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February, 2004

FEBRUARY MEETING

The Society's February Meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 24 at 8:00 P.M. in the General Purpose room of the Wantagh Library. The Speaker for the meeting will be Society member Milton Seltzer, who asks, "Who's buried in Grant's Tomb?" His slide talk will encompass both President Ulysses Grant and President Abraham Lincoln.

Refreshments will be provided by our Hospitality Committee following the meeting, with things appropriate for the pre-spring season. If you'd like to help with refreshments, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2151. 

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2004


At our November Meeting, the Society's Officers for 2004 were installed. They are:

President	Jeff Saporito
1st Vice President	Joshua Soren
2nd Vice President	Harry Strole
Recording Secretary	Elaine Yarris
Corresponding Secretary	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer	Sue Hammond


In addition, six trustees were elected, five for the class of 2008, and one to replace Bill Schick, of the class of 2005, who has retired to Massachusetts.

The new trustees for the class of 2008 are:

Rita Coffee	Warren Hiltonsmith
Gregg Hammond	Frank McKenna
Gary Hammond	


Rose Kamins has been elected trustee for the class of 2005, replacing Bill Schick. 


CAROL SING POSTPONED TWICE

The Carol Sing that we had scheduled for last December 7 never happened. The season's first blizzard took care of that. Then when we re-scheduled it for December 14, we had another big snowstorm that took out that one, too. It has been suggested that maybe next June would be a safer time. Who knows? 

JANUARY MEETINGS CANCELLED

Snowstorms seem to be scheduled to fall just at the time we want to hold meetings. The January Trustees Meeting was postponed a week, and was to have preceded the regular Membership Meeting. But the Membership Meeting was snowed out as well! Global warming seems to be the culprit.

They say that as the globe warms, ocean evaporation increases near the equator, the water vapor circulates to the north and south, and falls as rain in the arctic regions. The extra turbulence causes mores storms and our irregular weather! 




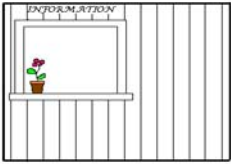
Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, February 24, 2004: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 16, 2004: Trustees meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 23, 2004: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, April 20, 2004: Trustees meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M. 



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____

_____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$6 Family \$12
 Friend \$25 Patron \$50 Fellow \$100

Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society

MUSEUM OPEN ONLY BY SPECIAL REQUEST

The Wantagh Museum dropped its summer hours at the end of last October, reverting to our winter schedule, with the Museum open only by special request. Groups may schedule visits by calling Gregg Hammond at (516) 826-8374. Gregg suggests you wait for a warm day!

INTERNET

The Wantagh Preservation Society is on the Web at www.wantagh.li, which covers Wantagh stuff in general. Check it out for weather, tide tables, and other local resources, as well as the Preservation Society news. To find the Preservation Society page, click on "Activities," then "Wantagh Museum." There is even a membership form for those who would like to join or renew their membership.

DAR QUILT RAFFLE WINNER

Ellen Cook has announced that the winner of the DAR quilt raffled off in support of the Old Post Office is Susanne Beckett. The quilt will be presented at the February meeting next Tuesday.

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings.

The Editor of the *Information Window* is Dick MacMillan, at (516) 785-3951. Articles and notices are invited on subjects of local interest.

RIERSON CEMETERY

One of our members recently noted that there was a small family cemetery on the south side of Bunker Avenue, and was curious that it now had the appearance of a vacant lot.

With prompting from Society member and trustee Ellen B. Cook, we found that the *Wantagh American Revolution Bicentennial Committee* had published a leaflet on Cemeteries of Old Wantagh as part of the 1976 celebrations. It listed eight local burial grounds:

- Quaker Church graveyard,
- Jackson Family graveyard,
- Rierson-Seymour Family burial grounds,
- A Negro burial ground on Oakfield Avenue,
- A Negro burial ground on Old Mill Road,
- Birdsall Family burial grounds on North Wantagh Ave,
- Jones Family burial grounds on Duck Pond Road,
- Baldwin Family burial grounds on Sunrise Highway.

An article in the September 1973 *Information Window* by then Historian Ellen Cook identified our Bunker Avenue cemetery as that of the Rierson-Seymour Family. Although there are no headstones remaining, there are burials of Cornelius Rierson and his wife, Catharine (Van Cott) Rierson, their son, John Cornelius Rierson with his wife, and other descendants of Cornelius Rierson.

The cemetery deed, dated March 1, 1869, describes the cemetery easement for the benefit of the heirs of Cornelius Rierson

Cornelius Rierson, (bapt. 1752) was the son of George Ryerson, who resided in what is now Valley Stream. During the American Revolution, George was a Patriot and served in the Militia of Queens County, but his son Cornelius served in a British Loyalist Regiment on Long Island. After the change from British to American rule at the end of the war, Cornelius went to Digby, Nova Scotia with the Loyalist refugees. He eventually returned to Long Island, where his family owned a number of farms in Hempstead Town, and settled on Long Island. His son, John (1793 - 1829) lived on one of the family farms in what is now Wantagh. When the area became more developed, the family cemetery was dignified with an official deed.