



**EMPIRE STATE  
POSTAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**APS UNIT 28**

[www.esphs.org](http://www.esphs.org)

Meets twice annually

Membership info: George McGowan

P. O. Box 482, E.Schodack, NY 12063-0483

[geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com), 518-479-4396



**ONCE A VILLAGE — NOW A STATION**

*By Maris Tirums*

Kingston is one of the oldest cities in New York State; only Manhattan and Fort Orange (Albany) were settled earlier. Located in Ulster County on the west side of the Hudson River about midway between New York City and Albany, it was originally settled by Dutch people. Kingston was founded in 1652 although Dutch lived in the area before that year.

At about the same time in 1614, a Dutch trading post was established at Rondout. Rondout was a separate community on the Rondout Creek several miles southeast of Kingston. A steep hill separated the two communities with Rondout being by the Creek which shared its name and Kingston being on the higher ground. As time went by, both towns became larger until there was no empty land between them.

The post office at Kingston was founded on June 12, 1792, and the Rondout post office was established on March 1, 1832. Cancellations from the 19th century are relatively common from both towns as both were prosperous and active areas from which a fair amount of correspondence emanated.

The first illustration is a U.S. postal card Scott No. UX8 postmarked RONDOUT / DEC 7 / 130PM / 1886 / N.Y. with a duplex canceler. The card is addressed to Griffins Corners in Delaware County. The second illustration has an altogether different cancellation which reads KINGSTON, N.Y. / OCT 30 / 130A / 1909 / RONDOUT STATION on a postal card UX19 addressed to Esopus.

On April 30, 1895, the post office at Rondout was discontinued to reflect the annexation of Rondout into Kingston which had occurred 23 years earlier in 1872. Then on January 1, 1898, it was reopened as a station of the Kingston post office. Thus we see cancellations with RONDOUT STATION in the killer bars.