

Oak Island Chain of Ownership

Before Alcoa

The name "Oak Island" goes back to the Dataw Island plantation era. In his memoir, Rev. James Julius Sams, D.D., born in 1826, and who grew up on Datha, describes many adventures on Oak Island. In 1860, Oak Island was owned jointly by Rev JJ Sams and his brother Horace Hann Sams. The DHF does not have complete records on what happened to Oak Island during or after the Civil War, but we do know it was part of the purchase of Dataw Island by Kate Gleason in 1927. On her death in 1933, Kate Gleason willed Oak Island along with Dataw Island to Elizabeth Sanders Rowland. Libby's will passed them to her sons Richard and Lawrence Rowland.

Alcoa South Carolina, Inc. (ASCI) Years (1983 - 2007)

1983 - Rowland brothers sold Dataw Island, including Oak Island, to Alcoa South Carolina, Inc. (ASCI).

1987 - Master Land Use Plan dated June 1, 1987 shows 60 lots on Oak Island

Before 1991 - Bridge and dock built

1991 - Offered for sale; widely advertised in US and England. Bill Cochran (Alcoa VP) stated no intent to sell to developer, rather to a family compound or a small community. Discourage building more than ten houses. No offers received.

1995 - Effort made to sell as a retirement/assisted living community; no offers received.

1998 - Oak Island Estates, L.I.C. (Joe & Steve Mix) buys Oak Island; stated they had no immediate plans for Island. Bridge ownership passed to DIOA. DIOA not responsible for dock.

2004 - Oak Island Covenants and Restrictions were recorded giving DIOA the right of first refusal in any future sales. In addition, it reduced the number of buildable lots from 30 to 18.

2006 - Oak Island sold to GEJ Oak Island, LLC (Gary Juster) after the right of first refusal to the DIOA was granted and the DIOA membership voted not to purchase.

Post Alcoa

2007 - 2011 Gary Juster, working with DIOA and Beaufort County, got approval for density change to 42 units.

2016 - After unsuccessful attempts to sell lots or the island as a whole, Gary Juster deeded Oak Island to The Nature Conservancy.

2020 - Dataw GM reports, "Dataw to Acquire Oak Island: Anonymous Donors "Gift" Oak Island to the Dataw Island Owners Association"! Immediate jubilation ensues on DatawNet.