



Kingston Historian

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Hurricane Irene: Historic Havoc!

Damage still being uncovered. More on page 2.



D&R Canal and Millstone River flooding from Irene. Portion of photograph by Saed Hindash for *The Star Ledger*. Used with permission.

KHS Annual Meeting, Tuesday, October 4th, 2011. 7:30 pm at the Firehouse.

The Kingston Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting at 7:30 pm Tuesday, October 4th at the Kingston Fire House, 6 Heathcote Brook Road (just off Route 27) in Kingston. After a brief business meeting, there will be an illustrated presentation entitled, "*The Civil War, New Jersey and Kingston*," by Dr. David Martin.

Dr. Martin is extremely well versed in Civil War and Revolutionary War history. The author of over twenty-five books on these topics, he has also written regimental histories of the 14th New Jersey and other units. He was past Commander of the NJ Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and vice president of the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield. Locally he is the head editor of Longstreet House Publishers and a teacher and administrator at the Peddie School, both located in Hightstown.

Come and join us we learn about Kingston and the Civil War. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

The KHS Kingston Civil War Walk and Talk. Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 1:30 pm.

KHS members David Potts and George Luck will lead a walk and talk starting at the Kingston Presbyterian Church parking lot. They will share recently acquired knowledge about Kingston men who served in the Civil War. We will see where some of these men lived, worked and were buried. David is a member of Camp Lincoln and Garfield units of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and will be wearing his Civil War uniform as he points out the burial sites of these Kingston men. On the tour, the houses where we know some of these veterans lived will be noted.

In the Kingston Presbyterian Cemetery, George will supply additional information on these men and the location of some Civil War veteran's graves.



David Potts in his Civil War uniform. He is holding a rifle made by the C&A railroad for the Civil War in Trenton.

Photo: C. Leedom

Kingston Picnic. September 10, 2011.

KHS supports and applauds all the efforts made by those working to make the coming Kingston Picnic a success. We will be at the picnic with information on our October annual meeting and Kingston Walk and Talk. This year our focus is on Kingston men who served in the Civil War.

Irene's Hurricane Damage to Kingston

Business owners and residents are still digging out from water and debris left from the end of August hurricane. Irene caused flooded basements, downed trees and power lines, hours and sometimes days of no power, the worst flooding in memory, and damaged roads in other words, a disaster. As Eno Terra empties out their basement and Verde Co-op recovers from their flooded studios, the KHS is also concerned about the restoration of the Locktender's House and nearby Toll House.



Back of Locktender's House drying out after Irene: note: basement door torn off hinges. Photo: C. Leedom

Gratitude is also due to local and state governments, utility companies, tree and landscaping companies, countless volunteers and homeowners who worked and are still working to recover from this hurricane havoc.

Men of Kingston Served in the Civil War

The 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War let the Kingston Historical Society to learn more about Kingston's veterans who served in the war. Research on those buried in the KPC show that some veterans came from Kingston, while others

lived in the surrounding area or came to Kingston after the war. This parallels the experience of Steven D. Glazer of Cranford, NJ noted in his 2010 book, *Discover Your Community's Civil War Heritage*. This guide describes information sources for learning more about Civil War veterans.

These vets and others are buried in the KPC. John



[Grave: Job Hunt]

Photo: C. Leedom

M. Britton, Allen Colby (lost left foot in shell explosion), Isaac Emmons, Wm. Frazee, William Armstead Gulick (paralyzed in his right arm,) Abram Harris (Seaman), Edward L. Harris (horse stepped on his back), Job Hunt, Nelson Hunt, William L. Johnson, Henderson W. Knowles, Henry S. Lake, William Longstreet, John Middleton Potts, Peter V. Shann (wounded in thigh), Charles Steins, and Charles Van Note. There is not space to include the units in which they served, but information is available on request.

Federal government sources: US Federal Census records, "List of Pensioners on the roll, January 1, 1883" for New Jersey and the 1890 Federal Veterans Census revealed other Civil War veterans living in the Kingston area. These source sometimes included war injuries as noted above.

Some known Kingston Civil War vets not buried in the KPC are Nelson Beaumont (USCT), John Brown, Edward J. Conover, Samuel Flemming, Charles Gerber, Lawrence Henderson, William James, David Johnson, Joseph A. Merrill, John Pendergest, Peter Schenck, Isaac Schapley, George Skirm, William Walters, James R. Williams, Nelson Wyckoff, and Zachary Yates.

USCT stands for "United States Colored Troops." New Jersey did not have colored units. NJ volunteers joined units in New York and Pennsylvania. Most Civil War soldiers were "white," but "colored" men also served and died.

KHS Photo Night, March, 2011

After weeks of preparation, the KHS held a “Photo Night” on March 5th and 6th for the community at the Kingston Firehouse. Hundreds of photographs from the KHS archives provided images of people and places from the past hundred years. Young and old Kingston residents came to this event, noting how people and places they recognized from their past had changed. Nat Clymer photographed pictures people shared for inclusion in the KHS archives. The photos were then returned to their owners.



Byrdy Sincak, Helen Luck, Dorothea Potts. Photo: Anne Zeman

Anne Zeman worked tirelessly to print and arrange these photographs with support from George Luck, Ceil Leedom, Nat Clymer, Tom Jacoby and others. Photographs were arranged by themes such as the Kingston Volunteer Fire Company, the Delaware & Raritan Canal, Princeton Nurseries and the Flemers, local schools, local churches, people, houses, street scenes and other themes.

Anne also created a DVD of some KHS photos that were projected on the firehouse movie screen with the help of Nat Clymer. These scenes from the past writ large were enjoyed by all.

Dr. Greenland, 1628-1695: Kingston First European Resident

Portions of Henry Greenland’s original house are preserved within the Gulick house at 1082 Princeton-Kingston Road¹. Going south, this is the second house on the right past River Road.



August 2011 photo of the Gulick House, Kingston-Princeton Rd.

Photo: C. Leedom

Dr. Henry Greenland was born in England in 1628. He came to Newbury, MA in 1662, leaving his wife and children in England. He came to practice medicine with his friend Dr. Walter Barefoot. They moved to “Piscataqua” now Kittery, Maine from 1666-1672 where they were in and out of legal troubles.

John M. Murrin, Princeton University professor wrote an article on some of Greenland’s activities, calling him a “troublesome character.” Greenland had different political and religious opinions for the times. His humor is noted when he interrupted a tavern owner’s long grace with, “Come, landlord,..light supper, short grace.”²

Dr. Greenland moved to the New Jersey Piscataway settlement in 1672. By 1680 he had become a “Justice at Piscataway.” He and his wife Mary owned property on the north side of the Raritan River in 1684.

In 1693 Greenland was granted a patent for 400 acres of land on the Millstone River (near the future Kingston) in Middlesex County for the accommodation of travelers, “where he now lives and having paid the Indian Purchase.”

Ten years after the Deed separating New Jersey into East and West a different agreement was signed at Greenland’s Kingston house/tavern on January 5, 1686/7. This document concerned the running of the division line between East and West Jersey. The first division line was known as the Keith Line known today as Province Line Road. A later line, surveyed by John Lawrence in 1743, is used to settle legal disputes.

Dr. Greenland and Mary's three children were Francis, Henry, and Mary. Francis married Daniel Brinson. After he died, in 1786, she married John Horner of Princeton. Daughter Mary married Cornelius Longfield. Their daughter, Rachel, married Thomas Lawrence (b, 1689). He created the Longbridge Farm in the 1700s that now comprises much of Monmouth Junction from Stouts Lane to Kingston Lane.

Greenland, although sometimes in legal trouble was a respected and prominent member of the community confirmed by his daughter's marriages.

Sources: 1. *Millstone Valley*. Elizabeth G.C. Menzies. 1969. Rutgers University Press. 2. *Princeton History*, No. 9. 1990. Journal of the Historical Society of Princeton. "A very troublesome person, Princeton's first settler, Dr. Henry Greenland." John M. Murrin.

Newspaper Notes from the past.

1. "Wynkoop & Co. shipped a large quantity of pressed hay to city dealers on January 1 and 2...Nelson Burd Anderson and his excellent wife are sending to their friends and relatives a postcard picture of their beautiful little girl baby, Miss Jessie." *New Brunswick Times*, January 7, 1915.

2. The Kingston grist mill will become the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Pierce of New York. He is a free-lance photographer and actor. His wife is the former Charlotte Johnson of Lake Drive. For the past three years, the mill has been a furniture warehouse for the owner of Nassau Interiors, Leonard LaPlaca. It is one of the oldest grist mills in New Jersey. *Central Post*, May 11, 1961

Kingston Historical Society Officers

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Higgins-Moore House, Open House

George Akers gave public house tours through the courtesy of Onsen for All on June 7, 2011 Working with Michael Sassman, Akers, a restoration craftsman, carefully analyzed and guided the reconstruction of this historic house to its present condition. His detailed comments about the construction of the house over time gave us a better understanding of how and why houses evolve.



The Onsen for All at 4451 Route 27 north of Kingston is located in the house known as the Higgins-Moore House. Recently restored to meet 21st century codes it serves as a reminder of Kingston's past. Jediah Higgins built the core of this house in the early 1700s. It served as a marker on the division line between Somerset and Middlesex Counties in 1714. Over the years it was enlarged and remodeled to fit the style of the times.

Located in Franklin Township, this National Register House received an historic easement to prevent its demolition with the help of Robert von Zumbusch and Anne Zeman of Kingston.

Kingston Historical Society

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Interest in the past, present and future of Kingston is encouraged. Join us in these endeavors. Membership in and support of the Kingston Historical Society is welcomed.

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