



Founder's Day 1991

275 years ago in 1716, John King, his wife and infant son traveled west from Boston on the Old Bay Path looking for a new home. About 80 miles from Boston he found a river valley surrounded by gently rolling hills; the land bordering the river was rich in topsoil while the hills were full of wildlife and the rivers abundant with fish. He built a log cabin for his family and settled down to carve out a future in the wilderness. The area, nestled in the bends of the Quaboag River, became known as the Elbows and later as the Elbow Plantation.

More settlers soon joined the King family farming the land and harnessing the water power to run saw and grist mills. Roads were laid out and the first meeting house was erected at Palmer Center in 1735. In 1752 the settlers petitioned the Governor to become a town with the name of Kingston to honor its first settler. The Governor rejected the town petition and instead made the settlement a District and named it Palmer to honor a recently deceased Scottish relative.

So began the history of Palmer.

Over the next 200 years many thousands of men and women contributed to the development of the community. Some had major roles, others were minor, but all who lived in town helped shape the future and character of Palmer. Although their names may have been forgotten as citizens they live on as street, place, village and building names. Emelius Bond, Elisha Converse, Israel Thorndike, Hall J. Kelley, Timothy Brainard, John Burleigh and Anna Fisherdick Fuller are just a few of the people who left their mark on our town.

Today, 275 years later, it is time for the town to reflect on its past and the citizens who shaped its future. From the first settler to the later citizens of the 19th and 20th centuries, we owe to these people the recognition of their part in forming the community of Palmer as it exists today.

The 1991 Founder's Day celebrations and activities have been planned not only to celebrate our past and its people but also to make our own contributions to the community of Palmer. We urge that all citizens join in the activities through participation and/or contributions. Palmer has had a proud past and faces an exciting future.

Be a part of it!

Schedule of Events

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| April, 1991 | Adopt a Tree program sponsored by the Conservation Commission |
| May, 1991 | Memorial Day Weekend -- Decoration of 18th & 19th Century Veteran's graves. |
| June 15, 1991 | Ice Cream Social -- Memorial Hall 1-4 pm |
| July 7, 1991 | Sunday Afternoon in the Park. Three Rivers Common. Bike, doll carriage and wagon parade for children. Beard growing contest for men. Band concert by the Old Post Road Orchestra. 1 pm |
| August 3, 1991 | Indian Heritage Day. Laviolette Field, Three Rivers.
(Rain date-Sunday, Aug. 4th) |
| Sept. 22, 1991 | Parade
Main Street, Palmer |