



If These Walls Could Talk

This is an introductory piece exploring some of the public and private buildings in East Kingston. If these walls could talk, what tales they could tell! East Kingston with its depot was a Victorian summer spot where Bostonians came north for the cool breezes and country life. One spot that supplied plenty of breezes was Poplar Hill.

Driving down Depot Road, many have wondered about the history of the house on the hill. The Davis family was kind enough to share some stories and a little digging brought to light some more information about former owners.

Poplar Hill

Poplar Hill, a stylish gambrel, was built in 1891 as the guest house for the building next door. Named for the trees that lined the driveway until 2000, the basic structure remains intact with only a slender multi window addition and discrete solar panels updates.



The main residence and adjoining guest house was built for the Morrill family. Stone masons were brought in from Italy to construct the building and a rustic stone border surrounds the porch edge.

The main house contained the kitchen.

Food was brought over to the guest house which had only a minimal kitchen.

A pass through was used to deliver meals.



The Morrill family came by train to move in for the summer.

Lovely breezes on this hilltop location produce a natural air conditioning.

The name George H. Morrill is listed on a 1892 map as the property owner. Further research uncovered facts that verify much of the information that the Davis family supplied.

<https://norwoodhistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/the-printing-industry-of-norwood-a-lasting-indelible-ink-mark-in-the-pages-of-norwoods-history/come-to-norwood/george-h-morrill-company-the-inkworks/>

The Morrill company originally based in Andover, developed a printer's ink that was so superior to other inks on the market that it became used world wide. The main production area was in Norwell, Ma. with over 14 buildings and a yearly output of over 30,000 pounds of ink. With offices in New York, San Francisco and Chicago, the company prospered during the heyday of the newspaper industry well onto the early 1970's.

Mr. Morrill was a philanthropist who had a library built in Norwell, Ma. in honor of his daughter.

It seems that Poplar Hill has had but three owners....the Morrill Family, Dr. Sanford and the Davis family.