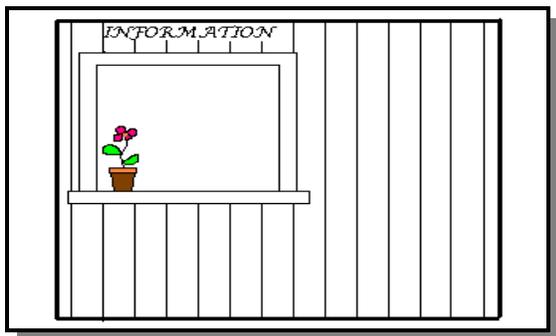


The INFORMATION WINDOW of the WANTAGH PRESERVATION

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January 2005

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JANUARY 25 MEETING

This month's meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the general purpose room of the Wantagh Public Library. The program will feature Josh Soren describing the 75th anniversary of the opening of Jones Beach. Josh is a long term member and Past President of the Wantagh Preservation Society. He not only has experience as a historian of the Wantagh area, but as curator of the Jones Beach Museum.

After the meeting our refreshment committee will provide coffee and other good things. If you'd like to help with donations of cookies or cake, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152. 

DRIVE FOR MEMBERS

January is the time for the renewal of membership in the Wantagh Preservation Society. Some 25 or so of our members have mailed in their membership fees so far, and we eagerly await others.

The Membership Form at the top of the next page, along with a check is all that's required, along with your stamped envelope, of course.

You will note that there are several levels of membership. All levels are entitled to all the perks of membership. The lowest level, "Individual," is intended for those who feel financially limited, but still want to maintain links with the Society.

For those whose financial status is higher, there are increasing levels of membership. If you prefer steak and lobster rather than hamburger (forgive me, vegetarians) you probably should pick one of the higher levels.

Whatever your level, you're always welcome.

CAROL SING AND TREE LIGHTING

The Carol Sing, at two o'clock last December 12, was a great success, with Trustee Donald Lee Warner leading the carols. An interlude of Irish Step Dance helped round out the excitement.

There was enough chill in the air, though, that we were all glad to finish off with hot chocolate and cookies in the nice warm waiting room of the Museum.

Later that afternoon, the Tree Lighting, sponsored by the Wantagh Chamber of Commerce, took over the Museum Campus with children's readings, more hot chocolate and cookies, music, the arrival of Santa Claus and, of course, the lighting of the Christmas Tree and the Menorah. The activities were aided by the Paumanake Garden Club, Kiwanis and topped off by speeches and musical performances in the Hempstead Showmobile. 



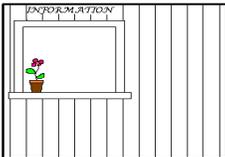
Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, January 18:
Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, January 25: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 15: Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 22: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M. 



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Page 2

January 2005

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
P O Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

MUSEUM CLOSED FOR WINTER

The Wantagh Museum is on its winter schedule, and is open only by special request. We will need more volunteers to act as hosts at the museum during the summer months. If you would like to volunteer as a host, call Donald Warner at (516) 826-6631, and he will be glad to pencil you into the schedule.

BUILDING 19 MIND BENDER

“Building 19” is a chain of surplus stores in the Boston area, with an eclectic advertising newsletter. Here’s one of the Mind Benders which appeared in their October newsletter!

“Forward I’m heavy, backward I’m not.
What am I?”

Ask for the answer at the January 25 membership meeting

WPS ON THE WEB

To check up on WPS, look at www.wantagh.li and read old Information Windows.

LAST MONTH’S MIND BENDER, UNBENT

The king of spades is last month’s “Ruler of shovels!”



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951.

THE OLD BURYING GROUND

Wantagh’s Old Burying Ground near Oakfield Avenue, was described in a booklet written by Karl F. Pfeiffer with a cover design by Jerry Snoke of the Sunrise Park School in Wantagh. It was published to celebrate the American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776 - 1976. The Burying Ground lies between Forest Lake Boulevard and Oakfield Avenue, and covers a 70-foot by 438-foot tract that today looks like a large vacant lot.

Some have said that the Old Burying Ground is two hundred years old, but there is no evidence to back this up. It was not deeded as a cemetery until March 18, 1851, when the property was donated by Robert and Eliza Valentine.

It is possible that the land had been used as a cemetery before 1851, but burial records of that time are very incomplete. Gravestones would be a valuable aid to determining those buried in the cemetery, but vandalism has made this difficult. Some of the early graves had wooden markers, so those have long since disappeared.

The earliest known grave is that of J. Checker Jones. His gravestone, which indicated that he died on September 1, 1867, at the age of 53, was standing on the grounds just a few years ago, but it is gone with the others.

Altogether, available records show the names of 108 persons being buried in the cemetery, about two-thirds having the name Jackson, taken from the Jacksons who owned and freed their slaves. The last burial registered by the Town of Hempstead is that of Charles Jackson, who died in 1943 at the age of 36. At request of poet-songwriter Horace Jackson, the Old Burying Ground was discontinued for regular use in 1949, except that relatives of plot owners might be buried there. Local residents have reported such later burials, but there is no record of this.

Town records list all of those buried in the Old Burying Ground as “Colored,” with the exception of two shown as “White.” It is believed that Margaret Jackson and Eugene Jackson were married to Blacks. The records do not show the many instances of White-Black and Indian-Black people.