


The Information Window

Getting Around Town, Back When Wantagh Was Jerusalem

Julian Denton Smith (1898-08-03 - 1974-02-28) was a local historian with extensive knowledge of Wantagh's history and a talent for descriptive writing. He wrote a local history article in 1939 describing how the early residents of Wantagh got around Long Island. In its early days, Wantagh was called Jerusalem based on the small Quaker settlement situated about where the Southern State Parkway crosses Wantagh Avenue. Below is a part of Julian's writing that describes transportation in Jerusalem.

A stagecoach route came through Wantagh on Merrick Road. The regular stops were Smith's Tavern, Hempstead-Babylon Turnpike in Merrick, the Half-Way House south side of Merrick Road near Bellmore Avenue in Bellmore, and Jim Smith's Tavern at the northwest corner of Merrick Road and Seamans Neck Road in Seaford. The Wells homestead stood on the northwest corner of Merrick Road and Wantagh Avenue. Often Jerusalem passengers came down by carriage and waited on Well's front porch for the stagecoach. The stagecoach routed from Babylon along Merrick Road to the Hempstead Babylon Turnpike at Merrick, thence to Hempstead where another coach connected for Jamaica and westward to Fulton Ferry in Brooklyn. The coaches made one trip daily in each direction.

Most of the Long Island south shore families owned boats and every fall they would watch for good weather to sail around to New York. They took on a load of coal, tied a barrel of molasses on deck, and stowed new clothes for the boys in a dry spot below decks. The molasses provided sweetness for cooking during the winter and bottom of the barrel sugar for the following spring and summer - white sugar being unknown at that time. Male clothing taxed the sewing ability of the women so it was purchased readymade on the fall city trip. The term 'high water pants' describes the trousers of the ready to wear suits.

These were bought to wear several years, the legs being long enough to reach the youngsters' shoes the first year and somewhere between his ankles and knees in their later years of usefulness. 



Wantagh residents Ida Jeffrey and Peter Avogadro, who were later married 1903 December 15


100th BSA Anniversary for Wantagh

By Paul Sigler, Trustee



Wantagh Pack 96 Indian Dance Troop, 1970 April

This year marks the 100th anniversary of BSA scouting in Wantagh. The first troop, "Wantagh Troop 1" was chartered on 1918 March 15. The author is a scout leader and is working to compile a complete list of troops and packs (cubs) that ever existed in Wantagh. A small exhibit to mark this anniversary is on display at the Wantagh Museum, but we are working to expand it.

What Wantagh pack or troop were you a part of and which organization sponsored it? Any photos or artifacts are welcome and appreciated! Please email carolpouloswps@gmail.com or wantaghmuseum@gmail.com. Thanks! 



See page 3 on becoming a member!

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, May 1, 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ◆ General Meeting, May 22, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, featuring a presentation on Jamaica Parlor Car including ongoing restoration efforts
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, June 5, 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ◆ Community Yard Sale, June 9 at Museum (see last page for details)
- ◆ General Meeting, June 26, 7:00 PM, Open House at the Wantagh Museum and a Show & Tell lead by Harold Ball

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

Elected Officers

President: Bob Meagher
Vice President: Elaine Yarris
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson
Treasurer: Wayne Wagner

Appointed Officers

Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Bob Cook
Ellen Cook
Mary Corrigan
Fred Parola
Claire D Reisert
Paul Sigler
Matt Susco
Mary Wagner

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



At the general meeting last month, railroad aficionado David Morrison presented a lively behind-the-scenes lecture on the Oyster Bay Railroad Station Restoration



***Museum is now
open on
Sundays
2 PM - 4 PM***



***More renovations are
underway!***

Membership Drive

By Mary Wagner, Membership Chair

Our membership year for 2018 began on January 1 and will end on December 31. The money raised through membership is used for our many restoration projects, most recently the original Wantagh post office and the Jamaica Parlor car. It is also used for our many activities and projects during the year. You are not just joining the society - you become a supporter of history by enabling the society to continue its work to educate residents, especially children, on Wantagh's past. Your continued support will help make this site a real focal point for our community. Recently we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the train station being moved to the museum grounds. Please join this and future celebrations by paying your dues for 2018. We also invite you to become an active member of the society.



*See page 3 on
becoming a
member!*

The Birdsall James' Story

Originally published in the 2006 December edition of the Information Window

Birdsall Post James (1886 - 1973) experienced much of the growth of the farming village of Jerusalem into the residential complex that Wantagh is today. Here is a part of his essay on his experiences in Seaford and Wantagh, which he wrote about 1970.

I was born in north Wantagh on Garners Avenue, which is Gardiners Avenue now. I was born on a farm called Jerusalem then half-way between Jerusalem Road (now called North Jerusalem Road) and Fulton Avenue or Hempstead Turnpike.

I went to school on Jerusalem Road. The School had only one room and we had to walk over a stile. In the wintertime we had a stove at one end of the school, like they had in the stores down in Wantagh. The boys that were big enough had to go out each day and saw wood, which the farmers supplied.

We also had a farm of 35 acres in Seaford Harbor, which belonged to my father's aunt. We had to drive down to the farm and back again at night, which was about three or four miles. It was nothing but wild plains and the nearest house was a half mile away. Once a week there was a man who would come to the house with a wagon full of goods to sell. His wares included groceries and dry goods. We made reckoning of him coming to get candy. You could get penny candy, which was large enough to last all day.

When you wanted a doctor you had to hitch up a horse and drive either to Wantagh or Hicksville. The doctor would have to do the same to get to a patient.

There was only one store in Wantagh, Fussell Brothers, and they sold everything.

When I was married a while I worked for a baker in Wantagh and had to get there at 3:30 AM to feed horses and load my wagon for the baker route. The place was where the drug store is now, just north of the Long Island Railroad. 📖



Jerusalem School was built in 1875

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2018!

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

I'd like to help with:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <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"/> Other _____ | | | |

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

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

*"Preservation with a Purpose."***Spring Community Yard Sale is June 9***By Bob Cook, Trustee*

The Wantagh Preservation Society is again holding a "Spring Community Yard Sale" on Saturday, 2018 June 9 from 10:00 AM to 4 PM (rain date is Sunday, June 10th). If you have articles for sale but do not wish to rent space, you may donate them to the Preservation Society table.

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 cannot be guaranteed accepted the day of the event.


The Spring Community Yard Sale will be publicized in local newspapers, online and with posters displayed around the community. The Spring 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's 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.

Vendors must leave their 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.

Merchandise of all sorts, including new sale items, 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, June 10th, call the Yard Sale Chair Person, Elaine Yarris at (516) 785-0761 or email Elaine at elainetybooks@optonline.net. 



Whether buying or selling, be a part of the exciting Spring Community Yard Sale!

2018 "Spring Community Yard Sale" 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: _____