

SQUIER—PIERCE FARM

By THERESA BARROWS AND CHERYL PETTIT

The George Squier Farm, also known as the Squier-Moran Farm, was bought by Giles Pierce about 1800.

After Giles bought the land his brother Christopher Pierce came up from Rhode Island and settled on what is now known as the Hodges farm. Christopher was born October 30, 1759 in Exeter, Rhode Island. Giles and Christopher were the sons of George and Mary Green Pierce of Exeter, Rhode

SQUIER—PIERCE FARM

39

Island. Christopher married Sarah Northrup, who died June 15, 1818 and was buried at Clarendon Flats Cemetery. Christopher came from Rhode Island in 1802. He died May 8, 1811 in Clarendon. After Christopher's death his son, John N. Pierce, took over the farm. John had other brothers: William, Oliver, and Christopher Jr., as well as sisters Mary Ann and Sarah.

John was married twice. His first wife was Rosannah Spencer, by whom he had three sons. After her death he married Sally Carr on June 11, 1827 in Clarendon. They held their fiftieth wedding anniversary party at their home from two to eight P.M. Two-hundred invitations were sent out without their knowledge. Early that afternoon the guests began to arrive until over four-hundred had paid their respects.

John died on March 20, 1881 at the advanced age of 91. Thomas Pierce then took over the farm and his mother Sally Carr lived with him on the old homestead.

Thomas' first wife was Julia. After she died he married Katherine Moran, a great aunt to Betty Squier. She left the farm to her nephew, James Moran, and Betty Moran Squier.

Giles Pierce, the first person who bought the land from Lydius, married a woman named Hannah Arnold. She was probably related to Stephen Arnold who was the first town clerk of Clarendon. Stephen held that post for twenty-one years from 1778 to 1799. Giles built the original house which burned several years ago. The barn was built by Nicholas Powers, the famous builder of covered bridges, in the early 1800's.

The original barn is still standing on the property. This barn has a wool room upstairs. This room was used when sheep were raised on the farm.

There is also a hog house dating from when Christopher settled there. The hog house has in one corner a brick affair with big vats on it, this is where the pigs were scalded and some butchering was done.

The Pierce property, owned by John N., Oliver, and Christopher Jr. extended from the Otter Creek to East Mountain. Not much has been sold of the original John N. Pierce farm. A parcel was sold to Russ Smith Sales & Service. Some land was sold so that the Mill River Union School could be built. There are now about two hundred acres left.

When Giles first came he grew wheat until he realized that another part of New England grew wheat cheaper.

The Pierces moved from wheat to sheep in 1820 and kept sheep for about fifty years. They always had a good garden which provided food for the family all year round. They kept much of this food in the cellar.

Mr. George Squier and Dorothy Moran Squier own this farm now. Mrs. Squier brought it from her father James Moran, who was a nephew of the late Katherine Moran.