

The Information Window

Before the Wantagh Library: The Levine House

By Tom Watson, Recording Secretary

The WPS thanks Carol Levine for the photo of the house that used to stand on the site of the present-day Wantagh Library. Carol lived in the home from her birth in 1940 until 1955, along with her parents Dr. Benjamin and Mrs. Ruth Levine, and her brothers Robert and Michael. Growing up in Wantagh, Carol fondly remembers being able to ride horses at a horse farm in North Wantagh.

In addition to being the Levine home, Dr. Levine also ran his general medical practice from the house. The home was previously owned by James M. Seaman (1853-1920). James M. Seaman was a lawyer; his wife was Sarah Elizabeth (nee Baker); their son was James M. Seaman, Jr.

James M. Seaman grew up in a home that still exists on Jones Avenue North (across the street from the Wantagh Library parking lot). The home was owned by his parents James M. Seaman (1811-1891) and Jemima Seaman (1823-1892). The Levine house was probably built around the late 1800s - about the time when the Seaman-Venier house was built (1860). The Seaman-Venier house is the centerpiece of the Victorian condo complex on Wantagh Avenue (across from the Congregational Church). The Seaman-Venier house was owned by Thomas B. Seaman (1853-1916). James and Thomas were twin brothers. Thomas was instrumental in the naming of the town, Wantagh, in 1891. 📖



The Levine house once stood where the Wantagh Library is today

Coming Soon: Spring Community Yard Sale!

By Bob Cook, Trustee

The Wantagh Preservation Society is holding the "Spring Community Yard Sale" on Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain date is Sunday, May 3rd). If you have sale articles but do not wish to rent space, you may donate them to the Society table. The Spring Yard Sale is held on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum, on the west side of Wantagh Avenue, between Sunrise Highway and the Southern State Parkway. Publicity will be carried online, in newspapers and posters displayed around the area.

All vendors must complete the application on the last page and send it with a check made out to the Wantagh Preservation Society in advance of the event. Vendors who have not pre-registered cannot be guaranteed admission. Vendor's set-up time is from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, and cars being driven onto the grounds to deliver merchandise must be left in the rented \$35 space. You must leave your car on the Museum grounds until the end of the sale. Vendors provide their own tables and must remove their unsold items and refuse after the sale. They also agree not to leave before the normal closing hour of 4:00 PM.

The rental fee for one space with car that is approximately ten feet wide is \$35.00 and an additional space is \$25.00 (\$35.00 if an additional car is to be left). Spaces vary in depth and the amount of shade, and will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis. There are no space reservations in advance. No refunds will be made except for rejections.



Merchandise of all sorts, including new items, are acceptable. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Merchandise must be displayed on tables or on the ground behind the white space markers and within the rented areas. No public address systems are permitted. For more information, please contact Elaine Yarris (516) 785-0761, elainetybooks@optonline.net. 📖

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)
PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)
Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

museum.wantagh.li

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, March 3 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ◆ General Meeting, March 24 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Library, featuring the presentation "President Theodore Roosevelt's Love of Trains"
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, April 7 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ◆ Field Trip to the Seaford Historical Museum, April 28 at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Spring Community Yard Sale, May 2, 10 AM at Wantagh Museum

Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Karen Chowske
1st Vice President: Bob Meagher
2nd Vice President: Carol Poulos
Recording Secretary: Wayne Wagner
Corresponding Secretary: Joan Mallon
Treasurer: Tom Watson

Appointed Officers

Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Bob Cook
Ellen Cook
Joan Mallon
Claire Reisert
Joshua Soren
Mary Wagner
Elaine Yarris

The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately six times each year. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

wps@wantagh.li



The Fall Community Yard Sale was held last October - please see page 1 for information on the Spring Sale!

**Museum
opens soon on
Sunday
April 12**



**More renovations are
underway!**

2015 Officers Sworn In

The Honorable Fred Parola swore in the new slate of WPS officers for this year. From left to right in the photo are: Fred Parola, Karen Chowske (President), Bob Meagher (1st VP), Wayne Wagner (Recording Secretary), Carol Poulos (2nd VP) and Tom Watson (Treasurer). Not present was Joan Mallon (Corresponding Secretary). 📖



Officers are Sworn in by the Honorable Fred Parola.



After the officers were sworn in, Wayne Wagner presented a lively lecture on the life of Theodore Roosevelt.

Jamaica Restoration

By Tom Watson

The photo to the right shows the damage to the Jamaica (the 102 year old parlor car located on the Wantagh museum site) that occurred on Sunday, November 30th. The damage was to the train handle and locking mechanism to one of two gates to the train's observation deck. It appears that someone attempted to get on the observation deck from the side that faces the parking lot, and in so doing completely broke off the train handle and locking mechanism.

A number of people from Wantagh informed the Society that they were at the train on Sunday, taking pictures, and that the train was fine as late as 10:30 AM on Sunday. The train was noticed to be damaged by people that got there at noon on Sunday. So sometime in that hour and a half the damage occurred.



Damage sustained by the Jamaica parlor car late last year

*Scan or click to
donate now!*



*Help the WPS
restore the
Jamaica!*

The Society does not believe that this was a case of vandalism; but rather a case of someone wanting to get on the deck. The gate of the observation deck on the platform side of the train is locked for safety reasons and to prevent any damage to the observation deck. The observation deck has another gate which is on the parking lot side: this gate is not locked since it should be obvious to anyone that access to the observation deck should not be attempted from that side. But there are always people who can't see the obvious – and one or more of these people attempted to access the observation deck from that side and in doing so forced the gate open and severely damaged it. Most visitors to the museum complex realize that the buildings and train should be treated with care – some visitors do not.

Although disheartened by the damage, the Society was very thankful for the recent donations that were specifically given for the repair of the damage. So far, donations have been received from Karin Hennessey and Elizabeth Segerdahl, Nancy Turtarello, Elizabeth Stacy & Family, and Girl Scout Troop #3015. We are extremely grateful to these Wantagh residents, who greatly value the museum complex. Wantagh is extremely lucky in having such a museum complex which includes the original 1885 Wantagh LI railroad station (houses the Wantagh museum), the original outhouse to the station, the replica of the 1907 Wantagh Post Office and the 1912 Long Island railroad parlor car, the "Jamaica".

You too can help restore the Jamaica. Scan or click the QR code now. Thanks so much! 📖

Any amount helps!

Make a Difference!
DONATE

Thanks so much!

2015 "Spring Community Yard Sale" Application Form

Applications will be accepted as long as space permits. Arrival time is 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM on May 2 (rain date May 3). No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Vendors must supply their own tables. Vendors must remove their unsold items and refuse. In the event of a rain cancellation on the rain date no refunds will be issued. If you agree with these terms, submit the form below with your check, payable to "Wantagh Preservation Society" and mail to "P.O. Box 132, Wantagh, NY 11793-0132."

Name: (Please print) _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Number of \$35 Spaces: _____ Number of \$25 Spaces: _____

E-Mail: _____ (contact for future events)

Amount Enclosed @ \$35.00 per space w/ car and \$25.00 per additional space: _____

I agree to remain until closing time, 4:00 PM Signature: _____

2015 Membership Drive in Full Swing

By Mary Wagner, Trustee



*Scan, click or clip.
Be a member in
2015!*

Our membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31. You can join or renew your membership by clipping the application below, or by scanning or clicking the QR code.

The restoration of the post office is complete, while restoration of the Jamaica parlor car is well underway, and there are many new exhibits in the museum - all thanks to the support and interest of Society members. Your continued support by your dues will help us make this site a real focal point for our community. 📖

***We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2015!***

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ New ☐ Renew ☐

Email: _____

I'd like to help with:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

Check Membership Level: ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Friend \$35 ☐ Patron \$50 ☐ Fellow \$100

Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793