



Old Parsonage, 180 Center Hill Road, Epsom, NH

The parsonage house (so called today) was built at the time that a call was given to the Rev. Ebenezer Hazeltine as the 2nd full time minister hired by the Town of Epsom. This was in 1783-1784.

The house was to be 30x36 feet and 2 stories high. The barn was to be 30x35 feet and a well to be dug convenient to the buildings. The lot was 50 acres more or less and was known as the school lot before it was used as the parsonage. John Tuck, the first minister in town, had a house across the street. This passed to the widow Tuck and her heirs finally disposed of it to Simon Ames Heath who kept a tavern there.

A new minister was given a call in 1815, after the death of Rev. Hazeltine. The town voted down the call, and the Congregational Society was formed and they gave the call to Rev. Jonathan Curtis. Since the town declined the call, the issue of the parsonage became a political issue between the town and the Congregational Society. Rev. Curtis was settled in the parsonage and he was given a year to purchase the land and buildings. This he did, with the aid of the Congregational Society, and the town never again owned a parsonage. Rev. Curtis became quite interested in the town and wrote a brief history of the town which is still available today.

The Rev. Curtis stayed at Epsom until 1825 at which time he moved to Pittsfield. He did not sell the old parsonage lot and building until 1836 at which time he sold it to Joseph Spaulding of Windham, NH. It is not known who occupied it from 1825 to 1839, but it may have been rented to some of the short term ministers or some other persons as Doctors and other professional people. Spaulding must have lived there as when he sold it he called himself 'of Epsom'.

After 1836 no minister lived in the parsonage and it passed thru many hands until the present day. Historian Gilbert Knowles related the following about the house: "Although I have found nothing written up about it, Mr. Luther Hall, who died in 1939, and lived in the beautiful house just west of here until it burned, told Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Nutter that an ell part of the 'parsonage' was sold and moved by oxen down the lane and then made into another house on the lot where Charles and Ruth Batchelder now live. Mr. Hall told that in turning the corner on the main road with the oxen that their load there was some damage to the grounds of the property of George Batchelder (now Watson Ambrose) and that Mr. Batchelder made quite a fuss about it. As Mr. Batchelder died in 1889 the date of the ell moving must have been a number of years earlier."

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

Prior to 1816, owned by the town of Epsom as town parsonage; 1816, Jonathan Curtis from the town of Epsom; 1836, Joseph Spaulding of Windham from Jonathan Curtis of Pittsfield; April 3, 1839, John Chesley Jr. from Joseph Spaulding; April 5, 1839, Hanover Dickey Jr., from John Chesley Jr.; Oct. 14, 1858, John C. Hall of Epsom from Hanover Dickey, A.O. (Abraham) Dickey, our mother Lydia Dickey and Sarah, wife of A.O. Dickey, a part of the old parsonage now occupied by Samuel Wiggin; Oct. 15, 1858, Samuel Wiggin from John C. Hall, eight acres land and buildings; 1867, Charles C. Batchelder, Epsom, from Samuel Wiggin, part of the old parsonage, 2 acres, land and buildings; June 1875, Charles S. Hall from Ursula Batchelder of Northwood, land and buildings, awarded her by Supreme Judicial Court, formerly owned by Charles C. Batchelder; Nov. 1875, Betsey L. Piper of Epsom from Charles S. Hall, land and buildings (Oct. 4, 1877, 46 sq. rods of back land added behind the parsonage, C.S. Hall to Betsey L. Piper); 1883, Oscar L. Hall of Haverhill, MA from George H. and Betsy L. Piper, land and buildings, mortgage deed discharged Dec. 15, 1915 after the death of Betsey Piper; 1923, Bernice I. Piper, Worcester, MA from Bert O. Piper (her father) land and buildings, same property conveyed to Oscar L. Hall by deed of heirs of Betsey Langley Hall Piper and by the said Oscar L. Hall devised to Bert O. Piper by will - Essex County, MA, 1923; 1941, Eleanor Hillson Hall from Bernice I. Piper Cox, three parcels of land including the cellar hall of the Luther Hall property; 1945, Edwin Jacquith and Doris F. from Elenor Hillson Hall of marblehead, MA; 1963, Howard D. Hughes from Edwin and Doris F. Jacquith; 1971, James O. & Cyrene Wells from Howard D. and Sylvan M. Hughes; 1996, Johnny S. and Jeanne M. Jarnigan of Virginia from James O. & Cyrene M. Wells, land and buildings.

GENEALOGY: Hanover Dickey was the son of David Dickey and Rachel Hanover and married in 1799, Lydia Osgood, daughter of Samuel Osgood and Eleanor Morrill. They had for children: Eleanor, David, Hanover, Abraham O., Sally O., and Lydia.

Charles C. Batchelder was the son of George W. Batchelder and Abigail Wells, and he married in 1862, Ursula Knowlton.

Betsey Langley was the daughter of True Langley and Mehitabel Dow, and married for her first husband, Lemuel Hall. They had for children: Ida M. and Oscar L. Hall. She married as her second husband, upon the death of her first, George H. Piper, and one child, Bert O. Piper. Bert married Edith G. Hopkinson and had two daughters, Bernice I. and Helen R. Piper. Bernice Piper married in 1936, John Cox.

