



Bartlett's Island, 1996. *Courtesy of Google Earth*

Bartlett's Island: The Marks We Wish to Leave

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It is a myth that we can somehow leave nature untouched by our passage. If living in history means that we cannot help leaving marks on a fallen world, then the dilemma we face is to decide what marks we wish to leave.¹

—William Cronon

Bartlett's Island² lies just off of the western shore of Mount Desert Island, well protected from the weather far up in Blue Hill Bay. Totalling almost twenty-two hundred acres with twelve miles of shoreline, it is a strikingly beautiful island whose rocky shores give way to lovely mixed woodlands and a well-maintained farm of several open pastures sloping gently down to the bay. A simple dock in the middle of the island looks eastward to Bartlett's Landing in Pretty Marsh in the Town of Mount Desert.

Today, Bartlett's is one of the largest privately held islands along the coast of Maine. It is very sparsely settled, and save for three small parcels, the entire island is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement. The prospect that the island will remain in a near wilderness state for the foreseeable future is as secure as possible given current Maine laws. Yet the ghosts of those who lived and toiled on the island over the past centuries cannot be laid to rest or forgotten so easily; we should not let the current appearance of wilderness also represent a flight from the island's rich history.³

In many ways the story of Bartlett's Island over the last two hundred and fifty years is a microcosm of what happened to many of the thousands of islands along Maine's rugged coast. After their defeat by the British on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec in 1759, the French and their Indian allies retreated from the disputed coastal lands east of Penobscot Bay in the early 1760s. Further and safer exploration was now possible by the British and by the growing residents of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Over the balance of the eighteenth century, settlement in and around Penobscot and Blue Hill bays occurred rather quickly. Indeed, all but the very smallest of the once uninhabited islands in Blue Hill Bay were settled throughout the nineteenth century.

With fish plentiful, the soil good both for farming and grazing, fresh water readily available, and plenty of timber for heating and shipbuilding, the first half of the 1800s were a time of rapid population growth for the islands and the coastal region. Later in the century, however, the demographics of the area began to change. The fisheries, especially those closer to the mainland, began to be depleted, and farm produce from the islands became less competitive in the large eastern markets. During this time, the population on the islands began to dwindle and the age of the remaining inhabitants increased as the younger generation sought better opportunities elsewhere.

The twentieth century saw the pace of change increase as the agrarian character of the islands gave way to the coming of wealthy summer residents and industrial and real estate developers. Populations continued to fall dramatically, and many of the islands became virtually unoccupied and of little commercial value in the second half of the century. Fortunately, there were a number of conservation-minded buyers who treasured these beautiful deserted islands and wanted to protect them. Also, during this same timeframe, both federal and Maine

state laws were being enacted that encouraged private land conservation, offering tax incentives for property owners to permanently protect their lands. Conservation organizations such as Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Nature Conservancy were founded to conserve and manage these lands. The growth in conserved land along the coast of Maine, thanks to private philanthropy over the last several decades, has been staggering, and the protection of Bartlett's Island is but one of many success stories of this conservation movement.

History records that in 1765⁴ Christopher Bartlett and his wife Freelove Razez Bartlett first arrived on the island (then known as Hog Island) and built a log cabin home on the northern end in an area protected from the prevailing weather.⁵ They were undoubtedly one of the earliest families to arrive and settle in this area of Maine, along with Abraham Somes and his family, who were the first to settle in what is now known as Somesville on Mount Desert Island in 1762. From their primitive beginning, Christopher and Freelove raised nine children to adulthood on the island—five boys and four girls. Of these, Christopher, Jr. and his wife had fourteen children, while David's family added six more to the next generation. This second generation of Bartletts was to become the base for the island's future population growth in the nineteenth century.

Many of the fledgling communities along the coast of Maine like that on Bartlett's suffered harassment from the British during the Revolutionary War, but after the successful defeat of the British, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was created to include what is now the State of Maine. In 1789, the Town of Mount Desert was incorporated. Comprised of the western settlements on Mount Desert Island as well as many of the outlying islands, including Bartlett's, the Town's population was already up to nearly eight hundred inhabitants.

Despite the beginnings of a formal government, however, there were numerous disputes over ownership of lands where settlers had staked their claim and built a homestead. In 1787, responding to multiple and conflicting claims regarding Mount Desert Island and surrounding islands, the Massachusetts General Court resolved the matter by rewarding the western half of Mount Desert, along with Bartlett's Island, to the de Gregoire family, descendants of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac.⁶

In 1792, the de Gregoires hired a surveyor to map the land and properties on Bartlett's Island, resulting in the division of the island into fourteen lots, four of which were the land now occupied by the Bartlett families (Christopher, Christopher, Jr., Elias, and David). Since the Bartletts had occupied the land prior to 1791, they were allowed to buy it from the de Gregoires for only five Spanish milled dollars (also known as pieces of eight, the equivalent of 62.5 cents today).⁷ Thus it was not until 1792 that Christopher Bartlett and his family gained legal title to the land on which they had been living for almost thirty years.

Life for Christopher Bartlett and his family was hard, with countless acres of clearing required to begin farming, but the soil was fertile and produced robust harvests. It is recorded that the island supported a large population of game animals, probably deer, rabbits, turkey and perhaps moose. The timber was also excellent and was put to many uses by the family.

In 1790 there were five separate Bartlett family homes on the island. Early records show that the Bartletts as a group were not only a fecund lot; they were also primitive, stubborn, and fiercely independent, and they did not always see eye to eye with their neighbors on the mainland or on Mount Desert Island. Still, Christopher and his sons would frequently row across to Pretty Marsh and then walk over seven miles to Town meetings. His sons Christopher, Jr., David, and Elias held various Town positions over the years, including "Granjueryman," deer and hog warden, surveyor of highways, constable, "tythingman," and "fence viewer" in addition to serving on the school board.⁸ By the time Christopher died in 1806 at the age of seventy-three (most likely after his wife passed away), he had lived a pioneering life on the island for over forty years. Starting out on a wild, uninhabited island in 1765 with nothing but a small boat, he had left behind a substantial legacy on which his family could build.⁹

The island was clearly an advantageous place to support a community. There were many secure anchorages close to Mount Desert and the island was also ideally located at the mouth of the Union River leading to Ellsworth, which was becoming the leading trading center for the area. With rich soil and a plentiful harvest from the sea, it was an ideal place for a farming and fishing community to grow, and so it did: from six households in 1800 to eight in 1820, eleven in 1840, fifteen in 1860, and twenty-four in 1880 when the population totaled 109

inhabitants.¹⁰ The 1880 figure from the Federal Census report was to record the peak population on the island. It is noteworthy that by the 1840s, although there were now other families living on Bartlett's, fully three-quarters of these approximately one hundred residents were direct descendants of Freeloove and Christopher Bartlett. Other property owners of prominence on the island in the 1850s included George Ober, James Alley, John Alley, Decatur Dawes, Jacob Butler, and Jason Manley.¹¹

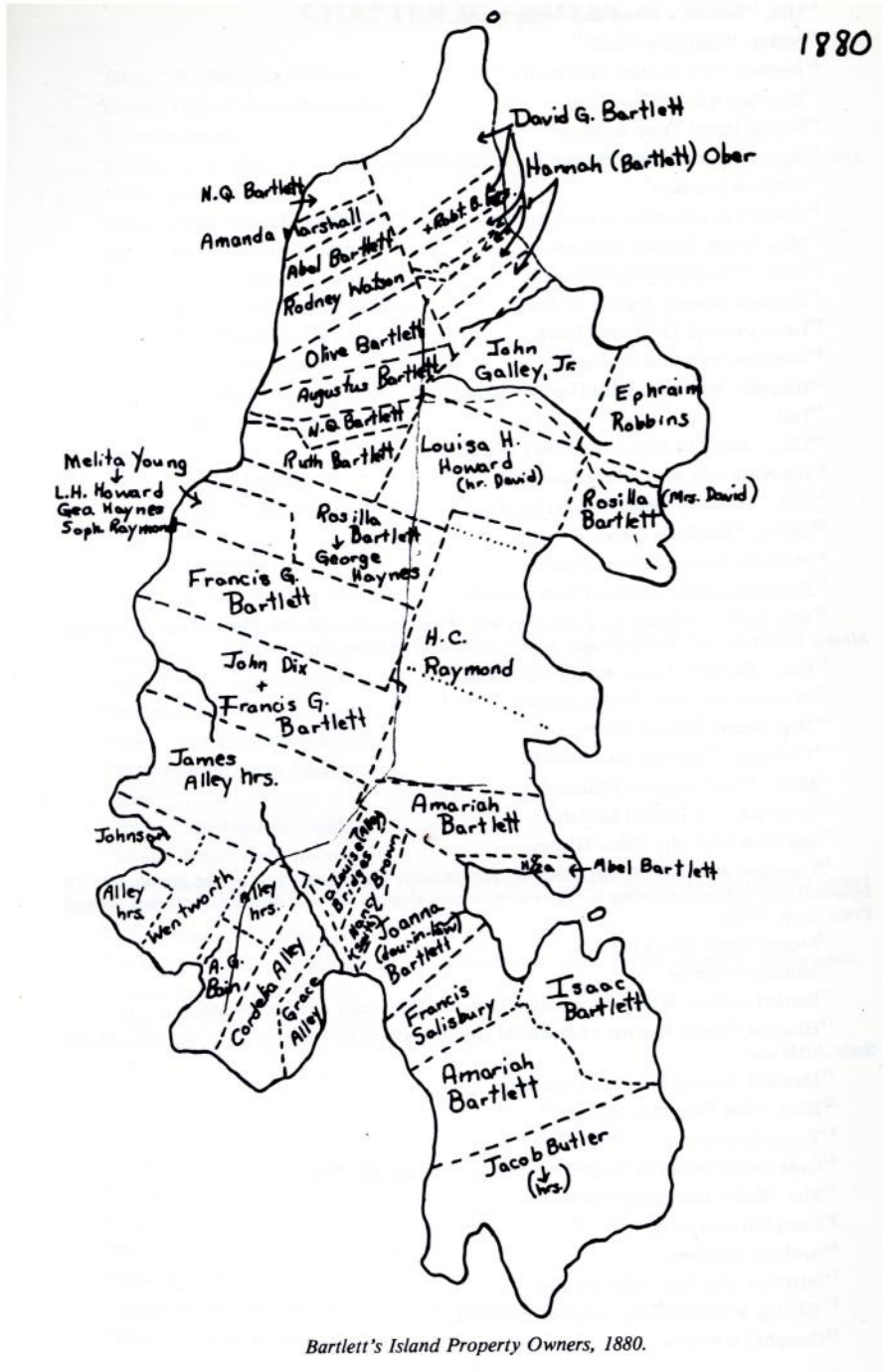
In 1837, the residents of Bartlett's Island, with support from property owners on Hardwood and Robinson (known today as Tinker) islands, petitioned the Town of Mount Desert for their independence, citing among their reasons that

on account of our remote situation from the centre of town we are excluded from nearly all the privileges of citizens; that the town meetings one half the time are held 13 miles from some of us; and 9 miles from all of us, that on account of living on islands we cannot go to town meetings in carriages or on horseback, but in order to attend, must (after going from 1 to 5 miles by water) walk 8 miles by land; that we pay taxes for building highways and support of schools of which we receive little or no benefit.¹²

The petition was approved the following year, and a new town named Seaville was created. Unfortunately for the petitioners, Seaville was destined to last little more than twenty years. The small scale of the new town and the ongoing logistical challenges to furnish public services led to the return of Bartlett's Island to the Town of Mount Desert in 1859.

The farms on the island tended to raise milking cows, sheep, and chickens, and they each had a yoke of oxen to plow the fields where hay, wheat, corn, and potatoes were grown. Many apple trees were planted throughout the island as well. In addition to pursuing agriculture, the families fished for cod and mackerel early on, later followed by menhaden (also known as poggy) in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This small oily fleshed fish, akin to shad, was thought to be superior in flavor to most other common shore fishes, and was also used

1880



Bartlett's Island Property Owners, 1880.

From *A History of Bartlett's Island, Mount Desert, Maine*
by Esther Binnewies and Muriel Davisson (1981). *Reprinted with permission*

in making fishmeal and fish oil.¹³ Indeed, there were once seven poggy presses on the island. The resulting pulp “was put into chum (fish bait) houses and later shipped away and sold for fertilizer.”¹⁴ The process and industry itself is said to have originated on Bartlett’s Island. After the menhaden were fished out, the fishermen turned to lobsters and then herring in the beginning of the twentieth century.

There was never any quarrying of significance done on Bartlett’s as the island lacked large quantities of granite, although this became a major industry throughout many of the neighboring islands. Attempts were made at mining silver on the island, but without any commercial success. Apparently, there was no commercial logging activity on Bartlett’s until the changes to the economy in the twentieth century. Another source of income for residents on the island in the nineteenth century was service on commercial seafaring vessels, not only as common seamen, but also as captains of merchant vessels, who were called master mariners. On Bartlett’s Island in the nineteenth century there were six master mariners, including the brothers James, Abraham, and Isaac Bartlett, brothers Christopher III and David Bartlett, and Hiram C. Raymond.¹⁵

One of the most respectable and successful members of the Bartlett’s Island community was Captain David Bartlett. Born in 1796, he was a third generation Bartlett, the eldest son of Christopher, Jr. As a commercial ship captain and owner, he made a lucrative living at sea and sailed throughout the world. Some of his vessels—the schooner *Maine*, the brig *Emma Francis*, the *Grand Turk*, and the brig *Emmaline*—were originally built in Somesville by Abraham Somes.¹⁶ David and his wife, Rozilla Grindle of Blue Hill, owned the largest property on the island, encompassing over three hundred acres in the center and including shorefront to the east and west. They built a large house that “featured a well in the center and wainscoting in the kitchen of four foot clear pine boards. [The house] was both plastered and papered.”¹⁷ There Rozilla gave birth to ten children in twenty years (though four did not survive childhood). Captain David Bartlett died in 1871 at age seventy-six as the wealthiest islander with an estate valued at over \$6,000. The house was passed on to his grandchildren, and it stood proudly in the middle of the island until it was “apparently burned by vandals early in the twentieth century.”¹⁸

While the 1880s can be thought of as the height of the island’s

population and its sense of community, there were already telling signs that its economy was about to change. The residents on the island were becoming older. The school, which in 1859 had two districts and forty-three students, was down to one district and only twenty-five students by 1889. The younger generation was missing out on the economic and social opportunities on the island that their parents had experienced, and so there was a gradual flight to Mount Desert Island and the mainland. Farm yields were also declining on the island, and the menhaden fisheries were becoming depleted. Important, too, was the fact that there was now agricultural competition from the rapidly growing Midwest. The advent of the railroad greatly benefitted these inland farmers by shortening their time to market. The inevitable result of these factors was a small but steady decline in population leading up to the 1900s. Families seeking better opportunities were unable to sell their properties, they could not afford to pay their taxes, and so many simply defaulted and left. The Town held auctions for these properties, but there were no buyers to be found, and so the painful downward spiral continued. The island's remaining inhabitants were now very poor, their farms all but worthless, and they were desperately in need of some means of revitalization.

The revival came in the form of two wealthy attorneys from Boston, A. B. and Caleb Loring, who purchased many of the vacant lots on Bartlett's starting in 1902 and 1903. The two brothers and their families intended to stay on the island only during the summer months, and they chose to live in two of the existing farmhouses facing Pretty Marsh and the Narrows.¹⁹ They saw the plight of those still living on the island year-round, and they sought to sustain the remaining community, if they could. Residents who sold the brothers their land were given the right to stay on and use a portion of the land for themselves. The Lorings established a year-round stock farm of Guernsey cows and sheep, and they employed numerous local residents to run the farm in their absence. This non-local proprietor structure²⁰ was a new model, but it was to be repeated many times over the next century with the advent of the rusticators and the many summer communities beginning to appear along the Maine coast. Thus there did not seem to be much resentment of the new wealthy owners of the island by the local community. The Lorings appeared to be generally inclusive of those still living year-round, and they were evidently generous as well. Anyone

needing winter supplies was shuttled up the Union River to take on supplies each fall, and A. P. Loring even built a local dance hall on the island that drew many from other islands to join in the regular festivities.²¹ The Lorings loved their island, and they were truly early rusticators who seemed to live very happily in their own remote environment. The historian Samuel Eliot Morison was a Harvard classmate of A. P. Loring's son, and in a manuscript he describes his thoughts about a visit to Bartlett's Island in the late 1920s:

Our pleasures were taken at one of those little coves and shingle beaches filled with that detailed and delicate natural beauty that makes Maine unique. "What do you do over there?" asked dwellers in the fashionable resorts on Mount Desert Island. "Nothing!" was the answer; "We just enjoy ourselves!"²²

By 1926, A. P. Loring had bought out his brother, and with the purchase of the remaining large tract of land several years later, he owned virtually the entire island.²³ But these apparently idyllic years, so different from the last several decades of the 1800s, came to an end upon A. P.'s death in 1934 when his estate sold all of his holdings on the island for \$20,000. New and rapidly changing chapters for Bartlett's Island were about to begin.

The buyers of the island in 1934 were three investors from Bar Harbor—Edgar Walls and brothers Charles and Mark Morison. They sought to profit from the island's rich timber resources, and to do so they contracted with the St. Regis Paper Company, which built a paper pulp plant on the island. While much local labor was used for these operations, the business was never very successful and the owners grew restless.

The island was accordingly sold again in 1939, this time to a thirty-seven-year-old businessman named Phillips Lord. Lord was then a very popular radio personality with Maine roots who had created the character Seth Parker. With his folksy style and accompanying music, he was something of an early version of Garrison Keillor, and he certainly was successful, making over \$100,000 annually in the 1930s.²⁴ The Lord years were sharply different from those under the prior owners. Lord was moving away from his radio business but was still very much of an entrepreneur. He closed down the pulp and timber operations and started up saw and shingle mills, a boatbuilding

operation, a blacksmith's forge, and a business to make and can Seth Parker's Clam Chowder, which became very popular and was sold extensively prior to World War II. Lord also ran a large farming operation on the island, grazing three hundred sheep and growing hay. It is not known how many others were then living on Bartlett's, but Lord certainly employed many people to run his various operations. By the early 1950s he was spending as much as seven months of the year on the island—apparently more of a commitment than he wanted. In 1955 he sold Bartlett's for \$88,600 and retired to nearby Surry, Maine.²⁵

The years between 1955 and 1973 saw the island change ownership four separate times, with development plans being foremost on the minds of several of these owners. The first of these prospective developers was Herbert Mayer, a businessman who bought Bartlett's Island in 1955 without ever having set foot on it. His plan was to develop a residential, club-like community on the island with lots averaging about eight acres set around a central clubhouse. It was a grandiose plan indeed; he even envisioned a bridge across Bartlett's Narrows. But with its many old roads and aging buildings, the island was looking neglected and rundown, and no buyers came. Mayer, who despite having been to the island just once, knew that an influx of capital would be required, and he soon lost interest in the project. Instead, he decided to market the entire island for sale as a club or a hunting lodge,²⁶ and four years later, in 1963, he sold Bartlett's to Richard C. Paine, Jr. for \$160,000. Having done virtually nothing to maintain or improve the island, Mayer had nevertheless almost doubled his investment in eight years. Richard Paine, who owned adjacent Hardwood Island to the south, bought Bartlett's because he feared that a paper company would acquire it to harvest it for pulpwood—right in his view from Hardwood. But Paine also had a fascination with antique cars, and four years later he abruptly moved to Mount Desert Island to build the Seal Cove Auto Museum,²⁷ selling Bartlett's to the Dead River Company in 1967.

The Dead River Company, a firm with its origin in forest products, was then migrating its businesses toward other industries such as oil and gas and commercial real estate,²⁸ and part of its strategy in the late 1960s was to acquire and develop prime islands near the mainland.²⁹ Dead River clearly seems to have bought Bartlett's with development in mind, but to make this plan work the Company needed to acquire sufficient land for parking and an expanded ferry service at the Pretty Marsh

landing area across from the Narrows. Unfortunately for Dead River, the former owner of the island, Herbert Mayer, still owned this prime land, and he wanted an exorbitant sum for it. With further complications emerging as well, Dead River decided against this additional investment, and instead put the island back on the market. On June 6, 1974 Bartlett's Island was sold to David and Margaret (Peggy) Rockefeller.

The years since 1974 have seen the island stay safely in the same family, with David Rockefeller remaining as the owner today. The Rockefellers acquired the island to protect it from the inevitable development threatened so many times in the previous generations. Back in 1981, Peggy Rockefeller wrote about their decision to buy the island:

Bartlett's Island was ravishingly beautiful, deserted, neglected, only three-fourths of a mile from Mount Desert Island, and it became an obvious target for those seeking likely places to develop. . . . To tell the truth, at that time our knowledge of the island was mostly by hearsay. We bought it, hardly having set foot on it, with no intention of doing anything to it, other than to protect it. A year passed before we had taken more than a few walks there.³⁰

In the forty-two years since they have owned the island, the David Rockefeller family has served as dedicated private stewards of Bartlett's. They have salvaged three of the older homes and re-built them, cleared the area where many of the dilapidated home sites stood, restored and maintained the network of roads, and managed a beautiful farm overlooking the Narrows on which for many years they grazed Simmental cattle. The few new structures that have been added blend in with the island environment.

Most importantly, though, the family has ensured that, beyond the three areas in which the structures lie today, there will be no further development of any sort on the rest of the island. How these restrictions came to be is the result of changing laws regarding land conservation as well as the visionary work of Peggy Rockefeller herself in founding Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) in 1970 with fellow conservation pioneers.

MCHT was a truly collaborative—and progressive—venture, beginning with a strong board of directors and staff and willing allies in The Nature Conservancy and Acadia National Park, among others. In 1969 the State of Maine had passed a statute legitimizing conservation easements and allowing public governmental entities such as Acadia National Park to hold and enforce easement restrictions designed to preserve scenic and ecological values of land. In addition, the new conservation vehicle had the effect, according to Maine tax law, of lowering the value of the land it covered, thereby lowering the owner's property taxes.³¹ Within its first year, MCHT was able to facilitate protection of 30 islands (after contacting 310 island owners and meeting with 46 of them)!³²

The federal laws with respect to private land conservation were changing as well, and in 1976, the new Tax Reform Act recognized donations of conservation easements as tax-deductible charitable gifts, further encouraging private land conservation. In this new legal environment, a conservation easement, facilitated by MCHT, was placed on much of Bartlett's Island in February of 1978. The easement was granted to the Town of Mount Desert, placing on it the responsibility for enforcing compliance with the easement's stipulations. This first easement divided the island into five distinct areas, each with its own set of restrictions, and permitted the construction of not more than twenty-five houses—the maximum number of homes that had existed back in the second half of the nineteenth century. Farming was allowed along with an operating sawmill, and existing paths and roadways were permitted to be maintained and improved. Other provisions covered surface alterations, vegetation management, and management of the forest lands. For the next twenty-eight years, Bartlett's Island was owned and managed under the terms of the 1978 easement.

The next generation of federal and state laws regarding land conservation were more expansive and more sophisticated. Of particular importance to the Rockefeller family and the protection of Bartlett's Island was a law passed in Maine in 1985 that allowed nonprofit corporations to hold conservation easements. This enabled organizations like MCHT, which previously had been required to own lands in order to protect them, now to hold and enforce conservation easements without having to own the land itself.³³

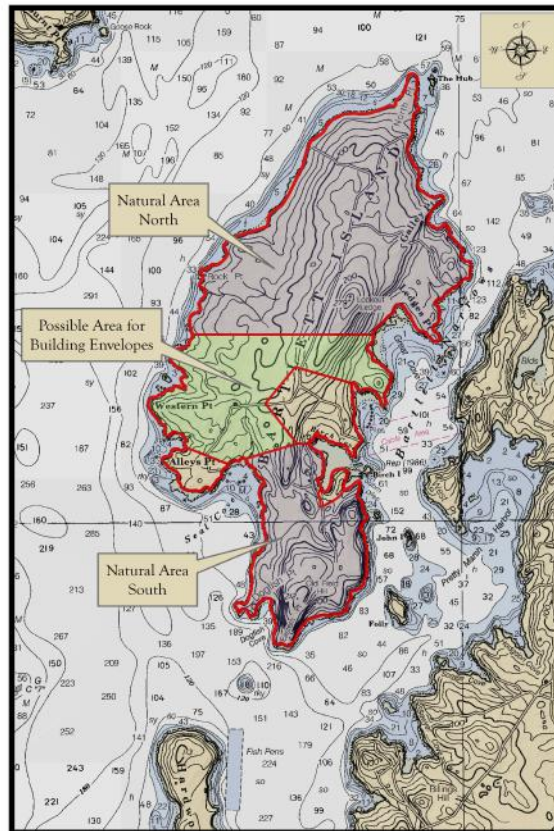
Peggy Rockefeller died in 1996—but her legacy as a founder of MCHT and one of the staunchest proponents for protecting Maine’s coastal lands would continue to grow as more and more opportunities emerged under the favorable conservation laws. Within a decade of her death her husband David sought additional restrictions on development of Bartlett’s. The result was a second conservation easement, granted in 2006 to MCHT, that effectively layered additional restrictions over the original easement, which itself still remained in force. The purpose of this new easement was clearly stated:

It is the intention of the parties under this easement to add to the conservation protections afforded by that earlier easement by assuring that residential development may occur, if at all, on not more than three acres . . . , assuring the permanent protection of 1982 acres and more than twelve miles of shoreline on Bartlett’s Island from such permitted building development, and to establish additional restrictions to further protect the important natural resources on the Island. . . .³⁴

The terms of this new easement applied to all but three land use areas of approximately 200 acres,³⁵ where the original easement still restricted the number of residences. The remaining 1982 acres included a "Natural Area-North," a "Natural Area-South," and a "Potential Area for Building Envelopes" for up to three sites in the middle of the island. Further, these three building envelopes were not to exceed one acre each and were required to be set back 150 feet from the shoreline.³⁶ Upon acquiring the easement, MCHT conducted cultural and natural resource inventories to assess the land's historical and ecological characteristics and to identify significant species and community types. This baseline information helped to guide long-term management planning and will help in the future to ensure compliance with the easement through annual inspections.³⁷ MCHT and the Town of Mount Desert now are stewards for all protected land on Bartlett’s Island and this careful stewardship will continue in perpetuity.³⁸

The conservation of Bartlett’s by David and Peggy Rockefeller serves as a model for what can be accomplished through steadfast dedication to preserve and protect Maine’s coastal lands. Their son Richard continued their work, serving as Board Chair of Maine Coast Heritage Trust for

many years and dedicating much of his too-brief adult life to the conservation of the coast of Maine. Tragically, a plane crash in the summer of 2014 took the life of Richard Rockefeller—but his legacy, like that of his parents, will certainly live on at Bartlett’s Island and beyond.³⁹



Bartlett's Island – 2006 Conservation Easement. Land under conservation easement is privately owned. Public use is at the discretion of the landowner. *Map produced by Maine Coast Heritage Trust*

Thousands of years before the Rockefellers and before the Bartletts, the island was home to native peoples. Their traces have long since faded, replaced by the marks of the island’s more recent occupants—Anglicized American colonists who “discovered” it; generations of farmers; a few early rusticators; industries; would-be developers; and now a resolutely conservation-minded family. In William Cronon’s words,

nature has not been left untouched by their passage, but those marks that do remain might be said to be the right ones.

Notes

¹ William Cronon, *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1995), 78.

² The island originally was referred to as Hog Island on maps at the time of Christopher and Freelove Bartlett's arrival in the eighteenth century. It became known as Bartlett or Bartlett's Island in the nineteenth century. This account refers to it as Bartlett's Island.

³ Cronon, *Uncommon Ground*, 78.

⁴ The original settlement has also been recorded as occurring in 1762 (by Samuel Eliot Morison) and in 1767 (by Charles B. McLane).

⁵ Esther Binnewies and Muriel Davisson, *A History of Bartlett's Island, Mount Desert, Maine* (Portland, ME: Seavey Printers, Inc., 1981). This meticulously researched book was commissioned by Margaret (Peggy) Rockefeller after she and her husband David purchased the island in 1974. In the appendix to their book, Binnewies and Davisson documented a detailed genealogy of seven generations of the descendants of Christopher Bartlett. Without this primary source of information, the detailed history of Bartlett's Island in the nineteenth century would in all probability have been lost—and the retelling of the first half of the island's history since 1765 by this author almost certainly would not have been possible.

⁶ The eastern half of Mount Desert Island was granted to the son of Sir Francis Bernard, a former governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony. Virginia Somes-Sanderson, *The Living Past: Being the Story of Somesville, Mount Desert, Maine and Its Relationship with Other Areas of the Island* (Mount Desert: Beech Hill Publishing Company, 1982), 26.

⁷ Binnewies and Davisson, 23-24. This was a lesser amount than post-1791 settlers were required to pay for land on Bartlett's.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ His estate included one hundred acres of land, his house and shed, two yoke of oxen, five cows, four heifers, one calf, two swine, fifty-seven sheep, and six lambs. Among the estate's many other personal effects were sixty-six pounds of wool. *Ibid.*, 27

¹⁰ Charles B. McLane, *Islands of the Mid-Maine Coast—Blue Hill and Penobscot Bays* (Portland, ME: Tilbury House Publishers, 1982), 405.

¹¹ Binnewies and Davisson, 33.

¹² *Ibid.*, 31.

¹³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menhaden>, accessed September 15, 2014.

¹⁴ Binnewies and Davisson, 40.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 44.

¹⁶ Virginia Somes-Sanderson, *The Living Past*, 204.

¹⁷ Binnewies and Davisson, 48.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Most likely these were two of Captain David Bartlett's houses.

²⁰ McLane, *Islands of the Mid-Maine Coast*, 406

²¹ Binnewies and Davisson, 101.

²² Samuel Eliot Morison, *Augustus Peabody Loring, Jr., 1885-1941*. Collection of the Northeast Harbor Library, Northeast Harbor, Maine.

²³ The only parcel not owned by A. P. Loring was a seventy-acre farm owned by Ephraim Robbins, and this remained in the family until the 1950s.

²⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillips_Lord, accessed September 15, 2014.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ He had previously purchased the last remaining in-holdings from the Bain family in the late 1950s.

²⁷ Interview with C. W. Eliot Paine, September 12, 2014. The following year, 1968, Richard Paine also sold Hardwood Island to his brother Eliot, who still owns and spends summers on the island today. Acadia National Park holds a conservation easement on the island. Marina Schaufler's article in this issue of *Chebacco* describes the Maine Island Ecology Program that was conducted for many years on Hardwood.

²⁸ <http://www.deadriverr.com/why-dead-river/history.aspx>, accessed September 16, 2014.

²⁹ During this period, the company was also engaged in a proposed development plan for Stave Island in Frenchman Bay, which was stopped by a sale to The Nature Conservancy. Interview with Terry Towne, land steward for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, September 3, 2014.

³⁰ Introduction to Esther Binnewies and Muriel Davisson's book, *A History of Bartlett's Island, Mount Desert, Maine*.

³¹ Interview with Karin Marchetti Ponte, General Counsel, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, September 9, 2014.

³² http://www.mcht.org/newsletters/docs/mcht_3994_spring_10_nl2_out.pdf, accessed September 15, 2014.

³³ Interview with Karin Marchetti Ponte, General Counsel, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, September 9, 2014.

³⁴ Conservation Easement on Bartlett's Island, Blue Hill Bay, Town of Mount Desert, Hancock County, Maine, June 13, 2006, recorded at the Hancock County, Maine Registry of Deeds in Book 4523, Page 278.

³⁵ These are shown as "Alley Point," "Lame David Field," and "Village Area" on the map included with the conservation easement.

³⁶ Conservation Easement, 3.

³⁷ <http://www.mcht.org/stewardship/index.html>, accessed September 15, 2014.

³⁸ In fact, at present MCHT holds more than one hundred fifty such conservation easements along the coast of Maine, monitoring these lands annually to help ensure the preservation of their natural values.

³⁹ The author of this article was a childhood friend and competitor of Richard Rockefeller on Mount Desert Island, a Harvard '71 classmate, and a long time admirer of his generosity, creativity, and leadership.