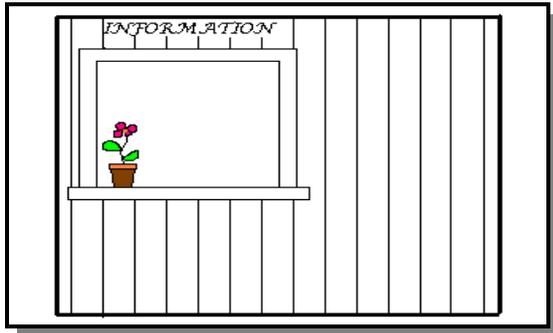


The INFORMATION WINDOW of the WANTAGH PRESERVATION



February 2005

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FEBRUARY 22 MEETING

This month's meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the general meeting room of the Wantagh Public Library. The program will feature Milton Seltzer describing Abraham Lincoln and his contacts with New York City. Milton is a long term member of the Wantagh Preservation Society and is noted for his studies of Abraham Lincoln and the myriad of activities of the Civil War era. He has spoken at Society meetings many times before, and we welcome him.

The evening will start with a short business meeting, and then lead into Milton's talk about Lincoln. After the meeting our refreshment committee will provide coffee and refreshments. If you would like to help with donations of cookies or cherry pie, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152. 

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Since last month's Information Window was distributed, many of our members have renewed their membership. There are still some who haven't. If you are one of those, please use the form on page two of this issue.

Our annual membership enlistment brings in funds to publish the Information Window, and partly supply the other activities of the organization.

Look at the mailing label on your copy. The first line has three fields – a sequence number, a classification letter, and a date. For example, "142M06Jan" indicates the 142nd copy, to a regular member, "M", with membership expiring in January '06. If your label has a date earlier than "06" you need to renew. 

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

January's Membership Meeting was scheduled on a day that turned out to be cold and snowing. It was just after we had shoveled out of our big snow, and more snow was forecast. Bad luck!

A few brave souls showed up, though, and had a fine time. The program, presented by Josh Soren, consisted of two videos on the history of Jones Beach State Park, showing the *before* and *after* appearance of Jones Island, and all the attractions planned by then Park Commissioner Robert Moses.

Josh added his perspective on the new features of the Park, and outlined the chronology of its development. The water tower, the main landmark at the beach, was completed in 1930, and the first buildings at the Central Mall followed soon after. The park has put Wantagh on the map for many city dwellers, and been a source of joy for all of us. 



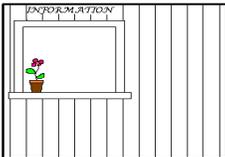
Preservation Society Calendar

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.

Tuesday, March 22: Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 29: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M. 



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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February

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 another of the Mind Benders which appeared in their October newsletter!

“I’m above a star, but do not burn. I have eleven mates that do not turn. My initials are PRS. What am I?”

Ask for the answer at the February 22 meeting at the Library, or wait until the next Information Window.

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

A *TON* is heavy forward, but backward it’s *NOT*!

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.

“BEGINNING WITH LONG ISLAND”

The settlement of Long Island began way back in the 1500’s. This description of the first years is taken from Chapter III of “Wantagh, Past and Present,” a textbook specially written for the Wantagh Junior

“A large river that flows between two rocks into the ocean.” These words written by the explorer Giovanni Verrazano are believed to be his description of The Narrows, the entrance to New York Harbor. The year was 1524. Thus, Verrazano and his crew were the first known white men to explore New York Harbor.

However, they may not have been the first to sight Long Island, as an English explorer, John Cabot, had sailed along the coast line in 1498. It was not until many years later (1609) that a white man actually landed upon the shore. Apparently some of Hudson’s crew went ashore at Coney Island and traded with the Indians. Since Hudson was sailing for the Dutch at the time, the Dutch claimed the Island and by 1624 they had colonized the western part, which is the present-day Brooklyn area.

Meanwhile, the English had settled the eastern part of the Island, notably Gardiner’s Island (1639) and Southampton (1640). Both countries claimed the Island, but finally reached an agreement in 1650. This agreement, known as the “Oyster Bay Line,” gave that part of the Island west of Oyster Bay to the Dutch and the eastern part to the English.

In 1643, a group of Englishmen from Connecticut scouted the Hempstead area and were much impressed by the grassy flat land that extended from Floral Park to Farmingdale. This is the area that later became known as the Hempstead Plain, an ideal spot for farming and grazing cattle.

After receiving permission from the Dutch, the Englishmen brought their families over in 1644 and settled here. They were led by the Reverend [Richard] Denton, a Presbyterian minister. Among the early arrivals were the John Seaman and Robert Jackson families who selected the southern part of the Island for their home. These families settled in the present area of Wantagh and Seaford.