

Kingston Historical Society Press Release

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Kingston Historical Society Annual Meeting and Illustrated Program

When: 7:30 pm Tuesday November 11th, 2025. The program is free to all and hybrid:

- In-person at the Kingston Firehouse, 8 Heathcote Brook Road, Kingston, NJ 08528
Registration not required. Doors open at 7:15 pm. Light refreshments will be served.
- Virtually, by Zoom: Registration is required; go to <https://khsnj.org/talk> and fill out the registration form. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link and information about joining the meeting.

After a very brief business meeting, **William Krakower**, curator of Princeton Battlefield State Park, will give a two part illustrated program:

- Part 1: *New Jersey's Road to Revolution*
New Jersey has always been a diverse and complicated place, with many people of differing ideas and beliefs. In the increasingly tense years before the outbreak of the rebellion in 1775, New Jersey was alive with activity. Krakower will discuss some of people, places, and events which drew the Jerseys ever closer to a war which would pit neighbor against neighbor.

Part 2: *Commemorating the Revolution at Princeton Battlefield Park*

- Park Historian Krakower will share upcoming improvements to Princeton Battlefield State Park as well as future plans to enhance visitor experience at the Battlefield, during and after the 250th anniversary.

Will Krakower is the Resource Interpretive Specialist at Princeton Battlefield State Park, acting as the chief historian and site manager since 2018. He is a graduate of Rutgers University with a BA and MA in History, with a specialization in Public History. He has spent the last decade working with the New Jersey State Park Service, researching and educating the public about the American Revolution at various sites including Princeton Battlefield, Washington's Crossing, and the Batsto Iron Works. With a wide variety of 18th and 19th century interests, Krakower has written and presented on numerous topics including the history of 18th century firearms, individual histories, and military history in general. A New Jersey native, he takes great pride in promoting New Jersey history.

The program is part of KHS's series on the Multi-Year (2026 – 2033) celebration of the evolution that began with KHS's spring program given by Carrie Fellows of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association. and RevolutionNJ.

Kingston, NJ, site of several important events (from before 1776 through 1783) during the course of the American Revolution, has aptly been called "The Crossroads of the Crossroads" of the Revolution.

Several major routes of march passed through Kingston including the route to Morristown after the Battle of Princeton (the crucial "Conference on Horseback", at which Washington decided to take his tired troops to safety in Morristown rather than take the British stores in Brunswick, was held in the Kingston Presbyterian Cemetery. The route to Monmouth Battlefield passed through Kingston, where and he and his troops rested for a day. During the entire war, the King's Highway (now Route 27) was a major route for troops and supplies. Halfway between New York and Philadelphia, Kingston's inns and taverns were an important stopping place for those traveling between New York and Philadelphia. At the war's end, Rockingham served as Washington's final military headquarters and where he wrote his Farewell Orders to the Armies of the United States.

The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) was formed in 1997 as a non-partisan, nonprofit organization to preserve, enhance, and promote the history of the village of Kingston, New Jersey. It is a 501(c) (3) organization. The Society has its headquarters in the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park's historic Kingston Lock-tender's House which it helps maintain. The House has exhibits on the D&R Canal and Kingston and maps and brochures are available. The House is open weekends and major holidays from April through October from 10 am to 5 pm and in November from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, see the KHS website: www.khsnj.org