

## A special stone

In front of Hovedgaden 33 you will find a stone with a special history.

In 1910 the owner of Møllegaarden (mølle = mill; the street names Mølleparken and Møllevænget are derived from the name of this farm, which also ran a mill) sold a part of his land closest to the town. One of the plots was sold to bricklayer Thorvald Hansen coming from Copenhagen. He wanted to build a house on the plot.

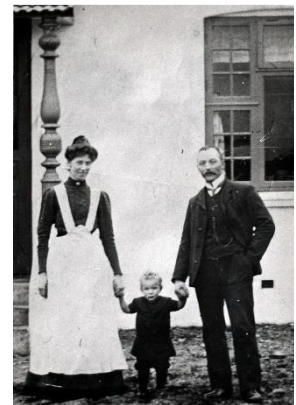
The plot had a size of 1390 m<sup>2</sup> and costed dkk 200, which Thorvald paid in cash. After the house was built on the plot, the value of the property was now dkk 4000.

In 1891 the old Grene church was demolished as it was in a very bad condition. The church was situated close to the stream you pass on your way to Hejnsvig, and you will still be able to find the old graveyard there. Part of the materials were reused in the new Grene Church as you know it today. The local farmers in the parish took what was left. One of the farmers took a granite arch which had been placed above a window in the old church. He wanted to use it for a window in his barn. He asked Thorvald Hansen to do this. When Thorvald saw the arch he wanted to get it for himself. So he offered the farmer to build another arch above the window if he could get the granite arch. A deal was made. The arch is probably about 800 years old.



Thorvald placed the granite arch just east of his new house. It was still placed there in 1961 but was later moved to the existing place in front of the house, where you will find it today. Picture – Hovedgaden 33.

The picture to the right shows Thorvald Hansen and his wife Anne Oline and their first child in front of the house. The picture is taken approx. 1913.



Thorvald gave up as a bricklayer in 1918 and started as a postman. He worked as such for many years until he retired. It is as a postman he will be remembered in Billund. He died in 1960. In The Old School you will find a painting as the house looked in 1965.