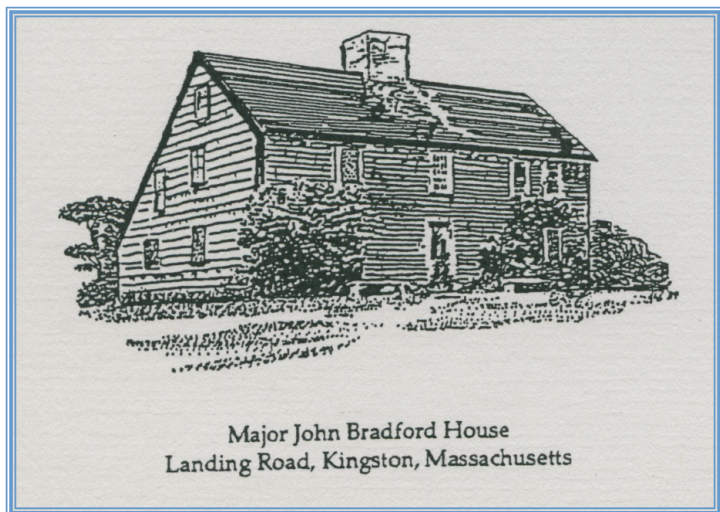


Preface and acknowledgements



We can well say that the roots of our organization go back 100 years for it was a century ago that our Society, as we know it today, was founded when a group of civic-minded, socially responsible and concerned Kingston citizens met and drew up a Constitution and By-Laws for the purpose of organizing a club or society for the advancement of the interests of the town.

And here we are today, well into 2009, with the mission of that early group of founders well intact, with the same educational and social balance. The Jones River Village Historical Society, today, as always, works to collect, preserve and educate the public about the history of the Town of Kingston, makes its collections accessible through exhibition, research assistance and educational programs, and lectures and preserves, protects and maintains the Society's headquarters, the Major John Bradford Homestead. As we mark our Centennial, we can report that we have made significant progress in the advancement of those goals. We can also show that since the acquisition of our historic site headquarters, the Major John Bradford House, and its major restoration at that time, our landmark building has benefited from strong and responsible stewardship. In fact, it is evident that the Society in all of its "lines of work," throughout these 100 years has truly benefited from inspired, dedicated and diligent leadership at every level and that leadership and guidance has helped make the Jones River Village Historical Society the vital organization it is today.

As the Society continues to examine its past and its heritage, a look back over the past 100 years has produced remarkable results in a wide array of themes and subjects. What is even more remarkable is that the traces of those 100 years are extant, printed and visual, as is shown in this publication and exhibition to be on view in the Barn at the Major John Bradford Homestead, an amazing testament to 100 years of activity "for the purpose of advancing the growth, prosperity and welfare of the Town of Kingston, to encourage interest in its history, to promote social intercourse among its members and to establish and maintain a place for meetings."