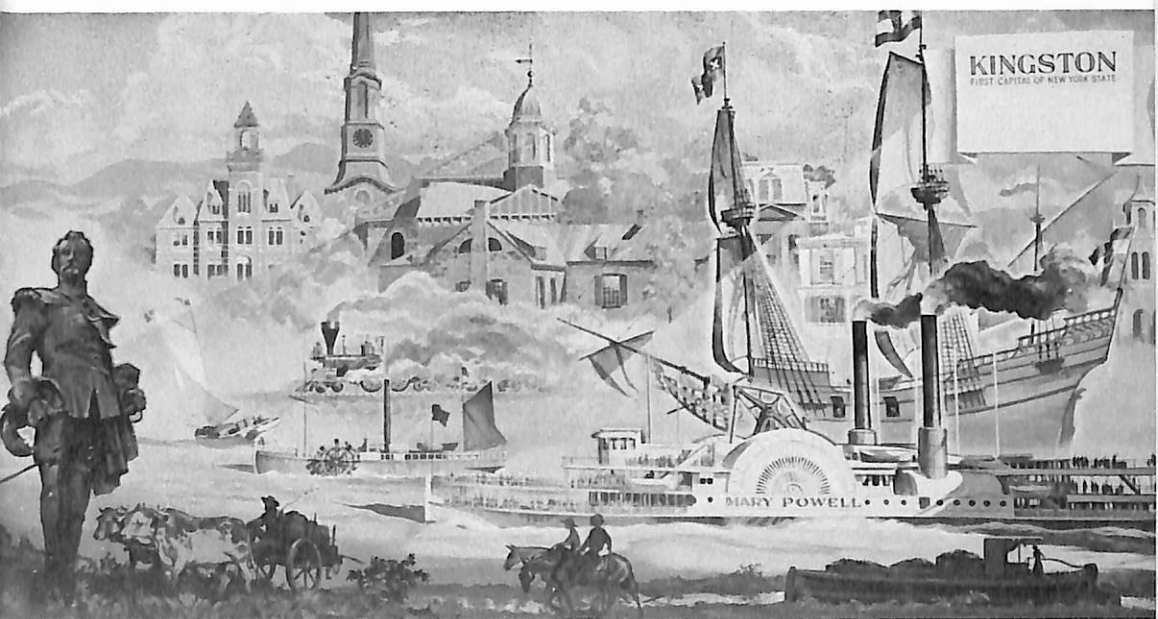


THE HISTORICAL MURAL

KINGSTON SAVINGS BANK

273 Wall Street Kingston, N.Y.



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THE HISTORICAL MURAL

The Kingston Savings Bank mural is an historical montage emphasizing community cultural contributions and the importance as an innovator in transportation, by sail and by steam, on the river and overland, of the mother-city of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Appropriately, in the background are depicted the Catskill Mountains, serene, sturdy and unchangeable, a barrier against a world that might otherwise oftentimes press too close, and surmounted with the unique mountain-formed clouds whose unusual color and luminescence impelled Washington Irving to compose word-poems known worldwide.

Immediately below to the left is the original Kingston City Hall, before its reconstruction after the disastrous fire of June 4th, 1927, as originally architecturally conceived after the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence, Italy.

Flanking to the right is the conspicuous spire of the Old Dutch Church, built in 1852 as the fourth home of the church organized in 1659, in folktale the home of the goblin of Dunderberg.

Next, the cupola of the present Ulster County Courthouse, remodelled in 1818 as a rustic adaptation of the classical architecture of the Federal period, where the first Constitution of the sovereign State of New York was proclaimed and where Ulster County's George Clinton in 1777 was inaugurated as the State's first Governor.

Then, the Senate House, in 1676 built in rural Flemish oldworld style as a private home and reputedly the oldest public building in the country.

Shouldering up to the right is the classical pediment, in native materials, of the County Clerk's office, soon to be replaced with a building of modern design.

Alongside is one of the typically Hudson Valley octagonal houses, now almost disappeared, embellished with sawn sculpture in the style of architecture known as Hudson River Bracketed.

Reminiscent of the days when hemlock tanning and bluestone quarrying were the major industries of the Catskill region adjacent to Kingston, is the severely Gothic office building of the Fitch Brothers bluestone shipping yard on the Rondout Creek.

A Hudson River sloop, a cargo and passenger carrier locally designed to ingeniously take advantage of the Hudson's varying depths and capricious breezes, heels into the wind.

A Civil War era steam locomotive, of the type used on the Wallkill Valley and the Rondout & Oswego Railroads, typifies the pioneering rail network, second on the river's west bank only to the slightly senior Erie, which made Kingston an early railroad junction point.

The Clermont, the world's first practical steamboat, made her epochal first voyage from almost crossriver. Her successors made the Hudson America's busiest and most famed inland waterway of the Pre-Civil-War period.

The beloved Mary Powell, "Queen of the Hudson", with Kingston as her home-port, represented the epitome of steamboat travel in both luxury and speed.

Overshadowing the other River vessels in significance if not size, the seventy-ton pinnacle, the Half Moon, brought Henry Hudson from Amsterdam to the New World, the first man to extensively explore beyond New York Harbor the great river that bears his name. His voyage, in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, established Dutch sovereignty to New Netherland.

In the foreground, the patient pair of oxen yoked to a rude cart was the earliest settlers' prime mover.

The canal-boat plied the Delaware and Hudson Canal, built entirely by the hands of human laborers over mountains for better than a hundred miles with an average of a lock to the mile, and first brought anthracite from Pennsylvania mines, thus revolutionizing steam transportation and manufacturing by substituting a dense, high-heat fuel for wood.

The heroic statue of Henry Hudson, by John Massey Rhynd, stands on Academy Green. The Englishman in the employ of the Dutch opened up a rich New World to the peoples of the Old World.



The Historical Mural is the work of John Pike, Woodstock, N. Y.

John Pike is a member of the National Academy of Design, American Watercolor Society, Salmagundi Club, Society of Illustrators, Woodstock Art Association and Philadelphia Watercolor Club. A wartime combat pilot transferred to the Combat Art Section, Corps of Engineers, Pike recorded World War II and the Korean War in a series of significant historical paintings owned by the War Department in Washington, D. C. Commissioned by the United States Air Force to record Air Force activities in France and Germany; Thule, Greenland; Formosa and Japan; and Ecuador and Columbia, in South America; these paintings hang in the permanent collection of the Air Force Museum at the Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

John Pike heads the watercolor division of the Palm Beach Art Institute in Florida, conducts art schools in Woodstock and Hawaii, and has served for several years on the American Watercolor Society's Awards Committee.



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273 WALL ST., KINGSTON, N.Y.