

Jones River Collection
Bulk dates: 1946 - present
Pamphlet Collection, PC - 23

1 Box (3 linear inches)

Historical Sketch: The Jones River, the second largest river in Plymouth County, was named by or for the Master of the *Mayflower*, Christopher Jones on December 19th, 1620. The English explored the Jones River in 1620 and it was along the Jones River that they discovered evidence of American Indian settlements.

As the English settled along the River, they utilized the American Indian footpaths and stepping-stones, eventually (as the settlement grew) turning the footpaths into cart paths, and establishing a ferry near the mouth of the River in 1636. The first bridge was built in 1639 at the 'old wading place' and in 1684 a path from Plymouth to Duxbury was laid out as "the King's Highway," crossing the River by means of a drawbridge (where the Great Bridge is now today.)

Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth-centuries, the River hosted a number of industries, beginning with a sawmill erected about 1640 / 1650 by the Bradfords' who dammed the River near where the first exploration party turned back. Sawmills, gristmills, fulling mills, and foundries all grew off of the River and became the economic backbone of Kingston.

The River also supported other industries, including fishing, shipping, and shipbuilding. During the Revolutionary War, the brig *Independence* was commissioned and built for the American Navy. After the Revolution, ships were built and sailed from Kingston to ports all over the world.

During the nineteenth-century shipbuilding continued, though many of the mills once surrounding the River's banks closed. During the twentieth-century the River suffered from sewage contamination (from Rocky Nook and other residential areas) and drainage contamination. More than 800 acres of shellfish beds were closed in the late 1980s due to high bacteria counts.

Since the mid 1980s the Jones River Watershed Association has fought for the good of the River. One of their many battles included restricting the Town of Brockton from diverting one of the River's tributaries to use for the Town of Brockton's water supply. Today the work of the JRWA has greatly improved both the River and the Town of Kingston and the Jones River once again prospers.

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Scope and Content: This Collection contains information about the history of and the preservation of the Jones River. Material relating to shipbuilding, mills, and other specific enterprises are not found in this Collection.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	<p><i>Formation of Jones River Parish</i></p> <p><i>Jones His Rivers</i>, prepared for the Mayflower Descendants by Sarah Bailey, November 21, 1947 (6 copies)</p> <p><i>Formation of Jones River Parish and the subsequent incorporation of the Town of Kingston, with the causes thereof</i> (4 copies)</p> <p><i>The Story of Jones River</i>, by Sarah Bailey</p> <p><i>Ancient Ferries, Highways and Bridges</i></p> <p><i>This Hill</i> (Abram's Hill and Jones River)</p> <p>Joanes His River, April 27, 1946 (slide show)</p>
		<p><i>Jones River Watershed Association</i></p>
2		<p>Infostream articles: <i>The Historic Jones</i>, Winter 1999 – 2000 volume 6; <i>The Rivers Connection</i>, Winter 1999 – 2000 volume 6 JRWA Membership form Correspondence: Project STREAM, December 1994 JRWA annual meeting announcements 1995 Jones River Shoreline Survey Newspaper article: <i>Forum discusses the dangers to Silver Lake</i>, <i>Kingston Mariner</i>, June 28, 2002 Newspaper article: <i>Fishing for new members: Jones River Watershed Association hosts annual meeting Sunday</i>, <i>Kingston Mariner</i>, February 1, 2002 Newspaper article: <i>Ron Maribett named chairman of citizen's legislative committee</i>, <i>Kingston Reporter</i>, July 30, 1987 Newspaper article: <i>Jones River's health at risk</i>, <i>Kingston Reporter</i>, September 29, 2005 2005 Annual report</p>
		<p><i>Jones River Marine Ecology Center</i></p>
3		<p>Correspondence: Open House, August 16, 2003 Newspaper article: <i>Future of Jones River</i>, <i>Patriot Ledger</i>, June 9, 2003 Newspaper article: <i>Bringing boats back to the Jones River</i>, <i>Kingston Mariner</i>, August 2003 Newspaper article: <i>Invoking river's past to protect its future</i>, <i>Patriot Ledger</i>, September 2, 2003 Newspaper article: <i>History Surfacing on River: group working to reopen old shipyard</i>, <i>Kingston Reporter</i>, August 4, 2003 Newspaper article: <i>Boatshop awarded MCMA grant</i>, <i>Kingston Reporter</i>, July 14, 2005</p>

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Box and folder List continued...

Newspaper article: *Jones River group offers boat building workshop*,
Kingston Mariner, May 27, 2005

Newspaper article: *Supporters raise funds for Jones River Marine
Ecology Center*, Kingston Mariner, December 9, 2005

Fish ways

- 4 Newspaper article: *A dream finally realized: fish way to be dedicated
Saturday*, Kingston Reporter, June 5, 2003
Newspaper article: *Fish way for a compliment: dedication honors work
of local environmentalists*, Kingston Mariner, June 6, 2003

Miscellaneous

- 5 Newspaper article: *Cleanup brings wildlife back to Kingston estuary*,
Patriot Ledger, May 19, 1996
Newspaper photographs of River
Newspaper article: *Jones River Shipbuilding*, Sunday Herald June 28,
1870
Photocopy of plaque stating naming of River after Christopher Jones

Acquisition: Retrospective.

Access: Unrestricted.

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Processor: Volunteers Dot Ellis and Ruth Ryan processed this Collection under the supervision of Archivist Carrie Elliott, who additionally created the finding aid for this Collection.