



Knowles-Moses-Brewer-Chase, 260 New Orchard Road, Epsom, NH

Josiah Knowles signed the Association Test in Epsom in 1776 having received property from his father Jonathan, and married in 1779 Esther Blake. He had one son, Jonathan who married Margaret Locke. She died after having 5 children, and he then married Ruth Philbrick who had six children, including one male, Jonathan A. Knowles, who inherited the property. He was a minister and sold the property in 1854 to John Langley who sold it two years later to Mark S. Moses. The Knowles family farmed the property for nearly 80 years.

The Moses family was prominent in Epsom, and Mark S. Moses lost his first wife in 1853 after 18 years with no children. He married Abigail Towle in 1854 and had two children, John Mark and Cyrus S., moving into the Knowles farm. Son Cyrus died in 1864, and his father died the next year, leaving 10 year old son John Mark Moses and his widow. John Mark Moses was a prominent Epsom and Northwood historian and remained unmarried. Some of the family were buried in the cemetery on the farm, later to be listed on a monument in the Gossville Cemetery.

Historian George H. Yeaton, who was raised in this section of town, best describes some of the later families to occupy this home, paraphrased here. "The Lewis family lived in a large colonial style house, a long shed connecting the two barns (the two barns were end to end). One of them had been moved from the Cate farm and placed on the east end of the other barn, or the barn on the west end had been built onto the old Cate barn. The Lewis family consisted of Cyrus A. Lewis, his wife Nellie M. Lewis, their five sons; Frank W., Harry D., Stacy A., Ernest E. and Walter C. Lewis."

"Ellen J. Holt was the daughter of Samuel Harmon and his wife Eunice Johnson, born in Hartston, Maine in 1825. Franklin D. Holt died suddenly in the year 1885, a Prudential Committee member of the New Orchard Road school. He came from the state of Maine about 1878 and bought this farm. His widow Ellen J. married for her second husband in 1888, Hill E. Ober. Cyrus A. Lewis sold the farm in 1893, containing about 176 acres. The new owner was Silas B. Woodbury, who died five years after he bought the farm, his widow, son and grandson all went to Pittsfield to live. The son, Woodbury, was an optician in Pittsfield for a long time."

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

1732, Lot 101 original right of William Seavey; 1778, Jonathan Knowles of Epsom sells land to son, Josiah of Epsom, half of lot 101; 1825, Jonathan Knowles of Epsom from Josiah Knowles of Epsom,

part of lot #101 in the third range, original right of William Seavey, said tract to begin at the easterly end of said lot, there to run westerly the length of half of said lot, carrying such width as to contain twenty-five acres, adjoining southerly on fifty acres which I have heretofore deeded to the said Jonathan out of the same lot; 1843, Will of Jonathan Knowles leaves 1/2 of all real estate in Epsom to wife Ruth during her life and afterwards to his son Jonathan A. Knowles; 1850, Ruth Knowles dies and leaves everything to son Jonathan A. Knowles; 1854, John Langley of Concord from Jonathan A. Knowles, reserving the cemetery on said premises now enclosed, land on both sides of the road; 1856, Mark S. Moses from John Langley; 1868, Michael M. Steele and Henry F. Sanborn from Mary A. Moses, Widow, farm of the late Mark S. Moses of said Epsom; 1869, Benjamin F. Mudgett of NYC from Michael M. Steele & Henry F. Sanborn; 1871, Michael M. Steele from Benjamin F. Mudgett of New York City; 1875, William L. Otis from Michael M. Steele; Nov. 1, 1877, Michael M. Steele from William Otis, same premises conveyed to said William L. Otis by Michael M. Steele; Nov. 20, 1877, Isaac Russ of Pembroke, Samuel B. Cofran of Allenstown, from Michael M. Steele, being premises now occupied by William L. Otis; 1878, Franklin D. Holt of Hopkinton from Isaac G. Russ, John H. Sullivan of Pembroke and Samuel B. Cofran of Allenstown; 1885, Ellen M. Lewis of Epsom from Ellen J. Holt, widow, of Epsom; 1893, Silas B. Woodbury of Manchester from Ellen M. Lewis and Cyrus A. Lewis, being portion conveyed to me by Ellen J. Holt; 1899, Sarah A. Weston from Pluma A. Woodbury and Fred C. Woodbury of Epsom, 120 acres reserving cemetery as now fenced; reserving 2 acres at northwest corner formerly owned and occupied by William T. Grant and a small piece near the school house deeded to George V. Fisk, same conveyed to Silas B. Woodbury by Ellen M. Lewis; 1906, Adaliza R. Stone of Winchester from Sarah A. Weston of Epsom; 1929, Marion F. Brewer and Sarah E. Wilson of Quincy, MA, from Marion R. Stone of New York, land willed to me by Adaliza R. Stone; 1943, Sarah E. Wilson from from heirs of Marion F. and Francis F. Brewer, deceased; 1946, James C. and Mary E. Keeler of Hopkinton from Sarah E. Wilson; May 1946, Walter B. and Harriet A. Chase of Epsom from James C. & Mary E. Keeler of Hopkinton; 1976, Gunnar & Anna Hagstrom from Harriet A. Chase; 1993, Brian P. Blake and Eileen Sleeper from Gunnar and Anna Hagstrom.

GENEALOGY: Josiah Knowles was the son of Jonathan Knowles and Sarah Berry. Josiah married first Margaret Locke, daughter of Francis Locke and Mary Abigail Katherwood. They had children: Josiah, Samuel B. who married Olive Bunker; Esther who married Samuel Nutter; Francis who died young, and Francis L. who married Sarah Locke. His first wife died in 1817 and Josiah married second Ruth Philbrick, daughter of Daniel Philbrick and Ruth Merrill. Their children were: Ruth who married Samuel B. Nutter (who had married her 1/2 sister earlier); Margaret who married Ezra Merrill; Ann Maria; Jonathan Ayer who married Susan G. Bickford, daughter of Nathan Bickford and Eliza Dickey; Martha who married Alden Thayer; and Sarah who died young.

Mark Sherburne Moses was the son of Mark Moses and Betsey Cate. He married first in 1835, Elivira Dolbeer, daughter of John Dolbeer and Sally Sherburne. They had no children and she died in 1853, and he married second Mary Abigail Towle, daughter of Robey Marston Towle and Mary Nelson. They had two children, John Mark Moses and Cyrus S. who died at age 4.

