



House History

Steps-Inn

Miss Leffingwell's House

Lucia Dodge Leffingwell Cottage

Address – Near Admiral Byrd's Ledge

City – Tremont, Gotts Island

State - Maine

Map and Lot Number: Map 1 – Lot 33

Map: Property Map 1, Town of Tremont

First Owner: Leffingwell – Lucia Dodge Leffingwell (1866-1944)

Build Date – 1916

Between 1915 and 1917 Lucia Dodge Leffingwell, a “well-known artist from Baltimore,” bought several parcels of land from Charles Welch at Gotts Island, Maine.
Charles Harding Welch (1861-1938)

1916 – Lucia rented on the island and began building her cottage, an elaborate log cabin, “built upon the huge ledge so that it was one story higher in the dining room-kitchen area. The first floor consisted of one large living room with a cathedral ceiling and was dominated by the huge granite fireplace. A Dutch door opened out onto the large porch which ran the width of the building. A staircase near the door led up to the sleeping area. This was a balcony which ran around three sides of the building. On the banister side there was a view of the living room below. Several medium-sized bedrooms opening on to it enjoyed a variety of views of sea and forest. The rooms on the front had access to another smaller screened porch just above the main porch.”

There is a photograph by T.C. Moon of the cottage, "Steps-Inn, 1917" on page 156 of Rita Kenway's book. The later dining room was added to the left of the kitchen entry.

Known as “Miss Lucia” on the island, she served cocoa and marshmallows to the children and painted several portraits of local people. She was a friend of Elizabeth Peterson, attended her parties and supported her church, St. Columba's Episcopal Chapel.

Peterson - Elizabeth Safford Peterson (1855-1925)

St. Columba's Episcopal Chapel

Lucia's last visit to Gotts Island was in August 1942. She died on October 12, 1944 and left no heirs.

Steps-Inn was sold to Berthold Strauss for \$1600. The price included the house, furnishings and land.

Steps-Inn was destroyed in a fire on July 22, 1960. Mr. Strauss' second wife died in the fire.

Much of the factual information above came from "Gotts Island Maine, Its People 1880-1992" by Rita Johnson Kenway, 1993, p. 155-158. 319-320. The story of "Miss Leffingwell" in this book presents a full portrait of Lucia and it includes an unexpected visit from Admiral Byrd. There is one error in the account. Lucia Dodge Leffingwell died in 1944, not 1945.