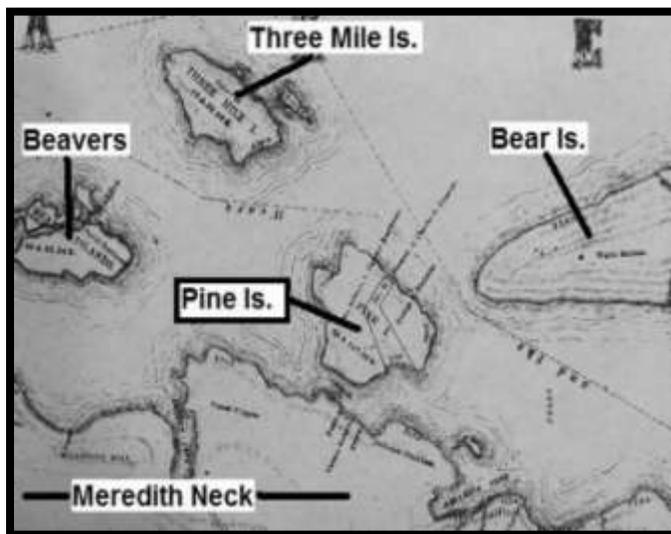


Pine Island

Pine Island is the 15th largest island in Winnepesaukee at 72 acres. It was combined with Stonedam Island in 1781 to form Lot #12 in the allocation of the largest Winnepesaukee islands amongst the Masonian Proprietors.¹ Lot #12 was drawn to the right of Jotham Odiorne. However, Odiorne had died in 1751. The Winnepesaukee islands ended up in the hands of Portsmouth 'Gentlemen,' Peter Pearse and Daniel Treadwell, whose wives were daughters of Odiorne.² They finally sold Pine Island in 1827 to Caleb Lovejoy, who purchased it for seasonal grazing and wood lot purposes.³ The purchase made sense for Caleb whose Neck farm was located nearby on the northern end of Lot 78.



Caleb owned Pine until his death in 1841. It was sold at public auction the next year by his son and estate administrator, David Lovejoy, to three other Neck farmers, Moses Chase, John Roberts Jr., and Stephen Boardman Jr.⁴ They informally divided it into three parcels, including the northwest end facing Three Mile Island; a middle section; and a southeast section facing down the lake between Bear Island and the Neck.⁵ Stephen Boardman Jr. took control over the

northwest end of the island.⁶ He owned the Pine acreage for nearly 30 years, finally selling it in 1871 to Noah Davis of Gilford.⁷ The middle portion of Pine Island was allocated to John Roberts whose Neck farm was located right across the channel from Pine. His ownership of the parcel is muddled somewhat by conflicting deeds, but through a series of transactions, this parcel moved from his hands to Thomas Chase to

¹ Back in 1772, James Hersey had estimated its size at only 42 acres.

² See B/P 9002/120-124 for the 1780 division of most of Odiorne's assets (although not the islands). Odiorne's heirs were his daughters, Mary and Mehitabel.

³ There is one uncertainty in the ownership trail, the logic of it notwithstanding. There is an 1834 deed that, by its description, shows a Portsmouth man, Edmund Roberts, selling what is clearly described as Pine Island (i.e. 42 acres, island #12) to Timothy Robinson of Lowell, MA. (B/P 9010/135). The deed, however, refers to it as Black Cat, although that island was smaller and part of lot #13. The deed trail suggests that the Roberts deed to Robinson did in fact intend to sell Black Cat and not Pine. The sale of Pine to Caleb Lovejoy was never contested. B/P 9011/405 (SCR 132/138).

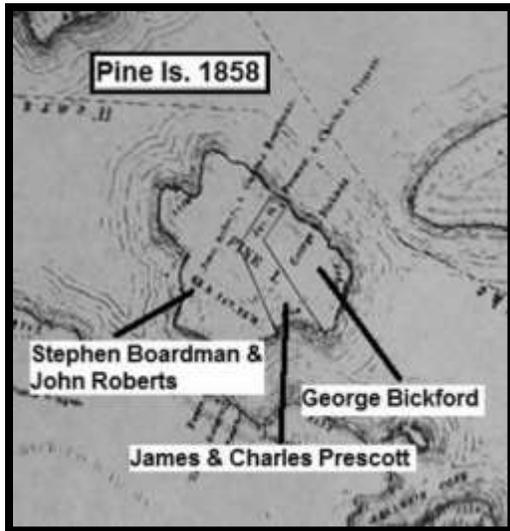
⁴ B/P 8/209.

⁵ Various deeds show this three parcel division, but there are at least two others that reference ownership in terms of an 'undivided one third' share. Regarding the former, see, for example, Sarah Chase to Thomas Bickford, Feb 1848, B/P 17/74. In re the latter, see John Roberts to John S. Roberts, Apr 1860, B/P 34/62. See also B/P 37/300.

⁶ This is the Boardman who had donated the land on the Neck for the Meetinghouse just a few years earlier.

⁷ B/P 52/420. Boardman's sale came three years after he had acquired the nearly 90 acres that comprised Dolly's Point (old Lot 9) on South Bear Island which provided him with far more grazing land than the small parcel on Pine offered. For his part, Davis was primarily interested in the island's timber.

Madison Chase and finally to James M. Prescott and his brother, Charles, in 1855.⁸ The Prescotts maintained ownership of it until James died in 1873.



The southern end of Pine was allocated to Moses Chase in 1842. After he died in 1847, his wife sold the parcel to Thomas Bickford, the son of Bear Island veteran, Brackett Bickford.⁹ In 1851, Thomas sold the parcel to his cousin, Ebenezer Bickford, who had a farm near Advent Cove.¹⁰ After Ebenezer died in 1857, his wife, Almira,¹¹ sold the acreage on Pine to another son of Brackett Bickford, George S.¹² George did not own the property for very long, selling it in 1859 to James M. and Charles Prescott.¹³

With this last sale, some two-thirds of Pine was owned by the Prescotts. They maintained ownership of it until 1873. James M. Prescott passed away, prompting Charles to sell out. The acreage was purchased jointly by John S. Roberts and Noah Davis, the latter of whom had purchased the northwestern end of Pine from Stephen Boardman in 1871.¹⁴ In 1882, John S. Roberts bought out all of Noah Davis' interests in Pine, giving him ownership of the entire island.¹⁵

The farming era on Pine continued thereafter for only another six years. In 1888, Roberts sold it to four Methodist ministers from Massachusetts.¹⁶ The four were William E. Huntington of Newton, William I. Haven of Malden; James H. Humphrey of Reading; and Joseph W. Dearborn of Stoneham. They had become aware of the island's availability through William Haven who had vacationed on Hawkes Nest Island nearby.¹⁷

Huntington was the best known of the four. After growing up on a farm in Illinois, he had served in the Civil War. He then prepared for the ministry at Boston University where he received his S.T.B. degree (Bachelor of Sacred Theology). After being a pastor for eight years, he was named the Dean of the Boston University College of

⁸ B/P 25/99; 25/100. In the 1860s, John Roberts still claimed ownership as seen in deeds among family members. B/P 34/62; 36/368; and 37/300.

⁹ B/P 17/74.

¹⁰ B/P 18/88.

¹¹ Almira was the daughter of Eleazer Bickford Sr. and grew up on Bear Island. She was Ebenezer's cousin.

¹² B/P 31/583. George S. Bickford was Almira's brother-in-law and her cousin.

¹³ B/P 31/559.

¹⁴ B/P 56/154. John S. was the son of the earlier Pine Island owner.

¹⁵ B/P 69/137. As part of the sale, Davis retained the right to all of the timber on the island for three years.

¹⁶ B/P 79/120. See also, "Pine Island in the Early Days," by Mrs. Fred S. Knight, undated manuscript, Moultonborough

Library.

¹⁷ Knight, "Pine Island," p. 1. Mrs. Knight erroneously states that Haven owned Hawkes Nest. In 1891, it was owned by Winfield Hawkes. See below, under Three Mile Islands.

Liberal Arts in 1882 at the age of 38. He was holding this position at the time of the purchase of Pine Island.¹⁸ The other three men were also Methodist clergymen, although none gained the distinctions of Huntington. Haven's background included an education at Boston University, but his pedigree stemmed from his father, the Methodist Episcopal Bishop Gilbert Haven, who was a prominent figure in the abolition, temperance, and women's rights movements.¹⁹ Their numbers on Pine were augmented by their extended families as well as by other Methodist ministers, including E.M. Taylor, W.L. Thirkield, and Fred H. Knight. They were joined a few years later by Reverend Wesley O. Holway and Reverend Joseph H. Mansfield.

In 1892, the original owners incorporated the Pine Island Outing Club (PIOC) and sold the island to it.²⁰ By this time, there were apparently two houses on the island, probably one on the northwestern end (now #8 Pine) and one on the southeastern end (now # 61 Pine).²¹ In 1898, the PIOC commissioned C. H. Sleeper to prepare a survey and subdivision plan of the island. The survey resulted in a 20 lot subdivision with the center of the island left as a 10 acre communal center (called the 'ellipse' or the 'oval'). On May 3, 1901, the PIOC sold all 20 lots to its members and their families. Twelve of the lots were purchased by nine different Methodist ministers, including Reverend Edward Taylor, Reverend James H. Humphrey, and Reverend Wilbur Thirkield. Reverend Thirkield was a Methodist Bishop originally from Ohio. His wife, Mary, was the daughter of Bishop Gilbert Haven and sister of fellow Pine Islander, Reverend William I. Haven.

Another very prominent member of the PIOC was Wesley O. Holway. He was a Harvard graduate and Methodist minister who enjoyed a long and successful career as a Navy chaplain. He organized the Navy Temperance League among many other initiatives. His two daughters, Bertha and Edith, both joined him on Pine. Bertha married Charles Fletcher, and they bought a lot to the west of Holway.²² Edith married a successful investment banker and automobile advocate, Lewis R. Speare. They bought the lot (now #61) on the other side of Holway.²³ In addition, Lewis Speare's brother, E. Raymond Speare, purchased the lot next to his brother. Another organizing member of the PIOC who purchased more than one lot was Robert F. Raymond. While not a minister, Raymond was a Harvard educated lawyer whose brother was president of the

¹⁸ He later became president of Boston University. "A People's History of the School of Theology/Boston University," www.bu.edu/sth-history.

¹⁹ Bishop Haven was familiar with the lake as well. In 1875, he made a presentation at the Methodist camp at the Weirs. Springfield Republican, April 21, 1875, p. 7.

²⁰ B/P 99/490.

²¹ Meredith tax records, 1892 (MHS Archives) reference the two houses. Current Meredith tax cards indicate that both those houses were built in 1890. The cards also indicated another house on the western side of the island (#1) was built in 1891.

²² Holway had purchased the lot and perhaps built the house (#59 now) where the mailboat docked beginning in 1902.

²³ Their lot on Pine was acquired a few years later by Arthur Whitney who built a huge boathouse there. Edith and Lewis Speare also purchased extensive property on the Neck, more or less facing Pine Island. Speare owned a steamboat, the *Falcon*, which was "one of the finest appointed private yachts on the lake." The Boston Herald, July 8, 1900, p. 27.

Methodist Wesleyan University in Connecticut. He was a staunch prohibitionist and became president of the American Bible Society.²⁴



Mail boat passing Pine Island in the background. H.O. Whitney boathouse is the large structure on the left. It was torn down c. 1950. The small boat house to the right of it is still there.

In keeping with its roots, the PIOC included several restrictions in all of the deeds of sale. These included, among other things, a prohibition against making or selling “intoxicating liquors”; forbidding any manufacturing operation; a limitation of two dwelling houses per lot; a banning of any horse stables or pig sties; and the requirement that sanitary conditions be maintained.²⁵

Thus, by the end of 1901, Pine Island had fully transitioned into the vacation era. Over the following years, the now private lots changed hands regularly. But Pine continued to be a summer haven for clergymen throughout the 1900s.²⁶ The history of that process is for someone else’s telling.

²⁴ Richard Herndon: “Men of Progress: One Thousand Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Leaders in Massachusetts,” New England Magazine, 1896.

²⁵ See, for example: B/P 106/342.

²⁶ Among others were Reverend Henry Hitt Crane, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, and Reverend Kenneth Rose.