

## **Dr. William Gerry Morgan**

Dr. William Gerry Morgan was probably the only one in the summer community to have been a descendant of early Springfield settlers. His great grandparents were Ephraim and Sally Stanley Morgan who arrived in Springfield prior to 1795 from Beverly, Massachusetts. They, and the Samuel Thorp family, also from Beverly, settled away from town on a high hill at the southeast end of Lake Kolelemook. The hill was named for the Thorps and the pond was named for the Morgans. The Thorps did not remain in town. Webster Pass, named many years later, passes over Thorp Hill.

Dr. William Gerry Morgan was born in Newport, NH in 1866. He graduated from Fryeburg Academy, Maine and Dartmouth in 1890 with a BS. In 1893, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as an MD. He was in private practice in Houston, Texas and South Port, Connecticut before he located permanently in Washington, DC in 1899. He became Dean Regent and Professor of Gastroenterology at Georgetown University School of Medicine. According to Dickie Hopper, granddaughter of Dr. Morgan, he had become gravely ill when a young man. It was Dr. Max Einhorn, a gastroenterologist, who saved his life. They became very good friends, and Dr. Morgan followed Dr. Einhorn into that field of medicine. Dr. Einhorn owned Tranquility Farm on Philbrick Hill, which passed through several owners. We today, know it as Faraway, the home of Bob and Alice Diggs Nulsen.

Dr. Einhorn told Dr. Morgan about property for sale on Philbrick Hill. Dr. Morgan and his bride, Cora (Boyd) Morgan, bought it sight unseen and the family spent many happy summers at Hideaway. The Morgans had four children. Son Gary died when an infant. There were three daughters, Myra, Ruth, and Garry. All three daughters married naval officers. Myra's first husband was Five Star Adm. Felix Stump. Ruth was married to Adm. O.B. Hardison, and Garry married Three Star Adm. Charles Wellborn who graduated from the Naval Academy at age sixteen. Dr. Morgan loved to take his daughters fishing and on other summer adventures. Until the late 1950s, early 1960s, several generations of the Morgan family continued to spend summers at Hideaway after Dr. Morgan passed away in the early 20th Century.

## **Dr. Samuel Adams**

Dr. Samuel Adams, a pediatrician in Washington, DC. was told about Springfield by Dr. Garry Morgan.

Washington, DC. is famous for being our capitol, but infamous for its summer weather, especially in the years before air conditioning. Anyone who could, would leave the city. In the early 1900s. Dr. Adams and his wife,

Lida, began summering with the family at what became Adamsfort. In 2007, the property is owned by the Rodgers family.

What a trip it was for Dr. and Mrs Adams and their four children. Dorothy, Dennette, Mildred, Lida,

several maids, a cook, a coachman, and horses! Imagine a summer's worth of luggage in the era of trunks, long

skirts, and no synthetic fabrics! Granddaughter, Peggy Downey Knowlton, thinks that the help, carriages, and

horses must have come ahead of the family, maybe by train. Mrs. Adams came next with the two youngest

daughters, Mildred and Lida. The rest of the family followed. While waiting for Adamsfort to be put in order, they

stayed with Mrs. Ada Philbrick just down the hill on the right side of the Grantham Road on the bend in the road.

The original Adamsfort was the 100 year old farm house, a barn, laundry building, a small house for

maids, and a one room house for the coachman. Later additions were added to the original house. All the

additions were needed in future years when the four Adams children arrived with their families. Dorothy married to

General William Borden and their three daughters, Dorothy (Pinkie), Ann Carlin (Sis), and Cynthia; Dr. Dennette

with wife Tudie and daughters Jill and Elliott, Mildred (Easy) and Fairfax (Fax) Downey, son Davis, and Peggy; the

Roberts, Lida (Lulie) and Bob with Patsy, Samuel, and Thomas. A nursery addition was added when the 4th

generation, Peggy's eldest arrived.

The families would not all be there at once and the most constant were the Bordens and the Downeys, with

Mildred Downey running the establishment. The Borden girls, Peggy and her brother, Davis were usually there

together. When Davis died at age eleven, the girl cousins were like siblings to Peggy. Peggy tells of the Adamsfort

quartet singing at the Town Fair.

Not mentioned by Peggy, but Dr. Adams was very kind and helpful to seriously ill children and their

parents in Springfield.

Dr. Adams, George Sacks, and Mason Richardson built the boathouse on the north shore of Lake Kolelemook around 1904. The present owners are direct descendants of the Adams and Sacks families. The Nulsens bought the Richardson's share in 1962. Peggy mentioned that the Old Town canoes are still there as heavy as she remembered. Dr. Adams had very strict lake rules. No one could go out in a boat until he or she could swim to the raft, which seemed a mile away to small swimmers. And to take a canoe out, one had to be able to turn it over and right it and get back into it. Peggy wonders how she ever managed. This original group of summer residents also started the Overlook Country Club which was located on the hill in back of the Pattern milking barn and east of Idelwold, the Sacks's home.

In the late 1950s, life began to change for the families who had summered at Adamsfort. The Downeys decided to make their year around home on George Hill Road, named "Martini Well" by one of Peggy's little boys who could not say artesian well! Peggy feels lucky and privileged that for many years, she was able to spend every summer in West Springfield. Her four children share the memories of both Adamsfort and Martini Well. Peggy also reminisces about the Springfield people who were part of her early life, Raymond Beals, Bessie Heath, Estelle Duford, Maybelle Colby, Del Patten, Polly Bailey, Mrs. Philbrick, Seely, and many others.. Her parents, Easy and Fax happily lived out their lives in West Springfield. Her father enjoyed his tractor, but was never skilled at operating it. Dallas and Malcolm Pattern came to pull the tractor out of wherever it was stuck! Her mother had a series of favorite horses that she cared for and rode around the countryside every day. A highpoint for her was the Bicentennial Parade which she led on her mare. Peggy said that she will be forever grateful to the wonderful people who cared for her mother and made it possible for her to end her days in the home and town she loved so much.

As Peggy and husband Bill moved around the world for many years and saw some spectacular views of many countries, she never saw a more beautiful view than Croydon Mt. from the porch at Adamsfort, for her, the hills of home.