

The Information Window

The Society of Friends - Quakers of Jerusalem

By Frank Jurs, Trustee

The society of friends, also known as The Quakers, was a religious group founded in England and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the New World in the 1600s. This religious group had very significant influence in the formation of what would become today's Wantagh and North Wantagh.

In the 1650s missionaries arrived in New Netherland (territory controlled by the Dutch) and began spreading their message throughout the sparse settlements of Long Island. Among many families, the Carmans became influential in that religious movement. One early ancestor was Nathan Birdsall who was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1611. In 1632, Nathan and his father, Henry, arrived in New England and settled in the city of Boston. Nathan later moved to East Hampton in 1657, Matinecock in 1666, and eventually purchased land in Jerusalem in 1679, the area known today as Wantagh. Many of his grandchildren later settled there as well, making Birdsall an influential name in the area over several centuries.

Another important ancestor was Captain John Seaman, born in Seaford, England in 1603. He arrived in the new world in 1630. After settling in Massachusetts, and in Connecticut, Seaman eventually moved to Long Island, where he became one of the most influential men in the town of Hempstead. He married twice and had 16 children. The famous "Cherry Wood" estate belonged to Captain Seaman and his descendants, and was farmed for over 300 years. Society of Friends meetings was held in the Seaman home beginning in 1699, and frequently until the meeting house was built in 1827.



Garner family (source Hofstra University)

Generations later, John Garner's family arrived in Jerusalem from Armagh in Northern Ireland, in 1801. The Garner and Birdsall families became connected through intermarriages and businesses, strengthening the family ties that had been developing across Long Island. One of the Garner homes still stand on the northwest corner of North Jerusalem Road and Gardiner's Avenue (Gardiner's is a misspelling of Garner).

The Carmans were active members of the local Quaker community and attended meetings at the Quaker Meeting House in Jerusalem. More than a place of worship, the Meeting House was a gathering place where members of the Society of Friends could discuss religious freedom, equality, and the right to worship freely. Quaker women also had opportunities to participate and advocate for equality, making the community remarkably progressive for its time. This meeting house still stands on Twin Lane South in North Wantagh and turns 200 next year. 📖



The Quaker Meeting House

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.783.2519

www.wantagh.li/museum

**Wantagh
Fun Fact!**

Did you know that the Wantagh Inn used to be a meat store? Learn more on page 3!

Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Beth Obergh
First Vice President: Harold Ball
Second Vice President: Matt Susco
Recording Secretary: Heather Famiglietti
Treasurer: Paul Sigler

Appointed Chairs

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

Trustees

Jim Colotti
Bob Cook
Mary Corrigan
Frank Jurs
Bob Meagher
Fred Parola
Noreen Parola
Carol Poulos
Ned Schwartz
Paul Sigler
Tom Watson
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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



Dedication of the new American Flag Retirement Mail Project, an initiative that promotes patriotism and respect for one of our nation's most cherished symbols



*The Wantagh Museum
is open on Sundays, Noon
to 2 PM until mid-November*



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

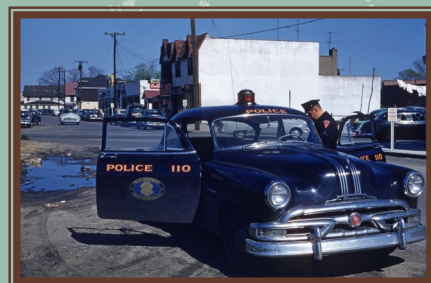
Wantagh Police

By Ned Schwartz , Trustee

Today, police coverage for most of Wantagh is provided by the Nassau County Police Department's Seventh Precinct. That was not, however, always the case.

Prominent in this view of Railroad Avenue, facing east across Wantagh Avenue, we have a 1953 Pontiac police patrol car. The car's number, 110, has significance. Its 100-series number indicates that the car is assigned to the First Precinct. The presence of a First Precinct car on Railroad Avenue is due to the fact that the Seventh Precinct did not exist until 1955. Wantagh was solely within the boundaries of the First Precinct before that time. As the county's population grew, the police department also expanded its resources, with the Seventh Precinct being the next-to-last precinct to be established in the county.

Coincidentally, also beginning in 1955, Nassau County Police vehicles were given a colorful new paint scheme consisting of an orange roof over a blue body. This image comes from a slide donated by Jim Hiltonsmith. 📖



Remembering Mike Dunphy

By Bob Meagher, Trustee and Former President

Way back in 1986 I was coaching my son's minor league baseball team as part of the Wantagh Little League. It was the beginning of the season and I was meeting the boys and their parents for the first time at the Forest City Park baseball field. One of the boys was named Conor and his father was Mike Dunphy. It was my first meeting with Mike but not my last. We would cross paths many times over the years in Wantagh.

I found out that day he had bought the old Adel's Meat Market and was going to convert it into an Irish Pub style restaurant. That sounded pretty good to me and I wished him good luck. Little did I know then that I would be gladly contributing to his profitable business venture for many years to come.

The Wantagh Inn was a terrific place to have a cold beer in the pub on a hot day or a meal in the restaurant that was always wonderfully decorated during the holiday season. Personally I always tried to get the chair at the table so I could enjoy the meal while looking at the fireplace. The consolation prize was a table looking at the big picture of Jones Beach. Did I mention that the leg of lamb meal was one of my favorites?

Both Mike and I were active in the village through the years but in different ways. He sponsored many events like the 5K run and other community affairs while I was active in scouting, youth sports and later the Wantagh Preservation Society.

While a member of the society I set about restoring the train parlor car that hadn't been open to the public for years. We were trying to get it ready for the 50th anniversary of saving the old railroad station that was now a museum. The society had some money saved up that we quickly spent on repainting and replacing the 44 windows in 2013 and 2014. Unfortunately that effort used up all the money we had and we knew the local government couldn't provide additional funds after giving us a grant to build the new concrete retaining wall around the train. Well, luckily for us Mike knew a society member named Cookie Reiser (they both were members of St. Frances church), she explained our financial plight and

Mike came to the rescue. He

provided the funds to restore the badly

damaged interior of the parlor car.

The photo to the

left shows the trustees receiving the first of 2 checks from Mike to rebuild the interior of the Jamaica Parlor car in 2015.

It took myself and my partner Lester all of 2015 and part of 2016 to rebuild and repaint the interior in time for the September celebration and the opening to the public of the Jamaica Parlor car (that was built for the LIRR in 1912). The society was forever grateful to Mike for his generosity. He provided for his adopted home town many times and he was appreciated by many in Wantagh that patronized his terrific establishment. He will be missed but fondly remembered. 📖



Adel's Meat Market



The Wantagh Inn as it Stands Today



Mike Dunphy, second from right, presents the first of 2 checks to Then-President Karen Chowske, third from right, to rebuild the Jamaica

"Preservation with a Purpose."

News from Years Ago

Compiled By Carol Poulos

1896 - 130 Years Ago

October - Whatever may be said of the Brooklyn Water Works, it is quite apparent that during the past season every man of this village who was idle last winter for want of work, has been given employment by the city or the contractors. Now, there are no idlers in this village, and of course, business is better, and families are happier.

1901 - 125 Years Ago

September - The demand for cottages in this vicinity is increasing and it is suggested that a Building and Loan Association would be helpful in meeting this demand.

1926 - 100 Years Ago

September 22 - Friday was a big day for the school children and their parents at the Mineola Fair. The Wantagh school exhibit was a brilliant one. Many of the Wantagh ladies received prizes for home-made pies, cakes, fancy work and flowers. The Public School exhibit of the children received first prize.

1931 - 95 Years Ago

Wantagh has been growing as the number of commuters reported in August 1931 has reached 370, an increase of 160 in five years. During 1926 there were 80 dwellings and 6 new stores erected.

1941 - 85 Years Ago

Charles A. Pickard, 44 year old World War veteran, will be officially installed as acting postmaster of Wantagh at ceremonies Wednesday night in the post office. Mr. Pickard, who has lived in Wantagh about seven years, will succeed Mrs. Catherine Mills, postmaster for about three years. The new postmaster has been active in Democratic affairs, was formerly president of the Wantagh Democratic club, and at present is vice-president, an office which he will resign at once. The Wantagh post office, which is in the third class bracket, rates a salary of around \$2,000. Steadily increasing business will raise the office to second class in the near future, it is believed.

1971 - 55 Years Ago

October - Plans were announced to close a section of Wantagh Avenue from Park Avenue to Island Road for about 3 months to allow sewer line construction in the center of the road. This was made necessary after community groups protested the original plans which called for laying the line on the west side of the road but would have required the destruction of 50 stately trees. The County Department of Public Works stated this move to the center of the road would save 40 trees. 📖



Brooklyn Water Works



Construction of Sewer Lines