



The Information Window

Wantagh Preservation Society's Recent Activity Draws Crowds

It was a full house at the Wantagh museum for the May general meeting. Guest speaker George "Chip" Gorman (Long Island Regional Director of Parks and Recreation & Historical sites), lectured on Jones Beach, with an interesting and entertaining behind-the-scenes perspective. The talk included a history of Robert Moses, the man credited with major accomplishments and more subtle ones like having to tell Jimmy Buffet that he's not going to be performing due to lightning (although it was only temporary as the storm passed and the show went on). The night also included an enjoyable question-and-answer period. Although there were complaints about some attractions at Jones Beach, Chip assured the crowd that they weren't constructed under his tenure.



George "Chip" Gorman Presents a Lively Lecture at the May General Meeting

On July 4th, the WPS participated in the annual Wantagh Independence Day parade. Eight members marched while displaying the WPS banner and a rendering of Chief Wantagh, Grand Sachem. Thousands lined the streets of Wantagh to see the parade that also featured many other local organizations including the Wantagh American Legion, Wantagh Fire Department, Wantagh Kiwanis, Nassau Ancient Order of Hibernians, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Miss Wantagh Court and many others.



WPS Members at the Wantagh Independence Day Parade



Some of the Many Antique Cars on Display on July 15 at the Wantagh Museum

On July 15, the WPS hosted its 2nd Antique Car Show at the Wantagh Museum. In addition to the wide assortment of cars from 1970 and older, a generous assortment of refreshments were offered, like coffee, cookies, hotdogs and ice cream. Plus the entire Museum Complex was open offering all a chance to go inside Wantagh's 1885 Train Station, visit



Tom Watson (left) and Matt Susco Proudly Display a Drawing of Chief Wantagh at the Wantagh Independence Day Parade

Wantagh's 1907 Post Office and tour the 1912 Jamaica Parlor Car. To add even more excitement, there was a 50/50 raffle, crafts, music and other entertainment. 📖

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



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the QR code!*



Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Beth Obergh
Vice President: Matt Susco
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson
Treasurer: Harold Ball

Appointed Officers

Co-Curators: Carol Poulos and Paul Sigler
Membership: Heather Famiglietti
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Zack Brauer
Bob Cook
Mary Corrigan
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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



Curators Carol Poulos and Paul Sigler Sort Through Newly Arrived Artifacts as Part of Their Ongoing Efforts to Enhance the Museum's Displays

*The Wantagh Museum
will open on Sundays, 2 PM
to 4 PM, until November 12.*



*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. 📖

Raring to go with Mrs. Daisy Hatton Seaman!

By Paul Sigler, Trustee

Daisy Hatton Seaman loved to drive the automobile! This does not sound out of the ordinary, except for the year she was loving driving was 1900! The automobile was brand new still, outnumbered on the roads by the horse and wagon. Daisy in fact was one of the earliest woman drivers in New York.

Daisy Hatton was born in 1872 in Georgia. By the 1890's, Daisy was living in Brooklyn, and in 1900 she married Albert W. Seaman of Wantagh. Albert was a lawyer, owned the Seaman farm, Cherrywood, and was a direct descendant of Capt. John Seaman, one of the earliest settlers of Wantagh (known then as Jerusalem).

Daisy must have taken to driving soon thereafter, if not even before her marriage, as by 1905, Daisy was described as being a most expert driver. In an era when autos were registered sequentially, Daisy's auto registration number was 242. Only the 242nd licensed driver in New York, and one of only a very few women! Daisy's car of choice was a Franklin touring car, Model D. And Daisy learned not only to drive her Franklin, but make *all* necessary engine repairs *herself*! Albert W. Seaman was quite content to ride on the passenger's side. Together they began to take many trips and travel greater and greater distances on each trip.

By 1910, Daisy had driven over 50,000 miles, doing all the auto maintenance on her now aging Franklin herself. So, that same year, Albert and Daisy traveled to Syracuse, where they visited the Franklin automobile factory, and purchased a brand new, 1910, twenty-eight horsepower, four-cylinder Franklin Model D touring car. Daisy drove her new Franklin all the way home. Roads in 1910 were primitive, at best, mostly dirt with ruts, and east of Utica, a flood had all but taken out parts of the road. Daisy struggled and persevered.



Daisy Hatton Seaman



Seaman Campsite as Published in a 1914 Edition of
The Brooklyn Daily Eagle

By 1914, Daisy and Albert had travelled up and down the east coast, touring through twenty-five states. They were ready for a most audacious adventure. The Brooklyn Daily Eagle headlined, "WOMAN WILL CROSS CONTINENT IN AUTO; Mrs. Daisy Hatton Seaman Starts From Brooklyn Home With Husband; To Wear Trousers In Open; Mrs. Seaman To Make All Repairs To Car-Trip To Cover 10,000 Miles."

Keep in mind in 1914, there was no Eisenhower Interstate Highway System, no fast food, not many bathrooms, and not many gas stations. What the Seamans did have were; very poor roads (dirt), and out west, only wagon trails. They had a tent, sleeping bags, and camping supplies. They had their Franklin Model D touring car, into which their supplies could be packed. They also had Albert who was a very good mapper. And they had Daisy, who by this time was an expert driver and mechanic. And Daisy was *raring to go*!

On 1914 June 17, Daisy and Albert departed. Daisy drove as far as she could each day, after which they set up camp for the night. They covered 36 states and Mexico, arriving back to New York on 1914 October 2. Daisy stated, "In all a remarkable showing was made by the automobile, despite the fact that it is four years old. One of the accidents to the machine was that a brake spring broke, and another was the braking of a spring of the magneto governor. We averaged about 100 miles a day. We passed through almost impossible places and went over roads that had not been traversed by automobiles before. We rode through about 2,000 miles of desert waste, but took good care to have a plentiful of water on hand. The entire trip was very delightful!" 📖

“Preservation with a Purpose.”

Late Summer News from Olden Days in Wantagh

Compiled By Carol Poulos, Co-Curator

145 Years Ago in 1878

August: Petty thieving is still practiced in this neighborhood. On Wednesday evening of last week about a dozen places were visited and small quantities of goods stolen. Israel S. Jones lost a quantity of feed, S. H. Tuttle, half of two sets of harness and a number of chickens; J. Russell, some clothing; Sylvester Smith, a lot of kitchen cutlery; S. Bartholomew, a quantity of grain; B. Jonas, children's clothing; E. H. Seaman, a number of chickens; John Stiehl, clothes-line stripped. The thieves were not at all particular to quality, quantity, and nature of property.

125 Years Ago in 1898

July 29: Kaufmann Bros. contemplate building an extension to their pickle factory business. Business has increased materially with the firm and larger facilities are necessary. Huckleberries and blackberries are being gathered in large quantities by local pickers. The huckleberries are reported unusually fine considering the drought of the last month. September: Mr. Cook, proprietor of the pickle factory, has opened it for the season and is shipping large quantities of the briny preserves.

120 Years Ago in 1903

August: In the annual yacht race off Patchogue, first boat crossing the finish line was the Mayita, Captain Albert Seaman of Wantagh, at 2:48, the elapsed time being 3 hours and 3 minutes. Counselor A. W. Seaman's Mayita won third place in points in the sloop class.



High Hill Beach, Looking South from Savage's Hotel

115 Years Ago in 1908

August: Henry Ultsch is having a cement sidewalk laid in front of his hotel. The Wantagh Gun Club will hold a clay pigeon shoot at Hungry Harbor next Saturday afternoon....Peter Avogadro has joined the ranks of automobilists.

110 Years Ago in 1913

August: Bluestone is being put on the Merrick Road. Opposite Wantagh, which will greatly improve the condition of the road. High Hill Beach: The second boardwalk entertainment was held at Savage's Pavilion Friday evening August 8. The attendance was up to capacity and the sum of money raised will complete

the boardwalk to the surf. The next affair given by the Improvement Society will be a fancy dress masquerade ball on Friday August 22. Prizes for prettiest and funniest costumes are offered.

100 Years Ago in 1923

August: The Junior Polly Anna Circle held a beach party last Tuesday at High Hill. They went in George Box's motor boat "The Busy Bee," and had a delightful day bathing, dancing, etc... The Community Welfare League has succeeded, through its waterways committee, in obtaining a release of an acre of land adjoining the easterly side of Wantagh Avenue, at the lower terminus of Wantagh Canal. This will be used for highway purposes and is 100 feet wide along the northerly route of Flat Creek. This will enable the High Hill Beach Ferry, in making its regular trip to High Hill Beach, to make a stop at the lower end of Wantagh Canal without turning into the canal, the stop being made alongside of the land for this purpose and should be of great accommodation for the people of this village. 📖



Wantagh Hotel



George Box on his boat Busy Bee