



**Elizabeth B. Sampson  
(1868–1958)**

Elizabeth Sampson, known to many as Lizzy, was born in Kingston in 1868, and was the only daughter of Azel Sampson and Julia Hunt Sampson. Her only sibling was a brother, older by five years, Henry. The family was an old family, being related to Gov. Bradford, Captain Myles Standish, and William Brewster among others.

Sampson's father and grandfather ran a general store known as Hunt and Sampson. This store was attached to the Sampson House at 196 Main Street and was run as a general store and post office from 1794 through 1902 (when the store was closed after the death of her father in 1900.) After

Sampson's mother's death in 1904, Lizzy and Henry continued to live in the house at 196 Main Street, taking great care with their home and yard. The famous cement tree stood in the front yard and received much love and care from both the brother and sister. The tree was a sycamore tree that had over the years split in a number of different directions. However the brother and sister had a mason come down from Brockton and regularly patch the trunk of the tree with cement. It is said that 2 ½ tons of cement went into the tree.

Despite the obvious love for the cement tree, Sampson is remembered as a recluse, often not leaving her home for several days at a time. One Kingston resident recalls that she often sat in a rocking chair next to a window – though the window was never opened.

Local townsfolk, as well as other larger deserving causes, knew Sampson for her financial generosity. She was known as a very nice lady and it was recognized that whatever she did for others she did in a quiet way. It is believed that she and her brother inherited money through her mothers' family equaling what today would be approximately \$1 million. Additionally upon the passing of her brother, Sampson inherited what would today equal approximately \$2.25 million. Upon her death Sampson left funds to organizations that included the Evergreen Cemetery Association, the Fresh Air Camp, Children's Hospital in Boston, the Frederic C. Adams Public Library, Jordan Hospital, First Unitarian Parish, and the Town of Kingston.

Her legacy continues today as many town departments and organizations benefit from the Elizabeth B. Sampson fund which is available each year for the purpose of improving our community. In addition, the Conservation Committee in 1963 purchased close to 100 acres of land between South Street and Elm Street and established the Elizabeth B. Sampson Memorial Park in her honor.