

PLYMOUTH COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

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ELEVEN ADDITIONS TO PLYMOUTH COUNTY'S NOTABLE LAND RECORD COLLECTION

More than fifty years after Japan surrendered to the Allies, "Kilroy was here" remains an iconic reflection of American culture throughout the world. Etched in famous and unfamiliar locations around the globe during World War II and the decades that followed, a simple cartoon and the phrase "Kilroy was here," became the unintentional phenomenon of James Kilroy, one of Plymouth County's own. Kilroy, his wife Margaret and their children lived in Halifax. As a rate setter for rivets welded in ships built at Quincy's Fore River Shipyard, Kilroy began writing "Kilroy was here" in the areas he inspected. Needless to say, the slogan caught on. The deed to Kirloy's Halifax home and a brief history are proudly displayed in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds' ever-evolving Notable Land Record Collection in the Registry's front foyer at 50 Obery Street in Plymouth.

The Notable Land Record Collection, like Kilroy's cartoon, has clearly caught on. Recent submitters, including title examiners, employees and other fans of Plymouth County history, have highlighted Brockton ties to Thomas Edison, Mattapoisett ties to Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Hingham ties to Major League Hall-of-Famer Michael "King" Kelly and Lakeville ties to baseball giant Ted Williams.

The display often reflects significant places in our collective history, geographical and otherwise. The New Guinea Settlement at Parting Ways, recently submitted by title examiner Marilyn Dupuis, highlights a 1792 grant of 94 acres by the Town of Plymouth to four African-American Revolutionary War veterans. The property, located on Route 80 in West Plymouth, remained occupied by their descendents until 1908 and is occupied today by the graves of the veterans and a marble tablet memorializing the settlement.

Over the past several months, the display has benefited from the addition of submissions related to the Jenney Grist Mill in Plymouth, the Monponsett Inn in Halifax and "The Little Red Schoolhouse" in Brockton. Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr. describes each of these properties as part of the fabric of Plymouth County, each with its unique story and place in the history and culture of the county. Some have a more significant local interest. Bailey's Garage in Abington, for instance, is noted for being a busy but relatively quiet place of business for 364 days of the year, while serving as the

hub of boisterous celebrations of Irish heritage during Abington's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Other properties quite literally have had a hand in events around the world. In 1773, James Briggs built the vessel "Columbia" at Briggs Shipyard in Scituate. "Columbia" became the first American vessel to circumnavigate the globe and would later serve Captain Robert Gray in discovering the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest.

"I know we have barely scratched the surface in terms of discovering evidence of noteworthy people and places in Plymouth County," explained Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr. "This effort, coordinated by a volunteer committee and chaired by title examiner Anthony M. Markella, is a great way to showcase the rich history and heritage of Plymouth County through our land records. We look forward to introducing more and more people to these treasures. We really try to encourage folks to come by, get a look and come up with their own suggestions."

To view the Plymouth County Notable Land Records online, go to www.plymouthdeeds.org.