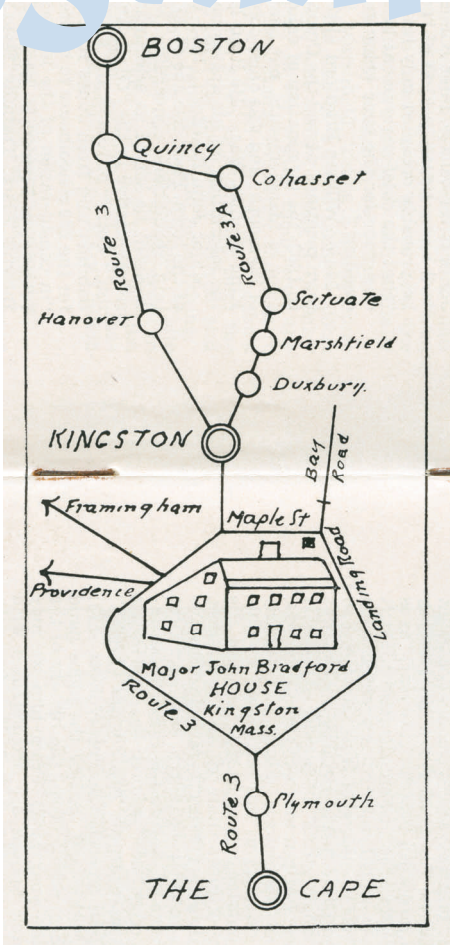


# Bradford House



*Emily Drew's map for an early brochure.*

Though to many, the Bradford Homestead symbolizes the Society, it was not among the “special lines of work” at the founding of the Club. Why? Because in 1909 the house was not only three owners and more than a decade removed from its eventual sale to the Society, but also still occupied by renters! Still, at its start the Club discussed ways to preserve this Kingston landmark. In 1910, Sarah Bailey wrote William Sumner Appleton of the newly launched Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) about the Club's concerns for the Bradford House. In 1911, Walter Lippincott purchased the house and held the property until 1920 when Ezra Wright bought it. In February 1921, Wright sold the house – though not the barn – to Emily Drew for \$2,000; she held the deed until the Club incorporated.

In April of 1921, papers were passed,

and with Miss Drew holding the mortgage, the Club owned the property. A Bradford House Committee was appointed immediately to oversee the House, followed the next year by creation of the Bradford House Council. In 1923, members burned the mortgage in the fireplace. Antiquarian George Francis Dow of SPNEA continued to correspond with the Club and oversaw a fairly sensitive restoration of the house. The Council furnished the house with period-appropriate fixtures, set up the “industries” – carding, spinning and weaving items for sale – and opened the house to visitors. It has remained open to the public ever since.

