

## **A Short History of Wantagh**

Wantagh, Seaford, and the southern portion of Levittown were once part of a tract of land known as Jerusalem, one of the earliest English settlements in the eastern part of Nassau County.

Captain John Seaman, Robert Jackson, and their families were among the first to settle in the area in 1644. The area was named Jerusalem as part of a series of biblically named towns, which included Jericho and Bethpage.

Jerusalem remained a quiet village until a period of British occupation during the Revolutionary War, when several members of the Seaman, Jackson, and Birdsall families served in George Washington's army.

When the War ended in 1783 the village continued to grow.

With the advent of the railroad in 1867, a new community developed in the southern part of Jerusalem near the station. It was called Ridgewood, to distinguish it from the rest of the village to the north.

Ridgewood was renamed Wantagh in 1891, in order to avoid confusion with Ridgewood in the Borough of Queens.

The name was chosen to honor Wyandance, the grand Sachem of the Montauk Indians.

