



The Information Window

Lost! Check your Attics!

By Beth Obergh, President

Captain John Seaman, one of the founding fathers of our community, had owned hundreds of acres of land in the mid 1600s. It was then that he built his homestead, Cherrywood, near its namesake shopping center situated on Wantagh Avenue. Soon after establishing their home, the Seaman family planted a substantial apple orchard encompassing multiple acres. Captain John Seaman, passed the farm on to his sixth son, Thomas. From Thomas, it was then passed down to his first son, John, and then to John's third son Thomas. From here it was passed to Thomas's daughter Mary, and son-in-law Zebulon Seaman. It was then passed to his son, Ardon, and then to his son, Edward H. Seaman.



Albert W. Seaman home as it once stood on the northeast corner of Wantagh and Jerusalem Avenues. Later became Dauernheim Nursery. (Contributed by Ted Wiebel via New York Heritage Website)

At this point, in 1870, one of the apple trees was documented as being 208 years old. This tree, known as "the old apple tree" was now decaying and therefore cut down. Edward's son, Albert W. Seaman (more about him in another story) performed the task. To preserve the history of the tree, he had a beautiful frame fashioned from its wood. Inside the frame was placed a copy of an engraving of William Cullen Bryant by Durand, Bryant's autograph, and a copy of a verse from Bryant's poem "The Planting of the Apple Tree." It was dated 1872. Bryant wrote the poem in 1849 and it was published in 1864. During this time Bryant was serving as editor of the Evening Post and frequented Long Island. According to local lore, Seaman's old apple tree was the inspiration for Bryant's poem. The whereabouts of the frame today are unknown. So please check your attics! 📖

Show and Tell at the Wantagh Library

By Alison Lorch, Member

Wantagh Preservation Society's "Show & Tell" meeting at the Wantagh Public Library on March 28th was a huge success. Attendees brought items to the meeting to share their significance to the others in attendance. It made for a fun and interesting evening.



Beth Obergh presents an old wooden horse leg from Nunley's Carousel

Some of the presentations were, a very old coin found in Wantagh from the 1700s (when Wantagh was Jerusalem), old baseball uniforms, mitts & bats, an old wooden horse leg from Nunley's Carousel. Old photo that most likely hung inside the Wantagh Hotel, and art work created by Wantagh Preservation Society's founder Margaret Aiken.

Author Dave Morrison attended too and spoke of Roxey the LIRR dog and of a new statue erected in Mineola of first woman solo flyer Bessie Medler Raiche and Roxey dog. The meeting ended with all enjoying Mary Corrigan's renowned chocolate cake and coffee. 📖



Harold Ball shows an antique Wantagh Baseball uniform

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767



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

www.wantagh.li/museum

Wantagh Preservation Society

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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



A couple enjoys a picnic on Valentine's Day on the Wantagh Museum Grounds

*The Wantagh Museum
will open on Sundays, 2 PM
to 4 PM, beginning April 16.*



*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. 📖

The Origin of the name Wantagh Woods

By Bob Meagher, Trustee

Today when a person mentions “Wantagh Woods“, it immediately brings to mind a desirable area of modern homes situated in a well-rated school district with nearby stores and restaurants. Of course there are other areas of Wantagh that are equally comparable to “The Woods“, but (maybe unfairly) due to the hot real estate market of the new century, the Woods has become the “tag“ for Wantagh, especially with prospective home buyers on Long Island.

If you were to drive around the area today most noticeable are the large homes that are built on property that’s just big enough for the dwelling. And maybe one might comment on some of the large trees still in existence on some streets. It wouldn’t be surprising if most people scouting the local assumed that “Wantagh Woods“, was a name created by eager builders selling their latest models.



The remaining stumps of majestic trees cleared to make way for a larger home in Wantagh Woods

The fact of the matter is that at one time the area was a woodland area, bordered by small farm fields during Wantagh’s early history. It wasn’t until the beginning of the 20th century that the woods began to see some development. While some farmland existed south of Bunker Avenue and small custom homes were built on a few roads like Edgerton Avenue, for the most part the woods remained.

It was during the time between the world wars that people with extra monetary assets saw an opportunity to build little summer homes known as bungalows in the woods. They were rustic homes (well water, no sewers, maybe no electricity), meant mostly as a summer escape from the city in those days. A typical block even later during the early sixties,

might have two to four bungalows on it surrounded by large trees for privacy. A few blocks weren’t even developed yet.

As Wantagh began to change following World War II some people began to live in the bungalows year round. Some even added extensions on to the original structure for more living space.

Sadly in later decades as the land increased in value, new owners would have the bungalows demolished and build larger more modern homes which usually meant the trees were cut down too. In the last 30 years homeowners have even subdivided their properties which has increased the density of homes in the woods. Fortunately for most in Wantagh Woods homeowners today, the quality of the homes has increased the value of the area, but at the cost of the loss of many magnificent trees of the former woodlands. 📖



A typical bungalow style home in the Wantagh Woods



A typical large style home being built in Wantagh Woods after razing a bungalow that once stood there



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“Preservation with a Purpose.”

Springtime Wantagh News from Years Ago

Compiled By Carol Poulos, Co-Curator

150 Years Ago in 1873

A fire which occurred early one Saturday morning in the lumber yard of Cox, Wendler and Van Tuyl was one of the worst the firemen had to cope with. Seaford and Bellmore fire departments responded and helped materially, the Bellmore men pumping water for several hours and the men doing good work. A large number of men were needed to save the houses nearby and also the office of the firm which was threatened at one time.

Happily, after several hours of work, the wind veered to almost due west which confined it chiefly to the lumber yard.

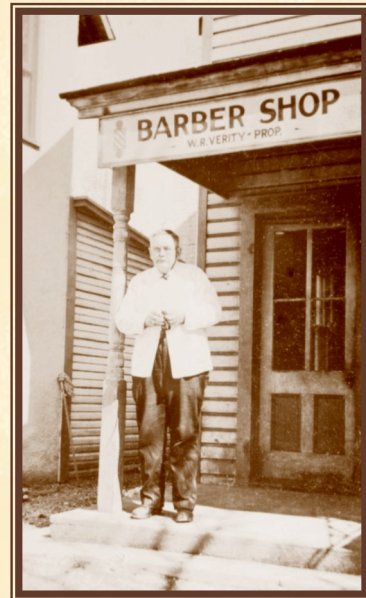
At a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hempstead, proposition was granted for the South Side Lighting District, which takes in nearly all of the town of Hempstead east of Freeport....Cox, Wendler, and Van Tuyl are rebuilding the lumber sheds recently destroyed by fire.



Emma Whitmore

125 Years Ago in 1898

George Southard has purchased a new wheel and has improved greatly in his riding...Wallace Verity has improved the interior of his barber shop...The Wantagh Chowder Club will give a chowder party at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Corodon Norton on a Saturday evening...Patriotism has been a favorite hobby of our station agent, Miss Emma Whitmore, since war was declared with Spain and besides being instrumental in securing a fine flag for our staff, she now wears a handsome shirt waist made of the country's colors, red, white, and blue. Passengers on the trains now cheer the popular agent as she appears on the platform.



Wallace Verity's Barber Shop on the East Side of Grove Street



Boy Scout Pack 95 Marching in the Wantagh Fourth of July Parade

80 Years Ago in 1943

The war stamp and bond committee of the Wantagh unit, A.W.V.S., sold a total of \$1,262.15 in stamps and bonds in the Wantagh post office for the past week. Mrs. Cecil Doncaster is chairman of the committee...The Wantagh Community War Service committee entertained 40 service men at a dance one night in the Wantagh firehall, Railroad Avenue, when the Ladies Aid Society of Christ Lutheran church was the hostess group. About 35 members of the Volunteerettes, a group of young

women hostesses, were present. Lester Siems was master of ceremonies and Fred Joubert was at the piano to accompany the community singing.



The Wantagh Train Station on Railroad Avenue (circa late 1800s)

75 Years Ago in 1948

Boy Scout Pack number 95 of Wantagh, recently organized under the sponsorship of the Wantagh Parent-Teacher Association, has applied for a charter to the Nassau County Boy Scout committee...Wantagh residents today looked forward to house-to-house delivery in the near future following an announcement that numbering of houses is progressing. 📖