

**PLYMOUTH (KINGSTON), 1672  
PLYMOUTH COLONY RECORDS, DEEDS VOLUME II**

**THE WILLET HOUSE**

**Built by Plymouth Colony Official and First English Mayor of New York City  
One of the Oldest Houses in the County**

**In 1639, Thomas Willet received a grant of land in a part of Plymouth Colony that became Kingston in 1726. Willet had arrived in the New World in 1629 under indenture, but served as the Colony's trade representative in Maine, military commander, selectman, magistrate, representative to the General Court, even Assistant Governor of the Colony. Due to his long standing trading relationships with the Dutch, when the English took over New Amsterdam, he was appointed as first English mayor of New York in 1665.**

**Willet built his Kingston home sometime between 1640 and 1653, when he sold the property to Governor William Bradford and left the Plymouth area for good. In 1747, Bradford heirs sold the house to the Reverend William Rand, who in turn sold it to John Faunce. It remained in the Faunce family into the mid-20th century. Located at 27 Wapping Road, the original house is a 14' x 20' ell now connected to a larger early 18th century saltbox. The Willett House has been called one of the earliest surviving frame houses in the United States; it is most likely the oldest house in Kingston.**

**Compliments of Register of Deeds, John R. Buckley, Jr. and  
Susan Aprill, Archivist  
Kingston Public Library, Local History Room**