

## **Smith – Bickford Farm, Barnard Ridge Road**

**Compiled from deeds, census and genealogies by Dan Heyduk, 2016**

- 1852 Phebe Smith sells the Elisha Smith farm, 72 acres “with the buildings thereon”, plus 10 acres more that she had purchased, to James Bickford for \$1,200. It borders the “old road leading to Meredith Neck” (Barnard Ridge) and land of Isaac Leavitt (son of late Dudley Leavitt of Quarry Road). (Elisha Smith is in the 1830 and 1840 Meredith censuses)
- 1855 James Bickford gives a mortgage deed of \$250 to David Roberts for: 2 1/2 acres “with the mill and privilege thereon”. Roberts then buys the 2 ½ acres and the saw mill owned by John Page for \$250 on the same day, “being the same land, mill and privilege which I (Page) purchased of Sewall Leavitt” in 1836. Roberts must repay the \$250 mortgage with interest in four years.
- 1859 Woodford Map (attached) shows James Bickford living on Barnard Ridge Road.
- 1860 Census: James Bickford, age 54, farmer; Lucinda, age 58, wife; children: Mary, James E., Sarah, Moses, Frances.
- 1863 James Bickford and Eben Dow buy 20 acres adjoining Bickford’s land from Henry Bartlett for \$400.
- 1863 James Bickford buys 35 acres adjoining the Bickford/Dow land, and bordering Little Pond and land of Isaac Leavitt, from Henry Bartlett for \$800.
- 1866 James Bickford sells an “undivided half” of his “homestead farm” of 100 acres to his son Moses for \$500, provided that Moses stays on the farm and works it with James until James’ death. The deed takes effect at James’ death, and only if Moses has complied with the conditions; “otherwise this deed to be void and of no effect”.
- 1867 James Bickford sells an “undivided half” of his “homestead farm” of 100 acres to his son James E. for \$500, provided James E. stays on the farm and works it with James until James’ death. The deed takes effect at James’ death, and only if James E. has complied with the conditions; “otherwise this deed to be void and of no effect”.
- 1870 Census: James Bickford, age 64, farmer; Lucinda, age 65; Moses, age 24, farmer; and George and Sarah (James’ daughter) Batchelder and their son John are all living in one household on the farm.
- James E. Bickford, age 29, farmer; Adeline, age 27, wife; and their children Henry and Sarah are living on the farm in a separate household.
- 1871 Moses Bickford marries Anna Bickford (daughter of Charles Bickford).
- 1875 Moses and Anna Bickford’s son Roy F. is born.

- 1879 James Bickford sells the mill lot, with no mention of any building, to David Gilman for \$15. James apparently became the owner of the saw mill due to David Roberts' default on the mortgage of 1855, or by some other agreement between them.
- 1880 Census: James, age 74, farmer; Moses, age 34, farmer; Anna, age 31; children Grace and Frank R. (actually Roy Frank). James E. and family are not recorded there; may not have inherited their half of the farm. (James died in 1888)
- 1913 Moses Bickford dies.
- 1931 Roy F. Bickford sells his "homestead farm" adjoining land of Dudley Leavitt and bordering "the highway leading from the Neck Road to the Center Harbor Road" to Lewis P. Caverly for "\$1.00 and other valuable considerations". Bickford withholds five acres on the "highway" (Barnard Ridge Road) from this sale.