



### **Colby House, 77 Colby Road, Epsom, NH**

Jethro Blake owned home lot 3 which he bought in 1764 and sold it to Andrew McClary in 1770, the same year he bought lots 92 and 15 from the same Andrew McClary. When he sold it to Amos Morrill in 1785, it already had buildings, a barn and an orchard, obviously his homestead. Jethro left Epsom selling the property to Amos Morrill, who sold the property to Simeon Towle, and Amos Morrill and family moved to St. Alban's Vermont. The property was owned for a time by the brother of Simeon's wife, Solomon Marden who had a house there as well. The homestead was the Towle home until it burned and the present home was built by Simeon's son Benjamin Marden Towle. The area by 1858 had several homes in close proximity to the homestead including the home of James Clark and D.C. Bickford. The orchards lasted for many years and the land was farmed in later generations by Karl Rand.

#### **CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):**

1732, Original right of Samuel and Nathaniel Huggins; 1749, Abraham Libbey of Portsmouth from William and Nathaniel Huggins both of Greenland, lot 92, 50 acres in 3rd range in Epsom; 1757, Abraham Libbey from William Blazo of Epsom my 30 acre out lot for owning a home lot numbered 15 in the town plan; 1767, Tryphena Sanborn of Epsom from Abraham Libbey of Epsom, lot 92 and 30 acre lot between #91 & 92; Jan. 5, 1779, Andrew McClary of Epsom from Josiah and Tryphena Sanborn of Epsom, lot 92 and 15; Jan. 6, 1770, Jethro Blake of Epsom from Andrew McClary of Epsom, lot 15, out lot and lot 92 all in the third range; 1785, Amos Morrill of Epsom from Jethro Blake of Epsom, 80 acres, lot 92 & 15 with house, barn and orchard; 1792, Simeon Towle of Epsom from Amos Morrill of Epsom, lot 92 and out lot 15 in third range; 1805, Solomon Marden from Simeon Towle, 60 acres where I now reside with buildings; 1806, Elizabeth Towle of Epsom from Solomon Marden of Rye, brother of Elizabeth, 60 acres with the building standing on them; 1816, Benjamin Towle from Simeon and Elizabeth Towle of Rye, Benjamin to care for his parents during their lifetime, about 60 acres more or less with buildings; circa 1857, Benjamin Marden Towle II from Benjamin Marden Towle, Benjamin I built the house currently standing when the original house burned, the first house having been located in the field east of the present house, all part of lot 92 in the third range of original lots; circa 1930, Bess Anderson Colby from her husband Herbert Colby who had married first Annie Towle Smith, daughter of Benjamin Towle II by his first wife, she having inherited the house

from her step-mother Harriet Edgerly Towle, second wife of Benjamin Towle II; June 1960, A. Lloyd Hill et al from Bess Anderson Colby; November 1960, Jane and Mark Carroll from A. Lloyd Hill; 1966, Jane A. Waite et al from Jane H. and Mark Carroll; 1977, Paulette L. Dellecese from Jane A. Waite; 1979, Cathy Michener from Paulette Dellecese; 1986, Donna Arnold from Cathy Michener; 1997, John Wormald from Donna Arnold.

**GENEALOGY:** Jethro Blake was born in Kensington, NH and married a Priscilla Unknown and had for children: Hannah, Sarah who married Thomas Babb, Josiah, Jacob and Levi.

Simeon M. Towle married in 1779, Elizabeth Marden and they had for children: Rachel Dowst who married Levi Locke; Betsey who married John Yeaton; Parna, unmarried; Benjamin Marden who married Hannah Sanborn, daughter of Josiah Sanborn and Annah Locke; and Simeon who married Hannah Yeaton.

Benjamin M. Towle and his wife Hannah had for children: Sarah Huse, Elizabeth Marden, Nancy W., Benjamin M., Catherine who died young, Clarissa, Charles Augustus, and Catherine E. who married John H. Dolbeer. Son Benjamin M. married first Eliza Ham, daughter of William Ham and Nancy Hopkinson, and they had for children: George Benjamin, Harry Freeman and Annie Eliza. Daughter Annie Eliza married first in 1881, Joseph R. Smith who died in 1896; she married second Herbert Warren Colby - no children. Annie Eliza died in 1910 and Herbert W. Colby married second Bess Anderson Colburn. Benjamin M. Towle after the death of wife Eliza, married second in 1862, Harriet Edgerly and they had for children: Benjamin M. Towle (3rd) and Harriet Sanborn Towle.

