

The Information Window

Wantagh's Dwindling Historical Markers

By Paul Sigler, Trustee

Wantagh used to have many "blue and buff" New York State historical markers along its main roads indicating buildings or events of historical interest. Sadly, over many decades most of the markers have disappeared, and just a few remain today. We have a list of all the markers that were originally installed and recently we contacted the New York State Archives to inquire as to what additional information, if any, they might have on our Wantagh historical markers.

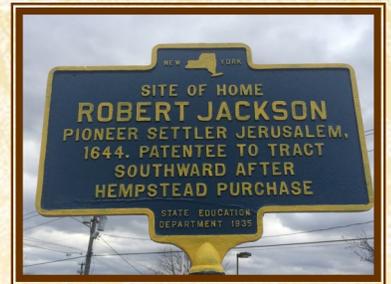
Here's a little background information on the NYS Historical Marker Program. The New York State Historical Marker program began in 1925 in observance of the 150th anniversary of the American Revolution and continued for over a decade. Many of these markers were installed upstate. In 1935-6 as part of the Long Island Tercentenary, celebrating the first white settlement on Long Island, there was a push to place NYS historical markers along Long Island's main roads. Wantagh, having been settled since the early 1600's, had numerous historical sites.

We heard back from the New York State Archives, and yes, they did have information on Wantagh's historical markers! The information included not only the full text for each marker, but the exact location where each marker was installed. And even more exciting were the 1935 application forms for each marker, some even including a photo of the historical building! It turns out that the application forms were filled out by Wantagh resident Helen Louise Strang (whose house still stands) and who happened to be a historian and DAR member.

Here is a list of the ten Wantagh area NYS historical markers with their original location.

- ◆ 1666 Jackson-Jones Home, installed on Merrick Road and Riverside Drive
- ◆ Cherrywood-Home of Capt. John Seaman 1644, installed on the corner of Wantagh Avenue and Jerusalem Avenue
- ◆ Indian Trail 1664, installed at Sunrise Highway and Seamans Neck Road
- ◆ North Jerusalem Avenue 1644, installed on Wantagh Avenue north of Southern State Parkway
- ◆ Wantagh-First Settlement 1644, installed at Merrick Road and Wantagh Causeway
- ◆ Wantagh-First Settlement 1644, installed on Wantagh Avenue and Merrick Road
- ◆ Richard Jackson 1776, installed on Wantagh Avenue and Stratford Road
- ◆ Grist Mill Site 1704, installed on Merrick Road and Riverside Drive
- ◆ Meeting house 1827, installed on Wantagh Avenue north of Jerusalem Avenue
- ◆ Robert Jackson Home Site 1644, installed on Wantagh Avenue and Homestead Avenue

Out of these ten historical markers, only three remain, Wantagh-First Settlement 1644, now located at the Wantagh Museum, Robert Jackson Home Site 1644, which is still in its original location, and the Indian Trail 1664, located in Seaford. What happened to all the other's? No one knows. The best guess is that over the decades, car accidents, road repair, snow removal, all took their toll. New York State stopped maintaining the signs several decades ago. The Wantagh Preservation Society looks to one day restore these markers, and fulfill their original purpose, the education of the public. 📖



"Blue and buff" signs like these are disappearing

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

www.wantagh.li/museum

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ General Meeting, October 22, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, All are Welcome, "Theodore Roosevelt, the 1st of the Modern Day Presidents"
- ◆ WWI Monument Unveiling, November 11, 10:40 AM, more on page 4
- ◆ General Meeting, November 26, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, All are Welcome, "History of an 18th century Wantagh House"
- ◆ Winter Wonderland, November 30, 12:30-6:00 PM, more on page 4

Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Tom Watson
Vice President: Bob Meagher
Recording Secretary: Mary Corrigan
Treasurer: Wayne Wagner

Appointed Officers

Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Bob Cook
Ellen Cook
Fred Parola
Claire Reisert
Barry Rivadue
Paul Sigler
Matt Susco
Mary Wagner
Elaine Yarris

The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately four 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



Santa will be seeing children of all ages at the Winter Wonderland Event - check out the last page for more information.

*Museum is
open Sundays
until November 3rd
From 2 to 4 PM*



*More renovations are
underway!*

Attention: Professional Photographers

Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, the grounds of the Wantagh Museum provide a scenic venue for professional photographers. However, a Photography Permit is required for all professional photographers that use the museum grounds.



The permit fee is only \$50 per hour (an additional fee of \$25 applies for access to the train observation deck). Your fees provide an important source of revenue for our Museum and helps us maintain its beauty that you depend on.

During your photo shoot, the museum grounds remain open to others and there can be no reservations of any particular area. However, residents that visit the museum have always been courteous.



Photography cannot take place before 10 AM or after dusk. Permits are rain or shine.

An approved permit must be presented during the shoot upon request. To apply for a permit, please scan or click the QR code.

Thank you for your support and for helping us maintain the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. 📖



Wantagh Preservation at Independence Day Parade

Last July, the Wantagh Preservation society participated in the Wantagh Independence Day Parade. From left to right, trustees Mary Corrigan and Carol Poulos lead the way with the WPS banner, followed by member Lester Orlick in his vintage MG and trustee Matt Susco in his classic 1980 Pontiac Trans Am. 📖



Become a WPS member - scan or click the QR code or mail in the coupon below - and thanks!

Now is the Perfect Time to Jumpstart your Membership

By Mary Wagner, Membership Chairman

Our membership drive for 2020 would normally begin on January 1, but you can get a head start by joining or renewing your membership now. The money raised through membership is used for maintenance of our museum and grounds, as well as the post office and Jamaica parlor car restoration projects. Our latest project is recreating the World War I memorial at the Long Island Railroad Station where it originally stood. You are not just joining the society - you become a supporter of history by enabling the society to continue its work to educate residents, especially children, on Wantagh's past.

Please join us by paying your dues for 2020. We also invite you to become an active member of the society. Please also let us know if you have any old Wantagh photos, old Wantagh newspapers, or any other historical Wantagh artifacts. Thanks! 📖

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2020!

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

“Preservation with a Purpose.”

Winter Wonderland Encore

The Wantagh Chamber of Commerce and Wantagh Preservation Society are hosting the second Winter Wonderland Craft Fair - a fun and festive way to jump start the holiday season! This outdoor event will be held on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum, located at 1700 Wantagh Avenue and will take place from 12:30 PM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, November 30th. General admission is free and all are invited.

Quality, handmade crafted items along with quality non-craft items will be available for purchase from various local vendors in addition to food and beverages. Live entertainment will light up the afternoon with performances by The Five Stone Band, The Wantagh American Legion Pipe and Drum Band, and dancers from Show Stompin' Irish Dance. As usual, Santa will be in the Jamaica Railroad car and will be happy to take Christmas wishes early from children of all ages.



Title Sponsor is Tony Smith of SAS Real Estate, Decorations Sponsor is Eric Abolafia of Abby's Parkside Nursery and Florist, and Trolley Sponsors are Matthew Kondrup of Matty K Travel and Rosemarie DeMaio of Mama's Custom Cookies. Their generosity and support is very much appreciated.

As dusk approaches, there will be a Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting for all to enjoy. While you're there check out the new lights and decorations.

Please contact the Wantagh Chamber of Commerce at 679-0100 for a vendor application, sponsor application or any questions. 📖



Photos from the 2018 Winter Wonderland Event



Veterans Day Ceremony and WWI Monument Unveiling

The Wantagh American Legion Post 1273 and the Wantagh Preservation Society invite you to our combined Veterans Day Ceremony and WWI Monument Unveiling at Triangle Park, Beech Street and Railroad Avenue (by the Wantagh LIRR train station).

Please join us on Monday, November 11. The ceremony starts at 10:40 AM. 📖



Original WWI Memorial located near the original location of the Wantagh Train Station