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Wantagh Preservation Society

2012 August/September

The Information Window



Harmoniously Successful Outdoor Concert


Earlier this summer on a sunny July afternoon (July 22 to be exact) Wantagh residents were treated to an outdoor concert on the museum grounds, courtesy of the Friends of the Wantagh Public Library and the Wantagh Preservation Society. The Harmonizers, a Barbershop Chorus, crooned Wantagh with a wide range of melodies.

The Long Island Harmonizers are a group of about 40 men who sing in four part "a capella" harmony. Their performance, sung in traditional barbershop harmonies, ranged from old favorites such as "Let Me Call

You Sweetheart" and soul-stirring renditions of cherished patriotic music including "God Bless America" and an "Armed Forces Medley". More "recent" compositions were also performed including "Cabaret" arranged in a distinctive barbershop style, "King of the Road" and of course "Under the Boardwalk", a fitting tune for our hamlet's epithet; the gateway to Jones Beach.

Devoted members of The Harmonizers come from all walks of life in the Long Island community and some have been singing barbershop for almost their entire adult lives. "If you like to sing, we are the group you've been looking for" notes Jon Ayers, current president of The Harmonizers.

Their joy and camaraderie became apparent very early in the performance, as listeners got caught up in the pleasures of the music. Many in the audience could not resist singing along - but that's something The Harmonizers encourage - as part of the presentation that combines music, nostalgia and a touch of humor.

Following the concert complimentary refreshments were served and the museum was open for visiting. 



Scan or click QR code for
Fall Yard Sale vendor info



Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum, 2012 September 11, 7:35 PM - 9:35 PM
- ◆ Fall Yard Sale at the Wantagh Museum, 2012 October 13, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
admission for shoppers is free - rain date Oct 14 - scan or click QR code for vendor info
- ◆ General Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 2012 October 23, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Presentation: "The Camp Grounds" by Lawrence Garfinkel, President of Merrick Historical Society, admission is free
- ◆ Remember that the Wantagh Museum is open on Sundays from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, admission is free

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

museum.wantagh.li

Wantagh Preservation Society

Officers

President: Chris Wendt
1st Vice President: Bob Meagher
2nd Vice President: Bob Cook
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson
Corresponding Secretary: Elaine Yarris
Treasurer: Wayne Wagner
Curator: Carol Poulos

Trustees

Karen Chowske
Jim Colotti
Ellen Cook
Joan Mallon
Carol Poulos
Claire Reisert
Joshua Soren
Mary Wagner
Wayne Wagner
Elaine Yarris

The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Dick MacMillan & Jim Colotti
Newsletter Editors
wps@wantagh.li

Indian Arrowhead Donation



The Wantagh Preservation Society would like to thank Ellen Cook for her kind donation of Indian Arrowheads which were found in Wantagh by Thomas F. McGee, Jr. These artifacts are now on display at the Wantagh Museum.

Donations like these are important, because it helps the WPS preserve Wantagh's rich history. Please contact our curator Carol Poulos maxoid@optonline.net if you have items you wish to donate. 📖

*The Museum
is now open!*



*stop by and see our
newly renovated
exhibits!*

A How-To Guide to Landmarking

Two basic principals apply for filing a successful Application for Landmark Designation with the Town of Hempstead Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). First, whenever possible, utilize Nassau County records and documents as supporting evidence to confirm the statements contained in your organization's application. Both the LPC and the Town of Hempstead Town Board have accepted the legal principal that Nassau County records and documents supersede Town of Hempstead records and documents, supersede deeds, and supersede surveys. Secondly, avoid simply writing oral history on your application form. Attach multiple supporting documents which substantiate your information.



To illustrate the process, the Wantagh Preservation Society's (WPS) Application for Landmark Designation of the 1744 Jackson Cemetery is examined. The entire 19 page application can be viewed by clicking or scanning the QR code to the left. A page-by-page description is provided to explain the entire application.

(Continued on page 4)

LPC Recommends Approval of Landmark Designation for Jackson Cemetery

At its June 19 public hearing, the Town of Hempstead Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) unanimously approved a resolution recommending that the Town Board formally approve the Wantagh Preservation Society's "Application for Landmark Designation" for Wantagh's Jackson Cemetery. The WPS application was presented at a public hearing and was supported by the testimony of Mary Wagner and documentation from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a letter from the pastor of St. Frances de Chantal parish, and numerous historical documents attesting to the significance of the cemetery to our local history.

Established in 1744, the cemetery contains the confirmed graves of 63 descendants of Robert Jackson. He, along with Captain John Seaman, traveled from Stamford, Connecticut and founded Wantagh. In mid-December of 1643, they purchased the area now known as Wantagh from local Native American tribes. This land purchase was legally recorded in the Indian Deed of 1643, according to former Hempstead Town Historian Dr. Myron H. Luke, writing in Hempstead Town in Colonial Times.

According to Cemeteries of Old Wantagh, two veterans are confirmed as being buried in the Jackson Cemetery. One is Thomas Jackson (1754 December 24 - 1842 November 23), who served in the Continental Army's 4th Line and 2nd New York Regiments during the American Revolution. The other veteran is US Army Brigadier General Jacob Seaman Jackson (1763 May 22 - 1829 January 28), who served during the War of 1812.

A special thanks to Chris Wendt, Mary & Wayne Wagner, and Claire (Cookie) Reisert for their work on this project. 📖



Wantagh Preservation Society members march in the Independence Day Parade. From the left are Carol Poulos (curator), Claire Reisert (trustee), Chris Wendt (president), and Jeff Sapporito (longtime member and past president) with his daughter Mary.

Wantagh Subdivision Denied

In July, the Town of Hempstead Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously denied the variances sought by DAO Realty Corp. (Cases 1445 & 1446) and Askco Development Corp. (Case 1447). The developers sought variances to build three homes behind two existing homes on a cleared parcel adjacent to the southern property line of the Wantagh Museum grounds. Since no road access was available for these proposed dwellings, the plans included the installation of an extended driveway 25' wide and over 200' in length. 📖



**Be a part of the
Wantagh Preservation Society!**
Join your friends and neighbors.
Scan or click the QR code or fill
out the coupon below.

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership!

Name: _____
Street: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ New ☐ Renew ☐
Email: _____

I'd like to help with:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Check Membership Level: ☐ Individual \$10 ☐ Family \$20 ☐ Friend \$30 ☐ Patron \$50 ☐ Fellow \$100

Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793

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- ◆ Page 1: Application form - Most of the questions on the Application Form are self-explanatory. Always obtain a receipted copy of your application page documenting the date that it was submitted to the Town, and the signature of the person who received it. Print clearly using black ink. Reduce the 8.5" x 14" form to 8.5" by 11" for distribution purposes, and make multiple copies of the document.
- ◆ Page 2: Photo of on-site evidence of historical significance: ToH 1976 sign citing the historical significance of the cemetery.
- ◆ Page 3: Photo of on-site evidence of historical significance: Headstone of Revolutionary War veteran Thomas Jackson and a Daughters of the American Revolution plaque identifying him as a Revolutionary War soldier.
- ◆ Page 4: Cover page of the 1976 pamphlet *Cemeteries of Old Wantagh*, documenting historically relevant information pertaining to the Jackson Cemetery.
- ◆ Page 5: Text page no. 4 of *Cemeteries of Old Wantagh*: confirming that Thomas Jackson's burial site is the authenticated grave of a Revolutionary War soldier, the units of the Continental Army in which he served, the battles in which he fought, his years of birth and death, and the area of Wantagh where he lived.
- ◆ Page 6: Text page no. 5 of *Cemeteries of Old Wantagh*: identifying the cemetery as the burial site of War of 1812 veteran Brigadier General Jacob Seaman Jackson.
- ◆ Page 7: Text page no. 13 of *Cemeteries of Old Wantagh*: the first of two pages containing information compiled from the site's headstones in 1929 and updated in 1975, identifying some of the 63 people buried in the cemetery, including Revolutionary War veteran Thomas Jackson and War of 1812 veteran Brigadier General Jacob Seaman Jackson.
- ◆ Page 8: Text page no. 14 of *Cemeteries of Old Wantagh*, the second of two pages listing information compiled from the site's headstones in 1929 and updated in 1975, of the remaining people proven to be buried in the cemetery.
- ◆ Page 9: Cover page of the 1975 pamphlet: and they named it Jerusalem.
- ◆ Page 10: Text page of the booklet: ...and they named it Jerusalem: stating that the Jackson family has "...maintained and protected..." the cemetery since 1744. It cites as its source: *A History of Long Island* by William S. Pelletreau.
- ◆ Page 11: Page 1 of the Nassau County Assessment Record document identifying the cemetery as Section 57, Block A, Lot 50.
- ◆ Page 12: Page 2 of the above Nassau County Assessment Record.
- ◆ Page 13: Information printed on the Nassau County, Department of Assessment, Land and Tax Map, confirming that the following map (shown as page 14) is that of Section 57, Block A, as a Town of Hempstead approved substitute for the LPC required survey of the applicant cemetery site.
- ◆ Page 14: An enlargement of the portion of the above cited (page 13) Nassau County, Department of Assessment, Land and Tax Map, documenting the location and the dimensions of the exterior boundaries of the Jackson Cemetery, a/k/a Section 57, Block A, Lot 50.
- ◆ Page 15: This is a Notice of Tentative Assessed Value from the Nassau County Department of Assessment, which identifies the address of the owner of the Jackson Cemetery, a/k/a Section 57, Block A, Lot 50, as 350 Front Street, Hempstead, NY 11550. This is the identical address listed on "The Official Web Site of the Town of Hempstead", under "Town of Hempstead/Building & Zoning/Landmarks Preservation", as the site of the Landmarks Preservation Commission's meetings "...in the Old Courtroom at Hempstead Town Hall..." This document confirms that the Town of Hempstead owns the Jackson Cemetery.
- ◆ Page 16: This is the first of four supplied Landmarks Preservation Commission required "...8" x 10" photos of the subject site." The photograph, showing left front section of the Jackson Cemetery, as viewed from Wantagh Avenue, was taken by the Nassau County Department of Assessment on March 11, 2000.
- ◆ Page 17: This is the second of four supplied Landmarks Preservation Commission required 8" x 10" photos of the Jackson Cemetery. This picture, showing the center front section of the cemetery as viewed from Wantagh Avenue, was taken by the Nassau County Department of Assessment on March 11, 2000.
- ◆ Page 18: This is the third of four supplied Landmarks Preservation Commission required 8" x 10" photographs of the Jackson Cemetery. This picture shows the right front part of the cemetery, as viewed from Wantagh Avenue. It was taken by the Nassau County Department of Assessment on March 11, 2000.
- ◆ Page 19: This is the fourth and final supplied Landmarks Preservation Commission required photograph of the Jackson Cemetery. This picture is an aerial view of the site, as posted on the Nassau County Land Records Viewer, on the official Nassau County web site. 