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EARLY DAYS



The island's social center

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KOTOSI ISLAND

E A R L Y D A Y S A T J O L L Y I S L A N D

The First Seventy-five Years of the Jolly Island Association

Joshua Winslow Pierce sold "Tract No. 28 1/4" to Winborn A. Sanborn on April 23, 1846 for fifty dollars. Winborn passed the property on to his daughter, Helen. She and her husband, John S. Wadleigh, sold their holding to Charles S. Davis on October 27, 1891 for one thousand dollars. Today the land and buildings of Jolly Island are assessed for more than one hundred thousand dollars.

When the Reverend Davis made his purchase, he was acting for his brother William, for Andrew Coultas, and for Ben Simon in addition to himself. These four young men were Methodist ministers, and all were members of the New England Southern Conference. Three had been classmates at Wesleyan University in Connecticut ten years earlier.

An interesting bit of early history continues the story: "The four ministers made their selection of sites by rowing around the island, once around for each to indicate which plot he desired. Each thought the others would want what he wanted. Fortunately, however, each picked a different plot, so each got his first choice. Ben Simon drew plans for his dwelling and ordered lumber by specification. Two of the others simply asked for Ben's order to be duplicated. The fourth, having a larger family, put in a double order. The lumber was delivered to the four properties during July, 1892, and construction was begun. The ministers assisted the carpenters to put up simple, two-story rectangles. Once the houses were framed and roofed, the ministers completed the work."

The following year - 1893 - the population of the island was augmented by the arrival of five families, each purchasing one of the remaining plots. These were the families of three ministers: J.I. Bartholomew, Walter E. Ela, and C.A. Stenhouse and two laymen: J.P. Arnold and Harry T. Borden. Thus, the nine lots of approximately three acres each into which the island had been divided (Not counting the area in the center commonly owned) were occupied during the second summer of ownership, and each family had provided for its housing. Today six of the properties remain in the families of original owners.

The four ministers sought a place where they could enjoy their summer vacations either alone with their families or in fellowship with their friends. They found what they sought. Jolly Island provided seclusion and companionship in 1892 --- and it still does.

Excerpts from the Minutes and Agents' Reports of

The Jolly Island Association

1893 to 1967

Aug. 25, 1893 - W.F. Davis was elected chairman pro-tem and B.F. Simon, secretary pro-tem. Voted to form ourselves into an association to be known as the Jolly Island Association. A.J. Coultas, J.I. Bartholomew, and B.F. Simon were appointed to form a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws to be presented at the next meeting. J.P. Arnold was nominated for postmaster.

Aug. 26, 1893 - The constitution was adopted. The following officers were elected: A.J. Coultas, president; J.I. Bartholomew, vice president; W.F. Davis, secretary and treasurer. B.F. Simon was appointed to solicit signatures for a petition to establish a summer post office on Jolly Island. Voted to accept the wharf as Association property. Voted to accept the ice house as Association property. An assessment of \$20.00 was ordered on each lot to meet the expense of the wharf and the ice house. Present: A.J. Coultas, W.F. Davis, C.S. Davis, J.I. Bartholomew, B.F. Simon, C.A. Stenhouse.

Aug. 28, 1893 - A petition was read, offered by Mr. Otis D. Folsom, which he had prepared to obtain a post office on Long Island. It was voted to write Mr. Folsom that, inasmuch as we were to petition for a summer post office on Jolly Island, that it was not wise to interfere with matters on Long Island. It was voted to construct a common pathway through the center of the island. It was voted that W.F. Davis, agent of the Association, be instructed to see to filling the ice house and to make such repairs to the wharf, as needed, not to exceed the cost of \$3.00 per member. It was voted to employ someone as custodian of the island during the year. (The three meetings of 1893 were held at the home of W.F. Davis.)

Feb. 20, 1894 - A meeting of the Association was held in the vestry of the Fourth Street M.E. Church of New Bedford, Mass. Present were A.J. Coultas, W.F. and C.S. Davis, Stenhouse, Bartholomew, Ela, and Simon. Coultas was appointed to write the governor of New Hampshire in regard to certain depredations made upon the island. The agent was instructed to write Mr. G.K. Brown regarding mail facilities. Voted to give up the attempt to obtain a summer post office as impractical. Voted that members of the Association be charged 10¢ for each piece of ice and all other persons be charged 25¢ per cake, all revenues from ice to be divided among members of the Association.

Aug. 2, 1894 - Meeting held at the wharf. It was voted, because of the scarcity, to limit each member to 200 pounds of ice per week.

Aug. 16, 1894 - Meeting held at 8 am. Mr. Coultas reported receiving a courteous letter from the governor, saying that he would do everything possible to defend our property from deprecation. A committee of three was appointed to consider some plan for disposing of the center of the island.

Aug. 27, 1894 - Voted to assess each member \$4.00 to meet annual expenses. Committee on disposal of the center of the island reported considering converting property to the Association by deed. Voted to post signs offering \$50.00 for conviction of anyone committing deprecations. It was voted to give the Birch Island Association the use of the wharf in the past, and to charge them in the future \$2.00 per family per year, and that a letter of fraternal greeting be sent to the agent of that association.

Aug. 1, 1895 - Voted that the undeeded property of the island be divided into undivided ninths to each lot owner.

Aug. 3, 1895 - Meeting at 7:30 am voted to accept the new addition to the wharf and to tax each lot owner \$7.78 for same.

Aug. 16, 1895 - Annual meeting attended by Coultas, W.F. and C.S. Davis, Stenhouse, Arnold, and H.F. Borden. Voted to assess each lot owner \$5.44 to meet annual expenses. In case an owner wishes to dispose of his property, he shall give 30 days notice. Voted to erect a shed on the south side of the ice house to store sawdust.

July 31, 1896 - Voted that a committee be appointed to see that the deeds be altered in harmony with the specifications of the surveyor and the changes recommended by the Association at its last annual meeting. Stenhouse and Holmes were appointed. Voted that the agent be requested to confer with the Laconia Ice Company in regard to filling the ice house. Voted that the Birch Island residents be invited to share our religious services.

Aug. 10, 1896 - The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A.J. Coultas, president; Walter Ela, vice president; J.F. Arnold, secretary-treasurer and agent.

Aug. 20, 1896 - Report of C.S. Davis given that the undeeded property be deeded to the lot owners and their heirs and assignees in one deed to be deposited and registered. Said report being on the advice of Robert F. Raymond of New Bedford. Voted that the agent be given power to sell ice at his discretion. Voted that a member of the Association be appointed to confer with the R.R. officials in regard to steamboat fares and amount of travel given R.R. company by Jolly Island.

Aug. 9, 1897 - Voted that the annual tax be \$3.20 per member. Voted that a tax of \$3 per member be collected by the agent Jan. 1, 1898 to pay for filling ice house, etc. Moved and voted that the old officers serve for the ensuing year. Voted that the agent purchase for the ice house for next season tongs, shovel, axe, crowbar. Voted that a committee on forestry be appointed to consult with authorities in regard to the best methods of developing the trees on the island. Schuh and Stenhouse were appointed. Voted that the president and Stenhouse be a committee to provide a suitable sign to warn trespassers on the island; also, that the president speak to the captain of the Eagle regarding landing objectionable persons and freight for same on Jolly Island wharf. A committee consisting of Brother Coultas and Schuh was appointed to confer with the Birch Island authorities in regard to transportation and boat facilities and a more general fraternal feeling between the islands. Brothers Simon and Bartholomew were appointed.

Aug. 4, 1899 - Report of committee on Sunday services given by Brother Simon accepted. The suggestion of the committee that we have the regular Sunday School session with a summing up of the lesson at the close was adopted. Voted that the committee on religious services be authorized to confer with the Birch Island people. Voted that the agent be authorized to paint the ice house. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, A.J. Coultas; Vice pres. W. Ela; Sec-treas. and Agent, C.A. Stenhouse.

Aug. 3, 1900 - The annual meeting was held at 7:30 pm at Oakcroft. It was voted that H.T. Borden be a committee to superintend further clearing of the interior of the island in the interest of a playground. It was voted that a special tax of \$1 per lot owner be levied for wharf repairs. A tax of \$3.50 was voted for current expenses.

May 20, 1901 - Special meeting, Mathewson Street Church, Providence, R.I. The Agent has been notified through Collins of Lakesport of the "complete wreck" of the steamboat wharf at Jolly Island. He notified the members and, having occasion to be in New Hampshire, went to the

island. The agent spent about 24 hours at Weirs, Lakeport, and Jolly Island in the investigation of the wreck and matters connected with a new wharf. He reported: the wreck was total and the wharf should not be rebuilt on the old site; it would be better to build a new wharf on the south side where hazards are minimum; suggestions for a new wharf were presented. The agent was instructed to procure the erection of a wharf on a site beginning at the sluiceway between the lots of Borden and Stenhouse and to extend out to 10-foot depth of water at the front. After extended discussion and taking measurements in the room, the size of the outer crib was fixed by vote at 12 by 24 feet. It was also voted that the bridge be eight feet wide. Voted to assess each lot owner \$10 to meet the expenses of the new wharf.

Aug. 12, 1901 - Annual meeting attended by Coultas, Simon, Holmes, Ela, Arnold, Sarah L. Arnold (by proxy), and Stenhouse. It was announced that R.E. Schuh had sold his cottage and interest in Jolly Island to Sarah L. Arnold. Agent Stenhouse reported completion of the new dock with itemized expenditures as follows: wages \$74.78; lumber and logs \$85.99; steamer and barge \$29.00; iron work \$21.40; sundries \$7.95 -- total \$219.12. The Birch Island Association requested permission to worship with us in our tabernacle and to make some additions to the seating capacity. It was voted to welcome the Birch Island residents, to accept their offer to provide additional accommodations to the tabernacle, to ask them to appoint one member to the Committee on Public Worship, and to convey a copy of this action to Captain Luce of the Birch Island Association. J.P. Arnold was appointed a committee on public worship. (W.I. Ward was later appointed by the Birch Island Association to act with him.)

Aug. 8, 1902 - It was voted that the agent purchase a truck from H.T. Borden for use at the wharf. It was voted that the agent erect a small freight shed at the wharf to cost not more than \$18, if possible. It was voted that a tax of \$5.50 be levied on each lot owner in addition to \$3.00 ice assessment, making a total of \$8.50 on each lot owner.

Aug. 19, 1903 - President Coultas called the meeting at the Washington Cottage to order with the following present: Arnold, Holmes, Borden, and Stenhouse. Mrs. Bartholomew was invited to represent Bartholomew and Harold Simon to represent Simon. J.P. Arnold represented Miss S.L. Arnold. The agent's report comprehended several important items. In it attention was called to the marked improvement made by the members in their own property, and that the tentative and experimental stage of the island property had now certainly passed to the permanent. It declared that the Association must now expect to be called upon to make general improvements adequate to the increased evaluation of the whole island. It also called attention to the fact that the taxes were a trifle

larger, showing that the assessor had taken notice of our advancement, but that we were getting our taxes through the Association much less than we could as individuals. The agent reported that he had not built the freight house on the wharf as ordered. One member wrote him in response to the assessment and refused to pay it unless the house should be built on the land. This together with the fact that the assessment would be insufficient to build a substantial and worthy building seemed to the Agent to be reasonable grounds for referring the matter back to the Association. The president suggested the value of a road around the island on the lake front. This met with some opposition and also with much favor because of its social features. Nothing was decided. It was voted that the matter of filling the ice house be left with the Agent as usual. On motion of Borden a vote was taken to determine the location of the freight house. It resulted in a tie between those wishing the house on the land and those wishing it on the lake end of the wharf. A compromise to place it at the end of the bridge adjoining the L of the wharf was reached and no dissent to this plan was expressed. At the suggestion of Arnold, the matter of size and cost of building was considered. From his measurements a building 8' by 12' by 6½' (height) would cost about \$35 with members doing the work.

July 19, 1904 - A special meeting was held at the wharf to inspect the damage that had occurred to the structure. The Agent was authorized to build a new protective crib and to levy the necessary assessment.

Aug. 15, 1904 - The annual meeting was held in Glowmount (formerly the Washington Cottage), starting at 8 pm. Present were Coultas, Holmes, Arnold, (Miss Arnold by proxy), Davis, and Stenhouse. The Agent reported that the wharf, completed last September, had cost \$58.28 (correction: Read "freight house" for "wharf") and that \$3.45 had been expended to repair ice damage to the wharf. He called attention to the increase in Gilford taxes to \$24.00 and said that the 1904 taxes would be \$25.60. It was voted that Stenhouse be a committee to confer with the Gilford assessors concerning the increase in taxes and also to confer with the mail agent Lewis or the authorities concerning better mail and transportation facilities. The president in his annual address remarked on the growing and sustained interest manifested in the Sunday evening vesper services in the boats on the lake. Many now come from other islands and camps to share in this hour of worship. A need had developed for uniformity in hymn books. It was for us, he thought, to provide the Methodist hymnal in such quantity that all might be supplied with the same book.

Aug. 4, 1905 - The agent reported that the wharf had been extended and that the structure had survived the winter storms in excellent condition.

The Agent made five recommendations which only need be indicated here as they were acted upon later: (1) in reference to B & M RR tickets to this island; (2) posting "Private Wharf"; (3) U.S. mail collection box discouraged; (4) tax levy; (5) action on the ice house. C.A. Stenhouse reported \$160.59 received from members between Aug. 24, 1904 and Aug. 4, 1905 and \$166.17 expended during the same period, leaving a deficit of \$5.58. The items were given in copy to each member. He reported on the increased taxation, and thought it best to avoid further action and agitation since the taxes have not been increased very much for several years. It was voted to take the ice house down at the end of the season.

Aug. 14, 1905 - The president in a few remarks returned to the subject that had been brought up briefly just before the annual meeting of Aug. 4 was adjourned, viz. the subject of multiplication of families on the island. He gave a brief account of the founding of the Association and of its traditions. All the members in turn expressed opinions as to the past, present, and future of the association, and as to the rights and privileges which they understood or claimed as members. The discussion was fraternal and harmonious. Several members, calling attention to existing and future needs and the violation of traditions, declared that they would not bind themselves to the tradition, namely of "one family on each lot." The president thereupon announced that he would not be governed longer by it himself, but would build another cottage on his lot if he desired. No action was taken. Discussion was entered into concerning the selling of the C.S. Davis place, and it was thought that the members should take interest in the matter that desirable parties be encouraged to buy.

Aug. 21, 1906 - Annual meeting at Oakcroft Cottage attended by Coultas, Borden, Holmes, Arnold, and Stenhouse. Rev. Mr. Gross represented Miss Arnold as proxy. The agent reported having the wharf materially strengthened. A spike driver was secured. The west end spike of oak was driven down to a depth of 6' 6". The east end spike was driven down more than 9'. The hammer of the driver weighed a ton but each blow drove the spike down, on the average, less than one inch. The agent concluded that the wharf ought to be permanent as a result. He reported that the ice house that has served the members so well for 13 years had been taken down. Taxes for the year were \$24.00. It was voted to make additions to the seats at the tabernacle. A suggestion was made that each cottage display a lantern conspicuously on the shore every night. This was favorably considered.

1907 - Annual meeting held at Glow Mount Cottage. The subject of singing at the vesper service was considered, and B. F. Simon was requested to take charge of the Sunday evening service. The agent was requested to modify the sign in the freight house by emitting the words "Visitors Welcome" and that Miss Arnold be requested to formulate a suitable notice

concerning trespassers.

Aug. 21, 1908 - President Coultas made a verbal report concerning the Sunday trips of the mail steamer, "Uncle Sam", which were begun this season. He had secured petitions of the islanders objecting to the steamer stopping at our island. He had conferred with W.I. Ward of Birch Island and Mr. Pearsall of Bear Island who circulated similar petitions. Dr. Coultas presented the matter to Captain Lewis of the mail steamer and heard his reasons for entering upon the trips, but he had discontinued his stops at the above islands. By anticipating the time the government should order him to carry Sunday mails, he would be in a position to ask pay for the service. The agent said that he had visited and inspected the cottages in April and made reports to each lot owner. Mr. Burch has enlarged and greatly improved his cottage. The tax assessor has increased the valuation of the island to \$2500, and taxed accordingly. The rate is \$18.40 per thousand, and the collector has sent a bill for \$46.55 which is \$5.18 for each lot owner. Even at this figure we are getting our taxes at a very moderate cost. The agent recommends that the Association make a rule requesting every lot owner to forbid the use of fireworks or making of bonfires of any description on this island. The danger is too great at all times to be passed over. Many large and small forest fires have been set this summer. We have moreover no force on the island with which to cope with a forest fire. Prevention is the plain duty of every lot owner. Precaution is our only protection for a fire once started would probably destroy the island. The seating capacity of the tabernacle has been nearly doubled, and now affords accommodations for any congregation that may be likely to assemble there. President Coultas announced that G.W. Greene would not serve milk next year. On motion of W. Ela a committee of two -- president and secretary -- was appointed to confer with a similar committee from Birch Island and also with Mr. Greene in regard to the matter of milk delivery for next year. Present: Coultas, Ela, Arnold, Borden, Mrs. Simon, Stenhouse, Burch, Bartholomew.

July 13, 1909 - The agent's report covered the history of the breaking up of the wharf in April and its restoration in June. The cost was \$231 (W.L. Raymond, labor, and materials).

July 1, 1910 - Present: Coultas, Ela, Burch, Stenhouse, Arnold, Milton Borden, and Vincent Simon. The disastrous work of the Brown Tail moth on our own and adjacent islands was thoroughly presented. The agent, having been very busy, H.T. Borden had requested leave to pick off the nests or to see that it was done. He hired G.W. Greene at an expense of \$32.58 to do the work. Greene reported that he picked over eleven bushels of nests.. H.T. Borden divided the expense between the lot owners and collected directly from each one. The agent also reported

meeting the selectmen of the town of Gilford who are assessors of taxes. He discussed with them the subject of taxation and laid emphasis upon the fact that this island property was held only for personal reasons and had been in no sense an investment, but had always been held at large expense to the members. He called their attention to the fact that they had been steadily raising the annual rate. He hoped they would consider the very heavy expense we meet in maintaining our wharf, etc., and that they would not go beyond the present rate. He reported to the association that the assessors finally presented a tax bill less than last year (\$44.46 rather than the \$49.70 of 1909). The members discussed the report very favorably. It was voted that the agent communicate with Prof. Fiske of Melrose Highlands in reference to a parasite enemy of the brown tail moth, and if possible introduce the same in our island. Coultas and Burch urged the association to act vigorously in regard to the extermination both by parasites and by picking nests. The agent also was ordered to write the Massachusetts commissioner for information. Arnold was reelected committee on public services. It was suggested that visiting professional people be invited to lecture when such arrangements can be made.

(Note: After all the members, except Coultas and Burch, had left the island at the close of the season, the president in conference with representatives of Birch and Bear islands, secured the services of an expert to spread contagion among the brown tail moths. Another attempt will be made early next spring from which more success is anticipated.)

Aug. 18, 1911 - The cottages of Borden, Burch, and Holmes apparently were entered in the fall. Borden lost some bedding. The next item was the condition of the lake. The low water is causing great expense to meet the new conditions. The steamers find difficulty in landing freight and passengers at the wharf. The need of removing rocks from in front of the big wharf is made emphatic. It was voted that W.H. Raymond be hired for one day to lift the boulders in the way of navigation at the big wharf with such subtraction of time as possible through individual members needing his services. The treasurer's report showed a deficit of \$0.88. On motion of Miss Arnold it was voted that a sign be placed at the land end of the wharf notifying the public that this island is private property and strangers are requested not to trespass. It was voted that the agent be requested to investigate how it came about that a certain island is permitted to put up a mail box on our wharf. On motion of Bartholomew it was voted that G.W. Greene be secured to come to our island in the same way and on the same terms as those for which he cares for Birch Island. It was voted that each lot owner be requested to take care of the brown tail moth problem on his own lot. The condition of the lake was discussed and it was voted that Borden be requested to attend the meeting of the Lake Winnepesaukee Improvement Association at Weirs tomorrow and represent our interests. Holmes nominated Arnold as Committee on Public Services. Arnold declined to serve longer. Ela was nominated and elected. Miss Arnold called attention to the fact that no appropriation had been voted for removing the rocks at the far end of the big wharf. It was agreed that a special assessment be levied by the agent for this purpose.

July 19, 1912 - Annual meeting at Oakcroft cottage, 10 pm. Present: Coultas, Holmes, Borden, J.P. Arnold, Mrs. B.F. Simon, Stenhouse. (The meeting was delayed in the expectation that Miss S.L. Arnold would arrive from Boston about 9:30 pm; however, when she did arrive, she was too weary to attend the meeting.) The agent reported the lake was full of water for the first time in three years, and that the water company seemed anxious to retain the water in the lake. The brown tail moth pest is much less in evidence. The agent reported that nothing has been expended on the common property. J.P. Arnold offered to put the seats in the tabernacle into good condition at his own expense. An assessment of \$8 per lot owner was levied.

Among the expenses listed for 1913 are the following:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 40 pounds spikes and nails | \$1.40 |
| G.W. Green, 3 logs | 6.00 |
| G.H. Clark, 427' plank and joist | 10.68 |
| 450' ash @ 25¢ | 11.25 |
| Boullia & Gorrell, prime boards | 1.54 |
| Freight charges | .25 |
| 12 iron pins | 1.10 |
| Capt. Tuttle labor on spikes | 4.00 |
| Walter Ela, one log | 1.00 |
| June 14 - 20 hours labor @ 25¢ | 5.00 |
| " 16 " | 5.00 |
| " 19 " | 5.00 |
| " 20 " | 5.00 |
| " 21 " | 5.00 |
| " 25 " | 5.00 |
| Cost of wharf and tabernacle repairs | \$67.22 |

July 21, 1913 - Annual meeting at Crescent Beach cottage. The agent reported the boat house of Mr. Holmes was badly wrecked by the ice and had to be almost wholly rebuilt. The agent consulted each lot owner about disposing of the fallen and undesirable trees from the center of the island. Seven were in favor of beginning at once to clear some of the center ground. One has no objection to clearing but does not want an extra assessment for such work at this time. One strongly opposes any work being done or any assessment for such work. As the expression for the improvement was not unanimous, nothing has been done although the agent had the men and the tools here to carry out the wishes of those heard from. The agent's report was accepted for record. The president reported he had consulted Judge Raymond and lawyer Mitchell about incorporating the Association. No great advantage would be secured by incorporation, and it was decided to do no more about it at present.

Aug. 26, 1913 - Voted to have the trees sprayed on the most economical terms possible, or purchase a spraying machine if thought best. No more picking of nests by the association at present.

Voted that J.P. Arnold be a committee to arrange for the group laundry method of having our washing done at Lakeport as the Birch Islanders do now.

Aug. 20, 1914 - At the annual meeting, held at the home of H.T. Borden, it was reported that the brown tail moth had been "largely exterminated". The dissenting member who in 1913 had objected to the proposed clearing work in the center of the island is now willing for restricted improvements to be made. An appropriation of \$25 was voted and the agent was requested to estimate what could be done toward clearing debris and trimming out undesirable trees on the common property.

Aug. 20, 1915 - The annual meeting was held at the Crescent Beach cottage. It was voted to levy a tax of \$3.50 per member for regular expenses and \$3.00 per member to continue the work of clearing the common land in the center of the island. The agent reported that during the early summer the water in the lake was nearly two feet below the normal level. He noted that all the cottages were occupied except that of E.W. Burch who moved to Mitchell, South Dakota. Milk is being supplied by C.W. West of Wolfboro and the quality of the milk and the regularity of its delivery was giving members general satisfaction. The agent had the undesirable trees and underbrush cut and piled on between two and three acres of the common property. He said this gives the desirable trees a chance to develop and that the work had improved the appearance of the property. He recommended that the work be continued each year until all the common property had been treated.

Aug. 25, 1916 - Present: A.J. Coultas, A.L. Holmes, J.P. Arnold, J.I. Bartholomew, A.W. Grose (representing Miss Arnold), and H.T. Borden. The president made extended remarks in regard to the religious services on Sunday, and recommended that the service be omitted during July and to confine them to Jolly Island during August. It was voted that A.L. Holmes and A.W. Grose be a committee to arrange for services next year, and that they confer with the Birch Island committee about returning to the former way of teaching the Sunday School lesson instead of preaching. It was voted that the secretary cast one ballot for the reelection of the present officers: Coultas, president; Holmes, vice president; H.T. Borden, secretary-treasurer and agent. The agent reported that Mr. Burch is still in South Dakota, but that he expects to be on the island in 1917. The taxes on the common property were \$21.60, an increase of \$1.95 over 1915.

Aug. 23, 1917 - Present: Coultas, J.P. Arnold, Bartholomew, Burch, H.T. Borden, and Mrs. Bertram Brann representing Mrs. Simon's heirs. Voted that we believe the interests of the islanders be best served by patronizing as far as possible one line of steamers, and that the agent be

authorized to consult with the agent of Birch Island in regard to the matter. That all owners be notified that the common wharf must not be used for permanent berths for boats, and at no time shall boats be left there to exceed three days by either owners or tenants. Last year the state levied a tax on motorboats and this year those who care to do any fishing are requested to pay for a license. We wonder what additional tax will be presented to us in 1918. New Hampshire, with the exception of one other state, allows the shortest time for visiting autos to be within its borders before requiring an additional license. Wind and water are still on the free list at this time.

Aug. 25, 1918 - The annual meeting was held at 4 pm at the tabernacle. The agent reported that the brush, cut and stacked in the center of the island three years ago, was burned. The matter of the low state of the water was taken up by the officers of the Lake Winnepesaukee Protective and Improvement Association with the company at Lakeport. They were assured that the water would be drawn off as little as possible. In the great war in which the world is now engaged, Jolly Island is well represented. Among our representatives is Miss Sarah Louise Arnold engaged in food conservation work under the direction of Mr. Hoover. Rev. Grose is engaged in YMCA work in France. George B. Hefler, son-in-law of John P. Arnold, is a member of the Royal Flying Corps of the English army, now at Toronto. Maurice Holmes is a member of E Company, 104 U.S. infantry now in active service in France. Carlton E. Borden is a member of the Yale unit of the U.S. Army ambulance corps attached to the French army, and now on active duty in France. Milton E. Borden is a Junior Lieut. in the Naval Reserve force on the U.S.S. Quincy now in France.

Aug. 22, 1919 - The agent noted that he had done some cutting on the common property, but that he had difficulty getting help because every workman seemed otherwise engaged. The Lake Transportation Company has gone out of business, and the line across the lake is being covered by a small steamer, the Marshall Foch. She stops at Jolly only on signal or when passengers are to land. The tax was the same as last year -- \$24.90. One service held on Birch Island was of unusual interest to the campers. Corporal Maurice Holmes and Carlton E. Borden told of their experiences in the Great War. Both were in the service in France, both were wounded, and both received citations and both were awarded medals for their services. All the boys from Jolly who were in the war have returned home safely, for which we are deeply grateful.

Aug. 27, 1920 - Since the last annual meeting, the Rev. A.J. Coultas, one of the original campers here, passed on. He was elected president of the Association Aug. 26, 1893 when it was organized, and he had served continuously since that time. A strong, noble character, he has gone from us to the other life.

July 20, 1921 - Present at annual meeting: A.L. Holmes (president), C.A. Stenhouse, J.P. Arnold, E.W. Burch, and H.T. Borden. The president reported a collection of \$175.00 for the Smile of God chapel. Last August 31 sixteen campers and visitors met at the tabernacle at 9 am, each provided with a pail of creosote to use in painting the nests of gypsy moths. By actual count, 2300 nests were destroyed. In the evening the workers had a party at Rocksmere cottage. Ice cream, apples, cake and marshmallows were served, games were played, and there was phonograph music. Squirrels got into several of the camps during the winter and did considerable damage to bedding and clothing. A committee reported that the island could be sprayed to kill the gypsy moth at a cost of \$25.00 per acre. About ten acres could be done in one day by a crew of ten men, and trees as high as 60 feet could be treated. The opinion prevailed that the land already had been pretty well covered by the owners, and that nothing further would be done at present.

Aug. 25, 1922 - The agent's report: Mr. Holmes suffered the most winter damage as nearly the whole of one side of his boat house was crushed by the ice pushing a large stone through it. The top of the association wharf was lifted by ice forcing the stones up under the planking. When weather permits Sunday Services are held either on Birch or Jolly, and the song services on the lake are held as usual.

Aug. 24, 1923 - This has been a quiet summer. The families of A.L. Holmes, J.P. Arnold, and H.T. Borden are the only ones who have been here most of the season. Mr. Stenhouse has been here a few days several times, and V.C. Simon was here a while in July and ten days in August. For the first time in 30 years no Sunday services have been held on Jolly, but were held on Birch Island when weather permitted, and the evening song services have been held as usual. The Gilford tax is \$30.60, a reduction of \$0.90 from 1922.

July 28, 1924 - Voted that the agent secure Ernest Abbott as caretaker for next winter. All members to be notified that the Coultas property is for sale. All members invited to meet at 9 am the following morning to view the boundary lines between J.P. Arnold, Sarah Louise Arnold, and C.A. Stenhouse. The present plan shows that Miss Arnold has no access to the common property except by boat or trespassing on private ground. Such condition was not intended to exist in the original cut up. For the first time since the Jolly Island Association was formed, we have no cross line of boats. Lack of business caused them to discontinue running July 19. We have the mail boat twice daily and, as most of the campers have motor boats, we are not inconvenienced much. The sluiceway between the Simon and the Bartholomew camps has been decided to Evelyn Simon Brann who will probably build there soon. By accepting the deed of that property, she agrees to assume and pay one-tenth of the annual taxes on the common property and one tenth the cost of upkeep on the same. The agent has received notice that the Coultas property is for sale at \$3,500.

Aug. 22, 1925 - Annual meeting at Oakcroft Lodge with the following present: A.L. Holmes, C.A. Stenhouse, J.P. Arnold, J.I. Bartholomew, E.W. Burch, H.T. Borden, and V.C. Simon. The agent made an oral report for the past year. (It appears this is the first time that no written report by an agent was submitted.) A levy of \$8.00 per member was voted for current expenses.

Aug. 3, 1926 - Five camps were occupied during the summer, but not those of Stenhouse, Bartholomew, Burch, and Sarah Arnold. Ice has been supplied at \$0.55 per hundred by S.S. Brown of Meredith. Death took two during the year who were closely connected with Jolly Isl. Mrs. C.A. Stenhouse passed away the early part of the year and Dr. Harold Simon on July 6. Both spent a part of each summer on the island for over 30 years.

Aug. 27, 1927 - Present at annual meeting: J.P. Arnold, V.C. Simon, Evelyn Brann, A.L. Holmes, and H.T. Borden. This year there has been a building boom on the island. Mrs. Brann has built a bungalow on her lot, and Mrs. Harold Simon a small camp near by. Dr. Simon has built a boat house and J.P. Arnold an addition to his home. Also, a new Episcopal church has been built on Bear Island: this is of interest to our campers because the rector has for several years had a camp on Birch Island. Mr. Ernest Abbott supplied ice during the summer. In May of this year the Rev. William F. Davis, one of the first to build a camp here, passed away. A good man has gone to his reward.

Aug. 24, 1928 - Present at annual meeting at Crescent Beach: A.L. Holmes, V.C. Simon, J.P. Arnold, E.W. Burch, May Stenhouse, Evelyn Brann, Mrs. Ingalls (representing J.I. Bartholomew, and H.T. Borden. The gypsy moths seem to be increasing, and it would be a nice move if all the owners would make an effort to destroy their nests this year. This suggestion was made last year, but only a few did the work. The Rev. C.A. Stenhouse, vice president of our association and for many years agent and secretary of it, died during December 1927 after several years of feeble health. One-half the first campers on Jolly have now gone to their reward.

* Taxes from 1914 to 1936 were

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1914 - \$19.20 | 1921 - \$33.30 | 1928 - \$42.00 |
| 1915 - 19.65 | 1922 - 31.50 | 1929 - 40.20 |
| 1916 - 21.60 | 1923 - 30.60 | 1930 - 40.20 |
| 1917 - 22.20 | 1924 - 32.10 | 1931 - 42.00 |
| 1918 - 24.90 | 1925 - 33.00 | 1932 - 24.50 |
| 1919 - 24.90 | 1926 - 34.50 | 1933 - 24.30 |
| 1920 - 32.10 | 1927 - 40.20 | 1934 - 23.00 |
| | | 1935 - 28.20 |
| | | 1936 - 28.00 |

*Taxes on common property

Aug. 28, 1929 - During the winter and spring Mr. Abbott made three trips to the island and found everything all right. The Wyman camp and Sarah Arnold's have not been occupied this season, and J.P. Arnold missed coming to the island for the first time in 37 years. Eugene Coultas, who spent the summers here as a boy and young man, passed away this spring. The collection for the Smile of God chapel was about \$140.00. The Coultas place, now owned by George Wyman, was for sale for \$4,000.00.

Aug. 16, 1930 - All camps occupied part or all of season. Capt. Tuttle was employed to remove a broken pile on the wharf and to replace it with a new one. Also to strengthen the crib under the bridge. The cost of this work was \$24.00. Fewer gypsy moths are in evidence, and time is well spent in destroying these pests. Present: H.T. Borden, A.L. Holmes, J.P. Arnold, V.C. Simon, and Mrs. Brann.

Aug. 20, 1931 - Lydiard & Co. has a boat on the lake and brings supplies to the island daily. Ice is delivered three times a week from a Bear Island dealer, and mail is received twice daily by steamer Uncle Sam. Though on an island, we have most of the conveniences of the mainland. Some of the campers have radios and thus get the latest market and weather reports, as well as the programs offered by the various broadcasting stations. Preaching services are held at Birch Island, and some of our people attend regularly. The vesper services on the lake at sunset are attended fairly well. The following officers were elected: A.L. Holmes, president; V.C. Simon, vice president; H.T. Borden, secretary and agent.

Aug. 18, 1932 - Voted that a letter be sent to the campers on Camp and Breezy islands calling their attention to the cost of wharf repairs, and asking for contributions for the privilege of landing and receiving mail. Cost of repairs to the north end of the wharf was \$50.00. Work done by Mr. Fay. Announcement was made that about 3:30 pm on Aug. 31 there will be a total eclipse of the sun lasting about 99 seconds. The island will be nearly in the center of the shadow which will be 120 miles wide. Campers will have a rare chance to observe a phenomenon that will not occur again until July 20, 1963. A seat long enough for 20 to occupy has been put up on the wharf for those who wish to see the unusual sight from there. Mr. Abbott reported that the camps of Brann, Wyman, Simon, Burch, and J.P. Arnold had been ransacked and that the glass in the front door of the Stenhouse cottage had been broken.

Aug. 21, 1933 - H.T. Borden, who has been treasurer and agent for 21 years, has been obliged to resign. His resignation was accepted with deep regret.

Aug. 21, 1934 - Annual meeting at the home of A.L. Holmes, president. Others attending: V.C. Simon, Sarah Arnold, J.P. Arnold, J.I. Bartholomew, Mrs. H. Burch, Mae Stenhouse, and B.F. Brann. Voted that the sense of the meeting that center paths should be used; shore paths only in case of an emergency. Miss Arnold has transferred her property to Miss Sarah Arnold. Mr. Levalle replaced a post on the wharf for \$9.00. All cottages were occupied during the season. On July 20 there was a local tornado. It did considerable damage to the Holmes' property. About seventeen noble pines were laid prostrate. The Rev. E.W. Burch died Nov. 8, 1933. For 25 years he had been a member of our Association. A man of rare character - friendly - always the Christian gentleman. He took great happiness in the years at Jolly Island.

Aug. 19, 1935 - Voted that some sort of service is desirable for the children, like a Sunday School. Voted to elect as committee Mrs. A.L. Holmes, Miss Sarah Arnold, Mrs. Brann, and Miss Mae Stenhouse to have the matter in charge for next year. Officers for next year: A.L. Holmes, president; V.C. Simon, vice president; secretary-treasurer and agent, A.L. Holmes.

Aug. 18, 1936 - Voted to authorize the agent to communicate with the assessors of the town of Gilford in regard to the taxes -- to try to get a reduction in regard to the taxes and/or something for the rebuilding of the wharf. The past winter was a bad one with everyone suffering damage to wharves, boathouses, etc.

Aug. 25, 1937 - Voted to assess each camp \$4.00. The warden of the town of Gilford has warned us that a permit should be obtained before starting a brush fire. John P. Arnold died on June 15th of this year. He was a friend to us all. Another change in ownership is to be noted: Mr. Wyman sold his property to Dr. Hugh Hartshorne of the Yale Divinity School. Ernest Abbott has rendered the same high grade service he has always given us.

Aug. 30, 1938 - Repairs to the wharf were made at a cost of \$8.25. A cloudy, rainy summer with only about 10 days of sunshine in June and July. On August 1st there was a regular tornado, called a twister by the newspapers, and it caused much damage to property. Losses on Jolly and Birch islands were less than on other, nearby islands.

Aug. 22, 1939 - Only routine business was transacted at the annual meeting, but the agent's report on the Great Hurricane of Sept. 21, 1938 is well worth reproducing. Here are the words of A.L. Holmes, agent.

The Great Hurricane of 1938 - For several days the weather was rainy and threatening. The forecast on September 20 was that a storm was moving north. The night of September 20 we had rain, vivid lightening, and strong wind. The morning of the 21st was dark, rainy, and murky with strong wind from the south which kept increasing so that by four o'clock in the afternoon it had reached gale proportions. Dr. Bartholomew and I were listening to the broadcast of a ball game in Boston, where it was not raining, when he noticed the waves had carried away our portable wharf. He thought he had better be getting home as his wife was alone.

The mailboat started to go down the broads from Birch but the waves were so high they were afraid the boat might be swamped, so they came direct to Jolly. They kindly waited at Jolly Island wharf until we came for the mail.

Fiercer grew the wind. By six o'clock it was a hurricane. Our boat was in a slip protected by breakwater, but spray dashed over the protection so that it speedily filled the boat with water in spite of all our attempts to pump-bail her out. We tried to bend on more ropes but the violence of the wind blew me across the platform against a rock, or else I would have gone into the water. We concluded there was nothing we now could do. The next morning we found her on the rocks completely wrecked.

About six o'clock the trees began to go down. We could not hear them fall because of the roar of the wind and waves, but they seemed to sway gently back and forth and fall gently to the ground with their roots sticking up. The first tree that landed on our cottage made the building shudder. We were startled by the crash of broken windows. The rain poured in.

At eight o'clock the hurricane seemed to reach its height. We have no language to describe the fury of wind and wave. We had never seen anything to compare with it in over fifty years at the lake.

By midnight the gusts of wind had moderated some, so we laid on our beds with our clothes on and slept off and on until morning. At 7:30 Ernest Abbott arrived. He told of the widespread devastation in New England, especially in R.I., Conn., Mass., and N.H.

On our island the Arnold, Burch, Brann, and Holmes properties suffered most. The Bordens lost a boat house, wharf, and some trees. Mr. Fay estimated his loss on Bear Island at \$4,000. Birch Island's shore line was completely destroyed. The whole island seemed a jungle of fallen trees. The wharf house withstood the hurricane except that all the shingles were blown off the roof. Our individual owners have done a good job of clearing up their lots. Repairs to the dock cost \$9.62.

* * *

Mrs. Burch has sold her place to Edward Hall, a neighbor of the Holmes in Melrose, Mass. We have received word of the death of Mrs. Grace Smith, wife of Ned Smith. We have taken a collection every year for over 30 years to help their work in China. Your secretary has written Bros. Smith a letter of sympathy.

Aug. 26, 1940 - Members present: Holmes, Simon, Borden, Brann, Harts-horn, Bartholomew, Arnold-Hefler, Hall by proxy. The question of buying a diving board for the wharf was discussed, and the agent was authorized to purchase one at a cost between \$12.00 and \$15.00. It has been a pleasure to have so many children and young people enjoy the island this summer. All cottages have been occupied. The steamer, Mt. Washington, which had seen 71 years of service on the lake, burned at Weirs wharf. A steamer from Lake Champlain named Chatangnay was cut into 21 parts, shipped to Lakeport, and welded together again. It saw service for the first time here on Aug. 19, 1940. Its new name is Mt. Washington II. It is licensed to carry 1,500 passengers.

Aug. 18, 1941 - A.L. Holmes presented his resignation as agent because of ill health, and it was accepted with regret and appreciation for his long and faithful service. The following officers were elected: A.L. Holmes, president; V.C. Simon, vice president; Edward Hall, treasurer; B.F. Brann, secretary; and Walter Holmes, agent. Ernest Abbott was re-appointed as caretaker. The Association suffered the loss of two of its members: Mrs. Emily Arnold Siddell on June 18th and Mrs. H.T. Borden on Aug. 17. Mr. and Mrs. Borden were with the first settlers of the island.

July 13, 1942 - Members present: Bartholomew, Borden, Brann, Hall, Holmes, Mrs. Brann, and Miss Stenhouse. On the afternoon of July 30, 1941 Miss Edna Holmes was married to Kenneth M. Rogers at Rockmere Lodge, Bros. Bartholomew officiating. This is the fourth wedding to be held on Jolly. Water in the lake was very low. In October it was possible to walk around every dock on Jolly except the Big Wharf. The big reef by the Holmes' point was completely out of water as was the one between the Hall and Arnold camps. All cottages were occupied except Killooleet. Miss Sarah Arnold has announced it is for sale. War rationing makes car travel difficult for many.

Aug. 17, 1943 - It was mentioned for the record that Mr. Holmes would be 83 in October and Mr. Bartholomew 87 next January. Despite the war all camps were occupied except Killooleet and Glow Mont. Ants and yellow jackets abounded this summer. Many islanders were nipped when they unknowingly approached too close to the wasps' nests which often are close to the ground. The Mt. Washington was not commissioned, but the mail boat carried capacity loads almost every trip. A new engine was installed in Ernest Abbott's boat, the LIMIT, and everyone had to become adjusted to the new speed and sound.

July 21, 1944 - Only five present for the annual meeting: A.L. Holmes, H.T. Borden, J.F. Bartholomew, Sarah L. Arnold, and E.G. Hall. The treasurer reported \$392.13 on hand not including interest on savings. There are more motor boats on the lake this year because the government has allowed five gallons gas per horsepower. Mr. Fay could not get anyone to help him fill the icehouse. (With Walter Holmes in the Navy, the agent's report was prepared by his father, A.L. Holmes.)

Aug. 19, 1945 - Announcement was made of the sale of the Hartshorn's property to Fred M. Ghibellini of Wakefield, Mass. The ice went out very early this spring -- on April 1st. Raymond Fairman had an accident, cutting his foot with an axe. We are fortunate to have Dr. Tucker on Birch Island to call on in such emergencies. We miss our oldest members, Dr. and Mrs. Bartholomew who felt it not prudent this summer to come. The war is over and, as far as we know, all of our boys will come home safe. Mr. Abbott, our caretaker, as usual, has been very faithful in looking after our interests.

Aug. 12, 1946 - Members present: Bartholomew, Borden, Brann, Ghibellini, Habbe, Holmes, Simon, Miss Sarah Arnold. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$583.19. The dangerous condition of the wharf was discussed and the question of liability for accidents thereon. The agent was authorized to proceed with repairs as soon as a competent contractor can be found. It was decided to undertake to cut a path around the island at the back boundaries of the various lots. All men were invited to take part in the work on Aug. 15. (The path was called "Circle Avenue.")

Aug. 19, 1947 - The assessment for the year was fixed at \$215 per camp: \$200 for work on the wharf and \$15 for the usual expenses. The secretary was authorized to request contributions towards the wharf fund from neighboring campers who use it for mail. A community get-together for the purpose of crooseting gypsy moth nests was planned for Aug. 23. Great regret the passing during the year of two of our original settlers, A.L. Holmes, who served as president of the Association since 1920, and H.T. Borden who for many years was secretary and agent. Officers were elected as follows: V.C. Simon, president; John Gray, vice president; B.F. Brann, secretary; E.J. Hall, treasurer; Walter Holmes, agent; and Ernest Abbott, caretaker.

Aug. 24, 1948 - The annual meeting was held at the cottage of Pres. V.C. Simon. Others present: Brann, M. Borden, Mrs. Holmes, and Mrs. Habbe. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2819.32. Some complaint was voiced over the stripping of bark from birch trees on the common land and over defacement of the wharf house. It was voted that a statement be drawn up of island rules and customs, and copies sent to camp owners,

especially those who frequently rent their camps.

Aug. 24, 1949 - The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,991.47. The agent presented E.J. Lavalle's bill for wharf repairs, and it was discussed at some length. It was voted to authorize payment of \$2,901.45 at once. A working party was arranged to paint and re-roof the wharf house on Aug. 29, weather permitting.

The Lavalle charges for work on the wharf were as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 3774' lumber for cribs and sills |) | |
| 1827' of 2" planking |) | \$560.20 |
| Rods, butts, bolts, washers | | 61.25 |
| Spikes | | 27.00 |
| Labor (taking out all old cribs, etc.; rebuilding, use of barge, boat) | | 1350.45 |
| Two floats @ \$525.00 each | | 1050.00 |
| Floats towed and installed - no charge | | |
| Five percent for use of tools and transportation of workmen | | <u>152.45</u> |
| | | \$3201.45 |

(The agent was asked to negotiate with Mr. Lavalle for the \$300.00 difference between the authorized payment and the full bill.)

July 3, 1950 - The following camps were represented at the annual meeting held at the Holmes' camp: Borden, Brann, Gray-Habbe, Holmes, and Simon. The desirability of each camp possessing a good fire-extinguisher was discussed, and Mr. Gray was asked to obtain prices on same. It was suggested that copies of the minutes of each annual meeting be sent to each Association member. The balance of \$300.00, claimed by Mr. Lavalle, is still under discussion, the agent said.

Aug. 29, 1951 - The annual meeting was held at the Holmes' camp. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$434.73. The secretary was asked to bring to the attention of the mailboat operators the need for greater care in the landing of ice at the wharf as one or two near-accidents have occurred. It was voted to contribute \$10 to the Laconia hospital.

July 5, 1952 - At the annual meeting Miss Sarah Arnold reported a break in her camp with loss of lamps, clocks, and towels. The greater prevalence this year of the gypsy caterpillars was mentioned with the possible need for action.

Aug. 20, 1953 - Only five camps were represented at the annual meeting: Borden, Brann, Habbe, Holmes, and Simon. Deaths during the year

of two members of the association - Rev. J.I. Bartholomew and U.S. Lauber -- were noted with regret. The gypsy moth situation was discussed and it was voted to authorize the agent to cooperate with neighboring islands in a spray control program, providing the cost is not more than \$100.00.

Sept. 2, 1954 - The death during the year of Dr. Vincent C. Simon was noted with regret as was also the very sudden death on Birch Island of Mrs. Kenneth Forbes (mother of John Forbes). The agent was again authorized to have the island sprayed along with other islands. The damage to the island due to the presence of four deer throughout the summer was discussed but no action was taken.

Aug. 20, 1955 - Annual meeting held at 11:20 am at the Habbe's cottage. The agent reported that permission had been given to shoot the deer in case of further depredation. He also reported the death of Mrs. Bartholomew, the last of the original island owners. The agent was authorized to spend up to \$1500.00 in rebuilding the wharf.

July 28, 1956 - Voted to request the agent to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation as compared with our present association, and to report at a later meeting. Voted to urge upon the proper state officials the desirability of some form of notification or warning to fisherman regarding camping on the islands. The assessment for the year was fixed at \$25.00 per camp. It was voted to hold the annual meeting next year on the last Saturday of July and to make it a sort of field day and general get-together. Mrs. Habbe and Robert Miller were appointed to have general charge of the event.

July 26, 1957 - The agent mentioned that the unusually low level of the lake necessitated dredging at the wharf to enable the mailboat to land. An informal, unfavorable report was made on the question of incorporation for the island. It was voted to send a note of appreciation to Birch Island for the use of their wharf during the time ours was out of commission. Voted to re-elect the present board of officers: Walter Holmes, president; Milton Borden, vice president; B.F. Brann, secretary; E.J. Hall, treasurer; Walter Holmes, agent; Ernest Abbott, caretaker.

July 10, 1958 - Annual meeting held at the Holmes' cottage with the president presiding. The desirability of taking out liability insurance for the island as a whole was discussed. The deer situation was discussed but no action taken. Following the meeting all islanders were invited to a picnic supper.

July 9, 1959 - The following camps were represented at the annual meeting: Arnold, Borden, Brann, Habbe, Hall, Holmes, and Stenhouse. The treasurer reported a balance of \$589.37 with \$335.00 outstanding. The assessment for the year was fixed at \$30.00; one-third for current expenses and two-thirds for the wharf. The present slate of officers was elected for another year.

July 16, 1960 - The agent read a letter from the town of Gilford in response to his protest regarding the increase in taxes, and proposed the formation of an islands group for the purpose of exerting some influence on town affairs. It was voted to approve the formation of such a group. The agent reported the death during the year of Miss Mae Stenhouse and the transfer of her property to the Miller family. He also reported the highly successful "Ernest Abbott Day" held on August 22, 1959 at Birch Island. The following were appointed to consider a revision of the association's by-laws: James Fox, Lauder Miller, Walter Holmes, and Evelyn Brann.

July 15, 1961 - The death of long-time resident, Bernard Wade, was reported with deep regret. The revised constitution and by-laws as prepared by the committee appointed in 1960 was discussed at length. At a second meeting held the following day a draft generally acceptable to all present was achieved.

July 14, 1962 - The gypsy moth situation was discussed as was also the damage caused by deer and racoons. Permission was voted for Robert Miller to build a camp near the west line of the Miller lot. The new constitution and by-laws, discussed last year, were adopted by unanimous vote of the eight camps represented at the meeting. The following officers were elected: president, B.F. Brann; vice president, M.E. Borden; secretary, Mrs. J.G. Fox; treasurer, E.J. Hall; agent, Lauder Miller. The meeting adjourned with a rising vote of appreciation and thanks for the many services over many years of retiring president, Walter Holmes.

July 13, 1963 - Annual meeting held at the Brann camp with all properties represented except Fairman's and Habbe's. A committee was appointed to consider the cost and advisability of putting steel "I" beams strapped with wooden plates in each corner of the wharf. It was reported that Ernest Abbott will retire from his caretaker duties at the end of the year. It was suggested that Lauder Miller contact Birch Island to learn what arrangements they have made for a replacement for Mr. Abbott. The racoon problem was discussed and each camp owner was asked to try to eliminate all racoons on his property. Mr. Hall suggested an island-to-shore battery-operated radio-telephone installation might be a good idea. General interest was expressed.

July 11, 1964 - An increase of \$5.00 in the pay for Merrill Fay, the new caretaker, was approved, providing his work is satisfactory. Mr. Robert Miller reported a probable cost of \$170.00 (without housing) for the proposed island-to-shore radio-telephone setup. Two batteries at \$15.00 each will be needed, too. Each family would have a key to admit them to the instrument. The service would be limited to five minutes, and it would be necessary to use it daily. Dues were raised to \$35.00. The passing of Mrs. Rachael Hefler was reported. She was the daughter of original summer residents, had spent many summers on the island, and had been active in arranging young people's activities.

July 10, 1965 - Five camps were not represented at this annual meeting but the required quorum was obtained when the Branns votes were given to Lauder Miller. We were saddened by the death during last November of Mrs. Katherine Collins, mother of Mrs. Habbe, who had spent long summers on the island, sometimes extending from late May to Columbus Day in October. The agent reported our water has been classified B-1 by the N.H. Water Pollution Committee. This means it is usable for drinking after proper treatment. Dues were raised to \$40.00 and the caretaker's stipend to \$40.00.

The final item in the agent's report is reproduced verbatim: "We were all very saddened at the passing of our dear friend, Ernest Abbott. The lake does not seem the same without him. We can replace things, but how do we replace this man?"

July 9, 1966 - Annual meeting at the Fox camp with all properties except one represented. We are cooperating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in a study of the habits of the gypsy moth. Baited traps to catch moths have been tacked to trees around the island. Four camps were entered during the winter, but no thefts or damage were reported. Our citizen's bank radio is to be used only in case of an emergency. Mr. Holmes remarked on how well the island looked this summer, and urged each property owner to keep his section of Circle Avenue in good condition. Dues were raised to \$50.00.

July 8, 1967 - At the annual meeting Miss Arnold said she understood the town of Gilford sprayed for moths and other pests every so often, and that we might request that this service be extended to the islands. She suggested that the agent write Gilford about this matter. The possibility that the state might lay claim to island property was raised. (An article in the Boston Herald of Dec. 4, 1966 sounded an alarm.) A representative of the Gilford Board of Selectmen, Arthur H. Nighswander replied in part: "While the State might claim to have technical ownership, it is very doubtful if the claim will be pressed, and I believe it is quite possible that some legislation will be introduced in the future to quiet title to the property already acquired. I think that what the State has in mind is that they may claim title to islands which have not been developed in any way so that they may be retained as part of the wilderness."

Due to an unusually wet spring, the mosquitoes appeared in large numbers. The agent received permission to spread oil on "Hall Lake." This summer there is to be a Birch Island-Jolly Island Field Day. (A statement about the Field Day is appended.) The possibility of having telephone service installed on the island was discussed, and Mrs. C.G. Fairman was asked to prepare a report on costs, etc. The water was very high this year.

Notes from Report on Field Day - Saturday, August 5, 1967

The first joint Birch and Jolly Island Field Day saw 30 boys and girls, ages 3 to 14, with 15 from each island actually participating in the activities. Some of the young people took part in special events such as the skill demonstrations, the greased water-melon contest and the Birch Island stunt. Swimming events included tug of war, kick board races, dead man's float, underwater swim, and free style swim. There were canoe, rowboat, and pram races. Jolly Island children performed well, and took their share of the prizes. Refreshments were served at the end. A small assessment against each camp provided the awards and the refreshments. The Field Day was adjudged a fine success, and it is hoped it will become an annual affair. John Ripley Forbes of Birch Island was the moving spirit, and deserves much credit for promoting this inter-island activity. He was ably assisted by a committee of ten, including Mrs. Ross Borden, Mrs. Dorothy Miller, Walter Holmes, and Lander Miller from Jolly Island.

Grateful Big Lake Islanders Observe Ernest Abbott Day

By FRANCIS O'BRIEN

Ernest Abbott had his day Aug. 22 and the big doings took place on Birch Island, Lake Winnepesaukee. Every day is Ernie's day according to the folks who live on the following islands, Birch, Jolly, Steamboat, Kinneho, Crescent, Mark, East Bear, Dollar, Fish, Breezy, Six Mile, Eagle, Whortleberry, Camp and Meredith Neck mainland and to show their appreciation they got together Saturday and gave the biggest wingding of a surprise party that was ever thrown on Birch Island.

The guest of honor is still so surprised that at this writing he still is wondering what happened. This surprise was in the form of an ice cream social with more than 162 islanders gathered together to honor this fine man.

Takes Ice Cream

The committee called Ernie at the Glendale dock and told him to bring out enough ice cream to feed around 200 people, so Ernie just thought it was another one of his chores and proceeded to get the ice cream. After procuring the same he started out to get to Birch Island but as he neared some of the other islands he noticed that folks were calling to him to stop and pick them up. As he gets many odd requests he just carried on and ended on Birch with a load of people and ice cream. No one gave the secret away and lo and behold when he hit the beach on Birch they all let go with "Surprise" but old Ernie just kept unloading his boat and thought it was for one of the guests he brought.

He finally got up on the island and they crowded around him and told him it was Ernest Abbott Day and his retort was typical. "Gosh, why?" After the official welcome and other tributes he was presented with a baca lounge chair, 21 inch TV set and 200 of Ivy Baker Priest's green notes.

Appreciation Text

The gift of an appreciation certificate that was in an attractive frame brought tears to his eyes as the wording on it was as follows: "Ernest Abbott, guardian through summer and winter of our island properties, navigator of that limitless boat 'The Limit' transporting family and goods between mainland and isle, exemplar of these New England virtues of humor, integrity and ingenuity, beloved friend for more than three decades of the men, women and children of our island communities, whose acts of kindness devoted concern for our welfare and self effacing service have contributed universally to the happiness of our summer days on Lake Winnepesaukee."

Signed at the bottom of this appreciation certificate were the names of the committee, John Ripley Forbes, Reginald Brown, John Lyman, Mrs. Arthur W. Tucker, Mrs. Edgar Caffall, Wallace Holmes, Miss Ruth True, Leslie Woodcock and Clarence Shedd.

A fine tribute was paid to a fine man and Ernie will be 71 years come December and 50 of these years were spent with love, devotion and service to his island friends.

Mr. Abbott lives alone in a comfortable cottage on the shore of Lake Paugus off the Weirs Blvd. and keeps an eye on cottages in that neighborhood as well as on the islands.

Ernest Abbott Day - August 22, 1959 - was Front
Page News for the Leconia Evening Citizen

Lake Summer Property Guardian

Dies Suddenly on Birch Island

9/8/64 Laconia Evening Citizen

Sharp barks of the little white dog always at the dock when the U.S. Mailboat comes to the Birch Island dock in Lake Winnepesaukee made Mrs. W. E. Tucker, one of the islanders, realize that something was wrong. She found in the path leading to her cottage, the body of Ernest Abbott, 75, of the Weirs Blvd., guardian of summer property the year round.

Capt. Ed Lavallee, postmaster on the mailboat, notified the authorities by short wave. The PUC patrol boat responded and Dr. Earl J. Gage, former medical referee, acting as deputy, pronounced death due to natural causes. The body was removed to the Wilkinson-Beane Funeral Home.

It was at Birch Island five years ago that Mr. Abbott was given a big birthday party by islanders, known as the biggest event ever given there. One hundred and 62 gathered to honor him, presented him a lounge chair, a tv and a gift of money.

He had been asked to take enough ice cream for 200 to the dock and was surprised to learn that he was the guest of honor. He cut a big cake although his birthday was not until December when the island residents would be gone.

Mr. Abbott was born in Concord and came here many years ago to live with an uncle, Mr. Gould of North St. He worked for a time at Scott & Williams.

In 1913 he bought a boat and began taking out passengers in the summer and closing and repairing cottages during the colder months. This grew through the years.

He lived alone on the shore of Lake Paugus off the boulevard and birds and small animals were his friends. During the winter, too, he used to be an honored guest of some of the islanders in their homes in other states, but he was always back to check on snow on the roofs, etc.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Laconia Evening Citizen

Man of Character

9/11/64

Ernest Abbott who died suddenly on Birch Island among the friends whom he had served as guardian of their camps is among the last of the men who ran boat taxis and took out parties from The Weirs according to Capt. John Goodhue of Glendale.

There were Tom McLaughlin, Fred LaPlante who owned the Blue Bird, Capt. Haven Corliss, Arthur Brock and Albert Horne. They used to meet the trains when the summer people came and later the cars which were kept in the Tarlson barn and take people to the islands, do the errands, carry milk and mail to places where the mailboat did not stop. Now most of the islanders go to Glendale where there is public parking.

John Goodhue worked for Mr. Horne and then ran the Marshal Foch for the late Capt. Leander Lavallee. His father before him had a number of boats among them the Swallow.

The day after Labor Day last year Ernest Abbott went to see John at his boatyard in Glendale and said "I might live a year or five years but I have to have a new boat. Can you build me one?"

John could not do it at the time and referred Ernest to his brother, Nat Goodhue of Wolfeboro, who had the new boat ready by the time that the ice went out as he had promised. John overhauled two engines for Ernest, one of which is still at Glendale.

"They don't make that type any more," says John, thinking of the service that Ernest gave the year round to summer property including the islands from Center Harbor to Gilford.

Mr. Abbott also had new cars creating quite a sensation when he turned in his old one that he had used many years. He put his car up in the summer at his house on Paugus shore off the Boulevard for he did all his traveling by boat.

Someone said of him, "We have characters but Ernest Abbott wasn't that. He was a man of character."

Ernest Abbott 9/11/64

Services for Ernest H. Abbott of the Weirs Boulevard, who died suddenly on Birch Island in Lake Winnepesaukee Monday afternoon, were held at the Wilkinson-Beane Funeral Home Thursday afternoon.

Rev. Frank Gulinello Jr., Minister of the First Methodist Church, officiated with Lorraine Begin Present as organist.

Bereavement services were delegated from Wilkins-Smith Post 1 American Legion and Lake City Barracks 143 Veterans of World War I; summer residents of Birch, Jolly and Bear Islands; business associates and friends from Weirs Beach.

Bearers, all of whom were members of Lake City Barracks No. 1, were Marshall D. Whedon, Everett M. Brown, Narcisse L. Breton, Emile R. Fontaine, Conrad Lavigne and Willis H. Pelletier. Burial was in the family lot in Millville cemetery in Concord where committal services were conducted by Mr. Gulinello. The flag which draped the casket of the World War I veteran was presented to his brother, Arthur J. Abbott by Mr. Whedon of the Lake City Barracks.

Attending the services from out of town were Arthur J. Abbott of Boscawen, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Parce of Concord, Mr. and Mrs. W. Grant Conley of Farmington, Me., Mr. and Mrs. William Conley and Misses Ethel and Mary Conley of Amherst.

9/9/1964

Mr. Abbott was a native of Concord and had been a resident of Laconia for over 50 years coming here from Concord. He was born Dec. 26, 1888, son of Henry Ward and Georgia (Linn) Abbott. He was a veteran of World War I and a member of Wilkins-Smith Post, American Legion, and Lake City Barracks, Veterans of World War I.

E R N E S T H. A B B O T T

December 26, 1888
September 7, 1964

There was a man!

When he died, people said

"He was a man of character."

"He was our friend."

"He was one of a kind."

"He was a part of this place. It will not be the same without him."

He was loved by all. He is missed by all.

Some called him Ernie. Some called him Ernest. He addressed us more formally. It was part of his dignity.

He enjoyed his life and his work. He lived close to nature and found wonder and excitement in common things. He never was bored.

He served a host of summer campers on a dozen islands for half a century. He did not "work" for anyone -- he served. He was about as independent as anyone can be. He accepted the assignments he wanted to accept, and he found ways of avoiding the others. He joined us in 1924 and he remained with us as friend and caretaker until 1964.

He never was too busy to stop to exchange a word or to perform a service. He knew more about our camps than we did and could fix almost anything. His charges were incredibly small.

Ernest had little schooling, yet he was an informed and educated man. He was a good conversationalist. His talk was spiced with bits of dry humor that might easily pass one by. Children warmed to him.

His LIMTT was a familiar sight sliding past our camps. It was not a fast or sporty boat but, like its owner, it was dependable. It could accommodate a family group and a surprising amount of luggage and gear. Ernest would meet us in the LIMTT any time, any place. He usually arrived ahead of schedule. If it was late at night, we would find his boat tied to a pier with Ernest lying comfortably in the bottom -- asleep.

He visited with us in the summer. He visited with us in our city homes in the winter. He kept us up to date on island happenings.

There never will be another Ernest Abbott.

But he lives on in the hearts of all who knew him.