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100 YEARS OLD — Mrs. Ellen Hanson of Orr's Island, Harpswell's oldest citizen, is still an active member of the Willing Workers Circle which she helped found in 1889. She will celebrate her 100th birthday Monday. (Doughty photo)

Active Islander To Have 100th Birthday This Week

by Mary Bangs

ORR'S ISLAND — Mrs. Ellen Roberts Hanson, Harpswell's oldest citizen, and the pride of Orr's Island, will reach her 100th birthday on Monday. She was born to Leonard and Ellen Jordan Roberts at Lisbon Jan. 20, 1864. She moved to Orr's in 1884 after a few years of em-

ployment with the former Dennison Box Company in Brunswick.

Mrs. Hanson entered the merchandising business her first year on the Island and operated a dry and fancy goods store until 1891. Stock for the store was purchased in Portland. A trip to the city in those days included a row to Harpswell Neck and then a steamer trip to Portland. She was 20 years old when she made these long sails. This store later housed the telephone exchange. She sold the property in 1955 after the dial system replaced telephone operators.

About the time Ellen Hanson came to Orr's Island, a Lewis F. Hanson from Muen, Denmark came to the United

States. He shipped out of Philadelphia for Gun Point at Great Island, where the coastal schooner was to load ice. Mr. Hanson liked the Town of Harpswell and decided to stay. In 1885 he married Ellen Roberts.

House Raising

The Hansons purchased the century-old Weir Farm on the north west of Orr's Island in 1892. This house was replaced in 1900 when friends and neighbors helped in an old-fashion

house-raising party. Mr. Hanson kept 10 or more cows the year-round and helped supply the Island's need for fresh dairy products and vegetables. After his death in 1932, their grandson Lewis Steele of Auburn came to help his grandmother.

In 1944 Mrs. Hanson bought the Former William Henry Linscott house where she now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Alwilda Stackpole. This typically Maine white house over-

looks Lowell's far from where years ago.

She is a member of the Will Baptist Church many years treasurer. Indeed, people may well her for preservation of old church after the church active there wished to send where. She states that the \$500.

Han- looks Lowell's cove and is not
s the far from where she first moved
upply years ago.

fresh She is a member of the Free
ables. Will Baptist Church and for
their many years served as its
of Au- treasurer. Indeed, the towns-
grand- people may well be indebted to
her for preserving this beauti-
bought ful old church. It seems that
Henry after the church became in-
e now active there were those who
r, Mrs. wished to send the money else-
ypical- where. She stoutly contended
over- that the \$500. was raised for

that church and there it should
be spent — and so it was. In
1940 a group of citizens and
some summer folks helped to
restore and electrify it. So ex-
pertly was the work done that
its old-time charm and simpli-
city are still evident; and the
structure is sound.

A Willing Worker

The energetic Mrs. Hanson
was the first president of the
Baptist Ladies Sewing and
Social Circle when it was form-
ed in 1889. When the church

became inactive about 1920 the
ladies changed the name to the
Willing Workers Circle and
their proceeds benefit the
cemetery which adjoins the
church property. This Circle
now meets each Tuesday with
Mrs. Hanson and she is still
one of its greatest boosters and
workers.

She confesses she does not
keep up on politics but firmly
states that she is a Republican.

She is in good health and
spends most of her time in her

pleasant kitchen. Here she
keeps her favorite "easy to care
for" flowers, geraniums. All of
her plants date back to days
on the farm.

Each day she wears a string
of gold beads which are at least
150 years old. They were given
to her by a friend from Port-
land many years ago. She re-
ceived the gold beaded cane
from the town about five years
ago when she became its old-
est citizen.

She has two living children,

Carl Hanson of Portland and
Mrs. Stackpole, who formerly
lived in Durham; six grand-
children and 14 great-grand-
children.

Mrs. Hanson has a great
many friends, is considered a
fine neighbor and is held in
high esteem by all. At Christ-
mas she receives over 100 cards.
Probably her birthday greetings
will far exceed this number as
many others join in remember-
ing such a fine lady on her
100th birthday.