



**Helen Adair Hammond Adams
(1883–1962)**

Helen Adair Hammond Adams born in 1883 to Walter C. Hammond and Eliza A. Chandler, was a lifelong resident of Kingston, and was one of the town's most prominent civic and church leaders. She was a student of local histories and family genealogies and her varied interests, keen eye, and knowledge of antiques allowed her to develop an outstanding personal collection of Americana. Helen Adams was particularly interested in antiques as many were handed down through her husband, Frederic Russell Adams, whose paternal family, were descendants of Governor William Bradford and William Brewster of the Mayflower Company.

Until her death in 1962, Adams was a member of the Jones River Village Club and for a number of years president of the Bradford House Council. She was also a member of

the Woman's Alliance, and the China Club of Boston. She resided with her husband, until his death in 1935, at 31 Summer Street. Adams died in 1962.

Upon her death the Adams estate was auctioned off. It is believed that the existence of the "1812 trunk" which contained papers, correspondences, etc...had been cleaned out of Helen Adams desk and/or secretary. The "1812 trunk" and its contents are now in the Local History Room at the Kingston Public Library. The "1812 trunk" is covered with wallpaper depicting the War of 1812. Inside, the newspaper lining the chest (dated 1812) gives news of the War. The portraits of Deacon George Russell and his wife, Sarah Lewis Thomas Russell, now hanging in the Kingston Public Library Local History Room, once hung in Helen Adams living room.