

Kingston School Collection
Bulk dates: 1835 – 1865

Pamphlet Collection, PC - 12

1 Box (5 linear inches)

Historical Sketch: According to an unpublished manuscript written by Elaine E. Turner in 1956, Kingston's first schoolhouse was erected in 1714 when Kingston was still part of Plymouth's North Precinct. School was then a term that referred to a group of people not a place. Teachers moved from district to district and children, if able, followed. Giles Richard was the first teacher in Kingston and was paid a salary of twenty pounds a year. He taught school for 52 weeks a year, for 13 years, before the Town granted him a week's vacation to "improve for his own advantage in haymaking."

By 1841 five school districts existed in Kingston. District One was Rocky Nook. District Two was Center Primary, Washburn Hall, and Stony Brook. District Three was the Northwest, with a schoolhouse established on the right side of Pembroke Street. District Four and Five contained the Indian Pond (school was at the junction of Elm and South Street) and Wapping Road schools (the first Wapping Road school was near the Banservian house, the second near Anderson's Junkyard). District Six was Stony Brook, the last to be established. After the establishment of the Silver Lake district, the Indian Pond schoolhouse was moved to a lot on the east side of West Street and reopened as the Silver Lake School.

The public school buildings that existed within the town of Kingston include: Indian Pond school (later used at Silver Lake), Wapping Road schoolhouse, the Center primary / Patuxet / Faunce schoolhouse, Rocky Nook schoolhouse, Maple Avenue schoolhouse, Howland's Lane schoolhouse, Stony Brook schoolhouse, Cobb schoolhouse, Northwest schoolhouse, Kingston High School, Kingston Elementary School, Silver Lake Regional High School, and the Silver Lake Regional Junior High School.

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Timeline of the history of Kingston schools:

- 1635 - Bridget Fuller of Rocky Nook teaches the first “pilgrim” school
- 1663 - Plymouth Colony legislature recommends that each town should have a schoolmaster
- 1670 - John Morton teaches in Plymouth

- 1714 - Major John Bradford donates land on the corner of Summer Street and Linden Street for a schoolhouse
- 1716 - 1721 School was held for portions of each year
- 1725 - Town meeting held to decide if Kingston should have one or three schools
- 1782 - Two schoolhouses were built, one at the northwest and one at the southwest part of town

- 1802 - Kingston appropriated \$100.00 to open a girl’s school, one of the very first in New England
- 1805 - Center Primary school built (19 Green Street)
- 1815 - Rev. Parris starts private (boys) academy at 249 Main Street
- 1827 - State law passed mandating free public high schools (based on population and valuation of town) and establishment of town school committees.
- 1839 - First school committee report published
- 1841 - School district in Stony Brook established, Stony Brook built (114 Summer Street)
- 1844 - Faunce school built
- 1844 - Rocky Nook schoolhouse built
- 1844 - Prudential Committee formed
- 1844 - Six school districts were in existence, each with its own schoolhouse
- 1847 - Wylie R. Ellis opens academy (between 214 and 218 Main Street: it burned down in the late 1800s)
- 1866 - Kingston High School built on land bought from Cornelius Bartlett (between 240 and 246 Main Street)
- 1875 - Three-seated covered wagon purchased to take the students of the Wapping schoolhouse back and forth
- 1888 - 382 children attended school in Kingston
- 1888 - Center primary school has an addition added to it
- 1888 - The town pays for their first school superintendent
- 1891 - Two teachers were employed by the town to teach

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- 1895 - Patuxet schoolhouse is built
1899 - Howland's schoolhouse is built (later the Hillside Club)
- 1909 - Maple Avenue schoolhouse is built (first schoolhouse in Kingston to be designed by an architect)
1913 - Cobb schoolhouse is built
1921 - State law passed that minimum age to leave school raised from 15 to 16 years of age
1922 - Kingston's first school (built in 1714) is razed as Summer Street is widened
1925 - 522 children attended school in Kinston
1925 - 1926 High school / junior high school extension is added: Stony Brook, Faunce and Rocky Nook school abandoned
1926 - Silver Lake school sold by town
1926 - 542 students attended Kingston schools (largest population in school district)
1931 - Stony Brook school sold by town (Rocky Nook also sold in 1930s and Faunce school became property of the Grange)
1950 - Elementary school built on First Brook site: Cobb and Howland's Lane school closed
1952 - Silver Lake Regional School district established (fourth in the state)
1955 - Silver Lake Regional High School opened
1957 - Maple Avenue School reopened to house elementary school overflow
1958 - Silver Lake High School reached and exceeded student capacity of 1, 090 students
1959 - Elementary School addition added and Maple Avenue School closed
1960 - Maple Avenue School reopens (again) to house overflow of high school students
1962 - Silver Lake High School "east wing" opens
1962 - High school building is razed at a cost of \$1,075.
1964 - Maple Avenue school opened for Silver Lake High School classes (by 1966, and through 1967, it housed Grade 4 students
1968 - Silver Lake Regional Junior High School built, housing grades 7 and 8

Some of Kingston's early teachers included:

- Giles Richard 1714 – 1759
- Peleg Wadsworth, of Duxbury 1770 –1776
- Mister Esterbrook
- Reverend Martin Parris 1794 – 1815
- Walter Faunce 1859 –1860 (winter school at Indian Pond): 1888 superintendent of schools
- Lucia R. Robbins 1860 - (summer school at Indian Pond): later member of school committee

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- Albert Stetson 14 weeks at Stony Brook
- Mary E. Cobb at Rocky Nook – summer school
- T. Edwin Ruggles
- Clynthia D. Brewster (summer and winter school) Rocky Nook for two sessions
- Catherine D. Russell (Center Primary): later member of school committee
- Lydia B. Ring (northwest) summer session
- William J. Brewster (Northwest) winter session
- Mary S. Cushman (Wapping school) year

Scope and Content: The Collection primarily contains notes written on the history of Kingston’s school system, school building and students. The Collection does not contain any images: please see the image collection finding aid for images of Kingston’s schools. Also see PC-3 Kingston School Publications for yearbooks and publications such as *The Quill*, *The Independence* and *The Memory Chest*.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	<i>Schoolhouses (general) and districts</i> Correspondence: Emily Drew and William Ames, 1927 re: West School district Notes: School district, 1837 Report of school district conditions, 1839 Notes (EFD): Lanternslide notes <i>Kingston Schoolhouses</i> , Elaine E. Turner, 1956 Notes: Early schoolhouses Notes: School of early days Notes: School in Kingston <i>Kingston Schools</i> , Ethel Shiverick’s notes from <i>Civic Progress</i> <i>The Old Brewster Houses</i> , by Ada Brewster Copy of inscription found on interior of door of the 1714 schoolhouse
	2	<i>School Committee Reports and Statistics</i> Report of the School Committee, 1839 School statistics, 1881 –1882 Kingston Schools: Extracts from Town Reports Notes: Kingston Records Book I Notes: Kingston Town Records, Vol. III
	3	<i>Kingston School Teachers</i> Correspondence: Deacon James Foster to young friend, 1871 Notes: Reverend Parris

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Notes: Deacon Foster
Notes: Giles Richard
Petition of appreciation for Miss Burgess

(Box and Folder List continued...)

Evelyn Eustis: eulogy

Kingston's First Schoolhouse, 1714 – 1922

- 4 Notes: Major John Bradford's donation
Notes: Building of schoolhouse

Stony Brook Schoolhouse, 1841 – 1931

- 5 Notes: Stony Brook schoolhouse
Notes: Stony Brook schoolhouse, story of
Notes: Stony Brook schoolhouse, by George A. Bailey, 1918

Faunce Schoolhouse, 1844 – 1930s

- 6 Notes: Faunce schoolhouse, by Ethel Shiverick, 1972
Pamphlet: Re-dedication of Faunce School, 1974
Blueprints of Faunce School, 1972

Kingston High School, 1867 – 1962

- 7 *History of the Kingston High School*, copied from *High School Independent*, 1892
Honor essay: history of High School
Photocopied image of students sitting on steps of high school
Newspaper article: *Class of '04 Members Attend Graduation*
Dance card: Senior dance of 1939
Dance card: Prom 1938
Dance card: 1940
Card / ticket: Graduation exercises for the class of 1939
Kingston School Dedication Exercises 1867, 1955
Kingston High School Commencement Exercise 1893, 1900, 1903, 1908, 1910, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1929, 1945, 1953
Kingston High School letter patch (letter "K")
Kingston High School Budget, 1894
Newspaper articles on razing of high school building
Kingston High School song

Kingston Elementary School, 1950 -

- 8 Newspaper article: *History delivered to doorstep*
Newspaper article: *Ground break, 1998*
Newspaper article: *Kingston kicks off new school construction*
Proposed addition to school, c. 1958

"Other" Kingston Schools

- 9 Notes: Dame school
Newspaper advertisement: Ellis Boys academy, 1861

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Sacred Heart School patch

(Box and Folder List continued...)

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| 10 | <i>Silver Lake Regional High School</i>
Newspaper article: Silver Lake graduates its first class
Souvenir program: Thanksgiving football game, November 27, 1958 (Plymouth High School versus Silver Lake Regional High School)
Newspaper articles covering topics such as mold in school, teacher contracts, student highlights
Graduation program and ticket, 2006 |
| 11 | <i>Kingston High School Alumni Association (1939 – 1941)</i>
Information from Secretary's notebook, including reasons to have an Alumni Associations, class lists (not comprehensive), newspaper articles |
| 12 | <i>Kingston High School Trumpeters and The Eagle</i>
Kingston High School paper: Volume 1, Issues 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 covering year 1931 – 1932. Also copies of <i>The Eagle</i> , November 30, 1933 Volume 1, number 4; February 5, 1934 Volume 1, number 6; March 30, 1934 Volume 1, number 9 |
| 13 | <i>Kingston High School Scrapbook</i>
Scrapbook of Russell Prouty covering Kingston High School, with a focus on sports, 1932 (primarily newspaper articles) |
| 14 | <i>Kingston High School Reunion</i>
Newspaper articles on Kingston High School reunion in 2003 |
| n/a | Record: New England Concert Festival, April 1962 |

Note: Attached to the Collection box is a folder with the 2003 recognition to the teachers of KHS by the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the record of the New England Concert Festival.

Acquisition: Retrospective, from various sources.

Access: Unrestricted.

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Processor: Archivist Carrie Elliott processed and created the finding aid for this Collection.