

Dated material

Change
service
requested

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WANTAGH NY
PERMIT No 100

Mailing label

March, 2004

MARCH MEETING

The Society’s March Meeting is planned for Tuesday, March 23 at 8:00 P.M. in the meeting room of the Wantagh Library. The guest speaker for the meeting will be Gene Kovacsik, with a slide show on “One Hundred Years of Aviation,” since the great success of the Wright flyer in 1905.

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

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

The Wantagh Preservation Society is one of the few organizations whose dues payments can be chosen with amounts anywhere from \$6.00 to \$100.00! How do you decide?

The first question to ask is how much does membership mean to you? Is it a sort of badge – so you can say, “I’m a member ...” and impress someone? Or are you interested in some part of the activities of the Society, say the monthly talks at the Library? ... or maybe its to support the historical heritage of Wantagh, or even because you like the garage sales. (There just happens to be a garage sale planned for May first! See the article at the upper right.)

Our Trustees, who in addition to paying dues, also put in lots of time planning and carrying out the activities of the Society, think of membership as a public service for others in the community.

In any case, turn the page and select your dues level

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The Society’s Annual Spring “Community Garage Sale” is coming in May this year, on Saturday, May 1, with a rain date the following day, May 2. It will be held on the Wantagh Museum Grounds, on Wantagh Avenue opposite Emeric Avenue. A separate flyer has been sent to all members and to our Garage Sale mailing list. The flyer tells all the details, with an application form for vendors. If your flyer hasn’t arrived yet, call Christine Marzigliano (516) 679-8348.

There will be all sorts of vendors, with all sorts of good things for sale. Come enjoy the day, buy lots of those good things, and dine al fresco on the station platform with our famous *chili con carne*, hot dogs, sandwiches and beverages. 📖



Preservation Society Calendar

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

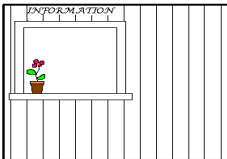
Tuesday, April 20: Trustees meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 24: Museum Grounds Cleanup, 10:00 A.M. — for as long as it takes.

Tuesday, April 27: Membership Meeting at Mayflower Hall in the Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church Parish Hall, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 1: Community Garage Sale, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 18: Trustees meeting in the Mu-



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Page 2

March, 2004

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____

_____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$6 Family \$12

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)

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

NEED A QUILT ?

Here's your chance. The Jerusalem Chapter of the DAR plans to raffle off a nice warm quilt to benefit the reconstruction of the Old Wantagh Post Office which is now on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. Check it

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.

LONG ISLAND CAPTURED

Relax. Long Island *has* been captured by the British, but that was back in the Fall of 1776. The War for American Independence went poorly at first, and one of the first major defeats was in the Battle of Long Island. The British took control of the whole island, and the Patriots fled, some to by sea to Connecticut, and some across the Hudson River. About one in six of the population left the island, and those remaining, either Loyalists or those who said they were, had to live in the presence of the occupying British Army. They suffered many hardships, with their crops commandeered, and livestock taken. According to the pamphlet, *LI in the*

"Another hardship imposed on many homeowners was the forced billeting, or quartering of military personnel, both British and Hessian, in homes and barns. This occurred especially during the winter, when tents could not afford adequate protection to the troops. Commanding officers and their aides were normally comfortably housed in the better residences, as was, for Example, Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe at the Townsend home in Oyster Bay. Officers and enlisted men received accommodations suitable to their status.

Householders who had Hessian troops billeted with them had to contend with a barrier that did not exist for those whose premises were occupied by the British. Few of the German mercenaries spoke English and there were relatively few Long Islanders who spoke German in Queens or Suffolk counties.

"Generally speaking, the number of troops assigned to a house depended on the number of fireplaces available. After setting aside a certain number of rooms for the family and at least one fireplace for cooking and heating, the remaining rooms having fireplaces were assigned to soldiers. Wood for the enlisted men's fireplaces had to be furnished by the homeowner, so woodpiles were kept well stocked to prevent occupation forces from taking fences, sheds, or other wooden structures for their cooking and heating needs. Nevertheless, wood fences fell easy pray to those who needed instant fuel, and by the war's end there were few fences left along the roads."