



**Sarah DeNormandie Bailey
(1865-1932)**

A charter and very active member of the Jones River Village Club, Bailey was known for her flair for finding the right people for the right projects and served numerous times on the nominating committee for the Club. She was the Club's secretary and had a gift for fluent, graceful writing. She was also always interested and active as a member of the History Committee, and in the early days of the Jones River Village Club she assisted Alexander Holmes in looking up the Colony records; work which in later years aided her to write the *Story of Jones River*. During her years in the First Parish Church, Bailey spent many quiet hours in the Old Burying Ground, gaining knowledge of the old families, and especially of the Pilgrim names, which were to be a permanent interest in her life.

In 1917 she wrote a paper on the Old Burying Ground, a foundation of all later research.

She read and reread the Bradford Journal, and often expressed her admiration for the character of Governor Bradford, "his patience, his courage, and his lofty faith." When, in 1921, the Club was ready to purchase and restore the Bradford House, Bailey became involved whole-heartedly. She wrote the first circular appealing for the funds for the Bradford House, and the first contributions were sent to her. She also wrote many unpublished essays on the history of Kingston, many of which can be found in the Kingston Public Library's Local History Room, and two articles published in the *Old Colony Memorial*.

In 1921, the year the Bradford House opened, Bailey along with Miss Orlande experimented with the profitable use of old looms. The first rag rugs were made from pieces of costumes left over from a previous pageant. Later, Bailey arranged with her cousin Philip DeNormandie for the purchase of mill ends for the rug making, which led to the very profitable sales of Bradford House gingham.

Bailey's standard for the house industries was always very high and her love for the house was not easily overlooked. She was noted for remarking on a great sense of peace, which would overcome her upon entering the Bradford House. Bailey was also known for her co-establishment of Ye Kyng's Towne Sweetes, a successful candy store and tearoom, known as a business that employed women, allowing them the opportunity to work outside of the home.