



**Ruth Pauline Forbes Chandler
(1894 – 1978)**

Ruth Pauline Forbes Chandler, a local Kingston children's author, was born in New Bedford on July 17, 1894, the daughter of Joseph C. and Alice I. (Reed) Forbes. The widow of George L. Chandler, who passed away in March of 1966, Chandler died on December 29, 1978.

According to an obituary notice that appeared in the January 4, 1979 issue of the *Old Colony Memorial*, "Mrs. Chandler, a retired teacher and principal in the New Bedford school system, was author of several children's books and short stories. She moved to Kingston over 30 years ago from Fairhaven." Chandler resided at 228 Main Street in Kingston.

Chandler was known for her active literary career. The focus of her numerous manuscripts were of children facing difficult problems. This is especially true of *Ladder to The Sky* about a young African-American boy facing adversity. Originally published in 1959 and then later reissued in 1965 during which time most books were published about Caucasian children. As Chandler stated in a letter to a young child "Then came the change in people's thinking and the call for varied racial backgrounds".

One of Chandler's important early influences was Clement C. Maxwell, president of the Bridgewater Normal School (Bridgewater State College). Chandler was frequently called upon for speaking engagements and regularly attended writer's conferences. She donated part of her manuscript collection to the Grummond Collection at the University of Mississippi. It is because of her donations that her association with the collections' founder, Lena Y. de Grummond, continued through the end of her life.

Chandler was active in the local community as well. Her memberships included: the Pembroke Reading Club, communicant of the Kingston First Parish Church, and several other groups in the Church, Jones River Village Club (secretary, 1950-53, 1963), Friends of the Library, Bridgewater Alumnae Association.