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Wantagh Preservation Society

2014 August/September



The Information Window

Buried Bodies Found on Wantagh Avenue With Ground Penetrating Radar

Last June, ground penetrating radar searched the Jackson Cemetery on Wantagh Avenue and discovered 37 graves without headstones. These unmarked graves were the most recent burials at the cemetery and were primarily located in the rear third, farthest from Wantagh Avenue. The last recorded burial at the cemetery was that of Jackson A. Seaman, who died 1921 January 20.

The survey was part of an Eagle Scout Project conducted by candidate Christian Wendt of Seaford, a member of Boy Scout Troop 239. Another activity included in Christian's Eagle Scout Project, which had been approved in advance by the Town of Hempstead Landmarks Preservation Commission, was the reconstruction and repositioning of numerous broken headstones.

Christian led fellow scouts in the clean-up of the cemetery grounds. Grass that partially covered fallen headstones was removed. Overgrown vegetation was trimmed while dead bushes and trees were removed. A memorial garden was planted underneath a Town of Hempstead sign, which had been erected in 1976 at the request of the Wantagh American Revolution Bicentennial Committee.



The Jackson Cemetery after Renovations

Nassau County Legislators Dave Denenberg and Dennis Dunne Sr. visited the cemetery site and expressed their support and appreciation for the restoration project. Participants in the cemetery's restoration included Christian's fellow scouts and their parents, the leaders of Troop 239, Christian's parents; Chris Wendt Jr. and Debbie Wendt of Seaford, his grandparents; Chris Wendt Sr. and Sue Wendt of Wantagh, and William Dietz along with members of the Wantagh Preservation Society.

The cemetery contains the confirmed graves of 63 descendants of Wantagh's founders Robert Jackson and Captain John Seaman, who arrived from Stamford, Connecticut in 1643. Eighteen others buried there are descendants of John Althause, who was either a Hessian mercenary or a Tory, who switched his allegiance to the colonies to marry Jane Jackson.

The names of those buried at the site were copied from the headstones in 1929 by Mrs. Florence B. R. Smith Dimon, a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). This list was revised and supplemented in 1975 from the NY Genealogical & Biographical Record 26, by Wantagh historian Helen L. Strang, who was also a member of the NSDAR.

In mid-December of 1643, Jackson and Seaman purchased the land now known as Wantagh from local Native American tribes. This transaction was legally documented 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 during the Revolutionary War in the Continental Army's 4th Line and Second New York Regiment. The other is US Army Brigadier General Jacob Seaman Jackson (1763 May 22 – 1829 January 28) who served during the War of 1812.

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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

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, September 2, 7:30 PM at the Wantagh Museum
- ◆ Banjo Rascals, September 28, 1:00 PM at the Wantagh Museum
(please see page 3 for details)
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, October 7, 7:30 PM at the Wantagh Museum
- ◆ Community Yard Sale, October 18, 10:00 AM at the Wantagh Museum
(please see last page for details)
- ◆ General Meeting, October 28, 7:30 PM at the Wantagh Library

Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Bob Meagher
1st Vice President: Karen Chowske
2nd Vice President: Bob Cook
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson
Corresponding Secretary: Elaine Yarris
Treasurer: Wayne Wagner

Appointed Officers

Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Ellen Cook
Joan Mallon
Claire Reisert
Joshua Soren
Mary Wagner

The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published every two months. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

wps@wantagh.li



Celeste (left) and Andrea (right) Enchanting the Crowd at the Wantagh Museum

*The Museum
is still open on
Sundays*



*Stop by and see our
newly renovated
exhibits!*

Sister Act

By Jim Colotti, Editor

Taking audience participation to new levels, the Sister Act recently strutted their stuff during an outdoor concert at the Wantagh Museum on a sunny July afternoon. Sister Act's Celeste and Andrea don't simply perform for their audience - they engage and encourage their spectators to perform with them.

Their show covered an eclectic medley from the queen-of-disco Donna Summer's "Bad Girls" to the queen-of-country Shania Twain's "Feel Like a Woman" to the queen-of-soul Aretha Franklin's "Respect". Surprising costume changes that even Lady Gaga would admire, kept the crowd guessing.

Born in the Bronx, both sisters, Andrea and Celeste were part of a musical family. They were raised on the hits of their first cousin Dion (of Dion and the Belmonts) who visited often sharing his love of the business with their dad Louis, a former model and singer. Josephine, their mom, worked as a performer in the early days of puppetry, bringing to life the marionettes with whom she toured.

Previous venues for this duo include Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Miami Beach and New York City. Together, these "Sisters" combine their love of music into this powerful performance that we won't soon forget. 📖

Scout Troop #3015

By Karen Chowske

The Wantagh Preservation Society would like to thank Girl Scout Troop #3015 for their time and effort at the Museum in June! Our Rail Road Crossing Sign was in desperate need of refurbishing and they were brave enough to take on the project.

Dave Walker, owner of Walker Painting on Homestead Avenue, Wantagh, donated his company's time and materials and began the process of encapsulating the exposed lead paint (the sign is from the 1800's, all paint contained lead back then). Once that was complete, priming and painting continued, using exterior paint to hold up to the elements. They were exceptionally neat and clean and did a fantastic job on very little notice (one day to be exact). We can't thank Dave enough for stepping in and taking care of this part of the project for us!

A few days later, Troop #3015 begin re-painting the wording on the sign. Their Troop leaders, Debbie DeRupo and Dana McCann, had done extensive work beforehand researching fonts, taking measurements and creating stencils.

The stencils were taped and pinned to the sign by Dana's husband Steven. Then the girls each took turns painting letters (84 in total I was told by one of the scouts!). After all the letters were painted, Debbie and Steven did touch up work making sure every letter was perfect. Approximately 8 hours after they began, everything was done. It was a long day but they did an amazing job and we at the Wantagh Preservation Society are so happy they chose us for yet another one of their Troop projects!

Next time you're driving on Wantagh Avenue past the Museum, take a look at the sign. I think you'll all agree, it looks beautiful! 📖



Sign Before, During After Renovation



Young Ladies of Scout Troop #3015

(continued from page 1)

Join or Renew Your Membership for 2014!

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

Check Membership Level: ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$25
☐ Friend \$35 ☐ Patron \$50 ☐ Fellow \$100

I'd like to help with:

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

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

The Hempstead Town Board granted Historical Landmark Designation to the Jackson Cemetery on 2012 November 13 in response to an application filed by the Wantagh Preservation Society on 2011 May 11. The Town Landmarks Preservation Commission recommended the approval of the application on 2012 June 19.

The Jackson Cemetery is located on the east side of Wantagh Avenue, immediately north of St. Frances de Chantal Church. 📖

Banjos Rascals Rescheduled

The Banjo Rascals is rescheduled for Sunday, September 28th from 1:00-2:30 pm at the Wantagh Museum. Their music ranges from 1890's ragtime to 1920's swing to good old rock & roll. This high-energy, multi-faceted musical experience is presented free of charge. Bring a chair. Light refreshments following the concert will be served. The museum will be open as well. Please join us! 📖

Support your community!

Join the WPS today!
 Fill out the form, or click/scan the QR code.

Coming Soon: Autumn Community Yard Sale!

By Bob Cook, Second Vice President

The Wantagh Preservation Society is again holding an "Autumn Community Yard Sale," to be held on Saturday, 2014 October 18, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain date is Sunday, October 19).


All vendors must complete the application below and send it with a check made out to the Wantagh Preservation Society in advance of the event. Vendors who have not pre-registered will no longer be accepted the day of the event. If you have sale articles but do not wish to rent space, you may donate them to the Preservation Society table.

Publicity for the Autumn Community Yard Sale will be carried in local newspapers and posters will be displayed around the community. The Autumn Community Yard Sale is held on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum, on the west side of Wantagh Avenue, opposite Emeric Avenue, between Sunrise Highway and the Southern State Parkway.

Vendor set-up time is from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, and cars being driven onto the grounds to deliver merchandise must be left in the rented \$35 space. Please note that you will not be able to drive a car onto the museum grounds and then drive out after unloading. All cars must be left in a \$35 space – this is a change from previous events. You must leave your car on the Museum grounds until the end of the sale. Vendors provide their own tables and must remove their unsold items and refuse after the sale. They also agree not to leave before the normal closing hour of 4:00 PM.

The rental fee for one space with car that is approximately ten feet wide is \$35.00 and an additional space is \$25.00 (\$35.00 if an additional car is to be left in a space). Spaces vary in depth and the amount of shade, and will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis. There are no space reservations in advance. No refunds will be made except for rejections. All vendors must send in their application form and check in advance of the event. Again, vendors who have not pre-registered will no longer be accepted the day of the event.

Merchandise of all sorts, including old and new items, crafts and antiques are acceptable. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Merchandise must be displayed on tables or on the ground behind the white space markers and within the rented areas. While personal radios are acceptable, there shall be no public address systems.

For more information about the rain date on Sunday, October 19, call the Yard Sale Chair Person, Elaine Yarris at (516) 785-0761 or email Elaine at elainetybooks@optonline.net. 

2014 "Autumn Community" Application Form

Applications will be accepted as long as space permits. Arrival time is 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Vendors must supply their own tables. Vendors must remove their unsold items and refuse. In the event of a rain cancellation on the rain date no refunds will be issued. If you agree with these terms, submit the form below with your check, payable to "Wantagh Preservation Society" and mail to PO Box 132, Wantagh, NY 11793-0132.

Name: (Please print) _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Number of \$35 Spaces: _____ Number of \$25 Spaces: _____

E-Mail: _____ (contact for future events)

Amount Enclosed @ \$35.00 per space w/ car and \$25.00 per additional space: _____

I agree to remain until closing time, 4:00 PM Signature: _____