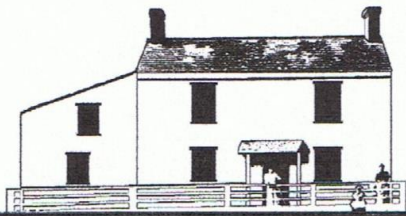


Kingston Historian



Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

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Fall 2022

KHS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING ***7:00 pm Tuesday, December 6th***

The 2022 Kingston Historical Society Annual Meeting will be "hybrid" – in person at the Kingston Firehouse and also virtually by Zoom.

After a very brief business meeting including reports and election of Trustees, there will be an illustrated program: *The D. & R. Canal State Park: Sustaining a Key New Jersey Asset*. The program includes two Powerpoint presentations, one prepared by Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition (MVPC) members and one by the Canal Park Historian of NJ DEP Division of Parks, Forestry and Historic Sites.

The D&R Canal played a significant role in Kingston's history. Today the canal and its State Park is a key part of the Kingston Greenway and a major recreational resource for Kingstonians. KHS's headquarters are in one of the State Park's historic canal houses.

The presentations were originally prepared for a Millstone Valley Scenic Byway Stakeholders meeting. KHS is a partner in the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition, the sponsor of the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway. The Byway includes Laurel Avenue, part of Main Street/ Route 27 and Church Street as well as River Road. The D&R Canal State Park is the core and unifying element of the Byway Corridor. The Corridor is a mix of preserved natural areas, farmland, historic villages (of which Kingston is the most significant), sites and districts and a major recreational resource for Central New Jersey.

The meeting is free and all are welcome; those wishing to attend virtually should request a link at <https://www.khsnj.org/talk/>

KINGSTON'S INNS & TAVERNS **Revised walk now planned for the spring.**



More on P. 2



ANNUAL KINGSTON COMMUNITY ***HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING***

4:30 – 5:30 pm Sunday December 4th



PLEASE JOIN US at the Kingston Lock-tender's House.

We will gather outside in the parking area behind the Lock-tender's House on the D & R Canal at Old Route 27 (Old Lincoln Highway). New Jersey State Park regulations and concern for the health and safety of all still rule out the traditional open house.

Meet KHS members, friends, and neighbors while enjoying holiday refreshments and the choral music



KWC at 2021 Tree Lighting

of the Kingston Women's Chorus (KWC) outdoors. The Tree Lighting will be at 5:00 pm. The Chorus will sing both before the Tree Lighting and then lead the traditional "sing-along" after the Tree Lighting.

Kingston Lock's Other Tree



75 ft Spruce Kingston Lock (D&R #8) Sugar Maple

The 75 ft spruce and its lights will be the focus of attention in December, but in October it's a sugar maple, donated by the Flemer family, which draws attention. The tree was given in honor of the 325th Anniversary of the founding of Kingston which was celebrated in 1999. Now the date for the founding of Kingston is generally thought to be Henry Greenland's settlement in 1683 rather than 1675.



Plaque at the Sugar Maple

Sugar Maple
Acer saccharum var, "Green Mountain"
Donated by the Flemer Family
in honor of the
325th Anniversary of the Village of Kingston
Planted by the Kingston Garden Club and
Kingston Greenways Association
April 24th, 1999

Text of the plaque

"MAIN STREET REFLECTIONS" The Hybrid Talk on June 22nd was very well attended in-person and virtually.



The term "Main Street" is usually referred to as the focal point for shops and socializing, but it also symbolizes life in a small town. Four guest speakers, all longtime residents with close connections to Main Street, discussed memories of days gone by:

- Sharon O'Donnell Hansen, whose family owned and operated the Union Line Hotel.
- George Luck, Jr., former Chief and 50-year member of Kingston Fire Department.
- Theresa Russo, a third generation Kingstonian.
- Bob Brian, Kingston's most popular native son and lifelong resident



THE PANEL FOR MAIN STREET REFLECTIONS
George Luck, Jr., Theresa Russo, Sharon O'Donnell Hansen, and Bob Brian Image by Charles Dieterich

The discussion was illustrated with an array of historical photographs.

KINGSTON'S INNS & TAVERNS Revised walk now planned for the spring.

Due to a medical emergency, it was necessary to shorten George Luck's May 21st walk. We had planned to schedule a complete Inns and Taverns walk this fall; however, recently George received considerable additional information which he would like to incorporate in his walk. A small bit of that information is below under "Archives (p.4). A complete and updated walk will now be held in the spring, probably in May - date, time and details to be determined; check the KHS website www.khsnj.org

We will try to notify all those who attended or expressed in George's walk last May.

Coming Anniversaries

- 2023: Kingston Presbyterian Church – 300th
- 2024: Kingston Volunteer Fire Company – 100th
- 2026: War of the American Revolution – 250th
(Multiple years continuing through 2033)

The Kingston Community Picnic

The end of summer brought the return of a former favorite pastime to the Kingston community – the Kingston Picnic. Sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society (KHS) and the Kingston Village Advisory Committee (KVAC), the BYO picnic was a great way to visit with friends and neighbors, meet new ones, and enjoy the last days of summer sunshine (while allowing for safe social distancing).

Community organizations including the Kingston Volunteer Fire Department, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands, Kingston Greenways, Kingston Presbyterian Church, the Kingston Methodist Church, and the Kingston Women's Chorus set up tables to share information. Music was provided by Phil Orr and Steve Hiltner, members of the Sustainable Jazz Ensemble. At dusk, the movie Kingston: Crossroads to History, a documentary of the history of the Village of Kingston was shown.

After an eight-year hiatus, attendance at the 2022 picnic was more modest than in previous years, but we hope to build on that for next year's event.

If you'd like to be a part of the planning committee next year, please contact us at contact@khsnj.org



A KINGSTON PICNIC c. 1900

SANDWICHES	
Steak Sandwich	Grilled Cheese 20
Potatoes, Lettuce & Tomato 50	Tomato & Lettuce 20
Hot Roast Beef with Potatoes 35	Tuna Fish Salad 25
Ham & Egg 25	Chicken Salad 35
Ham & Cheese 25	Grilled Cheese & Bacon . . 30
Western 25	Ham 15
Hamburger 15	Cheese 15
Fried Egg 15	Liverwurst 15
Cold Roast Beef 15	Sardine 20
	Lettuce, Tomato & Bacon .30

BROOKS MANOR SANDWICH MENU c.1940 ?

The Lock-tender's House

The House has been open to be open to the public, since April, Saturdays and Sundays and also on major holidays through November. The House is now be closed to the public for the winter until April.

The North Room remained closed for repairs, but most of the repairs have been completed; only painting remains. It will be open again in April.



WORKING ON TH NORTH CHIMNEY

We are most grateful to the Canal Society of New Jersey for providing a grant to help restore the north chimney (and flashing) and the damage to the North Room; the work is now complete.

DEP has engaged an architect to prepare bid documents for the relocation of the furnace from the basement, where it has had to be replaced twice due to floods, to the attic. The relocation is expected to be complete sometime in 2023.

We are also working with the State Park Service to have the electrical panel relocated from the basement to the kitchen, to avoid possibility of flood damage.

We are also working with the Park Service and the Canal Society of NJ to work on the toll house. A first priority is the door and the foundations and structure of the floor particularly for the rear addition.



TOLL HOUSE DOOR

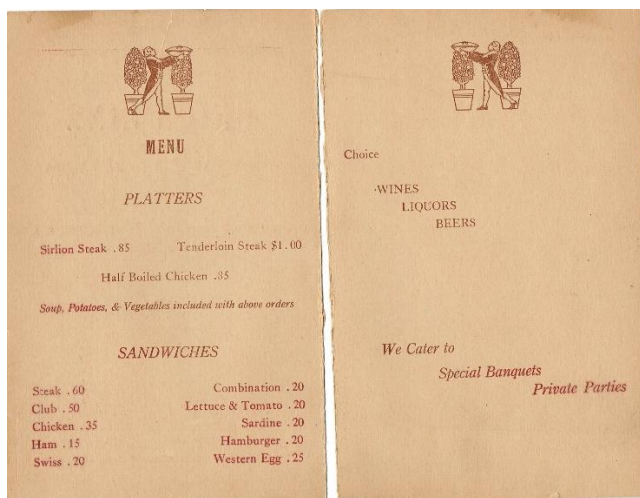


TOLL HOUSE FOUNDATION

The toll house also served as a telegraph station; one of the first uses of commercial telegraph was on the D&R Canal; it was used to catch "speeding" boats and report maintenance problems.

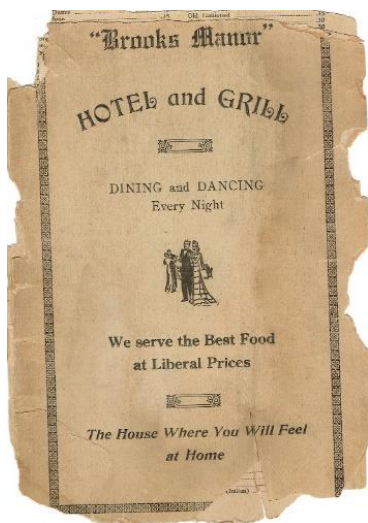
Archives:

We continue our digital archive work. We recently received a great deal of material from Sharon O'Donnell Hansen, whose family ran the Union Line Hotel; the material provides further insight to the late 1930s and early 1940s.



A menu from the Union Line Hotel

There was also material from "Brooks Manor", a rival Hotel and Grill on the opposite (Franklin Township) side of Main Street. After major additions, Brooks Manor" became "Good Time Charley's", then "The Pind". It is now "The Palace of Asia".



A Menu from Brooks Manor

Today one can still see some of the Original building, once a house, that became "Brooks Manor" behind the addition for "Good Time Charley's".



The House of Asia Original House Beyond

KHS welcomes donations of appropriate artifacts related to Kingston

A public repository for KHS archival items relating to Kingston history, <http://archive.khsnj.org>, has been built; already a number of items have been placed in this repository and more are being added.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Kingston Archivist Team forming**
Our archiving has a substantial backlog requiring entry; KHS would welcome careful volunteers to help preserve and catalog items.
- **Kingston Webmasters Roundtable forming**
The web team for khsnj.org and web developers for other Kingston area, volunteer run websites are forming a roundtable group to share ideas and progress.

For details, current status, and how to join either of these teams, visit our groups page at [THIS LINK](#)

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 Thomas Jacoby, *Secretary*
 George Luck, Jr., *Treasurer*
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 Ceil Leedom *Trustee Emeritus*
 David Potts *Trustee Emeritus*

The Kingston Historical Society

The Kingston Historical Society was formed in 1997 as a no-partisan, nonprofit organization to preserve, enhance, and promote the history of the village of Kingston. It is a 501(c) (3) organization.

All with an interest in Kingston and its history are invited to join. For information, see: www.khsnj.org