

Loon Island

Loon is located near Kelley Cove and Shep Brown's Boat Basin.¹ It is a small island about two acres in size. It was acquired by Ede T. Gordon, a blacksmith and farmer from Laconia, some time before 1901.² As with so many other local men who acquired the small islands around Bear, he probably used it as a fishing camp. He built the first house on the island. In October 1901, Gordon sold the island and its tiny satellite island (where the mail boat stops) to Elias A. Bryant of Stoneham, MA.³ Loon became one of the stops for the new mail boat service on the lake in 1902, and it



remains one today.

Originally from Frankestown, NH, Bryant was a Civil War veteran who was a musician in the 4th NH Volunteer Infantry Regiment.⁴

After the war, he moved to Boston where he was a printer. In 1899, he purchased land in Gilford from George Merrill. By then, Bryant had his own steamboat and had also acquired land and a boathouse in the

Weirs channel.⁵ He built a new house on Loon in 1906.⁶ In 1912, it was one of the islands that Fullerton Wells listed among the 212 unnumbered islands he acquired, but there is no indication that Wells ever tried to assert his claim of ownership. Elias died c. 1930, and his wife, Abbie, sold Loon Island the next year to Maxine Woodring.⁷ It has changed hands a couple of times since then.

¹ For its location, see map above in re Goose Island.

² We were unable to find any information about when or from whom.

³ B/P 107/181.

⁴ He served for three years and left a diary of his service.

⁵ In 1905, Bryant sold the boathouse and land to South Bear vacationer, James Aiken. B/P 115/219.

⁶ The Boston Herald, July 1, 1906, p. 30.

⁷ B/P 201/20.