

Many of the names listed in the 1860 census do not appear in the census of 1870. These were mostly the names of day laborers. Probably the majority of them were lumberjacks who had moved on to locations of greater opportunity on the mainland where trees at this time began to fall in great numbers. By 1870 the island community was composed of a number of families whose futures were tied to the rise or decline of the island as an economic unit. Of the fourteen families listed in 1870, six were from Germany, three from the State of New York, one from Vermont, two from England, and one from Ireland. Starting with the two Hutzler and two Beck families, there follow: Haas, Price, Burdick, Burton, Armstrong, Abbot, Smith, Evans, Kitchen, and Sheridan. All of these names also appear in the census of 1880.

By 1880 the island seems to have reached the peak of its population. According to the census of that year, there were ninety-eight residents on the island. Twenty families or heads of households are listed with kith and kin. Most of the residents were farmers. The exceptions were E.E. Burton, wood merchant, four fishermen, and Oswald Fuerst from Baden, a bookbinder by trade. The Erickson family apparently arrived shortly after the census was taken. Assuming that there had been no departures in the meantime, the population would then have exceeded 100.

The census of 1880 reveals that marriageable girls on the island were in short supply. For twelve single men, there were at that time only three girls in a similar status. The result was that some men took wives considerably younger than themselves. The wife of Joseph Haas was fourteen when she got married. He was twenty-four. Whether this disparity in age caused the elder Mrs. Haas to look down upon her daughter-in-law or whether a personality conflict came about quite naturally is difficult to say. Mrs. Haas was about fifty-two years of age and, in German fashion, might have expected some sort of dowry for her daughter-in-law at the time of the marriage. The family of Florence Raimau was not in a position to provide such a dowry. In any event the harmony in the Haas family was upset for some time to come. In spite of the fact that Florence Haas proved to be an excellent and energetic wife and mother, she was never accepted by the Haases, and Joseph Haas lived to see his father's estate divided among his brothers, while he received a dollar in due course. The fact that old Mr. Haas liked his daughter-in-law did not lessen the effect of the will.

Another youthful marriage was that of August and Elizabeth Beck. Elizabeth Beck, nee Haas, was sixteen. Her husband was just three years older. At twenty-four Mrs. Beck was already the mother of four children.

In some instances, the shortage of marriageable girls led men to marry women older than themselves or those who had already been married but whose husbands had met an early death. In this way, the inter-marriage of families on the island became complex to the point that only a person with a strong interest in genealogy could hope to explain the maze of relationships among the islanders.

One family that joined the island community just before the census of 1870 was that of the 24-year-old farmer, Cleland Abbot from New York. Abbot lived on a small piece of land on the northwest corner of the island. He appeared to be a gentleman, and he and his small family were well liked. However, there were some who believed he made counterfeit money and had settled in this remote spot to evade police in the East. Every fall he left the island and returned later bringing back large stores of provisions. One fall day he left the island and never returned. His counterfeiting machine is believed to be buried under a stump near the place where