

INFORMATION WINDOW

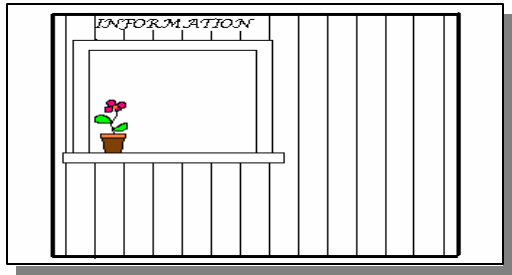
of the

WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY
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FEBRUARY 27 MEETING

Our February 27 meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library at 8:00 o'clock. We will start with a short business meeting and adjourn for the program, a talk by our local enthusiast on Abraham Lincoln, Milton Seltzer. The program will be a talk on a little-known facet of Lincoln's literary skills, the writing and appreciation of poetry. Then we'll all enjoy comments and discussion, coffee and desserts.

If you'd like to help with the refreshments, please call Ellen Cook at (516) 785-0739. 

DUES ARE OVERDUE

Each year we face the unhappy fact that the Society depends on membership dues for its continued existence. Our costs range from restoration and repair of our museum to postage for this newsletter, and many more minor charges, such as telephone service.


To counter our costs, we charge fees for some uses of our Museum, and accept donations and grants where possible, but the main support is the members' dues. We use a graduated dues structure so that anyone can afford the basic *Individual* membership, but those more interested can pay more – up to (or above) the *Fellow* membership. Check out the membership form on page 2, and choose your level.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN, NUMBER 16

Each February the patrons of the Wantagh Public Library and the members of the Wantagh Preservation Society can expect a show-case exhibit and a lecture by Wantagh resident Milton Seltzer on some interesting facet of the life and times of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln.

The Showcase display in the library this month highlights Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Mr. Seltzer's lecture for the Preservation Society is on a little known talent of Lincoln's – the writing and appreciation of poetry. 




Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, February 27: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 20: Trustee Meeting in the Wantagh Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 27: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 22: Beginning of regular museum opening hours, 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. 

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Page 2

February 2007



TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____

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Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$10 Family \$20
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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, or earlier. Just select a membership level, fill out the form on this page and mail it with your check.


Beginning with the February issue of the Information Window, the expiration date will be coded, "Dues paid to Jan 08" for clarity. 

MUSEUM CLOSED FOR WINTER

The Wantagh Museum is closed for the Winter season – group tours of the museum will still be possible by special reservation, though. The Museum and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, will be re-opened in the Spring, on April 22, with Sunday hours from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If you would like to volunteer as a host for an afternoon, 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. 

LUMBER YARD FIRE

Julian Denton Smith (1898 -1974) was an avid Wantagh area historian; in his "History of Wantagh" he describes both High Hill and Wantagh's Big Fire.

The Young Brothers, (Harrison J. and Frank C.) owned the lumber yard at the railroad and Beech Street, the site of the [former] Nassau-Suffolk Lumber and Supply Company. In ... about 1910 both Young families were [staying] on High Hill. One night as they prepared for bed, they watched a bright fire lighting the skies across the bay – they thought in Massapequa. Later in the night they were awakened by voices calling them. David and Jack Fussell had come from Wantagh by a launch, a naphtha launch, to fetch the Youngs, as it was their lumber yard burning.

This was the largest fire Wantagh has had and resulted in a near total loss due to the dryness of the lumber, the start the fire had gained, and the lack of suitable fire-fighting equipment. The horses were saved by covering their heads with blankets and bags and leading them from the barns.

How very well the Fussells knew the water between Wantagh and High Hill for it was an accomplishment to make that bay crossing in the pitch blackness of the night. Boats at that time, carried only oil lanterns for illumination.

High Hill was the name of a group of summer cottages built by several Wantagh and Jerusalem families on the outer beach due south of Seaford. The colony took the name from a distinguishing and formidable sand dune on the ocean front. This high hill still stands and identifies the site of the summer colony midway between parking fields 6 and 9 of Jones Beach State Park. If ever a coming event cast its shadow before, it is Jones Beach State Park previewed by High Hill.

A hint persists that High Hill may have had a religious origin – a colony on the beach for religious meetings. If such were the case, it must have met with considerable competition from the popular camp meetings conducted in the Merrick camp meeting grove and buildings formerly situated to the west of the Mephram High School acreage in North Merrick. Camp Avenue found its name in being the road leading into the camp meeting grounds. 