

The Information Window

WWI Memorial Dedication

By Tom Watson, President

The Wantagh Preservation Society wants to thank the Wantagh American Legion for allowing our Society to be included in their Veteran’s Day ceremony that took place last November. The reason for the Wantagh Preservation Society’s participation was to unveil Wantagh’s reconstructed World War I memorial.

The original memorial was installed in 1919, a hundred years ago, on the north side of the railroad tracks. The memorial lists the Wantagh men who served in the military during WWI. We don’t know what ultimately happened to the original memorial but since it was made of wood it most likely deteriorated over time.

Luckily the WPS had many old photos of the memorial so that the memorial was able to be reconstructed as close as possible to the original. Many Wantagh residents, former Wantagh residents, local businesses and Wantagh organizations contributed to the WWI memorial reconstruction fund. All contributors will be receiving a certificate of appreciation. The Wantagh American Legion was our biggest donor – their donation paid for over a third of the cost of the memorial.

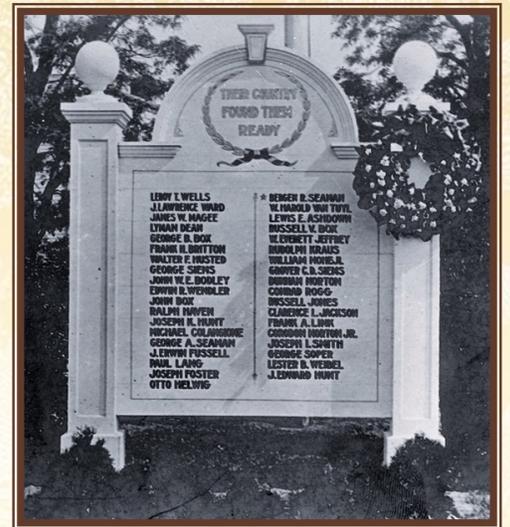
The inscription on the memorial reads – Their Country found them ready – what more could be said. The WPS’s motto is “Preservation with a Purpose”. What better purpose could there be than to honor those men from Wantagh who served in the military during WWI.

Bergen Seaman, whose name is on the Memorial, was one of many who paid the ultimate sacrifice. On the memorial next to his name is a gold star to signify that he died in the War. He died in France and his body was ultimately returned to the States and he is buried in Greenfield Cemetery. His childhood home stills stands in Wantagh – it is the old house in front of Wantagh’s Greek Orthodox Church on Jones Avenue.

Please find time to visit and view the Memorial and to reflect on the names of the men listed. 📖



Wantagh’s recreated WWI memorial (2019)



Wantagh’s original WWI memorial (1919)



The childhood home of Bergen Seaman as it stands today on Jones Avenue

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, April 28, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, All are Welcome, program to be announced
- ◆ General Meeting, May 26, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, All are Welcome, program to be announced
- ◆ General Meeting, June 23, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, All are Welcome, program to be announced

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
Noreen 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



The Grinch cheerfully waves at the Winter Wonderland event hosted by the Wantagh Preservation Society and the Wantagh Chamber of Commerce (more photos on the last page)



*In the spring, the
museum will
open on Sundays
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 Winter News from the Last Century

Compiled by Carol Poulos, Curator

120 Years Ago - January 1900: Jonathan Fussell began a four year term on January 1 as postmaster. Benjamin Carpenter has purchased a new trotter, Montauk, with which he proposes to show town people what speed is all about. A number of our local ice companies are deploring the lack of water in their ponds. This is owing almost entirely from the impoverished condition of the soil due to the continual pumping by the Brooklyn Water Works.

110 Years Ago - January/February 1910: The new type of fire engine selected by committee is on its way and will be composed of a Fairbanks gasoline engine and pump mounted on a truck now being built by George Box. This is an innovation in fire fighting machines and its operation will be watched with interest by all firemen of the town. In February, a large number of residents and firemen turned out to witness the test of the new gasoline engine and its throwing power. The engine threw a stream of water through 500 feet of hose to the top of Young Brothers Coal Pocket, about 50 feet high.

105 Years Ago - January/February 1915: In early January, the gas lights were lit for the first time at the Long Island Railroad Station and are a great improvement over the old lights. They not only illuminate the station, but also throw a good light on the business street as well. In February, ground was broken for the foundation of an addition to the firehouse.

100 Years Ago - January 1920: Charles Schaefer is the census enumerator for this district. Richard Hunt Jr., while spearing through the ice for eels, fell and broke his leg and went to Nassau Hospital for treatment. Mr. Verme went to the same hospital, having slipped on ice. 📖



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

Now is the Perfect Time to Renew your Membership

By Mary Wagner, Membership Chairman

Our membership drive for 2020 is underway. The money raised through membership is used for maintenance of our museum and grounds. Our most recent project was 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. Our contact information is on page 2. 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:

- Gardening & Planting General Meeting Planning Construction Publicity
 Hosting Museum on a Sunday Special Event Planning Publication & Newsletter Restoration
 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 hosted the second Winter Wonderland Craft Fair to jump start the holiday season. 56 vendors participated in this outdoor event that was held on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum last November.

Quality, handmade crafted items along with quality non-craft items were available for purchase from various local vendors in addition to food and beverages. Live entertainment was provided by The Five Stone Band, The Wantagh American Legion Pipe & Drum Band, and dancers from Show Stompin' Irish Dance - all while Santa sat cozily in the Jamaica Railroad car taking early Christmas wishes. Topping off the event, was the Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting. 📖

*Photos from the
2019 Winter
Wonderland
Event*

