



# Kingston Historian

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

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Spring 2016

## **A Kingston Walk and Talk. “Churches of Kingston”**

**Saturday: May 7, 2016 at 1 pm.**

This is a chance to visit and learn about both of Kingston’s churches. George Luck will provide commentary on their history beginning at the Kingston Presbyterian Cemetery. Parking is available in the adjacent Methodist Church parking lot. This walk and talk begins in the Cemetery, followed by a walk to the Kingston Presbyterian Church located on Main Street, Route 27 and returning to the Methodist Church on Church Street. Church members will offer additional insight into each church’s history.

### **The Kingston Presbyterian Church.**

Organized around 1723 its first church building was located in the current cemetery. The present building located on Main Street, near the intersection with Laurel Avenue dates from 1852.

From their beginnings both institutions share in Kingston’s history. They have served generations with their ministry and community involvement.



### **The Methodist Church.**

The church was founded in 1878, inspired by the revivalist preaching of Miss Lizzie Sharp in Rocky Hill. The main church building was completed in 1879.



## **KHS will participate in the NJ State History Fair on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Again, the KHS, Kingston Greenways, and the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands will provide an exhibit and answer questions about their contribution to Kingston at the NJ State History Fair held at the Monmouth Battlefield. Look for the KHS tent with these displays promoting Kingston and its history.

### ***KHS Featured at Meeting of the Kingston Business Partnership.***

On March 1, the KHS was featured at a Business Partnership meeting at Eno Terra. It was a chance for KHS Trustees to meet local business people and share some Kingston’s history. We displayed artifacts, photos of past Kingston businesses, and other information about Kingston’s past. George Luck gave a brief talk on Kingston’s history.

### **Acquisitions Fund**

The Acquisitions Fund has collected several hundred dollars that will aid in the procurement of additional items related to the community’s history.

### ***Kingston Locktender’s House***

The KHS is funding the rehabilitation of the windows. KHS has mounted exhibits in two rooms, one on “Churches of Kingston” includes some old Trenton newspaper articles and more history of these Kingston institutions. The Locktender’s House is open weekends (10 am-6 pm) from April through October. Come visit us.

## ***KHS Holiday Open House***

The KHS annual Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting was held on a mild afternoon, December 6, 2015 at the Locktender's House. Refreshments were available and we were again serenaded by the Kingston Women's Chorus. Attendees appreciated again the delightful holiday decorations created and installed by members to celebrate this Kingston gathering. We especially enjoyed the lettering "Kingston" across the fireplace in the room now containing the 19<sup>th</sup> century Moor-Potts desk acquired by the KHS.

## **More about the Kingston' Churches.**

### **Presbyterian Church.**

From a handout for the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration:

- 1723 – Church organized and log building erected near the Millstone River.
- 1777 – General Washington took Church Street to move his exhausted soldiers to winter camp in his "Conference on Horseback."
- 1792 – Second church building erected after fire destroyed their improved building.
- 1800 – "Rev. Dr. David Comfort begins his 51- year ministry at the Church."
- 1848 – Joseph and Elizabeth Wight are first Missionaries sent from New Brunswick to China.
- 1851 – New Manse located about ¼ mile from Kingston.
- 1852 – "Present main church building completed."
- 1859 – "Spire and bell added to present Church. Pastor Rev. Janeway paid \$600 per year..."
- 1909 – Congregation buys land next to church and builds present Manse completed in 1911.
- 1912 – "Pew rents supplemented with "envelope system."
- 1924 – "Club House" now called "Parish House" built.
- 1956 – "Christian Education Annex dedicated."
- 1992 – New wing dedicated. Contains offices, meeting room, kitchen, expanded fellowship hall.

### **The Kingston Methodist Episcopal Church - now the Kingston United Methodist Church.**

From the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program in 1978.

1878 –Kingston people received a religious awakening at a Rocky Hill meeting with evangelist Lizzie Sharp in February 1878. Miss Sharp came to Kingston in April and held a meeting attended by many. Bro. J.E. Swan was elected president. A lot was soon purchased, ground

broken and building materials obtained. The new church was dedicated on January 30, 1879. (Bro. – Brother)

**1879-1889** – Dr. J. S. Chadwick preached Sunday afternoons and Dr. William M. Moffett in the evening. The church was soon put on a circuit with Rocky Hill and were served by Bro. Swan, Bro. W.M. Ogborn, Rev. Joseph Boyd and Rev. S.M. VanSant, then Rev. John R. Mason and others. In 1887, Bro. William Disbrow walked from Pennington over the weekend and walked back on Mondays.

**1888-1908** – Supplied by Bro. James Perkins, soon the church was fortunate to get Bro. Fergus Dennis who was pastor for 19 years. During that time church debts were retired, its membership increased, and Dennis salary raised.

**1908-1918** – The following served as pastors for about 2 years each: Rev. George Yard, Bro. W.A. Lily, Bro. J.M. Hunt. During this time a lot was purchased and a parsonage was built on Church St. Later, Bro. H. Garrison, Bro. W.W. Moffett, Bro. H.D. West, Rev. T. Ogle, Bro. Henry Gascoyne and Bro. Sam R. Latham served as pastors.

**1921-1924** – The church interior was renovated.

**1929-1941 and 1950-1978** – A new list of ministers served the congregation; one, Rev. Douglas Kersey served from 1968-1972, but most served for one to two years.

Their many members served each of these churches faithfully from generation to generation. They have kept these places in repair and in repose. We celebrate their Kingston history.

### **Contacting the KHS:**

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### **Trustees**

Thomas Jacoby	Douglas Miller, treasurer
Douglas Kiovsy	David Potts
Ceil Leedom, secretary	Robert von Zumbusch,
George Luck, vice-	president
president	Ann Zeman