

KINGSBURY, NEW YORK

11 May 1762

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In most cases the birth of a community has some important event associated with it. In the case of the Town of Kingsbury, it was the beginning of the Seven Years War, in the summer of 1755. In late August an officer of the British Royal Regiment of Artillery directed the clearing of a road between the Hudson River and Lake George. It was this road which made it possible for land speculators to visit here, during the next five years.

In 1761 a group of these land speculators approached the Royal government of New York to purchase a township, on the upper Hudson River. The best location was at the bend of the river, where it turns south, where there was also the largest falls on the whole river. On 11 May 1762 a charter was granted for the Township of Kingsbury, under the authority of H. M. King George III. The name of the township comes from a small parish on the western outskirts of London, which still exists as a station on the modern London Underground.

The Town of Kingsbury was surveyed during the autumn of 1762 and Thomas Bradshaw, the first settler, arrived the following year, settling in the north central part of the town. Albert Baker, who settled near the large falls and built the first mill in town, at the falls, followed him, the next year. To do this he built a small wing dam at the top of the falls to operate his new sawmill. Today these falls bear his name, Baker's Falls.

Shortly after Baker arrived in Kingsbury the second miller settled here, John Jones, who built his own sawmill in the northwestern corner of the town, along Halfway Brook. The area around Jones mill became known as Jones' Mill Place. Mr. Jones is the first reported death of a settler in the town; he died in 1772; leaving a widow and seven sons to operate the mill.

The outbreak of the Revolutionary War, in 1775, saw a huge spilt within the town. Many of the inhabitants were Loyalists (Tories), including all of the Jones brothers. At one point the Loyalists forced the Whigs to put out a celebratory fire, that was lighted to commemorate the Battle of Lexington & Concord. After a year or so the Loyalists left their homes hear and moved off to Canada.

Two Major military events took place here during the Revolution. First was the 1777 invasion by the army of Lt. Gen'l John Burgoyne, on it's way to defeat at Saratoga. The second was a smaller British invasion by Maj. Christopher Carleton, on the 11th of October 1780. Local Loyalists help guide this group through the town burning everything in their path except those homes they owned. Three of those home are still standing at the start of the 21st century.

Before the end of the Revolution the town was rebuilt and the unburned homes of the Loyalists were taken over by the returning residents. Albert Baker and Thomas Bradshaw rebuilt their homes and mills. Edward Patten purchased the foreclosed upon land of the Jones family, built his first mill and renamed the settlement as Pattens Mills, which it's still called today.

In Spring, 1781, Charlotte County, of which Kingsbury was part of, was annexed by the Republic of Vermont and remained so until the end of the year, when the Vermont General Assembly gave up their claim. In 1782 the State Of New York officially organized the town, followed by the first official Town Meeting, of which the minutes of that meeting are still in the Town records.

That portion of the town, near Bakers Falls, was incorporated by New York State, as the Village of Sandy Hill, in 1810. That name was used to describe the location as early as 1792. In the 1840's the Village of Sandy Hill was enlarged to the current Village of Hudson Falls, which the name was changed to in 1910.

Since the founding of the town in the 1760's the business of the community has changed a great deal. In the first fifty years there were just a few small mills and everything else was subsistence farming. This was followed for a hundred years of larger farms, mills, logging and several types of mining.

There were two principle types of mines in Kingsbury, limestone and Bluestone. Near the hamlet of Smith's Basin a large lime producing operation was carried out until the 1940's. This lime was shipped out on the Champlain Canal. On the western line of the town, with Warren County, there is another huge mine. The stone from this mine is called Kingsbury Bluestone or Kingsbury Dolomite. This stone was quarried as a building material. Both the Saratoga Battle Monument and the Bennington Battle Monument, along with a part of the Brooklyn Bridge, are made from this stone.

Two things really made the town grow and prosper. In 1823 the opening of the Champlain Canal and ten years later of the Glens Falls Feeder Canal opened the town & village up to the outside world for commerce. This was followed later in the century by the opening of the railroad. Both of these innovations made it affordable to bring in raw materials and ship out finished products.

From the one and two room schools of the 19th & early 20th centuries to the modern educational system of the 21st century the community continues a move forward into a bright future.