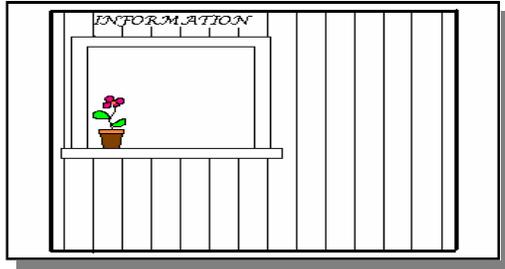


INFORMATION WINDOW

of the
WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Post Office Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793



January, 2008

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JANUARY 22 MEETING

A local History lecture will be our feature at the January 22nd general meeting, at 8:00 P.M. in the Wantagh Public Library community Room.

Our guest speaker will be Clarence Anspake, President of the Historical Society of the Bellmores. Mr. Anspake will tell us about the restoration project of the "Baldwin-Southard Cemetery," which is located on Lakeview Avenue in Bellmore.

This historic family burial ground had been neglected and overgrown for many years, and its headstones relocated to Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Join us for an interesting and informative evening.

Following the meeting, there will be a period for refreshments and discussion. If you would like to help with refreshments, please contact Theresa Donahue at (516) 785-0739. 📖

WATCH FOR THOSE DAFFODILS

The Jerusalem Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has again planted daffodil bulbs, in the northeast corner of the Wantagh Museum property. With those planted in prior years, they should make quite an exhibit this Spring.

When the warmer days arrive, keep an eye out for the new blooms, and enjoy the sight! 📖

QUILT RAFFLE WINNER

This year's Quilt Raffle by the Daughters of the American Revolution was won by Society Member Jean Lyon, who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but was back East just in time.

Money from the raffle has been donated to the Preservation Society to aid in the restoration of the old Wantagh Post Office, on the Museum Grounds. The Society appreciates the donation, which will be used to help bring the interior of the Post Office "up to date," probably to the way it might have looked in 1930 or so.

Right now, the Post Office exterior is fully restored, and waits for the funds to build up to the level required to open as an exhibit. 📖



Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Trustee Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, January 22. Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

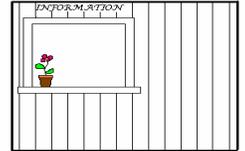
Tuesday, February 19. Trustee Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M. 📖

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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January, 2008



TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

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Circle one: Indiv. \$10 Family \$20
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Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society
P O Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Check the subscription date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. There should be the note, "Dues paid to Jan '09" or later. If not, just select a membership level, fill out the form above, and mail it with your check. 

MUSEUM CLOSED FOR SEASON

The Wantagh Museum will be closed for the season until Sunday, April 20, 2008, when regular opening hours of 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. will begin again.

If you would like to volunteer as a host for one or more Sunday afternoons, call Claire Reisert at (516) 785-1309, and she will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

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

It is available on-line at WANTAGH.LI, along with the Society's event program and all sorts of other good things connected with Wantagh.

You are invited to submit short articles on items of local historical interest. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

Here's a story from the old Wantagh High School textbook about the days when Wantagh was farm country. The textbook was written by High School staff, just for Wantagh students.

Early settlers [in Wantagh] found the soil ideal for wheat and garden vegetables. However, a great plain just to the north made cattle and sheep raising profitable too. The grass on this plain was as high as a "Horse's Belly" and grew for miles and miles. The margin of the grass was so clearly marked on all its boundaries as to give rise to a town named Plainedge. One can also understand the derivation of the name East Meadow, an area to the east of the Hempstead Plain.

The flat level land nearby was similar to the western prairies, where the cowboy became famous. There was nothing quite that glamorous about the "cowboys" of early Wantagh, however. The farmers got together and hired one man to drive the herds up to the plains each morning and return them at night. The cattle fed and browsed all day on the rich, nutritious grass.

There was never much concern about whose cows belonged to whom, as each cow turned off at the proper lane when the herdsman brought the herd down Wantagh Avenue in the evening.

At one time there were many wild animals in this area. Wolves were particularly troublesome. There were too many wolves for the sheep to be safe, so a bounty was paid for killing wolves. This proved to be a profitable business for [Indian Chief] Tackapausha and some of his braves. Finally, most of the wolves were wiped out and sheep raising took its place alongside cattle raising as an important occupation.

Some 14,000 sheep roamed at large on the Hempstead Plain. In October each owner would separate his animals from the flock to take home for the winter. The owner would identify his sheep by earmarks, small slits or holes in the ears.

This separating or "sheep parting" became quite a social affair and the whole town turned out to celebrate. Horse racing, foot races and other activities were planned for the whole family. This was a forerunner of the fall fairs still held in many communities today. 