

The  
**INFORMATION  
WINDOW**  
of the  
Wantagh Preservation Society  
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York  
11793

**NEXT MEETING NOV 24**

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November 2009


OFFICERS	
President	Joshua Soren
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Chris Wendt
Recording Secretary	tbd
Corresp. Secretary	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris

TRUSTEES		
Alice Blaustein	Robert Cook	Joan Mallon
Jim Colotti	Theresa Donahue	Claire Reisert
Rita Coffey	Rose Kamins	Jeffrey Saporito
Ellen Cook	Dick MacMillan	Joshua Soren
		Alfred Thomson
		Chris Wendt
		Sue Wendt
		Elaine Yarris

**NOVEMBER 24 MEETING**

The November 24 General Meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, at 8:00 P.M. The meeting will feature a talk by April Earle on obtaining Civil War documents to aid in genealogical research. She will have exhibits of document copies and the resulting data on Civil War soldiers.

After the talk there will be a refreshment period with informal conversation with the speaker.

Following refreshments, there will be a short business meeting for Society members with the installation of trustees and officers of the Society for the coming year. 

**INSTALLATION OF SOCIETY TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**


At October 13 meeting of the Society Trustees, members of the Trustee class of 2014 were elected. They are: Ellen Cook, Dick MacMillan, Jeffrey Saporito, and Thomas Watson.

Officers of the Society were also elected:

President	Thomas Watson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ellen Cook
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Chris Wendt
Corresponding Sec.	Dick MacMillan
Recording Sec.	tbd
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris



**NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Among the officers to be installed at our next meeting is our new President, Tom Watson. Tom was a member back in 1994, and was assigned by his company to a “temporary” job in Switzerland. He is to be re-assigned to a local position this Spring, and was elected president on the basis of his earlier interest in the society, and his recent work in researching and writing the *Historical Sites in Wantagh* brochure that has turned out to be a “best seller” among Wantagh residents and at the Society’s Yard Sales. 




**Preservation Society  
Calendar**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2009:** General Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

**Sunday, December 13, 2009:** Carol Sing on the platform of the Wantagh Museum, 2:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010:** Trustees meeting in the Waiting Room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, January 28, 2010:** General Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M. 

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Addr: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_


E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:	Indiv \$10	Family \$20
Friend \$30	Patron \$50	Fellow \$100


Mail to: Wantagh Preservation Society  
P O Box 132, WANTAGH, NY 11793

MEMBERSHIP DUES

This the last issue of the Information Window for the year 2009 so it seems like a good time to mention that dues for the year 2010 will be due in a month or so. The coupon above is just waiting to be filled out and mailed in to keep your membership current.

What you get for your dues is well worth the effort: an issue of the Information Window with Society news, a calendar of Society events, and a short article on some facet of local history; invitations to Society meetings with interesting local topics; and events like our yard sales and our Carol Sing which is coming up next month. 

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Chair Alice Blaustein reported at October's Trustee Meeting that so far this year 135 members had remembered to pay their dues. She is hopeful that more will be coming in over the next month so that we will have complete membership for the new year. 

The INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings.

It is also available on-line at [www.wantagh.li](http://www.wantagh.li) along with the Society's event program and all sorts of good things connected with Wantagh.


You are invited to submit articles on items of local historical interest. The editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

RAILROAD SERVICE IN WANTAGH

*We think of the Long Island Railroad as the only system serving Long Island, and Wantagh in particular. It didn't start out that way, though. The system began in the early nineteenth century with a battle among railroad investors using the government grant subsidies then available to try to corner the market for a railroad that would reach from New York to Boston! The Southern Railroad was one contender for part of the island line, but by the time its construction was begun, the Connecticut line was completed. Here's the Southern's history:*

The Southern Railroad of Long Island was a railroad company in the U.S. state of New York. Chartered in 1860 and first opened in 1867 as the South Side Railroad, a competitor to the Long Island Rail Road, it was reorganized in 1874 as the Southern Railroad and then leased in 1876 to the LIRR. After a reorganization as the Brooklyn and Montauk Railroad in 1879 (immediately after which it was again leased to the LIRR) it was finally merged with the LIRR in 1889.

The main line of the Southern Railroad is now the Montauk Branch of the LIRR from Long Island City to Jamaica, the Atlantic Branch from Jamaica to Valley Stream, and the Montauk Branch again from Valley Stream to Patchogue. [This is the part that served Wantagh -- or "Ridgewood," as the first station was named.] The Brooklyn and Montauk extended the line to Eastport while leased to the LIRR. The South Side also owned or leased lines that are now the Bushwick Branch and Far Rockaway Branch, as well as the IND Rockaway Line of the New York City Subway from Far Rockaway to Hammels (abandoned beyond Hammels to Rockaway Park) and an abandoned branch from Valley Stream to Hempstead.

*Unfortunately for Southern, engineering advances made it possible to build what is now the New Haven Railroad along the Connecticut shore, and make the competing Long Island railroads unprofitable. This in turn made it possible for the present Long Island Rail Road, ultimately, to become our only rail service provider! *