

Kingston Historian

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

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Carnegie Lake and its Dam: Past and Present, 1905-2015.

Robert Ortego will describe upcoming Kingston dam repairs and KHS will provide a review the history of the Lake and its dam on **Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 7:30 pm.**

This KHS presentation will be held at the Kingston Firehouse, on Heathcote Road.



Photograph by Princeton University

Over a hundred years ago Carnegie Lake was created to provide Princeton University's racing crews a more suitable body of water than the D&R Canal, then in operation as a commercial waterway. However, this man-made creation requires man-made maintenance. Mr. Ortego, a Princeton University Facilities engineer, will give an illustrated talk on this summer's planned repairs to the dam at Kingston. In addition, KHS will give a brief presentation on the history of the Lake and its dam. Carnegie Lake has become a treasured community resource for its beauty and recreational opportunities. It has benefited Kingston residents from the time it was created to the present.

Two Events Celebrating Kingston's History!

1. KHS was there, that is at the New Jersey State History Fair on May 9, 2015 at the Monmouth Battlefield in Freehold, NJ. The weather may not have given us the day we expected (it drizzled and was a little cool); nevertheless, people of all ages attended this event celebrating New Jersey's history. Karen Linder (for the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands), Robert von Zumbusch and Ceil Leedom, were there to answer questions about the Kingston Greenways, FPNL and the KHS which coordinated their displays. It was a great time to interact with the many who strolled past our displays celebrating Kingston, Carnegie Lake and the Princeton Nursery, too.

2. You have a chance to join the KHS on Sunday, May 31 at the Middlesex County History Day at East Jersey Olde Town Village at Johnson Park, 1050 River Road, Piscataway from 10 am to 4 pm. This free event will feature historic craft demonstrations, hard-hat tours of the Wagon House and children's games.

Carnegie Lake: How did it get here and why.

A new exhibit will be coming to the Locktender's House on the D&R Canal State Park in Kingston, open on weekends from about 10 am to 6 pm. The display is intended to review the construction of Carnegie Lake, the dam at Kingston and information on the dam repairs planned for this summer. Many of us take Carnegie Lake for granted, but it was not always there. While created for Princeton University crews to practice and race, for most of us it is a beautiful part of the area and makes great photos with the mill.

KHS Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting, 2014.

The annual KHS open house went off quite well. Local residents and township officials dropped by to celebrate another year. Thanks to Tom Jacoby for



getting the lights and for Dave Wells of Robert Wells Tree & Landscape, Inc. who brought a cherry-picker that allowed for the installation of the new lights. Fresh holiday decorations made the rooms come to life. Along with refreshments, the Kingston Women's Chorus, and oohing as the lights on the large ever-green tree were lit - all

made the KHS open house a special memory.

The KHS Website Contact Form is Active and Used

Various information requests have come to the KHS via our website. Inquiries have been made about Peter Van Tilburg for which George Luck gave a personal tour of the Kingston Cemetery. Others have been about the Johnson family and the Higgins Burial grounds on Route 27.

Union Line Hotel, new home of *Town Topics*

The Union Line is the new home of *Town Topics*, previously located on Witherspoon Street in Princeton. Publisher, Lynn Adams Smith comments that this new office site will double their space and have more parking. This 1878 building replaces a previous one destroyed by fire. Remodeled by Carlo and Raoul Momo in 2009, it was recently the home of Tuscan Hills. *Town Topics*, part of the Witherspoon Media Group will continue to maintain its independent voice for the Princeton area.



Kingston News from the Past...

1/12/1911. Skaters nearly lose their lives. Residents of Kingston, John Gulick, 13 years old, Richard Teamer, 35 years old, and Miss Lillian Stout, 15 years old were skating on Carnegie Lake. Gulick skated into a hole in the ice left by dealers harvesting ice and luckily he was able to climb back onto the ice, where he hurried home. Teamer and his sister-in-law were also skating on the Lake and they both skated into a thinly iced hole and they fell it, too. They were soon rescued and hurried home to warm up.

1/16/1909. "Thomas W. Fiske's grocery store was broken into Saturday night...goods were stolen...the schoolhouse was entered the same night...and a box of pencils was taken."

1/16/1909. "George W. Wood, proprietor of the Kingston Poultry Farm, has three thousand White Leghorn fowls and five hundred White Plymouth Rocks..."

1/16/1909. "Kingston property has increased twenty-five per cent, since the completion of Lake Carnegie."

1/16/1909. "Farmers are carting hay to the hay presses. Last summer was unusually dry during the haying period. The result is that very nice, green colored hay was gathered."

1/16/1909. "A branch from the gas mains that run along the Trenton and New Brunswick Pike will be extended to Kingston...Those that have the gas in their houses along the turnpike, is it for lighting and cooking..."

2/16/1912. Ice on Lake Carnegie is 20 inches thick.

Items from the *Trenton Evening Times* courtesy of Genealogy bank.com.

Kingston Historical Society Officers

President – Robert von Zumbusch

Vice-President – George Luck

Treasurer – Tom Jacoby

Secretary – Ceil Leedom

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