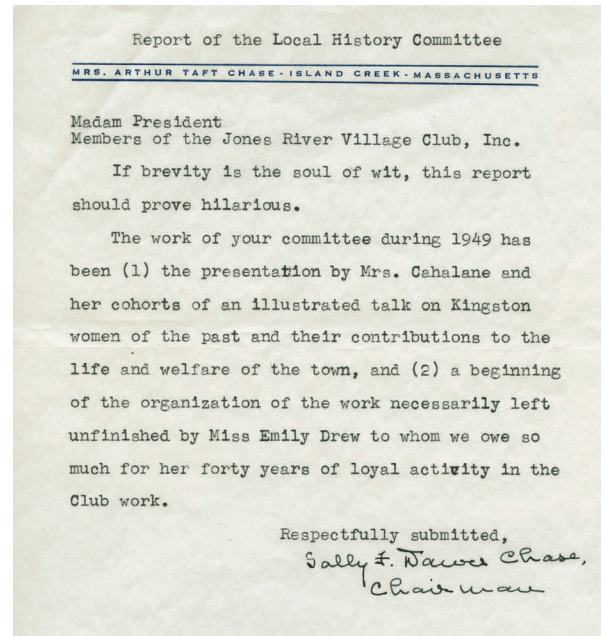


Local History

The final original standing committee concerns Local History. In early meetings, members presented papers on past events and topics in Kingston and the region: shipbuilding, land ownership, Pilgrim settlers, old songs, family genealogies, and town “characters.” The Local History Committee aimed “to increase awareness and a sense of responsibility toward a town of such exceptional historic interest and the preservation of that heritage.” At virtually any time, the members could be called upon to present a paper or perform a vignette illustrating the quaint, the quirky, the solemn, or the industrious of Kingston past. They marked the graves of Revolutionary soldiers, researched the homesteads of the “first-comers” and documented the water-powered industries upon which the Town was founded.



The Committee, and in particular long-serving members and chairs Sarah DeNormandie Bailey, Emily Fuller Drew, and Sally Dawes Chase, ensured the survival of an incredible wealth of historic material, now on deposit in the Local History Room of the Kingston

Public Library. Included in this amazing collection are artwork and prints; books and pamphlets; copied, abstracted and original deeds; correspondence; diaries; ephemera; genealogies; ledgers; and more, stretching back to the 18th century, all related in some way to Kingston. In addition, the Club carefully maintained its own organizational records, and over 40 years ago, inaugurated a close relationship with the public library. In a hand-written addition to the Bradford House Council's annual report for 1966, Local History Committee members are noted to “have been sorting and cataloging papers and records belonging to the JRVC. These will eventually be kept in the special room in the Adams Library.” And though the Library has moved across the street, the papers are kept in a special room, available to anyone interested in Kingston's history.

