



**Catherine Drew Russell  
(1839-1910)**

Catherine was born on February 28, 1839, died on June 11, 1939 and was known to many as Kitty. She lived her life in two houses in Kingston – the first at 10 Summer Street and the remainder of her life at the house at the Point.

As a young girl she attended the Wing School in Sandwich and later the Ellis Academy in Kingston, where she studied philosophy, mathematics, French, grammar, geography, drawing and music. By the age of 17 she taught at the Primary School here in Kingston (on

Green Street.) By the age of 27 she has moved on to teach the Center Immediate School. She continued her service to Kingston for another two years by teaching in the Stony Brook Schoolhouse from 1870-1872. After a two year teaching job in Boston, Russell returned to Kingston in 1875 and continued teaching at the Center Grammar School until 1896.

Those students who remember Kitty Russell recollect the following:

“To look at her picture you would know that she was a good disciplinarian, but it was a quiet kind of discipline.” Kitty Russell always stood, wearing a starched white apron, by the door to the high school as the students went up the stairs. One day when they were expecting a new teacher at the high school Kitty remarked and was remembered for saying “High school teachers come and go, but I go on forever.”