

## **KINGSTON: CROSSROADS TO HISTORY**

- 1675 Earliest mention of Kingston found in traveler's journals*
- 1683 Dr. Henry Greenland, one of the earliest settlers, built a house and operated a tavern near the Kingston bridge*
- 1700 Assunpink Trail is cleared and widened for stage travel*
- 1705 A wooden bridge is built over the Millstone River at Kingston*
- 1709 Jedediah Higgins acquires 1000 acres from the Lenni Lenape Tribe. The Higgins House is built sometime before 1714*
- 1723 Original Presbyterian Church built near today's Presbyterian Cemetery location*
- 1738 A stone bridge was built to replace the wooden bridge over the Millstone River*
- 1777 George Washington convenes his famous "conference on horseback" in the Presbyterian Cemetery*
- 1778 George Washington wrote to Lafayette from Kingston, just before the Battle of Monmouth*
- 1804 - Route 1 is built by the Trenton and New Brunswick Turnpike Company. (Originally called The Straight Turnpike, It was operated as a toll road until around 1900)*
- 1830 Delaware & Raritan Canal ground breaking begins in Kingston*
- 1834 Delaware & Raritan Canal officially opened by Governor Vroom*
- 1835 Kingston Locktender's House near Lock Number 8 on the Delaware & Raritan Canal was first occupied by George Allen and family*
- 1852 Presbyterian Church built where it stands today on Main Street*
- 1858 Withington Estate built, now known as Heathcote Farm*
- 1871 Kingston Free School built*
- 1878 Kingston United Methodist Church is established*
- 1888 Old Kingston Mill burns; rebuilt in 1889 and still stands today on the Millstone*
- 1913 The Kingston Town Improvement Association is formed*
- 1920 Kingston Laurel Avenue school built*
- 1924 The Kingston Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 is formed*
- 1966 Current Kingston Post Office is dedicated on Route 27*
- 1973 Kingston First Aid Squad answers its first call*

## **KINGSTON TIMELINE**

## A Brief History of Kingston

*The village of Kingston is mentioned in travelers' accounts as far back as 1675, but the first settler was probably Henry Greenland, who established a tavern on the Millstone River in 1683. In the early 18th century, other families arrived and by 1723, the Presbyterian Church was built in the present site of the cemetery.*

*By 1750, Kingston had a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, and at least two inns for travelers along the "King's Highway". The road between New York and Philadelphia became the most popular route for travel and for delivering the mail. The stage coach lines stopped in town for fresh horses. Van Tilburgh's Inn and the Beehive Inn provided overnight accommodations for travelers.*

*After the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777 during the Revolutionary War, General George Washington held his famous "conference on horseback" in front of the Presbyterian Cemetery to decide whether to lead his tired troops to New Brunswick or in the direction of Rocky Hill to Morristown. The route north brought the bedraggled troops to the river in Rocky Hill and on towards Griggstown.*

*During the 19th century, Kingston became a thriving transportation center. Overland travel on the improved turnpike brought many stages through the village. The Delaware and Raritan Canal was completed in 1834, linking Trenton to New Brunswick, and the Camden and Amboy Railroad was extended through the town in 1839. Town development was rapid in the coming years with a new Presbyterian Church built in 1852, a schoolhouse in 1871, the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1878, the Withington Inn, and a quarry. Commercial development in the village prospered and attracted speculators, immigrants, and small businesses.*

*By the advent of the 20th century, the automobile was replacing other forms of travel and the King's Highway was renamed the Lincoln Highway in 1913. Commerce slowed down as a residential building boom took over. Canal and railroad transportation ceased and the town has now evolved into a rural village. The main street is the historic center of the village and has now become Route 27, which includes South Brunswick Township, Franklin Township, and Princeton Township.*