



Griffin House, 3 Griffin Road, Epsom, NH

The large red colonial house that stands on the east side of the corner at the intersection of Griffin Road and Echo Valley Road has been known as the Griffin House for many years. It has been in the Griffin family from 1814 till 1941.

This was the home lot of Deacon George Wallis who received it from his father Samuel, the original proprietor. The property was deeded in 1741 and states that George was already living there, making him one of the earliest residents of the town. George Wallis (Wallace) married Margaret McClary, daughter of Andrew McClary the immigrant who lived next door. George lived at this site and willed the homestead to his son-in-law Capt. Thomas Babb and his wife Elizabeth Wallis. After the death of Thomas, the property was sold to David Griffin - the five daughters of Thomas Babb and Elizabeth McClary having signed clear on the title. The homestead at this time included the original home lot and house plus additional land acquired by Deacon George Wallis.

The present home was built by David Griffin (according to historian John Mark Moses) in 1824 and it was still in the Griffin family in the Epsom census of 1909. Going from David to Nathan and then to John W., a distant cousin. John W. Griffin lived most of his life in Massachusetts, but returned in 1908 just in time to be included in the 1909 census.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

1732, Samuel Wallis; 1741 George Wallis; abt. 1795, Thomas Babb; 1814, David Griffin; 1839, Nathan Griffin; 1882, Abigail Griffin; 1889, John S. Griffin; 1901, Flora C. and John W. Griffin; 1941, Ruth M. Griffin; 1941, George H. Stevens; 1963, Wayne Graffam; 1981 Carole Ann Sager; 1983, Carole Ann and Edward Jackson; 1996, Jonathan Tilley; 2000, David and Barbara Stewart.

GENEALOGY: George Wallace and Margaret McClary had for children Martha, Ebenezer, Margaret, Hannah, George, Jane and Elizabeth. The daughter Elizabeth married in 1776, Captain Thomas Babb, and their children were Sarah, Margaret, Elizabeth, Jane and Rachel. Elizabeth died in 1787 and Capt. Thomas married second Sarah Blake and had children Priscilla, Hannah, James, (a merchant in Epsom and Lynn, MA), Thomas and Amelia.

David Griffin, born 1772, married Abigail Cate, the daughter of Deacon John Cate and Abigail Sherburne. Their children included Nathan, Abigail, Ebenezer and John. This Nathan married in 1821, Mary Cate, daughter of Ebenezer Cate and Phebe Gilman, who lived in Chichester after 1800. Nathan and Phebe had for children David M., Phebe, Nathan, Samuel, Mary, Abbie, Charles H. and John Sherburne Griffin. Distant cousin John W. Griffin married Flora Atwood and was the son of Jacob Eastman Griffin and Mary Ann Henry.

