



Hiram Holmes House, 1633 Dover Road, Epsom, NH

James Gray was a prominent Epsom citizen, first as a school teacher and Revolutionary War officer. He married Jane Wallace, who died after having two children who died young. He left town and married Susanna Parsons of Byfield, Massachusetts. Her father was a minister, her brother Theophilus was later to become Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. This brother acquired the property of John Cass and sold it to his merchant brother in Boston, William Parsons. James Gray and William's sister Susannah, wife of James Gray, were tenants at will in the house, which after their deaths, was sold to a son of James and Susanna, Moses Parsons Gray, and his sister Catherine, who married Dr. John Proctor as his second wife. Neither Moses or the Proctor's had children, and the property passed to the heirs of their sisters Lucretia, who had married William Brown - and Judith who had married John Rand. Lucretia's daughter, Susanna married Alexander Forbes and eventually ended up owning the Parson's homestead in Byfield, MA. The son of John and Judith (Gray) Rand, Gorham P. Rand, eventually ended up owning the property which was sold to Charles W. Rand, no relation. After about eight years, he sold the property, including all the mill sites, to Hiram A. Holmes, who erected the current house around 1874. He made use of the mill and became well to do and a valued Epsom citizen. His mill and building skills having made the house on "Gray's" and later "Holme's" hill a showplace for the town.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

Original lot of Shadrach Walton Lot #94 in the third range; 1735, William Frost of New Castle from Shadrach Walton of New Castle; 1753, Josiah Clark of Greenland from William Frost; 1759, Josiah Clark Jr from father Josiah Clark, 1/3 interest in land; 1761, Jeremiah Prescott from Josiah and Josiah Clark Jr.; 1764, John Cass from Jeremiah Prescott, six acres more than half of the lot number 94; 1789, Theophilus Parsons of Massachusetts from John Cass; 1810, William Parsons from Theophilus Parsons; 1831, Moses Parsons Gray and Catherine (Gray) Proctor, wife of Physician John Proctor, from William Parsons of Boston, merchant, all right, title, interest and estate to all lands, houses, mills and mill sites, as children of the late James Gray who occupied and was in possession as tenant at will, late of Epsom, deceased - and upon the death of Moses P. and Catherine and their heirs, to pass to heirs of Judith Rand; 1858, Gorham Parsons Rand from estate of Moses P. and Catherine Proctor as heir to Judith (Parsons Gray) Rand; 1866, Charles W. Rand from Gorham Rand; 1874, Hiram Holmes from Charles W. Rand; 1908, Carl Y. Holmes from Hiram A. Holmes, second tract from deed and estate of my father Hiram A. Holmes; 1944, Lorne A. Skinner from Carl Y. Holmes; 1983, Barbara S. Blocksom by will of Lorne Skinner; 1992, Michael and Darlene Loso of Pembroke from Barbara S. Blocksom of Milford, Delaware.

GENEALOGY: Jeremiah Prescott married in 1741, Jane Sherburne and had children in Epsom including son Jeremiah Prescott. Jeremiah Prescott (Jr) married Molly Sanborn, daughter of Timothy Sanborn and Elizabeth Leach.

Moses Parsons married Susanna Davis and had children: Moses, Ebenezer, Theophilus, Theodore, Susanna who married James Gray, William, Judith and Mary. Daughter Susanna, second wife of James Gray, had children: Moses Parsons who did not marry; Theodore Parsons who was lost at sea; Catherine L. who married Dr. John Proctor, no children: Lucretia Billings who married William Brown; James Higgins who was lost at sea; Judith Parsons married John Rand; Maria T. and Susan P., both who died young.

Lucretia Billings Gray married William Brown and had children Mary Lucy who married Joseph Blake Cass; Susan Elizabeth Parsons who married Alexander Forbes; and Charles Jeffrey Parsons who married Mary Ann Chapman.

Judith Parsons Gray married John Rand and had children: William, Susan P., James Gray, Charles Parson, Mary G., Caroline E. and Gorham Parsons Rand.

Charles W. Rand was the son Stephen Rand and Betsey Wood Rand.

Hiram A. Holmes married Caroline Annette Yeaton, daughter of Warren and Catherine Angeline Yeaton. Hiram and Caroline had children: Fred H., Eliza Jennie, Burt E., Waldo Augustus and Carl Yeaton Holmes.

Lorne Skinner married Ella Mae Harvey and had daughters Barbara who married a Blocksom; and Blanche who married a Swennwey.

