

## Overview

One of the earliest families to settle on North Road was that of Jeremiah Page, who had purchased land there as early as 1764. The road became home to several families who owned large tracts of land, among whom was Daniel Philbrick who deeded his Epsom land to sons Daniel, Perkins and John Philbrick in 1785. The Pettingills were there by 1779, and a decade later John Babb purchased property and raised his family there. The road was also home to different Brown families, including Enoch and his brother Levi, who was of Epsom by 1781. Enoch's property was sold to him by his father Jonathan of Kingston. Later, two different Samuel Brown's occupied homes on different parts of the road. Several families were Quakers, as the Quaker Meetinghouse and cemetery were just north over the town line in neighboring Pittsfield. Among these families were the Goves, who actually lived off the range road.

North Road was laid out by the town in 1774, the same year as New Orchard Road. Six years later a connecting road was made from East Street (Center Hill) on the east end of the home lot of Reverend John Tucke, down to the entrance of North Road. This connecting road was later abandoned.

Further south the First NH Turnpike crossed forming an intersection at the Yeaton Tavern, later called in deeds 'the road to Northwood.' The area south of the turnpike was owned by Stephen Johnson by 1811 and is the area known as Lord's Mill. The mill was originally the McClary mill. Across what is now Route 4 to Route 107 was land owned by William Yeaton which passed down to George Dana Yeaton. The last lot in Epsom before reaching the Deerfield town line, was originally common land owned by the town which was sold to Benson Ham in 1765.

## **ELIJAH GOVE**

The Gove family lived at the top of the Range Road on the Epsom-Pittsfield line and were Friends (Quakers) as were several families at the north end of North Road. They attended the Friends Meetinghouse in south Pittsfield and most of the family is buried in Pittsfield's Quaker Cemetery.

The lot was owned by Simon Greenough of Haverhill, Massachusetts when it was sold to William Odiorne of Durham, already an Epsom land owner. Odiorne sold the lot to a merchant in Boston, Thomas Gray, who acquired additional land in the lot from Ephraim Locke in 1774. It stayed in the family until after his death when his widow Sarah sold 140 acres, part of lot 107 in the third range to Moses and Stephen Gove, both of Seabrook in 1792. In the meantime, Joseph Towle of Epsom had acquired parts of lots 106 and 107 which he sold in 1793 to Moses Gove of Seabrook, described as with 'a farm with a dwelling house and barn, 87 acres'. According to 'The Gove Book' by William Henry Gove (1922), Moses Gove moved to Weare, and later in 1787 removed to Epsom where he built his house and remained until his death. Though not impossible, William H. Gove may be in error in placing this Moses in Weare, as there are no supporting deeds – he is still in Hampton Falls in 1792, and of Epsom in 1793, when he deeded land in Seabrook to his brother Stephen.

Moses Gove was born in Hampton Falls in the year 1750, son of Edward and Judith (Hoag) Gove. He married in 1777, Abigail Brown, whose parents John M. and Delia (Gove) Brown resided in Pittsfield. His later children were born in Epsom, and the family included: Richard, born in 1778 and married Lydia Noyes of Weare and resided in Sandwich; Ruth, born about 1780 and married at Pittsfield in 1802, Isaiah Green, son of Abraham and Phebe Green; Edward, born in 1782 and married Lydia Smith, both buried in the Quaker Cemetery in Pittsfield; John, born 1784 and may have died young; Delia, born in 1786 at Hampton Falls, married at Amesbury, Massachusetts in 1809, Josiah Gove, resided at Lincoln, NH; Abigail, probably born Epsom in 1791, married in 1814 at Amesbury, Massachusetts, Jonathan Dow and resided in Pittsfield; Lydia, born at Epsom in 1793, married a William Rogers; Elijah, born in Epsom February 6, 1796, married Anstiss Southwick in 1824; and Sarah, born at Epsom in 1800 and died about 1806.

Moses died at the homestead in 1809, and his widow Abigail remained at the homestead until her death in 1840. Elder son Richard sold the homestead of 200 acres to his brother Elijah, being 'all the land and buildings owned by my late father Moses Gove at his decease.' Elijah and his wife Anstiss (also seen as Anstrus) raised a family of eight

children at the family homestead. They included: Sarah S., born in 1825 and married Cyrus B. Dow in 1846, son of Moses and Mary (Peaslee) Dow; Hannah F., born in 1827, never married and resided at the homestead until 1890; Ruth G., born in 1829, was engaged when she drowned in an accident in 1857; Edward S., born in 1830, married Caroline Jane Foss at Gonic, NH in 1852; Abigail B. Gove., married at Pittsfield in 1852, Samuel Jackson Jones, she, according to the Gove genealogy, died at the homestead; Elizabeth M., born in 1837 and resided at the homestead until her death, unmarried; Mary Peaslee, born in 1841, married Elisha Winslow. Elisha and Mary P. are buried in the Quaker Cemetery, along with Lydia Ann, Elizabeth M., Ruth G., Hannah F., Sarah S. and her husband Cyrus B. Dow, and parents Elijah and Anstiss.

Elijah died in 1857, and his wife in 1872. The property is owned by his heirs until 1877 when his son Edward S., daughter Hannah F., and Cyrus F. Dow (son of daughter Sarah and her husband Cyrus B. Dow, both deceased) sold the homestead farm to Sarah A. Hilliard, wife of Warren Hilliard, and daughter of Cyrus B. and Sarah (Gove) Dow. The Hilliard mortgaged the property in 1888, and it was foreclosed in 1892 to the Farmer's Savings Bank of Pittsfield. The bank sold the property to their daughter Lillian C. Hilliard in 1894. The following year Lillian Caroline Hilliard married Frank Phillip Wheeler. The Epsom fire log shows that the house and barn of Lillian C. and Frank P. Wheeler was destroyed by fire May 30, 1899. The Wheeler's apparently rebuilt and mortgaged the property, the homestead farm formerly owned by Warren Hilliard, in 1909, selling the property in 1943 to their son Don N. Wheeler in 1943.

### **Jeremiah Page and Samuel Brown**

Lot 45 near the north end of North Road and the Pittsfield line was owned by John Leach of Newcastle, and was passed to his son John junior in 1734. By 1764 John Leach junior was in Portsmouth and sold his share of the lot to Portsmouth shop keeper, Benjamin Parker. He did not settle on the lot and sold it to Jeremiah Page of North Hampton in 1773. His family was settled in town by 1776 when Jeremiah signed the Association Test. He added 104 acres to his holdings when he bought part of lot 44 in the second range from Jonathan Towle Jr. of Rye. This lot was originally owned by Reuben Mace who had sold it in 1749 to an Edward Blue (Blue), but it is not clear when Towle purchased the property. Part of lot 45, original proprietor John Leach, was sold to Jeremiah for unpaid taxes in 1780, adding an additional 70 acres to his holdings. Jeremiah's brother sold him parts of lots 44 & 45, excepting a half acre he sold to Levi Berry, Jeremiah's son in law. Jeremiah died in 1807, his will left the following: *I give devise and bequeath unto my Son John Page all the Land I own where my buildings now stand joining easterly upon the Road, southerly upon Daniel Philbrick, Westerly upon Moses Gove, Northerly upon James and David Drake together with the Buildings thereon excepting one half the House which I reserve for my Wife as long as she remains my widow. The House is to be my son John's if my wife should marry or at her decease - he my son John Page is to keep the house in good repair.*

Jeremiah Page and his wife Lydia had the following children: Abigail, born in 1769, married at Epsom, May 13, 1789, Jonathan Bickford, son of John and Phebe (Johnson) Bickford of Epsom; Sarah, born in 1770, married at Epsom, November 21, 1793, Levi Berry, resided in Alexandria, New Hampshire; Reuben, born in 1772, married Abigail Berry at New Durham in 1798 and resided in Somersworth; John, born in 1779, married at Epsom, September 1, 1799, Huldah Locke, daughter of William and Abigail (Sanders) Locke and resided on the homestead; Jeremiah, born about 1781, married Abigail Locke, sister to Huldah who married his brother, and resided at Alexandria; Daniel, married in 1810, Betsey Sanders, daughter of William and Sarah Sanders, and also resided at Alexandria.

John and his wife Huldah added to the homestead, purchasing in 1806 100 acres of land from Paul Brewster, part of lot 50 and which was the homestead farm of John Bickford and his son John Bickford Jr. Additionally he purchased land from Daniel Cilley in 1836, *land bounded north by land of David Philbrick, east by land of John Page and Daniel Philbrick, south by land of Daniel Philbrick and west by the range road, so called, it being the westerly end of the Bickford lot and land that Ephraim Davis used to live on, and all the land that I own east of said range road, to contain 16 acres it being in the second range of lots.*

John and Huldah had children: Hannah, born in 1800 and married about 1824, John Foss; Abigail, born in 1802, married at Pittsfield in 1823, Levi Berry, removed from Epsom to Alexandria; James, born in 1804, married about 1829, a Dorothy Smith; Betsey, born 1806, married at Epsom in 1827, Samuel Brown of Pittsfield; Jeremiah, born 1808, married a Cynthia Martin, and died in 1897, buried at the Old Fairview Cemetery in Northwood; Huldah, born in 1810, married a Samuel Batchelder; Theodate H., born 1813, married in 1836, Asa Jewell; John, born 1816, married Mahala Brown Lane and died in Iowa in 1874; Sarah, born in 1818 and died in Epsom in 1834; and Mary, born 1822, married at Epsom in 1839, David C. Fogg.

John Page sold his holdings to his son in law Samuel Brown in 1841. Samuel and his wife Betsey Page had three known children: James, born about 1829, of which nothing more is known; Susan T., born about 1833 and died in 1853; and Theodate of which nothing more is known. What happened to his children remains a mystery. He made bond with his son James for their care in 1851, and made a second bond in 1863 with a William Langley. A third bond for the care of he and his wife was made with his brother Lowell Brown in 1876. Lowell indeed ended up with the property which he sold in 1887 to Mary J. Longa, their daughter, wife of Horatio W. Longa. Lowell's only other known child was Sylvester W., who was born 1841 and died at Pittsfield in 1888.

Members of the Page and Brown families are interred in a badly deteriorated cemetery in a field near the homestead, with most of the stones illegible.

In 1904, Eliphalet W. French was the trustee of the bankrupt estate of Mary J. Longa, and sold the homestead to Albert Barton of Epsom. The property was still in the Barton family in 1982.

### **John Bickford and Ephraim Davis of lot 50**

John Page bought the former John Bickford farm in 1806. Part of this lot was also where Ephraim Davis made his home.

John Bickford was from Greenland, son of Eleazar and Sarah (Johnson) Bickford, buying 100 acres of lot 50 in the second range from Bracket Johnson of Greenland in 1778. The lot was bought by Bracket Johnson from its original proprietor, Captain James Johnson. John Bickford and his wife Phebe Johnson, daughter of Nathan and Mary (Mackcrest) Johnson raised his family in Epsom. Their children included: Jonathan, who married at Epsom in 1789, Abigail Page daughter of Jeremiah and Lydia (Philbrick) Page of Epsom, had 11 children and resided at Meredith; John, born about 1768, married at Epsom in 1792, married Abigail Page of Pittsfield, had at least three children and resided at Meredith; Eleanor, born at Greenland in 1770, married at Epsom in 1791, John Bryant of Meredith; Sally, born about 1778, married at Epsom, Captain Nathaniel Ray; Eleazar, born in 1780, married Sally Swain and resided at Meredith; Joseph, born about 1783 of which nothing more is known; Priscilla, born in 1785, married John Swain of Meredith.

John and Phebe sold their homestead farm in Epsom to their son John in 1801, leaving Epsom and moving to Meredith. His son John Jr. did not retain the homestead, selling the 100 acres to Paul Brewster of Barrington seven months after purchasing it from his father. Brewster sold a portion of the lot to Levi Brown, and the remainder to John Page in 1805.

Ephraim Davis was listed as of Epsom when he purchased 11 acres of land in Epsom, part of lot 50 in the second range. He married at Portsmouth, Dec. 14, 1773, Anna Yeaton, daughter of Philip and Hannah (Pinkham) Yeaton. In 1806, Ephraim deeded this property, along with two other tracts, to his son Samuel, as long as he supported himself and his wife Anna. The parents of Ephraim remain unknown, and little is known of his family. Son Samuel married at Epsom in 1801, Sally Locke, daughter of Deacon Abraham and Molly (Sanborn) Locke. Samuel and Sally may have had a daughter Sally who married in 1827, a Richard M. Chesley. Samuel Davis does not appear in the 1820 US Census for Epsom, though his wife Sally does. He sells the three lots deeded to him by his father to John Chesley of Epsom in 1810.

### **Daniel Philbrick Homestead**

Daniel Philbrick of Hampton (1726-1804) owned three large tracts of land on North Road which he deeded to sons Daniel, Perkins and John. The northern most tract was deeded to son Daniel in 1785, totaling 80 acres and parts of lots 45 and 46 in the second range and bordering his brother John on the east side.

Daniel was a soldier of the Revolution, his service being described in his pension application of 1832 - *The said Daniel Philbrick deposeth and saith that he entered the service the 2nd day of April 1775 and served until the first day of January 1776 in Col. Poor's Regiment and Capt Moses Leavitts Company. He further deposeth that he again entered the service as an orderly Sergeant in 1777 and served three months in Col. Drakes Regiment and Capt. Moses Leavitts Company, and was present and assisted in the capture of General Burgoyne.* After his service he married at Deerfield, Ruth Merrill

(also seen Morrill), daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (French) Morrill who joined the Epsom Church in 1767. The couple moved to Epsom after he bought his 80 acre from his father in 1785. The couple had a large family of 12 children, of which the later were born at Epsom. The children included: Margaret, born 1780 and died unmarried at Epsom in 1853; Hannah, born 1781, married I 1804, Nehemiah Tilton and resided in Pittsfield where she died in 1851; Rachel, born 1853, married at North Hampton in 1803, John Smith Brown, resided at Epsom where she died in 1858, buried at Gossville; Abigail, born 1785 and probably died young; Daniel, born at Epsom in 1786, married about 1808, Mary Locke, daughter of Francis and Mary Abigail (Katherwood) Locke, and resided on the homestead; Ruth, born at Epsom in 1788, married at Epsom in 1817, Jonathan Knowles of Epsom, died in 1850 and buried in the Knowles family cemetery on New Orchard Road; Mary, born at Epsom in 1790, married before 1814, Francis Locke, brother to Mary who married her brother Daniel; John, born 1792 and died young; Betsey, born at Epsom in 1793, married in 1813, Samuel Blake Locke, son of Simeon and Abigail (Blake) Locke; John (2), born 1796, and perhaps died young, nothing else being known; David, born at Epsom in 1797, married at Epsom in 1826, Eunice Tilton of Pittsfield; and Sally, born at Epsom in 1799 and married in 1856, Daniel Durgin.

Old Daniel Philbrick died April 18, 1835 as described in his obituary - *In Epsom, April 18th, Elder Daniel Philbrick aged 82 years – leaving 10 children, 45 grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. Elder P. had been a professor of the Free Baptist communion 50 years and came to the grave like a shock of grain fully ripe in the same hope of entering that rest when the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. Elder P. entered the service of his country during the revolution, was in the battles of Bennington, Stillwater and Saratoga, and during life was a firm supporter of the Republican form of government which he fought to establish – an appropriate discourse was delivered at the funeral by Elder Dyer, from the words "all these died in faith."* He and his wife a buried in a family cemetery on the property.

The 1858 county map shows the homestead occupied by Daniel's son Daniel, and his son, David Morrill Philbrick. Son Daniel had for a family seven daughters and one son: Abigail, born 1809 and died young; Ruth M., born 1811, married at Epsom in 1837, Levi S. Mason; Mary, born in 1813 and died unmarried in 1890; Asenath, born 1816 and died unmarried in 1890; Abigail (2), born 1818, married in 1849, Ebenezer B. Sargent; Betsey, born 1821, married Stephen S. Ring, resided at Pittsfield; David Morrill, born 1823, married Sarah A. Stearns, daughter of John and Margaret McClary (Wallace) Stearns; and Almira, born 1825 and married George F. Buffum.

Daniel died in 1874, his wife Mary in 1868, and are buried in a family cemetery not far from the family home. He was succeeded on the homestead by his son David Morrill Philbrick. He and his wife had the following family: an infant, born and died in 1851; Clara J. born 1852 and married at Epsom in 1869, Frank Buffam, son of George F. and Almira (Philbrick) Buffam; Daniel, born 1854, died unmarried in 1896; David F., born in 1857, died unmarried in 1873; Mary A., born in 1858, married at Northwood in 1882, George E. Giles; John S., born 1860, married at Epsom in 1887, Eliza Philbrick, daughter of Jackson Clark and Eliza (Crawford) Philbrick; Susan M., born in 1864, married William A. Edmunds of Northwood; George Henry, born 1865 and married at Concord in

1906, Amy Estelle Lull; and Augustus Truman, born 1867 and married at Barnstead in 1912, Maude E. French.

A brief biography appears in the Hurd's Atlas, History of Merrimack County:

*D. M. Philbrick was born August 26, 1823, in the north part of the town of Epsom, N. H. He is the son of Daniel and Polly (Locke) Philbrick, and grandson of Daniel and Ruth (Morrill) Philbrick. His paternal grandfather was a native of Hampton, Rockingham County, N. H., and moved to Epsom when a young man, and when the virgin forest of the "Catamount" and surrounding hills was almost unbroken.*

*The Philbricks belong to that sturdy, self-reliant and self-contained class of men who have played so important a part in the rise and progress of civilization in New England. In the county of Rockingham, and in other parts of Eastern New Hampshire, the name is a frequent one, and all hearing it show unmistakable evidence of descent from the same common progenitors. They are calm, earnest, industrious, preserving men and women, with the reputation of being law-abiding and just, useful citizens. Daniel Philbrick, Sr., became quite a large land-holder in Epsom. He had a family of twelve children, of whom Daniel was one. Daniel settled on a part of his father's farm, where his son David M. now resides, and was a tiller of the soil all his life. He had a family of eight children, of whom David M. was the only son. The names of the children were Abigail, died in childhood. Ruth, married first a Mason; second a Merrill; has four children. Mary, unmarried, resides with David M. Asenath, unmarried, resides with David M. Abigail (2d), married E. B. Sargent; has four children. Betsy, married Stephen F. Ring; no issue. David M., subject of this biography. Peggy Almira, married George Buffum; has one child. David M. Philbrick may be fairly said to stand as a representative farmer of his town and section. He has all his life made agriculture his chief pursuit, and by constant and intelligently directed effort he has made it a success. He owns, in various tracts, about six hundred acres of land, a very large farm for New Hampshire. He is probably the largest land-owner in town. In the winters, after work on the farm is impracticable, he has employed his time in cutting and hauling wood and lumber. He is a man who is respected and confided in by his neighbors and townsmen, and was chosen to represent them in the Legislature in 1876 and 1877. He has been selectman of Epsom two years, and surveyor of highways twenty-five years. In politics he is a Democrat.*

*He married, November 27, 1850, Sarah A., daughter of John and Margaret (Wallace) Stearns, of Deerfield, N. H. Their children are: A babe (unnamed), died in infancy. Clara I., married Frank Buffum, of Berwick, Me.; has five children. Daniel. David F., died aged seventeen. Mary A., married George Giles, of Pittsfield, N. H.; no offspring. John S., Susan M., George H., and Augustus T.. Mrs. Philbrick's grandparents were John and Ruth Stearns, both natives and New Hampshire, and descended from the early Pilgrim stock.*

David Morrill Philbrick deeded by will, his homestead farm to his son George Henry Philbrick. George and his wife Amy had three daughters: Olive Laura, born and died in 1912; Priscilla Maude, born and died in 1914; and sole surviving heir, Eunice Sarah, born

1915, and died unmarried in Epsom in 1981. She inherited the homestead which she sold in 1966.

### **Arnold Thompson farm**

Of the three sons of Daniel Philbrick who received land from their father, Daniel Philbrick and his descendants occupied land on the west side of North Road. On the east side, in the area of Chestnut pond, son John was deeded 70 acres of lot 45 and 46 from his father in 1785, where the road 'leading to Gilmantown' was 'the dividing line between John and his brother Daniel.'

John was born at Hampton in 1761 and married on August 24, 1791, Abihal Green. There was one child, Phebe, born at Epsom April 20, 1794. John and Abihal were Friends, and are buried in the Quaker Cemetery in South Pittsfield, John in 1826, Abihal in 1853. Daughter Phebe married at Amesbury, Massachusetts in 1817, Arnold Thompson, daughter of Olney and Hirena (Paine) Thompson of Pittsfield.

John Philbrick sold half his farm to Arnold Thompson in 1821, being 'the whole of the farm which I now own and occupy, containing about 100 acres with half of the buildings thereon.' Arnold and his wife Phebe had one child, Lewis, born in 1819 and married in 1841, Elizabeth Locke, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth (Meader) Locke of Rochester. Lewis and his wife had five children: Lydia Meader, born 1843 and married Joseph Prescott Locke of Epsom, son of Simeon Prescott and Sarah Blake (Cass) Locke; Sarah Winslow, born 1845, married in 1883, Henry Arnett; Mary Ann, born 1847, married at Boston in 1871, Wilbur F. Fernald; Henry F., born 1852, died 1867; and Lucy L., born 1856 and married in 1883, George W. Friel.

Lewis Thompson died a year before his father, in February of 1862. His father died in 1863, his mother in 1859, all buried in the Quaker Cemetery. Benjamin L. Locke was appointed guardian of the minor children, and on their behalf sold the now 190 acre farm to Charles H. Carpenter in November of 1864. The widow of Lewis, Elizabeth, married in November of 1864, Israel Durgin of Northwood.

It is not clear when Carpenter sold the Thompson farm, but it was in the hands of Ephraim Locke of Allenstown and Winthrop Fowler of Pembroke when it was sold to William P. Babb, then of Deerfield, in October of 1875.

William Pickering Babb was raised on North Road where he was born May 9, 1828, son of John and Salome (Rand) Babb. He married about 1858, Rebecca J. Heath, daughter of Andrew McClary and Jane Cram (Cass) Heath of Epsom. She had previously married Henry Clay Tarleton of Epsom, who died in California in 1855. She had one daughter with Henry, Ellen H. Tarleton who was born in 1854 and died unmarried in 1875. William P. Babb and Rebecca had the following children: Charles W., born in 1859 and married at Pittsfield in 1886, Susie E. Garland, daughter of Zemander and Susan E. (Blaisdell) Garland and resided at Pittsfield; Annette, born in 1861 and died the following year; Grace May, born in 1869 and married in 1896 at Pittsfield, Eugene P. Hill; and Elbra A., born in 1872 and married at Epsom in 1901, Everett A. Dow of Pittsfield.



The Babbs kept the farm of 180 in tact for over thirty years, selling their homestead to Winfred R. Emerson of Pittsfield in 1908. The Emerson's resided at the farm for nearly a decade, selling the entire property to Elizabeth J. Kruger of Manchester in 1917. The farm changed hands frequently after 1917 with owners being Arthur Richards in 1921, Edwin B. Lawrence in 1925, Charles H. and George C. Wheeler of Epsom in 1933. The Wheelers began breaking up the property in 1947.

### **Enoch and Newell Brown**

Jonathan Brown married Mercy Clough in 1743 at Salisbury, Massachusetts, daughter of Abner and Abigail (Moulton) Clough. Her name incorrectly appears in some Brown genealogies as Miriam, which is incorrect, and she appears in his will as Marcy. His will also mentions sons Aaron, Jonathan, Enoch, Levi, Abel and Benjamin, with one daughter Abigail Page. Two sons lived in Epsom: Abel, who inherited the homestead, and Enoch and Levi who lived on North Road. Brothers Enoch and Abel married sisters, Abel to Sarah, and Enoch to Elizabeth, daughters of Deacon Stephen and Ruth (Rowe) Page of Kensington.

Jonathan Brown bought land in Epsom from Bracket Johnson of Greenland, and sold the land to his son Enoch in 1795, being part of lot 50 in the second range. His wife Elizabeth died in 1798 and is buried in her families pot in the Upper Yard Burial Ground in Kensington. Enoch died in 1829, and from an obituary was *a wealthy and respected citizen. In the war of the revolution, he marched, (with the other volunteers from this section of the state) for Saratoga, to assist at the capture of Burgoyne.*

In his will, he mentions children John, Stephen, Jonathan, daughter Mary Carlton and son Enoch. In 1813, their grandfather Stephen Page bequeaths to his grandchildren, John, Stephen, Enoch, Jonathan and Molly, children 'of my daughter Elizabeth Brown, deceased.' Nothing is known of daughter Mary; son John married Hepzibah Wallace, daughter of Abraham and Hepzibah (Blake) Wallace and moved to Stanstead, Canada; son Stephen married Lucy Rand, daughter of Richard and Mary (Haly) Rand and resided at Hill, New Hampshire; Jonathan is only known of his mention in the wills of his father and grandfather. Son Enoch married in Pittsfield, 1808, Eleanor Rand, daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Marden) Rand. Enoch died about 5 years before his father, leaving to his wife 25 acres of land he had bought from Elijah Gove, and land on the west side of New Orchard Road that was given him by his father, to be divided among his children (unnamed in his will) upon her decease. Enoch and Eleanor (also seen as Elinor) had known children: John, married and removed to Boston; Newell, born about 1809 and married Mary T. Wallace, daughter of John and Mary (True) Wallace; George Albert, born in 1812, married at Pembroke in 1840, Harriet Fisk Ames, daughter of Parker and Phebe M. (Lull) Ames, resided in Massachusetts; Lewis, born in 1816, married in 1838, Elizabeth O. Goodhue, daughter of John and Betsy (Goodwin) Goodhue and died in 1849, his widow marrying second Ambrose D. Haynes in 1851; and Benjamin, born about 1819 and died in 1839, unmarried. The family is buried in a family cemetery near the homestead on the east side of North Road.

Son Newell Brown purchased the homestead from his siblings in 1841. He and his wife Mary had two children: Mary E., born in 1835 and married Cyrus O. Brown in 1858, whose grandfather was Abel Brown of Kensington and his wife Sarah Page; and Augustus True Brown, born about 1844 and died in 1868, unmarried. Newell Brown died in 1877, his wife Mary T. in 1879, with the homestead passing to their daughter Mary E. and her husband Cyrus O. Brown. Cyrus and Mary sold 'land in Epsom with the stone and wooden buildings situated on North Road, 50 acres, it being the dwelling house and land of the late Newell Brown of Epsom.' The description of a stone building, most likely the home, might attest to the wealth of Enoch mentioned in his obituary and would be highly unique in the town.

The new owners were Benjamin F. and Emma J. Chase of Epsom. Benjamin Franklin Chase hailed from Deerfield and married at Epsom in 1877, Emily Jane Baker, daughter of Stephen and Hephzibah (Kelley) Baker of Epsom. Benjamin died in 1897, and his widow sold the former homestead of Newell Brown back to Cyrus and Mary Brown. Cyrus O. purchased additional land and sold two tracts in 1903 to Octavius J. Bates of San Rafael, California. One tract was the old homestead and another tract across the road near the family cemetery, a total of some 150 acres. Bates sold the land in 1907 to Howell A. Potter of Pittsfield, who then sold the property one month later to brothers Thomas M. and John C. Brown.

Thomas M., also seen in records as Walter Thomas, and John Cotton Brown were sons of Robert Cochran and Sally F. (Cochran) Brown. In 1922, Robert C. sold his half to his brother Thomas, who held the property until 1941 when Oliver C. Lombard, administrator of his estate, sold the property to Susan E. Brown of Gilmanton. Thomas M. Brown never married, and the new owner of the land, Susan, was the daughter of another brother, Alfred M. Brown. Susan E. married Harold B. Yeaton, son of Edson F. Yeaton, and they sold the land in 1951 to George E. Jacques and Company of Dover, New Hampshire.

### **Levi Brown, William Brown, W.P. Babb, C. O. Brown**

Levi Brown, brother to Enoch, bought land across the street from his brother in February of 1781, the lot being sold for taxes and part of lot 51 in the second range. The lot consisted of 77 acres and originally belonged to a John Yeaton. Ten years later, Levi, along with his father Jonathan of Kensington, bought land in part of lots 48 and 49, the original right of John Blake and John Philbrick, on the easterly side of North Road, containing 40 acres. Levi bought additional land from his father in 1796, part of lot 50 on the southerly corner of the lot that his brother Enoch currently resided. One further piece of 10 acres in the same lot was bought of Paul Brewster in 1802.

Levi Brown was born about 1755 and married in 1781 a Lydia Thomson. Little is known of the family, and there are four known children: Mercy, of whom nothing is known; Abel, born 1782 and married in Epsom in 1807, Betsey Locke, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Evans) Locke, and resided for a time at Slab City; Levi Jr., born in 1786, married a

Mercy unknown and by will inherited the homestead; and Benjamin, born in 1792, and probably died before his father's will of 1816, in which he is not mentioned. The births of the three sons appear in the Epsom old town records.

Son Levi sold his portion, less that part of his mother, to William Brown of Epsom in 1821, who 'in consideration of love and good will' sold it to Polly Brown of Epsom, spinster. That same day, Polly deeded the land to William's wife, Lucretia B. Brown.

William Brown was the son of John and Salome (Sarah) (Allen) Brown, who married at Epsom in January of 1821, Lucretia Billings Gray, daughter of James and Susanna (Parsons) Gray. They had three children: Mary Lucy, born September 1821, and married in 1847, Joseph Blake Cass; Susan Elizabeth Parsons, born in 1824 and married in 1859, Alexander B. Forbes and resided at Byfield, Massachusetts; and Charles Jeffrey Parsons, born in 1829 and married in 1849, Mary Ann Chapman, daughter of Samuel T. and Deborah (Dow) Chapman. William and Lucretia probably raised their family on this lot which they sold of John Babb and his son William P. Babb in 1853. John sold his half to his son in 1853, being part of lot 50, land and buildings of 100 acres. The 1858 county map shows W. P. Babb living at this house.

It is unclear when William P. Babb sold the property, but it had to be about 1875 when he bought the old Arnold Thompson farm near Chestnut Pond. The 1892 county map shows the occupant as C. O. Brown with the next recorded sale in 1903, when Cyrus O. Brown and his daughter Evangeline, sold the Levi Brown property, along with that of his brother Enoch, to Octavius J. Bates. The property follows the same purchases as described in the Enoch Brown deeds.

A biography of Cyrus O. Brown appeared in the Merrimack and Sullivan Counties, New Hampshire: Biographical Review, Vol. 22

*Cyrus O. Brown was educated at Hampton Academy and at Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts, taking a classical course in the class of 1857. When nearly prepared to enter college, his eyes became inflamed, and his physician urged him to give up all study and go more frequently into the open air. Yielding to this advice reluctantly, he abandoned his hopes of a collegiate career and accepted the position of assistant teacher in Hampton Academy. Subsequently he followed teaching as a profession in Merrimack and Rockingham Counties for thirty-five years, in the course of which he won a high reputation and had over three thousand pupils under his instruction. Since then he has resided on his farm. This property contains two hundred acres. On October 6, 1858, Mr. Brown wedded Mary E. Brown, a daughter of Newell and Mary T. Brown, of Epsom. Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus O. Brown have had five children, of whom the only survivor is M. Evangeline, born May 29, 1875, now engaged in teaching. The others were: Cora E., born July 4, 1859, who died January 20, 1880; Ruth E., born July 15, 1863, who died November 20, 1871; Augusta T., born April 14, 1867, who died on the same day as Ruth; and Mamie T., born November 15, 1872, who died May 10, 1879.*

*In politics Mr. Brown acts independently, and votes for the candidates whom he considers best qualified to hold office. For several years he was a member of the School Board of Epsom, and his knowledge of educational affairs made him especially valuable*

*to that department. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of the Free Will Baptist church. A very pleasant interruption in Mr. Brown 's quiet life on his farm was the fortieth anniversary of the class of '57, held at Andover, June 24, 1897, when all the living members were invited to Phillips ' graduating exercises of '97 and held a grand alumni meeting, and when those present partook of a dinner in the spacious hall of the institution, which was followed by interesting speeches recalling old times.*

### **Perkins Philbrick and Samuel Brown**

The third of three sons of Daniel Philbrick to have Epsom property deeded to him was Perkins Philbrick. His portion of Epsom land was south of his brothers Daniel and John, and was part of lot 52 in the second range. He also received part of lot 47, the original owners being Elias Philbrick and Samuel Rand. Perkins married twice, first to Olive Garland the same year he got his Epsom land in 1785, and after her death in 1803, married Hannah Furnald in July of 1805. He had a total of thirteen children. Children with wife Olive Garland, all born Epsom: Mercy, born in 1786, married John Pettingill of Epsom, three sons, and it appears the couple separated; Jonathan, born in 1787, married at Porter, Maine, Hannah Dennett; Comfort, born in 1789, married at Chichester in 1815, Robert Sanders, son of Robert and Mary (Foss) Sanders, four known children; Perkins, born in 1794, married Lucy Ham, daughter of John and Lucy (Libbey) Ham, resided at Epsom, four children; Simeon, born 1794, seen as Simon and probably removed to Illinois where he died in 1859 age 65 and had a family of 11 children with first wife Elizabeth Lawrence; Hannah G., born in 1796, married Moses Osgood McCrillis, son of William and Hannah (Brown) McCrillis at Epsom in 1818, she died in 1836 and he remarried; Olive Garland, born in 1799, married Elijah Sanders, brother to Robert and resided at Chichester; and Jemima (Minah), born in 1803, married in 1824, Ebenezer Chase Fogg. Perkins first wife Olive died in 1803, and the children with his second wife, Hannah Furnald were: Oliver, born 1806 and died unmarried in 1821; Joseph, born in 1807, married Martha W. Ham, daughter of John and Olive (Towle) Ham and resided in Epsom, he died in 1835 and his wife Martha married second his brother, John H.F. Philbrick; Daniel, born 1809, married first a Nancy unknown who died in 1830 having one child, Oliver, born in 1829 and died in 1830, both buried in the Quaker Cemetery at Pittsfield, he married second Elizabeth Y. Brown in 1834; Moses E., born 1811, married at Lowell, Massachusetts, Huldah Butler, and died May 16, 1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia, five children; and John H. F., born 1816, married his brother Joseph's widow Martha W. Ham, died the same day as his brother Moses at the Battle of the Wilderness, and buried at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery in Virginia, three children.

Perkins Philbrick was a veteran of the American Revolution and died in 1838. He and his first wife and some of his children are buried in a family cemetery nestled in the woods near the homestead. His second wife Hannah died in 1855, but her burial is unknown or unmarked. The family occupied the homestead after the death of Perkins, and a public notice in 1844 mentions a purported last will and testament for Perkins was presented to the court by son John. The disposition of the homestead is unclear, but it ended up in the hands of Joseph, grandson of Perkins and son of Joseph who predeceased his father by three years. Joseph was a minor, and Jonathan L. Cilley was his guardian who sold the homestead on his behalf to Samuel Brown of Pembroke in 1852. The deed was subject to the widow's right of dower and described as 'all the farm and buildings of the late Perkins Philbrick' and excepting some 16 acres previously sold to Francis Locke and David Philbrick.

This Samuel Brown is given as Samuel Brown Jr. on the 1858 county map, and was born in 1804 and died in 1883. He is often confused by Samuel Brown who lived at the top of North Road at the old Jeremiah Page homestead who was born about 1805 and died in 1882.

Samuel was the son of John Smith and Rachel (Philbrick) Brown, she being the daughter of Daniel and Ruth (Merrill) Philbrick of Epsom. John and Rachel both resided in Epsom with their family of Hiram, born 1803, Samuel, Nicholas born 1809, Simon born 1815, and David born 1820.

Samuel married about 1835 Sally F. Cochran, daughter of Robert Scott and Mary 'Polly' (Moses) and had children: Sarah M. born 1837 and married in 1864, Benjamin Fowler, son of Symonds and Lucinda (Holt) Fowler of Epsom; Robert Cochran, born 1839 and married in 1864, Ann Susan Babb, daughter of Phillip and Susan (Morrill) Babb of North Road; Thomas M., born 1845, and died unmarried in 1865; and Walter H., born 1850 and married at Boston, MA, Joseph M. Warren.

Samuel likely left the homestead to his son Robert Cochran Brown who is the occupant on the 1892 county map. Robert died in 1926, and in 1928, his son Thomas M. Brown deeded as a legatee under the will of his father, 136 acres, 'the homestead property of Robert C. Brown' to his brother Simon W. Brown. Simon, who remained single, sold the family homestead in 1949 to Ira and Doris Clay.

Robert C. Brown married Ann Susan Babb in May of 1864 and had children: Sybil Harriet, born 1865 and married in 1891, Edward M. Kelley and resided on North Road; Simon Walter, born 1867, died unmarried in 1954; Thomas Marden, born Walter Thomas in 1869, died unmarried in 1939; John Cotton, born in 1870, married at Pittsfield in 1895, May S. Knowlton, and had one child, Robert Mason Brown in 1896; and Alfred Morrill, born 1873, married at Gilmanton in 1895, Edna Marsh and had surviving children Susan E., 1896, Mary Hannah, 1898, E. Myrtle 1900, Richard Isaac in 1902.

**John & Philip Babb, Trueworthy Kelley, Lot 53**

Neil English bought the Babb homestead in 1973, is an historic building preservationist and prepared this history of the home for the Epsom Historical Association.

*“...to have, to hold & peaceably to Enjoy...-part of the 1735 deed, transferring Lot 53 from George Keniston to Enoch Clark*

### *Babb-Kelley Homestead*

*The house stands on a part of what was the original Lot #53, in the second range, laid out at the time of the town's incorporation, and granted, through the drawing of lots, to George Keniston of Greenland, NH. Keniston owned the land – about 80 acres – until 1735 when he sold it to Enoch Clark, also of Greenland. Enoch, as a nonresident proprietor, was active in the town's early affairs. Serving in 1736 & 37 on a committee to see that Epsom's 20 settlers had complied with their bonds, and as a selectman for the year 1742. When Enoch died in 1759, he left his “Land in Ipsum” to his 14-year old son, Daniel, who, being a minor, chose his brother Joseph as guardian. Daniel probably never saw his land, and when he died, insolvent, in 1818 at Exeter, the land in Epsom had long since been broken up and sold at public auction for non-payment of taxes. The first of these auctions dividing Lot 53 was, in tradition, held at the Widow McClary's inn, in 1780, when Thomas Babb bought the eastern most 36 acres of the lot for 33 £. The western portion of the lot was, in subsequent years, so many times divided that it is difficult to trace its chain of owners, but no house were ever built on it and although it undoubtedly served as pasture for many years, it is now heavily wooded. Thomas Babb, who appears to have owned much land in Epsom, and who held the title of “captain”, owned the eastern 36 acres for five years; in 1786, he sold them to Moses Osgood of Epsom for only 9 £. In 1789, 4 years later, Osgood sold the land for 36 £ to John Babb, a cordwainer.*

*The house was probably built by John Babb soon after he bought the land, although no positive documentation of this has been found. Forty-two years later, he bequeathed it to his son, Philip, also specifying that his unmarried daughter, Betsey, be allowed to use the “west bedroom” of the house for as long as she wished or needed. When, in 1869, Philip sold the house and land to Trueworthy Kelley, Betsey had to also sign a deed relinquishing her rights to that one room. Betsey died at 74, unmarried, and is buried in the Center Hill cemetery with her parents and a brother John. Another brother, James, was a physician who practiced in Epsom for 15 years, before moving to Manchester. A sister, Lydia, and Philip evidently left Epsom. The house remained in the*

*Kelley family for another century, from Trueworthy, to his son, Edward M., to his son, Roscoe.*

*The house is a typical center-chimney cape, with keeping room running across the back and with the stairs leading up and alongside the chimney from opposite the front door. It was originally half-a-cape, and as the Babb family grew, it added, probably around 1820, a dining room, quite formal with its wainscoting and Indian shutters, another – “the west” – bedroom, raised 2 steps higher than the other rooms, either to accept the warmth rising from beneath the adjacent room or to accommodate the high-ceiling dairy cellar beneath, and a pantry, thus completing the full cape. On closer inspection, the front door is slightly off-center, and beam construction in the attic differs between the two times of building. Still later – 1845 or so – the family added an upstairs bedroom, leaving the rest of the upstairs unfinished.*

*Probably the house’s most important features are the feather-edged pine sheathing found in 3 rooms, the subtly elegant woodwork of the dining room, and the fact that with the exception of the “modern” windows installed in 2 rooms in this century, and the new chimney with 3 fireplaces, the house is virtually unchanged from the way it was at the time of its construction.*

The Babb’s of Epsom descend from Philip Babb of the Isles of Shoals. Philip Babb of Greenland and his wife Grace Lang had eight children, of which sons Philip, Thomas, Aaron and John moved to Epsom. Daughter Rachel married George Wallace and resided in Deerfield; daughter Sarah married Neal McGaffey of Epsom, her sister Mary married William Workman McGaffey of Epsom and moved to Vermont; and daughter Hannah married Simon Grant and lived at New Portsmouth in Epsom. John and Philip married sisters of John and Sarah (Bickford) Lang, with John moving to North Road about 1785.

John and Anna Holmes married at Greenland in 1795 and had children: William who died at age 2; Lydia Ann, born in 1796 married in 1823 David L. Lang and moved to Ohio; Doctor James, born 1800, resided and practiced in Epsom, removing to Manchester with his wife Anna M., daughter of Bickford and Abigail (Locke) Lang; John, born in 1802 and married at Chichester in 1826, Salome Rand, daughter of Richard and Anna (Lake) Rand, resided on North Road; Elizabeth, born in 1804 and died unmarried in 1878; and Philip, born in 1807, married in 1841, Susan Morrill of Northwood. Philip and Susan inherited the homestead through the will of his father’s will in 1831, with the provision his sister has a privilege in the house. Their children included: Ann Susan, born in 1842 and married Robert C. Brown in 1864;

Leon, born in 1846 and married Mary White in 1874; Lucinda Holmes, born in 1849 and married Clarence E. Gerrish in 1875; and John Horace, born in 1851 and married at Deerfield in 1874, Lizzie B. Brown.

The homestead was sold to Treworthy Kelley of Pembroke in 1869. Treworthy Fowler Kelley of Pembroke married Gulielma Chesley, daughter of Jonathan Steele and Abigail (Hoyt) Chesley at Pittsfield in 1863. The couple had two children, Edward M., born in 1865 and Emma Maria, born in 1870 who married Edward Drew. Son Edward M. married Sybil Harriett Brown, a daughter of Robert C. and Ann Susan Babb in 1891. This couple had three sons, Edward Roscoe, born in 1892 and married in 1916, Jessie Gertrude Ambrose, daughter of Albion N. and Susie F. (Coburn) Ambrose; Treworthy, born in 1896, married at Epsom in 1915, Flora Veilleux; and George Peabody, born in 1899 and married at Pittsfield, Edna E. Rowe.

Edward M. Kelley sold the property to his son Edward Roscoe Kelley in 1934, where they raised their family: Dorothy Frances, Florence, Albion Roscoe and Harriet June. 'Roscoe' Kelley's administrator sold the family home in 1971 to Lewis P. Barton, who in 1973 sold to Neil A. and Leigh English.

#### **Daniel Philbrick Locke, lots**

As North Road descends from north to south, it crosses the line between the first and second range just below the Babb-Kelley homesteads.

Ebenezer Foss was the son of Job and Sarah Bickford (Lang) Foss and married a Mary Foss in 1789. He acquired land in Epsom from Samuel Wallace in 1790, 8- acres of lot No. 3 in the first range, and about ten years later, part of lot 32 in the same range, an additional 25 acres. He is seen living on the lot in the census of 1830, and by his son William in 1840. William disposed of the property before 1850 when the occupant is shown as Daniel P. Locke.

Daniel Philbrick Locke was the son of Francis and Mary (Philbrick) Locke and was born in Epsom in 1815. He married May 31, 1840 at Epsom Abigail Fowler, also born 1815 and daughter of Winthrop and Abigail (Davis) Fowler. The couple had no children. Daniel continued to buy property, included an adjoining 60 acres purchased with his in-laws. They later deeded the 60 to Daniel, and he sold his home and 140 acres to David Morrill Philbrick in 1869. David and his family lived further north off north road, and probably rented the property. In 1885 he sold 'the same deeded to this grantor by Daniel P. Locke' to his son John S. Philbrick. John married two years later, Eliza Philbrick,



daughter of Jackson Clark and Eliza (Crawford) Philbrick and had five children: an unnamed child born and died in 1888; Mary Abbie, born 1889 and married in 1913, Ernest C. Whittier; Nora Elizabeth, born in 1891 and married in 1913, Clarence F. Hanson; Stella R., married in 1916, Ernest L. Clark of Pittsfield; and David J., born at Pittsfield in 1895, married in 1919 at Northwood, Marguerite Bickford. John S. sold his Epsom home in 1891 to his neighbor, Edward M. Kelley, and he died a few years later, 1896, in Pittsfield.

The 1892 county map shows Edward M. Kelley as the occupant of the property, with his father Trueworthy Kelly occupying the family home across the street on the west side of North Road. Edward would inherit his father's land after his death in 1915. The sale of the property from Philbrick to Edward M. Kelley gives the property as 100 acres, which he owned for quite some time before it was sold to his son, George Peabody Kelley in 1940. George and his wife Edna (Rowe) had a son John Henry, born in 1923. George died in 1964, and his widow, listed as Esther E. as she was known, sold the homestead in 1972 to C. Spencer Stremlau, 'the premises conveyed to Edward M. Kelley by John S. Philbrick.'

### **John Babb Jr., Daniel Goss, Alvah L. Yeaton home**

John and Anna Babb settled on lot 53 and there raised their family. Once settled he began to purchase additional property. In 1807 he purchased of Samuel Langmaid, parts of lots 28 & 29 in the first range, 20 acres. The next year he bought additional land in lot 28 from the same Samuel Langmaid, including the buildings where he was currently residing. At the same time James H. McClary sold to John Babb, listed as cordwainer and shoe maker, more of lot 28, one acre. Still more of lot 28 was purchased in 1811 from Reuben Sanborn, 9 additional acres. John Babb died in 1831, his wife Anna in 1841, and they, with much of their family, are buried in the McClary Cemetery. In his will he left the homestead to his son Philip, and to his son John Jr., *all the land and buildings where he now lives meaning all the lands which I purchased of Samuel Langmaid, James H. McClary and Reuben Sanborn, as will appear by their deeds to me – also ten acres of land off the northerly side of the lot which I purchased of William Yeaton Jr., being part of lot No. twenty four in the first range in Epsom – also one pair of small cart wheels which he has now in his possession and the half of a pew in Epsom meeting house in the gallery, the same that I bought of Simon Cass.*

John Babb was born at Epsom on May 20, 1802, and married at Chichester, February 2, 1826, Salome Rand, daughter of Richard and Anna (Lake) Rand. Their children included: a child born and died in 1827; William Pickering Babb, born in 1828 and married in 1858, Rebecca J. Heath, daughter of Andrew McClary and Jane Cram (Cass) Heath; Martha Ann, born about 1830 and died in 1835; and Lydia Ann, born August 11, 1836, married at Chichester in 1859, Daniel Thomas Cilley, son of Samuel P. and Hannah W.

(Critchett) Cilley. John and Salome raised their family here, and sold the homestead to Warren Yeaton on March 10, 1853. A few days later, John and his son William Pickering Babb, bought from William and Lucretia Brown, the old Levi Brown homestead further north on North Road. John Babb died in 1868, his wife Salome, in 1870.

Warren Yeaton turned the property over in a little over a year, in 1854 to Daniel Goss. Daniel was born in Allentown, his parents, Nathan and Dolly (Grant) Goss, who also resided in New Rye. Daniel married in 1840, Charlotte McDaniel, a daughter of Robert and Nancy (Keniston) McDaniel, born about 1820. Their two children were Henry S., born about 1843, a Civil War veteran; and Abby A., born in 1847 and married George S. Little. Charlotte Goss died in 1878, and Daniel married second, Letitia Davis in 1879. The Goss family remained in the home for 9 years before selling it back to Warren Yeaton in 1863. Again the house may have been rented or vacant, as it was not sold until 1882 when Warren sold it to his brother Alvah L. Yeaton, who is shown as the occupant in 1892. That same year Alvah sold the home to his brother Charles A. Yeaton. Charles, a son of Warren and Catherine A. Yeaton, born Oct. 11, 1847, married Ann Drew of Pembroke, August 3, 1870, and they had a son, Harry L. Yeaton. Charles died in 1911 and the home was inherited by son Harry. Harry, born at Pittsfield in 1878, married in 1897 at Epsom, Mary A. Shannon, born in Ireland. Upon his death in 1925, his wife inherited, and after releasing her dower rights, sold the homestead to Jacob A. Dumas in 1927, *the same conveyed to Charles A. Yeaton by Alvah L. Yeaton, 1892, title acquired of my husband Harry L. Yeaton and title to same acquired at the decease of his father Charles A. Yeaton.* The house and lot went through several owners, Louis Turgeon in 1932 and that same year to Exavier Vezina, who sold to John P. Yeaton, 30 acres with buildings, in 1937. The heirs of John P. Yeaton, who died in 1961, sold 'the same premises sold to J. P. Yeaton by Exavier F. Vezina dated 1937' to David and Natalie Barton in 1963.



### **North Road School**

The North Road School was originally designated as district 6 and was divided into two districts in 1823. The northern section went from the Pittsfield line south to the home of

Perkins Philbrick, with the remainder the area southeast and west. The southern section became District 7. In 1841 District 6 united with the Dowboro School in Pittsfield leaving the one schoolhouse in District 7. The early school building was replaced in 1871 on land sold to the district by Warren Yeaton. The school remained in service until 1935. Around 1914 it closed for a time with the small number of students in the southern section transported to the Center School, and those in the north attending school at south Pittsfield. The schoolhouse last received repairs in 1925. In 1942 the school district sold the one quarter acre lot with the school building to John P. Yeaton. His heirs sold the property in 1963 to Norman LePage who converted the building into a home. It was later sold by LePage to Benjamin Blodgett in 1979, and Blodgett to Capobianco in 1987.

### **The Yeaton Tavern**

John Godfrey of Northwood bought two tracts of land in lot 25 in the first range. One parcel was one half of one acre, located on the south side of the turnpike where it crossed North Road leading to Pittsfield. The second parcel was of 10 acres, land on the north side of the turnpike. Jethro Pettingill in November of the same year sold Godfrey part of his land in lot 26 on the westerly side of the road leading from Epsom to Pittsfield, also 10 acres. Godfrey continued to purchase property in the area, buying another small lot of 3 acres from James H. McClary, being part of lot 27 on the west side of North Road. The following year in 1806, Godfrey sold the half acre, the ten acres in lot 25, and the former Pettingill land to Levi Mead of Northwood. In 1805 Godfrey is identified as 'gentleman' and in 1806 as 'inn holder.'

John Godfrey seems to have been established as an inn holder having built his tavern on the half acre lot. He continued to buy land in lots 27, and 56, 57, 58 in the second range. He sells most all this property in 1808 to Levi Mead and John Harvey, both of Northwood. Mead and Harvey advertise the holdings of John Godfrey in the New Hampshire, appearing March first, 1808, and read:

*NOTICE is hereby given that all the real estate, formerly owned and occupied by John Godfrey, lying in Epsom, will be sold at Public Auction on Monday the 4th day of April next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, consisting of about 50 acres of LAND, with the buildings thereof, viz. - A new and convenient dwelling house, thirty by forty feet, one story high, well finished with a good cellar under it; a new and convenient Barn, Shed, and a Coopers Shop, situate on the first New Hampshire Turnpike Road, leading from Concord to Portsmouth, and on the road leading from Gilmanton to Newburyport, which renders it an excellent stand for a Tavern or Trader.*

*Sale to be on the premises, when the conditions will be made known. - Further information may be had by applying to LEVI MEAD & JOHN HARVEY of Northwood, - or JOHN GODFREY, living on the premises.*

It is bought by Godfrey and immediately transferred the same day to Ephraim Eastman of Deerfield, being 'the same land where I now live, containing ½ acre with all the buildings, the same purchased of John Ham being in lot 25 in the first range, along with the tract bought of Jethro Pettingil. The deed also included land from lots 28, 29 and 30

in the first range and land in lots 56, 57 & 58 in the second range. Eastman, who made the purchase in May of 1808, sold the entire package to Levi Mead, July 21, 1809. Levi controlled the property, likely renting the running of the tavern, selling the property to William Yeaton the third of Epsom on September 24, 1813. Yeaton was probably already running the business.

The tavern was in an ideal location, being where back around 1803 was part of the First New Hampshire Turnpike where it crossed North Road. It was where traffic of from the coast to Concord intersected with the traffic coming from Gilmanton south to Deerfield. According to "The Turnpikes of New England and Evolution of the Same Through England" by James Wood, and act passed in 1824 allowed the various towns to purchase the parts of the turnpike, the end of toll taking. The toll gate at this intersection was Number 4. The building housing the gate and its equipment was bought by William Yeaton Jr. from Joseph E. Brown of Portsmouth, on March 8, of 1825.

William was the son of William and Hannah (Towle) Yeaton, who raised their family on Black Hall Road. On May 11, 1808 he married Elizabeth W. Ham, known as Betty, daughter of John and Lucy (Libbey) Ham. They had four daughters: Eliza Jane, born in 1809 and married Jedediah Rand of Rye; Lucy, born about 1814 and died at Lowell, MA, unmarried in 1877; Emeline W., born in 1816 and married at Lowell, MA in 1853, Charles Henry Hill; and Catherine Angeline, born in 1820 and married Warren Yeaton in 1841. William died in 1830, and his widow married his brother John in 1834.

John Yeaton, born in 1781, had married in 1802, Rebecca Bickford, daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Cook) Bickford, and had four children by the time she died in 1811. John married second about 1811, Betsey Towle, daughter of Simeon M. and Elizabeth (Marden) Towle, and they had a family of three: Solomon M, born about 1812, married in 1836 Mary A. Hilliard and resided on Black Hall Road; Sallie T., born about 1814, married at Epsom in 1841, Anthony Lane of Chichester where they resided; and Warren, born about 1818, who married Catherine A. Yeaton, daughter of his brother William and Elizabeth 'Betty' (Ham).

Deeds show that in 1836, a John Yeaton Jr., Emeline Yeaton and Catherine Yeaton, deed to John Yeaton of Epsom, all their claim to land in Epsom, being a part of the estate of William Yeaton Jr., late of Epsom, deceased. Catherine married Warren Yeaton in 1841, and again by deed, John Yeaton, Elizabeth Yeaton and Emeline W. Yeaton, deed 'land in said Epsom, bounded southerly by the Turnpike Road, westerly by the Road leading from Epsom to Pittsfield, northerly by the barn yard and easterly by the garden, on the easterly side of the stable standing thereon together with all the right and interest in said stable which we own' to Warren Yeaton. John Yeaton died in 1861, his wife Elizabeth (Ham) in 1867.

Warren and Catherine's family included: Ellen A., born 1841, married in 1860, Daniel C. Ayer, resided Epsom; William Henry, born 1842, died unmarried in 1870; Caroline Annette, born 1843, married in 1863, Hiram A. Holmes, resided Epsom; Thomas M., born 1846, died 1846; Charles A., born 1847, married in 1870, Ann Drew; John Warren,

born 1850, married in 1882, Rowena J. Adams; Alvah L., born 189, married 1886, Etta Bartlett.

Warren and Catherine lived to old age on the homestead, Warren died in 1890, his wife Catherine in 1900. The homestead was next occupied by their son Alvah and then to his son John Philip Yeaton.

Alvah and his wife had children: Katie Angie, born 1886, married in 1920, Roy W. Lyford; Robert Alvah, born 1888, married in 1927, Blanche E. L. Merrill, daughter of Herbert I. and Mary Stewart (McDonald) Merrill; William Henry, born 1889, married in 1915, Ethel G. Gray; Warren, born and died in 1891; Roscoe Solomon, born about 1892, married in 1915, Mary Hargreaves; Mary Lucy, born 1893, married in 1921, Charles E. Bailey of Northwood; John Philip, born 1895, married in 1923, Jessie Ada Keene; Thomas Rand, born 1896, married in 1923, Augusta Judith Merrill, sister to Blanch E. L. Merrill; James Edwin, born 1897, married Irene Smith; Albert Frank, born 1898, married Beatrice M. Wallace; Perley George, born 1900, married Grace J. Magoon; Herbert Dudley born 1902, married at Plymouth in 1928, Nellie B. Magoon, sister of Grace. Etta Bartlett first married Walter L. Swain of Northwood. Alvah and Etta died in 1928, and the heirs, William H., James E., Perly G., Herbert D., Thomas R., Albert F., Robert A., Roscoe S., Mabel Bailey and Kaate Lyford, deeded the family homestead to John P. Yeaton.

John Philip Yeaton and his wife Jessie had children: Catherine, Warren Alvah who died young, Phyllis Mary, Elizabeth Jane and Theresa. John P. amassed a large quantity of land, and died in 1961 at which time his heirs (Phylis LaClair, Catherine Belanger, Theresa Yeaton and Elizabeth Kelley) sold the homestead in 1963 to Howard C. Saturley. It was later sold to Philip S., Charles B. and Calvin B. Yeaton. The property includes a Yeaton family cemetery.

George H. Yeaton wrote about the toll gate and old tavern in 1963, as well as a short anecdote about Catherine Yeaton. Though it has some inaccuracies, it provides a nice narrative about the Yeaton family.

### ***THE TOLL GATE AT YEATON'S FOUR CORNER'S EPSOM, NH***

*The North Road was laid out in the year 1761, from Deerfield to what was at that time the town of Chichester (now Pittsfield – note, the town of Pittsfield was originally part of the town of Chichester as Pittsfield was not incorporated until the year 1782, 21 years after the North Road was laid out).*

*The North road from Thomas Babb's [Thomas Babb lived at what was in later years known as the Walter J. Philbrick place] by way of Pettingill bridge [now known as the Gulf Brook bridge] and Prescott Hill [the hill on the old turnpike a short distance below Yeaton's four corners, easterly. A short distance beyond 'Prescott Hill' the road turned sharply to the left, now known as the Hoyt Road, this road led to Northwood Narrows] was laid out in the year 1782.*

*The first official turnpike built in New Hampshire was the one from Concord to the Piscataqua bridge in Durham, passing through Yeaton's Corner. This turnpike was built across the town of Epsom, the entire width of the town, from Chichester to Northwood, four and one half miles. The company building it was incorporated in June 1796. When this turnpike was completed about the year 1800, a Toll Gate was installed at the junction of the turnpike with the North road, at Yeaton's four corners in Epsom. It was at this time that Yeaton's Four Corners became a place of much importance and a landmark for the surrounding towns. When a post office was established in the town of Pittsfield, they came by horseback from Pittsfield Upper City to Yeaton's Corner in Epsom to get the mail, where the stage moving between Portsmouth and Concord, left it at the Toll Gate. The stage made a round trip once every two days from Portsmouth to Concord one day, then from Concord to Portsmouth the following day.*

*In later years when the droves of cattle passed through Epsom on their way to the pastures in Gilmanton Mountains, they always planned to stop at Yeaton's Four Corners overnight, herding the cattle in the large barnyard or the small pasture close by. William Yeaton 3rd, the son of William Yeaton 2nd was born in the year 1783 and died July 3, 1830, age 47 years. As a young man he left his father's home on the Black Hall Road in Epsom, at or near the location of the Epsom Central School, and settled at Yeaton's corner. In the year 1807 he was taxed for one hundred acres of land and buildings in Epsom. On May 11, 1808, he married Elizabeth (Betsey) Ham, born 1788, died August 10, 1867.*

*The original house at the four corners is still standing, it is on the north side of the turnpike at the corner of the North Road. Before it was converted into a tool shed, it contained two rooms with a fireplace in each room, plastered, and of the style that the frame houses were built by the early settlers. The original barn was located just above the present one, on the same side of the North Road. William Yeaton 3rd was the Toll Gate Tender and he also kept open tavern at this place.*

*The large old colonial style house "Yeaton's Tavern" must have been built shortly after the turnpike passed through Epsom, as it is of the style and construction of the early 1800's. One of the Yeaton Tavern signs had the date 1813 on it, another 1814. In the old Epsom town records we find that William Yeaton 3rd was given a license from time to time to keep Open Tavern in the town of Epsom.*

*The staunch old house with its wide paneled double doors between two large rooms, where when they were opened, formed a spacious dance hall used by the guests at the Old Tavern for a night of dancing, is still one of the old landmarks of Epsom, and if the old house could talk they would tell us much of the history and the legends of those early days; the gay parties, the romances, quarrels, business deals, political discussions and plans, together with the births and deaths that took place within its walls. The narrative would fill a large volume with interesting reading.*

*The old tavern with its other buildings and large farm was in the William Yeaton family for more than one hundred and fifty years. William Yeaton 3rd and his wife Betsey, together with many of their descendants are buried in the Yeaton family cemetery nearby on the North Road.*

*William Yeaton 3rd was the great-great Uncle of the one who wrote this “brief sketch”.  
Written by George H. Yeaton at Epsom, New Hampshire, May, 1963.*

*Catherine A. Yeaton, the daughter of William Yeaton 3rd and his wife Elizabeth (Betsey) Ham, was born January 2, 1820, and died May 26, 1900, age 80 years, 4 months 24 days. Catherine A. Yeaton married on February 25, 1841, her cousin Warren Yeaton, the son of John Yeaton and his wife Betsy Towle.*

*Warren Yeaton was born September 2, 1818 and died November 7, 1890, age 72 years, 1 month, 10 days.*

*Warren and Catherine lived at “Yeaton’s Tavern” which was and still is one of the old landmarks of Epsom and the old House-Block at the corner of the house is still there.*

*Anyone familiar with the old tavern could show you where the wine cellar is located and which room was the “tap” or “bar-room”.*

*A visit to the old cider mill just across the road, where in the days long gone the horses walking in a large circle, turned the huge wooden screw that ground the apples into pulp ready for the cider press.*

### **THE LOCKE ON THE HEN HOUSE DOOR AT “YEATON’S TAVERN”**

*In later years a man who lived near Yeaton’s Corner and had several young men at his home, who would not hesitate to steal a few hens, came to Mrs. Yeaton’s one day and said “Catherine, I want you to put a lock on your hen house door for I overheard the boys talking about stealing your hens come night”.*

*Mrs. Yeaton’s reply was as she looked her neighbor straight in the eye, “I shall not put a lock on my hen house door and if my hens are stolen you J\_\_\_\_\_” calling him by his given name “will pay me for them”.*

*Mrs. Yeaton did not lock her hen house, neither were her hens stolen.*



Asa Prescott Homestead, Lord's Mill Road

### **Stephen Johnson and the Prescotts**

The land around Lords Mill was part of lots 24 and 25. As late as 1781 Thomas Berry Jr. sold 110 acres on the northwesterly end of the lots to Thomas Berry, who sold it to Samuel Osgood of Epsom in 1789. Forty acres on the easterly end of lot 25 was sold for taxes to Samuel Osgood two years prior. Osgood arrived in Epsom in 1777 buying the McGaffey farm on the Epsom-Deerfield line above Echo Valley. In 1811 the land was in the hands of his son Isaac Osgood, who sold 80 acres and a quarter interest in McClary's Mill to Stephen Johnson of Epsom. The bounds were given as follows: *Beginning on the road leading from Epsom to Northwood where said road intersects the turnpike, thence running on the turnpike road easterly to Northwood line, thence southerly on Northwood line to land owned by William McCrillis, thence westerly by land owned by General Michael McClary to said road leading to Northwood, thence on said road to the bounds first mentioned.*

The only information on the family of Stephen Johnson comes from some of the vital records of his children. He was born about 1785 in Fryeburg, Maine and his wife was Abigail Yeaton, born about the same time at Strafford, New Hampshire. Stephen pays taxes in Epsom from 1811 to 1824. In the US Census for Epsom, 1820, he has 4 sons under 10 and one daughter under 10. Not all the children are verified, but probably included the following: Samuel, born about 1813; Judith P., born at Epsom August 14, 1815 and died in Concord January 11, 1904, married John Eaton; William Yeaton, born at Epsom June 20, 1817, died at Manchester, Massachusetts, November 6, 1916, married Hannah Victoria Boyd; Albert Johnson, born about 1818, died 1874 in Concord; Andrew Jackson, born about 1820 in Epsom, married February 9m, 1853, Lucy Jane Edwards at Beverly, Massachusetts. James M., born about 1824; Sarah B., born at Epsom, December 5, 1822, married Miles Buzzell, died February 23, 1910 at Concord; Almira, born about 1826; and Susan, born about 1829 (she and Sarah B. seen with their parents in Concord, 1850 US Census). The death records of Jonathan Dolbeer give the death of a child of Stephen Johnson in April of 1826. Stephen died at Concord November 13, 1854, his wife Abigail, October 10, 1860.

Stephen Johnson and his family left Epsom in 1826 when he sold his homestead to Thomas D. Merrill, excepting about 14 acres which he previously sold to Eben Coe and two acres sold to Nancy McDaniel. Thomas D. Merrill turned the property over within a few months with Asa Prescott of Epping being the new owner.

Asa Prescott was born in Deerfield in 1787, the son of Nathan and Anna (Wells) Prescott. He married a Polly Clark at Epsom in 1807, who died at Epping the same month as he had purchased the Epsom home. He remarried the next year Sophronia Bunker of Barnstead with the marriage taking place in Epsom in March of 1827. Asa had nine children with his first wife, and with Sophronia had four more which he raised at his new Epsom home. The children of the second marriage included: Alfred and James, both of whom died young in 1827; Sewall Fogg, born Nov. 10, 1831 and with his wife Ellen Rosanna Peaslee, resided at Haverhill, MA; and Charles Emerson, born March 10, 1833 and married at Hopkinton April 25, 1854, Caroline F. Preston, daughter of Worcester Preston of Epsom. Asa Prescott died in 1867, his second wife Sophronia in 1868. Charles



E. moved his family to Lynn, Massachusetts and sold 'the homestead farm of the late Stephen Johnson with the buildings thereon containing 80 acres' to Ellery C. Kelley of Newmarket on May 6, 1874.

Ellery C. Kelley was born in Pembroke and married Frances V. Tuvts in 1866. Ellery died in 1878 and his wife married as her second husband, George Bodwell. George and Fannie, as Francis was seen in most records, sold the home in 1884 to Benjamin an F. of Deerfield, who sold the home to Jeremiah Witham of Northwood in 1888 and bought the former Enoch Brown homestead on North Road in 1889. Jeremiah Witham died in 1906 and his widow Mary sold the property to George D. Yeaton of Boston. The Yeaton's owned adjoining property at the junction of Route 4 and 107 and added this land as part of their Epsom holdings. His widow sold the house lot in 1929 to an Irving Locke of Rochester, whose heirs sold out in 1930 to Gertrude Foster of Arlington, Massachusetts. The widow Gertrude sold the home to Frank Chamberlain Jr. of Northwood in 1948. The lot changed hands in 1950 and 1954 being 5 acres, and was bought from Dean M. Thomas in 1968. In 1972 it was owned by Andrew and Marion Schricker.

### **William H. Dickey**

Stephen Johnson bought his Epsom land in 1811, and in 1815 sold to William H. Dickey 30 acres and one twenty fourth part of McClary's mill, part of lot 24. Additionally, Isaac Osgood deeded him 30 acres and a similar share in the mill, part of lots 24 and 25. Two years later in 1817, Moses Osgood deeds him one half acre 'beginning on the old road that crosses the turnpike leading to Northwood' excepting the buildings which were in the possession of John Tarlton.

Thomas D. Merrill was appointed guardian of William Dickey, a minor, in 1819 (Rockingham County Probate file #8048) in which it was stated he was 'reputed son of Hanover Dickey of said Epsom.' This may have been a bit scandalous as Hanover Dickey was well respected and a selectman from 1819 to 1825. Hanover married Lydia Osgood in 1799, William Dickey, who later is seen as William H. (perhaps H for Hanover?) died in June of 1820 age 26, putting his year of birth as about 1794, before the marriage of Hanover to Lydia. William H. Dickey married in Exeter on October 23, 1816, Betsey R. Locke, daughter of Benjamin V. and Olive (Robinson) Locke, born August 16, 1798 in Mount Vernon, Maine. The town abated taxes for his widow and heirs in 1824. William H. and Betsey had possible daughter Sylvina and Olive, and a son, William H., born about 1819, and who married Martha J. Lawrence in 1840, she the daughter of Joseph H. and Martha (Ham) Lawrence, both died in Boston after 1850.

William's widow Betsey married as her second husband, Jesse Emerson, son of Mark and Molly (Hutchings) Emerson of Epsom, at Pittsfield in 1821. Jesse and Betsey had six children: Nathan, Samuel, Mary O., Sylvina, John P., and Charles H. Emerson. She died at Salem, Massachusetts in 1877, Jesse died at Epsom in 1852.

Thomas D. Merrill, who was appointed the guardian of William H. Dickey, was also the administrator of his estate, and sold in 1821, part of the estate to William Yeaton Jr., inn holder, part to James Babb, and the small half acre with the house to Simon A. Heath. James Babb purchased the small lot from Simon A. Heath in 1823, and Babb sold the same to inn holder William Yeaton the following year.

Also in 1823, Jesse and Elizabeth Emerson sell 30 acres to Thomas D. Merrill, *land in Epsom bounded northerly on the turnpike road leading from Concord to Portsmouth, easterly on the road leading from Mark Emerson's to said turnpike, southerly on land owned by Michael McClary and westerly on land owned by William Yeaton Jr.*

### **McDaniel, Hoyt and John Grant**

A descendant of Robert McDaniel wrote a short typescript paper on the family of which one page survives which gives the only known overview, enough to make a pretty complete view of this little known and researched family. It starts with a previously unknown son, Robert.

*Robert had brothers, John, Sam and Thomas Curtis McDaniel. Find your grand-uncle Curtis is one of these with the McDaniel dropped.*

*Daughters of Robert McDaniel and Nancy Kenison or Keniston: Mary Maria married John Griffin - whence the writer.*

*Lucretia McDaniel married John Yeaton, whence Ben Yeaton; Charlotte McDaniel married David [Daniel] Goss, when Gossville and Henry Goss no children and Allie [Abbie] Goss married \_\_ Little - one son.*

*Ann McDaniel married Stephen Avery of Barnstead, whence fifteen children, seven sons in the War of Rebellion, and one daughter Susan McDaniel married William Willy and was the first woman lecturer about here.*

*John Griffin, husband of Mary Maria McDaniel, in the latter part of his life lived on the back road leading from the old turnpike from Epsom to Northwood Narrows. In the next house to him nearer the turnpike lived Robert McDaniel and his wife Nancy, in the house later known as the Hoyt House. No building at either place now.*

*Robert McDaniel was a father to Mary Maria who married John Griffin, my grandfather; and Robert McDaniel, my great-grandfather on grandmother Griffins side of the house, was also a soldier in the War of the Revolution, and a long line there of Scotch Ancestry.*

The earliest mention of the family is the marriage in Epsom of Robert McDaniel of Pembroke to Nancy Keniston of Epsom on February 7, 1799. In 1801 they received a warning out of town, but are shown in the census of 1810 living near the Pettingill's off North Road. Stephen Johnson, before leaving Epsom, sold a portion of his land to Nancy McDaniel in April of 1826, the house mentioned above in the family history, and shown of the map of 1858 as belonging to J. Hoyt.

Robert and Nancy sold their home to Griffin and Knowles in 1852, who three years later sold the two acres to Sally B. Jones of Epsom. Sally turned the property around selling to

Charles Emerson of Northwood after a few months. The Emersons, still of Northwood sold the land and buildings, part of lot 26 in the first range to Joseph Hoitt of Epsom. The last name is later spelled as Hoyt, and the home remained in the family through 1892, but the home is not longer standing by 1827.

The Robert McDaniel family included: John, born 1800, married at Pittsfield in 1820, Sally (Sarah) Langley, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Langley, resided in Durham where she died in 1856, and probably remarried; Lucretia G., born in 1801, married at Epsom in 1820, John Yeaton, son of William and Sally (Pettingill) Yeaton, resided near Rout 107 in Epsom; Mary Maria, born January 14, 1802, married John Griffin, son of John and Martha (Rand) Griffin of Northwood, who resided late in life next to the McDaniel house; Susan W. married at Epsom in 1824, a William Willey, nothing more known; Ann C., married at Epsom, Stephen Avery, and mother of some 13 children; Samuel, married at Epsom in 1828, Eliza French, and died in Epsom, May of 1846; Robert C., born 1815, married a Mary Young and resided at Wakefield, New Hampshire; Jonathan Curtis, born about 1818, married 1844 a Harriet Elizabeth York, who in 1853 changed the family name to Curtis, he becoming Thomas Curtis and owned land in the Mountain District, apparently left Epsom with the family; Charlotte, married in 1840 at Bow, Daniel Goss, son of Nathan and Dolly (Grant) Goss and died in Epsom in 1878; Abigail born about 1822, married William H. Webb at Epsom in 1847; and Nancy A. who married Freeman (also seen Truman) Stockman in 1844 at Epsom, and died in 1887.

Joseph Hoyt married Almira G. Dresser, and with a family of 5, bought the former McDaniel house from Charles and Mary Emerson in 1859. The house was sold in 1876 to an Addie L. Hoitt of Manchester, and in 1892 was shown as belonging to 'the heirs of J. Hoyt.' The house is not longer standing by 1927. Little is known of the Joseph Hoyt family. He died in 1879, his wife Almira in 1886, and are buried in Northwood. They had a daughter Sarah, who married at Deerfield in 1866, Thomas W. Emerson, son of Thomas J. and Anna (Wells) Emerson of Hooksett and Epsom.

The home next door to the McDaniels, occupied by their daughter Mary Maria and husband John Griffin, does not appear by 1892.

### **John McDaniel and John F. Sullivan**

The 1840 US Census finds John McDaniel with a family of two sons and three daughters living near his parents, Robert and Nancy. A school roster for North Road in 1842 lists McDaniel students, John, age 10, Polly, 9; Esther J.; 11 and Maria, 6. Census and other data add Sara and Robert. Nothing further is known of Polly, who does not appear in the 1850 census with the family, nor Maria who does appear 1850, not after. Esther married a Perley R. Gordon and resided Candia, where she died in 1893; John married at Haverhill, MA in 1853, Ann M. Willis and died two years later at West Newbury, MA; Sarah,

married at Exeter in 1856, Eben Bowley, and is where she died in 1873; and Robert, married Mary Judkins in 1885, and where he died in 1899.

The family moved to Durham, selling the family home to Miles Durgin of Northwood in 1848, who sold the lot and house at the end of the month to Jonathan B. Swain of Northwood. Whether he lived on the lot is doubtful, and perhaps leased it for a time, as the 1858 map shows the occupant as J. L. Cilley. In 1868, Jonathan B. and Martha S. Swain, still of Northwood, sell the land and buildings of 22 acres, to William H. Edmunds of Northwood. William Henry Edmunds married the daughter of Jonathan Blake and Martha Shepard (Johnson) Swain, Olive Jane. William Henry Edmunds and Olive had at least two children: Martha O., who married John F. Sullivan; and William A., who married Susan M. Philbrick of Epsom, daughter of David Morrill and Sarah A. (Stearns) Philbrick.

Deeds show that in 1887, Olive J. Edmunds of Northwood, with Martha O. and her husband John F. Sullivan of Epsom, sell the lot to Martha's brother William A.; and a similar deed of 1891 Olive J., then widow of William H., and son William A. and his wife, sell the land to sister Martha O. Sullivan. The 1892 map shows two houses next to each other on this lot, occupied by John Sullivan. The lot is on the old First NH Turnpike on the border with Northwood. The property, still 22 acres is sold by William A. Edmunds to Albion Bartlett of Lynn, MA in 1920. Albion died and his widow and heirs, sold the land, no buildings mentioned, to Walter P. Hill of Northwood. Hill, later of Quincy, MA sold the property to Samuel Johnson of Northwood in 1939.

### **Daniel P. Locke**

The 1858 map shows a second residence owned by Daniel P. Locke (the other is on North Road) on land he bought from Philip Babb in 1853, *part of lot 24 in the first range bounded on the south by land of Samuel Lord, on the west by the old road leading to Northwood on the north of land of Warren Yeaton, and on the east by Northwood and Deerfield line, containing 20 acres.* Locke owned the property for over thirty years, selling in 1886 the 20 acres to John M. Parker of Goffstown. Sometime before 1904 John M. Parker died, and his widow Letitia, with children, sold the property to Charles S. Hall of Epsom. None of the deeds specify any structures, and the house is gone by the county map of 1892. The disposition of the property by Charles S. Hall is unknown.

### **McClary's and Lord's Mill**

Andrew McClary is seen in deeds as early as 1728 as a millwright, prior to his moving to New Hampshire, and is seen that way in Epsom by 1741. He bought 66 acres of lot 22 in

the first range in 1756 from Samuel and Abigail Seavey of Rye. He built a sawmill and gristmill on the lot, and sold half the property (33 acres) and half of each of the mills to his sons Andrew and John in 1760. Andrew died at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and widow in 1790 sold 'the full one half of the lots 22 and 23 in the first range to John McClary, reserving her one half of the mills 'standing on the little Suncook river running through said land.' Her 'half of a saw mill in Epsom known by the name of McClary's mill' was sold the same time to Samuel Osgood. Her half of the grist mill passed to her son James H. McClary, who sold the 'mill known by the name of McClary's Grist mill on the same stream and at the same dam where McClary's and Osgood's mill now stands' to his cousin Michael McClary. The sale was in 1807, after the death of John McClary whose saw mill passed to his son Michael. Samuel Osgood held his half of the sawmill until 1811, when it was deeded to his son Isaac Osgood, selling one quarter of the mill and land later that year to Stephen Johnson. Various rights and privileges in the mills continued, and the McClary share passed after the death of Michael to his son-in-law Jonathan Steele who married his daughter, Elisabeth. Michael McClary's daughter Nancy, married Samuel Lord in 1810, and she died in 1822. Jonathan Steele and his wife deeded the mill property and rights to Samuel Lord as guardian of the heirs of Nancy D. Lord.

Once Samuel Lord had the McClary mill shares, he began to buy up the rest of the shares, primarily through an agent he hired named Lowell Sanborn. Among the names of those selling their shares were the shares of Jesse Emerson owned by Thomas D. Merrill; Perkins Philbrick; William Yeaton Jr., Eben Coe; and David Osgood through Thomas D. Merrill. The mill rights passed from Samuel to his son Henry Augustus (who went by Augustus Lord), with some of Samuel's heirs deeding portions in 1860. Both Samuel and Augustus hailed from Portsmouth, where Augustus died, unmarried, in 1879. He sold what was called the mill lot to John H. Sullivan of Allenstown and Isaac G. Russ of Pembroke in 1878. The next transaction for the mill lot was in 1906 when it was bought by Warren M. Davis and Charles B. Rogers of Pembroke. Their ownership was fairly short lived, as it was sold to George D. Yeaton of Boston in 1914, who owned most of the adjoining property.



## **William Yeaton to George D. Yeaton**

William Yeaton, born about 177, probably at Newcastle, is a different line of the surname than the branch that settled on Black Hall Road and later on North Road. Many of the given names of the two branches are the same, making for some confusion when researching the two family lines.

William Yeaton married at Epsom on March 14, 1799, Sally Pettingill, daughter of Ephraim and Huldah (Batchelder) of Epsom. The Pettingills arrived in Epsom before the Revolution, and after William married Sally, probably lived for a time in the Pettingill household. Ephraim Pettingill deeded 49 acres of lot 26 to his son-in-law in 1800, which excluded an acre he had sold to his son Jethro and where his house stood. At about the same time William bought land in Epsom being part of lot 22 in the first range 'beginning at the southwesterly corner of Pettingill's Bridge which crosses Little Suncook, then to run northwesterly on said river, then south easterly to the road that leads from the main road to the saw mill.' Five years later James H. McClary sell William part of lot 21, all the land on the southerly side of a road of 62 acres, and on the same day, William sells the land to Ephraim and Huldah Pettingill for their use during their natural lives. In 1811 he buys 5 acres of Michael McClary in lot 22, probably part of the mill lot. The large lot of 62 acres appears to be back in the hands of William Yeaton after the death of Ephraim Pettingill, and his land in lots 21 and 22 comprised his homestead farm.

William Yeaton died in 1816, leaving a family of mostly minor children, and unmarried daughters. His will of 1816 names his wife Sally, her sister Hannah, daughters Hannah, Sarah, Lucretia, and Susanna. The only son, John, received the bulk of the estate. Of the daughters names, nothing is known of Sarah or Susanna, as for the others, Hannah, born in 1800, married Samuel Prescott at Epsom in 1819; Lucretia married a William Porter and resided in Massachusetts; and John, who inherited the homestead, married at Epsom in 1820, Lucretia G. McDaniel, daughter of Robert and Nancy (Keniston) McDaniel who lived nearby.

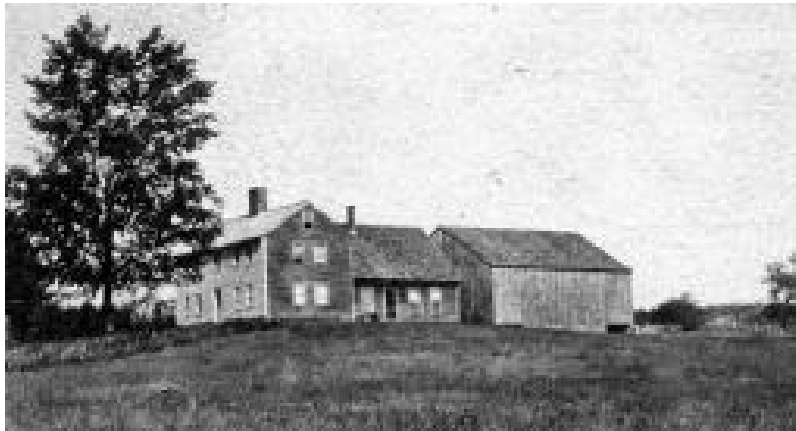
The 1858 map shows across the river, near the mill, a William Yeaton and a shoe shop across the river. This may be part of the property mortgaged by William Yeaton in 1852, being then a carpenter shop on land owned by Samuel Lord, occupied by William Yeaton, finished outside.

John and his wife had a large family: Malinda, born in 1821, married at Northwood in 1843, Jedediah Weeks; William, born in 1822, married at Deerfield in 1846, Mary Jane Stearns, daughter of John and Margaret McClary (Wallace) Stearns of Deerfield; Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1823, married at Epsom in 1847, James Sanborn, son of Deacon James and Abigail (Pearson) Sanborn of Epsom, and she married two additional times; John Gardner, born I 1825, married at Dedham, MA Martha C. Corbett; Mary Green, born in 1827, married at Dedham, MA, Charles Arthur Coburn; Charles H., born in 1829, married at Dedham, MA, Julia Fletcher; George P., born in 1831, died at New York City in 1853, unmarried; Alvah Tobey, born in 1834, married at Deerfield in 1854, Martha A. Furnald; Myra L, born in 1835, married at Strafford in 1853, Henry W. Sherburne of

Northwood; Lucy Ann, born 1938, married at Epsom in 1859, Samuel T. Dow; and Benjamin B., born about 1839, married at Pittsfield in 1859, Mary Elizabeth James of Pittsfield.

John Yeaton deeded to his youngest son Benjamin in 1845, *all the land I own on the southerly side of the Suncook River, with occupancy at the time of my decease and not before*. Benjamin and Mary Elizabeth reared a family of six children: George Dana, born in 1860, married Charlotte E. MorrisonTaylor, and after her death he married at Epsom in 1918 an Annie O'Brien; Walter H., born in 1863, died unmarried in Epsom in 1900; Caroline Etta, born in 1865 and died in 1955 at Stoneham, MA; Austin J., born 1868, died at Boston in 1903; Lena May, married in 1917, Charles Webster Tarbell as his second wife; and Emma Christine, born 1880, married Adolph H. Akerman.

Benjamin B. Yeaton died in 1886, and his widow Mary E., of Boston, deeded the property to son George Dana in 1900, which included the share owned by his brother Walter H. who died that same year. George Dana Yeaton died in 1924, and his second wife Annie deeded the property to George Dana's only son by his first marriage, G. Dana Yeaton of Scituate, MA. He married at Boston in 1902, Bertha Pearl Hayden. George Dana Yeaton Jr. died before 1930 when his widow sold 'buildings, the homestead' to George A. Palmer of Manchester.



## **Benson Ham Farm**

When Epsom laid out its original lots, they did not start right at the border of the line between Deerfield and Epsom. This, along with other areas of the town, became known as common land and was sold later by the town to help raise money to support the church and school. Benson Ham of Portsmouth bought land in Nottingham in 1758, and bought his land in Epsom in 1765, on the northeasterly of the road leading to Nottingham, it being the land now on the southern end of Route 107 and the Deerfield town line. The property joined what is now Echo Valley, of which Benson Ham bought 15 more acres from Stephen Swett in 1767. He continued to accumulate land through 1785, and it was deeded to his son John in 1798 and included all of the homestead, and land in lots 26, 27

and 28. John was to provide for his parents and his sister Jane, and received the homestead by will of his father in 1802.

Benson Ham in his will mentions his wife Martha, daughter Agnes Stevens, Peggy Marston, Jane Ham, Martha Ham, Elizabeth Ham, children of his son George W., William and Peggy, and finally son John. Benson Ham married at Epsom in 1759, Martha Wallace, daughter of George and Margaret (McClary) Wallace. He died in 1802, his wife Martha in August of 1833, with the couple having the following children, whose births are in the old Epsom town records: Agnes, born 1760, married a Mr. Stevens, and of whom nothing more is known; John, known as Captain John, born 1763, married at Epsom in 1787, Lucy Libbey, daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Kalderwood) Libbey; George Wallace, born 1765, married at Epsom in 1790, Margaret Dickey, daughter of David and Rachel (Hanover) Dickey, and died in 1797, his widow married second, Joseph Cochran of Pembroke; William, born 1767, died 1770; Margaret (Peggy), born 1769, married in 1796, Simon Marston; Anna, born 1771, died in 1789; Jane, born 1774, died unmarried in 1818; Martha, born 1776 and married at Epsom in 1816, Joseph Lawrence; and Elizabeth, born 1784, known as Aunt Betty, who died unmarried in 1878.

John and his wife Lucy decided not to keep the farm and sold the homestead, including 32 acres in Epsom and an adjoining 50 acres in Deerfield, as well as all the first range lots, to Bradbury Cilley of Nottingham in 1811. Bradbury was a brother of Colonel Daniel Cilley of the Cilley Tavern, who died in 1831 and willed the farm to Samuel P. Cilley, son of Colonel Daniel and his wife Hannah (Plumer) Cilley.

Samuel Plumer Cilley, born in Nottingham in 1795, and married at Epsom in 1827, Hannah W. Critchett, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Wallace) Critchett. They had three children: Joseph R., born 1831, died unmarried in 1865; Daniel Thomas, born in 1834 and married at Chichester in 1859, Lydia Ann Babb, daughter of John and Salome (Rand) Babb; and Hannah Plumer, born 1837 and married first at Chichester in 1858 Elbridge Lyman Swain who died in the Civil War, and she married second, in 1871, Charles Augustus Steele. Samuel P. and his wife Hannah likely lived on the farm until they sold the 150 acres to Joseph Veasey of Greenland in 1856. The farm went through a succession of owners, including Daniel Reynolds in 1864; Reuben Heath in 1867, and Reuben Heath in 1868. Reuben died in 1876 and the property was sold by his son Lucien Heath to D. A. Parker of Goffstown in 1887, and after just a couple of years, sold the farm to John B. Demers of Epsom.

John B. Demers was born in Canada and his wife was Rose D. Minard, also of Canada. The couple had the following children: Mary Melvina, born in Canada, 1877, married Albert L. Sanders and resided in Epsom; Adora Louise, born in Canada, 1882, married Irving Albert Kimton; Joseph Arthur, born in Canada, 1884, died Boscawen, NH, 1964; Emma, born about 1886 in Canada, married Guy B. Chase; Edward Benjamin, born at Epsom in 1891, married Agnes R. LeDuc, daughter of John and Sophronia (Langlais) LeDuc of Pittsfield, resided at Epsom and was co-owner of the Epsom Garage; and Louis Alfred, born at Epsom in 1900 and married in 1921, Florence S. Small and resided in Epsom.



John B. Demers died in 1926 and his widow Rose sold the old Benson Ham farm to Herbert D. Yeaton in 1931.