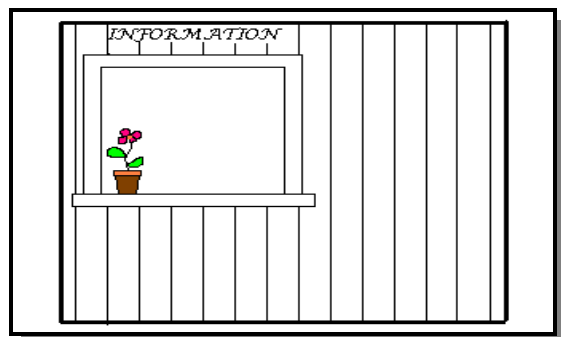


The INFORMATION WINDOW of the WANTAGH PRESERVATION



March 2006

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MARCH 28 MEETING SPECIAL LONG ISLAND VIDEO

Our March 28 meeting will be held in the General Purpose Room of the Wantagh Public Library at 8:00 o'clock. The program will be a video presentation of "Visions of Long Island," prepared by Long Island television station WLIW 21. The video, narrated by Billy Baldwin, features helicopter tours over the Island, with high-quality views of local landmarks and interesting areas that are visible only from the air.

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

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Our Spring Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 13, at the Wantagh Museum on Wantagh Avenue. Applications for vendors are being sent out to all members as well as those who are on our "Vendor Mailing List."

The sale will be open from 10:00 in the morning til 4:00, and there will be the usual fine selection of everything. The Museum kitchen will be open with snacks and light lunch, so everyone in the family can come and take the whole day! 



JULIAN SOREN

We are saddened to report the death of Julian Soren, on March 10. He was the father of our current Trustee and former Society President, Joshua Soren.

Julian Soren (1919 - 2006) had a long and distinguished career with the U. S. Geological Survey, and has been a long-term member of the Wantagh Preservation Society. He will be missed!

The USGS is a government-sponsored multi-disciplinary science organization that focuses on biology, geography, geology, geospatial information, and water




Preservation Society Calendar

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

Tuesday, April 18: Trustees Meeting in the waiting room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, April 25: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

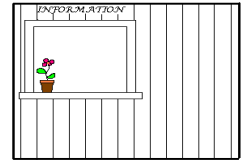
Saturday, May 6: Museum cleanup & preparation for the May 13 Garage Sale, 10:00 A.M. 

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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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 you see numbers on the top line ending in "06Jan." or earlier, this means your 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, although groups may have tours of the museum by special reservation.. 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. 

REFUGEES LEAVE LONG ISLAND

In the Summer of 1776, after the British Lord Howe won the Battle of Long Island, many patriots became refugees, a little like the Iraqis nowadays. As told in the 1976 "Long Island in the American Revolution" by Myron Luke and Robert Venables ...

... Many patriots feared that severe penalties would be imposed by the British upon those who had been active in committee work and similar activities. Certainly those who had signed the association and had urged it on others could not expect to be treated sympathetically by the enemy. Rather than face the anticipated punishment, many families crossed the sound to Connecticut.

Immediately after the battle, the New York Convention recommended that the inhabitants of the island – at the convention's expense – send as many as possible of their women, children, and slaves, along with grain and livestock, over to Connecticut. Various port facilities along the sound were used, and it was reported that the wharves at Sag Harbor were jammed with refugees. As many as 5,000 – about one out of every six Long Island inhabitants – fled, leaving behind their homes, their farms, their businesses, and many of their personal possessions. Most of them would be gone for seven years; Long Island was now enemy territory.

Circumstances were quite different for the loyalists who could now come out of hiding to welcome the smartly disciplined cavalry and infantry of their king. Most loyalists logically assumed that the British victory on Long Island would soon cause a collapse of the opposition to king and parliament. British power on sea and land seemed so tremendous that few could conceive how the army of the Continental Congress could hold out. Flushed with enthusiasm, the loyalists turned on their previous tormentors, the local patriots, with a vengeance. Working with British authorities, loyalists were quick to identify the most vociferous patriots still remaining on the island. Those taken into custody generally had been truly active in the patriot cause, but occasionally a complaint from a loyalist that a person's mere presence in a community was dangerous to the king's interests was a sufficient reason for arrest. 