



**Joseph Holmes
(1772 - 1863)**

Joseph Holmes, the son of Joseph, was born on his father's farm in Kingston in 1772. This farm, called Egypt, was situated in the northwest part of the town.

Always of a studious and deeply religious mind he entered the College of Rhode Island in Providence, now Brown University, and on graduating in 1797 became a minister, taking charge of a parish on the Cape. A dislike for the parish or finding himself unfitted for this work caused him to give up the ministry and in 1801 he leased a shipyard on the Taunton River near Pratt's Bridge in Bridgewater for the building of vessels.

Here he remained until 1806 when he removed to the Kingston Landing and continued building vessels up to the time of his death, in 1863.

Mr. Holmes was a man of large frame, well over six feet in height, and their ancestry can easily be traced in his descendants today. He lived in the large, square house on the corner of Main and Elm Streets, of the Mill Road, as it was once called, near the Meeting House of the First Congregational Parish. This house was built by his brother Lemuel, in 1797, and bought by him in 1805.

The first Kingston vessel built by Joseph Holmes in 1806 was the ship Lucy (named for his daughter-in-law). On her third voyage the ship Lucy was seized and her cargo condemned. Despite a lengthy fight and suffering a large financial loss, Holmes persevered and became one of Kingston's most successful ship owners and ship builders.

(The above was paraphrased from Jones' *Ships of Kingston*)