



Chesley Homestead, formerly Center Hill, Epsom, NH

The early lot numbers were not consistent in early deeds, as at some point the lot numbers shifted to the West as lots were added to the east end. Some deeds carried the original lot numbers, others did not. Based on the numbering after the lots were shifted, this particular home lot is identified in deeds as No. 6, but after the shift became No. 5. About 2003 the old Chesley house was sold, dismantled and taken to Maine and a new house constructed on the lot.

John Chesley held numerous town offices including Selectman, court was held at his home and his name often appeared as a grand and petit juror. His home was often a place for social gatherings. He hosted the town's Fourth of July celebration in 1821 at which over 150 people dined.

The Chesley homestead passed from John to his son Jonathan Steele Chesley, to his son Walter Chesley, and then his daughter Mary, keeping the home in the Chesley family for about 130 years.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

Before 1773, original homelot #6 of Joshua Berry; 1773, John Berry from Joshua Berry, 1/2 of homelot #6, west side; 1773/74 Amos Morrill, blacksmith, from John and Ephraim Berry (each owned 1/2); 1793, William Locke from Amos Morrill, 3 home lots, including #6; 1811, John Chesley from William Locke, 3 home lots, north side of main road; 1842, Charlotte, widow of John Chesley to Jonathan Chesley with life care of widow Charlotte; After 1842 Estate passes from Jonathan Steele Chesley to son Walter to his daughter Mary C. Oldfield; 1944, Thomas H. and Madge Alger of Brockton, MA from Mary C. Olfield of Newton, MA; 1948, Victoria Kosko, New Haven, CT, from Thomas H. and Madge Alger; 1950, Roland R. and Louise S. LaFleur from Victoria Kosko of New Haven, CT.; June 1958 George and Mary Chickering of Pembroke from Roland R. and Louis LaFleur of Epsom, land and buildings; August 1958, Alvin and Dorothy Humphrey's, Dunbarton from George and Mary Chickering, Pembroke; 1959, Neal A. and Jane Waite from Alvin and Dorothy Humphrey's; 1963, Fred and Frances McClairy, Belgrade, ME, from Neal and Jane Waite; Conrad Kitson from Fred J. McClairy; 1999, Craig S. Sears of Parsonfield, ME from Conrad and Phyllis Kitson; 2000, Floyd and Jennifer Graham from Craig S. Sears.

GENEALOGY: William Locke was the son of John and Abigail Locke, born in Epsom in 1780. John Chesley was the son of Lemuel Chelsey and Sarah Randall, and was born in May 1775 in Lee, New Hampshire. In 1797, he married Elizabeth Blake, daughter of one of Epsom's earliest settler's, Samuel Blake. They had for children: John Chesley, who married Joanna Tibbetts and resided in Epsom, Samuel Morrill Chesley who married Sarah Martha Long, Elizabeth G., Jonathan Steele Chesley, James Blake Chesley who married Georgianna Turner and died in Chichester, and Josiah Crosby Chesley. After the death of his wife, John Chesley married a Charlotte unknown. Of the sons, Jonathan Steele Chesley married Abigail Hoyt, daughter of Nathan Hoyt and Charlotte unknown. They had for children: Gulielma Chesley who married Trueworthy Kelley, John E. who married Sarah Cofran, William Albion, Walter, Mary J. who married Walter Cofran, Andros Palmer who married Kate Paul, Arabella C. who married George P. Cass, and Annah Chesley who married Joseph Benton.

