

The History of Poplar Springs

Poplar Springs, like its neighboring farms The Grove and Eastern View, is land once used by American Indian tribes. Some of those may have been Siouan people known as the Manahoacs who were identified in the Rappahannock river drainage area by Captain John Smith in 1608. The Manahoacs merged with other Siouan people, the Monacans whose decedents still live in Amherst County, VA. today. Indian spear points that may be as much as 10,000 years old have been found at Poplar Springs. In the seventeenth century small numbers of buffalo also roamed in Virginia and a few may have been in this region as well. Some accounts say that Route 602, known as Rogues Road, and a major boundary of Poplar Springs was an old Indian Trail.



After English settlers came to Virginia, Fauquier County became a proprietorship and by the eighteenth century Indians no longer could be found in the area. The history of Poplar Springs can be traced back to this pre-Revolutionary Era. Although the farm is now made up of a 200 acre parcel, originally it was part of a 10,000 acre tract extending from Midland to Casanova and owned (through a land grant from the English King at the time) by Robert "King" Carter. Over 250 years ago, before he died in 1732, "King" Carter gave some of the land to his grandson Charles Carter who sold just under 2000 acres to his son-in-law Colonel Robert Randolph.

This parcel is included the three farms which Colonel Randolph, who served in the Revolutionary War, divided among his sons. Robert Lee Randolph received Eastern View where General Robert E. Lee studied as a young boy. Beverley Randolph received Poplar Springs and Charles Carter Randolph received The Grove.

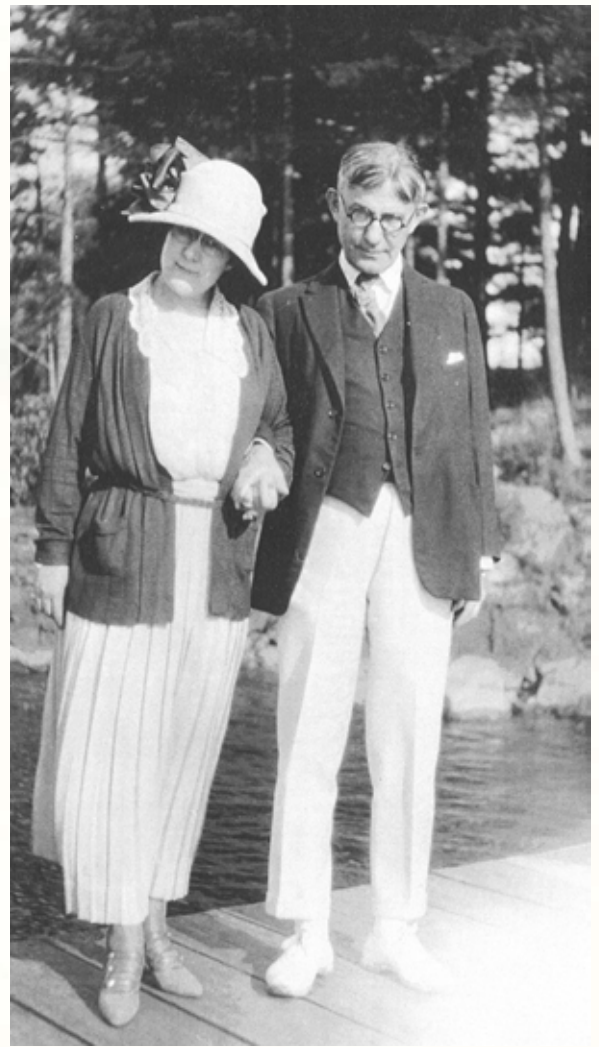


Charles Carter Randolph's sister Nancy Fitzhugh Randolph married Robert Iverson Hicks, chief surgeon on the staff of Jubal A. Early, a well-known general in the Confederate army. Their son, attorney and business man, Robert Randolph Hicks, known as "Randolph" was born in 1870.

Robert Iverson Hicks and Nancy Fitzhugh Randolph, Parents of Robert Randolph Hicks.



In 1918, following the death of his first wife, Ella Johnson Kerr, he married Rose Beatrice Sutton whose family was from Oregon. In 1928 they built the fieldstone manor house which is styled after sixteenth and seventeenth century houses they had seen in Europe. Several Casanova residents helped build the house from stones on the property which were, according to a local history book, used for chimneys in a Union camp during the Civil War.



Above: Rose And Randolph Hicks Circa 1922.
Left: Poplar Springs Manor House Under Construction in 1929.
Below: Jane Hall Cutler on the cover of *Cosmopolitan*.

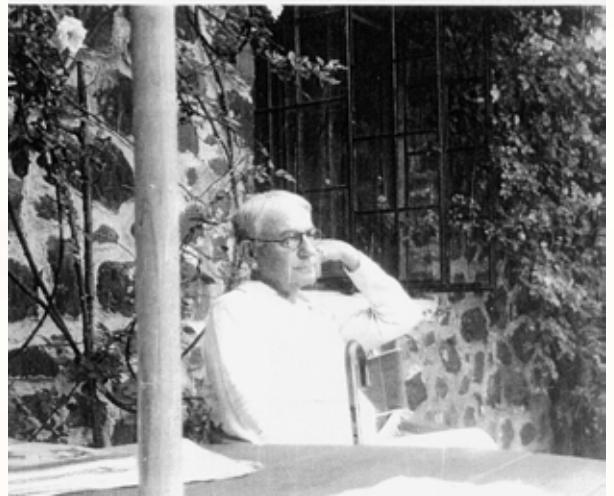
In 1930 Rose and Randolph Hicks, who had no children of their own, adopted her orphaned niece and nephew Jane and Dick Wick Hall, the children of Arizona writer and humorist Dick Wick Hall and Daysie Mae Sutton. In the 1930's Jane became a successful author of short stories in several national magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Cosmopolitan*. She also worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter for MGM and Universal Studios. Dick Wick Hall, Jr. was a noted mathematics professor and author. In 1940 Jane married theatrical producer Robert Frye Cutler of Ramapo, New York who founded the Rockland County Theater which featured actors such as Helen Hayes and Jose Ferrer. The stained glass windows in the great room at Poplar Springs are from the Cutler family home that was destroyed by fire in 1957.



Poplar Springs

The INN
Spa

Robert Randolph Hicks died in 1951, and Rose Sutton Hicks died in 1958. Both are buried here at Poplar Springs. Mrs. Hicks left the property to Jane Hall Cutler. Jane's daughter inherited the property on her mother's death in 1987 and opened Poplar Springs as a special events site. Poplar Springs sold outside the family for the first time in 1995 to the present owners who continue to use Poplar Springs as a special events site.



Clockwise From Top: 1. Robert Randolph Hicks
2. Rose Sutton Hicks
3. The Manor House Restaurant Today
4. The Manor House Winter 1935
5. Christmas In The Manor House 1940.

