

# The Information Window

## Scout Projects Then and Now

*By Tom Watson, President*

The Wantagh Preservation Society is grateful to all the Wantagh Boy Scouts who have supported the Wantagh Museum during its 56 years of existence. A couple of months ago John DeMasi sent the photo below of him and his twin brother Joseph doing work at the Museum site shortly after the 1885 train station was moved. John currently resides in Trenton, New Jersey. The photo is from the 1966 November 9 Long Island Press edition.

The latest Boy Scout to support the Wantagh Museum is Alejandro Aviles of Wantagh Troop 189. Alejandro's Eagle Scout project was to construct 5 benches (see lower right photos) for the Museum site. Alejandro who is front and center in the photo (to the right) was supported this summer by his Scout buddies during the construction and installation of the benches. 📖



*Alejandro Aviles of Wantagh Troop 189 with his Team*



*Clipping from the 1966 November 9 Long Island Press*



*Two of the Five Benches Constructed as part of Alejandro's Eagle Scout Project*



*Become a part of history by becoming a WPS member. Scan or click the QR code to join!*



*Stay tuned for upcoming "Storytime & Craft" at the Museum*

## 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](http://www.wantagh.li/museum)



# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Elected Officers

President: Tom Watson  
Vice President: Matt Susco  
Recording Secretary: Mary Corrigan  
Treasurer: Harold Ball

## Appointed Officers

Curator: Heather Famiglietti  
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

## Trustees

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Bob Cook  
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*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately three 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](mailto:wps@wantagh.li)



*The Wantagh Preservation Society would like to thank Carl Lorenz of Premium Power Washing for donating his time and effort over the last few years in power washing the museum building and train*



*The Wantagh Museum  
Is still open on Sundays  
from noon to 4 PM!*



*Please stop in and see  
our new displays of  
local artifacts!*

## 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. 📖



## John Jackson II House on Wantagh Avenue is Landmarked

*By Beth Obergh, Member*

The John Jackson II House on Wantagh Avenue is the latest Wantagh structure to become a Town of Hempstead Landmark. It was recognized as locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare surviving early house updated over two hundred years. The house preserves the original eighteenth century building, a large Greek Revival addition, and late nineteenth and early twentieth century modifications. In addition, it was also recognized as important in the area of settlement for its long association with the Jacksons, an early and prominent family in Wantagh.



*Jackson II House as it Stands Today*

The Jackson family owned the property until 1899. Robert Jackson (1620-1684) emigrated to Jerusalem, now Wantagh, from Connecticut in 1643, becoming one of sixty freeholders. He was one of the largest landholders in the region and an active local civic and political leader. His son, John I (1645-1724) served in similar roles. In 1698, he established a lumber mill on the Jerusalem River. John II (1673-1744) worked there and eventually became the proprietor. He raised seven children with his wife Elizabeth in the John Jackson II House.

Justice John III (1701-1773), John II and Elizabeth's oldest son, raised ten children in the house with his wife Kesiah. Their oldest son Parmenus (1743-1781) was brutally murdered in the house by members of a Loyalist militia who learned that he had a substantial amount of money there. The incident is well-documented as a result of its examination in a local court. Parmenus II (1768-

1816) inherited the house and passed it on to his son Elbert (1809-1884). Thomas Birdsall Jackson (1797-1881), Parmenus II's oldest son, lived in the house during his early career. Thomas Birdsall was a lawyer, county judge (1832), and State Assembly member (1833-1835) while living in the house. In 1835, he moved to Newtown and later became a Member of the United States House of Representatives (1837-1841). During this period (1830-1840), the house received a large, two-story Greek Revival addition. This greatly enlarged the structure and created a more fashionable and symmetrical façade.

Notably, the family maintained the historic south-facing orientation of the house with the new addition instead of reorienting it to the road. Elbert's wife Elizabeth inherited the house and it was sold out of the family in 1899 after her death. After a series of short-term owners, Charles Bradley purchased the house in 1909 and added the large bay window and interior partitions with Corinthian columns. In 1936, Bradley sold the house to another family, the Hummels, who lived there until 1967. After that point, the parcel was sold to a developer who subdivided its associated land for new residential construction.

The original house was constructed circa 1700-1710; John I's will confirms that it existed by 1724. The original section of the house is a two-bay by two-bay frame building with a steep side-gabled roof and center chimney. While the exterior and interior has changed over time, the building retains its historic massing and form, and preserves hewn horizontal beams and supporting posts on the interior. The house retains its period details including the staircase, interior partitions with Corinthian columns, mantle pieces, wood floors, bead-board walls and ceilings, doors, and trim. Within the enclosed porch, the Greek Revival entrance surround and sidelights remain, along with the original clapboard siding and six-over-six windows.

The John Jackson II House is one of three surviving residences in Wantagh associated with the Jackson family. One of the other properties, the Samuel and Elbert Jackson House, is located approximately a quarter-mile south of the John Jackson II House, while the third Jackson house is located across from the Wantagh Library parking lot. 📖



*Interior of Jackson II House  
Highlighting the Corinthian Columns*



*"Preservation with a Purpose."*

## Wantagh Preservation Society's first annual Antique Car Show

*By Tom Watson, President*

The Wantagh Preservation Society's first annual Antique Car Show was held on July 16th. From all accounts it was a great success. The car owners gave very positive feedback and are looking forward to next year's show. There were 42 cars at the event with many of them being from the 1930s. There was even one car from the 1920s – a 1929 Ford Model A. The 1936 Hudson was a big hit based on it being used in the first Godfather film. Kids were thrilled that the owners of the 1981 Checker cab allowed them

to pile inside the vehicle. The public were pleasantly surprised at the low entrance fee - \$1 for adults and free for kids. Based on the gate receipts it was estimated that approximately 400 people attended the event.

During the event the Society held the dedication ceremony for the 1/3 acre parcel that was added to the Wantagh Museum grounds. The land was purchased by Nassau County using Open Space funds. On the dais from left to right are WPS trustee Bob Cook, Olimpia Rudnicki and Sofia Stipanov of the 6-12 club, County Legislator Steve Rhoads, WPS trustee Fred Parola, Wantagh American Legion Commander George Dibitetto, Wantagh Chamber of Commerce President Cathy Powell, DAR Jerusalem chapter Regent Sandy Leonard, Wantagh American Legion Vice Commander John Sottnik, Town of Hempstead Clerk Kate Murray, Town of Hempstead Councilman Chris Carini, WPS Trustee Tom Watson and WPS Trustee Matt Susco. 📖



Scan or click the  
QR code for  
more pictures!

