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EARLY AGRICULTURE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE: AN OVERVIEW OF BEAR, IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN, OAK, OTTER, RASPBERRY, ROCKY, SOUTH TWIN AND STOCKTON ISLANDS AND THE MAINLAND UNIT (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BASSWOOD ISLAND ALSO INCLUDED)

A Report Prepared for the Staff of the
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore,
Bayfield, Wisconsin

by

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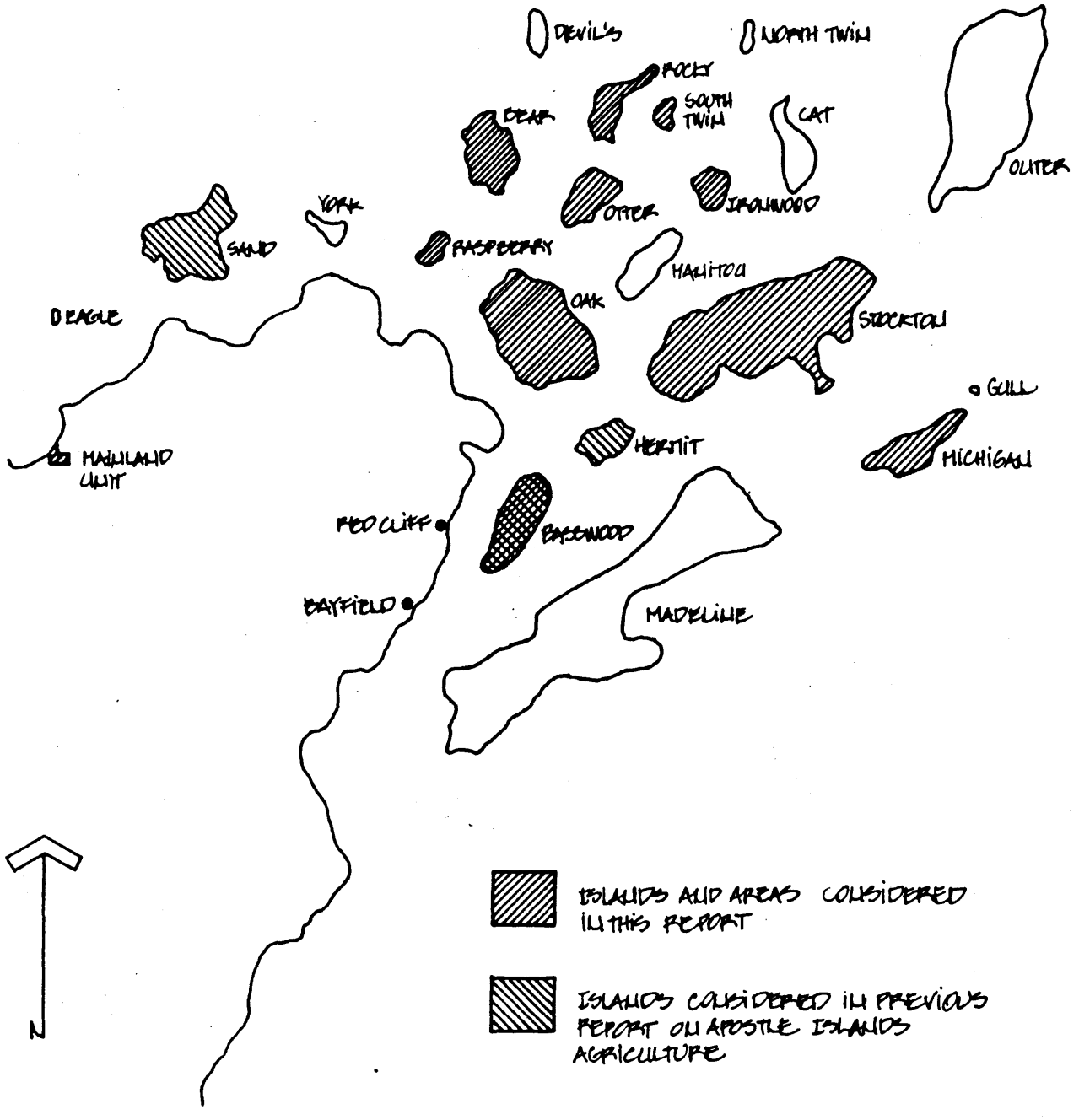
OBJECTIVES

During the early 1980s this investigator participated with two other individuals in preparing a report on the early agricultural history of the Apostle Islands.[1] The report presented some background information on the overall agricultural development of the Apostles, but especially focused upon Basswood, Hermit, and Sand Islands. Several sources of information were used in preparing this first report. These included original Land Office and homestead records, census data, newspaper accounts, interviews, pictorial information, and field surveys.

The report included on the following pages seeks to provide a more complete overview of early Apostle Islands agriculture by expanding the study to include islands other than Basswood, Hermit, and Sand (Figure 1). The additional islands considered in this report are Bear, Ironwood, Michigan, Otter, Oak, Raspberry, South Twin, and Stockton. In addition, an effort has been made to provide some background information on an early farmstead (situated on Section 9, Township 51N, Range 5W of Bayfield County) that once was built on what is now a part of the Apostle Islands mainland unit. Finally, additional information on two pre-emptors who made claims on Basswood Island was unearthed while doing this study; therefore, the subsequent account includes the new data.

The preparation of this document would not have been possible without the assistance of Kate Lidfors, former Cultural Resource Manager and Historian on the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore staff. In addition, I am indebted to my colleagues, William Tishler and George Thompson, whose insights and work in preparing the former report have been very useful in this endeavor.

FIGURE 1. THE APOSTLE ISLANDS



Sources

Because of time and monetary constraints, this report is based upon sources that either could be consulted in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Madison), or could be acquired via the mail from such repositories as the National Archives and Records Center in Washington, D.C. and Suitland, Maryland. The sources used were as follows:

1. Surveyor's Maps and Notes: The field notes gathered by the original government surveyors, and the resulting plats or plates prepared from these notes, are especially useful in documenting vegetative characteristics and human impact upon the land (if any) throughout much of the western two-thirds of the United States. Since most of the survey work for the Apostle Islands was completed in 1852 and 1857, there was very little development on the islands at that time. The surveyor's notes and maps, therefore, only contain a limited amount of information that describes human activities such as agriculture on the islands of the National Lakeshore unit; nevertheless, they are essential to consult when determining how the land was originally subdivided.

2. Land Office Books: When the public domain was dispersed to private parties, the initial entries were recorded in tract books maintained by each Land Office. One set of volumes is found in the Manuscripts and Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison. By consulting the legal property descriptions provided in these volumes, it is possible to order copies of the homestead and pre-emption records from the National Archives and Records Center.

3. County Plat Books: One of the primary ways to acquire an immediate overview of land ownership in an area at a particular point in time is to consult county plat books. These books or atlases, usually organized by individual townships, show rural land ownership boundaries, the names of land

owners, the placement of roads, and often point out the location of individual farmsteads. Unfortunately, plat books generally were not published on a regular basis, and in northern Wisconsin the first volumes appeared at a relatively late date (1898 for Ashland County and 1906 for Bayfield County). They did, however, serve as valuable sources of information for this study.

4. Newspapers: For the previous report, a thorough survey of all extant copies of the Bayfield Press and the Bayfield County Press were reviewed from 1870 to 1872 and from 1877 to 1889. Since there was no newspaper in Bayfield from June 1872 to May 1877, all existing copies of the Ashland Press for this interim period also were surveyed.

When undertaking the research for this report, an effort was made to locate other local and regional newspapers that had appeared prior to 1870. At least two newspapers were published in Bayfield during the late 1850s and early 1860s, but only one issue of such journalistic endeavors has been deposited in the State Historical Society Archives. The two early publication efforts were the Bayfield Mercury, which commenced on June 20, 1857 and appeared intermitingly until October 1857; and the first version of the Bayfield Press, a newspaper that came out on an irregular schedule from September 1859 to the spring of 1861. In October 1870 the Fifield Brothers re-established the Bayfield Press, and published their newspaper in the community until June 1, 1872; one week later it reappeared as the Ashland Press. The third version of the Bayfield Press appeared on June 13, 1877; on December 9, 1882 the name of the paper was changed to the Bayfield County Press.[2]

In addition to the Bayfield and Ashland newspapers listed above, all extant copies of the Superior Chronicle and Superior Gazette published from 1855 to 1870 were consulted. While these two newspapers carried news of the

Lake Superior region, their coverage of the Apostle Islands--especially anything concerned with specific people, places, and events--was very limited. Indeed, even the Ashland newspaper contained rather few comments on the Apostle Islands; it was the Bayfield Press and the Bayfield County Press that gave greatest coverage to the people and activities of the Apostle Islands.

The following listing summarizes the newspapers that were consulted for this report. It should be understood that most of the newspapers have missing issues, but special mention is made of the Superior Gazette since so few issues are available for certain years.

Newspaper	Issues Reviewed
Bayfield Mercury	August 22, 1857
Superior Chronicle	1855-1863
Superior Gazette	1864-1866 (also 22 issues from 1868 to early 1870)
Bayfield Press	1870-1872
Ashland Press	1872-1877
Bayfield Press	1877-1882
Bayfield County Press	1882-1889

Finally, it should be mentioned that information on R.H. Pendergast, an early lighthouse keeper and horticulturist on Michigan Island, was found while this investigator was doing background research for another project on northern Minnesota. When consulting early twentieth issues of the Mesaba Ore and Hibbing News, published in Hibbing, Minnesota, Pendergast's name appeared. Though these items by no means provide a complete biographical sketch of one of the Apostle Islands most important agrarians, it does point out where future research activities might be directed should further information on the "Johnny Appleseed of the Lake Superior region" be desired.

5. Manuscript Collections: Rather few manuscript collections contain large amounts of information on the Apostle Islands. Mention of the Islands, if any is made, generally occurs in a few collections of notable persons who

either lived in or visited the Lake Superior area of northern Wisconsin. The William Henry Vilas papers, as well as the papers of Benjamin G. Armstrong, have brief but useful comments on early Apostle Islands history. Undoubtedly other collections would reveal tidbits of information if time were available to undertake such a review.

The Early Agricultural Context: A Synopsis of the Region and the Islands

From the 1850s at least, and well into the 1900s, the Lake Superior region was promoted by many individuals, ranging from speculators to academicians, as having the potential to develop into a veritable agricultural paradise. Because of the transportation access provided by water, land areas proximate to Lake Superior received initial attention from settlers interested in farming. Between August 1855 and April 1856, for example, it was reported that 150 pre-emption claims had been filed in Superior, Wisconsin. At this same time similar activities also were occurring in Minnesota where it was stated that for a distance of 50 miles from Duluth-Superior, not one foot of Lake Superior shoreline remained to be pre-empted. Noting that these early pioneers were clearing land for the purpose of farming, a commentator for the Superior Chronicle stated that no longer would it be necessary to import turnips, potatoes, and vegetables over hundreds of miles, for now they could be grown in the local area.[3]

The transition from wilderness to fields and clearings was illustrated by another observer who stated that the woodlands within ten miles of the new city of Superior were being reduced to cultivated fields that grew wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay. Agriculture was deemed profitable in the area, claimed the reporter, but it also was noted, in a somewhat understated tone, that much effort was needed to get a farm going because of the large number of roots and stumps that had to be removed.[4]

To tout the perceived agricultural potential of the region, a Lake Superior Agricultural Society was organized in 1859. This organization held annual exhibitions or fairs where the agricultural produce of the region could be put on display. The Homestead Act of 1862, which went into effect during January of the subsequent year, also was viewed as a means to attract large numbers of new and enterprising settlers to the region.[5]

Agricultural activities, albeit of a very marginal nature, occurred on the Apostle Islands even earlier than on the mainland. Though it is not included within the boundaries of the National Lakeshore, mention must be made of Madeline Island. There were pre-historic Native American settlements on Madeline, and in the late 1600s the French established a trading post on this island. Over the next 150 years, the French, followed by the British, developed forts, fur trading posts, missions, dwellings, and other structures on various areas of Madeline. Included with these building activities were efforts to develop at least some level of agricultural self-sufficiency. Later, during the 1830s and 1840s, the American Fur Company provided the nexus for a settlement at La Pointe that approached 300 residents. Madeline Island, by the time the land survey was conducted between 1852 and 1857, included a settlement area along the western shore, as well as numerous buildings, houses, farms, pastures, orchards and clearings. Much of the red and white pine already had been cut for fuel, construction, and cooperage purposes; by the 1850s, this cutover area of Madeline Island was regenerating as an aspen forest.[6]

Since very little research has been devoted to the early history of the other Apostle Islands (i.e., those included within the National Lakeshore), it is difficult to pinpoint exact places and dates either for settlement or agricultural activities. The only developments noted by the land

surveyors during the 1852-1857 interim occurred on Oak, Hermit (Wilson's), and Stockton Islands.

In the midst of Oak Island, the surveyors found evidence of a Native American sugar camp, while along the southwestern shore Benjamin Armstrong had constructed a house and a landing pier, and had also cleared some 40 acres of land. Hermit Island (then known as Wilson's) was the home of the infamous recluse, William Wilson, who resided on his isolated enclave from the 1840s to the 1860s. Wilson eked out a very meager existence on the Island; the land surveyors noted that he had built a house and cleared some land, whereas later accounts reported that a small garden was situated in front of the house, and that he also raised a few chickens. The only other example of human activity noted by the surveyors was a small fish house built by the American Fur Company on Stockton Island.[7]

If any one event contributed to an increase in the agricultural settlement and development of the Apostle Islands, it was passage of the Homestead Act by the U.S. Congress in 1862. By December 12, 1865, the first homesteader, Richard W. McCloud, had filed a claim for 171.15 acres of land on Basswood Island. He was followed one day later by John B. Bono and N. LaBonte. (Information on Bono could not be found in the files of the National Archives and Records Service; all that is known is that his claim was cancelled on 28 April 1871.[8] A review of LaBonte's pre-emption claim, and also of Peter Richards, who filed his Basswood Island entry on 4 September 1871, will be discussed later in this report.)

In 1877, homesteading began on Michigan Island. Over the next 22 years, ten different individuals attempted to establish homesteads on this distant island, and one more claimant filed in 1912. Two homestead entries were filed on Bear Island in 1890 and 1892 respectively; and one entry was made on Stockton Island in 1896.

Sand Island also was the site of three homestead claims from 1893 to 1910, although farming actually began there in the 1860s when Francis W. Shaw settled on the southern end of the island. Engaging in fishing as well as farming, Shaw, the so-called "Emporer of Sand Island," was joined by his son-in-law, Burt Hill, during the early twentieth century. Several other individuals and families also established residences on Sand Island in subsequent years. Most of these people pursued fishing and farming, although logging and tourism also provided some employment. Sand Island had a larger permanent population than any of the other islands now included in the National Lakeshore. This island, therefore, represented more than a collection of a few individuals--it also exhibited a sense of community, including, at one time, a school, a cooperative store, and a cooperative telephone exchange.[9]

Agriculture, just as was perceived throughout the entire Lake Superior region for so many years, was considered a potentially rewarding endeavor--both financially and spiritually--for new pioneers on the Apostle Islands. The Apostles, however, were claimed to possess another factor--relatively benign temperatures--that would make them even more attractive than areas situated a greater distance inland from Lake Superior. Because of the lake effect, the frost free season extended further into the autumn weeks, and the winter temperatures were reported to be warmer than elsewhere in the region. Fruit growing, more than any other agricultural activity, was touted as the way to secure success on the Apostle Islands. Notable experiments in raising and cultivating fruit crops were attempted, but primarily because of the remoteness of the Islands and the transportation problems afforded by their location, all such efforts eventually were abandoned. Vegetable crops also were perceived as having great potential for

ambitious farmers. The mixed hardwoods and softwoods found on the Islands, claimed a notice in the Bayfield County Press, produced a soil superior to all others. "An intelligent vegetable farmer," concluded the author, "can realize from ten acres of this land more substantial benefit than he could from one hundred acres of Dakotaland." In addition, a few of the hardiest settlers attempted dairy farming, but the last of these efforts--on Sand Island--ended many years ago.[10]

The following account looks at several islands not considered in the previous report, namely Bear, Ironwood, Michigan, Oak, Otter, Raspberry, Rocky, South Twin and Stockton. Also considered is one farm on the mainland unit. Though Basswood Island was featured in the previous report, additional information was found while preparing this document; the new data have been included in the following pages. Each of the islands (arranged alphabetically) is considered separately in the account.

Name Changes

An often vexing problem when dealing with the history of the Apostle Islands concerns name changes. Some islands displayed altogether different names from one period to another, but an even more difficult problem was posed by those situations when the names of two islands were interchanged. (Otter and Ironwood Islands are classic examples.) To provide some indication of this evolution, Table 1 lists the names of the twenty current Apostle Islands at five points in time: 1852-1857, 1871, 1898, 1905-1906, and present. The table does not indicate those changes that occurred during interim years, but it does provide certain benchmarks when considering the nomenclature of the Apostle Islands.

Table I

Names of Individual Apostle Islands for Selected Years, 1852-Present

	Year and Name			
Present Name	1905 & 1906	1898	1871	1852 & 1857
Basswood	Basswood	Basswood	Basswood	Bass
Bear	Bear	Bear	Bear	Bear
Cat	Cat or Hemlock	Wild Cat or Hemlock	Hemlock	Hemlock
Devils	Pigeon or Devils	Pigeon or Lighthouse	Barney & Lamborns	(No Name Given)
Eagle	Steamboat	*	Steamboat	Steamboat
Gull	Gull	Gull	Gull	Gull
Hermit	Hermit or Wilson's	Hermit or Wilson's	Austrian	Wilson's
Ironwood	Ironwood	Otter	Higgin's	(No Name Given)
Madeline	Madeline	Madeline	Madeline	Madeline
Manitou	Manitou	Manitou	Manitou	Manitou
Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
North Twin	North Twin	North Twin	Brown Stone	(No Name Given)
Outer	Outer	Outer	Outer	Outer
Otter	Otter	Ironwood	Alabama	(No Name Given)
Raspberry	Raspberry	*	Raspberry	Cranberry
Rocky	Rocky	Rocky or Rice's	H.M. Rice	Rocky
Sand	Sand	*	Sand	Sand
South Twin	South Twin	Shoal	Willey's	Shoal
Stockton	Stockton or Presque	Presque	Vaughn's	Presque
York	York	*	York	(No Name Given)

* 1898 information available for Ashland County islands only.
Sources: General Land Office Plates, 1852 & 1857; "Apostle Islands and Harbor of Bayfield and Its Surroundings" (map published by Reed & Monash and reprinted in Bayfield Press, 3 June 1871, p. 1); Bayfield County Plat Book for 1906; and Ashland County Plat Books for 1898 and 1905.

Basswood Island

As mentioned in the previous report and in the introduction to this document, the first homestead claim to be filed within the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore occurred on Basswood Island in 1865. The homesteader was Richard W. McCloud, who claimed 171.15 acres of land on the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27 and the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and Lot 3 of Section 28-Township 51N-Range 3W. McCloud, whose claim was filed on December 12, 1865, subsequently became a publicized farmer and well known citizen of the Apostle Islands region.

After submitting his proof and receiving a patent to this property on September 4, 1871, McCloud's accomplishments as a Basswood Island farmer were featured quite regularly on the pages of the Bayfield Press. The corn, squash, tomatoes, pumpkins, potatoes, cucumbers, onions, and wheat that McCloud raised or his property were touted for their size, quality, and beauty. McCloud sold his property in 1878, however, and thereafter the farm was owned by other parties.[11]

In addition to McCloud, at least three individuals were involved with the homesteading or pre-emption of other Basswood Island properties. Since two of these persons were not mentioned in the previous report, such information has been included in the following discussion of Basswood Island's early agrarians. The material in the section, as well as the remainder of the report, is arranged by featuring each individual person or property claim.

John Bono-Peter Richards: On December 13, 1865, John B. Bono made a homestead entry for 150.65 acres of land that included the N 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and Lot 2 of Section 28 in Township 51N-Range 3W. This entry, located immediately north of McCloud's property, was recorded just one day after McCloud had made his homestead claim. Bono, however, must have failed to settle on the property or quickly abandoned his

claim, for no information on his homestead entry could be found in the National Archives and Records Center.

On September 4, 1871, Peter P. Richards purchased, via the rights of pre-emption, the same 150.65 acres of land that had been recorded in Bono's name some six years earlier. The pre-emption proofs are rather brief, but it is possible to derive some information on Richards and the property from this source.

Nazaire LaBonte and Richard McCloud served as witnesses for Richards and testified that he was a citizen and the head of a family. Richards had settled on Basswood Island on Feburary 22, 1871, and by March 1 had built a log house that was 10' x 14' in size and one story high; the dwelling had a board floor and roof, one outside door, one inside door, one window with six panes of glass, and a cook stove. Richards also had about one acre of land under cultivation by September 1871. He paid a total of $188.31 for his property.[12]

Nazaire La Bonte: Another Basswood Island pre-emptor was Nazaire LaBonte, who purchased 146.85 acres of land immediately south of McCloud's homestead claim. The legal description of LaBonte's property was Lot 1 and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 33 and the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 34-Township 51N-Range 3W. The purchase price for the total acreage, situated just south of the McCloud claim, was $183.56. LaBonte filed for his pre-emption claim on September 4, 1871, the same day that Richards and McCloud made final application for their properties.

Richards and McCloud also served as witnesses to verify LaBonte's claim. They stated that LaBonte was a citizen, the head of a family, and had settled on the property on March 1, 1871. By this time he had built a frame house that was 12' x 14' in size. The house was one story high, had board floors, a

shingle roof, one outside door, an inside door, one window with six panes of glass, and a cook stove. In addition, and as was true of Richards, LaBonte had about one acre of land under cultivation by the end of his first summer on the property.[13]

It is interesting to note that the final applications for the three claims of McCloud, Richards, and LaBonte were filed on the same day, were immediately adjacent to one another, and were laid out in linear strips that ran in an east-west direction (Figure 2). The site of the McCloud farm (termed the McCloud-Brigham site in recent studies), is still very evident on Basswood Island, and has been documented in other reports and investigations. Further field reconaissance should be undertaken to determine if any remnants of the Bono-Richards claim are discernable. Likewise, the legal documentation for the LaBonte property should be checked to ascertain whether it formed the basis for what subsequently became the farm of Col. Charles Rudd (identified as the Rudd site in the previous report).

Bear Island

Previous agricultural activities on Bear Island have received little, if any, mention in historical assessments of the Apostles. Evidence gathered in this exercise, nonetheless, revealed that at least two small homestead claims were made for land on Bear Island. Neither of the individuals, however, secured a final patent to his claim.

Gust Brandon: The first homesteader to settle on Bear Island was Gust Brandon. Born in Sweden, Brandon immigrated to the United States in 1881. On September 17, 1890 he submitted a homestead application for 27.62 acres of land on the far northern tip of Bear Island (Figure 3). This parcel was described as Lot 3 of Section 29-Township 53N-Range 3W. Brandon cancelled his

FIGURE 2. HOMESTEADERS AND PRE-EMPTORS, BASSWOOD ISLAND
(TOWNSHIPS 50N & 51N - RANGE 3W)

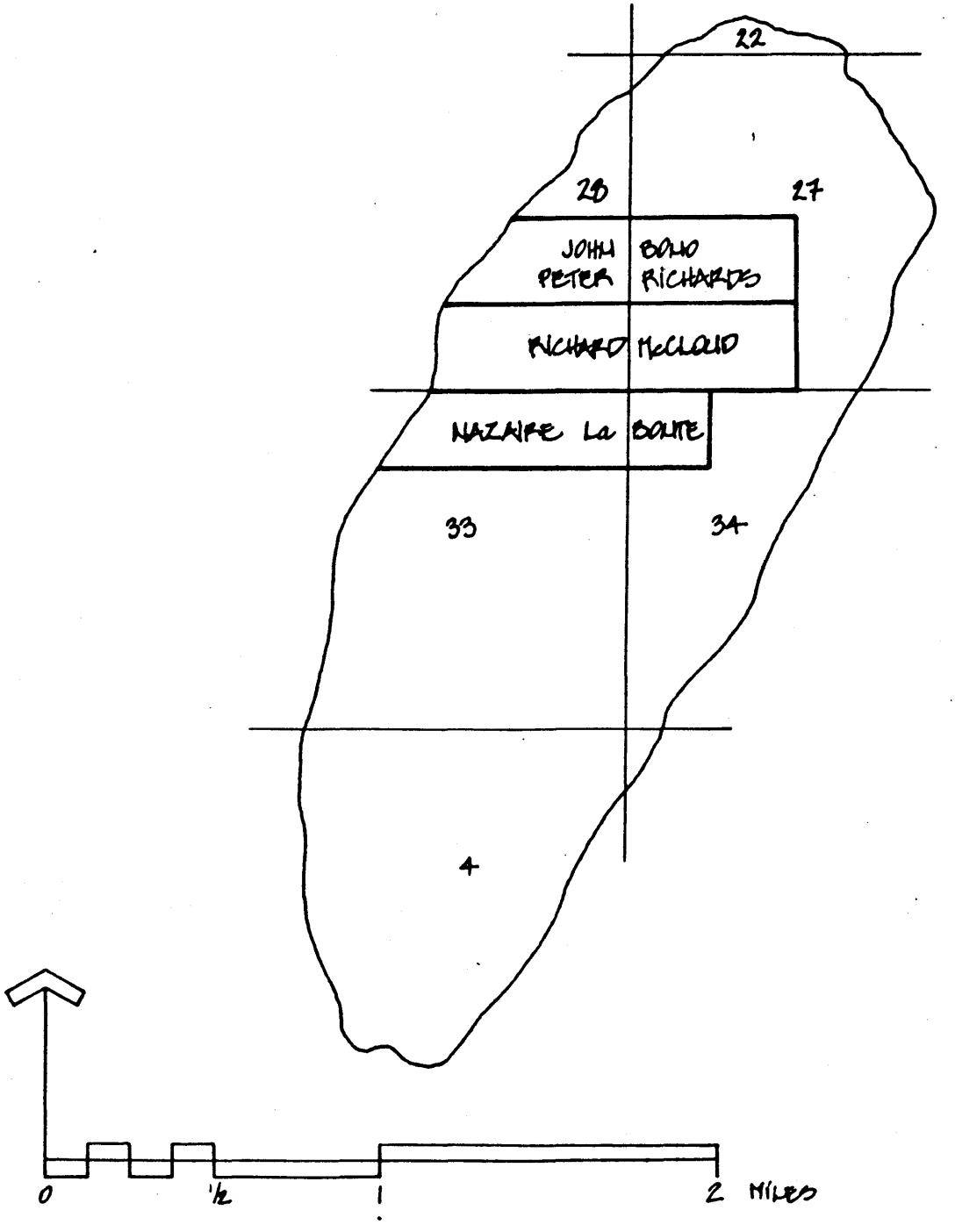
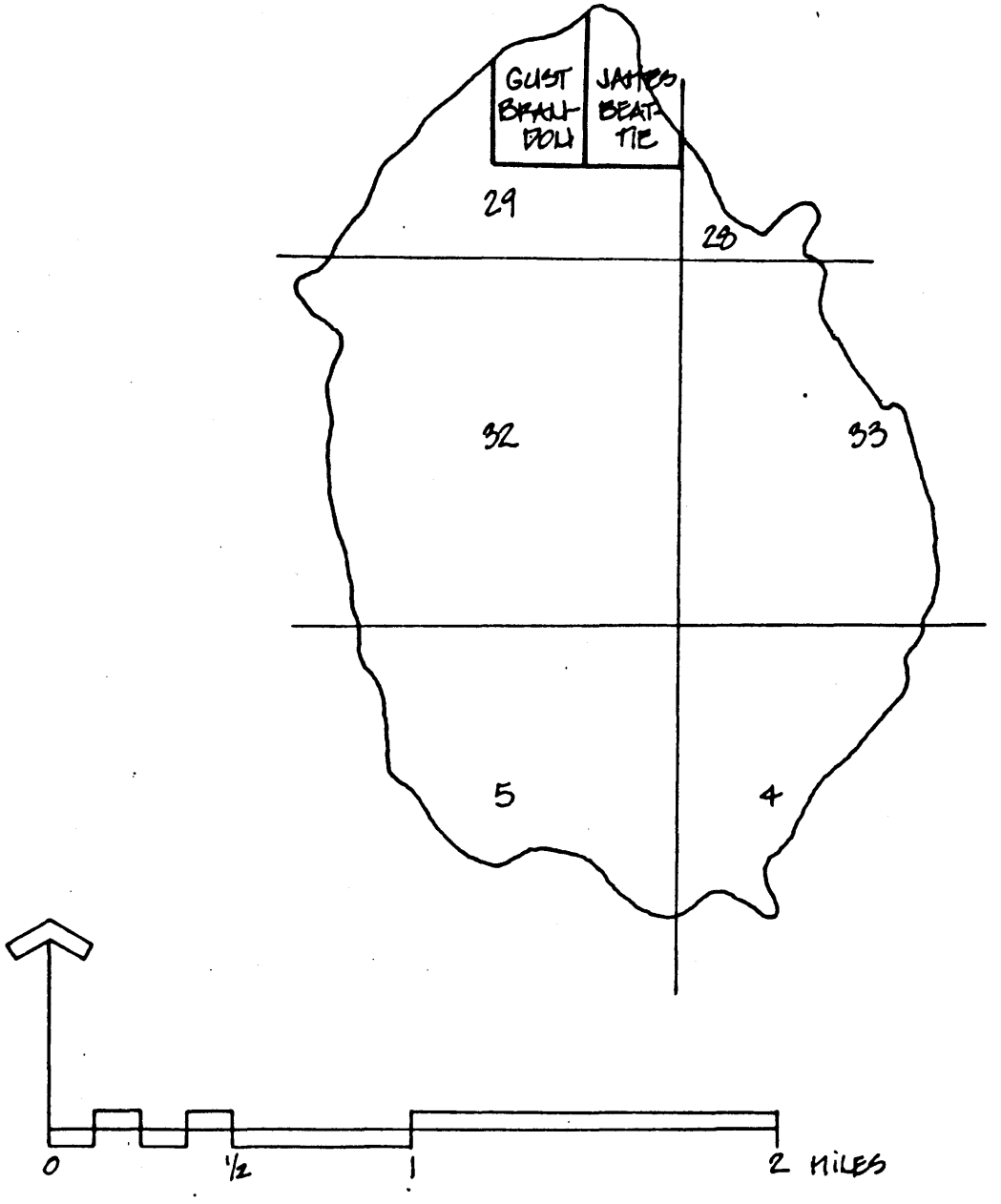


FIGURE 3. HOMESTEADERS, BEAR ISLAND
(TOWNSHIPS 52N & 53N - RANGE 3W)



entry sometime in the 1890s and there is no further information available on this Swedish homesteader.[14]

James Beattie: A second homesteader also made an unsuccessful attempt to establish a residence on Bear Island. This individual, James Beattie, was born in London, England, and immigrated to the United States in 1878. (It is possible that he first emigrated from England to Canada.) On March 28, 1892 he made a claim for 47.35 acres of land situated immediately east of Brandon's property. The claim embraced lot 1 of Section 29-Township 53N-Range 3W. Some time prior to 1901, however, Beattie had surrendered his claim and the homestead entry was cancelled.[15]

Ironwood and Otter Islands

One of the most confusing aspects of Apostle Islands history involves name changes for Ironwood and Otter Islands. Apparently both islands, in the 1840s and 1850s, were identified as they are today, but in 1871 Ironwood was known as Higgins Island and by 1884 the name had become Otter. The island continued to be identified as Otter at least until 1898, but by 1905 the plat book for Ashland County indicated that the name had been changed to its current title, Ironwood Island (refer to Table 1).[16]

Present-day Otter Island was known as Alabama Island, at least in 1871, but by 1884 it was identified as Ironwood; the nomenclature also was similar in 1898. The 1905 plat book, however, describes the island as Otter, a title it has maintained to the present.[17]

The confusion between these two islands poses special difficulties when seeking to trace the history of any human activities, including agriculture. The following account, for example, from an 1871 issue of the Bayfield Press, indicates that Ironwood Island, three to four decades earlier, had served as the site for an American Fur Company outpost. In addition, the account

reveals that some farming activities had commenced on Ironwood during the spring of 1871.

> On the north end of Ironwood Island, are the remains of several buildings erected many years since by the American Fur Co. One, probably used as a warehouse, was some seventy feet in length by twenty in width, indicating a large business at that point. The Island was unoccupied for some thirty-five years. This spring the owner of the island hired a Native, who, with his family, removed to the island, a month since.--Already several acres are cleared and a portion planted with potatoes. The soil is a dark loam and the fine growth of timber indicates great strength and fertility.[18]

Given the recent archaeological excavations that have gone on at the Luck-of-the-Irish site (the former American Fur Co. post?) on present-day Otter Island, it is possible that the Ironwood listed above actually was Otter.[19] Further investigations, of course, will have to be done before this can be determined with any certainty.

Another mention of agriculture on Ironwood was noted in an October 1877 issue of the Bayfield Press. The account stated the following: "Wm. Herbert, Sr., was in from his farm on Ironwood Island, last week, with a fine lot of vegetables, among which was a big tomato, which weighed two pounds, two ounces."[20]

Other than the two notations listed above (from 1871 and 1877), no additional evidence of agriculture on either Ironwood or Otter Islands was found in the newspapers that were reviewed. It would appear safe to say that regardless of the name given to either island at a particular point in time, agricultural activities on Ironwood and Otter were very minimal.

Michigan Island

In addition to Sand Island, and a lesser extent Basswood Island, none of the Apostles currently included in the National Lakeshore received as much attention from agriculturists as did Michigan. Unlike Sand, however, where agriculture and permanent settlement were maintained for a considerable period

of time, developments on Michigan were ephemeral and short lived. About one-half of the 20 or so homestead claims filed on the Apostle Islands (excluding Madeline) occurred on Michigan, but few individuals remained long enough to leave any sort of imprint upon the landscape. Even the rather significant horticultural efforts of R.H. Pendergast, who was not a homesteader but a lighthouse keeper, are not as noticeable today as one might expect.

The following account of Michigan Island is organized around specific individuals, and in chronological order. In other words, whether homesteader, pre-emptor, or lighthouse keeper, the ensuing description begins with the first agrarian who appeared on Michigan Island in the late 1860s, and concludes with the final homesteader who received his proof in 1915.

Roswell H. Pendergast: Apparently the first, and undoubtedly one of the most important persons associated with farming on Michigan and all of the Apostle Islands, was R.H. Pendergast. Pendergast, in fact, might deserve the title of "Johnny Appleseed of the Lake Superior region." An early lighthouse keeper on the island, Pendergast began to experiment with the growing of fruit trees in 1868 or 1869. Already identified in newspaper reports of the early 1870s as an "old nurseryman," Pendergast, according to some of these accounts, planted anywhere from several thousand to twenty thousand fruit trees on the Island. It would appear that the former figure was more accurate since the editor of the Red Wing Argus, after touring the Apostle Islands with a group of journalists in 1871, stated that Pendergast, an "enterprising horticulturist," had set out 3,000 apple trees that were entering their second season of healthy growth. Similar sentiments were expressed on the pages of the Bayfield Press where it was announced that the Michigan Island nursery had

survived two winters "triumphantly" with the young trees being "very hardy and vigorous."[21]

Believing that apple trees could provide a profit to growers throughout the islands and the region, Pendergast sought to prove this point by establishing his nursery on Michigan Island. Apples were the major crop, but the ambitious lighthouse keeper also made attempts to raise shrubs and other fruit trees. Experiments with the growing of peach, plum, and pear trees were conducted, but apparently his efforts to raise peaches were not entirely successful; reports stated, for example, that of the $3,000 worth of fruit trees Pendergast had sold by 1872, it was the apples, pears, and plums that had contributed to his monetary worth. Such success, concluded the editor of the Ashland Press, revealed that Pendergast was providing the foundation for a first class business and fortune.[22]

As so often was the case during this period, Pendergast's optimism was based upon observations of temperatures on the Apostle Islands. He stated, in 1871, that the average January temperature on Michigan Island was +18°F, with the coldest being no lower than -6°F. In February, Pendergast reported that the respective figures were +16°F and -10°F.[23]

In May 1871, the Bayfield Press announced that several yoke of cattle, as well as farming implements and seed, had been unloaded at Michigan Island where Pendergast proposed to till the soil. In addition to apples, Pendergast, by September 1871, was praising the oats he had harvested; although the figure seems rather high, the Bayfield Press reported that the yield, during the first season, was 60 bushels per acre. Pendergast also raised potatoes, corn, beans, and pansies on the newly cleared ground. The potatoes were of the Irish Rose variety, with the largest example reportedly weighing in at nearly three pounds; likewise, the corn and beans were claimed

to be "splendid," while a bouquet of pansies presented at the newspaper office in Bayfield was "large, beautiful and fragrant." Local observers also noted that Pendergast and his family had quite a "hennery" on Michigan Island, with the accomplishments of the Pendergast's chickens being no less impressive than the other claims made about agriculture on the Apostle Islands: two egg specimens, claimed the Ashland Press, were five inches in diameter.[24]

Despite the many optimistic agricultural claims made about Michigan and many of the Apostle Islands during the 1870s, some reports did express the need to exercise some caution. The report from a St. Paul newspaper (later reprinted in the Bayfield Press), pointed out that even though Pendergast had begun to develop an extensive orchard on Michigan Island and was engaged in fruit growing experiments, many years would have to pass before success could be determined. It also appears that Pendergast did reconsider his Michigan Island location, for in 1872 it was announced that he was thinking of moving his nursery to Fish Creek. One can only surmise that since he had to transport his nursery stock from Michigan Island to property owners who resided in Ashland, Ontonogan, and other towns, a mainland location was perceived as providing fewer logistical problems. Nevertheless, it does not appear that Pendergast moved his nursery, for in 1874 he was reported to have delivered a large lot of fruit trees and shrubbery to Ashland residents.[25]

Pendergast's solicitations for the majority of his fruit trees orders occurred during the winter months when the Great Lakes were closed to shipping because of ice. (Most keepers and their families resided in Bayfield for these months.) The lighthouse keeper also had other interests to keep him busy, including activities as a canvasser for the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. (Beecher, who lived from 1813 to 1887, was a noted American Congregational preacher, orator, and lecturer who also was a leader in the anti-slavery

movement, an advocate of women's suffrage, and a proponent of the theory of evolution.) Pendergast later served as an agent for Brattan's Copper Strip Lightning Conductor, a product he claimed to be the best lightning rod on the market. In June 1874, however, Pendergast resigned from his post as keeper of the Michigan light, reportedly for health reasons. One can only imagine that the drowning of the Pendergast's two month old son in 1873 contributed to his malaise.[26]

In 1877 the Bayfield Press reported that Pendergast was engaged in the nursery business in Minneapolis. Some decades later his whereabouts were announced in a newspaper published in northern Minnesota's mining region. Traveling between the Rose Hill Nursery in Minneapolis and a little farm-nursery by Hibbing, Minnesota, Pendergast was no less enthusiastic about the agricultural prospects of northern Minnesota than he had been about the Apostle Islands. Now identified as the "old nursery man of the Lake Superior region," Pendergast not only sold trees and shrubs to Hibbing residents, but even wrote a newspaper column to advise northern Minnesotans on the proper planting of shade trees.[27]

Aa a follow-up to the Michigan Island lighthouse situation, it is noteworthy to consider the observations of Edna Lane Sauer. Born in 1895, Mrs. Sauer spent her girlhood years on Michigan Island where her father served as keeper of the lighthouse for more than 40 years. In an interview conducted in 1982, she recalled her life, and that of her family, on Michigan Island during the early twentieth century. Her remembrances included descriptions of large crab apple trees and a pear tree that probably had been planted decades earlier by Pendergast. There might have been some cherry trees that dated back to the Pendergast era, but lighthouse keeper Lane also planted some specimens during his tenure on the island. The Lanes had set out a cedar

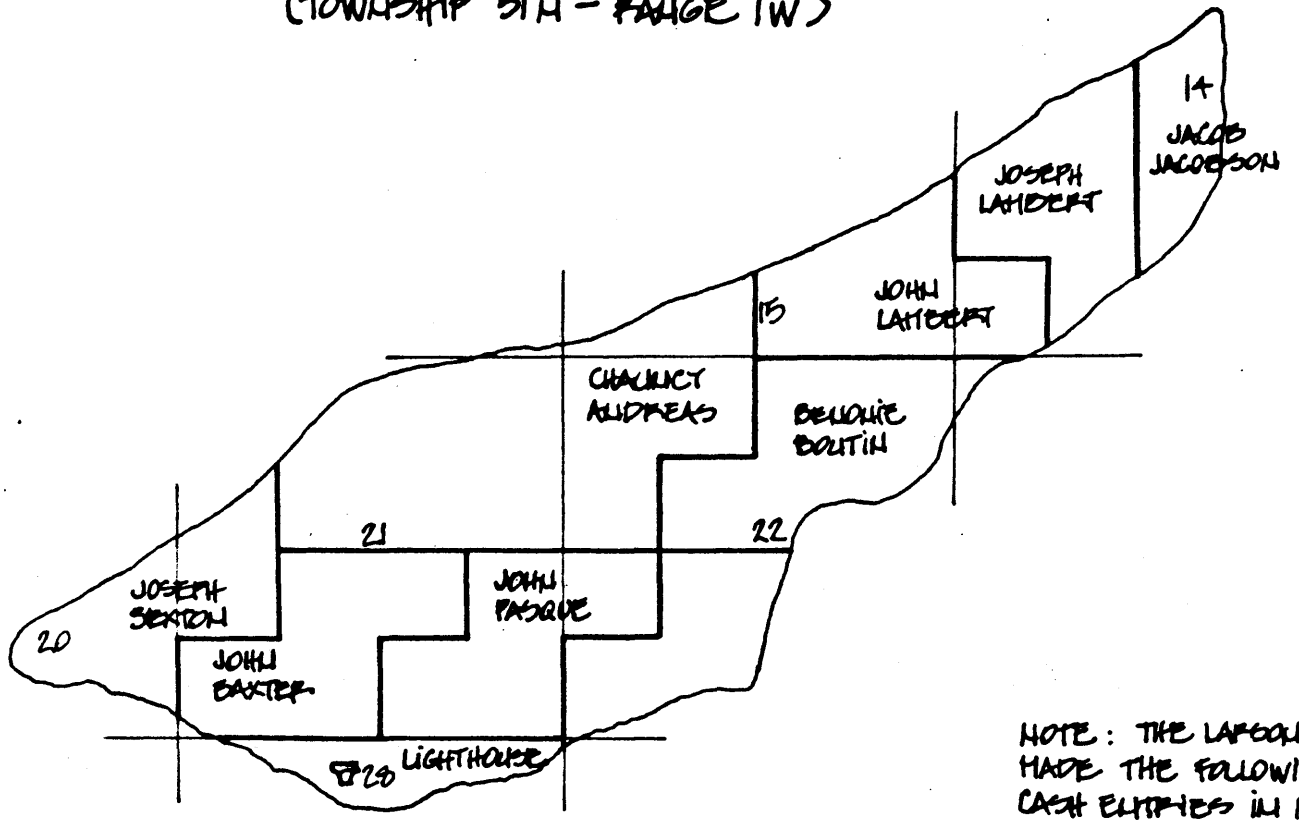
hedge and lilac bushes, and raised vegetables, berries, and flowers in their large garden(s). Mrs. Sauer recalled that the pansies were huge and the fox glove grew higher than her head. The Lanes spent considerable time on the maintenance of their gardens and grounds, and even had a croquet green proximate to the lighthouse.[28]

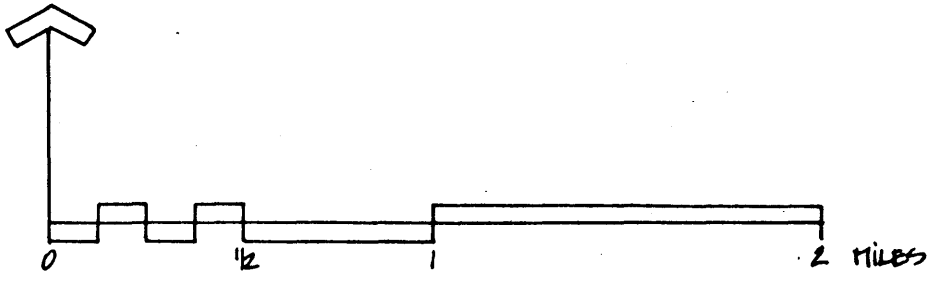
Joseph Sexton: Land Office records for Bayfield reveal that the first homesteader to settle on Michigan Island was Joseph Sexton. Born in the United States, Sexton filed for his claim of 139.57 acres on May 28, 1877; the property was described as including Lots 1 and 2 of Section 20, and Lot 3 of Section 21-Township 51-Range 1W. Sexton's claim was situated at the far western end of the island--the area most proximate to the mainland (Figure 4).

In September 1883, Sexton filed to receive title to his property. The Bayfield Press of 15 September 1883, even noted that Joseph Sexton was in town to "prove up" his homestead; the newspaper account wasn't entirely correct, however, for it said that Sexton resided on Outer Island, not Michigan Island. The witnesses who testified on his behalf were John Stewart, a fisherman who resided on Madeline Island, and Pliny F. Rumrill, at that time the lighthouse keeper on Michigan Island. Shortly after settling on his property, Sexton built a frame house that was 16' x 30' and 9' high; the structure had a board roof, a board floor, two doors, and six windows. Between 1877 and 1883, Sexton cleared six acres of land and grew crops on a portion of the area. Fishing undoubtedly was a more important activity than agriculture, however, for Sexton also built a fish house, a cooper shop, and a smoke house. By 1883, it was estimated that the total value of his property amounted to $400.

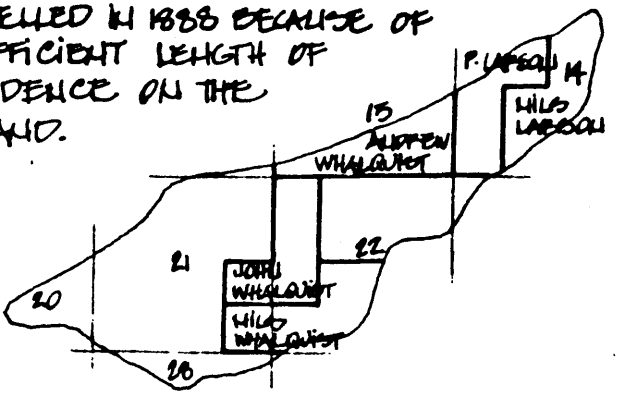
Sexton, who was 36 years old in 1883, had a wife and three children. At least one of the children must have been of school age by 1882 and 1883, for

FIGURE 4. HOMESTEADERS AND PRE-EMPTORS, MICHIGAN ISLAND (TOWNSHIP 51 N - RANGE 1 W)





NOTE: THE LARSONS AND WHALQUISTS ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING FIVE PRE-EMPTION CASH ENTRIES IN 1885. ALL WERE CANCELLED IN 1888 BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT LENGTH OF RESIDENCE ON THE ISLAND.



Sexton reported that he and his family moved to La Point for four of the winter months so as to be proximate to a school.[29]

Benonie Boutin: The second of Michigan Island's homesteaders was Benonie Boutin, a naturalized citizen who came from Canada. Boutin's claim for 165.78 acres of land included the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4, the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, and Lots 1 and 2 of Section 22-Township 51-Range 1W. Filing his entry form on June 8, 1881, Boutin settled on the land one week later.

Boutin chose to pay the purchase price for his land patent about six months after making his initial homestead entry. In other words, Boutin ultimately secured his property via cash entry rather than waiting the five to seven years that were required to claim a free homestead. Filing in late December 1881, Pliny Rumrill, the before mentioned lighthouse keeper, and Joseph Sexton, now listed as a Michigan Island fisherman, served as witnesses.

During the period from June to December 1881, Boutin built a one story house that was 12' x 12', and a boat shanty; he also cleared one-fourth of an acre of land and had grown some potatoes. The total value of the holding was listed at $100.

Boutin, already 60 years of age in 1882, was a widower with grown children who resided elsewhere. Though born in Canada, Boutin had become a U.S. citizen already by 1859. When making his land purchase on January 3, 1882, Boutin paid $207.25 for the 166 acres of land.[30]

John Baxter: The third person to claim a Michigan Island homestead was John Baxter. A native of Scotland, Baxter was unmarried and 26 years old when he filed a claim for 159.73 acres of land on March 26, 1883. The location of the property was described as Lot 4 and the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 and the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 21-Township 51N-Range 1W; the claim was immediately

east of Sexton's holding. Baxter settled on the site in May 1883, once his residence had been constructed on the property.

On November 28, 1888, Baxter applied to secure title to his claim; Lincoln Kempton and Joseph Lambert served as witnesses for Baxter. Kempton, Lambert, and Baxter all testified that the latter resided in a frame house having the dimensions of 16' x 20'. The dwelling, in turn, had a board roof covered with double tar paper and more boards, a matched board floor, one door, and two windows; the estimated value of the house in 188 was $160. Baxter also had a 12' x 24' frame barn valued at $100, a root house estimated to be worth $25, and a wood shed marked at $20. The cellar underneath the house was considered to be worth $8, the well $15, and the fencing around the property $15. The farm implements owned by Baxter included grub hoes, spades, shovels, rakes, hoes, brush and hay scythes, and axes, while the interior furnishings found in his house were a cook stove, cooking utensils and dishes, one bed, one table, and six chairs.

During his first year on the property, Baxter cleared about one-fourth of an acre of land. By late 1888, he had expanded his clearing to six acres (estimated to be worth $325), and also had planted a one acre orchard (evaluated at $50). Two acres of the cleared land were in crops; during an average year he reported that he raised about 60 bushels of potatoes, 20 bushels of turnips, and two tons of hay.

Baxter had worked as a cook and laborer before becoming a homesteader, and continued to secure supplemental income by serving as a part-time logging camp cook from 1883 to 1888. He reported, for example, that he had worked in Frank Boutin's Sand Island lumber camp from November 1883 to Feburary 1884, and had performed similar duties at Fred Fisher's Houghton Point logging camp in subsequent years. Joseph Lambert appears to have been an especially

helpful neighbor since he assisted Baxter in building his house and in harvesting his crops.[31]

Whalquists and Larsons: One of the most interesting, albeit brief, newspaper accounts concerning settlement on Michigan Island appeared in May 1883. The report stated that a Bayfield boat, the Emma Maria, had brought a cargo of lumber for Swedish homesteaders who were settling on Michigan Island.[32] Indeed, an inspection of the Land Office Record Books indicates that on May 13, 1883 a total of five pre-emptors (not homesteaders) with Swedish surnames filed claims on the island. It appears that the five prospective settlers might have been two sets of brothers: John, Nils, and Andrew Whalquist, and Nils and Pher. Larson.

The two Larsons claimed adjacent parcels of land at the far eastern end of Michigan Island. (See the small insert map on Figure 4 to locate these and the Whalquist properties). Nils Larson's claim included Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Section 14, while P. Larson's property covered Lots 4, 5 and 6 of the same section. Andrew Whalquist's claim adjoined P. Larson's to the west and included Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Section 15; John Whalquist's property, situated south of the former, embraced the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 and the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 22 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 21. Further south was Nils Whalquist's claim, which included the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 21 and Lots 3 and 4 of Section 22.

All five of the claims were cancelled officially on March 3, 1886 by the General Land Office in Washington, D.C. The reason given for the cancellation was, according to the letter from Washington to the Bayfield Land Office, "...on account of insufficient residence on the lands, claimants having made their final proofs three months and eighteen days after having established their residence." The letter also noted that no appeals had been filed by the

five claimants.[33] Shortly thereafter, and as will be described in the following pages, other homesteaders and pre-emptors began to claim most of the rescinded holdings.

John Pasque: On March 29, 1886, John Pasque applied for a homestead on Michigan Island. His 160 acres of land were located on the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 21, and the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 22-Township 51-Range R1W.

Pasque was a naturalized citizen, but the homestead records did not list his country of birth. A Civil War veteran, Pasque served in the U.S. Navy from September 1862 to October 1864. An ordinary seaman who joined the Navy in New York, Pasque served on three different ships: the North Carolina, Princeton, and Wissachickon(?). His application, filed on March 29, 1886, was made under an 1872 law that allowed honorably discharged soldiers and sailors to secure homesteads.

Some three and one-half years after settling on the site, the Bayfield County Press reported that Pasque had brought in a varied assortment of vegetables from Michigan Island. The news account then went on to say that Pasque either was a dandy farmer or there was something in the soil that made the vegetables grow so well. If all crops proved to be so bulky, claimed the report, Pasque would need a steamer to bring them to the mainland.

Applying for his proof in February 1891, Pasque's five years of effort were verified by two witnesses, Joseph Saunders of Bayfield and John Baxter of Ashland. The two men, along with Pasque, confirmed that the latter had constructed a 14' x 16' house that had a single roof, one door, two windows, and a board floor. In addition, the homestead ensemble included a barn, two sheds, and a well. During his first season (1886) on the property, Pasque cleared one-fourth of an acre of land, and expanded the amount to four acres

by 1891. (Some of the land also was fenced.) An orchard had been planted on a portion of the cleared area, and other crops were raised during all five seasons. The two witnesses estimated that his property and holdings were worth $410 to $465 in 1891, while Pasque himself considered their value to be $550.

Pasque lived on Michigan Island with his wife. They left the island each winter season (from December to April), reportedly because the severe weather and ice conditions endangered their already precarious health problems. Despite the difficulties they encountered, the Pasques apparently prevailed on Michigan Island for several subsequent years. The 1898 plat book for Ashland County, for example, indicated that John Pasque continued to own the property and to maintain his residence. The 1906 plat map, however, revealed that the Schroeder Lumber Co. had acquired the property sometime during the 1898 to 1906 interim.[34]

Chauncy T. Andreas: On March 3, 1888, Chauncy T. Andreas, a native born American, filed a homestead entry for 162.45 acres of land on Michigan Island; the holding included Lot 3 of Section 15 and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 and the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 22-Township 51N-Range 1W. Andreas, who was a Bayfield jeweler, settled on his property in late August 1888. As a former Bayfield resident, his presence was noted when he returned to town; the local newspaper of 29 September 1888, for example, reported that he had arrived in Bayfield from his homestead on Michigan Island. Four months later, Andreas' presence was once again noted in Bayfield; though it was January, Andreas claimed that his potato, cabbage, and tobacco fields were in "a flourishing condition." Andreas said that he planned to return to his homestead once nature built a bridge to Michigan. As also had been true of Benonie Boutin, Andreas did not wait for the minimum of five years to transpire before filing

a homestead proof, for on March 11, 1889, he paid $200 to secure a cash claim to the property.

The witnesses who verified the statements made by Andreas were two other Michigan Island residents, Joseph P. Lambert and John Baxter. During the rather short period of time from the date of filing to the date of purchase, Andreas succeeded in building a 14' x 20' frame house with an 11' x 21' log wing. The dwelling, estimated to be worth $250, had three windows, one outside door, a matched double floor, a shingle roof, and was papered on both the inside and outside. In addition, the building grouping included a 12' x 16' barn (valued at $50), a hen house ($25), a cellar ($5-$10), and a well ($15). Andreas had succeeded in clearing about two acres of land ($125), with half of that being grubbed and broken ($30) for planting in 1889.

The report also revealed that Andreas owned axes, sythes, grub hoes, shovels, and rakes for land clearing and farming purposes, while his house contained two beds, four chairs, one table, one cupboard, one stove, benches, cooking utensils, and dishes. Andreas stated that he once had 35 chickens, but after eating them throughout the winter, only 11 remained in March. He also listed possession of 14 dogs; these animals, he said, were used for teams and provided valuable transportation to the mainland.

The new Michigan Island land owner was 34 years of age in 1889, and had a wife and two small children. His family resided with him on the island from August 25 to December 2, 1888, but then they moved to the mainland when the closing of naviation made Michigan Island too difficult and dangerous for the infants.[35]

Joseph P. Lambert: Joseph Lambert was not a homesteader, but filed for the pre-emption of 147.67 acres of Michigan Island land on March 5, 1888. His holdings included Lots 3, 4 & 5 of Section 14-Township 51-Range 1W. Born in

Canada, Lambert emigrated to the United States in 1882, and worked as a laborer prior to moving to Michigan Island.

By the autumn of 1888, Lambert had already succeeded in making several improvements to his property. These were verified by John Baxter and the before mentioned Chauncy Andreas. Both men were residents of Michigan Island in 1888, and, along with Lambert's brother, had helped to build the 16' x 20' chinked and plastered log house that had two windows, one door, a board floor, and a shingled roof; it was valued at $125. Also found on the site were a wood shed ($30) and a well ($20). The two acres of cleared land had been broken with a grub hoe and spade and were estimated to be worth $200; about three-fourths of an acre of the cleared land had been used to grow potatoes and vegetable during the first season.

Lambert also noted that he owned one cross cut saw, one spade, one grub hoe, one hoe, two axes, four chairs, one table, a cook stove, one bed and bedding, cooking utensils, and dishes. A 27 year old bachelor when he made his cash entry on October 8, 1888, Lambert paid $184.59 to the federal government for his property.[36]

John A. Lambert: John Lambert, the brother of the above mentioned Joseph Lambert, filed for his Michigan Island homestead on March 5, 1888. This claim included 153.71 acres of Lot 6 of Section 14 and Lots 1 & 2 of Section 15-Township 51N-Range 1W. About three years older than his brother, John Lambert also was born in Canada and emigrated to Bayfield in 1880; prior to moving to Michigan Island, Lambert was a day laborer.

John Lambert's brother Joseph, in addition to Chauncy Andreas, helped him to build a log house that was 16' x 22' and contained an 11' x 16' wing; the dwelling had two doors, three windows, a shingled roof, and a double floor with matched floor on top. The house was valued at $250, the 14' x 16' barn

at $60, the 8' x 10' hen house at $20, the well at $15, and the out house at $5. After his first year of effort on the site, Lambert's two acres of cleared land were estimated to be worth $80; one acre of the clearing was grubbed and hoed in 1888 so as to be ready for planting in 1889.

Lambert also noted that he owned axes, spades, grub hoes, saws, two beds, six chairs, two tables, one sewing machine, one stove, cooking utensils, and dishes. In addition, 22 chickens, 20 rabbits, and 4 dogs were listed.

Rather than waiting to "prove up" his homestead, John Lambert made a cash entry purchase of $192.14 one year (March 27, 1889) after settling on the site. Married and the father of three children in 1889, Lambert stated that he and his family resided on the site from August 25 to December 15, 1888, but moved to the mainland for the winter months because of the severity of the weather and the distance from medical assistance.[37]

Lyman B. Price, et al.: One parcel of Michigan Island property--an area of 110.92 acres--was claimed by four different homesteaders from 1889 to 1899. Each of the four, however, relinquished his claim before securing title to the property. The parcel included Lots 3 & 4 of Section 22-Township 51-Range 1W.

Lyman B. Price was the first person to make a homestead claim. Born in the United States, and married when he applied for the homestead on February 15, 1889, Price cancelled the entry on June 16, 1893. Since the reports for cancelled homestead entries contain very limited information, no more background data on Price or his claim could be secured; the same is true of the following three individuals.

Just one month after relinquishment by Price, Solomon D. Boutin, on July 17, 1893, filed for a homestead claim to the same site. Boutin was born in the United States and had served as a private in the 27th Regiment of the

Wisconsin Infantry from February 20, 1864 to August 29, 1865. On January 17, 1894, just six months after filing, Boutin gave up his claim.

On the same day that Boutin cancelled his entry, (January 17, 1894), Adolph O. Brensike filed to take over the claim. Brensike, who was born in Germany in 1864 and had moved to America in 1869, relinquished his claim to the property on July 20, 1895.

Philip Boutin, also on July 20, 1895, made an application to take over Brensike's claim. Boutin, who was born in the United States, held onto the property longer than any of the previous claimants. The 1898 plat map, for example, revealed that he was one of two homesteaders (plus John Pasque) who still resided on Michigan Island at that time; nevertheless, Boutin finally surrendered his claim to the government on February 20, 1899. The 1906 plat map indicated that a W. Wachsmuth now owned the property, although no farmstead or residence was shown.[38]

Jacob Jacobson: The last homesteader to file for a homestead on Michigan Island was Jacob Jacobson, a native of Germany. Jacobson made his initial claim for 80.14 acres of land (Lots 1 & 2 of Section 14-Township 51-Range 1W) at the far eastern end of Michigan Island on June 13, 1906, but abandoned the property on December 13, 1906. On May 20, 1912, however, he once again filed for the same area of property.

On November 16, 1915, Jacobson filed to secure title to the homestead. (By this time the required length of residence had been lowered, by federal decree, from the previous five year commitment.) The two witnesses who verified Jacobson's claim were E.K. Brigham and L.R. Brigham. The testimony given by the two witnesses and Jacobson noted that the latter had established residence on Michigan Island in May 1912, and had built a house in August. The residence was a 12' x 24' one story structure, while the nearby barn was

listed as being 12' x 12' in size. It also is possible that a 10' x 10' shed existed on the site; all of the farmstead buildings were found on Lot 2.

By the beginning of the 1913 growing season, Jacobson had cleared two acres of land and planted some potatoes. It appears that he continued to open additional land throughout the summer of 1913, for it was noted that by the end of the year he had cleared six acres and had harvested some potatoes and hay. The area of cultivated land had been expanded to some 11 acres by the end of 1914, with potatoes, rutabagas, and hay being the listed crops. By the time Jacobson filed to secure his claim in late 1915, he had 16 acres of land under cultivation; 11 acres of the total were on Lot 1 and the remaining 5 acres on Lot 2. During the year Jacobson had managed to raise 30 bushels of potatoes on one acre of land, 35 bushels of rutabagas on two acres, and two to three tons of hay on the remaining area. Given that Jacobson had cleared more land than any previous Michigan Island homesteader, he must have had at least a few cows or other farm animals, but they were not listed on the homestead form. The total value of his property was estimated to be $400 by the end of 1915.

When he secured title to his property, Jacobson was 38 years old and had a wife and four children. As also was true of the majority of Michigan Island's earlier homesteaders, Jacobson and his family left their farm during the difficult winter months. The homestead forms noted, for example, that the Jacobsons were absent from December to April of each season so the children could attend school.[39]

Oak Island

As already mentioned, Oak Island was the site of one of the earliest permanent enclaves on the Apostle Islands (other than Madeline Island, of course). It was at Oak where the land surveyors, between 1852 and 1857, noted

that Benjamin Armstrong had established a residence on the southwestern tip of the island.[40]

B.G. Armstrong, who resided on Oak Island from 1855 to 1862, was born in Alabama in 1820. He subsequently moved north and at one point in time worked in a pinery camp close to what is now Hudson, Wisconsin. While there, he learned the Chippewa language. In 1855 he put these linguistic skills to use by establishing a store on Oak Island where he began to trade food and supplies to the Indians for furs. Undoubtedly the lakeshore pier on his property was used to handle the supplies and products that he imported and exported. While living on the island, Armstrong appears to have been afflicted with a case of temporary blindness. Because of this, he had to sell a portion of the one square mile of land that he owned on Oak Island. Given present evidence, it is not possible to determine exactly when his transaction occurred between 1855 and 1862, but it is unlikely that Armstrong sold any of the 40 acres of cleared land that were noted by the government surveyors in their field inspection. The extent to which Armstrong engaged in farming cannot be determined exactly, but a clearing 40 acres in size certainly had some agricultural purpose. Indeed, an 1860 account stated that the rye Armstrong brought into Bayfield in 1860 was the tallest specimen ever seen in the community. Armstrong also was reported to have had a "splendid lot" of King Phillip corn.[41]

Armstrong moved to Bayfield in 1862 when his sight was restored, and thereafter he resided on the mainland--primarily in Ashland. With his departure from Oak Island, further mention of any activity associated with agriculture becomes very limited. The only mention found in this investigation was a brief account by William F. Vilas. In his journal, written while on a sojourn to the Lake Superior region in 1873, Vilas

commented that there was a wooden dock (Armstong's former pier?) proximate to the home of a hermit or man who lived by himself. "He had a fine garden," stated Vilas, "visible as we passed." Almost ten years later it also was reported that "four span" of Col. (William) Knight's horses had been pasturing at Oak Island.[42]

Much more important than agriculture on Oak Island was the timber industry. During the early 1870s, a series of ads ran regularly in the Bayfield Press to announce that the Oak Island Wood Yard had a large supply of hardwood and hemlock available for sale. The ad was especially directed to steamboatmen, with mention made of the fact that the yard was situated on a direct channel to Duluth. Some people must have resided on Oak Island at this time, for in January 1872 it was noted that a dance on the island had been a "decided success."[43]

Raspberry Island

To date at least, little information is available that indicates agricultural endeavors occurred on Raspberry Island. Newspaper accounts do reveal, however, that certain of the island's lighthouse keepers were quite active agrarians and horticulturists.

The earliest of these individuals was Louis Larson, lighthouse tender on Raspberry Island during the early 1870s. An 1871 issue of the Bayfield Press, for example, reported that Larson presented a "splendid mess of potatoes" in Bayfield. His efforts apparently were surpassed one decade later by lighthouse keeper Seth Snow. In September 1881 Snow put specimens of barley and oats on display in Bayfield that supposedly "cannot be bettered in the State." A few months later it was announced that Snow had been successful in raising five breeds of poultry, with one chicken reported to be as large as a turkey. The editor of the Bayfield Press also reported that Snow had given

him a baker's dozen of the "largest and handsomest onions we ever gazed upon"; of these, it was claimed the smallest was eleven and one-half inches in circumference, while the largest was fourteen and one-half inches. In addition, Snow and his family grew "pansies and pinks" in their garden.[44]

Rocky Island

Rocky Island, known for a period of time as Rice's Island, experienced a very limited amount of agricultural development. Though he never lived on the island, H.M. Rice, a former U.S. Senator from Minnesota, owned the island in the 1870s. It was quite probable that he was aware of the success R.H. Pendergast appeared to be enjoying as a fruit grower on Michigan Island in 1871, for during the same year he reportedly hired a man to clear land on the eastern end of his island. As observed, the purpose of this work was to prepare the land for fruit growing.[45]

Another former U.S. Senator from Minnesota, O.P. Stearns, who already was acknowledged as a horticultural expert, also visited the Apostle Islands in 1871 to study their fruit growing possibilities. Representing a group of eastern capitalists who had commissioned him to conduct the investigation, Stearns concluded that peaches could be grown as readily on the Apostle Islands as along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. (Though present evidence does not allow one to determine which island was under consideration, Stearns was claimed to have purchased 640 acres of land for the financiers.)[46]

Apparently the plans of neither Rice nor Stearns "bore fruit," for subsequent mention of the plans and efforts could not be found. It does appear, nonetheless, that a fisherman named Smith had a small farm on Rocky Island during the 1890s. Since Rocky was one of only three islands (along with Sand and South Twin) where fishermen maintained year round residences,

vegetable and flower gardens--fertilized with fish offal--were said to have been cultivated and maintained.[47]

South Twin

Information of only a very limited nature could be found for South Twin Island. Known as Shoal and Willey's Islands at different times during the nineteenth century, Senator Rice also played a role in the earliest agricultural activities attempted on this island. As revealed by the memoirs of Samuel Fifield, written in the late 1890s, Dr. Samuel Willey, a friend of Rice, cleared a small farm on South Town or Willey's Island. This probably occurred during the early 1870s. Fifield also reported that a fisherman named John Smith (father of the before mentioned Smith who occupied Rocky Island during the 1890s) had resided on South Twin for some time on this farm; by 1895, however, the former clearing--despite the 400 acres of "excellent soil" that were available on South Twin Island for the raising of small fruits and vegetables--had reverted to second growth vegetation.[48]

Stockton Island

Stockton Island, like Bear Island, has received little mention in previous accounts of Apostle Islands agriculture. There was, however, one futile homestead effort that occurred on Stockton Island in the 1890s. The ensuing brief account provides a summary of the information that is available on this homestead attempt.

Albert Lamb: Born in Canada, Albert Lamb had immigrated to the United States by 1857. On August 17, 1896, Lamb filed a homestead application for 81.52 acres of land that included Lots 1 and 2 of Section 3-Township 51N-Range 2W of Stockton or Presque Island. Lamb also declared his intention to become a U.S. citizen at this time. By 1898 or 1899, however, Lamb had cancelled his entry, situated on the southern shoreline of the island, and additional

information on Stockton Island's sole homestead applicant is not available.[49]

Mainland Unit

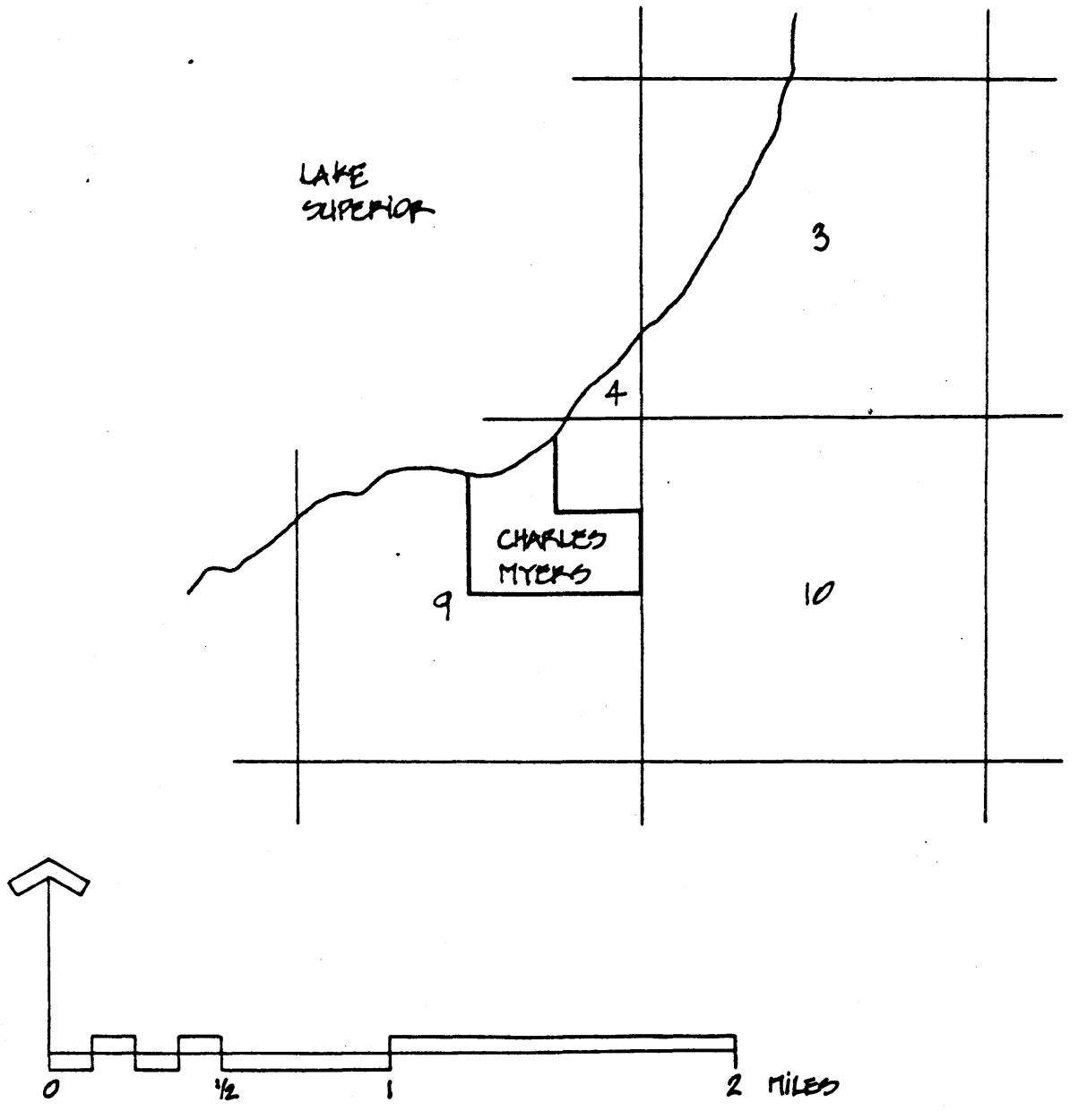
The remains of one farm building are still evident in an area of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's mainland unit. The foundation remnants are to be found in Section 9-Township 51N-Range 5W of Bayfield County. The exact description of this property must be confirmed by inspecting property records in the Bayfield County Courthouse in Washburn; nevertheless, a perusal of the available archival and cartographic evidence in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin indicates that the site originally was homesteaded by an individual named Charles Myers.

Charles Myers: On October 12, 1895, Charles Myers, a native of Ohio, filed a homestead application in the Ashland Land Office. His claim for 103.85 acres included the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and Lot 2 of Section 9-Township 51N-Range 5W (Figure 5).

On October 27, 1900, Myers, who was single and 39 years of age at this time, filed his homestead proof. Henry G. Saussele and George Green served as witnesses. Their testimony, along with that of Myers, stated that by April 1896 the latter had moved into a log house with the dimensions of 16' x 22'; it had a shingle roof, three windows, and one door. Myers also had built a 10'x 16' kitchen that had a shingle roof and one door. In addition, the farmstead included a 16' x 22' chicken coop, a 14' x 21' hay shed, and a well. Myers, by 1900, had cleared six acres of land and fenced in about 15 acres. The total value of his property was estimated to be worth $900.

The 1906 plat book for Bayfield County indicates that Myers still resided on the site at that time, as does the subsequent plat book, which probably was published in 1924. The copy of the latter plat book held by the State Historical Society has been hand colored to note which lands in Bayfield

FIGURE 5. CHARLES MYERS HOMESTEAD, MAINLAND UNIT, APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE (TOWNSHIP 51N - RANGE 5W)



County were sold during the remainder of the 1920s. If the color coding is correct, then it appears that the farmstead and about 50 acres of surrounding land were sold in 1929, although Myers was still listed as the owner of the remaining land parcel. Sometime between 1929 and 1954, the entire property had been acquired by or lost to Bayfield County. Eventually, of course, the area was acquired by the federal government for National Lakeshore purposes.[50]

Again, the exact description of this property must be confirmed in the Bayfield County Courthouse before it can be determined with absolute certainty that the foundation and building remnants yet visible on the site are those of the original Charles Myers homestead.

Summary

This report, along with the one finished in December 1983, has sought to present a relatively comprehensive assessment of the early agricultural development and evolution of areas included in what is now known as the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Though more could be done in securing detailed information on specific individuals and sites, there can be little doubt that the two reports provide the background needed to understand the agricultural efforts that occurred within this section of the Lake Superior region.

During the nineteenth century, the Apostle Islands, as well as the entire cutover area of the Lake Superior region, were touted for their agricultural potential. In addition, the Apostles were given further consideration because of their somewhat longer growing season. While it was true that conditions were relatively conducive to the growing of certain crops such as apples and various fruits, a host of other factors prevented the islands from evolving into permanent agricultural enclaves.

Perhaps the two major limiting factors were transportation difficulties and the small size of the islands. During the winter season, which included the period primarily from December to April, most of the distant islands were completely shut-off from the mainland. Even when an ice bridge did develop, it could be used only during the coldest months since any thawing placed travelers in potentially dangerous and life threatening situations. During the open water season, access by boat was much easier, but storms, fog, and simple distance to the mainland continued as limiting factors.

The second factor, the small size of most islands, meant that each unit could support but a few farms. Hence, it was difficult for any sense of community to emerge or develop. With only a limited number of families and individuals on most islands at any one time, it is quite easy to understand why early settlers felt especially isolated and vulnerable. Not only were there few neighbors, but if the settlers required help or assistance, a possibly dangerous journey on Lake Superior still had to be faced. Only Sand Island, which was one of the islands most proximate to the mainland, ever developed its own sense of community identity and its own institutions. (Excluded from this discussion, of course, is Madeline Island.)

An interesting comparison can be made between Sand and Michigan Islands. Michigan is not noticeably different from Sand except for one very important reason: distance from the mainland. Sand Island's population, which exceeded one hundred residents at one point in time, certainly experienced problems of isolation. Nevertheless, parts of Sand Island were/are within eyesight of the mainland, whereas Michigan is one of the most distant of the islands. The constant problems associated with existence on Michigan must have tested the mettle of even the most persistent pioneer. Close to a score of individuals and families attempted to farm on Michigan Island, but it appears that not one person resided on the island for more than ten years. Most gave up after a few years (or perhaps months) of struggle.

Since most of the farm and horticultural sites noted in this report, whether on Basswood, Bear, Ironwood, Michigan, Oak, Otter, Raspberry, South Twin, or Stockton Islands, were established and later abandoned during the nineteenth century, little visible evidence of these activities remains today. Even R.H. Pendergast's yeoman efforts as a nurseryman are hardly discernable on Michigan Island at this time. Nevertheless, Pendergast played a role in demonstrating the potential of the Bayfield area as an apple growing region; likewise, some of the tree shaded areas that emerged in Bayfield, Ashland, Ontonagon, and several other local communities developed through Pendergast's efforts as a nursery salesman and promoter.

Agricultural efforts on the Apostle Islands were extremely marginal, and virtually all were short lived. It can be said, nevertheless, that while fishing, logging, and quarrying have had greater economic importance, farming did provide supplementary income for many of the island's early pioneers. Perhaps most interesting, however, was the perceived agricultural potential of the Apostles. Whether promoter or settler, the image of the Apostles as a future agricultural paradise constitutes one of the important aspects of their history.

The majority of the Apostle Island's early farmers have been mentioned in these two reports. While it appears that virtually all homesteaders have been included, it is possible that information on some pre-emptors--who also engaged in farming--remain to be pulled from the files of the National Archives and Records Center (and possibly the Bureau of Land Management). It is highly unlikely, however, that other than documenting a few more sites and locations, the general picture of Apostle Islands agriculture will differ from what has been presented in these two reports. The subsequent phase of activity will require on site inspections and archaeological work.

Footnotes

1. William H. Tishler, Arnold R. Alanen, and George Thompson. Early Agricultural Development on the Apostle Islands (Lake Superior, Wisconsin): A Report Prepared for the Staff of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Bayfield, Wisconsin. (Madison: Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin, 1983).

2. Superior Chronicle, 3 November 1857, p. 1; 8 October 1859, p. 2; Ashland Press, 20 June 1874, p. 3; Bayfield Press, 13 June 1877; and Bayfield County Press, 9 December 1882.

3. Superior Chronicle, 26 February 1856, p. 2; 1 April 1856, p. 1.

4. Superior Chronicle, 24 June 1856, p. 2; 2 September 1856, p. 2.

5. Superior Chronicle, 5 November 1859, p. 3; 22 November 1862, p. 1.

6. General Land Office Survey Notes and Plates (Apostle Islands), 1852-1857 (on file in the Archives and Manuscripts Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison); L. Rakestraw, et al., "Original Forest Vegetation and Land Use History of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore." In Proceedings of the First Conference on Scientific Research in the National Parks, Vol. I. Edited by Robert M. Linn. (New Orleans, La.: National Park Service and American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1979, p. 111); and Bayfield County Press, 19 June 1886, p. 4.

7. General Land Office Survey Notes and Plates; Rakestraw, et al., "Original Forest Vegetation," p. 111; and Bayfield County Press, 22 March 1884, p. 8.

8. Tishler, Alanen, and Thompson, Early Agricultural Development on the Apostle Islands, p. 18.

9. Ibid., pp. 31-45.

10. Ibid., p. 45; and Bayfield County Press, 19 June 1886, p. 4.

11. Tishler, Alanen, and Thompson, Early Agricultural Development on the Apostle Islands, pp. 18-20.

12. All information for Peter Richards derived from Cash Entry Certificate No. 1763, Bayfield, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

13. All information for Nazaire LaBonte derived from Cash Entry Certificate No. 1762, Bayfield, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

14. All information for Gust Brandon derived from Homestead Application No. 1993, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on filed in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

15. All information for James H. Beattie derived from Homestead Application No. 2878, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

16. In addition to the sources listed with Table 1, refer to the letter and accompanying information sent by Lakeshore staff to Edgar S. Oerichbauer, Archeologist for the Burnett County Historical Society, 20 October 1981 (on file with the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Headquarters, Bayfield).

17. Ibid.

18. Bayfield Press, 3 June 1871, p. 4.

19. Letter to Oerichbauer, 20 October 1981.

20. Bayfield Press, 17 October 1877, p. 4.

21. Bayfield Press, 13 October 1870, p. 1; 27 October 1870, p. 2; 3 June 1871, p. 1; 2 September 1871, p. 2 (latter quoting from Red Wing Argus).

22. Bayfield Press, 27 October 1870, p. 2; 4 March 1871, p. 3; and Ashland Press, 12 October 1872, p. 3.

23. Bayfield Press, 4 March 1871, p. 3;

24. Bayfield Press, 20 May 1871, p. 7; 2 September 1871, p. 1; 16 September 1871, p. 1; 23 September 1871, p. 1; and Ashland Press, 20 September 1872, p. 3.

25. Bayfield Press (quoting St. Paul Press), 23 September 1871, p. 2; 17 February 1872, p. 3; and Ashland Press, 12 October 1872, p. 3; 6 June 1874, p. 3.

26. Bayfield Press, 17 February 1872, p. 3; and Ashland Press, 16 August 1873, p. 3; 6 June 1874, p. 3.

27. Bayfield Press, 10 October 1877, p. 1; Mesaba Ore and the Hibbing News (Hibbing, Minn.), 27 August 1904, p. 5; 30 April 1905, p. 8; 10 July 1909, p. 3.

28. Interview with Edna Lane Sauer (East Dubuque, Ill.), conducted by Kate Lidfors, 1 May 1982. Tape and transcript on file in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Headquarters, Bayfield.

29. All information for Joseph Sexton derived from Homestead Certificate No. 65, Bayfield, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD); and Bayfield Press, 15 September 1883, p. 1.

30. All information for Benonie Boutin derived from Homestead Application No. 308, and Cash Entry No. 3545, Bayfield, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

31. All information for John Baxter derived from Homestead Certificate No. 204, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

32. Bayfield Press, 19 May 1883, p. 1.

33. All information on the Larsons and Whalquists from "Letter G," 3 March 1886 (on file in tract books held by the Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.).

34. All information for John Pasque derived from Homestead Certificate No. 433, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD); Bayfield County Press, 2 November 1889, p. 2; Map of Ashland County, Wis. (W.G. Nohl, 1898); and Map of Ashland County, Wisconsin (W.G. Nohl. & H. Pettinghouse, 1906).

35. All information for Chauncy Andreas derived from Homestead Application No. 1487 and Cash Entry No. 4980, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD); and Bayfield County Press, 29 September 1888, p. ?; 26 January 1889, p. 4.

36. All information for Joseph Lambert derived from Cash Entry No. 4918, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

37. All information for John Lambert derived from Homestead Application No. 1488 and Cash Entry No. 4986, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

38. All information for Lyman Price, Solomon Boutin, Adolph Brensike and Philip Boutin derived from Homestead Applications No's. 1742, 3390, 3549, & 3879, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD); Map of Ashland County, Wis. (W.G. Nohl, 1898); and Map of Ashland County, Wisconsin (W.G. Nohl. & H. Pettinghouse, 1906).

39. All information for Jacob Jacobson derived from Homestead Entry No. 514213, Wausau, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

40. General Land Office Survey Notes and Plates.

41. Benjamin Armstrong Papers (on file in the Manuscripts and Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison); General Land Office

Survey Notes and Plates; L. Rakestraw et al., "Original Forest Vegetation," p. 111; and Bayfield Press, 18 May 1872, p. 3 (quoting from an 1860 issue of the newspaper).

42. Benjamin Armstrong Papers; and William F. Vilas, "Memoranda of Lake Superior Trip," 1873 (on file in William F. Vilas Papers, Box 57, Manuscripts and Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison); and Bayfield Press, 22 July 1882, p. 4.

43. Ashland Press, 27 July 1872, p. 4; 27 January 1872, p. 3.

44. Bayfield Press, 30 September 1871, p. 3; 3 September 1881, p. 4; 28 January 1882, p. 4; 6 May 1882, p. 1; and Bayfield County Press, 10 October 1885.

45. Bayfield Press, 13 May 1871, p. 3.

46. Bayfield Press, 6 May 1871, p. 3; 3 June 1871, p. 1.

47. S. Fifield, reminiscences from 1895 reprinted in Bayfield County Press, 29 November 1956, p. 1; Rakestraw, et al., p. 11; and R.W. Johnson, "The Rise and Decline of a Apostle Island Fishing Camp: Comments on a Subsistence Lifestyle." In Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Research Conference, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. M.M. Bailey, ed. (Omaha, Neb.: National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, 1984), p. 5.

48. Fifield, p. 1.

49. All information for Albert Lamb derived from Homestead Application No. 4041, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file on Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD).

50. All information on Charles Myers derived from Homestead Certificate No. 1541, Ashland, Wisconsin Land Office (on file in Records Group 49, National Archives and Records Center, Suitland, MD); Map of Bayfield County, Wisconsin (W.G. Nohl & H. Pettinghouse, 1906); and Plat Book of Bayfield County, Wisconsin (Rockford, IL: W.W. Hixson & Co., 1924?).