

29 Jun 2005

Cherry Grove Beach & East Cherry Grove Beach

In the early 1700s Cherry Grove Beach was called Minor's Island. It was named for James Minor of Connecticut. James Minor obtained a tract of 375 acres of land by grant dated April 8, 1734. That grant was bounded on the south by Little River and on the east by Cedar Creek. He lived there until October 13, 1742, when he sold his property to John Eshfield, an innkeeper of Little River.

In 1769 Minor's Island was granted to John Alston. Alston also owned land adjacent to the salt marshes on Little River Neck which he eventually sold to John Bellamee. That plantation was called Cherry Grove. Minor's Island later was referred to simply as "the beach at Cherry Grove."

The eastern (upper end) two miles of Cherry Grove Beach was formerly called Futch Island. It ran from Cherry Grove Inlet to Hog Inlet and was named for the David Kendrick Futch family who had purchased 949 acres there from John Brantley on August 8, 1846.

In 1950 the old Cherry Grove Inlet was closed which gave access to Futch Island which was then renamed East Cherry Grove Beach. The site of the Futch home, now part of Tidewater Golf Club, was on the banks of Little River Neck and overlooked the beach at Cherry Grove and the adjoining marshlands.

Reference: C. B. Berry