

6. Driver, do this: Turn right down Powder Point Avenue and right again down King Caesar Road. Look for: King Caesar House, 120 King Caesar Road.

Explore more! Parking available to your right, in front of the house. Feel free to get out and walk around the museum grounds.

Question: This house was built for Ezra Weston II, also known as King Caesar. Do you know what he was famous for?

Answer: He was a shipbuilder and merchant. His business dominated Duxbury in the early 1800s. Much of the population worked in his shipyards, farms, wharves, mill, ropewalk, or on his ships. His ship, *Hope*, built in 1841 was then New England's largest merchant vessel!

Question: Across King Caesar Road from the house is Bumpus Park. What happened here during the shipbuilding era?

Answer: This park is the remnants of King Caesar's working wharf. Once, it had five buildings on it where smaller Weston vessels were outfitted, loaded, and rigged. It is named after Dr. Hermon Bumpus who owned and restored the property in the early 1900s.



King Caesar House, 1809

Fold along the dotted line

7. Driver, do this: Continue on King Caesar Road to Powder Point Bridge.

Question: Why was this bridge originally constructed?

Answer: A prominent Duxbury family, the Wrights, wanted to develop the beach with 262 houses! However, in 1898, the Portland Gale taught them that houses on the beach would not work out, and Duxbury Beach was preserved. When it was built, this was the longest wooden bridge in the world. After reconstruction in 1986 it lost a few feet and lost the title.

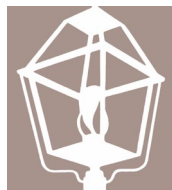
8. Driver, do this: Turn left up Powder Point Avenue, then right onto St. George Street. Turn left at the stoplight onto Tremont Street. Look for the Bradford House Museum, #931, on your left.

Explore more! Parking available in the lot next to the house. Feel free to get out and walk around the museum grounds.

Question: Whose house was this?

Answer: This was the home of Sarah Hickling Bradford and Capt. Gershom Bradford. They raised their four daughters here. After Gershom died, it was owned and operated by his wife and daughters, who had many accomplishments. They were involved in the anti-slavery movement, Maria was an educator who married an abolitionist minister, Elizabeth was a painter and amateur botanist, and Lucia and Charlotte were both Civil War nurses.

Explore more! The Reynolds-Maxwell Garden, King Caesar House and Bradford House are among the more than 30 properties owned and maintained by the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society. To learn more about our organization:



Duxbury Rural & Historical Society

PO Box 2865

Duxbury, MA 02331

www.duxburyhistory.org



Duxbury Rural & Historical Society



*A Driving Tour for Families
Featuring DRHS Properties**

- Mayflower Cemetery
- Old Burying Ground
- Old Shipbuilding District
- Blue Fish River Bridge (Reynolds-Maxwell Garden*)
- King Caesar House*
- Powder Point Bridge
- Bradford House Museum*



Winsor's Wharf (Snug Harbor), 1848

Read the directions to your driver and explain Duxbury's history as you go.

Explore More! There are outdoor signs at the Burying Ground, Nathaniel Winsor, Jr. House, Reynolds-Maxwell Garden (Blue Fish River Bridge), King Caesar House, Bumpus Park, and the Bradford House.

1. Driver, do this: Start at Town Hall, facing Tremont Street

Question: Duxbury is located on Cape Cod Bay, in an area that the native Wampanoags called "Mattakessett." Do you know what this word means?

Answer: Place of many fish.

Question: What landmark is on the right?

Answer: The cemetery is Mayflower Cemetery, here since the 1780s. It is the resting place of sea captains, sailors, ship builders, Civil War Nurses and suffragists. Also buried here is Ruth Wakefield, inventor of the Toll House Cookie!

Field-along the dotted line

2. Driver, do this: Turn right onto Tremont St., then left onto Chestnut St.

Question: When we approach Hall's Corner, there is a cemetery on the left. What is its claim to fame?

Answer: This is the oldest maintained cemetery in the United States! It contains the graves of Captain Myles Standish, who died in 1656, Revolutionary War heroes, and many founders of Duxbury, including some who traveled on the Mayflower.

3. Driver, do this: Turn right onto Washington St.

Question: We are entering a Historic District. What it is called?

Answer: It is the *Old Shipbuilder's Historic District*. In the early 1800s, Duxbury was one of the largest shipbuilding towns in New England. Along Washington Street, St. George Street, and Powder Point Avenue are the homes of Duxbury's shipwrights, sailors, mariners and merchants.



Nathaniel Winsor, Jr. House, 479 Washington Street, built in 1807 in the heart of Duxbury's shipbuilding district. Current Duxbury Rural & Historical Society home offices.



Duxbury Village Postcard, c. 1910

4. Driver, do this: Stay on Washington St. to the Bluefish River Bridge

Explore more! Parking on the right, before the bridge. Carefully cross over the road to visit the Reynolds-Maxwell Garden next to the bridge.

Question: Who earned a nickname after he influenced the town to pay for this bridge?

Answer: Ezra Weston I was nicknamed "King Caesar" in a pamphlet because he angered some tax-payers who were not in favor of the bridge. His son, Ezra II later inherited the nickname. We will learn more about him when we pass his home in a minute.

5. Drive over the bridge, look around, and consider this ...

During Duxbury's shipbuilding era this area of the Blue Fish River had shipyards, wharves, sawpits, mills and warehouses. By 1900, Duxbury Village, as it was known then, was Duxbury's main commercial district. At this location stood livery stables, a garage, a grocery store, a restaurant, a barber shop and more. It was busy! (Picture above.)