

**KINGSTON, 1896**  
**Book 726, page 507**

## **FREDERIC C. ADAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Kingston's First Municipal Library**  
**Historic Building Now Known as The Adams Center**

Before 1898, the reading residents of Kingston had only a few options for borrowing books: the Lend-a-Hand Club, an enterprising group of school children, and the Kingston Library Association, a more formal but small group. Just before the 20th century began, however, the town opened its first public library. Initial funding came from the will of Frederic Cook Adams, a civic minded businessman. In 1895, after the death of Adams' last surviving legatee, his bequest was fulfilled when the town voted to accept the gift and build a library. The following year, Adams' nephew Horatio Adams donated land on Summer Street and the town engaged architect Joseph Everett Chandler to design the building. The Frederic C. Adams Public Library opened in 1898. Cost of construction was \$16,000, leaving over \$10,000 of the bequest for books

The Colonial Revival structure housed the Town's library for almost a century, until the population of Kingston simply outgrew it. After the library functions moved out in 1994, the building underwent an award winning restoration. In 2001, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2012, rededicated as The Adams Center, a town building to be used for the benefit of the citizens of Kingston.

**Compliments of Register of Deeds, John R. Buckley, Jr. and**  
**Susan Aprill, Archivist**  
**Kingston Public Library, Local History Room**