



Reminiscences  
of  
Mrs. William H. (Irma) Thalheimer



*September 26, 1988*

*“Things I have learned about Hansen’s Point”*

MR. THALHEIMER AND I BOUGHT the Hansen farm, now known as Hansen’s Point, in 1957 for a retirement home 10 years before he could retire from the duPont Company. Maine was where we hoped to live. We bought it from a family named Winawisser who had bought it from Mrs. Hansen, then a widow, in 1944.

It had been known as the Wyer property but had been abandoned and was sold to the Hansens for unpaid taxes (\$600) in 1892. An old house and a sturdy, pegged-together barn still stands and is still used.

The Hansens lived in the old house which had only a big fireplace for heating and cooking until 1900—then they tore down the old house, using many of the wide old boards to add the extra room to the barn for cows, also for flooring in a new house, which are still a part of the modernized present house. There are still stone steps from what was the rear of the old house leading down to a lower level where the huge lilac bushes abound. Beyond is an old orchard of Baldwin (“Baldin”) apples, no longer taken care of. I have a small, hand-painted picture of the original house which was given me by a Hansen daughter, Alwilda.

The Hansens added to the first new house, all of which was heated by wood. Mr. Hansen had a new well dug (found by a dowser) and had water piped to the barn with one tap to the house—powered by a windmill. In some places the pipes could not be buried very deep due to rocks and the children gathered great quantities of seaweed to cover exposed spots. However, the Winawissers winterized the house, added a new deep well, furnace and plumbing.



Other stories come to mind from Alwilda ... To make pasture for the cows, a big field back of the new house was cleared by horses and the help of three Hansen children. Trees were cut and rocks pushed and hauled to one side making a fence which is now covered with shrubs, etc. A smaller field for corn was also cleared and another patch for a garden. One old timer told me “no one was stronger or ever worked as hard as Mr. Hansen.” Perhaps only eight or ten acres of the farm are cleared, however. Various springs have been found which explain why deer are still seen.

The Hansens sold clear spring water, in five-gallon glass jugs, to summer people—and also garden vegetables.

The children went to an island schoolhouse, carrying their lunches and walking several miles, no matter the weather. There were always chores awaiting them at home. Mr. Hansen bought the first car, a Ford, on the island but we were told he was a fearsome driver. However, he drove to Brunswick for supplies. Mrs. Hansen told me she never learned to drive because then she would be expected to drive to town for supplies.

Before the bridge from Great Island to Orr’s Island and the car, Mr. Hansen drove a wagon and his two prized white horses across Harpswell Sound to West Harpswell and so to town for supplies. It would freeze over in those days, however, on the way back, just before he reached the point on Orr’s Island, the ice gave way and the horses and wagon were lost. Mr. Hansen escaped but never got over the loss of his prized white horses. I have a picture of him with them.