I began painting *Bread of Life* in the heat of summer, even though it’s a snow scene. I sat beneath a shade tree working, occasionally going inside for a drink. As I painted, the gears ground and the water pushed the enormous weight of the wheel. Inside the mill, the Parnells worked equally hard, mending and maintaining the structure. Yet there never seemed to be any frustration or resentment. The pair tended this beautiful landmark with the patience of loving parents. That winter I presented them with a print of the finished piece. Heidi invited me into a room with a roaring fire. She had prepared a breakfast from flour ground that morning. It amazed me to eat the same raw material that had inspired me to paint.  

-WM

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'*There was a summertime porch with black wicker furniture and wonderful Southern screen doors which made a special clatter when they swung shut . . .’*

- Mary D.B.T. Semans