



A Brief History of the Kingsland Manor

The original center hall colonial home was built in the 1760s by James and John Walls. Joseph Kingsland and his wife, Mary Outwater, moved into the Manor in 1796 with seven of their nine children. A tenth child, Benjamin, was born in the Manor in 1800. Joseph was a carpenter and contractor that received a contract from the city of New York to provide wood curbing for the streets of New York City. He purchased the Manor and a lumber mill on the Third River from James and Mary Walls in 1790 to meet the requirements of that contract and spent the next six years making the original farm house livable for his large family. In 1818, Joseph Jr. partnered with his brother-in-law, Peter Morris, to use the sawdust pulp from the lumber mill to manufacture paper. They later partnered with George Mason La Monte in the manufacture of safety paper which protected against forgery of bank checks.

The Manor was owned by the Kingsland's until 1909 when it was sold to Daniel and Katherine McGinnity. "Diamond Dan" was a boxing trainer and promoter who trained his boxers on the Manor grounds. One of his more famous boxers was Robert James "Bob" Fitzsimmons who made boxing history as the sport's first three-division world champion. Fitzsimmons lived in the home for about four years with the McGinnitys. Dan's brother, Joseph Jerome "Iron Man" McGinnity, was a right-handed pitcher who won the 1905 World Series with the New York Giants.

Dan's son, Bernard "Bus" McGinnity, was a cartoonist for the NY American newspaper who helped illustrate the cartoon, *Bringing Up Father*, created by George McManus. "Bus" ran a speakeasy in the basement under the ballroom from the start of prohibition from 1920 until 1933 and as the "Colonial Club" afterwards until his death. His mother, Katherine Agnes McGinnity, ran the Manor as the "Nutley Private Hospital" as a home for recovering alcoholics until she lost the Manor to taxes in 1939.

After more than an additional thirty years used as a private home, the Kingsland Manor fell into disrepair and was considered being razed and turned into more modern homes. Fortunately, during the depression, the Manor had been selected by architects hired by the federal government as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey, H.A.B.S., to be documented as a home of historic value to the community. When a developer approached the Planning Board of Nutley to redevelop the site a member of the board, knowledgeable of the H.A.B.S designation, arranged for the town to purchase the Manor and the land around it with Green Acres funds saving the Manor and Kingsland Park for future generations. The Historic Restoration Trust of Nutley was founded in 1973 and began the restoration of the Manor back to the period when it was owned by Joseph Kingsland and his family.

Be sure to visit our website and Facebook to follow future events and progress on the restoration of the McGinnity Speakeasy.

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