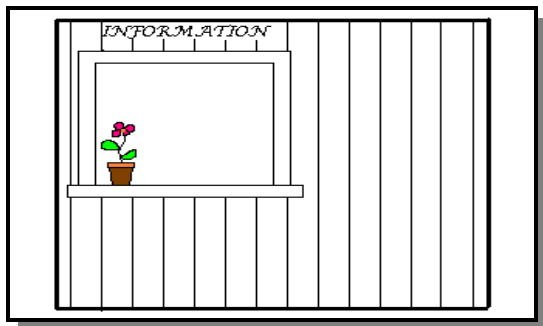


The **INFORMATION WINDOW**
of the
WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY
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February 2006

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FEBRUARY 28 MEETING

Our February 28 Meeting, at 8:00 in the General Purpose Room of the Wantagh Library, will feature a talk on President Lincoln by our own *Lincoln Maven*, Milton Seltzer. Actually, he will describe the five veterans of Lincoln's Civil War who became American Presidents: Grant, Garfield, Hayes, Harrison and McKinley.

We will start with a short business meeting to report on the month's activities, and then adjourn for Mr Seltzer's talk. After the talk, we'll have time for questions and comments, and to enjoy coffee and desserts. If you'd like to help with refreshments, you can call Ellen Cook at (516) 785-0739 (correct number, this month). There's always a need for more cookies, brownies and other good things to eat.

MYRON WALDMAN

We are saddened to report the death of Myron Waldman, a long-time resident of Wantagh, a cartoonist noted for his part in the development of the character, Betty Boop.

He spoke at our Membership Meeting in April of 2002, and impressed all with his personality and humor. He will be missed!

FOR A TAXI, CALL COOK'S

Last month's Information Window had a surprise typo. The phone number listed for Ellen Cook, our *Refreshments Chair*, had its last two digits switched, so those who called Ellen to offer brownies for the refreshment table were connected to the Wantagh Taxi Service instead!

If you saw someone riding by in a taxi with a lap full of brownies, you now know why. Sorry.

IT'S A GIRL!

Our Society President, Jeff Saporito, became the proud father of a daughter, Mary Angelina, on Friday, January 27, with the assistance of his wife, Ann. The baby's name honors Jeff's mother. Both baby and mother are doing well, and Jeff is doing his best to be solicitous, proud and nonchalant all at the same time.

We wish them all well, and look forward to having them show up at our meetings as a family group.

There will be the inevitable changes in their family life, with perhaps even less free time, but it will all settle out in 20 years or so.



Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, February 21: Trustees Meeting in the waiting room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 28: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

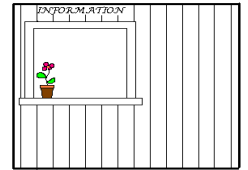
Tuesday, March 21: Trustees Meeting in the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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February 2006



TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____


_____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$6 Family \$12
 Friend \$25 Patron \$50 Fellow \$100


Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society
P O Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE


Check the subscription date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. If your membership is like mine, it you'll see numbers on the top line ending in "06Jan." This means your (and my) membership expired in 2006, in January. No problem, though – it is possible to join or to renew your membership in the Wantagh Preservation Society for the 2006 year. Just select a membership level, fill out the form on this page and mail it with your check. 

MUSEUM CLOSED FOR SEASON

The Wantagh Museum is now closed for the winter. We plan to start our summer schedule on Sunday, April 23, and will be open from 2 to 4 on Sunday afternoons.

We do need more volunteers to host the museum. If you would like to volunteer as a host in the spring, call Claire Reisert at (516) 785-1309, and she will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings. You are invited to submit short articles on items of local historical interest. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

QUAKERS IN WANTAGH

Taken from the Wantagh Congregational Church's "Brief History of Wantagh," and Julian Smith's History of Wantagh.

The original community of Hempstead was made up of Presbyterians and Congregationalists. In about 1657 the first Quakers, facing persecution in Connecticut, appeared. They were not welcome at first but soon were allowed to settle, and about forty years later began to hold meetings. The Friends Meeting House in Wantagh was not built until 1827. It was Capt. Seaman who first scandalized our village by permitting the Quakers to meet in his Puritan home!

Prior to the Civil War the Quakers on Long Island are known to have bought slaves in order to release them, as the Quakers vigorously opposed slavery. According to old records there was an average of three slaves to a typical south shore family. These slaves, upon release, took up residence in that part of Bellmore known as "The Brush" on property given them by the Jackson family. It does not appear that any slaves in our locality gained freedom through Quaker activities, though.

Many members of the old families were Quakers, more properly called Friends. They were a persecuted people. Their meetings had to be secret and were held in private homes, barns and cellars, frequently those of the Jacksons and Seamans. Almost a century was needed before the antagonism toward Quakers subsided sufficiently for them to meet openly and to erect Meeting Houses. In 1827 an interesting item in the old records shows that the Society of Friends, a monthly meeting at Jericho decided to build "a Meeting House in Jerusalem to be 34 feet by 28 feet and 14 posts at a cost of \$965." This is the Quaker Meeting House on Wantagh Avenue. The old building is now part of the plant of the First Baptist Church of Wantagh.

The Quaker Meeting House, like almost every church in the earlier days, had a carriage shed at the rear. It was a long, low structure open at one side so horses and carriages could be driven under and the horses tied to fastenings in the back wall. This sheltered the horses from the sun and heat in summer and from cold and bad weather in winter, for services in those days were not the short, one-hour gatherings we now attend. 