

“Singing Hills”



“Singing Hills”, 695 Suncook Valley Highway, Epsom, NH

The house on the west side of the Suncook Valley Highway, beautifully set on a knoll, has for many years been known as “Singing Hills.” The house is on a part of the original lot #128 in the town of Epsom, in the fourth range and is the last lot drawn in 1732 by the original proprietors. It was drawn by Nathaniel Morrill. Many of the original proprietors did not settle in town, and such is probably the case here, as the lot could not be traced until 1787 when it was sold as part of a vendue for unpaid taxes. There were no buildings mentioned in deeds at that time. The house and barn were built during the ownership of John D. Burnham sometime between 1812 and 1823. John Burnham sold the property in 1823 and left Epsom.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

1787, Jonathan Locke from Ephraim Locke, tax collector - part of lot 128 taxed to Richard Brown, non-resident; 1788 Jonathan Locke from George Sanders, tax collector - part of lot 128, lot taxed to Richard Brown, non-resident; 1800, Richard Tripp from Jonathan Locke, lot 128, 54 acres purchased at public vendue; 1809 Benjamin Robinson Jr. from Richard Tripp Jr., part of lot 128, Suncook River to Chichester line, 74 acres; 1811 Jeremiah Gordon from Benjamin Robinson Jr., part of lot 128, 574 acres; 1812, John D. Burnham from Jeremiah Gordon part of lot 128, 50 acres, runs to Chichester line, 27 rods wide, no buildings mentioned; 1823, Frederick Sanborn and Jeremiah Gordon from John Burnham, part of lot 128, 40 acres, land and buildings plus all the hay in the barn and farming utensils that he owned and household furniture; 1831, James Critchett from Frederick Sanborn and Jeremiah Gordon, land and buildings, 40 acres. 1841, David M. Knowles from Nathan and Eliza Bickford who had to have purchased the property between March 1831 and November 1841 from James Critchett, the deed not having been recorded; 1886, George C. Knowles from Albert J. and Frank E. Knowles, brothers, all sons of David Knowles, passed to them on his decease; 1896, Daniel N. Lewis from George C. Knowles; 1908 Bertha Jeffrey from Sherman W. Lewis, administrator of the estate of Daniel N. Lewis; 1949, Earle I. Foster and Anna F. Stone from Bertha E. Jeffrey; 1965, Frank and Helen Mildeberger

from Anna F. Foster, widow of Earle I. Foster; 1979, Elizabeth Allen from Frank and Helen Mildeberger; 1986, Neal Boyce from Elizabeth J. Allen; 1996, Sean and Kate Hood from Neal Boyce and Pamela Riley.

GENEALOGY: Jeremiah Gordon Burnham and John Dow Burnham were sons of Benjamin Burnham, revolutionary war veteran, and Elizabeth Gordon.

David M. Knowles married Hannah Griffin and had children; George Clinton Knowles; Frank E. Knowles; Albert J. Knowles and daughter Mary Addie who married Charles Burnham, a grandson of Jeremiah Gordon Burnham.

