

Conservation

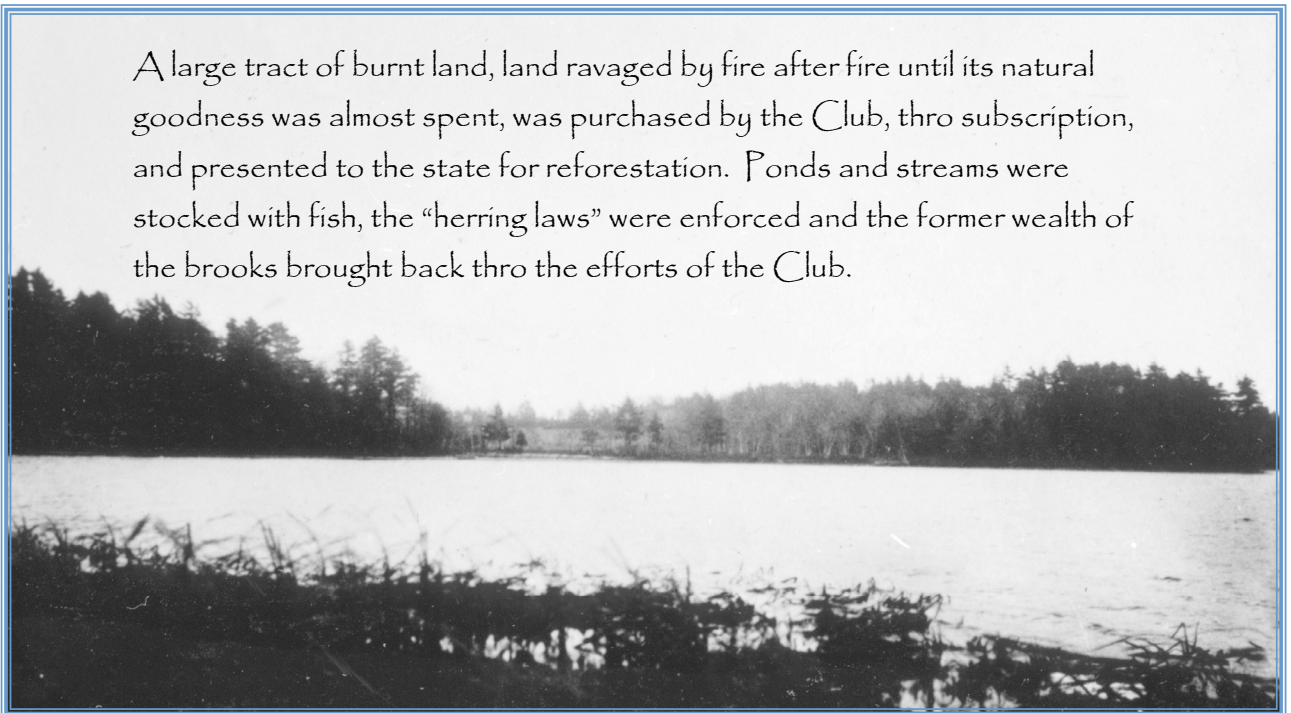
As one of the five original committees of the Society, Conservation stood at the very genesis of the Jones River Village Club. Around 1906, Helen Holmes' connection to the Massachusetts Agricultural College (now the University of Massachusetts, Amherst) led her to document Kingston for a nation-wide survey of natural resources sponsored by President Theodore Roosevelt. Miss Holmes, a font of energy and optimism, enlisted other Kingstonians to help. By 1909, the national project wrapped up, but the local group had uncovered so much information and took such satisfaction in the work and the meetings that they decided to form a Club.



*Moving earth by tractor and truck, 1926.
Lantern slide 271.*

In the early years, the Conservation Committee focused on their “special line of work ... Reforestation, Care of herring brooks, Cultivation of clams, Planting of shade trees [and] Securing a desirable sale for the Bradford House” which the Club did not yet own. Emily Fuller Drew added these details of committee accomplishments:

A large tract of burnt land, land ravaged by fire after fire until its natural goodness was almost spent, was purchased by the Club, thro subscription, and presented to the state for reforestation. Ponds and streams were stocked with fish, the “herring laws” were enforced and the former wealth of the brooks brought back thro the efforts of the Club.



*View of Silver Lake, about 1900.
Lantern slide 338.*