

not, in all his eighty plus years, remember any good fishing in the area. His daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Mackie, recalls going to the island, as a little girl, with her father who cautioned her not to walk too far "because there was a bottomless pit in the middle of it." Mrs. Mackie also remembered that "it tilts, when you step on it."

NOYES ROCK SHELTER

In 1835, James Noyes built a little hide-away which, in 1975, was "adopted" by the townspeople of Atkinson and will be preserved as one of the more quaint examples of American history. The Noyes Rock Shelter, in the woods off East Road, was first brought to the attention of Paul Holmes of the New Hampshire Archeological Society, who presented a report, excerpts of which reveal:

A preliminary report of this rock shelter in Atkinson appeared in the New Hampshire Archeological Society Newsletter of February, 1971. The site was visited by Osborn Stone, Berndell Albair and me in the Fall of 1970. It was originally brought to my attention by Albair, a student at Timberlane Regional High School, while I was lecturing on the subject of local Indian lore there.

Excavations were undertaken on October 2, 1971, for the purpose of recovering any datable material and to determine, if possible, the purpose of the structure, when it was built and by whom. This work was done by Albair, a brother, Dale Albair, and Daniel Norris. Arlene St. Laurent mapped the area while I supervised the work and, at the same time, excavated a three-foot square in front of the shelter.

Holmes reviewed his historical research of the site, which included discussions with Edward M. Noyes of Plaistow, who reported that the Atkinson Noyes homestead, built in 1738 on the west side of East Road, is the home now occupied by the Malcolm Ewings. Property containing the rock shelter, on the east side of the street, is owned by Earl Noyes of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The shelter is located at the base of a pine knoll on the east slope where, in the latter part of the 18th century, an apple orchard flourished.

Edward Noyes also reported that the shelter had been built by James Noyes of Hampstead, possibly around 1835. He was a bachelor who made his home with his sister, Alvira, at the Atkinson homestead. According to Edward Noyes, his uncle, James, preferred the back woods to socializing, and he spent many hours on the edge of the orchard in his secluded shelter. A barrel of cider was usually kept inside, where it stayed cool on warm fall days, but

didn't freeze, even in winter. "Uncle" used to huddle inside, where he could sip his cider and smoke his pipe.

Years ago, the structure, which is quite diminutive in size, had a wooden door, according to Mr. Noyes, which was covered by tin or some other sheet metal.

Among the artifacts found inside the shelter were fragments of two glazed pottery bowls, a white kaolin pipe which was almost fully restored and which, on the left side of the stem, in raised upper-case lettering, is printed "McDougall" and on the right side, in similar lettering, "Glasgow," with the numbers "326." Also found were several nails, badly rusted, but possibly made in Hampstead by a German blacksmith named Verbert, who made nails and wrought-iron farm tools, and scraps of sheet metal.

Recently, the shelter was re-discovered by Mrs. Carol Grant, chairman of Atkinson's Conservation Commission, who learned that Mr. Earl Noyes was contemplating sale of the six-acre parcel to developers. Mrs. Grant and the Commission promptly initiated efforts to save the shelter from destruction. It is one of three known shelters in this area, and the only one which had been placed as to its builder and approximate date of construction.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, when contacted, endorsed the project and agreed to provide one half of the money necessary to purchase the land. The New Hampshire Charitable Fund also agreed to donate to the preservation and they prepared brochures which were distributed to Atkinson residents calling attention to the shelter and seeking the support of the townspeople. Mr. Noyes agreed to hold up on sale of the land until the town could raise the funds, and through the added generosity of the residents, the shelter has been purchased and will remain under the control of the Conservative Commission, which plans to preserve the area for wild-life and wild-flowers.

BARROWS GRIST MILL

It seems appropriate to make mention of another historical landmark. Although it was not in Atkinson, many of Atkinson's senior citizens still recall visiting, as children, the grist mill, situated on the Barrow's farm, just over the Plaistow line on Main Street.

The old Clark home was built in 1789, according to Mrs. Barrows, who owned it in 1920, and the grist mill had been erected many years prior to that date. As progress precluded its usefulness, the old mill ceased to be productive and fell into disuse.

The mill did draw the attention of Mr. Henry Ford, who was