one last look at the cattle and to give them a small "foddering" of hay. When my father left for the barn this last time at night he always would leave by way of the cellar-kitchen stairs, going down the stairs into the cellar-kitchen, from there into the large wood shed with its tier upon tier of stove wood, then on into the carriage shed, then through a small entry-like way into the harness room and from there on into the part of the barn where the cattle were. On this trip to the barn he would open and close four or five doors.

He would not be gone long this time and was back in the house by nine o'clock as nine o'clock was our bedtime. Sometimes my mother would stay up a little later as she had the family cat to put out and other last minute things to do. Occasionally some of the neighbors would drop in for an evening call but not very often and when they did they came early and left before ten o'clock as most of the men folk planned to be up and doing their farm chores early in the morning. Many of them in those days would be up by four o'clock in the morning, some a little later. But most of us in the country believed in that old, old adage that "One hour in the morning is worth two hours at night".

I mentioned the large dish of apples on the table, well, during the evening most of us would eat one or more of them. We always had plenty of apples, I can still remember the long row of barrels filled with apples in our cellar, there was not less than twelve of them.

We were not bothered with telephone calls, radio or television programs, as all of these were much later additions to our home.

The last thing that my father did before he went to his bedroom was to wind his watch with a key. One night in the week he would wind the eight-day clock that stood on the shelf back of the air-tight stove in the living room.

After writing this article I hunted up my fathers old watch and had a good look at it. There is a certain amount of pleasure together with a feeling of sadness when I recall these old days. I am the last one left of this family group and have been since the year 1951. Geo. H. Yeaton, at Epsom New Hampshire, January 1963.

1903

It is now the last week in January 1963, the weather has been quite severe, not too heavy snow storms but very cold most of the month.
The cold weather makes me recall the winter of 1903 when as a youth of nineteen years I spent the winter cutting cordwood. My brother and I contracted to cut wood for one dollar per cord on a wood lot that was located between the New Orchard Road and the Range Road, the lot bordered on the Range Road on its easterly boundary.
That was the winter that my married sister was sick and my mother left my father and myself to carry on at home and she went to care for her sick girl. This was not hard for my father and I, as I had boarded myself most of the years I was at Coe's Academy, also my father knew something about cooking. We made lots of biscuits, some ginger breads, baked beans, potatoes boiled, baked or fried raw with onions. We had some fresh meat and when that was gone there was always plenty of salt pork in the cellar.
With the apples and canned fruit and vegetables that my mother had canned the summer and fall before, we did not lack for something to eat. I can still remember the noon lunches that I carried with me. There was one kind of a sandwich that I liked especially well, this is the way I made it. I would fry salt pork and while it was still hot I would put a large slice of the pork between a biscuit cut in half, as this was before the age of modern dinner-pails and thermos bottles. I packed my noon lunch in a tin pail. By noontime the contents would be frozen, sometimes I would heat the sandwich over a small fire that I would build, other times I would walk back and forth on a large log. There were many old trees that had died and fallen down where we were cutting the wood. Either way, I always enjoyed my noon lunches. There was something about a salt pork sandwich that only a person who has eaten one can describe - the flavor of a chilled slice of salt pork between a large biscuit. The pork would be crisp and crunchy.
Oh yes, I would have other things to eat at noon, ginger bread and an apple or two.
I do not remember taking anything to drink with me, but probably did.
After a while I built a small log cabin and then I would leave my noon lunch inside and at noon build a fire in the small stove that was in the cabin. I think that I put the pine logs twelve foot long but after the corners were locked together it left only about a space inside of ten by ten feet but that was large enough for my needs – a place under cover where one could keep extra clothing, eat their dinner and leave their wood cutting tools at night. Thirty years or more after the winter of 1903, my son found the remains of the cabin, he said that one corner was still standing. That was the winter that I saw a Canada Lynx, it was in the month of March and one day my brother or I glanced across the open space where we had cut off the wood and saw this large cat like animal with a short tail tufted ears, round head and dark colored. Had LARGE feet. Its tracks in the snow were large and the toenails extended out from the footprints quite a ways beyond the end of the toes. But we continued to cut wood after we saw this wild animal; we did not see it again all winter. My brother and I commenced cutting the cordwood on this lot the last of December and did not finish until the first of April. I had a much longer walk to reach the wood lot than my brother. I lived more than a half mile from my brother's farm. I would leave home with my lunch and a sharp axe early in the morning before it was light, go up the road to my brothers home, from there across his field, a large meadow into his lumber and wood lot and from onto the land where we were cutting the wood. My brother did not leave as early as I did as he had livestock to take care of before he left. I would plan to reach the place where we were cutting the wood by the time it was light enough to see to work. Through the big woods I only had the light from the stars to see and follow the footpath by. My brother would reach the place where we were chopping at eight o'clock. He could cut more wood in a day than I could, a cord and one half would be about what he would cut per day, for myself, a cord and a quarter would be my average. We piled the wood four feet and four inches high, the extra four inches in height was to allow for shrinkage when the wood was drying. A pile of four foot wood eight feet in length and four feet in highth was a cord of

wood. We cut the wood in strips leaving the brush from two strips in one large windrow, the tiers of cordwood was about the center of each strip with plenty of room on one side free from high stumps or anything that would bother the teams when they come to haul the wood.
My brother "started out" a load of the wood that we cut across the wood lot and meadow into his field where teams from Gossville came and hauled it to the depot. In the month of June a crew came and cut and pealed the large old hemlock trees on this same lot. The next fall we sawed the hemlock trees into twelve-foot length logs, I can still remember the piles of bark cut and piled like piles of cordwood. This bark, four feet in length and from six inches to a foot or more in width was shipped to leather tanneries where it was used in tanning leather.
It was in the month of June that he bark could be removed easily from the hemlock trees. Later someone else cut the wood from the other side of this same lot and my much older brother, who lived on Sanborn Hill at that time, hauled it to the depot. He came with two teams of horses, his hired man drove one team and he the other. They hauled this wood by way of the old winter road which after leaving the wood lot where the wood was cut, went across the Holt pasture, now owned by Walter B. Chase, from there across the wood and timber land of Henry E. Dotey, then on into and across the Yeaton lumber lot and on into the pasture of Samuel B. Stanley, from there into his field or more likely they turned and entered the Range Road, following this road until they came to the junction of the Range Road and the New Orchard Road at the home of Joseph P. Locke, then down the New Orchard Road to the turnpike and from there to the depot. And to my knowledge this was the last time that this old winter route was used its entire length.
The axe that I used that winter was a "Pioneer" ax that I had two of , the most common kind in use at that time was the Jersey axe. There was also another kind that I liked; its name was the "Blue Ridge" ax. I think that I liked the last name kind the best, although later I used only the Jersey ax. Well, so much for chopping wood in the winter of 1903.

THE INDIANS WHO HELPED THE WHITE MAN SPLIT THE LOG AND THE INDIANS AND THE SAW MILL

An old Epsom legend as told to me when I was a small boy in Epsom, seventy years ago – "A man was cutting wood not far from his cabin and was intently splitting a large log. Suddenly he found himself surrounded by a number of hostile Indians. They made him understand that they were not going to kill him but that he must go with him as a prisoner. Knowing that resistance was useless, he appeared to accept the situation, but explained to them that he wanted to finish splitting the log before he went and asked the Indians to help him – the Indians agreed. They arranged themselves on both sides of the log – putting their hands into the large crack the man had made, thinking they could pull the log apart, suddenly the white man knocked the wooden wedge out that was holding the log apart, and the log closed on the Indian's fingers and before they could release themselves, their captive escaped.

One of the early settlers had a sawmill on the river and one day he stayed late to finish sawing some logs. The sun had set and the daylight was growing dim inside the mill. As he was sawing the last log he saw long shadows coming from the up river end of the mill. A quick glance confirmed his first suspicion. A band of Indians had come down the river in a canoe and were standing in the end of the mill. Knowing they were not friendly Indians, he, while seemly paying no attention to them, suddenly reversed the log carriage sending it straight back toward the Indians and before they recovered from their astonishment at this unexpected action, the carriage, log and all struck them, knocking them into the river. During the confusion that resulted, the mill owner quickly escaped.
As told to me when a small boy. G.H.Y. 1962

THE McCLARY TAVERN

The Andrew McClary homestead built about the year 1740 was the first tavern in the town of Epsom. In this old tavern the society of Cincinnatus held some of their meetings. Many distinguished men were entertained in this old tavern in the days now long gone, Franklin Pierce and Daniel Webster and others. This old McClary homestead is still standing and in a good state of preservation. It is now owned by Mrs. Katherine S. Berry of Arlington, Massachusetts, a descendant of one of the first settlers of Epsom, Andrew McClary. This old tavern was also used as an express, freight and post office.
In the year 1827, the Selectmen of Epsom gave licenses to William Yeaton Jr., Abel Brown, Colonel Daniel Cilley, Samuel Whitney, Robert Knox, Captain Simon A. Heath, Abram W. Marden, Captain Benjamin Locke and Joseph Lawrence. The cost to each tavern keeper was two dollars for a period of two years to keep open tavern in the town.

TAKEN FROM OLD TOWN RECORDS

1754/55 – the Selectmen having notified the Proprietors and inhabitants of the town of Epsom in the Province of New Hampshire to meet at the house of Andrew McClary in Epsom Inn.
The inhabitants met according to notification on Wednesday the fourth of May 1755. The meeting being called and opened it was than voted Stephen Marden, Moderator, Samuel Libbey, Clerk. Voted that there be a committee to perambulate the line between the second and third Range of lots in the town and also to perambulate or run the line at the north west side and north east end of the town.
Daniel Moulton, William G. ___ and Ephraim Locke be a committee to run said lines. That said committee have 30 shillings a day for their said services. That the present Selectmen raise money for paying the same.
Town Meeting ended. Nathan Marden, Clerk.
(the above is part of two Town meetings notice and record.)

1761 – The Selectmen having warned the freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Epsom by a notification dated April the 23d twenty-third 1761. They met according to notification on the 6 sixth day of May 1761 at the house of Capt. Andrew McClary in Epsom.
Town meeting called and opened, it was then voted Capt. John McClary, Moderator, 2 voted Nathan Marden, Selectman, Ephraim Lock, Selectman, John McClary, Selectman, John Blaso, collector or tax gatherer, Isaac Libbee, Surveyor of the highways
Thomas Blake, surveyor of the highways
Ephraim Bery, tithingman
John Libbee and Ruben Sanborn, assessor
Samuel Blake and Isaac Libbee Juner, Field drivers
Thomas Hines and Samuel Bickford, field drivers
Samuel Blake and Ephraim Locke, door keepers
Ebenezer Barton, surveyor of the road leading to New Orchard, so called
Three hundred pounds in money be raised off the town of Epsom this present year
George Woles be a committee to assist the clerk in getting the former town writings that may be in any of the former proprietors hands.
Ephraim Lock be a committee man for the same.
John Libbee and Samuel Libbee be a committee to examin the Selectmans accounts
Town meeting ended.
Nathan Marden, T. Clerk

INDIANS IN EPSOM, NH

Tradition tells us that one of the favorite camping spots in Epsom was near the place where the Epsom Baptist Church now stands. Here the Indians sold fish in the river, plant their Indian maize or corn on the level land by the river, using as they did, fish for fertilizer when they planted their corn placing a fish in each hill of corn. As late as the year 1875 a small patch of the Indian maize came up each year on the bank of the river, proving that at sometime in the past Indian corn had been grown near this place. Note: Mr. Henry E. Dotey who lived on the New Orchard Road on the next farm above my home, told me that when he had worked in the shoe factory at Epsom he had seen the Indian maize growing, a small patch which came up year after year on the river bank. This would have been around the years 1875 to 1885 when he saw the corn growing.

After the close of the Indian Wars and the Indians and settlers were at peace, the Indians built several wigwams near where the Wallace brook empties into the Little Suncook River. There were three Indians who were in Epsom quite frequently, there names were Plausawa, Sabates and Christi. There is a high hill, elevation 800 feet at the Pembroke/Chichester town line. It is names Plausawa Hill, named for the Indian by that name who frequently camped on this hill. In the town of Loudon there is a hill named Sabates Heights, elevation 800 feet. It was on this hill that Sabates made his camp when in this part of the state. His name was more often spelled Sabites. At the mouth of a brook that empties into the Little Suncook River there is a rock with a bowl shaped hole in it and it is believed that this was where the Indians had their wigwams and used this place in the rock to grind their corn in. this is now called the Gulf Brook at some time it was probably called the "Wallace Brook" as the early history of Epsom was written about happenings over two hundred years ago.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS

In reading over the old school records of Epsom, I find that in the year 1841, the Pittsfield School District at Dowboro and District Number 6, in Epsom, were united to form Union School District Number 6.

Taken from the records of the New Hampshire General Court. "In the year 1841, a Pittsfield school district and Epsom School district No. 6 were untied to form 'Republican School District'. Merrimack County, first congressional, fifth councilor and fourteenth senatorial district"

The Epsom school records show that a sum of money was appropriated each year for this school district until in the year 1887. The last date when this Union School District Number 6 operated was in the year 1886. The following year (1887) the Town of Epsom paid Warren E. Hilliard eight dollars for 'conveyance of scholars', the same in the years 1888 and 1889. In the year 1890, Warren E. Hilliard was paid the sum of seven dollars conveyance of scholars and the following year, four dollars.

I assume that it was to the schoolhouse on the North Road, where he 'conveyed' the scholars, as in the school report for the years 1888 and 1889, the following names appear on the Roll of Honor at the North Road School. The names are as follows: Lillian Hilliard, two terms; Ora Hilliard, two terms; Clara Hilliard, two terms; Gertrude Chase, E. Christie Yeaton and David F. Buffam, one term each; Willie Brown, two years.

On the Roll of Honor for the year 1892 were the following names: Ada Hilliard, Ralph Hilliard, Ora Hilliard, Clara Hilliard and Oscar Hilliard at the North Road School by the name of Hilliard.

In the year 1894, Ada Hilliard was the only one of the Hilliard family on the Honor Roll.

The New Orchard Road school closed in the month of June 1899 and the following year the scholars who lived on the Sherburne Road (in Epsom) attended the school at South Pittsfield.

In the year 1900, the town of Epsom commenced to pay the town of Pittsfield Elementary school tuition and have continued to do so since that date.
The amount of money paid by the town of Epsom to Elementary Union number 49, Pittsfield, New Hampshire in the year 1963 was $1300.00 and the amount paid Harvey Marston for transportation of elementary scholars from Epsom was $500.00, making the total cost for scholars from Epsom who attended the Pittsfield Elementary school, in the year 1963, $1800.00.
The New Orchard Road school closed in the spring of 1899, opened in June 1910, closed again in the year 1928, opened for two years in the year 1929 and closed June 1930 forever.
As near as I have been able to learn, the school at "Dowboro" South Pittsfield, closed its doors or all school purposed in the month of June 1934 and a short time later sold the schoolhouse to some organization formed by the citizens of that part of the town and is now used as a community center.

PERSONS LOST IN THE TOWN OF EPSOM, NH

Nathaniel McCoy

The first person lost in the town of Epsom that I find any record of was Nathaniel McCoy, a young son of Charles McCoy who was one of the first settlers of this town. The story is that, Nathaniel McCoy, while hunting for his father's cows, became lost in the thick woods near Fort Mountain. He was lost quite a long time and lived on berries, and when found he was afraid of the ones who discovered him. It was on the smaller mountain next to Fort Mountain that they found him, after that the mountain was given the name "Nat's Mountain".
Now we will tell about the ones lost in recent years.

Robert C. Brown

In the year 1926 Robert C. Brown, a native of Epsom who lived on the North Road, left his home one day for a walk. Night came and he did not return. His two sons, who lived with him, becoming anxious for him, asked for help in searching for their father. The searching party searched all that evening, continuing all through the night. The next day the county Sheriff, George A. Wooster, came and took charge of the search. The search was confined to the area near the home of Mr. Brown, as his family said that his condition was such that he could not possibly have gone any distance from home.
But after a lengthy and intensive search, no trace of Mr. Brown was found. After the search had been abandoned by the Sheriff and the volunteer searchers, the Selectmen of Epsom offered a reward of fifty dollars to anyone who would find Robert Brown or his body. After several days, Harold S. Bickford discovered the body of Mr. Brown, but it was a long distance from his home, probably a half-mile beyond where the searching party had searched.
Now in the evening on the day that he had disappeared, a Mr. Arthur C. Locke, who lived on the New Orchard Road and about in a direct westerly direction from Mr. Brown's residence, was out in his yard at ten o'clock and heard a mans voice holler several times in succession – it was in the general direction of where the body was later found. When Mr. Locke told others they said that it could not possibly have been Mr. Brown that you heard, he could not have traveled so far away from home, but as later proved he did.
The town record read that Robert C. Brown, son of Samuel Brown and Sally (Cofran) Brown died July 23, 1826, age 87 years, a farmer and carpenter.

Edward M. Sawyer

At the time that Edward M. Sawyer wandered away he was staying at the S. Lucas Clark home on the Sherburne Road. It was a bright sunny afternoon in mid-winter. The roads were all plowed out but the sides were piled high with the accumulated winter snows.
Edd Sawyer as he was familiarly called, left his boarding place and started down the Sherburne Road. He came as far or perhaps farther than the New Orchard Road schoolhouse when evidently he decided to return home, but at the junction of the Sherburne and Locke roads, he took the road to the right (which is the Locke Road). He continued up this road for a time and then, as it must have been nearly dark, he left the road climbing a high bank of snow and across a field into a pasture covered with small pine and other growth. The Clark family sent out the alarm that he was missing or lost.
Late in the evening Maxwell Reid, who lived on Locke Hill came down the road and heard Edd Sawyer holler. Maxwell came to my residence (I was conservator for Edd Sawyer at the time). Maxwell, my son and myself went to where Mr. Sawyer was under a tree in the pasture. His first words were "I knew you would come George", and said something about helping him. He was in the brook. He was warmly dressed from head to feet barring felt boots on his feet. He suffered no ill effects from this experience.
I had my car with me and carried him to his home. Edward M. Sawyer was at this time about eight-eight years old. He lived a year or more after this winter walk, dying October 5, 1936, age at death 89 years. He died in a Concord Hospital where I had him moved in his last sickness.

James E. Philbrick

Having been appointed conservator of James E. Philbrick of Epsom, I engaged board and room for him at the home of George Pike. One afternoon when blueberries were in season, Mr. Philbrick said that he was going for some berries, so equipping himself with a pail he went to the Goss pasture. This pasture contained more than two hundred acres and the surrounding pastures contained six or eight hundred acres, making a tract of land, away from any roads or houses, of two thousand acres. Night came and Mr. Philbrick did not return home.
The alarm was given and search was made that night and continued on the following morning. His empty pail was found not far from where he had entered the pasture, but all other signs that we found were his footprints on an old sawdust pile where at one time in the past a portable saw mill had been erected. Late that afternoon Mr. Philbrick was found a long distance away from where his pail was found. He had crossed several tracts of land, climbed over stonewalls and through wire fences. We found a stonewall that showed signs of a person climbing over this wall and tumbling some of the rocks from it. When found he was calmly seated on a stump. Mr. Philbrick was eighty years old at this time. He was born in Allenstown, NH, the son of Jackson C. Philbrick and Eliza (Crawford) Philbrick. James Eugene Philbrick was in a convalescent home at Concord, NH when he passed away at age 82 years, 9 months and seven days.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF EPSOM, NH
Taken from the records of Rev. M.A. Quimby 1885

This church was organized in the spring of 1824. Preliminary meetings were held in June of that year, and on the first day of July 1824 a meeting was held at the schoolhouse on Center Hill. It was Thursday, Rev. Ebenezer Knowlton of Pittsfield and Rev. Arthur Caverno from Strafford, were present together with seven others, ready to be organized into a church. These are the names of the eight who became the original members and founders of the Epsom Free-Will Baptist Church. They were the same in number as those that entered the Ark of old.

Rev. Arthur Caverno, Nathan Bickford, Daniel Philbrick, Ephraim Locke, Lucretia Tarlton, Mary Marden, Elizabeth Currier and Sally Osgood.
Rev. Caverno, under God, was its founder and first pastor. He was an earnest and faithful pastor and the membership increased to fifty that season. A meeting was held in Wiliam Marden's barn on the fourth of July that same year (1824) and at the close of the service they held a baptism at the Suncook River.
During the two years that Elder Manson was the church's pastor, the first deacons were chosen. Ephraim Locke and Thomas Bickford were the ones chosen by the church members. The first Baptist Church building was built in 1833 or 1834 [I thin the correct date is 1834, in "History of Epsom NH by John H. Dolbeer the date is given as 1833]. It was sold in 1860 or 1861 to William Goss who moved it about one half mile into the village and converted it into a store. It was enlarged in later years by Andrew J. Silver, it is now owned and operated under the name of Gossville General Store.
This same building is also the home of the Gossville Post Office. When the Post Office at Gossville was established in 1882, a part of the building was used as a post office and with some enlargements and improvements, is used by the Government to this date 1960.
It was during Elder Manson's pastorate that the first Sunday School was formed, also a Home Mission society in the church. At that time the membership of the church was about eighty.
In the year 1861, a larger and more commodious building was built at the same location as the first as a cost of $2200, dedicated Christmas 1861. The present parsonage was built in 1853 at a cost including the land, of $800, this was while Moses Quimby was pastor.
The first pastor to receive a state salary was Gorham P. Ramsey. The salary was to be $150 for the first year. At this time the combined membership of the Congregational and Baptist Churches in Epsom was 255, one fifth of the population of the town.
The Ladies Sewing Circle was organized in the year 1882 on March 16th. Mrs. Avery, the wife of the pastor, was the first President and had much to do with bringing about the organization of this group of women. The Ladies Sewing Circle paid the cost of building the vestry, which was built in 1888. It was dedicated on December 21, 1888. The L.S.C. paid off a substantial part of the parsonage mortgage.
The Circle paid for a new carpet installed in the Church Building, paid for the electric light and for installing the water at the vestry, also for installing lights in the main building. In the year 1884-85 the statistics of the Church was as follows: Entire membership 157; number in Sunday School 125; number of books in the Sunday School Library 200.

1871 – From a newspaper printed in 1871 comes this item – "The Free Will Baptist Society of Epsom have holden two festivals for the purpose of raising funds to be appropriated in the purchase of an organ for their church. They were successful from a pecuniary point of view."

1870 – Another news item of 1870 reads – "There is an extensive revival of religion now in progress at Suncook. There is also a revival in the Free Will Baptist Church in Epsom".

In moving the original Baptist Church building to Gossville where it was used as a store and Post Office, they used a number of pair of oxen. On Saturday, they had some difficulty at the foot of the hill, nearly opposite the place where Fred Knight now lives. Come Sunday morning they held their regular church service in the building where it was stuck fast in the highway.

NAMES OF THOSE WHO SERVED AS PASTORS
Their names and order of service are as follows:
Rev. Arthur Caverno. James McCutcheon. B. Manson. B. Van Dame. G.P. Ramsey. K.R. Davis. Tobias Foss. M.A. Quimby. Horace Webber. E. Knowles. J.H. Brown. C.E. Haskell. Uriah Chase. Joel Baker.

M.A. Avery. M.A. Quimby. John B. Merrill. John W. Scribner. E.B. Tetley. F.P. Wormwood. Ozro Royce. Augustus R. Toothacre. Thomas M. Sparks. W.J. Gordon. George B. Southwick. George C. Junkins. Dr. Emmett Russell. George W. Bordon. Ralph T. Osborn. Leonard P. Edwards. Donald E. Macomber. Alfred E. Luce. Richard W. Horner. Robert J. Meakim (October 1959-1965), LaFayette Pinkney, Raymond P. Beless.
Hiram Holmes served as a pastor for one year. This was just before Van Dame came to Epsom from Deerfield to teach school He supplied the vacant pulpit but stayed less than a year.
Rev. Moses Quimby was Pastor from September 1850 to April 1858. From April 1860 to April 1863. From November 1869 to January 1872. From April 1885 to April 1887, a total of fourteen and two-thirds years.

WINDOWS IN THE EPSOM BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Vestibule – only one window – Major John K. Stokes.
Rev. James McCutcheon 1828-1835 by his Children
Rev. Sam B. Dyer & Dea. Ephraim Locke by Ruhamah J. Fowler

Nathan Bickford & William Goss by their Grandchildren
William Tripp
Dea. Thomas Bickford by Silas Bickford (his son)
John C. Hall & Martha E. Hall
Winthrop Fowler & Ephraim Locke.

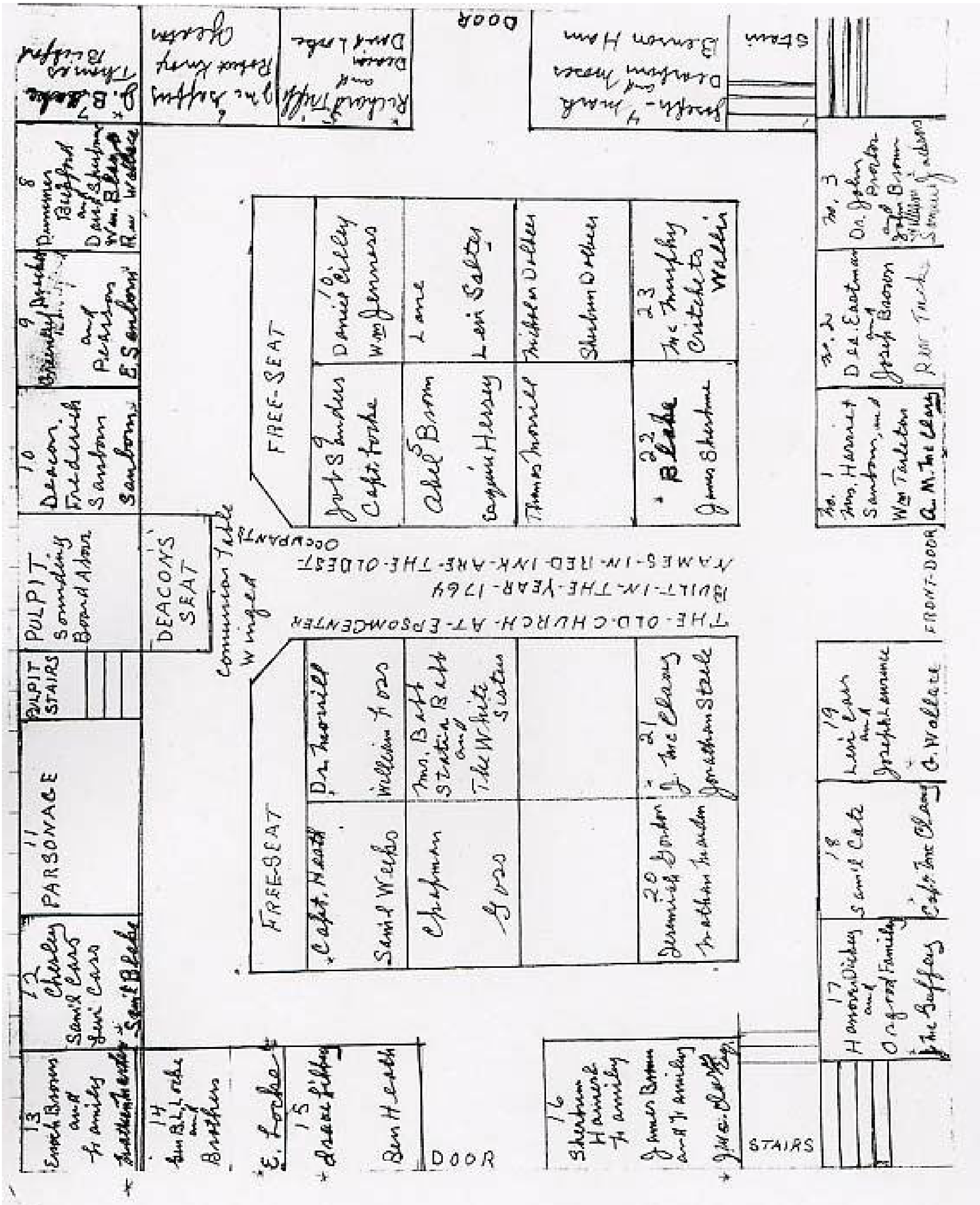
Nathan Bickford, (son of another Thomas Bickford)
Ephraim Locke, son of Dea. Ephraim Locke.

DEACONS OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
The first Deacons were chosen in the year 1834 or 1835, they were Ephraim Locke and Thomas Bickford. Thomas Tripp was a Deacon from 1855 to 1871, he was clerk from 1845 to 1871
The first Deacons of the Epsom Baptist Church of whom I have any remembrance were: Deacon Daniel Yeaton and Deacon Cyrus Marden. That was about the year 1890. In later years Burt D. Young, Justin T. Stevens and Alfred W. Burnham were made Deacons. About the year 1929, George H. Yeaton was elected a Deacon. Then it became necessary to replace some of the older Deacons who had become unable to serve on account of their health, others had died, and John B. Yeaton was elected. For a short time, we kept along with two Deacons, then the Church elected John W. Cox and Gerald L. Marden as Deacons, this gave the Church a Board of Deacons consisting of four members. After a number of years, William Brown was made a Deacon, but he did not stay in Epsom only a short time afterwards. Deacon George H. Yeaton was ill for several years, Deacon John W. Cox passed away and the church was left with only two Deacons. In the year 1960, Dr. Emmett Russell, a former Pastor of the Epsom Baptist Church, came to town and bought a home. After a short time Dr. Russell was elected a Deacon of the Church, and at this date, November 1962, we now have a four-member board of Deacons, George H. Yeaton, John B. Yeaton, Gerald L. Marden and Dr. Emmett Russell.
1965 Dr. Emmett Russell resigned last winter as he was leaving town for several months.

THE FIRST CHURCH IN EPSOM NEW HAMPSHIRE

There is much uncertainty as to the date that the first meetinghouse or church building was built in Epsom for the purpose of public worship. When the town of Epsom was granted May 18, 1727 by "John Wentworth Esq. Lt. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said Province", one of the conditions reads as follows:
2nd that a house be built for the Publick worship of God within the term of six years" with the exception "but if it should happen that a war with the Indians should commence before the aforesaid four years be expired, there shall be allowed to the aforesaid proprietors the term of four years after the expiration of the War to perform the aforesaid conditions".
Next at a proprietors meeting on October 16, 1732, it was "voted that there be a meetinghouse of thirty foot long and twenty four feet wide immediately built at the charge of the Proprietors and that Mr. Joshua Brackett, Mr. William Locke and Theodore Atkinson Esqr. Be a committee to agree with any person or persons that will build it the soonest and cheapest".
Then in the year 1742 "voted to raise thirty pounds to hire a minister", in 1743 "voted to raise forty pounds"
The first church building built in Epsom was at Epsom Center (Center Hill) in the year 1732 or 1733 the parsonage house in the year 1781. Assuming that the conditions of the original grant were complied with and the vote taken on October 16, 1732 was carried out, there was a meetinghouse built (30 ft by 24 ft) in the year 1732 or 1733. A vote was taken in 1781 to build a parsonage house in the year 1781, we assume that action was carried out. And what did it mean when they were contemplating building a meetinghouse in 1761 and voting "that it should stand on the same lot where the old meetinghouse formerly stood at or near the burying place".
In the 'History of the First Church of Epsom" by John M. Moses, he makes this statement "We need not however suppose that the people had lived thirty years without religion and secular instructing. Still less can we impute mental and inferiority to people who could rear families and build up a town under such difficulties as they encountered".
In 1759 "voted to raise fifty pounds for the support of the Gospel". 1760 voted one hundred pounds old tenor in money to be raised to hire a minister or defray charges. There was a meeting at the house of Capt. Andrew McClary on May 15th 1764 when twenty-one privileges for pews were sold by auction. We also find that the annual meeting agreeable to the charter for the year 1766 was held in the meetinghouse and for the years following while the building remained standing. In the year 1764 it was "voted that a meeting house be built in Epsom the length fifty feet and the bredth forty feet".
The Congregationalists built a church at Epsom (slab city) in 1845 and shortly after the Church Building at Epsom Center was sold and moved to Concord.
1761 "Voted that the meetinghouse shall stand on the same lot where the old meeting house formerly stood at or near the burying place.
Voted January 17, 1733 that the name of the Street from the Meetinghouse upward West Street and downward to Nottingham from said meetinghouse, East Street.
The Congregational Church at "Slab City" was built in the year 1845. It was sold at auction December 8, 1886 for $116.00. Sold in 1908 to Mrs. Eudora Johnson and torn down. In 1909 the present Knowles house (on the church sire) was built. The present occupant in (1961) is Gilbert H. Knowles.

The first man buried in the oldest graveyard Center Hill, was William Blazo. He was one of the first to come and make a settlement in Epsom. This was a considerable time before its incorporation on May 18, 1727.
The first child born in Epsom was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McCoy, probably born in the year 1730. Her mother Isabella McCoy was captured by the Indians in the year 1747 on August 21.[Ed note: Charles McCoy was probably married more than once, and Isabella is probably not the mother of Mary McCoy].



FLOORPLAN OF THE MEETINGHOUSE BUILT 1764

The daughter married a man by the name of Wood and lived to be very old, as record about her is made in the year 1823 said that at that date she was in her 93rd year, as near as could be ascertained.
On August 21, 1747 there was a blockhouse at Center Hill in Epsom. The blockhouse stood near the site of the meetinghouse built in 1764. It was at or near this blockhouse that the Indian lay concealed who afterwards captured Mrs. McCoy on August 1, 1747. In the year 1750 Ephraim Berry was chosen tything man in Epsom. What did they want of a tythingman if there was no church? [Ed note: he is in fact correct, there was a meeting house, but no minister had yet been hired]
In the early years of its settlement, Epsom was a frontier town; none of the adjoining towns were settled for many years afterwards. It was nearly thirty years before Chichester, Pittsfield or Barnstead were settled, twenty years before Deerfield, Northwood were incorporated and twenty-five years before Concord received its present name. It was at Epsom that the first settlement in the Suncook Valley was made.
At first the settlers of Epsom built a blockhouse near the site of the Meetinghouse that was built in 1764. Later Captain Andrew McClary built a house and surrounded it with a high wooden wall with a heavy well-secured gate. To this place the people went when there was danger from the Indians. (This was at or near the large farm now known as the Lawrence Farm, 1960). It was the garrison at Nottingham (the younger children of the McCoy family were there) that Mr. and Mrs. McCoy with their son John were hastening to when the three Indians, Palusawa, Sabatis and Cristi captured Mrs. Isabella McCoy, this was August 21, 1747. The apples that the Indians gathered from the only tree bearing in town, by tradition, was near the end of the "Griffin Road" at the four corners. As late as the year 1918 there was the remains of a large apple tree stump in the field of John W. Griffin, owner at that date. Mr. Griffin took me to the spot and said that according to tradition this is the spot where the apple tree stood and was known as "Isabella's Apple Tree." There was a slight mound at the location composed of decayed apple tree wood. G.H.Y. (1962)

ABOUT THE FIRST CHURCH IN EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Taken from a sketch by Rev. R.A. Putnam with a short addition and other Church Records

Epsom was granted to Theodore Atkinson and others, inhabitants of New Castle, Rye and Greenland, and was incorporated May 18, 1727. The first meeting of the proprietors was holden at the ferry house in New Castle, Nov. 20, 1727.
The concerns of the town were transacted by the proprietors in meetings holden at New Castle and Portsmouth until 1750. The precise time when the first settlement commenced cannot be ascertained: but there were, probably, several families in the town sometime before its incorporation.
Among the first settles were Charles McCoy from Londonderry; William Blazo, a Frenchman; Andrew McClary from Londonderry in Ireland; Samuel Blake and one Whitaker. In the early days of the town the inhabitants were in great fear of the invasions of the Indians. During the summer season only the men ventured to remain in the place and then as they labored they kept their arms by them. In the winter there was less danger. At length a house was erected by Capt. Andrew McClary, made proof against the assault of the Indians, being surrounded by a high wooden wall, entered by a heavy, well secured gate. Into this the inhabitants fled for refuge at night when apprehensive of danger. In the grant made to the proprietors, early provision was made for the establishment of religious order and the instruction of the rising generation. Two of the conditions of the charter were "that a house be built for the public worship of God within the term of six years"; and "that one hundred acres of land be reserved for a parsonage, one hundred acres for the first minister of the Gospel, and one hundred acres for the benefit of a school." A period of thirty-four years elapsed before a minister was settled. Rev. John Tuck was ordained in the year 1761, and dismissed in 1774. He died while on his way to join the revolutionary army as Chaplin. He was a son of Rev. John Tuck of Gosport, and was a graduate of Harvard University. No records of the church during Mr. Tuck's ministry can be found, but as nearly as can be ascertained from other sources, the number of the church at the close

of his ministry was about twenty. After Mr. Tuck's dismissal and after the lapse of five years, Mr. Benjamin Thurston received a call by the church and town to settle as their minister, but he refused their offers. In 1784 Rev. Ebenezer Hazeltine received a call and was ordained their pastor. Mr. Hazeltine has born at Methuen, Mass Oct. 28, 1755, entered Dartmouth College in 1773; was licensed to preach the gospel by the Grafton Presbytery July 24, 1779; and was settled in the work of ministry in Epsom January 21, 1784. Rev. Isaac Smith of Gilmanton, who preached his funeral sermon, among other things says of him "He was sound in his faith. The Bible was the man of his counsel. His discourses were correct, substantial, instructive and evangelical. He was himself a bright example of those moral and religious duties which he inculcated on others." He was called from his labors by death Nov. 10, 1813, in the 59th year of his age and 30th of his ministry.

About one year after the death of Mr. Hazeltine, Rev. Jonathan Curtis was invited by the church to become their pastor; but the town refused to concur. A religious society was than organized and that concurred in the action of the church. Mr. Curtis was ordained Feb. 22, 1815. At his settlement the church consisted of about 50 members. In one year after this six were added to the church; the next year 11; and in 1817, 16 were added. About this time the attention of many in an unusual degree, was awakened by the spirit of God. Much anxiety was manifested but nothing like enthusiasm or tumult was exhibited. So extensively were the Divine influences, experiences that in 1818 the church was increased by 47 additions; 29 at one time solemnly covenanting with God and his people.

For several years after that revival more or less were admitted to the church every year.

1825. Rev. Mr. Curtis closed his pastoral relations with the Church January 1, 1825, having sustained that relation nearly ten years. During the year ending the first day of May 1826, Rev. A. Smith was employed as stated supply, respecting whose labors the Congregational Society passed a vote of high commendation. In the year 1827 Rev. C. Burbank was employed to preach a portion of the time. In October 1827, the Church and society gave Rev. John M. Putnam a call to settle with them in the gospel ministry. This call he accepted and was installed November 1, the same year. Mr. Putnam was born in Sutton, Mass., Feb. 26, 1794. At the time of his settlement the church consisted of about 110 members. During his ministry with them 17 were added to the church.

1830. About the first of May 1830, he was dismissed at his own request having labored among them two and one half years. Until the first of April 1831, the church was without regular preaching. Rev. Abel Manning was then engaged as a stated supply and continued with them two years and received 29 persons into the church. The Church was then left destitute for the most part of a year. In the autumn of 1834 the Deerfield Association held protracted meetings in all the churches embraced within their bounds. The meetings commenced the fourth week in August at Deerfield and with the exception of the week in which the General Association of the State was holden, continued week after week in the churches according to their vicinity with each other for eleven weeks and ended on the second week in November at Meredith Bridge.

All these meetings with scarcely an exception, were attended with delightful and powerful revivals of religion. Epsom had no minister; and it was doubted whether it were expedient to hold a meeting within the town under such circumstances. But the Association had not the heart to pass them by. The meeting was holden and a glorious and blessed revival was the result. The church was urged to employ a minister without delay. They were supplied by different persons among whom were Dr. Harris of Dunbarton, Rev. Mr. Shepherd and Rev. Preserved Smith, till February 8, 1835 when Rev. Francis P. Smith was employed. He continued with them nearly two years. As the result of the protracted meetings and his labors 34 were admitted to the Church. January 1, 1837, Rev. Winthrop Fifield began to preach here.

1837. The church and society gave him a call and May 10, 1837 he was ordained as their pastor. The church now embraced 111 members. There were seasons during his pastorate when the Divine influence was more or less fully manifest, and Christians were revived and sinners converted. At one time May 27, 1838, thirty people, one only by letter, united with this people. Mr. Fifield's ministry continued nine years and a half during which 49 united with the church. In the spring of 1846 he was regularly dismissed.

1846. On the 19th of September 1846, Rev. Rufus A. Putnam commenced preaching here and March 21, 1847 the church gave him a call to settle with them as their pastor, on which the Congregational Society concurred. To this call he gave an affirmative answer. He was regularly installed May 5, 1847. At this time there were 109 members in the church, 36 males and 73 females. He was the pastor of the church for five years. During this time six were added to the church. There had been but few additions for several years. A time of dearth and spiritual sloth had rested on the churches. At his own request, Mr. Putnam was dismissed by an ecclesiastical council, May 3, 1852. He was born in Sutton, Mass, November 18, 1791 and graduated at Harvard in the class of 1822.

During the years of 1852 and 1853 Rev. M.B. Angier and Rev. C.C. Durgin preached a part of the time to this people. The Rev. Rufus A. Putnam was again employed for one year, which closed August 1, 1854. During this year seven united with the church; six by profession and one by letter. Rev. E.H. Blanchard was engaged as stated supply for one year, which closed the third Sabbath in August 1855. This year four were added to the church; one by profession and three by letter. The number of the church at this time was about 100 members.

1856. February 22, 1856, a call was given Rev. J. Ballard to settle with them which he declined and the Rev. Charles Willey was engaged as a state supply. He remained about three years and was succeeded by Rev. A.B. Peffers, who remained until 1866 and was followed by Rev. George Smith for three years. Rev. Charles Peabody was the next preacher and his stay was but three years. During the following four years there was only occasional preaching, largely by students from the Theological Seminary.

1876. December 1, 1876, Rev. E.C. Cogswell of Northwood commenced preaching here Sundays and continued until June 1881. Six months of the summer of 1882 Rev. L.G. Chase supplied the pulpit. About this time removals from the town and deaths nearly depleted the church membership.

There was fund of one thousand dollars given by the widow of Thomas D. Merrill, the interest of which is to be used for the support of Congregational preaching in the town of Epsom.