What's Happening...
at the Kingston Historical Museum

Welcome to the first issue of *"What's Happening"* newsletter from the Kingston Historical Museum. The museum occupies a large complex in the center of town. The main museum building is the Nichols Memorial Library, a lovely stone covered building across Depot Road from the *Down To Earth Garden* Store. The museum also includes the old Kingston fire house, the Grace Daley barn, and a favorite of the kids – the Tramp House. Each of the buildings house different contents of the museum's collection that tell the story of historic Kingston. We hope you will visit us soon!

Items from our collection

Did you know that Native Peoples have been living in the Kingston area for over 7 thousand years? The museum collection has several examples of ancient tools found around Great Pond. At right is an example of a stone axehead found near Great Pond! The groove in the middle of the 'head' is for a wooden handle to be attached. The museum also has stone fishing weights and arrowheads on display. Come learn about these people!
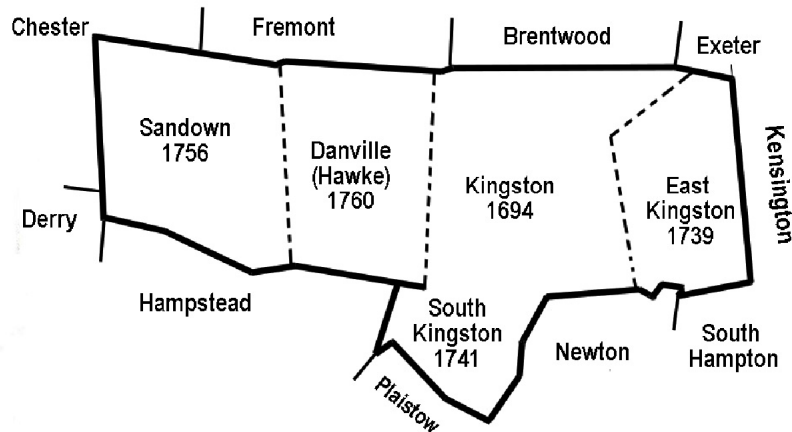

Figure 1: Photo by Walt Roy

Kingston's Founding

Kingston is the sixth oldest town in New Hampshire, its charter was signed in 1694 by England's monarchs, William and Mary. At one time, Kingston was part of the seacoast town of Hampton. You can imagine settlers traveling from Hampton to the interior of New Hampshire in search of fish, timber, turkey, deer and other items to provide the growing needs of the peoples in the seacoast towns.

Kingston's original boundaries included the current towns of Sandown, Danville, and East Kingston. As the populations of these areas of Kingston grew, people wanted to govern themselves and not have to travel to Kingston center to carry out town business. As you can see from the dates included in the map above, East

Kingston separated first in 1739, then Sandown in 1756, then finally Danville in 1760 each becoming separate towns. Every August, when Kingston celebrates its founding, the museum puts on display the original charter of 1694! Stop by the museum to learn about this truly remarkable document and to hear the story about how there's a connection between this priceless document and how it was once stored under a couch!

Newest Museum Activity - Recording Oral Histories

Over the past five years, the museum has put together a collection of local oral histories. These recordings are stories from members of the Kingston community who have agreed to share their memories of what Kingston was like in the past. So far we have over seventy audio and video recordings in our collection. We would like to do more. Perhaps you could lend a hand and volunteer to help us out!

Opportunities to Volunteer

Please consider volunteering at the Museum. There are many areas in which we could use your talents! One or more of these may be of interest to you:

- helping to maintain the collection – writing catalog numbers on the objects
- documenting resources in the collection – preparing data sheets for museum objects
- designing and setting up displays
- answering visitor questions and requests for information
- helping with visitor ancestry questions
- providing historical research assistance
- giving tours of the museum displays
- interviewing, recording, and transcribing oral histories,
  There are many opportunities for you to volunteer. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and have some fun. So far this year, volunteers have given over 940 hours to the museum. If you think you would like to be a part of the history story of Kingston, call us! We'd love to have you join in!

The Kingston Historical Museum
          at the Kingston Historical Museum Complex
          169 Main Street, Kingston, NH 03848

The Museum is open each Wednesday from 9:00 until 12:00 and on the second Saturday of each month, from June through October, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Tours can be arranged on another date. For more information, please call Ruth Albert at 603-642-5508 or email us at <u>museuminfo@kingstonnh.org</u>.