

# The Information Window

## For Sale: A Piece of Wantagh's History

Across from the Twin Lakes on an oversized property sits the "Mill House" which is now for sale. Circa 1794, the "Mill House" was home to Benjamin Birdsall, owner of The Grist Mill. Visiting this magnificently handcrafted peg-and-dowel home is like stepping back in time. The home boasts original features including plank floors, hardware, wood trim, seven fireplaces, solid doors and brick patio.

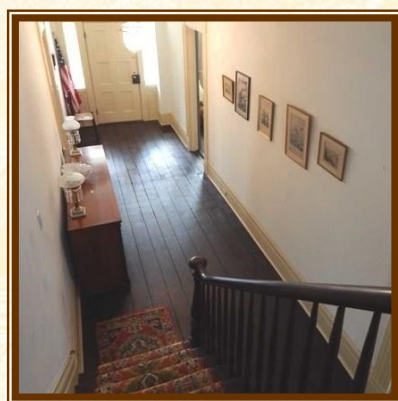
The Grist Mill once stood directly east of the home, thus the name of the street where the "Mill House" now stands. The photographs below are all courtesy of MLSLI. Notice a fireplace in three of the four interior pictures! 📖



*Living Room*



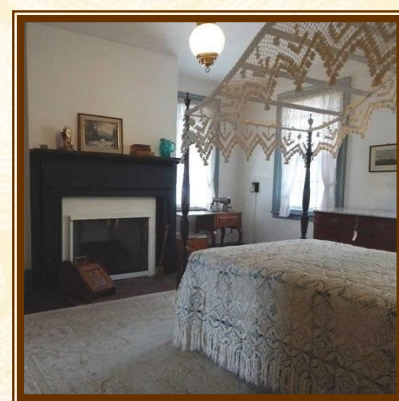
*"Mill House" as it majestically stands today on  
Old Mill Road*



*View of the Front Hallway  
(notice the Plank Floors)*



*Eat-In Kitchen*



*One of the Four Bedrooms*

## 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](http://museum.wantagh.li)

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, October 6 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ◆ General Meeting, October 27 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Library featuring a presentation by The Gotham Paranormal Society
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, November 3 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ◆ General Meeting, November 24 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Library, featuring the presentation "Water and Ice: The Tragic Wrecks of the Bristol and the Mexico on the South Shore of Long Island"



# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Elected Officers

*President:* Karen Chowske  
*1st Vice President:* Bob Meagher  
*2nd Vice President:* Carol Poulos  
*Recording Secretary:* Wayne Wagner  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Joan Mallon  
*Treasurer:* Tom Watson

## Appointed Officers

*Curator:* Carol Poulos  
*Newsletter Editor:* Jim Colotti

## Trustees

Bob Cook  
Ellen Cook  
Joan Mallon  
Claire Reisert  
Joshua Soren  
Mary Wagner  
Elaine Yarris

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately six times each year. 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](mailto:wps@wantagh.li)



*Lester Orlick (inside) and Bob Meagher (outside) continue restoration efforts on the Jamaica*

**Museum  
is open  
Sundays  
from 2 to 4 PM**



**More renovations are  
underway!**

## NSDAR Donation

*By Bob Meagher*

The Jerusalem Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) presented a donation, with money raised from the DAR Doll Raffle, to the Wantagh Preservation Society. The presentation was made at a recent general meeting of the Wantagh Preservation Society. 📖



*From Left to Right, Jerusalem Chapter (NSDAR) Regent Sandy Leonard, WPS 1st Vice President Bob Meagher, Jerusalem Chapter (NSDAR) Vice Regent Ellen Cook, and Past District Director X & XI (NSDAR) Sally Boggan of the Ruth Floyd Woodhull Chapter (NSDAR)*



## Cemetery Rumors Denied: Part II

*By John Drake*

On 1992 June 11, Concetta Donohue sold Lot 38 (1788 Old Mill Road) to Jeffrey and Julie Diamond, as documented by Deed No. 366281, Liber 10221. Also on that day, after having owned part of their property for almost 47 years (1945 July 6 to 1992 June 11) Lynda Gover, the surviving spouse of Don Gover, sold Lot 39 to Jeffrey Diamond under Deed No. 366283, Liber 10221.

Dave Gover explained that his parents were unable to sell their house and Lots 3 and 8 because of the high price of the parcel. A real estate broker whom they were working with suggested that they could reduce the asking price for their house and the front of the lot facing Old Mill Road, if they subdivided the property, and sold the rear 6,000 square feet parcel as a separate building lot.


Unfortunately for his parents, Dave Gover explained, they were unaware that a lot with substandard front footage, which also needed to install a driveway for access onto Lawrence Place, would require a zoning variance from the ToH Zoning Board of Appeals. According to Dave Gover, when a neighbor living on Lawrence Place complained at the ZBA's (Zoning Board of Appeals) public hearing that allowing the construction of an additional house on the block would cause an excessive amount of traffic, the ZBA denied his parents' application for a variance. Don and Lynda Gover suddenly became the owners of an unbuildable 6,000 square foot lot, without street access, except for a standard pedestrian-sized gate facing the northern end of Lawrence Place, which no one wanted to buy.

Lynda Gover was finally able to sell Lot 39 almost 17 years later. Jeffrey and Julie Diamond, who were considering buying the Gover's former house and front yard at 1788 Old Mill Road (Lot 38), contacted Lynda Gover and asked if she would be willing to sell them Lot 39. Dave Gover's explanation is supported by an undated inscription written on the Nassau County (Department of) Assessment's Assessment Record for Lot 39, which reads: "NOT A BUILDABLE LOT PER TOH ZONING BOARD."

During the intervening 17 years, Dave Gover cut the lawn on Lot 39, until Jeffrey and Julie Diamond reunited the two lots. Richard Weddle's 1976 March 3, reply letter to Ms. Strang contains an early history of the former Jackson property, which once included both 1788 Old Mill Road and the black Jackson Family's adjoining 1808 Harold Avenue Cemetery: "The earliest record was the General Meeting held on October 14, 1723 and the Report of the Commissioners on January 23, 1741, whereby a tract of 36 acres and 146 square rods were (sic.) allocated to Samuel Jackson.... The earliest Deed of Record is from (Revolutionary War veteran) Thomas Jackson to (freed black man and former white Jackson family slave) Jeffrey Jackson, dated October 8, 1808, recorded (sic.) August 25, 1843 in Liber 59 cp 467."

Helen Strang then researched the documents filed in Kings County on the above 1843 date to document the land Jeffrey Jackson acquired on Oct. 8, 1808, and also found: "Deed 19933, 19934, 19935, 19936 and 19937, also 15202 L806 f79, f76, f92, f95, f98, L871 f201."

### Successive land sales:

- ◆ 1921 January 3: By Deed No. 19935 dated January 3, 1921, multiple descendants and heirs of freed former slaves Jeffrey and Kate Jackson sell their collective inherited lands, including the Harold Avenue Cemetery and Lot 3, to a group of Wantagh land investors: Sarah Seaman, James Seaman, Ellen Kropp, Jennie Davis, Jessie Seaman and Emma Seaman.
- ◆ 1923 January 8, The above land investors sell the former Jeffrey Jackson property to William Ryder and John Ryder. The Ryders live at 1788 Old Mill Road, and establish a nursery on their property.
- ◆ Circa 1931 July 1, William and John Ryder create and sell Lot 3 to Bessie Seltman.
- ◆ 1936 March 30, Edward Seltman (husband of deceased Bessie Seltman) sells Lot 3 (1788 Old Mill Rd.) to his son Irving Seltman and his daughter Jeanette Seltman Potter by Deed No. 21282.
- ◆ 1937 August 24, Irving Seltman and Jeanette Seltman Potter sell 1788 Old Mill Road (Lot 3) to Henry Reisert by Deed No. 21281.
- ◆ 1937 August 24, Henry Reisert sells Lot 3 (1788 Old Mill Road) to William and Phyllis Kriss by Deed No. 21280.
- ◆ 1945 July 6, William Kriss and Phyllis Kriss sell Lot 3 (1788 Old Mill Road) to Donald Gover and Lynda Gover. 



*"Preservation with a Purpose."***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, 2015 October 3, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain date is Sunday, October 4).


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 not be guaranteed entry 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. Vendor cars must be left in the rented space 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 not be guaranteed entry 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 4, call the Yard Sale Chair Person, Elaine Yarris at (516) 785-0761 or email Elaine at [elainetybooks@optonline.net](mailto:elainetybooks@optonline.net). 

**2015 "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: \_\_\_\_\_