



Old Tavern, Center Hill Road, Epsom, NH

The proprietors of Epsom voted to hire Rev. John Tuck in 1761 and according to the vote, to build a meeting house and the building of a Minister's house on the lot set aside for said purpose. Reverend Tuck, for whatever reason, ended up owning the property and house. Records indicate that a church meeting was held at the home of Rev. Tuck as early as June 1762 - the meetinghouse not being erected until about 1764. Tuck was dismissed in June of 1774 and died in 1777 and the family stayed at the home until forced to sell the property to settle debts. It was sold to Simon Ames Heath by heirs of John Tuck, his wife Mary probably having died previous, February 15, 1797. Names on the record include Simon Drake and wife Love Tuck of Pittsfield; Thomas Rand and his wife Mary Tuck; Samuel J. Tuck and his wife Judith Gardiner; Joseph, Richard and Abigail Tuck of Boston.

Captain Heath's residence became an integral part of early town activities as a meeting place, tavern, probate court and even a location to showcase animals of traveling zoos. The property stayed in the Heath family from 1797 to 1864. The Heath family sold the property to George W. Batchelder and it stayed in that family until 1907. In 1908 it was purchased by Albion Ambrose and remained in that family until it was destroyed by fire August 12, 1971.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

1762, Reverend John Tuck; 1777, Widow of John Tuck; October 1797, Simon Ames Heath of Canterbury from Mary Tuck and family; 1830, Benjamin Moody Heath from Simon Ames Heath upon his death; 1864, George W. Batchelder from Benjamin Moody Heath; 1889, Alonzo Elbridge Batchelder by will from his father George W. Batchelder; 1907, Charles Sumner Hall from Laura Batchelder, wife of Alonzo Batchelder, deceased; January 1908, Bernard S. Anderson of Greenville from Charles Sumner Hall, the homestead farm of the late George W. Batchelder; May 1908, Albion Ambrose from Bernard S. and Hannah S. Anderson; 1928, Watson True Ambrose by inheritance from his father Albion Ambrose.

GENEALOGY: Simon Ames Heath married as his second wife, Elizabeth McClary, daughter of Andrew McClary who died at Bunker Hill, and Elizabeth McCrillis. The children of Simon Ames Heath and his wife Elizabeth were: Betsey Heath who married Samuel Weeks; John McClary Heath who married Abigail Cate, daughter of John Cate and Mary Towle; Douglas M. Heath who married Rebecca

Currier and died 6 years later; William Heath who died unmarried age 21; Benjamin Moody Heath who married Rachel Dolbeer Sanborn; and Andrew McClary Heath who married Jane Cram Cass. George W. Batchelder was born in 1816, son of Dearborn Batchelder and Sally Nealley. He married in 1836, Abigail Wells, daughter of Samuel Wells and Hannah Brown. They had children: Lucetta M.; Orison Batchelder who married Ann Maria Clark; Charles C. Batchelder who married Ursula Knowlton; Elbridge G. Batchelder who married Vienna R. Yeaton; and Alonzo Elbridge Batchelder who married first Carrie Page and second Laura Abbie Haynes. Alonzo and Laura had one daughter, Doris Abbie Batchelder who married Ellsworth Blake Philbrick.

Albion N. Ambrose married Susie F. Colburn and had children: Byron, who died young; Jesse Gertrude who married Edward R. Kelley; Frank Eben who married Edna Witherspoon; Forrest Everett who married Alfreda Gustafson; Watson True who married Helen Ordway; Alice Flora who married John L. Barton; and Hattie Elizabeth who married Elmore Bickford.

