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## The Darling Estate \_ Part II (1940s-1960s)

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## The Darling Estate: Part II (1940s-1960s)



Picture 1: Ira Darling's youngest daughter Agatha Jane Darling – always known as Jane. The undated pictures are estimated to be taken during the mid-1940s. [c.1945-1947] (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher, Ira Darling's granddaughter)



Picture 2: Archery was set up by the barn, across from the front of the house. They were serious archers recalls Ira Darling's granddaughter Wendy, and they would have tournaments. No children were allowed. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 3. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 4: From right to left is Jane Darling Whidden with her daughters Wendy and Jane-Ray by the flag pole in the front yard. The flag was raised every morning. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 5: Wendy Whidden and he sister Jane. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



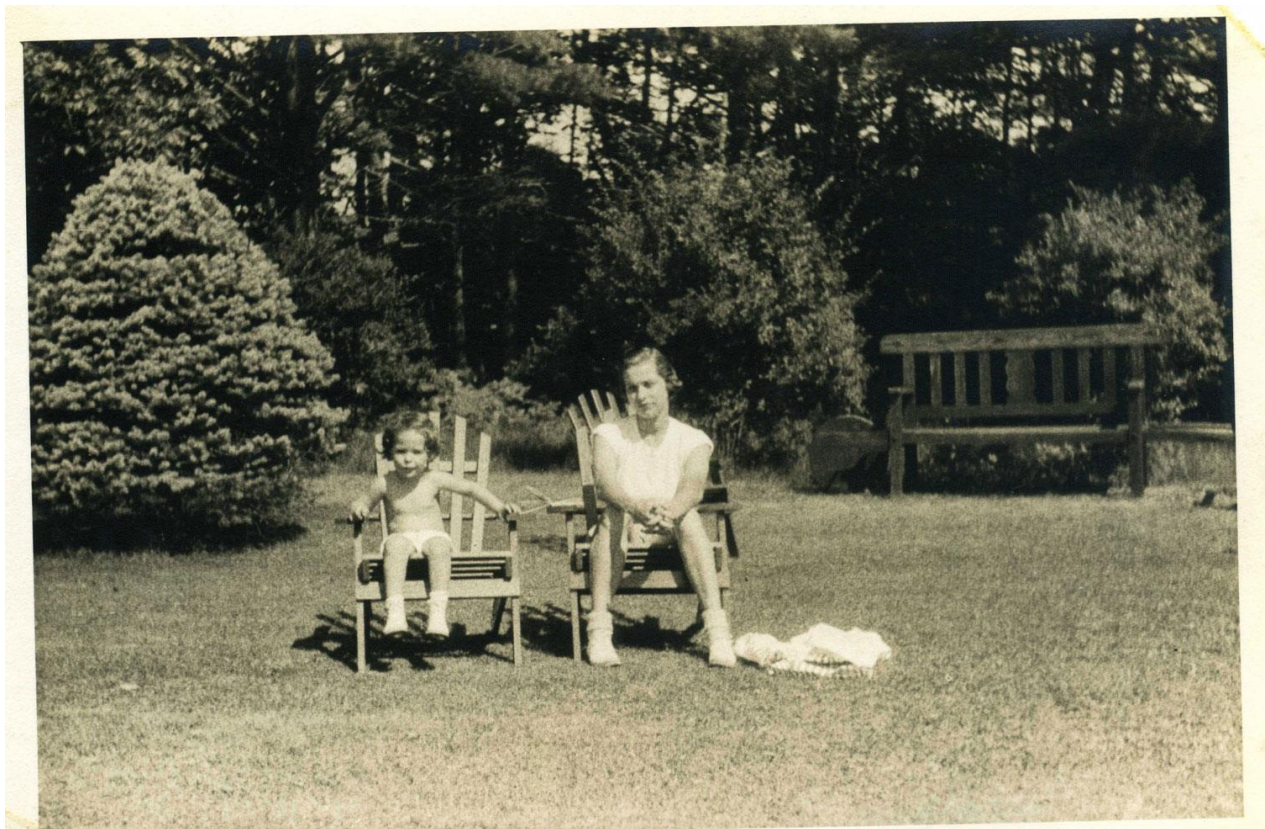
Picture 6: From left to right Wendy & Jane-Ray. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 7: Jane-Ray Whidden (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 8: From right to left are Jane Darling Whidden and her second daughter Jane-Ray Whidden.



Picture 9: Jane-Ray and Jane. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)





Picture 10: Randall Rice, Jane-Ray, and Wendy on the way to the well. Randall & his wife lived in the gatehouse [Leeman House]. Wendy remembers Randall as the best guy. He was very patient with Ira's grandchildren. Mrs. Rice was very sweet.



Picture 11: Wendy and her father, Harvey Whidden. Harvey would come up to hunt during hunting season. The Tractor Barn is on the right.  
(Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 12: 1958. Wendy Daniher and Ira Darling. Greenwich Connecticut. Wendy's wedding.  
(Courtesy of Wendy Daniher)



Picture 13: Agatha Birkhoff Darling and her granddaughter Wendy. Picnics were held at The Point – local lobsters were boiled over a wood fire in a huge pot – somewhere near the wharf – always called The Dock. Randall Rice would go down to empty the lobster pots.



Picture 14: Picnic at the Point.



Picture 15: The Darlings took their domestic staff from Kenilworth, Illinois with them to Maine every summer. That included Jenny the cook (Jennie Johnson (b. 1890)) and Carleton (Carleton Brook (b.1919)) the maid. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher).



Picture 16: From left to right Wendy's sister Jane-Ray, Agatha Darling, and Wendy.



Picture 17: Picnic at the Point. Notice Ira is not in any of these pictures. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher).





Picture 18: Picnic at the Point. (Courtesy of Wendy Daniher).

## **Recollections of WENDY DANIHER**

Wendy recalls that her grandparents had friends that had farms around Wentworth Point. They weren't really farmers, they were gentleman farmers. As a retired business executive Ira Darling took great pleasure in overseeing the farm. She also recalls a black sheep named "Billy" and that her mother rode horses here.

Wendy recalls that as a child vacationing it was good fun when the uncles were around. Her family spent more time at Wentworth Point than the families of her aunts. Wendy says it was a rare occasion when all of the aunts visited Wentworth Point together. Her grandmother and grandfather would sit at the living room window in the farmhouse, each on a different side of the window as if they were holding court.

Wendy says they would often take walks from the house to the wharf. If the kids were really good they were allowed to stop along the way and read the grave stones in the cemetery. Ira Darling would talk about the people here before them who laid the road and cleared the land, and he would tell bits of the history he knew that weren't on the grave stones. Ira had a hat and a cane and would take a walk a couple times a day.

Wendy recalled the trips they took to Maine when her family lived in Iowa. Her mother would pack for her and her sister, and they would take the Santa Fe; it was a two night train trip. [Wendy resided in Australia at the time she conveyed this information. She has since passed away.] Jane had lived in Massachusetts, but she now resides in Connecticut.

## **End of WENDY DANIHER recollections**

Mary Trescott says that her father Louis French, a plumber, worked for Ira Darling when she was a kid. She recalls Ira Darling giving her a big tricycle.

Kevin Eckelbarger recalls Irene Leeman telling him Ira Darling and George Willett would sit and have cocktails at sunset right next to where the Biogeochemistry lab now sits. They could see the river from there because the trees were still young then.

## **Notes**

There were three 2<sup>nd</sup> edition history bulletins about the Darling Estate in Walpole, ME.. They have been reorganized and put into book chapter form. This is a final edition; it was issued in 2017.

Special thanks to Wendy Daniher for sharing her memories and pictures of the Darling family, and Jane Ostheimer (Wendy's sister). A phone interview was conducted with Wendy (who was residing in Australia) in January, 2014, after she had sent the DMC Librarian pictures.

## **Source**

Information not cited comes from the DMC Archives, Louise Dean Library, Darling Marine Center, Walpole, ME.