FIRST HISTORY OF WEST ISLIP

by Gerald and Judith Wilcox
First History

of

WEST ISLIP
(Secatogue)

Compiled and Edited

by

Gerald & Judith Wilcox

1976
Dedicated to

“Our favorite kids”

Gail, Jimmy, David, Ranseler, Stephanie and Steven
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“Our favorite kids”

Gail, Jimmy, David, Ranseler, Stephanie and Steven
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Gerald & Judith Wilcox  
West Islip, New York
INTRODUCTION

This work has been put into encyclopedic form, so that each subject could be covered in more detail. In the beginning is a general account of the local history and each subject follows, covered in greater detail.

We have attempted to put each subject in as close a chronological order as possible, and grouping others (churches, schools, etc.) where necessary.

Many maps and illustrations are also used, to make this a more visual study. We have found this makes for a better understanding of the subject matter.

The contents of this work, covers from the dawn of history here in West Islip, to the new buildings and highways of today.

You may find many names and places that you have personal knowledge of, including some of your own friends.

We hope you enjoy this work as much as we enjoyed compiling it.

G. & J. Wilcox
West Islip, N.Y.

Sept. 1973
Forward

Wilcox has devoted a great amount of work on this first and only history of West Islip. His devotion to the work is expressed in the manner in which he portrays the early people. The early people came from the Quaker's of Jericho.

He has a wife that has given much research for the work. The work resulting has given West Islip schools and historical people cause for jubilation.

Much work is the result of this man and should be appreciated.

April, 1974

George L. Weeks

Suffolk County Historian
Islip Town Historian
The happenings of yesterday, are the history of today.

(Unknown)
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VIII
GENERAL HISTORY

Before 1000 A.D. Indians from Rhode Island and Connecticut, migrated to Long Island (Paumanak). The Algonquin Nation, was the mother nation of the Long Island Indians. The Secatogue Indians of West Islip (Secatogue) trace their origin to the Delawares.

Long Island was divided into 16 tribal locations:

Maerckaawcks Carnarsees Rockaways Matincocks
Merricks Nissequogues Massapequas Secatogues
Setaukets Patchogues Paspatucks Corchuques
Unkachogues Manhassets Shinnecocks Montauks

The Indians living in the West Islip area called it Secatogue (meaning black or dark lands). Numbering between 300 and 500, they ranged from Sampwam’s Neck in Babylon to the Yaphank River east of Brookhaven. The main villages were in, Penataquit (Bay Shore) and Secatogue (West Islip). West Islip was probably the residence of the Secatogue’s Sachem (Chief).

Just north of the present West Islip beach (near the Little League baseball fields), an Indian village was discovered and a large metal marker has been placed to indicate the area where 13 bodies were uncovered.

One of the main Indian trails is now the modern Udall Road, it is also the first road in Suffolk County to extend north and south.

Long Island first came under the jurisdiction of the Plymouth company of England, in 1620. The Dutch set up a trading-post on Manhattan Island in 1624.

In 1635, the title to Long Island was conveyed to the Earl of Stirling (Sir William Alexander) by King Charles I. The Earl’s agent, James Farret, was sent to this area and conveyed land titles to groups of individuals (British subjects) between 1635 and 1640.

There is some evidence of a Dutch settlement in the extreme western part of Long Island as early as 1625, certainly Dutch settlers crossed the East river in the mid 1630’s and
located in what is now Kings County. The West Islip area is mentioned in the Dutch archives on January 15th 1639, and is referred to as Kieft’s Purchase.

In 1640, Englishmen from Lynn, Mass., under the Stirling patent, attempted to settle near Manhasset Bay but were warned away by Gov. William Kieft of New Netherland, who would not admit to the validity of the English claim. Later that year these people settled at Southampton; at about the same time a group from New Haven located at Southold. These two settlements together with the Gardiner family on Gardiners Island (1639) were the first English groups on the Long Island scene. Another band of English settlers obtained a patent from the Dutch Gov. Kieft in 1644 to found Hempstead under the Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions.

By the treaty of Hartford of 1650 between New Netherland and the United Colonies of New England, a demarcation line was drawn from Oyster Bay, south to the ocean, (todays Nassau-Suffolk line), recognizing the island as Dutch to the west and English to the east.

In March 1664, Long Island was part of the area given to the Duke of York by King Charles II and in August, the conquest of New Amsterdam and the Dutch territory was effected. By this time, Huntington (1653), had associated itself with Connecticut, and Connecticut made claim to it by its charter of 1662.

Long Island, together with Westchester and Staten Island, became known as Yorkshire and was governed by the Duke’s Laws promulgated at
Hempstead in March 1665. In 1683, Yorkshire was abolished and the county system introduced in the province of New York. Long Island was made up of three original counties – Suffolk, Queens and Kings.

On September 19, 1692, Thomas and Richard Willetts, purchased part of West Islip from the Indians. This sale was confirmed by Colonial Governor Fletcher, in a patent granted, October 10, 1695.

There is mentioned in an agreement with the Town of Huntington, of the hiring of one Jonas Houldsworth to teach the children. It is doubtful if the children of the West Islip area attended, as it was too far to travel.

In the early part of the 1700's, Richard Willetts sold all rights in the original purchase to his brother Thomas. Richard was paid 300 pounds sterling and the deed was signed April 1, 1702. In April, 1710, Thomas Willetts gave to his son, Thomas, land bounded on the east by the Sequatogue River, extending west to a creek known as “Soquams”.

The Town of Islip was established in 1710. The name Islip is of British origin, as were most of the early settlers in the region. On April 3, 1720, Islip had its first town meeting. There were no more than 31 freeholders in the town, at this meeting they elected the supervisor, constable and tax collector.

Samuel A. Higbie, born in Jamaica in 1708, was supposed to have built the La Grange Inn on what is today Montauk Highway. It has been established that the La Grange Inn was in operation shortly after the American Revolution. This inn was named after the home of the French

*British Soldier (1600's)*
General Lafayette. For a short time the inn was used as a way station between Jamaica and Patchogue. When the railroad came to Deer Park the stagecoach would come from the train station to the inn.

Several deeds between the Indians and the settlers were made and the last deed of these lands in Islip, was conveyed to the town in 1775.

The first engagement in the campaign of 1776 (American Revolution) was the Battle of Long Island. In this engagement George Washington lost 1,200 men to the British as prisoners, and 400 killed and wounded. The British had about the same number of killed and wounded.

Many men from the West Islip area fought during the Revolution, but West Islip played only a very minor role during the War of Independence.

The first school in West Islip was started in 1835, when a one-room school was built on George Street near Higbie Lane. By the year 1872, there were 64 students enrolled.

In 1750, a mill was built by Nathaniel Conklin on Sampowams stream separating West Islip from the village of Babylon. It was operated by Nathaniel Oakley in the mid 1800's. During this period some of the family names that could be found in West Islip were; Crum, Dow, Baldwin, Wood, Miller and Totten.

By the late 1800's, West Islip consisted of many estates. The land owned by George G. Magoun, now Magoun Landing, has provided sites for many comfortable West Islip homes. At one time, it was used for carriage races, a popular sport of the day. (There was also a race track at Sagtikos Manor).
The Udall family, whose estate was located on South Country Road, was also well known in West Islip. Udall Road was named after this family.

The stagecoach and horseback were the only means of transportation in the 1700’s and 1800’s. The stagecoach carried passengers and mail. If left Brooklyn once a week and followed South Country Road. Passengers would dine in Hempstead, drive to West Islip and probably stay the night at the La Grange Inn. The journey would end in East Hampton about three days later. The railroad was extended to Babylon in 1863, and then extended in 1867 to Patchogue, at the time it was known as the Southside Railroad.

The main occupations of West Islip were farming, fishing and lumbering. The farmers raised hay and grain for their livestock and food for themselves. During the winter when their crops didn’t need attention, the farmers would take a load of lumber to New York, bring back fertilizer, cloth, and other needed items. Fish, clams, and oysters were also a main source of income.

The exporting of lumber was also important in West Islip. Charcoal and lumber would be loaded on boats and taken to New York to be used as fuel. Even after coal replaced the charcoal and lumber, the wood industry continued. Much was taken to Haverstraw, N.Y., located on the
Hudson River, to be used in brick making. These occupations claimed some of our best trees. When the railroad came, it went through the heart of our best woodland. Great quantities were used in the construction of the railroad and also as fuel. The greatest damage, however, was caused by fires which were started by sparks from the locomotive stacks. The railroad practically ended the lumber industry.

By 1900, all of the real-estate in West Islip bordering Montauk Highway consisted of the old estates, complete with stately mansions, huge servants quarters, riding stables and vast stretches of land.

At this time West Islip school was a common school and received a small amount of aid from the County Treasurer’s Office (1901 – $115). To meet its needs, the school house became a Union Free School in 1932.

Population grew slowly, and as late as 1930, there were only 734 residents and about 400 homes. The upsurge in migration to West Islip did not occur until after World War II.

Today, West Islip has many different types of businesses and places of entertainment. There is also 12 modern public schools and 2 modern parochial schools. West Islip is a beautiful community and a wonderful place to live. Why not look around and find the many places mentioned in this book? There is nothing better than seeing these places for yourself.
Early settlers building a new home (1600's)

Trading with the Indians (1700's)
Whalers (1800's)

Blacksmith (late 1800's)
William Nicoll made the first land purchase from Winnequaheagh, Sachem (Chief) of the Secatogue Indians on November 29, 1683, which led to the establishment of ISLIP TOWN. Nicoll bought the area now known as Heckscher State Park and named it “Islip Grange” after his birthplace in Islip, Northampshire, England. In this same year, he was commissioned Clerk of Queens county and in 1687, he was commissioned Attorney General of the Province of New York. He resided on his property in 1701 in Islip, in order to qualify for the Provincial Assembly.

Other Patentees of the Town of Islip were:

1695 – Thomas and Richard Willetts – West Islip
1697 – Stephanus Van Cortlandt – Sagtikos Manor
1697 – Andrew Gibbs (friend of Nicoll) – East Islip
1708 – John Mowbray – Bay Shore and Brightwaters

These lands were combined with Nicoll’s holdings to form an area almost sixteen miles long and eight miles wide at its widest point. These lands were officially acknowledged as ISLIP TOWN on November 25th 1710.
An act of the Colonial Government authorized “the precinct of Islip in the County of Suffolk to elect two assessors, a tax collector, constable and supervisor.” The boundaries were defined as the western limits of Willetts land (West Islip) and the easternmost part of Nicoll’s property (Bayport).

The seal of the Town, taken from the Nicoll family crest, bears the latin motto Fide Sed Cui Vide, which translated means “Have confidence but be careful in whom you confide.” Mr. A. G. Thompson of Islip who designed the seal said that this motto should ever guide in the choice of Town officers.

The early growth of ISLIP TOWN was slow. The first town meeting was held in 1720. Town meetings during the seventeen and eighteen hundreds were almost exclusively concerned with agriculture, highways, fishing, welfare, common pastures and the collection of taxes.

Islip came into its own as a summer resort during the late 1800’s. The Southside Railroad, which was extended to Bay Shore in 1867, may have provided the spark. Later, however, the summer hotels started to decline with the appearance of the automobile.

Several of the communities in Islip have undergone interesting name changes. Bay Shore started out with the dubious name of Sodom, it was quickly changed to Mechanicsville, in 1849 it was renamed Penataquit (original Indian name) and finally became Bay Shore in 1867. Bayport was known as Middle Road. Brentwood was known as Modern Times, and was based on a modification of the free-love principle, but on the deaths of its leaders the residents reverted to conventional living. Hauppauge was known as the Wheeler Settlement after its pioneer family. Sayville was known as Seville, and part of West Islip was at one time known as East Babylon.

Some of the original industries were; oyster farming, timbering, milling, barrel making and boat building. Several estates still remain, among them; Vanderbilt’s Idle Hour in Oakdale, Bayard Cutting’s estate in Great River, and Andrew’s estate in West Islip. The character of the Town changed after World War I and the depression of 1929.
Local employment focused on the bay industries. Greenhouses became prevalent in the Town, and a large labor force was attracted to Pilgrim State and Central Islip State Hospitals.

In the Town of Islip, an area of approximately 105 sq. miles, industries have developed in the fields of metalworking, aviation, electronics, textiles, wood, plastics, and many others.

Islip has become the most heavily populated town in all of Suffolk County. It has grown from a population of just 3,836 in 1860, to more than 300,000 today.
The Secatogue Indians of West Islip trace their origin to the Delawares, the mother nation being the Algonquin Nation. Indians from Rhode Island and Connecticut migrated to Long Island before 1000 A.D. (there is proof that the Secatogue's were here before 700 A.D. and possibly as early as 3000 B.C.). The Secatogue’s living in West Islip, called this area Secatogue (meaning “black or dark lands”). They numbered about 500 and ranged from Sampwam's Neck in Babylon to the Yaphank river east of Brookhaven.

The main villages were in, Penataquit (Bay Shore) and Secatogue (West Islip). West Islip was probably the residence of the Sachem (Chief).

The Sachem was greatly respected and had the power to sentence members of his tribe to death for murder or incest. Pre-marital promiscuity was practiced freely but adultery was punished severely.
Clothing consisted of a breech cloth held up with a belt, and a piece of trade cloth thrown over the shoulders. In the winter a skin (deer) or hemp robe would be worn also. Headbands were made of wampum, deer hair or snake skins.

The principal religious ceremony was performed once or twice a year, usually when the maize (corn) was ripe. During a war they would hide their women and children in the tall marsh grass.

At death the body was usually put into the grave in a sitting position facing east, placing with it, some of prized possessions such as pottery, wampum or tools. In some cases these items were “killed” (broken) to assure a speedy journey to the “happy hunting grounds”.

Most of the housing consisted of small dome shaped houses made of a framework of saplings covered with either bark or marsh grass, with a smoke hole at the top.

*Construction of Typical Secatogue Indian Dwelling*
Pottery, gourd spoons and bowls, baskets, knives, dugout canoes (the Secatogue's did not build birch-bark canoes), various stone implements, hooks and lines, supplies of maize and beans were many of the items commonly used by the Secatogue.

The Secatogue Indians made their dugout canoes without the aid of metal tools. This was done by building a fire at the base of a large tree. When the tree fell, the largest branches were then burned off. Stone scrappers and fire were used to hollow out the interior. (see illustration)

The Secatogues were expert clammers and spear fishermen. They were also well-known for the manufacturing of some of the best wampum on Long Island.

There is an Indian legend connected with the Secatogues and the neighboring Massapequas. About the year 1657 the Sachem of the Secatogues was Keeosschok. It was said that he was in love with Floating Cloud, daughter of Sumpwams, Sachem of the Massapequas.

The legend says that Keeosschok and Floating Cloud had secretly gone before a medicine-man and pledged their troth, looking forward to the day when they could win her fathers consent to their marriage.

Accounts of Floating Clouds beauty and charm had spread from village to village, finally reaching the village of the Canarsie sachem, it was said that he was old and very ugly, but he was also very rich.

The Canarsie sachem sent many gifts and a request that he be permitted to marry Floating Cloud. Sumpwam was very flattered by this great chief from the western end of Long Island and he approved of the marriage.

Sachem Sumpwam began preparations for his daughters, wedding. He sent hunters to kill deer, quail, wild turkey and swans. Musicians and entertainers were summoned.

Floating Cloud was heart-broken and decided secretly that she would never marry the ugly rich sachem, but instead give her body to the great ocean and remain true to Keeosschok, trusting that they would be reunited in the spirit world.
She dressed in the costume of a bride, wearing her finest beads and brightest feathers. She left her father's wigwam with her maid and went across the meadows to a high embankment near Sumpwams Point (Babylon). She said a prayer to the Great Spirit and whispered Keeosschok's name, she then plunged into the water, never to be seen again.

The legend does not mention what happened to Keeosschok but I would imagine he also prayed that they would be united in the spirit world.

The Secatogues were a very tranquil tribe, when the white-men came to this area they lived in harmony with the Indians. Trading between the settlers and the Secatogues was always honest and fair. This added to the peaceful relationship that existed.

In the year 1692 the Sachem of the Secatogues was Wamsea, his squaw (wife) was Paxqua. Sachem Wamsea sold most of West Islip to the Willetts brothers, Thomas and Richard on September 19, 1692. It is not certain as to what the sachem received as payment, but he probably received eel spears, and other metal tools, as these were highly prized by the Indians.

The Indians had difficulty in understanding that a written deed conveyed title to land or property. Their method was to give a clod of earth and a twig from a tree to the person purchasing the land and this was called "turfe and twiggs".

Of all the conveyances recorded in the first book of minutes of the Town of Islip (page 158) only the transfer of land in West Islip, from Thomas Willetts to his son Isack Willets, refers to the old custom. It reads as follows: "The said Thomas Willits hath put ye said Isack Willets in Quaite and Peaceable possession of all and singular the before granted premises with the appertences thereof by the delivery of turfe and twiggs."

Many generations of Secatogue Indians intermarried with the negro slaves. As a result of these marriages, there are no longer any full-blood Secatogues. Some of the existing Indian-negro family names are: Bunn, Green, Johnson and Cuffee.
Method used to make Dugout Canoes
Remains of a Secatogue Indian

George Milliken Jr. digging at the Secatogue Indian Village site.
On June 6, 1960, a Secatogue Indian village was discovered just north of the West Islip beach, the discovery was made by George Milliken Jr. and his fellow worker David Lyons. They had been poking around in some newly turned earth, that Islip Town crews had left, while working on the proposed Little League fields.

The skeletons found (13 in all) were tested and found to be more than 5000 years old. This would put the Secatogue Indians in West Islip about the year 3000 B.C.

In an interview with the Islip Town Historian George L. Weeks, Jr. he said the remains had been found in Secatogue Indian fire pits, where winter burial had taken place. The main burial ground of the Secatogues was at Oak Neck. There may have been an epidemic, to cause so many winter burials at one time.

Mr. Weeks had sent the Town Board a memorandum suggesting that a fence be built around the area and that a memorial plaque be placed on a mound inside the fence. This was turned down. But eventually a plaque was erected on a large boulder, that was given by Mr. & Mrs. Ward Melville. The inscription reads:

SECATOGUE INDIAN VILLAGE
site purchased by
Thomas and Richard Willetts
Sept. 19, 1692 from the
Sachem, Wamsea
erected 1960
George Weeks Jr. (Islip Town Historian) holding a Secatogue Indian Skull.

Skull of a Secatogue Indian with leg bones on each side, on the left is a piece of pottery, on the right is a hand hammer. Five quartz arrow heads are in front.
OLD RECORDS

The Records that follow were written verbatim from the Huntington Town Records, and pertain to the area that we know today as West Islip. It may be a little difficult to understand some of the words, but this is how they were written and spoken. They are all very interesting, and tell of life as it was many years ago.

June 3, 1683

Where as we whos names are under written have ye last winter traveled from huntington to hempsted upon ye Lords day for which we are sori yt we have sinned against god and ofended our neibors for which we desir god to for give us and hope we shal never ofend god nor man in ye Like maner.

Tho: Higby
Edward Higbee
Moses Scudder.

Huntington June 3: 1683 The above sd. owned & subscribed In ye presents of ye Constable & overseers p me

John Corey, CLerk.

Note: The Thomas Higby and Edward Higbee mentioned were both residents of the West Islip area, and Moses Scudder was a resident of Babylon (he is now buried in Babylon Cemetery). In the 1600's it was a sin to travel on the Sabbath and it seems that someone had seen the three men mentioned and they had to make a public apology. Actually they were quite fortunate, they could have been severely punished.

July ye 16th 1777

A List of the Militia belonging to Capt. Cornelius Company which were Ordered On Duty by Coll. I W Cruger in first Batt.

Nathaniel Brush, Timothy Conkling, Annanias Conkling, Benjamin Gould, Nathaniel Williams, John Squires, Jeremiah

Note: Most of those named lived in Babylon and West Islip.

“Fortunately for America’s success, its army was not merely the armed disciplined force, obedient throughout the years of war to its patriot leaders, but the ill-trained farmers, citizens, shop-keepers, ready to leave their work, and fight when the enemy approached, and forming at all times a potential force far beyond the army in being. It was a nebulous, incalculable, yet occasionally, a mighty force.” (Van Tyne, England and America, P. 153)
## LOCAL EARMARKS

The following are the recorded marks for the creatures (cattle) of the various men in the Willets family shown in the first minute book of the Town of Islip.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Marking Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1724</td>
<td>Richard Willetts - Mark for his Creatures (Viz) A Swallow fork on the left ear &amp; a half penny on the underside of each ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1724</td>
<td>Thomas Willets - Mark for his Creatures (Viz) a half penny on the foreside of the right ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1724</td>
<td>Isaac Willets - Mark for his Creatures (Viz) A swallow fork on the left ear and a half penny on the under side of the right ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740</td>
<td>Samuel Willets - Mark for his Creatures Recorded viz: as followeth a half penny under Ye wright ear and a nick under left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>Dec. ye 26 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1745</td>
<td>Richard Willets - Jun. - Mark for his Creatures Recorded viz: as followeth A crop on ye left ear and Swallow fork on ye wright ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1747</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amos Willets - Jun - Mark for his Creatures Recorded Viz: a Swallow fork in the near ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the 6th of the 4th month</td>
<td>1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>Jesse Willet - mark for his creatures Recorded Viz: a half penny the fore side of the off ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islip</td>
<td>June 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Platt Willets - his mark for his creatures Recorded as followeth a swaler fork in the left ear and half penny the upper side of the Right and a Slope the under side of the Rite. (See Illustration)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIRST CHURCH

In the past, it was believed that St. John’s Episcopal Church on Oakdale (1765) was the first church in the Town of Islip. However, the records of the Presbyterian Church of Babylon, indicate that “The First Presbyterian Church of Islip and Huntington South, completed its church building about 1730” some 35 years earlier than the Oakdale church.

Its site, as near as can be ascertained, was in the western part of the town of Islip (West Islip) on the premises of C. DuBois Wagstaff, about three rods (49½ feet) east of the walnut tree, which marks the southeast corner of the land of E.B. Sutton. This would put it, at or very near the Sequams Service Center of today.

In 1778, the church was demolished by the British military authorities and the greater part of the wood was taken to Hempstead for the purpose of constructing barracks for the soldiers stationed there.

At the close of the war, on Nov. 4th 1783, a new site was obtained. The church was located on South Country Road in Babylon, where the First Presbyterian Church of Babylon stands today. The change of name was made in 1870.

In 1839, the second church building was removed to be used as residence by D.S.S. Sammis. The present church was constructed at about this time.
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CHRIST CHURCH
(Holy Family)

The second church to be built in West Islip, was Christ Church Parish. On Aug. 28, 1869, a congregation met and organized a parish by electing the following men to serve as Wardens and Vestrymen; Alfred Wagstaff and Benjamin K. True, Wardens, Effingham B. Sutton, Thomas C. Lyman, Richard Arnold, John Tappen and Alfred Wagstaff, Jr., Vestrymen. Richard Arnold was made Treasurer and Alfred Wagstaff, Jr., Clerk of the Vestry.

At their first meeting, Articles of Incorporation under the title of “The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Christs’ Church, in the Town of Islip, County of Suffolk and the State of New York,” were signed, sealed and filed. Plans to build a church were started at once and ground was broken Aug. 6, 1870 on a site in West Islip donated by Dr. Wagstaff. The building was completed and ready for services on Easter Day, April 9, 1871, when the Rev. John R. Stanley, priest-in-charge, conducted the first service in the new church.

Christ Church was consecrated by Bishop Littlejohn on July 3, 1871, the first church to be consecrated by him, and the first to be consecrated in the Diocese of Long Island after its separation from New York. Christ Church Parish was admitted to the Diocese of Long Island in 1874.

When Christ Church, West Islip, was built, many Babylon residents felt that it should have been located in that village, and in the summer and fall of 1877 these people, under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Cook of Riverhead, L.I. held services in the newly erected Baptist Church of Main Street and Carll Ave., Babylon. These services ceased on Nov. of that year and were not resumed.

By 1885 the Rev. Samuel Moran, then Rector of Christ Church, had overcome all opposition to holding services in Babylon, and evening services were held in rented buildings until 1889.

A site for a chapel was selected on George Street, Babylon and in 1889 a chapel was erected and opened for services on
September 29th of that year. All services were held there, except the 11 o’clock service that was held in the Church in West Islip. About 1931, it had become customary to close the Church in West Islip during the winter.

Finally in Oct. 1945, Christ Church building and property in West Islip was sold and the activities of the Parish were consolidated in the Village of Babylon.

The church building is now owned by the Holy Family Ukranian Catholic Church. The steeple of the church is now missing, it may have gone down in a storm, but this is not certain.

The following is a list of rectors and priests-in-charge with their terms of service as nearly as can be ascertained:

THE REV. JOHN R. STANLEY – April, 1871 to June, 1871, Priest-in-charge: June 1, 1871 to June 1, 1873, Rector.
THE REV. FREDERICK BREWTON CARTER – Sept. 1, 1873 to April 3, 1875, Rector. (Deacon and Priest).
THE REV. JAMES D. DRUMM – Oct. 1875 to April, 1876 Priest-in-charge: April, 1876 to Oct. 1877, Rector.
THE REV. JOHN MILTON STEVENS – Aug. 1878 to June, 1880, Rector
THE REV. SAMUEL MORAN – Nov. 1, 1881 to July 1896, Rector.
THE REV. ISAAC NEWTON PHELPS – Nov. 1896 to Mar. 1897, Priest-in-charge. (Deacon)
THE REV. GEORGE DOWNING SPARKS – June 1897 to July 1908, Rector.
THE REV. EDWARD JONES BURLINGHAM – Nov. 15, 1908 to July 25, 1934, Rector.
THE REV. CRANSTON BRENTON – In temporary charge of the parish from Oct. 1934 to Nov. 1935

THE REV. CHARLES TAYLER – Mar. 19, 1943 to May 1, 1944, Rector.

THE REV. LLOYD M. SOMMERVILLE – Oct. 1, 1944 until the Church in West Islip was sold, he then continued on as Rector at Babylon, until Feb. 29, 1952.
St. Peter and St. Paul's Ukranian Orthodox Church was the first Ukranian church in Western Suffolk County. The church building was originally a barn, that was located on the Gilmore estate in West Babylon. It was moved to its present site and converted into a church in 1925.

The first parishioners were Ukranian settlers from the western Ukraine (Lvov) at the time occupied by Austria-Hungary. They came to West Islip and worked on the numerous estates as gardeners, farm-hands and laborers. The predominant nationally group in West Islip from 1915 to the mid 1930's was Ukranian.

Some of the founders of this church were: Podlesney, Pekula, Litwin, Petrosky, Hutnicks, Cholewka, Mazur, Lavick, Glywasky, Shorobahaty, Sosnicki, Ratushny, Osarezuk and Turansky.

During the time of Ukranian predominance, West Islip's only public school would be closed on January 6th for Ukranian Christmas. The Pastor is the Rev. Emil Bednar.
Sts. Peter & Paul Church
Photo by Tom Zawyrucha

29
CHRIST CHURCH
(Bayshore Road)

Elmer Kyle, a member of the Go-Ye-Chapel Mission, came to West Islip in 1955 and founded Christ Church. There were originally only seven members, and the church building was a Ranch Style house, minus partitions. The founding date of the church was Nov. 19th 1955. The church continued to grow and in June of 1964 the present chapel was completed.

Ministers

Elmer Kyle (Founder)        Charles Faust
Roy Anderson                Roger Hart (Temporary)
Thomas Stark                Robert Andrews
Dick Hollis (Present Minister)

This church was the second Church of Christ to be constructed in Suffolk County. Mrs. Elenor Sap is the only original member still attending Christ Church. The present membership is 70 members.
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

On July 1, 1956, Bishop Molloy appointed Father William Toomey (see Biographical Records) to found a parish in West Islip. An announcement was made from the altar at St. Joseph's Church in Babylon and the first organizational meeting for the formation of the parish was held in the Eppig home.

After searching for months to find suitable quarters to hold Mass, Mr. Kane and Mr. Schwartz, (developers of the Korvettes shopping center), came to the rescue, and allowed the parish to use unrented store space, free of charge, as a temporary home for Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The first Mass was offered in the store-church on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 1956.

In September 1957, ground breaking ceremonies were held for the present church and the first Mass was offered on May 30, 1958. The parish was expanded to include the area south to Union Blvd.

In 1964, construction of a rectory, convent and parochial school complex was begun and near the end of 1965 it was completed.

The following is a list of Pastors and their terms of service;

REV. JOHN WEIST - June 1967 to April 1969.
REV. JOHN BRENDEL - April 1969 to present.

Father Toomey past away on February 15, 1967, and his assistant, Father Borcino administered the parish until Father Weist came in June of 1967 to succeed Father Toomey. In April of 1969, the present Pastor, Father John Brendel arrived.

The following is a list of assistant-pastors through the years.

Rev. Essleborn             Rev. John Wilutis
Rev. Lawrence Costello     Rev. Bruce Powers
                          Rev. Raymond Borcino
A community survey was made in January 1958, under the leadership of Rev. R. Alvin Wilson, to evaluate the area of West Islip and its surroundings as a site for a new church. Interest was aroused through this survey and a series of meetings were held, resulting in a petition requesting permission to hold public services. It was in April, 1958, that Rev. Wilson conducted the first service in a converted store in the Captree Shopping Center. At this time, the name was United Presbyterian Church of West Islip.

Rev. Raymond F. Kent, who had been minister of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church of Wheeling, West Virginia for four years, became the organizing pastor on Aug. 1, 1958.

On November 14, 1958, the church received its Charter from the Presbytery of Brooklyn-Nassau and had 149 Charter Members. It is on this date, the church celebrates its anniversary.

The following is a list of the pastors of this church;

(No permanent pastor) – Sept. 1967 – May 1968


REV. ARTHUR C. HELDMAN, Jr. – Aug. 1970 to date.

On April 5, 1959 the name was changed from United Presbyterian Church of West Islip to Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

Ground breaking ceremonies took place on July 5th 1959, following the 9:30 A.M. service. The building was completed in February 1960 and a Dedication Service was held on May 1, 1960.

Miss Adrienne Ghigna was united in marriage to Mr. John Podlesny, on March 25, 1961. Adriene was the first member of the church to be married in the Chapel.
By August 1, 1961, the church was no longer a mission-aided congregation, but had become self-supporting. August 10th, 1967, the church received approval for a $50,000 loan for construction of an addition to their building and the expansion and equipping of the existing Chapel.


FIRST ELDERS

Frank Bohlander  John Dizer  Joseph Nissly
Hans Borstell  Carl Eiser  B. John Ross
Thomas Casey  Albert Field  Charles Stead
Wilbur R. Dennis  Henry Mahlmann  John R. Van Wagoner

Rev. Lloyd J. Salazar died on November 22, 1970, leaving two children and his wife, who still live in West Islip.

During the time that Rev. Salazar was ill, Al Deszo was acting moderator until August 1970, when Rev. Arthur C. Heldman arrived to perform the pastoral duties.

FIRST DEACONS

Gilbert Andia  Dennis Diebolt  Norman Lampe
Fred Bargetzi  Robert Frankenfield  Robert Schneider
William Conway  Richard Kriete  Harry Ventrice

Rev. Arthur C. Heldman, Jr., is now the pastor of Westminster United Presbyterian Church.
FIRE ISLAND FERRY

About 1850, John D. Johnson, of Islip, used a steam yacht named the “Bonita.” for pleasure boating on the Great South Bay. About 1856 D.S.S. Sammis, proprietor of the Surf Hotel, Fire Island, chartered this boat and began making regular trips between that place and Babylon. This was the first successful attempt to establish a ferry across the bay.

Some years later Charles A Chesebrough, of New York City, furnished a handsome steamer belonging to him, which for some time carried passengers between Islip and Fire Island.

About 1859 D.S.S. Sammis and Henry Southard, purchased a steamer called the “Wave,” which they used each season between Babylon and the Surf Hotel. Mr. Sammis obtained from the Legislature, an act authorizing him to establish and maintain a steam ferry between his hotel and Babylon, and in accordance with the provisions of that act regular communication has since been maintained during the summer months.

Mr. Southard had disposed of his interest in the steamer “Wave”, at this time.

Note: D.S.S. Sammis had a residence in West Islip and Henry Southard was a resident of Babylon. Both men are buried in the Babylon Cemetery.
SAGTIKOS MANOR

Sagtikos Manor is being mentioned in this book, even though it is not actually in West Islip, it did play an important role in the history of this area.

Sagtikos Manor was built in 1692 by Stephanus Van Cortlandt who received the original patent for Apple Tree Wicke in 1697. He had purchased the land from the Secatogue Indians on October 1, 1692. Van Cortlandt was also the first native born Mayor of the city of New York, in the 1690’s.

Ownership by the Van Cortlandt’s was of short duration, as we find that one Timothy Carll owned the estate in 1712.

In 1758, Jonathan Thompson bought Sagtikos Manor from Timothy Carll, paying 1,200 pounds for the 1,200 acres that extended from the Great South Bay to the middle of the Island about five miles distant. It is a family legend that Jonathan Thompson rode a grey-horse from his home in Setauket on the north side of the Island, and carried the money in his saddle bags. The Manor was a wedding gift to his son Isaac and his son’s wife Mary, daughter of Col. Abraham Gardiner of East Hampton.

Judge Isaac Thompson (see Biographical records) was a magistrate of the Crown. It would seem that he led a double life, first helping to organize the Long Island Militia, and second as a British magistrate. There is no question that Judge Isaac Thompson was a true patriot.

Judge Thompson felt so strongly about the destruction of the First Church of Islip and Huntington South (1730) by the British in 1778, that after the Revolution, he contributed the largest sum of money to the construction of a new church.

During the Revolution, the residents of this area were greatly annoyed with companies of British troops passing to and from the city of New York. At one time, in 1777, more than 300 light horse troops bivouaced for the night, and as usual, made free use of Judge Thompson’s property.

On another occasion, his home was assaulted in the night by some British sailors, belonging to a vessel of war, and
he was dragged, by a rope about his neck, across the high-
way, and threatened with death, but was saved by one
of their number saying that as he was a magistrate under
the king, they should not hang him. With that, the Judge
was released. But when they left they had taken some furni-
ture from the house, and carried it aboard their ship at an-
chor in New York Harbor. After much trouble the articles
were returned.

Many times during the Revolution, officers of the British
Army would stay at the Manor. The room in which General
Henry Clinton (who succeeded General Howe as com-
mander-in-chief of the British Army in North America)
slept is still furnished in the same way as when the General
used the room, almost 200 years ago.
In 1790, while on a tour of Long Island, President George Washington was a guest of the Manor. He stayed in the room across the hall from his former adversary, General Clinton. This is one place that George Washington really slept.

There have been several additions to the Manor over the years. At the rear of the estate is a small graveyard where the remains of Thompsons and Gardiners are buried.

President Washington's tour of Long Island April 20-24, 1790, from a map of Long Island engraved in 1795.

Sagtikos Manor 1692 – 1976
La Grange Inn is probably the oldest hostelry now operating in Suffolk county, if not on Long Island. While the exact date of the erection of the first unit of the inn is not definitely known, it has been established that it was in operation shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War. It was until the present management took over, known as the La Grange Inn.

The property on which the inn is located was owned by the Higbie family from the time the original inn was built until about 1918, when it passed onto the hands of a syndicate. During early prohibition days it was sold to the late Eugene Freund who operated it until his death. Clinton David Higby author of "Edward Higby and His Descendants" the progenitor of the family in America, states that Nehemiah Higbee born August 27, 1753, was the owner and keeper of La Grange Inn and died in Babylon May 23, 1815 and is buried in the Babylon Cemetery.

The Higbies spelled the name differently, some using the "by" others "bee" and still others "bie" in constructing the final syllable. Another proprietor was Samuel Higbie who was born February 29, 1972, probably at La Grange Inn. The historian Higby says: "It is probable that his grandfather, Samuel A. Higbie, built the inn, as it is said to have been a licensed place as early as 1750."

The next proprietor of La Grange was Nehemiah Higbie's son, Richard Terry Higbie who conducted it until his retirement in 1871. It was then leased for many years by the family until sold as stated. The last Higbie to own the inn was the widow of John Robbins Higbie. Mr. Higbie inherited the property from his uncle, Samuel Althouse Higbie who died in 1915.

The inn formerly stood closer to Montauk Highway and was a much smaller structure than it is now.

During the period before the main line of the Long Island Railroad was built, Samuel Higbie one of the proprietors of the inn, operated a stagecoach line between Brooklyn and Patchogue and made La Grange a stopover point. Later, when Richard Terry Higbie was conducting the inn and the railroad had been built on the main line as far as Deer
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Park, he ran a stagecoach to Deer Park station, four and a half miles distant.

The La Grange was named in honor of General Lafayette's home in France, and although some people claim the General visited the inn in 1824, when he came back to America, there is no positive proof of this. (In an interview with George L. Weeks, Jr., he said "An educated guess would be that he did visit the inn").
In 1750, Nathaniel Conklin built a mill on Sampawams Creek, which separates West Islip from what is now the Village of Babylon (in 1750 it was known as South Huntington). In the mid 1800’s, it was operated by Nathaniel Oakley, whose estate was located on what today is DeForest Ave., West Islip and then by his son Eliphalet W. Oakley.

Several years after this David Ricketts (see Biographical Records) used the old mill as a whip and cane factory, being managed by his son also named David.

In 1910, the property was purchased by one Edwin Hawley who demolished the mill. On modern maps you may find this particular body of water named Hawley Lake. (There is still part of the original Hawley bridge in use today, it is located on Lake Drive South). There had been two bridges, but only the one to the south is still recognizable.

The Old Babylon Village Library was also built by Nathaniel Conklin in 1803, (as stated over the fireplace on a sandstone plaque, located in the library). Nathaniel’s mother gave Babylon its name, but she called it “New Babylon”.

There was another mill just north of the Conklin mill, and this was the mill of E.B. Sutton (see map of 1829). He owned most of the land to the north of Montauk Highway and east of the lake to about where the Christ Church (Holy Family Church today) now stands.
Two Views of Hawley Bridge
(Lake Drive South)
CONKLIN’S POINT

The land we know today as Conklin’s Point, was sold to Colonel Platt Conklin, in 1779, by Richard Willetts (son of Thomas Willetts, one of the original patentees of West Islip).

There had been numerous shipwrecks off the southshore of Long Island, and just off Conklin’s Point, two ships had gone down. They were the THAMES and the FAIR HELEN. Their keels are still embedded in the sand.

Today Conklin’s Point is the site of the twin Captree Bridges, going from West Islip, over to Captree State Park on Captree Island. (see section on Captree State Park)
SMITH ESTATE

About 1869, Obidia Seaman Snedecor began the building that we know today as the “Smith House”. It is not certain that Obidia was building the house for himself or as a wedding present for his daughter, Adie Snedecor, who married Augustus C. Smith. But Obidia did not live to see the house finished. The house then became the property of the Smith family.

August C. Smith and his wife Adie, had two children: a daughter Virginia, born December 9, 1891, and a son, Augustus C. Smith, Jr. They were both born in the Smith house, as was the custom in that day.

Mr. Augustus C. Smith, Jr., recalls as a boy, some of the Indians still living in West Islip, near the site of the present Higbie Lane School. The only names he recalls are Ike & Alonzo Bunn and that they lived in small cottages.

He still remembers Dr. Blake removing his appendix in the upstairs bedroom. Dr. Blake at the time lived on Oak Neck Road, near the Andrews Estate.

The Smith house originally was covered with clapboard, today it has cedar shakes. The carriage house is still there, but cannot be seen from the road. The negro driver lived above the stables, and it at one time was also used as a class room, for the children of the vicinity.

The Smith Estate is today located next to the Pioneer Restaurant on Montauk Highway at the terminus of the Babylon-Northport Expressway.
ARNOLD HOUSE

The Arnold House, located on the northside of Montauk Highway, just east of the Robert Moses Causeway, with its imposing, pillared entrances at front and rear, was built in 1906, according to Duncan Arnold Cameron who lived there with his aunt, Mrs. William (Annie) C. Arnold. She had adopted him and his half-brother “Ned”, they were the sons of her deceased brother. The mansion, which was divided into apartments a number of years ago, replaced a large frame house purchased by Richard Arnold from Harry Suydam.

According to Mr. Cameron, the original house had a cupola on the roof from which could be seen, Great South Bay and Fire Island Lighthouse beyond. When the Arnold sailing yacht “Sachem” was expected, a servant would be stationed in the cupola to keep a lookout. The “Sachem” after entry into the bay would drop anchor off the lighthouse as she was too deep of draft to reach the West Islip mainland.

The sloop “Halcyon” or a sister sloop, the “Annie”, would have been awaiting the “Sachem’s” arrival and would ferry those aboard, across the bay. When this activity was seen from the cupola, a carriage would soon be on its way southward through the Arnold property which extended to the bayfront, and also far to the north across Bay Shore and Howell’s roads.

Mrs. “Annie” Arnold gave the property, south of the Montauk Highway to her adopted son, Edward “Ned” Cameron Arnold and he built the brick wall and the large house that stood on that property, until 1974, when it was torn down to make way for new houses. The land is now known as “Pace Landing.”
ANDREWS ESTATE

The old Andrews Estate located on Oak Neck Lane, is by far one of the most beautiful buildings in all of West Islip. It was built sometime before 1873, for W.L. Andrews Esq. It is said to be an exact copy of the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The present owner of the estate, Mr. Hans Grosser and his wife Gertrude, have in their possession the original drawings and plans of the house. It was my honor to see these plans and the interior of the house. I was permitted by Mr. Grosser, to photograph the estate.

Before the house was completed, W. L. Andrews Esq., died and the house became the property of his wife. Mrs. Andrews lived in the house for many years. On a map of this area made in 1915 (see map section) the estate is shown to be owned by Mrs. J.E. Andrews. About 1950 the house stood empty with a “For Sale” sign in front. Then in 1951, Mr. Grosser stopped at the old house and just looked through the front windows, seeing the beautiful arch and stairway, to quote Mr. Grosser, “That was what sold me, I settled the deal right away.”

Outside, next to the south porch are several unusual California Beech trees. They have been estimated to be more than 150 years old. One other beautiful feature of these trees, beside being enormous, is the fact that when you look closely at the bark, you can actually see “monkeys, an old woman and the outline of a beautiful young woman.” This is not a tale, I have seen it myself.

The house contains six working fireplaces, a widow’s walk and almost all the original window panes. There is a balcony over the main entrance, that has delicately carved spiral posts. The main entrance door is of natural wood with a large brass knocker in the shape of a hand. There are many rooms with carved mouldings and fabric covered walls, only the upstairs sitting room still has the original wall covering, the other rooms have been redone with beautiful fabric which is a product of Mr. Hans Grosser. Mr. Grosser also had the brass chandeliers placed in the dining room and
the living room. Both were made in France and originally used gas. The one in the dining room has three black marble cherubs intwined in delicate scrolls of brass and weighs 170 lbs. In the living room chandelier is seen the finest brass forged scrollwork, that seems to have actually been done by the hand of mother-nature herself. All the fireplaces are original except one, this is in the living room. It is a carved white marble fireplace that was created in Italy.

The house is situated on two beautifully landscaped acres, and the original fence is still standing, in remarkably fine condition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hans Grosser and his wife for their hospitality, and for being permitted to photograph the old Andrews Estate.
RESIDENTS OF WEST ISLIP IN 1873

Austin Corbin  Mrs. Feeney  S.S. Stevens
Mrs. McGlyn  Mrs. R. Curtis  James Bertine
H. Muncy  Mrs. J. Whelan  Mrs. D.S. Sammis
Mrs. M. Leach  H. Wicks  J. Kenney
Ch. Young  E. W. Hawley  Dr. E. Dodd
Mrs. M. Kennedy  G. Hildreth  C. Hendricksen
S. Leveridge  G. Nicolas  L. Crum
W. Crum  Keenan  J. James
E. Higbie  P. Johnson  S. A. Higbie
Mrs. C. Rogers  Mrs. E. Bross  J. Baldwin
E. Sutton  Mrs. S. Wood  Mrs. Smith
P. Kennig  E. Hepburn  J. Wicks
E. Oakley  P. deYoung  W. Kehoe
J. Kidwell  J. Reynolds  Mrs. L. Peterson
S. Higbie  F. Tucker  Arthur A. Housman
T. Mackin  Jas. Eaton  Mrs. A. Eaton
J. Schrader  Mrs. S. Higbie  J.L. Heins
Mrs. R. Higbie  J.T. Davies, Jr.  Mrs. K. Magaun
G. Magaun  A. Wagstaff  C. Wagstaff
P. Remsen  J. Stephens  C.T. Harbeck
B. Stephens  J. deForest  B.D. Silliman
M.H. Keith  J. Snedecor  Mrs. F. Broos
R. Arnold  B. True  Mt Clare
W. Andrews  Dr. Blake  Valentine
Thorne  Mrs. Kendall  G.O. Gordon
J. Raynor  W. Phelps

Those listed are probably the land owners. (Names taken from an 1873 map of West Islip. See map in the map section)
EFFINGHAM PARK

Effingham Park was the residence of E.B. Sutton, located in West Islip. It had been built sometime during the 1800's. There was the main house, servants quarters, stables and a gate-keepers house. The grounds were well kept, with statues and fountains found almost everywhere. The roads were lined with trees, and the buildings were beautiful. Several bridges gave access to an island in the lake and one bridge joined what is today known as George Street with Babylon. Today George Street ends where this bridge once stood. The architect was J.N. Wood.

Suttons mill was near the north end of Effingham Park, located just south of the Southside Railroad of L.I. (now L.I.R.R.).

Effingham Park is now gone, and all that remains are a few of the beautiful trees and some evidence of the roads that once were part of Effingham Park.
NURSES HOUSE

Early in April of 1922, the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor (AICP), was surprised to receive from the attorneys for the estate of Emily Howland Bourne a copy of her will in which she had left to the association the sum of $300,000 to establish and maintain a country place “where nurses could obtain needed rest.” The AICP received the $300,000 in July of 1924.

In August of 1924, the McCurdy estate on Merrick Road (Montauk Highway) in the hamlet of West Islip was found to be most ideal. The house, screened by trees and shrubs, was set back about 250 feet from the road. On the property was a large stable with an apartment above and two cottages of six and seven rooms.

The estate, originally consisting of 250 acres, had belonged to the Higbie family. Later the property was sold to the Eatons. Fifty acres were later sold to John B. Ireland, who had built the house in 1879 after the original house had been destroyed by fire. Finally the property was bought by the McCurdy family, who sold the buildings and ten acres to the AICP, on December 9, 1924, at a cost of $50,000.

Nurses House received its name on May 26th 1924, at the first recorded meeting of the planning committee of the AICP. During its first year, 321 guests were accommodated and Nurses House became well established. In the cottages lived the gardener and grounds-keeper, Thomas Minogue and William Wilcox.

Nurses House served nurses from every state in the Union and from many foreign countries. It was still functioning in 1953. Not too many years later Nurses House was gone. In its place a large shopping center was built. Gristede’s is now located where the Nurses House once stood.
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recorded in the Islip Town annual meeting Book, for 1796, is Richard Udall, Nathanial Conklin and Nehemiah Higbie as the Commissioners of Schools. All three of these men lived in West Islip at the time, so it would seem that West Islip had the first school in the Town of Islip.

There is reason to believe that the first schools were taught in private homes, as was the custom of that day.

On December 27, 1814, Elias Baylis and Samuel Fleet for the Town of Huntington and Willets Green and Treadwell Scudder for the Town of Islip, agreed to connect “Islip west of Apple Tree Neck (Sagtikos Manor) and north to include the house of Daniel Rogers” (this would be most of modern West Islip) to District No. 21 of Huntington.

To locate the building of District No. 21, we will reconstruct the north side of Main Street now Babylon from Deer Park Avenue, east towards Sumpwams Creek.

In the corner lot, and lots were of generous size in those days, a roomy, two-storied house had been built in 1803 by Nathaniel Conklin. East from this stood the second Presbyterian Church building (the first had been in West Islip and was destroyed by the British in 1778), and a little farther east was the old district school-house (near today’s Cooper St).

Records in a minute book still owned by the district begin with May 1828 and continue to 1851. The first trustees recorded there are Timothy P. Carll, Jacob Brush and Silas Tooker. Timothy P. Carll acted as clerk and Simon W. Cooper was collector.

The first school census divides the parents into two lists, those for Babylon (Village) and those for (West) Islip. The union of these districts, arranged in 1814, continued until April 15, 1837, when the part east of the Babylon Town line (West Islip), became Islip District No. 9 and was given eighty-five dollars as its share of property divided.

Whether of logs or of wide, rough boards, the earliest school houses were alike in their crude simplicity and in the absence of all the essentials of today. Among the tools
of learning was a broom, also an axe, used to cut wood for the fire. No general tax was levied. Each pupil bought his own supplies and paid a per diem rate for his schooling. The teacher boarded around to the different families.

The second school, a one-room affair, was built on Higbie Lane (on the south-side of George Street) in 1835. The records show that in 1853, George M. Bishop, taught the school, which then had an enrollment of thirty-three students. He received a salary of $75 a year. The schools one room had a potbelly stove, with seats on both sides. Another teacher was Mrs. Ida Kellum, a resident of Babylon. By 1872 there were 64 students listed.

About 1912, when the Higbie Lane School was completed the students were transferred. The old one-room school was then moved to its present site on what is today, Du Bois Road entrance to the High School, across the Wagstaff property. A black man named "Poppy" Johnson, who worked as a gardener for the Wagstaff family, lived in it until his death. The old school is still there and is now a private residence (# 58 now owned by Lillian A. Hefele).
The third school erected, as mentioned above, was the present Higbie Lane School, built in 1912. In 1932, it was altered extensively. At this time there were 350 students. Several years later an addition was built on the rear of the building. (1976 Principal Florence Copeland)*

The next public school to be constructed was Secatogue Elementary School. The Secatogue School was built in 1954. In December of 1973, a resolution was passed to change the name to Paul J. Bellew Elementary School in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in West Islip. (1976 Principal George Kleinmeier)

West Islip continued to grow and more schools had to be built. In 1955, when Paumanok Elementary School was opened (1976 Principal Calvin Demarest), there were 2,647 students enrolled in the schools of West Islip.

*See Addendum for Penny Street School.
The next school to be constructed was the West Islip High School, this was in 1957. Up until this time the students of West Islip had to attend high school in the Village of Babylon. The High School cost $5 million. It contained the first swimming pool constructed in a school in all of Suffolk County. In 1967 a wing was added at the cost of $2½ million. The high school now contains rifle range, a planetarium and a 2,000 seat three-section gym. It’s library houses a closed-circuit T.V. studio and a video tape library. The capacity of the high school is 2,200 pupils. (1976 Principal John D. O’Donnell)

Captree Elementary School was opened the same year (1957) and its capacity is 630 pupils. (1976 Principal Martin Curran)
One year later (1958), Southgate and Manetuck Elementary Schools (1976 Principals Frank Torre – Dr. Andrew Pecoraro) opened their doors. The total student population in all West Islip schools at this time was now 4,943.

The Udall Road Junior High School opened in 1960, with a 100 seat audio-visual room and many other up-to-date facilities. (1976 Principal Ralph Martinell)

In 1961 Westbrook Elementary School was opened (1976 Principal Norman Brookhart) and in 1963 the Bayview Elementary School (1976 Principal Philip Harrigan) opened. The school census in West Islip was now more than 7,000.

In this same year (1963) another Junior High School was erected, this one was on Beach Street (1976 Principal Frank Galati)
The latest public school to be constructed in West Islip, was Oquenock Elementary School in 1964 (1976 Principal Carl Harris). The total student enrollment in West Islip was about 7,500. The school census as of 1972 was 12,477. (The school census covers all children in West Islip, from birth to the age of 18, whether they attend school or not).

Union Free School District #9, Town of Islip

Administrative Offices: Corner of Beach Street and Sherman Avenue, West Islip, N.Y. 11795 ............... MO-1-6100

Board of Education:

President ........................................... Russel H. Schultz
Vice President ................................. J. Robert Annino
Other Board Members ....................... Dr. Thomas L. Casey
                                      Dr. Francis O'Malley
                                      Paul J. Hamilton
                                      Helen Kisel Schick
                                      Joseph A. Giulianii
Clerk ................................................ Mrs. Edith Seitz
Treasurer .......................................... Francis M. Lenhart

Central Services:

Superintendent ............................... Dr. Daryl W. Pelletier
Asst. Superintendent .... Carlton Coulter (Now Retired)
Asst. Superintendent ........................ Dr. Paul Kirdahy
Asst. Supt. of Business ......................... Joseph Stanco
Asst. Supt. of Supportive Services ........ William Gerek
Dir. of Music Ed. .............................. Robert Cleveland
Dir. of Athletics .............................. Stephen Zawryrucha
Coordin. of Sec. Curric. .................... William Beck
Coordin. of Pupil Ser. ......................... William McAlloon
Adult Ed. Dir. ................................. James Lanzarotta
Dir. Ed. Communications ..................... Julian Cowan
Reading Director ............................. Dr. Judith Del Bosco
Director of Project KIND ..................... Dr. Barbara Flood
Director of Health Serv. ..................... Jane Van Cott
School Lunch Dir. ............................ Regina Frazzetta
School Plant Supt. ............................ Glen Gunst
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OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The first parochial school in West Islip, was Our Lady of Lourdes. The Bishop had given his permission to construct the school in 1964. The school doors opened in September 1965 to the first four grades. Sister Ruth Frances was the first Principal.

First Teachers

Rm. 1A Sister Mary Emily  Rm. 3A Sister St. Paul
Rm. 1B Sister Francis Mary  Rm. 3B Mrs. Thornton
Rm. 2A Sister Anne Immaculate  Rm. 4A Sister Helen Eugene
Rm. 2B Mrs. Holdorff  Rm. 4B Miss Avellino

Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School
In 1967 the first Brownie and Cub Scout troops began meeting at the school. In 1969 the road that the school is located on (Stevens Road) was renamed Toomey Road in honor of Rev. William F. Toomey, the founding pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes. (see Biographical Records)

In 1970 the School Board was brought into existence, and Sister Patricia Kelly became the School Principal. The first graduation of Our Lady of Lourdes School took place on June 19th 1970.

Despite mounting financial pressure, the School Board in April of 1971 voted to keep all eight grades open, despite the reduction in the number of sisters available to teach. The school is taught by both nuns and lay teachers. The Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes is now (1976), Sister Maria Ubaldus.
St. John the Baptist High School, was built as part of a construction program for the first four diocesan high schools of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Plans for the schools were announced by Bishop Kellenberg on March 12, 1963. Ground was broken for St. John the Baptist on June 18, 1964, and the school opened on September 8th, 1966, to admit the first freshman class of 672 students.

The first principal was the Rev. Robert T. Mulligan, (he is still the principal at this time). The initial staff included 19 nuns, representing the Dominican Sisters of Amytiville and the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, N.Y.; two priests; 11 lay teachers; and 27 clerical and maintenance employees.

St. John's was built at a cost of $6 million, and was designed by architects Clark and Warren of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the general contractor was J.R. Stevenson Corp., of Hempstead.

Located on Montauk Highway, adjacent to Good Samaritan Hospital, the schools physical plant covers 24 acres. It includes science laboratories, business machine and typing rooms, language laboratory facilities, audio-visual equipment and facilities for educational television reception, a 1,250-seat auditorium, a library accommodating 20,000 volumes, a 1,200-seat gymnasium, athletic fields, a 1,000-seat cafeteria, faculty quarters and guidance suites.

St. John the Baptist High School is a co-educational institution fully accredited by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. The school now has an enrollment of approximately 2,300 students and is staffed by a faculty of 135 teachers.

Bishop Kellenberg dedicated the school on Nov. 13, 1966.
ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Robert T. Mulligan, Principal
S. Bernadette Donovan, O.P. Assistant Principal
Edwin C. Faust, Assistant Principal
Lawrence E. Jordan, Assistant Principal
S. Noella Lachat, O.S.F., Assistant Principal

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Art Dept. .................. S. Christopher John Doherty, O.S.F.
Business Dept. ......................... Mrs. Mary Lowe
English Dept. ............................ David Meyer
Guidance Dept. ........................ John Ansbro
Language Dept. ...................... Raymond Hess
Library .............................. S. Therese Joyce, O.S.F.
Mathematics ......................... S. Mary Therese Maher, O.S.F.
Music Dept. ...................... S. Terese Damien Weber, O.P.
Theology Dept. ...................... Jerome DiNoto
Science Dept. ........................ Robert Rampino
Social Studies Dept. ................ S. Natalina O’Neil, O.S.F.

Chaplain – Father Edward Tarrant
DZUS FASTENER COMPANY

Founded by William Dzus (See Biographical Records) who invented the very effective fastener, manufacturing began in 1932 as a small one-man business in a garage in West Islip on Hawley Avenue. This original “plant” was donated by Mr. Dzus in 1957 to the West Islip Library Association for use as West Islip’s first public library.

In the early 1930’s, Mr. Dzus saw the need for a new type of fastening device to meet the requirements of the Aircraft Industry. The Industry required a quick acting, self-locking fastener which could withstand vibration and high stresses and strains. Thus the well-known Dzus Fastener was developed.

Architect’s drawing of the Dzus plant in West Islip, Long Island
The present Corporation was formed in 1936 and soon after, in 1937, a modern plant was built on the Company's present site on Union Blvd. in West Islip. Since the original building in 1937 several extensions have been added to fill the needs of the Company.

Originally the product was sold entirely to the Aircraft Industry. However, before World War II it began to spread into other Industries such as: railroad, bus, truck, farm equipment, radio, electronic and machinery industries.

During World War II the entire output of the plant was used for Defense. It is interesting to note that the Dzus spiral cam fastener was standard equipment on the military aircraft of all the United Nations. Also, infringing copies were used in the aircraft of the enemy countries.

At the conclusion of World War II the program of extending the use of the Fastener into non-aircraft fields was renewed and today they are widely used on automobile racers, buses, engines, cameras, telephone systems, lighting fixtures, business machines, and other diversified products.

One interesting development in the non-aircraft field is a modified form of fastener used in the surgical field for bone fixation (see illustration). This fastener eliminates the necessity of using plaster casts and other immobilizing devices in certain types of fractures and dislocations.

Mr. William Dzus was Chairman of the Board at the time of his death in 1964. Since then the Company has continued its operation under the guidance of its president, Theodore Dzus.
Dzus Bone Fixation Device
It was during a meeting of the West Islip Parent-Teachers Association, on November 11, 1954, that a public library for West Islip was first discussed. Mrs. Theodore Lindenberg, who was then president of the P.T.A., presented the idea to the membership and asked for a committee to "start the ball rolling" for a public library in the community.

A group, to be known as the Friends of the West Islip Public Library was soon organized with the purpose of assisting the library through volunteer efforts. Plans were formulated for them to work on book collecting, to prepare rooms for the use of the library, secure furniture, raise funds, and to work on publicity.

Mr. William Dzus, a West Islip industrialist, offered a rent-free building (# 43) on Hawley Avenue for the use of an incorporated association library. (This was West Islip's first library). Plans were implemented, papers were drawn-up, directors were elected, and members were recruited. A concerted drive for funds was initiated so that the building could be equipped, supplies purchased, and books cataloged.

After much hard work, with the assistance of the division of Library Extension, New York State Education Department, a plan of action was submitted to the New York State Board of Regents, by the seven founding trustees. Both the plan and the trustees were approved at the October meeting of the Board of Regents. So, when the library finally made its appearance in the community, it was the result of the diligent efforts of a small group of determined citizens.

FOUNDING TRUSTEES

Grace Lindenberg
Ridgeway T. Haggerty
Gloria Van Cassaele
Arthur S. Babbitz

Martha Limberg
Astrid Pulver
John S. Steele
May 4th 1957, was chosen as the official opening date of the library and plans were made for the dedication. When it was discovered that the library’s patron, Mr. Dzus, would be unable to attend on that day, the opening was re-scheduled for May 16th 1957. The ribbon-cutting ceremonies took place as planned and the library was officially opened.

The origins of the library in West Islip were humble and poor and dependent almost completely upon the charity of others. However, soon after its official opening, it found itself in the unique role of “homeowner”, for Mr. William Dzus had generously turned over the deed to the property, to the members of the Board of Trustees of the West Islip Library Association.

As early as September 1958, the subject of library expansion was brought up, and a building committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities of the expansion of the existing facilities as well as the cost of construction of a new building. Mrs. Meisels, a professional librarian was appointed, March 23rd, 1959.

It was not long after, that Mrs. Lindenberg and her family found it necessary to move from West Islip. It was with much regret that she resigned from the Board.

By this time, the library was well established, although much still needed to be done. Later that year (1960), a small childrens library was opened in an adjoining building. Circulation had increased to 83,052, an increase of 62%, and the number of registered borrowers stood at 6,195 about 24% of the total population of the school district.

A special referendum was held in March, 1961, for the purpose of changing the legal status of the library and electing five trustees. The proposal was passed overwhelmingly, 257 to 30. On May 2nd, 1961, the taxpayers approved a $72,292 library budget. The West Islip Public Library was subsequently granted an absolute charter by the Board of Regents of the State of New York, in October, 1961.

In August, 1961, the renting of two vacant stores at the Captree Shopping Center had been suggested by Mrs. Meisels as a possible solution to the hopeless overcrowding in the existing quarters. Within a few months, the West
Islip Public Library found itself in newly decorated air-conditioned quarters. The move, in January, 1962, signaled the start of still greater and more dramatic growth of the library.

In April of 1963, the question of library buildings was raised, along with discussion of their costs and the ways in which they are financed. Committees were once again formed and a short time later they began serious investigation of financing plans, sizes and types of buildings, and sites. Along with the consideration of these long-range plans, there was still the existing library to operate. Book circulation for 1962 was 166,180, 54% greater than the previous year. More than 3,000 new borrowers had registered and 2,671 new books had been added. However, the collection, numbering 22,073 volumes, was still falling far below the demands placed upon it, and therefore, the 1963-1964 budget provided for the purchase of six thousand new books and for maintaining subscription of 160 periodicals.

After careful deliberations, it was decided to use a small part of the funds from the sale of the Hawley Ave. building to experiment with a bus service. This plan was put into effect on March 16th, 1964. Schedules had painstakingly been set up and bus stops had been designated. A strong publicity program was instituted to promote the attempt to "bring the people, to the books". With their library cards serving as bus passes, the West Islip residents for whom the location of the library had been too remote, now literally flocked to its doors. For the most part, as anticipated, they were children, and for them the bus service was an immediate success. The bus service was discontinued later when the library budget was defeated.

February 23, 1966, the day of the special building referendum, ushered in a dramatic victory for library supporters. By a vote of 871 to 376, better than a two-to-one margin, the residents of School District # 9 approved the proposal to erect a new public library. They had truly come a long way in less than nine years.

Ground breaking for the new library building took place February 1967, it was completed in May of 1968.
Darline Carter became the Director of the library in February 1969. The new building was officially dedicated June 7. It was built on the former Wagstaff Estate property, on almost the exact spot where the main house stood. Behind the library can be seen two rows of trees, a farm lane at one time passed between them (see maps of 1873 and 1915.).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (1976)

President ............... Clarence A. Cunningham
Vice President ............ Eugene G. Harple, Ph.D.
Other Members ............... Jerome Brill
                             Donald A. Metznik
                             Axel D. Paulsen
Library Director ............... Darline Carter
Seated, left to right: Evelyn Lyons, Ann Sesto, Darline L. Carter, Library Director, Helen Theo, Jane Reilly. Standing, 1st row left to right: Peggy Mezger, Berenice Strecker, Ethel Morris, Marjorie Gallop, Janice Rostron, Alma Ruffett, Guang Nan Chen, Virginia Collins, Barbara Heimbuecher, Soo Young Oh. Standing, 2nd row left to right: Richard McTigue, Faith Keating, Mary Scanlon, Susanne Carlson, Elizabeth Ezyk, Dorothea Atwood, Ann Asta, Virginia Olson, Jerome Butler. Staff members not present: Mary Daly, Marilyn Flower, Ase Idland.
Seated, left to right: Evelyn Lyons, Ann Sesto, Darlene L. Carter, Library Director, Helen Theo, Jane Reilly. Standing, 1st row left to right: Peggy Mezzer, Berenice Strecker, Ethel Morris, Marjorie Gallop, Janice Reston, Alma Rufetti, Guang Nam Chen, Virginia Collins, Barbara Heimbuecher, Soo Young Oh. Standing, 2nd row left to right: Richard, Virginia, Paul, Janet, Mary, Elaine, Mary, Suzanne Carlson, Elizabeth Ezyh, Dorothy Aucoco, Marilyn, Flower, Ace Island.

1974 Library Staff
Dzus Building on Hawley Avenue
First West Islip Library 1957

Present West Islip Library 1976
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

The hospital is operated by the Daughters of Wisdom under the supervision of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Good Samaritan serves people of all creeds and receives broad support in the communities it serves so well.

On May 18, 1959, the seven-story hospital opened its doors with 183 beds. In the first year, 4,599 patients were admitted. With its 60 acre site and four major expansion programs, the hospital has enlarged its facilities and services to accommodate 369 beds.

At the rear of the hospital near the Extended Care Unit, is a helicopter pad. It is used by the Suffolk County Police Department and other organizations to bring in emergency cases. They are met by ambulance and patients are taken directly to the emergency room.

Good Samaritan Hospital is a member of; The American Hospital Association, The Catholic Hospital Association, The Hospital Association of New York State and The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council. It is accredited by; The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and The American Medical Association. The hospital is licensed by; the New York State Department of Health.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg
Chairman of the Board
Rev. Msgr. Myron J. Purick
Vice Chairman
Robert R. Umbdenstock, President
Thomas X. McKenna, Vice President
Gerard H. Magee, Vice President
George F. Sheehan, Treasurer
John F. Ryan, Asst. Treasurer
Rev. Saverio C. Mattei, Secretary
Edward J. Peterson, Administrator
Members

Maurice Barbash  T. Gerard Brown
Mrs. Edwin H. Eppig  Mrs. James L. Ford
Frank C. Graham, Jr.  Rev. John B. Hull
Robert J. Keeshan  Daniel J. Loughlin
Edward V. Kozlowski  Most Rev. John R. McGann
Rev. Msgr. Peter Nolan  Bernard J. Reilly
James J. Smith

Good Samaritan Hospital is one of the finest hospitals on Long Island. The staff is competent and well trained. Patient care is considered excellent. The drawing (see illustration) shows, the location of all areas and will give you an idea of the facilities available.

Before Good Samaritan Hospital was built, the residents of West Islip had to use Southside Hospital in Bay Shore. Good Samaritan also has a clinic in Wyandanch, to help the community there, as bus service on Long Island leaves much to be desired.
Receiving & Stores
Linen Service & Housekeeping
Chaplains Quarters & House Doctors
Maintenance
Sewage Disposal
New 120-bed Extended Care facility

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
GOOD SAMARITAN'S EXPANSION OVER THE YEARS
into a modern community health center of 367 patient beds

- **1959**: Completed construction of a new seven-story hospital with 187 patient beds at a cost of more than $6,000,000 on a 60-acre tract overlooking Great South Bay.
- **1966**: Completed construction of three new service additions: a four-story hospital annex; an expanded X-ray department; and an extension for linen service.
- **1970**: Completed construction of a new $1,000,000 Progressive Care Pavilion of 120 beds in three one-story nursing wings; a new employees' cafeteria; Plant Engineering extension; and a new sewage treatment facility.
- **1973**: Completion of a $3,000,000 construction program to provide approximately 60 acute care beds and flexible critical care facilities in a two-story addition; a new and significantly enlarged emergency room; new and expanded laboratory and medical records departments; a new central storage and receiving facility; and an addition to the power plant.
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The West Islip Fire Department started just twenty-five years ago, and has already proven itself as a first-rate fire fighting and rescue unit. The more than 100 members are proud of the youngest Fire Department in the Town of Islip and one of the newest Fire Districts.

In June of 1951, it was nothing more than a dream of Louis Schwartz, who saw the need for better fire protection in an area of West Islip, known as Causeway Acres. With a few neighbors Frank Savoy, John Loisage, John Wingerter, Bob Wisbauer, Henry Piotrowski, and Louis' wife Agnes, they became the pioneers of the West Islip Fire Department.

Louis Schwartz donated the first firehouse, a barn located at Haynes and Gridley Streets. The association bought a 1927 American-LaFrance pumper from the Port Washington Fire Department and were on their way. But the road ahead was harder than they realized. There were many obstacles to overcome.

The barn that was to house the pumper was heated with a small kerosene stove. The nearest source of water was ¼ of a mile away, and it often froze over in the winter. During the
In winter, a watch was instituted around the clock. Twice daily a volunteer went to the firehouse to keep the stove supplied and check the fire engine. Then he would go to the lake (Deer Lake) and chop a hole in the ice (in order to insert a hose for drawing water if the need arose). These men acquired the nick-name of "Ice-Choppers".

In 1952, West Islip Fire Department, became known as the North West Islip Volunteer Fire Company. With its ranks growing steadily, it purchased a 500 gallon Pumper from the East Meadow Fire Department. This truck was affectionately known as "Old # 2" by the old timers of Vanguard Engine Company. An ambulance was donated by Chief Louis Schwartz, with this addition the "Rescue Co." was born. A charter was secured in 1953 and the company was known as the North West Islip Fire Department Inc.. At this time, the department had two pumpers and a utility truck which supplied water with a tank.

A year later (1954) the Town Board recognized the Fire Department and gave their approval. The North-west area, at this time, was under the protection of the North Babylon Fire Company (another private fire company). Working with the North Babylon Fire Department and training with them, the North West Islip Volunteer Fire Company assumed the protection of this area under contract with the Town of Islip.

The late Judge Annino, who made the motion to recognize the Fire Department, said "I've watched these men apply themselves diligently and earnestly to the task of serving West Islip". Judge Annino became an Honorary member of the Fire Department, and was a staunch supporter of the volunteers.

Town recognition was an important milestone in the history of the W.I.F.D, but the firemen had no time to be complacent. They still had their training and there were many years when the volunteers and the Ladies Auxiliary stood on Sunrise Highway, soliciting funds, in order to purchase equipment, as the income from the Town was inadequate.
Some of the early equipment at the Watts Place Fire House (1957)
West Islip Volunteer Fire Department Company Photo (1959)
The first siren was a hand operated siren, which was operated by Mrs. Agnes Schwartz. A larger electrically operated siren was placed on the roof of her home at a later date. Mrs. Schwartz drove the fire trucks, rode the ambulance as a first-aider and was highly respected by the volunteers. The Board of Fire Commissioners made her an Honorary First Deputy Chief of the West Islip Fire Department, for her outstanding and unselfish dedication to the West Islip Fire Department.

In December 1959, under a law enacted by the State Legislature, all areas in West Islip, became known as the West Islip Fire District. James Garraway became the first Chief. assisted by R. Leiser and P. Friscia. Soon after, the first Board of Fire Commissioners was elected. The Board consisted of: Bernard Blumenthal, Thomas O'Donnell, Anthony DiNicola, George Reilly, Dr. Victor Boris and Bernard Collins as Treasurer.

The members of the old fire company were sworn in as members of the new fire department. The Board of Fire Commissioners contracted to lease the old fire houses and were authorized to purchase fire fighting equipment.

The following years saw the acquisition of a Rescue truck and other equipment. Finally, the Board met with Civic groups to discuss their goals. The proposition to acquire the Watts Place firehouse and the present Union Boulevard firehouse was put to a vote. It was turned down three times before being approved. A new light truck was purchased and an 85' aerial platform truck. The District, which is a political subdivision of the State of New York is audited by the Department of Audit and Control.

On November 27th 1968, the West Islip Fire Department Rescue Squad was called out at 3:50 a.m. to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Binetti. The emergency was the stork who decided he was about to present the Binetti’s with an addition to the family. On route to the hospital, Mrs. Binetti gave birth to a 7½ lb. baby boy. The Binetti baby was the first baby to be delivered by the West Islip Fire Department on route to a hospital.
West Islip Firemen in Action
(Union Blvd. Fire 1967)

Photos by Bill Badala
West Islip Fire Department Headquarters on Union Blvd.
West Islip Fire Department Headquarters, on Union Blvd.
FIRE CHIEFS OF WEST ISLIP

1951 – 1956  L. Schwartz (Founder & First Chief)
1956 – 1957  F. Shannon
1957 – 1959  B. Blumenthal
1959 – 1961  J. Garraway (1st Chief of Fire District)
1961 – 1963  R. Leiser
1963 – 1965  P. Friscia
1965 – 1967  R. Schwint
1967 – 1969  A. Strauch
1969 – 1971  T. Benvenuto
1971 – 1973  A. Waters
1973 – 1975  H. Vellia
1975 –  T. Donelson

The oldest active fireman is Bob Wisbauer (Badge # 4). He has been with the department from the very beginning.
West Islip was without a Post Office until 1959. Prior to this, the mail was brought to the residents from the Babylon Village Post Office. In 1938, George Brundin (now with the West Islip Post Office) recalls that Babylon had five letter carriers and two rural carriers in West Islip. Any mail coming to West Islip was addressed to Babylon.

In the mid 1950's, the residents of West Islip decided to have their own Post Office, and under the leadership of "Judge Annino", a petition was circulated. It was then sent to Congressman Stuyvesant Wainwright. It took several years, but finally in 1959, West Islip had its own Post Office. A building was rented in the Captree Shopping Center to serve as the first Post Office.

Just before the West Islip Post Office came into being, the Babylon Post Office was using Bell's General Store as an Annex (Higbie Lane and Hawley Avenue).

Joseph Giordano was West Islip's first Post Master. Mr. Northrup, one of the rural carriers from Babylon was transferred to West Islip along with several other postal workers.

The present Post Office was opened in 1966, with Lawrence F. O'Brien as Post Master. Presently, there are about 75 employees at the facility. The present Post Master is Louis B. Kriss, Asst. Post Master James B. Viola, and the Foreman is Edward Green.
Hon. Joseph Annino  
201 Higbie Lane  
West Islip, Babylon  
New York

Dear Judge:

Your letter and petitions on the matter of establishing a post office in West Islip have been received.

I have forwarded these, along with my request for favorable action, to the Post Office Department.

My best wishes to you.

Faithfully,

STUYVESANT WA1NRIGMT
H A r«iTrnioN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 6, 1956
The first bank in West Islip, was a branch of the Bank of Babylon. Our community had always been small, until just after World War II. In 1950 the population really began to grow, it had almost doubled since 1940. Most of the residents had to go into Babylon to take care of their banking business. So in 1956 the Bank of Babylon opened a branch office on a section of the former Paprocki property on Higbie Lane (this building is now the John Hancock Insurance Building). The residents welcomed the new service. The total bank assets at this time were; $18.4 million. By 1956, they had gone up to $63.2 million and as of December 31, 1972 they were $67.2 million.

The West Islip branch of the Bank of Babylon soon outgrew their building and a new modern building was erected next to the original bank. The new building opened on June 26, 1971. Mr. Gross is the present (1976) manager. The following is a list of the present local senior officers of the Bank of Babylon which is now controlled by the Charter New York Corporation:

John A. Stanton .................... Chairman of the Board
Edward V. Kozlowski .................... President
John E. Gregorio .................... Vice President
Robert E. Eagan .................... Vice President & Sectry.
George J. Stanton .................... Comptroller

Directors:

Francis B. Garvey Robert J. Keeshan
Edward V. Koslowski Joseph F. Leitch
Michael J. Ryan Alfred J. Southard
John A. Stanton Laclede J. Wilson

Other Banks to be found in West Islip...

Central Federal Savings & Loan Association
Chase Manhattan Bank of Long Island
First National Bank of East Islip
Manufacturer Hanover
Security National Bank
The earliest records of Islip Town, state that there were constables from about the year 1710, until about the year 1920. At this time the constables were replaced by the Islip Town Police Department.

The first chief was Richard Tucker. He remained chief of the department until the mid-1950’s. The second and last chief was Bernard Gaiser. The department at this time consisted of 126 men and 1 police-woman.

When the Islip Town Police were disbanded on December 31, 1959, all members of the department, including secretaries, were absorbed into the newly formed Suffolk County Police Department which became official on Jan 1, 1960. The only Islip Town policewoman was Miss Mary Patterson (now Mrs. Mary Anzel).

Islip Town Constabulary 1710 – 1920
Islip Town Police Department 1920 – 1959
Suffolk County Police Dept. 1960 – To Date

Police protection for the community of West Islip is now provided by the Suffolk County Police Department. The Suffolk County Charter, approved by the voters in November, 1958, provided for a county-wide police force. At that time, the voters of the Town of Islip, with the exception of the Village of Ocean Beach, elected to become part of the county police system. The Suffolk County Police Department, created on January 1, 1960, with its headquarters in Hauppauge, has three main functions; investigations, services and patrols.

The community of West Islip is served by the Third Precinct with headquarters located on Fifth Avenue, in North Bay Shore. It is staffed by a complement of more than 300 men, one deputy inspector who serves as the precinct commander, one captain, nine lieutenants, thirty-three sergeants and 263 uniformed patrolmen, all directly responsible to the chief of the district at the district headquarters. The Third Squad of the Detective Bureau also serves the commu-
nity and is staffed by one detective lieutenant, three detective sergeants, and twenty-nine detectives.

Within the Suffolk County Police Department are; a Helicopter Unit, Marine Unit and a K-9 Unit. There is no county jail in this area, the Suffolk County Jail is at Riverhead and the Suffolk County Honor Farm is at Yaphank.

Other law enforcement agencies which have jurisdiction in the community of West Islip are the New York State Police, and Long Island Parkway Police and Suffolk County Sheriff’s office.

In 1972 there were 2,417 authorized members of the Suffolk County Police Department.

The kids in West Islip, are just like kids from other communities, they enjoy writing on walls, My wife and I were passing a monument to graffiti, and the words written there said it all . . . “Cops are OK.”
CEMETERIES

There is no public cemetery in West Islip, but there is one (known)* small burial ground. It is located on Boulevard Avenue directly across from where Kline Street intersects. (On what was the Stevens Estate, see map of 1873.) As far as is known this cemetery has no name, so we will just call it "West Islip Cemetery".

WEST ISLIP CEMETERY

LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF BOULEVARD AVE. & KLINE ST.
RURAL BURIAL GROUND - EARLIEST LEGIBLE DATE: 1826

Explanation: • tree stump
• trees
□ upright stone
□ base stones
□ headstones
□ headstones

*See Addendum under Selby burial ground.

90
The following information was copied verbatim from the remaining head-stones, in this cemetery (Sept. 1, 1973). Their location is shown on the sketch.

# 1. R.B.

2. ELIZABETH wife of CHARLES R. WEEKS Died April 26, 1893, Aged 83 yrs 11 m’s & 5 days.

3. No writing visible.

4. (Top missing) May 2, 1873, Aged 64 y’s 8m’s & 29 days


6. ( ) ec. 20, 188( ).

7. In Memory of Jesse Weeks who died May 18, 1829, Age 47 years 1 mo. & 23 days.


9. SACRED to the Memory of ELIZABETH, wife of ( ? ) Weeks, Died July 13, 1825, Aged 45 years 5 mos 29 dys.


11. In MEMORY of KEZIAH LEEKE wife of ELIAS LEEKE, Departed this life March 20, 1846 in the 75th year of her age.

12. This is the only headstone still standing. No lettering visible and it is broken in half.

13. In Memory of CONKLIN K. MUNCY son of Isace & Elizabeth Muncy who died January 11th 1845, Aged 23 years 4 months & 24 days.

14. Broken off below ground.

15. Broken off at base, set in sandstone.
Most of the people that had resided in West Islip in the 1800's and before, were buried in the Babylon Cemetery or the Oakwood Cemetery in Bay Shore. It is also possible, that a few may have been buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Bay Shore and also the Brentwood Cemetery.

The following list of family names, are only some of the names of West Islip residents that may be found in the Babylon Cemetery; Smith, Weeks, Wicks, Seaman, Udall, Oakley, Sammis, Bertine, Conklin, Wheeler, and Higbie.

In the Oakwood Cemetery in Bay Shore there is a section where many of the Indian-negro family names may be found. Much information can be found on the head-stones and monuments in these cemeteries.

Two of the remaining headstones in the West Islip Cemetery
GOVERNMENT

West Islip is under the jurisdiction of Islip Town officials. The chief governing body of the town is the Town Board. The Town Board consists of the Supervisor and four councilmen. The Board enacts ordinances, regulates zoning, and carries out other legislative functions. The Supervisor is the executive of the town.

The following is a list of the officials of the Town of Islip:

Peter F. Cohalan  Supervisor
Frank D. Boncor  Councilman
James J. Mackey  Councilman
John P. Finnerty  Councilman
Norman DeMott  Councilman

Anne Pfifferling  Town Clerk
Edwin Boogertman  Receiver of Taxes
Robert W. Chappell  Highway Department
William H. Schermerhorn  Board of Appeals
Michael A. LoGrande  Planning Board
James Sullivan  Department of Recreation
Marcus H.L. Sullivan  Industrial Committee
George L. Weeks, Jr.  Historian
William L. Kroupa  Dog Warden
Fred F. Boncore  Assessor
Stan Pakula  Public Information

The seat of Town Government is at Town Hall, 655 Main Street, Islip, New York 11751.

Islip Town- Land Area 102 square miles.  
Population 312,807 (approx.)-
POPULATION

It is extremely difficult to obtain facts about the population of West Islip, because it is not an incorporated area. The sources quoted here are from the school census and the Long Island Lighting Company estimates.

SCHOOL CENSUS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>1,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>4,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>6,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>8,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>9,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>10,977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The school census contains all children, pre-schoolers to eighteen years of age.

L.I.L.CO. estimates in 1960 and 1975 compared West Islip with other communities of Islip Town.

<table>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Islip</td>
<td>13,924</td>
<td>15,062</td>
<td>15,070</td>
<td>17,374</td>
<td>17,618</td>
<td>18,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightwaters</td>
<td>3,193</td>
<td>3,313</td>
<td>3,399</td>
<td>3,808</td>
<td>3,838</td>
<td>3,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Shore</td>
<td>9,802</td>
<td>10,772</td>
<td>10,914</td>
<td>11,119</td>
<td>11,068</td>
<td>11,054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The colonial West Islip resident depending largely on foot travel and spending a great deal of time in the woods cutting fire wood for New York City, or hunting deer, had an interest in eradicating the venomous rattlesnake, which they proceeded to do with a high degree of success. The last reported siting of rattlesnakes on Long Island was made about 1850 by the track-walkers employed by the L.I.R.R.

Today, there are no poisonous snakes on L.I., but here in West Islip you may still find, the Garter snake, DeKay snake, Ribbon snake and infrequently the common Water snake. Also found in West Islip is the Box Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Painted Turtle and the Diamond Back Turtle.
Raccoons may still be seen on occasion, in the wooded areas. The deer that were once plentiful in this area were the Virginia/White tail.

Mr. Austin Corbin, (one time President of the L.I.R.R.) owned an estate in the northwest corner of West Islip (see map of 1873) and had an enclosure built for deer. One day when Mr. James Feeney, Mr. Corbin’s gameskeeper, was feeding the deer, he was chased and pinned to a tree by a large buck. He was released by another man who diverted the buck’s attention, Mr. Feeney recovered from a gored leg at his home on Udall Road.

On modern maps, you may find the area of Corbin’s, by locating Deer Lake.

There are more than 560 bird species in this area, the following is just a few of the more common species: Red-Winged Blackbird, Cardinal, Robin, Barn Owl, Western Tanager and Mourning Dove. The list could go on to all the different types of Sea Gulls, Hawks, Thrushes and Ducks, but let us go on to life in the waters of this area.

On occasion you may find Harbor Seals, Porpoises and even Whales. The more common marine life consists of, the Horseshoe Crab, Hermit Crab, Starfish, American Eel and the Blue Crab.

Fish to be found in nearby waters are: Tuna, Shad, Porgy, Butterfish, Flounder, Skate, Cod, Striped Bass, Sea Bass, Red Hake, Weakfish, Bluefish, Mackerel, Menhaden, Herring, Swordfish and many different kinds of Sharks.

West Islip still has quite a bit of natural life, but you must look for it.
CLIMATE

West Islip has a mild climate, the average temperature being 50 degrees. It seldom goes below 10 degrees or above 90 degrees. The fact that Long Island is surrounded by water helps to keep it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Reports by the National Weather Service indicate, most days during a year are sunny on Long Island.

The hurricane season is from summer to early fall. Most hurricanes that reach Long Island lose some of their strength along the way. In 1938 a strong hurricane, beached many boats here.

West Islip is on the average 29 feet above sea level. Our prevailing winds are northwesterly, with an average velocity of 13 m.p.h.. West Islip is mostly flat and sandy and there is a smell of fresh, salty air from the ocean and Great South Bay.
Captree Bridges viewed from West Islip beach

West Islip Marina looking north,
Good Samaritan Hospital is in the background
Islip Town Supervisor Peter Cohalan cutting ribbon, officially opening the West Islip Twin Cinema. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paulson (owners) and their children, hold film reels. Tom Downey in background. (1974).
Islip Town Supervisor Peter Cohalan cutting ribbon, officially opening the West Islip Twin Cinema. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paulson (owners) and their children, hold film reels. Tom Downey in background. (1974).
RECREATION

As a total community, West Islip has much in the way of recreational facilities. The following is a list of some of the facilities located in the area.

**West Islip Beach** (foot of Beach Drive). There are dressing rooms, rest rooms, first aid station, playground, and lifeguards supervising the bathing area.

**West Islip Marina** (foot of Beach Drive). There are berths for 120 boats. A boat ramp is also available.

**Little League** There are four baseball fields, located on Beach Drive near Good Samaritan Hospital.

**Fishing** Located at the foot of Eaton Lane.

**West Islip Public Library** (Higbie Lane & Montauk Hwy.) Shelf space for 105,000 books, movies, story hour, meeting room and children's section.

**West Islip Cinema** (two theaters in one). Located in the Dzus Shopping Center on Union Blvd.

**Captree Bowling** (40 lanes). Located in the Captree Shopping Center on Union Blvd.

**Sagtikos Recreation Center.** Two outdoor swimming pools, recreation area indoors, rest rooms, first-aid station, large parking area baseball field, and tennis courts.
CAPTREE STATE PARK

At the eastern tip of the long, narrow reef known as Jones Beach Island lies Captree State Park, a fisherman’s snug haven since 1954, and a picnicker’s delight. It is situated at the confluence of the State Boat Channel and Fire Island Inlet. Directly south of it is Robert Moses State Park to which it is joined by a bridge spanning the inlet.

Captree Island was acquired by the State, in part from the Towns of Islip and Babylon in 1930. It has an area of 298 acres and is bisected by the Robert Moses Causeway. The original Captree Bridge connecting Conklin’s Point (West Islip) with the Captree State Park was opened in 1964, and four years later, in 1968, a twin span, that ran parallel to the original, was opened.

When the park was opened to the public in 1954, there was parking space for 500 cars. In succeeding years the area was increased until today when more than 1,700 can be accommodated.

Captree is in the heart of the fishing grounds. Charter boats, before the park was established, had their home ports on the upland south shore, making a long sail across the bay necessary with loss of much fishing time. From eight charter boats in 1954, the fleet has increased to more than forty.

Through the years, especially the “Gay Nineties,” the island was the summer stamping grounds of New York’s then famous Tile Club in which some of America’s most celebrated artists and writers held membership. Because of the artists who roamed its windswept beaches there are paintings of Captree hanging today in many galleries and many homes here and abroad.

The once desolate, largely marsh island, with a few summer houses and huge flocks of sea gulls has been metamorphosed into an ideal outdoor recreation port where even the displaced gulls and terns have become acclimated to their new nesting places, which are clearly marked “Out of Bounds” for visitors.

101
COMMUNICATIONS

West Islip has no radio station or newspaper in the community, but it is served by several outside the area.

Radio

The West Islip schools use nearby Babylon AM radio stations WGLI (1290) and WBAB (1440), to announce any school closings. Radio reception in this area is excellent, and with a small portable you can receive many stations.

Newspapers

West Islip is served by Newsday (daily & Sunday) located in Garden City, Long Island. Also the Long Island Press (daily & Sunday) located in Jamaica, Long Island.

Weekly newspapers serving the West Islip area are; Islip Town Bulletin, located in Bay Shore, the Babylon Beacon (West Islip Edition) located in the Village of Babylon, and the Pennysaver News, located in Bay Shore.

The weekly newspapers carry much more local news of West Islip, than do the larger dailies.

Television (Cable)

West Islip is served by Suffolk Cable Vision, which began operating in 1972. Some fine features are the 24 hour newscasts, stock market reports, shows from Connecticut and local Suffolk County broadcasts (High School sports, Fire Department gatherings, etc.) It is located in Central Islip.

Television

West Islip does not have a television station, but there is one in Hauppauge which covers local news and events. This is WSNL (channel 67, UHF), whose antenna is mounted on a 447 ft. mast. The station has studios in Hempstead and Patchogue. Its first test pattern appeared on October 15, 1973 and regular broadcasts began at 8:28 AM on November 18, 1973.
Magazines

In West Islip there are two magazines published, the first being the well known "Long Island Forum" a monthly founded by Paul Bailey in 1938. He was the publisher until 1959. Charles J. McDermott, was publisher from 1959 – 1964. Carl A. Starace (nephew of Paul Bailey) has been the publisher since 1964. The magazine is devoted to the history of Long Island.

The second magazine is "Wetlands" a quarterly, founded by Thomas S. Zawyrucha in 1972. This publication is devoted to ecology.

Both of these publications can be found in the West Islip Public Library.

Newspapers (defunct)

A bi-monthly newspaper that was published in West Islip, was the "West Islip Press".

Other defunct newspapers in the area were; The "Southside Signal" (Babylon), "The Babylon Leader" (Babylon), "The Babylon Eagle" (Babylon) and the "Suffolk Sun" (Deer Park) a daily.
WILLETS GENEALOGY

Richard Willets (1) married Mary (nee-unknown), He came from England in 1660. They had 3 sons and one daughter; Thomas Willets (1), Richard Willets (2), John Willets, and Hope Willets.

Thomas (1), & Richard (2) Willets were the first white land owners of West Islip.

Thomas (1) Willets, married (?) and had four sons; Thomas (2), Isaac, Richard (3), and Amos Willets. (All four of Thomas (1) Willets sons, married four daughters of John Hallock, of Smithtown.)

Isaac Willets married (?) Hallock and they had a son; David Willetts.

FIRST RECORDED TOWN (ISLIP) MEETING, April 1720

Thomas (2) Willets, was one of the Assessors. Isaac Willets, was the tax collector.

In April, 1720, Thomas (2), Isaac, Richard (3), and Amos, were land owners in the West Islip area.
HIGBIE'S

Captain Edward Higbie: was engaged in the business of whaling as early as 1680 (no other information available).

Samuel A. Higbie: born in Jamaica in 1708, operated a stagecoach line between Jamaica and Patchogue. It has been said that he is the man that built the Higbie Inn, about 1750, it is now known as the La Grange Inn.

Aaron Higbie: was born November, 1749, he operated (with his brother Nehemiah) the La Grange Inn. He married Ruth (nee-unknown), who was born about 1756. Aaron died on May 25, 1827, and was buried in the Babylon Cemetery in the Higbie family plot.

Nehemiah Higbie: (see information under Aaron Higbie.)

(For information pertaining to other members of the Higbie family, see the section on the La Grange Inn.)

MINOR COOPER KEITH

Minor was born in 1848 to Minor Hubbel Keith and Emily Meiggs. Minor Cooper Keith's colorful career is described in detail by Samuel C. Clothers in his book, "ROMANCE OF THE TROPICS". In 1872, Keith started the first banana plantation in Central America, by 1899, with Andrew Preston, he organized the United Fruit Company. He married Cristina Castro, daughter of the former President of Costa Rica in 1883. When he died at the age of 82 (1929), the funeral service was held at his home in West Islip, with the Rev. Burlingham, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, West Islip, officiating. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. Keith Lane in West Islip is located on what was formerly Minor C. Keith's property.
D.S.S. SAMMIS

David Sturges Sprague Sammis was born in the town of Huntington, May 8, 1818. He married twice, first to Emeline Wheeler, and then when she died, he married her sister Antoinette Wheeler. D.S.S. Sammis was the owner of the famous Surf Hotel (Fire Island), one of his homes was near the corner of Hunter Avenue and Udall Road.

GEORGE W. CONKLIN

Was born August 10, 1829 – Died, January 21, 1908, was a member of Co. 1, 127th Regt., N.Y. Vols. (Civil War).

NELSON H. SOUTHARD

Was (during the Civil War) in the Harris Light Cavalry. He was taken prisoner by the Confederates and died in Andersonville Prison, Georgia.
COLONEL TREDWELL SCUDDER
Was a descendant of Timothy Scudder who settled in West Islip in 1710. Colonel Scudder was a member of the New York Assembly in 1802, 1810, 1811, 1815, 1822, and 1828, and representative in the 15th Congress. He was very agreeable in manner, a good speaker, and justly deserved the confidence of his fellow citizens. He died October 31st 1834, at the age of 63.

DR. RICHARD UDALL
Was born in West Islip in 1751. His mother was a descendant of the Patentee of Willett’s patent. He was graduated in medicine from Kings (now Columbia) College, in the city of New York in 1772. He resided on the island of Antigua, West Indies, for several years practicing his profession. He returned to Islip after a few years, and continued to practice until disabled by blindness and old age. He died October 6th 1841, at the age of 90. He was a skillful physician, renowned for his success in fevers, and esteemed for his gentlemanly qualities.
JUDGE ISAAC THOMPSON

Was a descendant, in the sixth generation, from Elder William Brewster, who came to New England on the “Mayflower,” December 11th 1620, and in the fifth generation from Hon. Roger Ludlow, deputy governor of Massachusetts in 1634 and deputy governor of Connecticut in 1639. His mother was Mary Woodhull, first cousin of General Nathaniel Woodhull, president of the Provincial Congress in 1775 and 1776, who was brutally wounded after his surrender August 28th 1776. Judge Thompson married, first, Mary, daughter of Colonel Abraham Gardiner of East Hampton, of the fifth generation from Lion Gardiner, who settled on Gardiner’s Island in 1639; second, Sarah Bradner of Goshen, Orange county, granddaughter of Rev. John Bradner, of Scotland, who settled as pastor of the Presbyterian church in Goshen in 1721 and whose wife was a daughter of Count de Colville. Judge Thompson was a “justice of the quorum” prior to the American Revolution, and afterward one of the judges of the court of common pleas of Suffolk county. He was a magistrate for more than forty years, and a member of the New York Assembly which met in New York City in 1795. He was chairman of the Islip committee and in correspondence with the Continental Congress in February 1776.

In September 1776, after the occupation of Long Island by the British and Hessions, he was robbed and nearly killed by being hanged, in a tree opposite his own home (Sagtikos Manor), and was only saved by one of his assailants saying that as he was a magistrate under the king they should not hang him. He was afterward shot at, but not wounded. The musket ball, struck the stair below him, the hole can still be seen. His intimacy with Lindly Murray, who was a royalist and with other Englishmen, saved him from further abuse. During the war, Sir Henry Clinton, General Abercrombie and other British officers stayed at the manor, and while General George Washington was President he and his party stayed the night, (April 21st 1790). Judge Thompson died January 30th 1816, at the age of 73. He was a man of strict integrity; his manner was mild and courteous, and in the discharge of all his official duties he manifested sound judgement, united with firmness and impartiality.
EDWARD DODD, M.D.

Was a well known physician of West Islip, he was born in West Islip, August 4th 1839, being the son of James E. and Mary E. (Pettit) Dodd. The boyhood of Dr. Dodd was spent in West Islip. When he had reached the age of seventeen, he began to teach country schools in Schoharie, Suffolk and Delaware counties during the winter season, and attended Fergusonville Academy during the summer.

Dr. Dodd early had visions of his future career and began while still a teacher to read medicine with Franklin Skidmore of Babylon, and afterwards and more thoroughly with Dr. Alfred C. Loomis, an eminent physician of the city of New York. He attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and graduated in March 1862. At once he applied for examination before the Army Board at Washington for appointment as assistant surgeon in the government service. This appointment came to him in October and he was commissioned by President Lincoln November 4th, 1862. Dr. Dodd was in General Grant's army in the campaign at Vicksburg, and was afterward made Executive Officer of the vessel, "D.A. January," which position he held until the termination of the siege.

The young soldier physician had been married before he entered the service to Miss Elizabeth Foster, of New York City. He went to Europe and took special instructions at Paris, Berlin, Zurich, and Vienna.

Dr. Dodd made his home in New York City, coming to his country residence (West Islip) only in the summer time, until the year 1891, when he came to West Islip to spend the balance of his days amid the lovely scenes of the West Islip country side. He was the father of two children, Ernest H. Dodd and Frank Nelation.

Dr. Dodd possessed one of the best private libraries in Suffolk County, containing about three thousand five hundred volumes, in English, French and German, including works on history, biography, medicine, the various sciences and general literature.
WILLIAM MUNCY

Was the owner of a well kept and attractive farm in West Islip. He was also interested in boat building and was engaged on the water for many years. He was married to Marietta Fleet, of Babylon and they had eight children; Smith, Hannah, Thomas, William, Silas, Etta, Ella, and Ada.

DAVID RICKETTS

Was an energetic young business man of Babylon. He was born in London, April 7, 1848, the son of David and Mary (Wilson) Ricketts, when David was four years old his parents brought him to America. His mother died of cholera soon after coming to this country. At the age of fifteen David was a strong and sturdy lad, able to do a man's work, and share the responsibilities of manhood. During the Civil War, he enlisted in Co. I, Thirteenth New York Heavy Artillery. He was discharged from the service June 28th 1865. Returning home he found work in a whip factory in New York City at the salary of $3 a week. After six weeks and although only seventeen years old, he bought out his proprietor, paying $150 down and giving his note for the balance to be paid at his leisure.

Mr. Ricketts was married September 11th 1869, to Mary C. Bane, of New York City, the marriage took place in Philadelphia. He thought that he could build his business if he moved it to Long Island, so he moved it to Greenpoint and remained there for two years. He then tried Williamsburg and East New York. He became successful and remained in East New York for eleven years. He then decided upon another move, and this in 1886, brought him to Babylon. (He purchased the Conklin-Oakley Mill on Sampwams Creek). His son David C. Ricketts was the manager of the whip factory. Mr. Ricketts added the making of walking canes to his other lines and had a large business.
AUSTIN CORBIN

Was born to Austin and Mary (Chase) Corbin on July 11, 1827 in Newport, N.H. He was educated in the common neighborhood schools. After graduation from Harvard Law School in 1849, he started a law practice. In 1851, he moved to Davenport, Iowa, where in 1854 the firm of Macklot & Corbin opened a bank. After many successful banking ventures, he moved to New York City, where as president of Austin Corbin & Co., he became interested in railroads.

Through the Long Island Railroad, Corbin developed transportation to nearby beaches. He was instrumental in turning the L.I.R.R. into a paying enterprising business. On his estate in West Islip, Corbin operated a private game preserve, Deer Lake (see map of 1873) was located on his preserve. Austin Corbin (one time President of the L.I.R.R.) died on June 4th 1896, from injuries suffered in a fall from his carriage. . .he left his wife of 43 years, Hannah (Wheeler), and a son and daughter.
REV. WILLIAM F. TOOMEY

The Rev. William F. Toomey was the founding Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in West Islip, November 1956. He was born February 23, 1900, and ordained May 25, 1929. He was the Chaplain of the West Islip Fire Department until his death on February 15, 1967.
"JUDGE" JOSEPH ANNINO

Born in New York City in 1901. Joseph Annino, his wife Jane and their two sons came to West Islip in 1931. Mr. Annino quickly became involved in the community’s struggle to grow and develop. Shortly after his arrival, he opened and operated "The Little Country Store" on Higbie Lane and Gerek Avenue. During this time, he also published a newspaper called the West Islip Press. In 1937, he joined the Town of Islip Highway Department and worked his way up, from laborer to foreman of the West Islip Division. In 1948 he established an insurance and real estate business.

Mr. Annino was first appointed Justice of the Peace in September 1952, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge Clarence Morris, and was elected to a full term in November 1953. Judge Annino was also Chairman of the Board of Governors of the West Islip Republican Club, and one of the founders of the West Islip Lions Club.

Joseph Annino was a trustee of the West Islip Fire Department and had been associated with every worthwhile civic endeavor of his community. He was also instrumental in getting the crossing gates, placed at the railroad crossing on Higbie Lane. The West Islip Post Office exists because of Judge Annino leading the residents efforts to have their own postal facilities.

Judge Annino died February 1956, and was buried in Pinelawn Cemetery. There are many reminders of Judge Annino, throughout West Islip. This is one man, that truly left his mark on West Islip.
WILLIAM DZUS

Was born in Ukrainian village of Czernychiwci, to Ksenka and John Dzus, on January 5, 1895.

In 1913, Dzus came to America by way of Canada, with money he borrowed from a great-uncle. He first settled in Newark, New Jersey. In 1917 he married Eva Skalecka, a school-mate from his native village. His wife contracted tuberculosis and the doctor suggested a change of climate.

Mr. Dzus moved his wife and young son to West Islip. It was soon discovered to be the wrong climate and Saranac Lake was suggested as a more suitable climate. In Saranac Lake he found work as a laborer. After the death of his wife, Dzus and his son returned to West Islip.

In 1927 he married Anna Resnick, shortly after this he invented the Dzus Fastener (see section on Dzus Fastener Co.). In 1948 he started the Ukrainian Institute of America, in West Islip. Shortly after this he purchased a mansion in New York City that had once belonged to Peter Stuyvesant, and this became the new home of the Ukrainian Institute. Mr. Dzus was president of the organization.

In 1957 he donated his original “plant”, to the West Islip Library Association. also in 1957 he married his third wife. Ivana Sheperowich. William Dzus passed away in June of 1964. (For more information on Dzus read “An American in the Making” by Ronald Lawrence Bern, 1961)
Mr. Bellew came to West Islip as District Principal in August 1952. At that time, there were only 3000 residents in the district with fewer than 600 pupils attending classes in grades K to 8th. Shortly thereafter the community began a spectacular growth particularly from 1955-1965 when adult and pupil population increased tenfold. This growth required a tremendous expansion in school facilities and staff.

Starting with the original facility of the Higbie Lane Elementary School, eight more Elementary Buildings, two Junior High Schools and a modern Senior High School were constructed. The Leadership of Paul J. Bellew in long range planning for the growth, coupled with the support of local citizens, made it possible for West Islip to avoid a school program operated on double sessions which many other districts have experienced.

Few school systems and communities had the good fortune of having a continuity of superior leadership. Mr. Bellew played a major role in the organization of the West Islip library, had been instrumental in the development of local youth programs, is a charter member of the West Islip Lions Club and a member of the Babylon Rotary Club. He is also a member of several professional organizations including the American Association of School Administrators, the New York State Council of School District Administrators, the Suffolk County School Executives Assoc. and is currently (1973) President of the Association of Chief School Administrators of the Town of Islip. Mr. Schultz (President of the West Islip Board of Education), stated, "The impact of Paul Bellew reaches far beyond the local schools into the very fabric of our community, and will be felt for years to come." He also stated "The Board will regret the loss of Mr. Bellew’s service (Mr. Bellew retired January 1974) of over twenty years, during which his professional expertise as an educator and administrator was the major influence in shaping the character of the schools in West Islip".

In December 1973, a resolution was passed to re-name Secatogue School to Paul J. Bellew Elementary School, in recognition of Mr. Bellew’s accomplishments in West Islip.
HONORABLE THOMAS J. DOWNEY

Has the distinction of being the youngest elected official in the State of New York. He was born January 28, 1949, in Ozone Park, Long Island, and has lived most of his life in West Islip with his parents Thomas A. and Norma (Morgillo) and his younger brother Jeffrey. He graduated from West Islip High School in 1966, and from Cornell University in 1970, he also attended St. John's School of Law. Thomas Downey was elected to the Suffolk County Legislature in 1971, at the age of 22, and re-elected in 1973. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in November 1974 at the age of 25, thus making him the youngest United States Congressman.
The following is a list of memorials that may be found in West Islip.

**Secatogue Indian Village**: Located at the Little League Field, just north of West Islip beach. It states; "Site purchased by Thomas & Richard Willetts September 19, 1692, from the Sachem, Wamsea. Erected 1960.

**Joseph Annino**: The American Legion Hall on Union Blvd. has a memorial at the base of the flag pole stating; "This Plaque Erected In Grateful Memory of JOSEPH ANNINO For His Generous Donation of the Site on which this building stands.

**Joseph Annino**: The Lions Club has placed a memorial on the island in the middle of Higbie Lane, opposite the Public Library and on this memorial is written; "In Memory of Joseph Annino, Civic Leader and Charter President West Islip Lions Club".

**American Legion**: A war memorial located at the junction of Higbie Lane and Udall Road, states; "Let Us Remember Their Service and Keep Faith". It was placed by the West Islip Post 1738 of the American Legion.

**V.F.W**: In front of Paul J. Bellew (Secatogue) School is a memorial with the words; "This Plaque is dedicated to those We little knew, But will long remember, They who gave their Lives that we might Still be a Great Nation".

**Joseph F. Miller**: At the base of the flag pole in front of Magee Fuel Oil Co., is a memorial stating; "JOSEPH F. MILLER, 3rd Cl., P.O., U.S.N. Born August 1, 1947, Reported missing on Nuclear Submarine USS Scorpion 589 June 5, 1968."
William Dzus; In the lobby of the West Islip Public Library is a plaque with these words; “Let this Plaque serve as a Mark of lasting Gratitude to WILLIAM DZUS whose Generosity and concern for this Community, helped to give first Life to the West Islip Public Library May 18, 1957. Founding Trustees: Grace Lindenberg, Martha Limberg, Ridgeway T. Haggerty, Astrid Pulver, Gloria Van Cassaele, John S. Steele, Arthur S. Babbitz.”

West Islip Fire Department; Next to the Fire House (#1) on Watts Place is an Honor Roll (Deceased members) with the following names;

- Stanley Karpinski
- James Conroy, Sr.
- Agnes Schwartz
- Edward Greene, Sr.
- Arthur Winn
- Anthony Navas
- Dr. Isaac Geller
- Sal Ingrassia
- Edwin Smith
- William Molloy
- John Powers
- Rev. William F. Toomey
- Thomas E. O’Donnell

Dedicated on May 30, 1961

In away I guess you could say, that this book is also a memorial, to all the residents of West Islip past and present.
The First Map of Long Island

by Adrian Block  1616
Location of West Islip
Huntington, Smithtown & Islip 1829
Aerial Photo Key 1974
Aerial Photo Courtesy of Town of Islip
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

3000 B.C. – West Islip inhabited by Secatogue Indians
1620 A.D. – Long Island came under the jurisdiction of the Plymouth Company.
1635 – Long Island conveyed to the Earl of Stirling.
1683 – County system introduced.
1692 – Willetts brothers purchased part of West Islip from the Secatogue Indians.
1695 – Gov. Fletcher confirmed Willetts patent on Oct. 10th
1710 – Town of Islip was established.
1720 – First Islip Town meeting was held.
1730 – First church in the Town of Islip, was built in West Islip.
1750 – LaGrange Inn was a licensed place. *** Nathaniel Conklin constructed a mill on Sampawams Creek.
1775 – Last Indian deed for land in Islip Town.
1776 – Battle of Long Island (American Revolution).
1778 – First West Islip church demolished by the British.
1779 – Colonel Platt Conklin purchased Conklins Point.
1790 – George Washington was a guest at Sagtikos Manor.
1812 – War of 1812.
1824 – Lafayette calimed to have visited the LaGrange Inn.
1835 – First School house built in West Islip.
1846 – The Mexican War.
1856 – Fire Island Ferry begun. by D.S.S.Sammis.
1861 – American Civil War.
1863 — Southside R.R. extended to Babylon.
1865 — End of American Civil War.
1867 — Southside R.R. extended thru West Islip to Patchogue.
1869 — "Smith House" built by Obidia Seaman Snedecor.
1871 — Christ Church (2nd church in West Islip) completed.
1873 — Andrews estate (copy of Longfellows home) finished.
1886 — David Ricketts purchased the Conklin - Oakley Mill.
1898 — Spanish – American War.
1912 — Higbie Lane School built.
1914 — World War I.
1918 — End of World War I.
1924 — Nurses House established.
1925 — Sts. Peter and Paul Ukranian Orthodox Church established.
1938 — Long Island Forum (magazine) founded.
1939 — World War II.
1945 — End of W.W. II. *** Christ Church (1871) became Holy Family Ukranian Catholic Church.
1950 — Korean War.
1951 — West Islip Fire Dept. established.
1952 — Joseph Annino appointed Justice of the Peace. ***Paul Bellew became District Principal.
1953 — End of Korean War.
1956 — Our Lady of Lourdes Church held first service. ***First Bank in West Islip.
1957 — West Islip Library officially opened.
1959 — Good Samaritan Hospital opened. ***West Islip became a Fire District. ***West Islip Post Office opened.
1960 — Westminster Church completed.*** Suffolk County Police Department was created.

1962 — West Islip Library moved to Captree Shopping Center

1965 — Our Lady of Lourdes parochial school opened.

1966 — Present Post Office Building opened.
St. John The Baptist High School opened.

1969 — The present West Islip Library building officially dedicated

1973 — West Islip Cinema opens. ***First television station in Suffolk County begins broadcasting.

1974 Thomas Downey became youngest Congressman in the United States.

1976 — First published history of West Islip.
25th Anniversary of the West Islip Fire Department.
200th Anniversary of American Independence.
ADDENDUM

Parkwood Hall (Parish Hall)' was originally Harmes Hotel and people from N.Y.C. would come out to enjoy the beautiful West Islip country side. It was later purchased by William Dzus and was used as a private school. It is now owned by the Holy Family Ukranian Catholic Church and is used for meetings.

Keith Garden Apartments: were once the riding stables, of Minor Cooper Keith (see Biographical section).

Beaver Dam: was the area located near the present High School and was used by residents of West Islip as a picnic area. The kids of the 20's and 30's would swim in the creek. They would make the water deeper by damming up the stream. Another place that was used for swimming was the “Sand Hole” located just north-west of Kobb Blvd., and east of the Selby burial ground.

Penny Street School: was a small wooden structure that was located on Penny Street and used as a school until the early 1950's. It was originally a chicken house.

Bell's General Store: located at the south-west corner of Higbie Lane and Hawley Ave. was used as a Post Office annex by the Babylon Post Office.
Milk Delivery: The Haakonson family had cows and they would deliver milk, house to house (1912). Their home still stands (with the barn) on Higbie Lane just south of Sunrise Highway.

Selby Burial Ground: is a family burial ground, located behind a group of houses, between Madison, Monroe St., Kobb Blvd., and Pearl Court. The only entrance into it is located at the end of Pearl Court.

Town Headquarters: On the 1902 map of West Islip, may be seen a building with the name "Town Hq."., this building was the headquarters of the Town Highway Department, located here in West Islip. It is now the West Islip Aux. Police Station.
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