

Farms with cultural landscape remnants

Thomas and Mary Kitchen/Mary (Kitchen) Price & Thomas Price/ Charles and Mollie Anderson Farm

Farmstead History and Agricultural Data

Charles and Mollie Anderson and their family moved to South Manitou Island during the summer of 1913 when they purchased the farm from Thomas and Mary Price. The Anderson's had six children: Charles, Jr., Magdalean, Cecelia, Albany, Haakon, and John. Charles, Sr., was a trader, and had worked around the islands for a few years before deciding a South Manitou farm would be a good place for his family. He was away from home quite often, tending to his boat and hauling supplies to the islands and transporting island products to other ports.⁹² According to the manuscript schedules for the 1920 Federal Population Census, Charles Anderson immigrated from Norway in 1894 and was a steamer captain. Mollie was born in Wisconsin, as were the nine children enumerated on the 1920 census manuscripts.⁹³ Eventually, there were twelve children in the family.

Apparently the other island farmers did not accept the Andersons for the first couple of years. In one account, Charles, Jr., said that "they were all of German descent and the Andersons were of Scandinavian descent." Mr. Anderson was a sailor and had a hired hand to help operate the farm.⁹⁴

The Andersons raised beef cattle, and Charles' book contains many interesting and amusing stories about the herd. They also had a variety of fruit trees, including black cherries, red plums, apples, pears, and prunes. These were planted in the fields with other crops. At plowing time, the children would pull the small trees over so the harness from the horses would not chip off the bark.⁹⁵

⁹² Anderson, 45

⁹³ Manuscript schedules for the Federal Population Census, 1920.

⁹⁴ Anderson, 47.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 57.