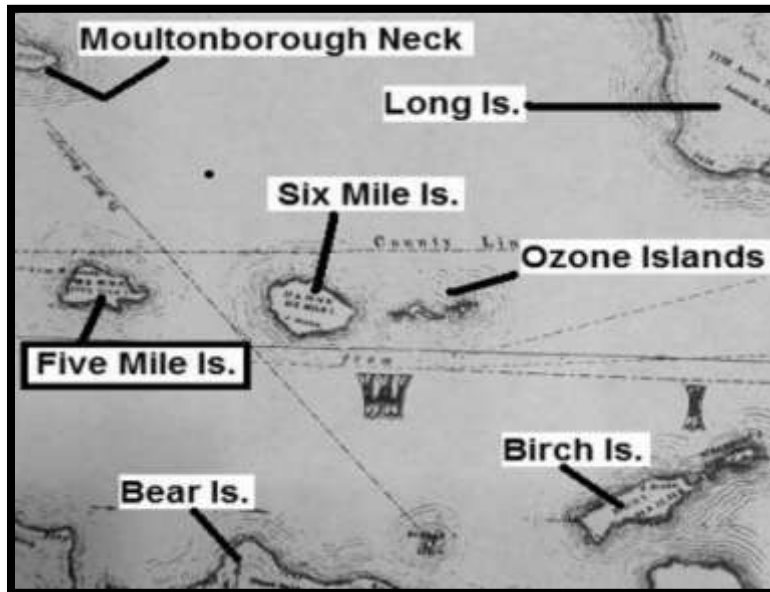


Five Mile Island

Five Mile Island was part of the Masonian Lot #4 as designated in 1781.¹ It was given its name sometime between 1837 and 1847, presumably by its then owner, John Brown.² The name is derived from the island's distance from Center Harbor. The lot was drawn to Thomas Wallingford in 1781, but he passed away not long afterwards. All of his Masonian land rights devolved to John Peirce. In 1789, Peirce sold all of Wallingford's Masonian lands to John Cushing of Berwick, ME, including his island holdings in Winnepesaukee.³

In 1821, Cushing sold Five Mile (along with part of Long Island and Six Mile) to John

Brown and Daniel Follett.⁴ In 1837, John Brown bought Follett's share of Five Mile and Six Mile.⁵ In 1847, after 26



years of using it as seasonal pasture and a wood lot, Brown sold it to George W. Brawn and Rufus Smith, both of Moultonborough.⁶ Brawn was the early farmer who presumably gave his name to Brawn Bay. His farm was located at the base of that bay. The bay was so-named by 1858 at the latest. Rufus Smith was Brawn's neighbor at the base of the bay. Brawn and Smith also presumably wanted the island for grazing and

wood.

Smith eventually sold his half interest to Brawn. Brawn died in the 1880s. In 1887, his wife, Mary, sold Five Mile to the ubiquitous Charles F. Brown and Levi Ward, a physician. Both men were living in Gilford then.⁷ Ward bought out Brown, and then in

¹ The majority of the acreage that comprised Lot #4 was on Long Island. Five Mile and Six Mile were also part of the lot.

² In 1837, when John Brown bought Daniel Follett's half, Five Mile and Six Mile were still simply referred to as two small islands. (SCR B/P 172/240). When Brown sold Five Mile in 1847, he used the name 'five mile' to describe that island. Presumably Six Mile was named by then as well. (B/P 43/240). The inspiration for the name probably stemmed from Three Mile Island which was the first island to be named based upon its distance from Center Harbor.

³ B/P 4/434. Lot #4 consisted of a parcel on Long Island as well as Five Mile and Six Mile.

⁴ B/P 9009/137.

⁵ SCR D B/P 172/240.

⁶ B/P 43/240.

⁷ B/P 77/56.

1896, Ward sold Five Mile to John H. Dow and Henry B. Quinby, the future New Hampshire Governor who had purchased Dollar Island in 1892.⁸ The two men built a house in the small cove facing Bear Island.

In 1903, Quinby purchased Dow's half interest in the island.⁹ Five Mile was owned by the Quinby family for 56 years, the last member being Henry B.'s daughter, Candace Q. Maynard, who died in 1952. The executor of her will sold it at auction to George Brigden.¹⁰ The island was sold to several other people in the following years, but it was rarely occupied by summer residents. The house gradually crumbled after years of neglect. In 1998, the island was purchased by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.¹¹

⁸ B/P 105/469.

⁹ B/P 110/552.

¹⁰ B/P 337/323.

¹¹ B/P 1472/515.