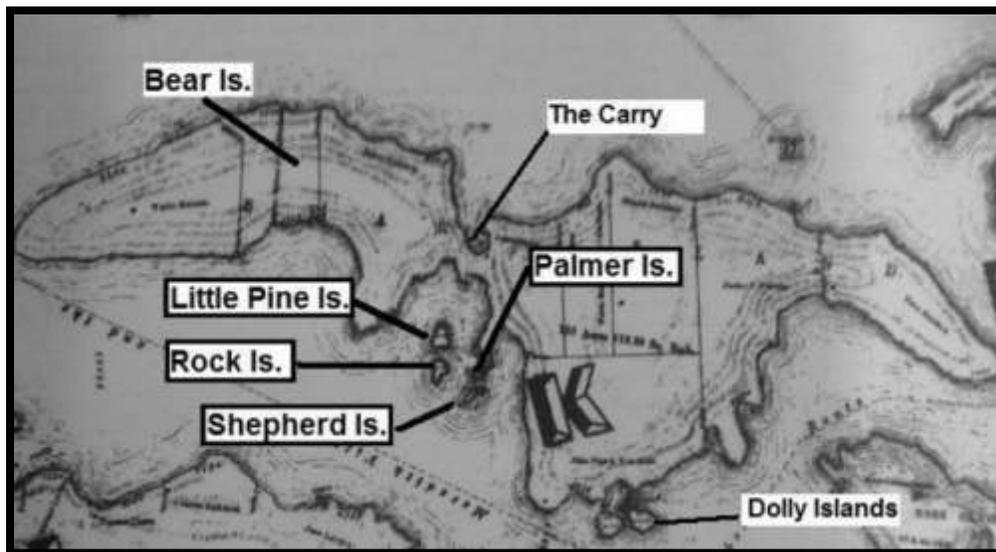


Carry Cove Islands (Rock, Shepherd, Palmer, and Little Pine)



There are four very small islands located in the Carry cove on the west side of Bear Island, facing Meredith Neck. They are known today as Rock, Shepherd, Palmer, and

Little Pine. In the early days, they were unnamed and routinely referred to as “the Carrying islands”. Over the course of the 19th century, the individual names were periodically applied, usually referencing the name of the current owner. Their early history is rather obscure and most likely unrecorded given their relative insignificance during the 19th century. None of the early Bear Island farmers ever owned them. They were too small to provide good grazing and offered little other value. These islands, however, began to draw attention during the last two decades of the 19th century when the vacation era began on the lake.

Rock Island was one of the first Carry Islands to be occupied. The second largest, at just over one acre in size, it was purchased around 1894 by Henry Batchelder.¹ Batchelder was a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the Weirs.² He put up a building—probably a fishing shack--there shortly after its purchase. He sold it in 1900 to Benjamin P. Foster, a stone mason from Waltham, MA.³ The island became known as Foster’s Island for a long time thereafter. It was not on the Fullerton Wells’ Lake Winnepesaukee Company list of unnumbered islands. Foster built the still-standing house on the island c. 1920. Following his death, the island was willed to Clarence Whitney and his wife, May Foster Whitney.⁴ They owned the island until 1946 when it was sold to Joseph and Gertrude Cox of Rochester, NH.⁵ At that point, the deed

¹ The deed was not found, so we do not know the previous owner, but it was probably George W. Sanders.

² See B/P 90/135.

³ B/P 103/451.

⁴ B/P 218/30. See also B/P 218/57.

⁵ B/P 327/317.

referred to it only as “one of the Carrying Islands.” The Cox family sold it to the current owners, the Goldberg family, in 1973.⁶ By then, the island was known as Rock Island.

Little Pine Island was apparently the second of the Carry islands to be occupied. It is the largest of the four at something just over one acre. It was initially occupied before 1901 by two men from Center Harbor, James M. Thompson and Frank P. Farrar, although there is no history of when or from whom they acquired it.⁷ In 1901, they sold it to Charles and Hattie Cushing, farmers who lived on Meredith Neck, across from the island.⁸ In keeping with the practice of the day, it became known as Cushing Island for some time thereafter. The succeeding ownership trail was not found. It is presently owned by the Greater Boston YMCA. It was not listed by Wells among his unnumbered islands in 1912.

Palmer Island was also initially occupied during the 1890s. It is the smallest of the four Carry islands at just one-tenth of an acre in size. Its first known occupant was John H. Morrison of Meredith who acquired the island presumably in the mid-1890s.⁹ Naturally, it was called Morrison Island. The Morrison family moved to Concord, NH but retained ownership of the island until 1938.¹⁰ The name of the island was changed to Palmer Island in 1957 when the current owner acquired it. It was not on Wells’ list of unnumbered islands.

Shepherd Island¹¹ is the third largest in the cluster at almost a half acre in size. Early on, it was not known by any particular name. It was not listed by Wells among his unnumbered islands in 1912. It was purchased before 1904 by Frederick E. Gilford, a Gilford, NH resident, who had acquired one of the nearby Dolly Islands before 1890. Gilford apparently built a “small and dilapidated building” on Shepherd.¹² In 1904, Gilford sold it to E. C. Mansfield.¹³ Mansfield and his wife retained ownership of it until their deaths. It was then sold in 1942 by the estate administrator to the Mansfields’ granddaughter, Mary, and her husband, C.K. Plancon. It had become known as Cub Island by this time.¹⁴ The island continued to be called Cub into the 1990s.¹⁵ The name

⁶ B/P 619/107.

⁷ It seems likely that they bought it from George W. Sanders.

⁸ B/P 105/399. Hattie Cushing was a great granddaughter of Robert Bryant, Bear’s first settler. She was the daughter of Nancy Bryant Clark who was the daughter of Robert Bryant Jr. This is derived from Old Meredith and Vicinity, p. 92.

⁹ Current Meredith tax records suggest the tiny camp on the island was built in 1895.

¹⁰ B/P 236/176; 236/197.

¹¹ This is the proper spelling of the island’s name. See B/P 1261/926. Meredith tax records incorrectly show it as Shepard Island.

¹² B/P 112/305.

¹³ B/P 112/305.

¹⁴ B/P 267/400. The sale did not make reference to any buildings on the island, although the Meredith tax records suggest Mansfield had built the existing house on the island around 1920.

¹⁵ B/P 1187/492.

was changed to Shepherd c. 1993, presumably by members of the Funkhouser family who own it.¹⁶

¹⁶ 1261/926. The name was changed during a transfer of the property within the Funkhouser family. The Funkhousers acquired it in 1954.