

The
**INFORMATION
WINDOW**
of the
Wantagh Preservation Society
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York
11793

April 2009

NEXT MEETING APRIL 28

Dated material

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APRIL 28 MEETING

The April 28 General Meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, a Tuesday, at 8:00 P.M. A History of the decoy carvers of Seaford will be the topic of the meeting.

The guest speakers will be Bill Powell and Frank Murphy of the Long Island Decoy Collectors Association. Mr. Powell is the organizations Historian, and Mr. Murphy a Past President. The presentation will cover the history of the carvers of waterfowl decoys from Seaford, most notably the Varsity Family. We will learn about why and how the decoys ere carved, beginning in the mid 1800's, and the current demand for these interesting collectibles. Featured in the program will be several examples of locally made decoys of shorebirds and other decoys.

The speakers will provide a free appraisal of any decoy brought in to the meeting. There will be coffee, tea and seasonal refreshments, too.

Following refreshments, there will be a short business meeting for Society members. A major item for discussion is the appointment of a recording secretary for the Society. 

SPRING YARD SALE NEXT MONTH

Vendors have been registering for our May 16 Yard Sale, and we expect plenty of interesting exhibits and sales items. Come as early as 10:00 A.M. to see the biggest variety, stay for lunch at the Railroad Station kitchen, and spend the rest of the day picking up bargains. Be prepared to take home Spring plants, baseball memorabilia, tools, picture frames, dolls, antiques, plumbing, books, and lots of things that we can't even anticipate! In between times, you can look over the exhibits in the Station and the railroad car, "Jamaica," and peek at the old Wantagh Post Office. 

Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, April 28, 2009: General Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009: Trustees Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M..

Saturday, May 16, 2009: Spring Yard Sale, on the Museum Grounds, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Rain date on Sunday, same times. 

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Addr: _____

_____ ZIP _____

E-mail: _____

Circle one: Indiv \$10 Family \$20
 Friend \$30 Patron \$50 Fellow \$100

Mail to: Wantagh Preservation Society
P O Box 132, WANTAGH, NY 11793

EARLY HISTORY OF OUR AREA

We live in Wantagh now, but in the olden days, there was just "Long Island," the Dutch-held colony. This is the story of how the original Town of Hempstead (which then corresponded to modern Nassau County), was initially established.

The history of the Town of Hempstead really begins prior to its official inception in 1644. In 1636 settlers from the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts established the towns of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield (then called Watertown) in Connecticut. From Wethersfield, a handful of people journeyed along the Long Island Sound and established Stamford, Connecticut. This group included the Reverend Richard Denton and his four sons. In 1643, two emissaries (Robert Fordham and John Carman, Fordham's son-in-law) were sent across the Long Island Sound to the Dutch-held westerly part of Long Island to obtain town rights from William Kieft (Director General) and to purchase title from the Indians.

In December of 1643, Carman and Fordham met with tribal representation of the Reuckowacky, the Merockes, Matinecock, and Massapeguas and a land deed was negotiated on December 13, 1643. The deed somehow failed to specify boundaries of the vast land tract that was to become Hempstead. Nor did it mention any form of compensation for the tribes ... and the Deed that Fordham and Carman had concluded with the Indians in 1643 was not confirmed until July 4, 1657!

Although colonists began to come over to what is present day Hempstead [The name Hempstead seems to derive from Hemel-Hempstead, in Great Britain, which means town spot.], it was not until November of 1644 that Dutch Director General William Kieft issued the patent granting the settlers rights and title: the *Kieft Patent*.

During the early years, the decisions that came out of the Town of Hempstead Annual and Special Meetings formed the basis for local government and community living. Primarily, these decisions, often termed as "orders" dealt with the community land and the enforcement of local laws. 

NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS

Our membership year starts on January 1, and ends on December 31. Members are requested to mail in their membership dues as soon after the year begins as possible. As an aid to those with weak memory, the address label of each Information Window contains a first line with a note like, "Dues paid to Jan '09." In extreme cases, you might see, "Last issue until dues are paid." Better check it out.

The amount of dues that you pay is up to you and your opinion of the needs of the Society. Most folks start with the "Individual" or "Family" membership, and progress to the higher levels over time. 

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Chair Alice Blaustein reported at last week's Trustee Meeting that so far this year 101 members had remembered to get their dues paid. She is hopeful that more will be coming in over then next month so that we will have complete membership by the time of the Spring Yard Sale on May 12. 

The INFORMATION WINDOW

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

It is also available on-line at www.wantagh.li along with the Society's event program and all sorts of good things connected with Wantagh.

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