

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

NEXT MEETING OCT 26

Dated material

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October 2010

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Ellen Cook	Joan Mallon	Thomas Watson	Elaine Yarris
Robert Cook	Claire Reisert		

OCTOBER 26 MEETING


Our October 26 Membership Meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the general purpose room of the Wantagh Public Library. Unfortunately, Ken Leib, who had planned to present his program on the sinking of the General Slocum, suffered a fall, and will not be able to speak at the meeting.

The backup program is based on a DVD, "Uncle Sam, the man and the legend," with narration by Edward R. Murray. "Uncle Sam" was a nickname for the U.S. government, first used during the War of 1812, probably based on the "US" used to mark government property.

The name is also identified with Samuel Wilson of Troy, N.Y. (1766–1854), known as "Uncle Sam Wilson," a supplier of barrels of beef to the army.


After the meeting, our refreshment committee will provide coffee and other good things; if you'd like to help with donations of cookies or cake, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152. 


NEW DISPLAYS IN THE MUSEUM

Our Display Committee has spruced up the Waiting Room of the Museum, with new self-explaining exhibits and a few new artifacts. If you have any ideas about displays or exhibits, please let someone in the Display Committee know; we need all the help we can muster. 

AUTUMN YARD SALE

Our September 25 Autumn Yard Sale went off without a hitch; the weather was great, and we had lots of both vendors and guests. A new arrangement in which all vendors kept their cars with them on the campus worked well, with street parking a lot easier for the guests – and our neighbors, too.

For the first time, the interior of the original Wantagh Post Office was available for inspection. The interior is still pretty bare, but the original 2x4 studs, with actual 2" by 4" dimensions were quite visible. 




**Preservation Society
Calendar**

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

Tuesday, October 26, 2010: Membership Meeting in the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 9, 2010: Trustees meeting in the Waiting Room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 23, 2010: Membership meeting in the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M. 

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Addr: _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ New Renew

E-mail _____

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

I'd like to help with: Gardening and planting
 General Meeting planning Publication and newsletter
 Special Event planning Publicity
 Construction Hosting museum on a Sunday
 Restoration Other _____

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

ST. JOHN of JERUSALEM

The most recent of Wantagh's cemeteries is that of St. John of Jerusalem, on Wantagh Avenue.

In the mid-1800's some of the German settlers of the hamlet of Jerusalem (now Wantagh) felt the need for a German church of their own. At their request the *Washington Street German Methodist-Episcopal Church* in New York City sent the Rev. George Able as the first German missionary of the new church.


Religious services were held in the homes of the German-speaking resident's homes and, in 1856, the Town of Hempstead gave a one-acre plot to the mission for a church and cemetery. This was the origin of the present *St. John of Jerusalem Church and Cemetery*, located on the west side of Wantagh Avenue about one-half mile north of North Jerusalem Road. A shell of the church building was initially erected in 1856, and the interior finishing was done as funds became available.

In December of 1862, the cemetery grounds around the church were laid out in 40 lots of 8 graves each. Initially, lot cost only \$5! The first burial was Frederick Doscher, born December 9, 1814, and died in September, 1862.


As the twentieth century progressed, and the younger generation became less willing to accept services in German; the congregation grew smaller and smaller. The last entry in the church record is dated August 1, 1912.

The church building remained unused until 1926, when the local Lutherans used it as a Lutheran mission church, under the guidance of Pastor Miller of Freeport. Their first service was held on Thanksgiving day, 1926. Then in 1940 the Lutherans moved into their own new church building on Hyland Road (now Church Road) in Wantagh.


The church was again idle until 1949 when the United Christian group obtained permission to use it. This congregation prospered for some years, but closed in 1969. The cemetery itself had been incorporated in 1939, and is now maintained by its Board of Trustees. Burials are still being made by those who bought plots during the active years.

The church building still stands, and may some day again become home to a new congregation. 

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We're always ready to accept your new membership or renewal. When you fill out the form, be sure to include your e-mail address, so we can send you your e-copy of the Information Window ahead of the "snail mail" version ... and 'X' any of the "I'd like to help" boxes that match your style. 

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

After a late start this year, memberships are coming in at a record level. We hope that each of our current members will reach out to neighbors and invite them to join as well. 

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 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, at (516) 785-3951, or e-mail at rvmacm@aol.com. 