



**Wylie Ellis
(1818–1896)**

Wylie R. Ellis, son of William and Bridget Richardson Ellis, was born in Newton, MA. September 3, 1818. He attended Williams College at Williamstown, graduating with the class of 1838. For a year or two he taught in Williamstown, but in 1840 went to Sandwich (MA) to take charge of the Wing School. Later he took this school over from its owners Joseph and Mercy Wing (both Quakers.)

In 1842 he married Clarissa Kellogg of Williamstown, and about this same time he decided to remove the school to Kingston where he called it "The Ellis School For Boys." Here until 1880 he educated not only boys from the area

and from other States, but also boys from Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, France, and Spain. Mr. Ellis and his family lived nearly opposite the present Baptist Church, and the school, torn down in 1884, stood in the yard at the rear of the house.

Mr. Ellis was a staunch Unitarian, a member of the Duxbury Masonic Lodge, an active participant in town and public affairs, and at one time superintendent of schools. He had three children with Clarrissa: Clarence Kellogg, John Day, and Clara Isabelle. His granddaughter, Bess Faulner Phinney (in 1948) spoke of him as having been full of wit and humor, a grand storyteller, a good writer and reader of poems, and a man who did considerable public speaking and acting. He was also remembered for being very close to his grandchildren. Mr. Ellis died of paralysis in Kingston, May 9, 1896.