



Pitcher-Dowst House, 19 River Road, Epsom, NH

The house on the southeast corner of the four corners at Short Falls was built by Richard Webster. He was the father of Benjamin Franklin Webster and he was raised there. Benjamin was very successful, and later in life gave the town the land in Epsom now known as Webster Park. Richard Webster's deed shows only a small shop on the 4 acres that he purchased in 1821 from Benjamin Robinson of Epsom. Richard sold the property in 1847 to Thomas Cotterell and the deed says with the land and all the buildings on it. The Cotterell family were blacksmiths and had a shop on this property as well as across the street on New Rye Road.

Henry Dowst Sr. inherited this property from Ada M. Dowst about 1927 and lived there nearly 30 years. The property was purchased in 1968 by Charles and Constance Pitcher. Connie was very active in the Historical Association and did much work with the old cemeteries in town. The property is still owned by their daughter-in-law Denise (Dee Dee) Pitcher.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

Original right of Nathaniel Rand; 1778, James Gray from the town of Epsom, part of lot 83 & 84 for unpaid taxes at auction; 1791, John Dolloff from James Gray, 37 acres of lot 83; 1798, John Tripp from John Dolloff, land in lot 83 east of the Pembroke Road that goes by Nathaniel Kennistons; abt 1800, Rhichard Tripp Jr. from John Tripp in Epsom, land in lot 83; 1804, Benjamin Robinson from Richard Tripp; 1821, Richard Webster of Epsom, Gentleman, from Benjamin Robinson of Epsom, joiner, about 4 acres at Short Falls corner with the shop thereon; 1821, Richard Webster, husbandman of Rye from Richard Webster of Epsom Gentleman, about 4 acres at Short Falls corner with the buildings thereon; 1847, Thomas Cotterell of Manchester from Richard Webster of Rye, 5 acres corner of New Rye and River Road; 1855, Albert Pearson of Pembroke from Thomas Cotterell of Epsom, land and buildings, mortgage; 1857, John T. Cotterell from Albert Pearson of Chicago, 5 acres land and buildings, mortgage release; 1871, Arthur Tennant of Deerfield from John T. Cotterell of Epsom, 5 acres, triangular piece corner of New Rye Road and River Road; 1875, Samuel Whittier of Deerfield from Arthur Tennant of Deerfield; 1887, Mrs. Ada Ricker of Allenstown from Samuel Whittier of Epsom; abt 1929, Henry Dowst Sr. from probate of (Aunt) Ada Ricker, a certain tract of land and buildings in Epsom, 5 acres more or less, easterly by highway leading from Short Falls Post Office to the New Rye Meeting House, southerly by land of Silas G. Bickford, now or formerly, westerly by highway leading

from George W. Ela's house in Allenstown to Short Falls Post Office; 1956, William B. Moore & Patricia D. Moore from Henry Dowst Sr.; 1960, Robert & Helene L. Zimmerman of New Haven, CT, from William B. & Patricia Moore of Short Falls, 4 acres more or less; 1968, Charles and Constance Pitcher from Helene L. Zimmerman; 1987, David & Denise Pitcher from Constance W. Pitcher, widow, Charles Pitcher, deceased, surviving joint tenant.

GENEALOGY: Richard Webster married in 1778 Elizabeth Randall of Rye and had children: Betsey, Abigail, Martha, Sarah, Hannah, Olive, Richard and Mark Randall. Son Richard married Mary 'Polly' Philbrick, daughter of Joses Philbrick and Mary Smith. They had for children: Emily J., Sarah Ann, Roswell, Mary, David S., Richard, John P., Daniel, Ursula and Benjamin Franklin. The last two born in Epsom.

John T. Cotterell married Clara A. Sanders and had children: Minett Wallace, James Malvern, Myra A., all who died young, and a daughter Bertha T. who survived and married Timothy Bryant Langley.

Abram L. Ricker was the son of Asa Ricker and Hannah Bunker. He married in 1880, Ada M. Dowst, daughter of Henry Dowst and Hannah Fowler. No children.

Henry Dowst, brother to Ada M. Dowst, married Harriet Frances Ring and had children Henry and Miriam, who died young. Son Henry married in 1920, Emma Mathilda Dauth and had two children, Henry and Robert Judson. Henry married Roberta C. Cross and had two children.

