



Samuel Blake Homestead, 620 Sanborn Hill Road, Epsom, NH

John Blake was one of the proprietors of Epsom and drew home lot # 13 about 1732, and it remains in the family to this day. All his sons, except Dearborn, had part of their families born in Epsom, and the only one becoming a permanent resident was Samuel. Known as Sergeant Blake, he became friendly with the local Indians after he received the homestead from his father in 1749. His first wife died in about 1757 and he married in 1760 Sarah Bickford, daughter of Thomas Bickford and Esther Adams. His first house burned and he rebuilt in 1784. His descendant Eleanora Chesley described the house as having a granite foundation, with 9 rooms in the main house with a large open chamber, the main room having wide floor boards 20 feet long. The ell was added about 100 years later replacing a summer kitchen. There were five fireplaces, and the old poplar trees in the old photos had been brought from England and survived close to 150 years old when blown down in 1918.

Samuel Blake died in 1801 and his son Samuel was legatee of the estate. The house went up for auction in June of 1823 and bought by John Chesley, who was the husband of Elizabeth Blake, daughter of Sergeant Samuel. From then on the property has remained in the hand of descendants of Chesley's and later Nutter.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

Original Proprietor John Blake; 1749, John Blake to son Samuel Blake; 1801, Samuel Blake (Jr) legatee of estate of Samuel Blake; 1823, John Chesley from Samuel Blake; 1834, John Chesley Jr. from John Chesley Sr.; circa 1888, Daniel Gilman Chesley through father John Chesley; circa 1918/19, Eleanora Sanborn (Chesley) Nutter through father Daniel Gilman Chesley; circa 1970, Edward Harvey Nutter and Glenna W. Yeaton from Eleanora Nutter. Eleanora Nutter died 1975.

GENEALOGY: John Blake married in 1714, Mary Dearborn and had children: John, Samuel, Mary, Thomas, Dearborn, Benjamin, Mehitble and Mercy. Son Samuel married first Sarah Libbey who died about 1757, they had for children: Hepzibah, Mary, Sarah probably died young, Samuel probably died young, Mehitable and James. Samuel married second Sarah Bickford and they had for children: Esther, Sarah, Abigail, Rebecca, Mercy, Temperance, Hannah, Samuel, Elizabeth, and James. Son Samuel married Nancy Griffn having children Sarah, Samuel, Michael McClary, Nancy, Betsey Chester, Charles William, Mary Jane, James and Eliphalet Sanborn. Daughter of Samuel and Sarah Bickford,

Elizabeth married in 1797, John Chesley, son of Lemuel Chesley and Sarah Randall of Lee, NH. John Chesley and Elizabeth Blake had for children: John, Samuel Morrill, Elizabeth G., Jonathan Steele, James Blake and Josiah Crosby. Son John married Joanna Tibbetts in 1834 and had for children: Almira Blake, Daniel Gilman, John Augustus, Margaret Ann, Lizzie Joanna, Ellen Frances, Lydia Addie, Emma Susan, Edward Munroe, Etta Ornthia and Ella Frances. Son Daniel Gilman Chesley in 1888 married Olive Elnora Sanborn, daughter of Nathan Batchelder Sanborn and Ruth Ann Cousins. Daniel and Olive had for children: Eleanora Sanborn, Mabel Florence and John Gilman. Daughter Eleanora married in 1918, Lewis Harvey Nutter, son of Matthew Harvey Nutter and Minerca Merrill. They had for children: Mary Francis and Edward Harvey.



1914 photo