



Old Epsom Public Library, 1775 Dover Road, Epsom, NH

The first known attempt at a library in Epsom was the Epsom Social Library established by residents in 1801 - just where they kept their library is unknown, nor is it known how long this Social Library existed. In 1893 there was a town warrant to establish a town library and three trustees were appointed. A library was established at the George S. Warren store, but that was sold moved two years later and the library was then housed at the home of Nathan Goss, with his wife as librarian. In 1900 the trustee's found a small building which might be suitable for a library and the town appropriated three hundred dollars for the purchase or building of a library. During the discussions, John Dolbeer, formerly of Epsom and then a well-to-do businessman in California, making a fortune in lumber operations there, was visiting his Dolbeer relatives, including library trustee, John H. Dolbeer. Attending the meeting, he offered to supply redwood lumber for the interior and exterior if a suitable plan for a building was presented. This was done, and on land from Charles S. Hall sold to the town in December of 1901, a new library was built and dedicated in August of 1902. Grace Snow was the first librarian. By 1915, through the start of World War II, branch libraries were established in individual homes throughout the town. Through the years improvements in heating, running water, electricity and a basement were added to the library structure and additional parking space provided through the heirs of C.S. Hall. One hundred years later, the facility was vastly too small and a new library was built in 2006 behind the old town house. Information provided from the article on the Library history by Peg Daniels of 1993.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

Original lot of Shadrach Walton Lot #94 in the third range; 1761, purchased by Jeremiah Prescott; 1783, Joseph Cilley from Jeremiah Prescott, land that I bought of my honored father, Jeremiah Prescott; 1799, Daniel Cilley from father General Joseph Cilley by will, land I bought of Jeremiah Prescott; 1855, William Goss from William P. Cilley, heir of Daniel Cilley; 1894, Chapin Osgood from William Goss; 1898, Charles Sumner Hall from Chapin Osgood; 1901, Town of Epsom from Charles Sumner Hall, the lot upon which the Epsom Public Library is to be built.

