

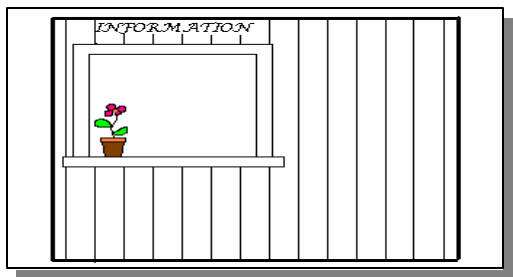
INFORMATION WINDOW

of the
WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY
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MARCH 27 MEETING

Our March 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 then adjourn for our program, a video about the Lighthouses of Long Island. The video gives views and descriptions of the picturesque towers that have guided mariners in the hazardous waters that surround our lovely island. We'll close the meeting with comments and discussion, then coffee and desserts.

If you'd like to help with the refreshments, please call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152. 

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 cover 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.



COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE MAY 5

Yes, the Society will put on its annual Community Garage Sale on Saturday, May 5, from 10:00 to 4:00, with all the wonderful things to tempt you laid out in the unaccustomed Spring air. The flyers for would-be vendors were mailed out on March 20; you may well have received one of those in the mail, too.


The Garage Sale will have all sorts of vendors with all sorts of good Garage-Sale-type things, as well as some crafts and collectibles. There will even be a selection of flats of Spring plants from the Paumanake Garden Club to enhance your gardens and front yards. Just the sort of thing you'd want to get for your mother on Mother's Day (or for your Mother-in-Law). Drop by to shop, have lunch from our Museum Kitchen, and have a ball! 



Preservation Society Calendar

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

Tuesday, April 17: Trustee Meeting in the Wantagh Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, April 24: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M. 

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TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____

_____ ZIP+4 _____


Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$10 Family \$20
 Friend \$30 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, 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 still closed for the Winter season – group tours of the museum will be possible by special reservation, though. The Museum and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, will be re-opened next month, 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. 

JULIAN DENTON SMITH

Julian Denton Smith (8-3-1898 — 2-28-1974) was a local historian with a wide knowledge of Wantagh history, with a knack of writing clear and interesting text. He wrote a local history article in 1939 describing how the early residents of Wantagh got around Long Island. Wantagh was called Jerusalem in the early days, based on the small Quaker settlement situated about where our Southern State Parkway crosses Wantagh Avenue. Here's the part of his history describing transportation in Jerusalem:

A stagecoach route came through Wantagh on Merrick Road. The regular stops were Smith's Tavern – Hempstead-Babylon Turnpike in Merrick, the Half-way House – south side of Merrick Road near Bellmore Avenue in Bellmore, and Jim Smith's Tavern – at the northwest corner of Merrick Road and Seamans Neck Road in Seaford. The Wells homestead stood on the northwest corner of Merrick Road and Wantagh Avenue. Often Jerusalem passengers came down by carriage and waited on Well's front porch for the stagecoach.

The stagecoach routed from Babylon along Merrick Road to the Hempstead – Babylon Turnpike at Merrick, thence to Hempstead where another coach connected for Jamaica and westward to Fulton Ferry in Brooklyn. The coaches made one trip daily in each direction.

Most of the Long Island south shore families owned boats and every fall they would watch for good weather to sail around to New York. They took on a load of coal, tied a barrel of molasses on deck, and stowed new clothes for the boys in a dry spot below decks. The molasses provided sweetness for cooking during the winter and bottom-of-the-barrel sugar for the following spring and summer; white sugar being unknown at that time. Male clothing taxed the sewing ability of the women so it was purchased ready-made on the fall city trip. The term 'high water pants' describes the trousers of the ready-to-wear suits. These were bought to wear several years, the legs being long enough to reach the youngsters' shoes the first year and somewhere between his ankles and knees in their later years of usefulness.