

David Farnham

From: David Farnham <dbf@fgd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:26 PM
To: Betsy Whitcomb
Cc: Suzanne Farnham
Subject: Tidewater Farm
Attachments: Tidewater.pdf; Falmouth 1857.jpg; Falmouth 1871.jpg

Anecdotal Merrill family history suggests a Merrill presence at Tidewater Farm extending back to colonial times.

Sue and I attempted to confirm this legend through land records. We were unable to confirm the legend and it is unlikely that Merrills lived there prior to the Revolution.

Silas Whiton Merrill (1816-1890) of Falmouth purchased about 45 acres comprising what we know as Tidewater Farm on November 7, 1838, from Samuel Moody of Falmouth, shipmaster and guardian for the minor heirs of Jonathan Moody (ca 1773-1835). This included:

- 7 acres of mowing and tillage
- 20 acres mowing and tillage
- 18 acres pasturing
- One-quarter acre woodland
- Pews in the meetinghouses

On September 5, 1839, Samuel Moody, as guardian, conveyed an undivided half interest in a shipyard that was supposed to have been included with the original purchase. In subsequent deeds the 45 acre parcel was referred to as the "Samuel Merrill Homestead" and appears on the 1857 map of Falmouth as "S. Merrill." Samuel Merrill (1786-1862) was Silas' father. After Samuel's death, a half interest in the homestead was conveyed to Jacob Jewett Merrill (1821-1880), Silas' brother, with Silas retaining the other half. The homestead appears on the 1871 atlas as "J. Merrill." Jacob and Silas purchased an eight-tenths of an acre strip on the opposite side of the Squitterygusset giving access to the "highway" (Middle Road) in 1869. The bridge across the creek and path to the road appears on the 1871 atlas.

The homestead was eventually passed down to Frederick Whiton Merrill (1860-1922), son of Jacob. Frederick sold the homestead for \$600 to William C. Cookson of Washington, D.C., on January 4, 1911. It continued to change hands before being purchased by Henry and Nancy Finks in 1946. Their heirs sold it to Tidewater LLC in 2005.

The property was owned by Merrills from 1839 until 1911. Prior to that, it was owned by Jonathan Moody (ca 1773-1835) of Falmouth. He was married first to Judith Merrill (1771-1815) and then Hannah Merrill (1775-1851), both of Falmouth and sisters of Samuel Merrill. One of Samuel's daughters was named Mary Elizabeth Moody Merrill, presumably to honor the connection between the Merrill and Moody families. Jonathan Moody purchased the land from the estate of Samuel Cobb (ca. 1718-bef. 1795) in 1806. It was described as 45 acres comprising the southwesterly portion of Samuel Cobb's "home estate."

Capt. Samuel Cobb was a prominent shipwright and member of the ancient Falmouth community on the peninsula who removed to "New Casco" in 1768. A 50 acre portion of Capt. Samuel Cobb's "home estate" went to his William while the remaining 45 acres went to Samuel Jr. or directly to Samuel Jr.'s three sons. William

sold his portion to Jonathan Moody's father Benjamin (1739-1805) in 1795. It included the buildings thereon as well as a half interest in the shipyard. In the 1806 sale by the three sons to Jonathan Moody, the deed noted that Jonathan was already in possession of the other half interest in the shipyard.

I haven't located the Cobb's acquisition of the land in Cumberland or York County deeds.

One could surmise that Capt. Samuel Cobb established the shipyard on the east bank of the Scitterygusset shortly before or after he moved to "New Casco" in 1768. Cobb's 90+ acres also contained at least one dwelling house before he died (prior to 1795). The 1806 deed of sale from the Cobbs to Jonathan Moody for the southwestern 45 acres included the phrase "and all the buildings thereon." Jonathan Moody's younger brother, Samuel (ca 1784-1858) was also a shipwright and is shown living in what may have been part of that other 50 acres (near the present location of the American Legion) in the 1857 map.

The Cobb and Moody families were shipwrights. The focus of the deeds prior to 1839 seems to have been on the shipyard. The Merrills were farmers and the emphasis appears have shifted to agriculture after they purchased what is now considered to be Tidewater Farm.

All of this begs the question, "Who built the farmhouse and when was it built?" Census data shows that Moody kin lived in Falmouth from 1790 on but doesn't say where. If we assume that Samuel Cobb's residence was on the county road (now Depot), the most likely builder of the Tidewater farmhouse would have been Moody family. As highly skilled shipwrights, they certainly would have possessed the skills to build a dwelling. While they didn't gain ownership of the entire 45 acre parcel until 1806, they purchased the other 50 acres and a half interest in the shipyard in 1795. This gives us a window of 1795-1835 during which the original farmhouse may have been built. And, yes, the Merrill ladies (first Judith, then Hannah) could have lived at the farmhouse before it was sold to the Merrill family and became their brother's homestead.

An index to Cumberland County deeds is attached along with extracts from the 1857 and 1871 maps.



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22 Lunt Road

Date	Deed	To	From	References	Remarks
10/18/2005	23279/222	Tidewater LLC	1. Nancy Finks Revoc Trust 2. Henry Finks Revoc Trust	1. Deed 09/20/1989 8958/171 2. Deed 07/23/1999 14939/136 3. Deed 07/26/1999 14960/240 A. ROW 10/08/1894 618/109 B. Ease 06/07/1954 2182/177 C. Deed 07/29/1954 2189/31 D. Deed 07/23/1999 14939/136 E. Deed 07/26/1999 14960/274	Finks TIC to Jt Ten NCF Estate to Revoc Trust HBF Estate to Revoc Trust To Lunt To PWD To PWD NCF Estate to Revoc Trust HBF Estate to Revoc Trust
10/23/1989	8958/171	Finks Joint Tenants	Finks Tenants in Common	1. Deed 05/24/1946 1821/94 A. ROW 10/08/1894 618/109	Marchildon to Finks To Lunt
5/24/1946	1821/94	Henry B. & Nancy C. Finks	Homer J. Marchildon	1. Deed 08/11/1933 1425/225 F. Deed 10/18/1869 372/418 G. Deed 12/01/1913 922/367	Madsen to Marchildon Pinkham to Merrill (Squid Xing) Cookson to King
8/11/1933	1425/225	Homer J. Marchildon	Niels C. Madsen	1. Deed 06/13/1932 1399/369 F. Deed 10/18/1869 372/418 G. Deed 12/01/1913 922/367	Grover to Madsen Pinkham to Merrill (Squid Xing) Cookson to King
5/15/1932	1399/368	Niels C. Madsen	Eva J. Grover	1. Deed 05/26/1931 1373/211 H. Deed 09/18/1917 996/96 F. Deed 10/18/1869 372/418 G. Deed 12/01/1913 922/367	Madsen to Grover King et al to Madsen Pinkham to Merrill (Squid Xing) Cookson to King
5/27/1931	1373/211	Eva J. Grover	Niels C. Madsen	1. Deed 09/18/1917 996/96 F. Deed 10/18/1869 372/418 G. Deed 12/01/1913 922/367	King et al to Madsen Pinkham to Merrill (Squid Xing) Cookson to King
9/20/1917	996/96	Niels C. Madsen	1. Nellie T. King (widow) 2. Luetta King 3. Warren C. King 4. Francis P. King Heirs of Dr. Alfred King of Portland	1. Deed 12/01/1913 922/367	Cookson to King
12/15/1913	922/367	Alfred King of Portland	William W. Cookson of Wash D.C.	1. Deed 01/04/1911 869/490	Merrill to Cookson
3/8/1911	869/490	William W. Cookson of Wash D.C.	Frederick W. Merrill of Falmouth	Homestead farm formerly owned by Silas W. & Jacob J. Merrill F. Deed 10/18/1869 372/418	\$600 Pinkham to Merrill (Squid Xing)
7/16/190				Mortgage J. Deed 11/17/1838 165/78 A. ROW 10/08/1894 618/109 F. Deed 10/18/1869 372/418 K. Deed 01/12/1882 483/446 L. Deed 06/22/1883 496/297 M. Deed 11/30/1888 578/33	Moody to Merrill (1st 3 lots) To Lunt Pinkham to Merrill (Squid Xing) Merrill to Merrill Merrill to Merrill Merrill to Merrill
3/7/1891	578/33	Frederick W. Merrill of Falmouth	Henry J. Merrill of Falmouth	Merrill homestead now owned and occupied by FWM	

9/8/1883	496/297	1. Henry J. Merrill of Falmouth 2. Frederick W. Merrill of Falmouth	1. Lucretia P. Merrill of Falmouth 2. Hulda H. Norton of Portland	One half of a tract of land, one half of all buildings, and one half of the shipyard attached thereto; about 42 acres I. Deed 03/09/1849 286/95 J. Deed 11/17/1838 165/78	Silas W. to Jacob J. Merrill Moody to Merrill
1/21/1882	483/446	1. Henry J. Merrill of Falmouth 2. Frederick W. Merrill of Falmouth	Mary E. Moody Merrill of Falmouth	Old Samuel Merrill homestead Homestead on which my father formerly lived being then owned by my brother Jacob J. and myself but the deed cannot be found a. About 45 acres of mowing and tillage together with the buildings thereon b. Southerly half of the 28 acre wood lot c. 20 acres of salt marsh commonly called the Dike conveyed to me by the late Samuel Moody	
1/21/1882	483/444	Mary E. Moody Merrill of Falmouth	Silas W. Merrill of Boston		
3/10/1858	286/95	Jacob J. Merrill of Falmouth	Silas W. Merrill of Boston	Homestead of Capt. Jonathan Moody One half of a tract of land and the building situated thereon, and one fourth of the shipyard attached thereto; about 42 acres to be held in common with Silas W. & Jacob J. 1. 11/7/1838 165/78	Moody to Merrill Highest bidder at \$2,010
9/15/1839	165/78	Silas W. Merrill of Falmouth	Samuel Moody of Falmouth Shipmaster and Guardian 1. Hannah E. Moody 2. Silas Moody Minor heirs to Jonathan Moody	Four small lots with buildings thereon a. 7 acres mowing & tillage b. 20 acres mowing & tillage c. 18 acres pasturing d. one quarter acre woodland and one pew in the First Meetinghouse	
9/5/1839	165/79	Silas W. Merrill of Falmouth	Samuel Moody et al	One half a a shipyard	
9/22/1818	82/135	Jonathan Moody of Falmouth	Samuel Moody of Falmouth	Sell back land 77/236	\$1,000
1/25/1815	72/236	Samuel Moody of Falmouth	Jonathan Moody of Falmouth	Two tracts of land about 45 acres a. East side of Squid. b. Four acres with buildings and half of a shipyard purchased from Sam'l Moody	\$1,000
2/26/1812	64/466	Samuel Moody of Falmouth	Jonathan Moody of Falmouth	Four acres in tract b above	\$100
2/26/1806	49/126	Jonathan Moody of Falmouth	1. Edward Cobb of Portland 2. Samuel Cobb of Portland 3. Francis Cobb of Portland	About 45 acres, southwesterly part of the estate of Samuel Cobb, our grandfather. With buildings thereon excepting one half half of the shipyard in the southwesterly half of that estate and is now owned by Jonathan Moody	\$1,000

12/29/1795

23/443

Benjamin Moody of Falmouth

William Cobb of Portland

50 acres including the dwelling and buildings thereon, one half of the shipyard and workhouse, being my part of the home estate of Samuel Cobb, my father



