

Kingston Historian

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Vol. 10. No. 2

Fall 2015

KHS Annual Meeting Tuesday: November 10, 2015 “Kingston: Crossroads of the Crossroads of the American Revolution”

The Kingston Historical Society’s Annual Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at the Kingston Firehouse meeting room on Heathcote Road. The meeting is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.



After a brief business meeting including election of trustees there will be a program focusing on the Revolutionary War and Kingston. After some background on the

Crossroads of the American Revolution George Luck, our KHS vice-president, will lead us through a video illustrated presentation describing the time Kingston’s history saw George Washington visit the area multiple times from 1776-1783. George Washington - not Luck, in 1776 rode down the main street fleeing the British, in 1777 stopped by after the Battle of Princeton for his “Conference on Horseback,” in 1778 had tea with Mrs. Berrien at Rockingham on his way to the Battle of Monmouth, and in 1783 stayed at Rockingham while the Continental Congress met in Princeton waiting to hear the peace treaty with the British was signed.

Drive by History

George Luck was interviewed on a recent episode of *Drive by History*, a new NJTV program that features NJ historic markers that one can “drive by.”



George talked about the January 3, 1777 “Conference on Horseback” with Ken Magos and Cindy Perman, program hosts, in the Kingston

Presbyterian Cemetery. After this segment, the *Drive by History* team stopped by Rockingham for a chat about George Washington’s stay there. For more information at www.drivebyhistorytv.com.

KHS Holiday Open House

Come to our annual Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting on December 6, 2015 at the Locktender’s House on the D&R Canal State Park from 3:30 to 5:30 pm (tree lighting at 5:00 pm). After the tree-lights go on the Kingston Women’s Chorus is expected to provide music. This even has become a tradition for Kingston. Come, meet KHS members and Kingston residents and enjoy refreshments.



Kingston Locktender’s House

“Gathering of Kingstonians” *George Luck*

In a new KHS program, George Luck will lead gatherings of older residents in recording their memories of living in Kingston. Guests to the first session (to be held on November 6, 2015 at 7 pm at the Kingston Methodist Church) have already been invited, but others can participate in subsequent sessions.

The gatherings will be recorded. The goal of KHS in sponsoring this gathering and others is to record recollections that make up the collective history and memory of the community’s past, both distant and recent. This is especially important in view of the nature of Kingston’s residents who live in one community, but also in three townships and three counties at the same time.

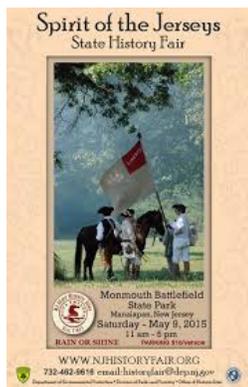
You too, can share memories of your Kingston past. Contact us if you would like to participate in future “gatherings.”

KHS: Part of NJ History Events

The Jersey State History Fair was held at the Monmouth Battlefield, May 9th, 2015.

KHS took the lead in coordinating a display on Kingston with Kingston Greenways Association and Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. Kingston’s rich historic and natural resources were displayed and we were able to engage others in conversations about the village and its environs in spite of intermittent rain.

Kingston organizations were represented by Karen Linder, Ceil Leedom, Robert von Zumbusch, and others.



History Fair Poster

Middlesex County (first annual) History Day was held at New Jersey Olde Towne in Piscataway, Sunday, May 31. Many people came to this event, which was sponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. KHS was there also, with a display about Kingston and to tell visitors about Kingston and its history on a warm, but pleasant day. KHS was represented by Ceil Leedom and Robert von Zumbusch.

Trap Rock Quarry

An exhibit on the nearby Kingston quarry, including an ownership timeline for the quarry dating from 1850 can be seen at the Kingston Locktender’s House on weekends through November, 2015. Once known as Howell’s Quarry it has been substantially enlarged over the years. Since 1966 it has been operated by Trap Rock Industries, Inc. One of KHS’s ongoing displays on local history, it will be held over until spring when the Locktender’s House will again be opened on weekends.

Eno Terra’s “Taste of Place”

This year Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands (FPNL) was a beneficiary of Eno Terra’s annual “Taste of Place” event. Their food was delicious as usual even at this outdoor setting held August 16th on the bank of the D&R Canal – just opposite the Locktender’s House. KHS put up an additional exhibit on the history of the Princeton Nurseries, and the work FPNL is doing to preserve this part of Kingston’s history and Eno Terra’s “One Acre Farm” on the former Princeton Nurseries seedbeds.

Carnegie Lake and its Dam

The well-attended June 2, 2015 KHS Spring



program, held at the Kingston Firehouse, featured Carnegie Lake and its dam, pictured here. Princeton Facilities

engineer, Robert Ortego, gave an informative illustrated talk on the planned Carnegie Lake dam repairs and KHS president, Robert von Zumbusch, gave an equally informative illustrated talk on the history of the Lake and its dam. The Lake, a gift of Andrew Carnegie, was created c.1905 to provide a proper course for Princeton University’s crew, but it also created a major scenic and recreational amenity for the area.

Archives at the Locktender's House

Progress is being made in enumerating materials acquired, by donation or purchase, by KHS. Thanks to the work of KHS members the archives room on the second floor of the Locktender's House has been cleared up and files arranged to better access the many materials, both written and physical that have been collected over the years since the KHS was formed.

News: khsnj.org and Facebook, too

Thanks to KHS webmaster, Doug Miller, KHS has an improved website and a new Facebook page linked to the KHS website. We are proud of these improvements to keep you informed about the Kingston Historical Society. There is more info on the internet - just type "Kingston Historical Society, NJ" into Google and the new KHS website and new **Facebook** page appear, as does a "History of the Village of Kingston" at Kingstongreenways.org. Also, photos of the KHS photo night of March 2011 appear at <http://patch.com/new-jersey/> for South Brunswick with many photos of the KHS displays and people who attended this event. Check it out.

Moor-Potts Library Desk and other Kingston Treasures



KHS didn't want to see this grand piece of Kingston history leave home. It was made and used by local cabinetmaker, John F. Moor, c. 1870. The desk was acquired by the father of the late Dorothea "Jimmie" Potts at an estate auction after Moor's death in 1913; it was subsequently passed on to "Jimmie." KHS

purchased the desk from her estate. The desk is now on display in the Locktender's House.

In addition, a scale said to have been used in a Kingston hay-press, and later used by the Potts family, was also purchased at the Potts estate sale. This scale was made for the Howe Scale Co. by the Brandon Manufacturing Co. between 1869 and



1872. Scales were made in a range of sizes from counter top models to larger ones such as this 42 inch floor scale.

After acquiring these items, KHS trustees have decided to establish a special fund (see Page 4) to enable the acquisition of other historic Kingston items should they become available. As previously noted, most of the KHS collection of artifacts, photos, etc. has been acquired by donation or small purchases.

2015 Kingston Historical Society

Trustees

Thomas Jacoby
Douglas Kiovsky
David Potts
Anne Zeman

Officers

Robert von Zumbusch,
president
George Luck, vice president
Douglas Miller, treasurer
Ceil Leedom, secretary

Contact Information:

Kingston Historical Society

P.O. Box 323
Kingston, New Jersey 08528-0323

Website: www.khsnj.org

Email Address: contact@khsnj.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com

Interest in the past, present and future of Kingston is encouraged. Join us in these endeavors.

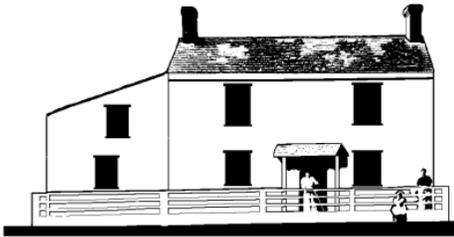
The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) was founded in 1997 as a non-partisan, non-profit [501 (c) (3)] organization to preserve, enhance and promote the history of the village of Kingston. KHS has its headquarters in the circa 1830 Locktender's House at Lock #8 in the D&R Canal State Park, which it helps maintain.

Breaking News:



Just learned that thanks to the D&R Canal Watch a new interpretive sign has replaced the old deteriorated one by the Kingston Locktender's House. The new sign is pictured here.

New, too, is an exterior door in the Locktender's kitchen installed by the D&R Canal State Park.



Kingston Historical Society

P.O. Box 323, Kingston, N.J. 08528-0323

Dear Kingston Historical Society Members and Friends,

The KHS is appealing for your participation in a special *KHS Acquisition Fund* that enhances our ability to purchase items like those described below that occasionally become available. Our goal is to preserve, enhance and promote the history of the village of Kingston. Though space is limited, our collection efforts support these goals for the benefit of all.

With your continued financial support and other resources, the KHS was able to purchase a large library desk built c.1870 by local resident, John F. Moor for his use and later treasured by long-time resident, Jimmie Potts, who recently passed away. Another purchase from the same source was a floor scale, once used at a Kingston hay-press. Also, we recently discovered that John F. Moor was a Kingston Lock Tender in the 1880s.

Sincerely Yours,

The Trustees of the Kingston Historical Society.

▼Tear off this portion to credit your donation to the *KHS Acquisition Fund*. Please return to the Kingston Historical Society in the envelope provided. Donation checks can be made to the "Kingston Historical Society." ▼

Name _____

Address _____