

THE CARVER FARMS AT OAK HILL ON NORTH HAVEN ISLAND

*A brief history of the Carver family farms as part of an orchard visit with John Bunker, Maine apple expert
Event presented by the North Haven Historical Society and the North Haven Grange
October 12, 2019*

With thanks to landowners, the Watson family and to caretakers, Ducky & Tammy Brown for permission to visit the orchard



View west from Oak Hill with the Ira Carver Farm (now belonging to the Watson family) pictured at right. Ira's brother, Hanson, had a farm seen left of center (now the Watson family airfield). Their sister, Mary Jane married John Brown whose family farm can be seen in the distance between the two Carver farms.



The Ira and Ursula Carver Farm, circa 1890. Pictured is Ursula "Lula" holding her young daughter Addie while Ira stands alongside. To the right, are their daughters Sarah and Leila and seated on the grass are their sons Perley and Henry. Their youngest son, Maynard was not born yet. While hard to make out, Ira's mother, Rachel sits on the porch.



Abram and Rachel Calderwood Carver, both born on Vinalhaven, married in 1831 and came to North Haven soon after.

North Haven's Oak Hill was once farmland belonging to the Carver family. Abram and Rachel Calderwood Carver moved to North Haven sometime after their marriage in 1831 and established a farm at Oak Hill where they raised their eight children. Most of their children remained on North Haven, including several who lived at or near Oak Hill.

Abram and Rachel's oldest son, Hanson, a Civil War veteran, married Lois Turner, who grew up at the Turner Farm on North Haven's southern shore. Hanson and Lois raised a family and farmed at what was likely the Carver's original North Haven homestead, located on land that is now part of the Watson airfield. In 1876, another son, Ira, married Ursula Waterman, who grew up on the Waterman Farm, also on the island's southern shore. Ira's younger sister, Mary Jane married John Brown from a nearby farm and raised a family there.



Ira Carver Farm and orchard at Oak Hill, North Haven.



Ira Carver at Oak Hill, North Haven.



The Carvers earned a living from the sea as well as the land. Fred and Ellington Carver, sons of Hanson Carver, pictured here, maintained a herring weir off of Oak Hill.



The Zimmermann Estate, later purchased by the Watson family, with the Carver farmhouse and barns incorporated.