



## House History

### **Indian Lot**

Indian Lot Cottage

George Ashbridge Rhoads Cottage

Obbard Cottage

Also Site of: Deacon Henry Higgins Clark Shipyard Employee Building

Address: 149 Clark Point Road

City: Southwest Harbor

State: Maine

Map and Lot Number: Map 4 – Lot 60

Map: Map: CS 1887 - INDIAN LOT

MHPC: 405-0794

NRHP:

Original owner: Rhoads - George Ashbridge Rhoads (1860-1935)

Architect:

Builder: Norwood - Robie Melvin Norwood Jr. (1873-1955)

Build Date: 1927

Subsequent Owners:

Rhoads - Philip Garrett Rhoads (1902-1993)

Eckford - Josephine Eugenia (Eckford) Rhoads (1901-1995)

Rhoads - Judith Jameson (Rhoads) Obbard (1936-2014)

Obbard – Peter Buckle Obbard (1931-)

Rhoads - William Evans Rhoads (1870-1945)

Rhoads - Grace B. (Evans) Rhoads (1874-1959)

"Indian Lot Cottage" was built on the site of the old Indian campground at 149 Clark Point Road in 1927 by the Norwoods for George Ashbridge Rhoads and still owned, in 2010, by Rhoads descendents, the Peter Buckle Obbard family.

"Indians from Oldtown, Maine camped on the rocks across [Clark Point Road] from our house each summer. They lived in tents and sold baskets, moccasins and small birch bark canoes. Some of the baskets were made of wood and some almost entirely of sweetgrass which had a very pleasant odor. This grass was secured from the marshes at Bass Harbor and would be cured by being hung up in large bunches. They also cut some ash wood for use in making the wooden baskets. As the same Indians returned year after year we became well acquainted with them. In later years the older Indian boys played baseball with us." - "Recollections of Southwest Harbor, Maine 1885-1894" by Jesse L. Parker, manuscript, 1955, p. 40.

Parker - Jesse Lindon Parker (1881-1966)

This valuable manuscript is a narrative of the early history of the town by an eyewitness. There are largely unknown or unreported facts on almost every page.

SWH – 148 Clark Point Road  
Parker - Jesse Lindon Parker (1881-1966)

The Rhoads family were birthright Members of the Society of Friends. George Ashbridge Rhoads, born August 6, 1860, died 1937, and his brother, William Evans Rhoads, born January 31, 1870, were two of the eight children born to Jonathan Evans Rhoads (1830-1914) and Rebecca Cresson Garrett (1830-1905) of Wilmington, Delaware. They and their brother, John Biddle Rhoads, married three Evans sisters in four weddings, thereby confusing future genealogists and historians.

George Ashbridge Rhoads was a partner, with his cousins, in J.E. Rhoads and Sons, of Wilmington, Delaware, a manufacturer of industrial leather belting. The company, founded in 1702, was, up into the 1980s, listed in the Guinness Records as the oldest firm owned and operated by the same family since its inception. In 1924, he, his first wife, Frances Tatum Rhoads, and their five daughters, vacationed for the first time at the Claremont Hotel, coming to the island for George to play golf, among other things, having previously vacationed in Florida for the golf courses there. The local physician, Dr. J.D. Phillips and his wife, Clara Driscoll Phillips, were the owners of the hotel. That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship between the Phillips and Rhoads families..."

See: J.E. Rhoads & Sons

Tatum - Frances Canby (Tatum) Rhoads (1861-1931)

Phillips – Joseph Dana Phillips (1857-1942)  
Driscoll - Clara A. (Driscoll) Phillips (1872-1964)

"In 1925, Mr. Rhoads bought a piece of land in Southwest Harbor which he called "Indian Lot." The land was a significant camping place of long ago generations of Indians. He hired Robie Norwood to build this house, which is still in existence..."

"Mr. Rhoads, who called himself a "Sunday Painter," recognized at once the natural beauty of Mt. Desert Island..." He painted local scenes in oil, designed a hooked rug and even painted the island on lampshades for his cottage.

"Mrs. (Joseph Dana) Phillips (owner of the Claremont Hotel) was the daughter of Rose and Dennis Driscoll from Gotts Island. A favorite activity of the summer visitors at that time was a day-long boat trip to a nearby island. Mrs. Phillips' Gotts Island connection may have been the reason that Mr. Rhoads hired Captain Philip Moore to take them there in the "Blue Chick" for picnics." – Some of this information appears in "Gotts Island Maine, Its People 1880-1992," by Rita Johnson Kenway, p. 256 - 1993. See the following pages in the book for more about the Rhoads family connection to Gotts Island. The Rhoads and Obbard families kindly provided additions and corrections to the account of the Rhoads family history and arrival on Mt. Desert Island.

Driscoll – Dennis Driscoll (1843-1928)  
Gott – Rose Standish (Gott) Driscoll (1845-1924)  
Moore – Philip Moore (1871-1937)

After the death of George Ashbridge Rhoads, his brother, William Evans Rhoads, bought Indian Lot Cottage from his brother's estate. William Evans Rhoads' first wife was Ruth Evans. His second wife was Ruth's sister, Grace Evans. William and Ruth's son, Philip Garrett Rhoads, and Philip's sister, Elizabeth Rhoads, inherited it from their father. Philip Garrett and Josephine Eugenia (Eckford) Rhoads' daughter, Judith Rhoads Obbard, owns Indian Lot Cottage in 2010.

"I think it was the same year (1847) that fifteen or twenty Indians from Oldtown camped on the salt water shore opposite Parkers. The chief said they had been rehearsing their old customs and would like the right to give an exhibition if a hall could be found that was large enough. The woolen factory was not in use at that time so it was opened for the purpose...The Indians dressed in their war paint and feathers and gave their dances with flourishing tomahawks and blood-curdling yells. One of the tribe could play the violin with considerable skill..." - Traditions and Records of Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine by Mrs. Seth S. Thornton, p. 255 - 1938.

"For many years Indians from Oldtown came every summer and encamped on the rocky lot across from the Parker property. They pitched their tents and remained for the summer, selling their baskets. The men roamed the woods gathering sweet grass and occasionally cutting an ash tree, which right they were vouchsafed by the owners of the land as it was an unwritten law that the Indians could have an occasional tree to use in their work from the land that, not so long before, had belonged entirely to them. They were quiet, law-abiding neighbors and the encampment was one of the picturesque sights of the town. When in 1925 George A. Rhoads of Wilmington, Delaware, built his house on the camp site, he called it Indian Lot." - Traditions and Records of Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine by Mrs. Seth S. Thornton, 1938, p. 167.

Land at 149 Clark Point Road from Seth H. Clark to Rachel Carroll Allen 3/6/1881[178-3];  
Inherited as only heir at law by Rachel Johnston Strode, granddaughter of Rachel Carroll Allen  
10/20/1903;

Sold to George A. and Frances Tatum Rhoads 12/24/1925 [598-430];

Land added 12/24/1925 [598-432];

House built 1925 [T-167];

Land added 10/20/1927 [615-597];

Devised to William E. Rhoads 9/27/1937 [657-440];

Land added 11/9/1939 [670-410]; - from Mary C. Parker to William E. Rhoads

See: Deacon Henry Higgins Clark Shipyard Employee Building

Devised to Elizabeth Rhoads 2/29/1960 [868-32];

Sold to Phillip G. Rhoads 2/1/1961 [879-81];

Devised to Peter B. and Judy Rhoads Obbard 6/17/1985 [1540-237].

Possibly land added by Judy Rhoads Obbard