



Samuel Fowler Homestead, 469 Suncook Valley Highway, Epsom, NH

In 1765, the New Hampshire General Assembly granted the town permission to sell off all the common or undivided land in the town to raise money. This was done August 19, 1783 when the common land at the southwestern part of the town, 2 sets of 10 lots, was completed. This property was part of lot No. 8 in the first range and eventually was bought by the Critchett family.

Doris Stevens related that the current house was built by James Critchett sometime after 1817 when he recieved the land from his father Thomas.

Samuel Fowler was a most influential Epsom resident being involved in most projects involving Short Falls, this particular portion of Epsom. Whether it was in mills, schools, cemetery association or church or town affairs, the name Samuel Fowler appears in some capacity. The house went out of the family in 1934 to return to family hands when bought by Mike and Claire Sklarin in 1971.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

1765, common and undivided land in the southwestern part of the town of Epsom sold to Andrew McClary, lot #8 in the first range, 2nd division, at public auction; Andrew McClary is killed at Bunker Hill and wife Elizabeth inherits; abt 1780 Ephraim Locke from Francis Locke, tax collector, lot #8 for unpaid taxes; 1784, Samuel Locke from Ephraim Locke, 60 acres more or less, land which I purchased for unpaid taxes; Thomas Critchett from Samuel Locke 60 acres part of lot #8, 1st range, 2nd division; 1817, James Critchett of Epsom from Thomas Critchett of Epsom, 50; 1845, Samuel Fowler and wife Elvira A. (Critchett) Fowler from Joseph Baker and wife Mary G. (Critchett) Baker, heirs to the estate of James and Sally (Green) Critchett of Epsom, 100 acres more or less; 1917/19 James W. Fowler of Epsom from the heirs of Elvira Critchett Fowler - Ella M. Tennant, Mary Josie Rand, Alvah Fowler, Clayton Fowler, Martha Dowst; 1918, Karl F. Rand, Epsom, from James W. Fowler of Epsom, the homestead farm of Samuel and Elvira Fowler, 150 acres more or less; 1934, George W. Allen of MA from Karl and Helen T. Rand of Epsom, the homestead farm of Samuel and Elvira Fowler of Epsom, deceased, 150 acres more or less; 1951, Howard Allen and Frances B. Allen from George W. Allen; 1971, Michael Sklarin of Epsom from Frances B. Allen.

GENEALOGY: Thomas Critchett married in 1793, Margaret Wallace, daughter of Ebenezer Wallace and Sarah McGaffey and had for children: James, Sarah, Edward, Hannah, Mehitable, Jane Wallace, and Thomas. Son James Critchett married in 1823, Sally Green, and had for children: Mary G. Critchett who married Joseph C. Baker; and Elvira Ann Critchett who married Samuel Fowler. Samuel Fowler and Elvira Critchett had for children: James W., Ella Maria who married James Tennant, Charles Baker who married Emma O. Tennant, Horace, Grace Annie who died young, and Mary Josie who married Walter Stearns Rand.

Walter Stearns Rand and Mary Josie Fowler had one son Karl Fowler Rand. He married Helen Gladys Towle and had for children: Dorothy, who married Clifford Osborne; Keith Fowler, and Carleton Towle. Dorothy Rand married Clifford Osborne and had children: Douglas, Gail, Claire who married Michael Sklarin, and Dean.

