

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1 January 2005

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT JACK SHEPPARD

Dear Members;

Happy New Year. The program for the January 14th meeting should be very interesting

The first order of business will be to nominate and elect a slate of officers. The Bylaws require four officers and three trustees to be elected for "terms of two years by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting". Please note the Bylaws further provide that "any member in good standing may make additional nominations from the floor".

I am pleased to report that the nominating committee has selected a slate of qualified individuals and will offer it at the meeting.

At our most recent meeting of officers and trustees I made the comment that the year 2005 may well be considered a "make or break" year that will determine if the Society is to be simply a social organization or if it is to fulfill the aims and objectives set forth in our Constitution. We now have the availability of the full upstairs of the Community Center consisting of one large and two smaller offices. We envision that the smaller spaces can serve as workshops and a headquarters area while the large room can be used to store and display the many historic articles in our possession.

The first order of business will be to survey the furnishings left by the Borough employees when they moved to the new building and determine what should stay and what should be gotten rid of.

Next we need to poll our most recent list of member volunteers to determine areas of interest and capability.

Once these steps are completed we will be able to get on with the business of identifying the papers, photographs and artifacts we currently have on hand and start the process of sorting, identifying, cataloging and storing these items.

At that point we should finally be able to reach out to the surrounding community and say, "please let us have your historic materials".

WHS OFFICERS 2004

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Eileen Caraker |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Macy Pedersen |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

**Meetings second Friday of the
month at the Wenonah
Community Center except
June, July and August**

In that way we will finally start to comply with that part of our Constitution that essentially calls for us to acquire and preserve the Borough's backlog of historic materials.

JANUARY 14TH PROGRAM

Robert Sandes of Glassboro will speak to us about his recently completed second book entitled *Glassboro*, published by Arcadia Publishing. It captures historic

Glassboro in the past two centuries as a booming southern New Jersey community at the height of its glass industry.

Bob Sandes Jr. has been fascinated with the history of Glassboro from his early years in growing up there.

He is a 1981 graduate of Glassboro High School and graduated from a photography school in Philadelphia. He spent 10 years in the television field as a news director in Atlantic City and in Harrisburg, PA.

Returning home 3 years ago he became the Museum Coordinator for the Gloucester County Historical Society.

Robert is currently working with Barbara Turner, president of the Gloucester County Historical Society, on a book for Arcadia about Woodbury.

He is currently a full time student at Rowan University where he plans to become a secondary education social studies teacher.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

From the Gloucester County Constitution, March 7th, 1894

Miles Nerve & Liver Pills

Act on a new principle – regulating the liver, stomach and bowels through the nerves.

A new discovery. Dr. Miles Pills speedily cure biliousness, bad taste, torpid liver, piles, and constipation. Unequalled for men, women and children.

50 doses for 25 cents. Samples free at A.S. Marshall's Pharmacy.

WENONAH'S ORIGINS AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES

WENONAH

Gloucester County Constitution April 19, 1871

This is the name adopted for the new village at Mantua Station, about two and a half miles below Woodbury. The directors have gone to work and in a very short time a surprising change will be seen by those who remember the "truck patches" of that locality. We hear that about 100 acres have been laid out into building lots, those lots 75 x 150 feet each

The two central avenues, West Jersey and Mantua, are each 100 feet wide. On West Jersey Avenue the railroad company reserves 100 feet in the center, and on each side of their reservation will be avenues for carriages and driving of 75 feet width, with sidewalks of 15 feet.

An imposing hotel is now in process of erection. It is to be 45 x 52 feet in dimensions, three stories high with back buildings 26 by 40 feet, and the whole surrounded by a verandah 12 feet wide. Each room is to contain water and gas and furnished in elegant style.

The hotel is to be on the Doric style of architecture, and surmounted with a splendid cupola. This hotel is contracted to be finished in June next, at a cost of \$15,000. During the summer about twelve other elegant cottages are to be completed. All the streets, except the two main avenues, are to be 66 feet wide.

The location of this piece of ground is peculiarly adapted for the building up of a suburban village, being high and healthful with pure and cool wells of water for all domestic purposes. It is 65 feet above Mantua Creek and from its summit can be seen the steeples of Swedesboro and many prominent points in the surrounding country.

The name selected for this young village is Wenonah (Daughter of the West Wind) from Longfellow's "Hiawatha".

The prices of lots have been fixed from \$200 to \$400 and the extensive Improvements contemplated by the company have already given

to the place an impetus, which cannot fail to make it one of the most desirable points along the West Jersey railroad.

Over 600 trees, mostly maples have already been set out along the avenues. The creek in the vicinity affords grand waterpower for manufacturing purposes, which will be at once taken advantage of and converted into use.

Remembering Wenonah's Early Days

By Bob Shryock March 17, 1985

Claire Poff Jones of Woodbury, who will be 83 next month, pleasantly occupies some of her time by reflecting on her early 20th-century upbringing in historic Wenonah. After reading a post-Christmas column about Wenonah nostalgia, Mrs. Jones taped her own memories. The tape belongs in the Gloucester County Historical Society archives.

Mrs. Jones dedicates her thoughts to her brother, Walter Poff, a paperhanger and decorator well known throughout Gloucester County for many years. The longtime Woodbury Heights resident died three years ago.

"Our family moved to Wenonah in 1906, when it was a quiet little town with all dirt streets," Mrs. Jones says. Wenonah, for more than a century, had been a 180-acre farm known as "stone house farm"; then in 1871, it was plotted and successfully promoted.

Mrs. Jones recalls spending 5 cents to attend silent movies at the American Legion hall on North Marion Avenue; spending another nickel on touring car rides from the old Wenonah Inn {now Dr. Churchill Blakey's home on South West Avenue) across miles of farmland to Salem City; frolicking at a huge lake that today is East Mantua Avenue; and graduating from the old Wenonah schoolhouse in 1913 as grammar school valedictorian in a class of four.

Wenonah in the early 20th-century was a quiet, shade-tree summer refuge for rich city folks;

cactus and scrub pines; streams where violets grew; strutting peacocks; the Wenonah Military Academy; and, as it still is today, THE place to be on the Fourth of July.

"In those days, we had dusty Fourth of July parades on Mantua Avenue," Mrs. Jones says. "The bands would be playing, Mrs. Greene would be singing the Star Spangled Banner, and there would be Japanese lanterns in the park. Candles would be lighted at night, and everyone who ever lived in town and had moved away would come back for that day.

"The Fourth of July ballgame was a little different then. Men from the west side of the railroad tracks had to play left-handed baseball, and men from the east side had to wear skirts. It wasn't really fair, because my father, Walter Poff Sr., played for the west side, and he was a left-handed pitcher."

Mrs. Jones explains that the west side of town was known as "Brown Town," which, she says, "was named for Daniel Brown, who built many of the houses, and was the 'poor' part of town. The east side of town was considered the wealthier part."

But most of the county looked at Wenonah as a wealthy community regardless of which side of the tracks you came from.

"We would go through Mantua on hay wagons for Sunday School picnics in Pitman, and the Mantua kids would throw dirt at our wagons and holler, 'We don't know you'. We chanted back, 'Wenonah is just the stuff.'"

The Wenonah Military Academy was one of the premier prep schools in the East before it went bankrupt in the early 1930s. "The cadets would march to the churches in their white dress suits and present us drills at the park on Sundays. We'd all come out to watch. And the Academy had a social center where there were many happy dances for the townspeople."

Mrs. Jones recalls the day William Howard Taft unexpectedly came to town on the train to do a bit of campaigning for the presidency. "How he

happened to come to Wenonah, I don't know. But we were intrigued by this huge man who was giving a political talk at the park, and we stopped to listen. Just then, the new Mrs. Thomas Farr (Farr built and lived in the current George Braun home) rode along in her limousine and asked her chauffeur to stop to see what was happening. "But just then, Mr. Farr walked across the street and really gave his wife a lecture about listening to a politician. They got in the limousine and drove home. It made quite an impression on us because it seemed so rude to Mr. Taft."

Some of Mrs. Jones' fondest memories are of Dr. Harry Stout, a beloved, old-fashioned family doctor who for many years served Wenonah. 'There was no one he wouldn't go to help, regardless of the weather. He brought my sister (Estelle Silver) through spinal meningitis in the days when there were no wonder drugs. My sister was so bad, Dr. Stout even went to church asking for people to give prayers for her. But she recovered and is living in Haddonfield today.

"Dr. Stout was overworked, and he always undercharged. When he died at 58 from a heart condition, there were hundreds of thousands of dollars on his books he never collected. He could never be replaced in the hearts of the people he helped."

And some of the old-timers who read the Gloucester County Times will remember not only Mrs. Jones' brother, Walter, but also her mother. From 1908 to 1935, Lillian Poff wrote a Wenonah column for the old Woodbury Times.

"They paid her three cents an inch to write it, and a lot of it was 'gossipy' stuff," Mrs. Jones says. "My mother's main source of news was the one and only telephone operator we had in town."

Bob Shryock, a veteran Gloucester County Times newsman writes about people and happenings in the county. Bob and his family spent years in Wenonah and is still thought very highly of by his many friends who wish he still lived here.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

As the New Year begins I am pleased the membership has elected me to be their President. I hope to contribute as much to the organization as past presidents have done.

As we started the January meeting, I stated we have two main objectives during the two years of my term as President. First to complete the identification and cataloging the various documents and artifacts in our possession and second, to assist with the restoration of our historic railroad station building, both inside and out.

Ours is a volunteer organization and it was especially gratifying to see the large turnout at the January meeting. Many have volunteered to assist in our projects and meetings to make them more enjoyable.

We have in the past and will continue in the future to strive to accomplish the objectives set forth in our Mission Statement. The gist of those objectives are to acquire and preserve historical material related to Wenonah, keep them in a suitable place, encourage the preservation of historic places within Wenonah, encourage historical research, and make all of our acquisitions available to our citizens, especially the children.

Since the January meeting our objective was to survey the furnishings left by the Borough when they moved to the new building and dispose of unneeded furniture. This has been accomplished. The next activity will be to do a raw inventory of the many documents, photos and artifacts and decide how best to identify, classify and store the materials. For this work we will need some willing and able volunteers. We have some names of

those who volunteered at the last meeting. If you were not contacted and wish to become involved please contact me or any other officer so we can add you to the list.

Future Projects we need to pursue are:

- Acquire a computer to help in the filing and cataloging process.
- Reinstate the plaque program for those dwellings that qualify. We will have to establish an age of the dwelling, such as over 90 years old, and a cost to the dwelling owner.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | Don Ralston |
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Rachel Knisell |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Macy Pedersen |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

- Reinstate an exhibit and open house on the 4th of July.
- Look into the possibility of creating a "Life Membership" fee, in conjunction with the annual fee.
- Establish an annual budget and audit of our finances.
- Encourage and train members to become officers of our Organization. We need a good continuity of our leadership, especially the younger members.
- Make a contact with the Wenonah Public School to see if we if we can

establish an essay program for the 6th grade students, on the subject of the *History of Wenonah*.

- Develop a questionnaire for members to complete, as to future topics of interest, or programs to increase interest in our organization.

FEBRUARY 11TH PROGRAM

Joe Colanero, Author of *Down Jersey Cooking. "Celebrating Our Heritage From Past to Present."*, will be our speaker. His book sells for \$19.95. He will return \$5.00 to our organization for each one sold at our meeting. Joe will also do sample cooking for our enjoyment during the course of the meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, is currently recovering from recent hip surgery at the Manor Care Health Center 550 Jessup Road, West Deptford, NJ 08068.

Should you wish to send a card to Lucy she is in room 108, 2nd bed.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

As young boy, living in Wenonah, I remember, 1936 was a very cold month. Temperatures were as low as 6 below. Ice on Warner's Lake was measured 14" thick. Gordon Fay would drive his car on the Lake.

We ice skated with old clamp skates and built bonfires on shore to keep warm.

It was a wonderful period of time in Wenonah. To clear the sidewalks Mr. Carr used a mule with a wooden plow. Little did we realize that 5 years later our country would be involved in a worldwide war.

The War Memorial in Wenonah Park contains the names of the Wenonah citizens who served. Don Ralston

At the January meeting Bob Sands, author of a new book about the origins of Glassboro spent much time describing the Whitney family, whose glass manufacturing operations were probably the most important factor in the towns creation. I thought it interesting that Thomas Synnott who went to work as a \$300.00 per year clerk at the Whitney Glass Works eventually became a partner in the Company. In the late 1800's he became involved in the creation of another town, Wenonah, building and living in the beautiful mansion at Mantua and Marion Avenues.

The following narrative was excerpted from "The Glassboro Story 1779 – 1964" by Robert D. Bole and Edward H. Walton Jr.

THE SYNNOTT FAMILY BEFORE WENONAH

This is the only Glassboro first family of Irish stock. Long before the first Synnott left the old country, the family had played a heroic role in Ireland's sad and turbulent history Colonel David Synnott, for example, a military governor of Wexford, Ireland, had contested bravely but futilely the Puritan Oliver Cromwell's ruthless siege of Wexford, in 1649. For his efforts the Colonel paid the highest price a man can pay in defense of home and country; he was slain in a brave but vain attempt to throw back the English invaders. Martin Synnott, a descendent of the courageous Colonel David, was the first of the proud Irish family to leave the old country and settle in America. In 1794 Martin established himself in the shipping business at bustling Philadelphia, where he built a fortune but lost most of it in 1812, when the British intercepted and confiscated his ships on the high seas. A few years before this unhappy event, the Irish immigrant had shifted the base of his operations from the Quaker City to Mays Landing, New Jersey. It was at this place that Martin Synnott died at the early age of thirty-six, leaving behind a widow and four children, one of whom was a six-year-old boy named Myles. This was the Synnott who later became a part of the Glassboro Story.

Myles Synnott was eight years old when his widowed mother remarried; her second husband was the medical doctor. Jacob Fisler. By marrying Dr. Fisler, Myles' mother made it possible for her son to grow up in a medical atmosphere of patients, pills, and medicine. He developed a great interest in the medical profession, probably accompanying his stepfather on his daily rounds of home visitations and in many ways acquiring a kind of pre-internship in the medical field. Myles' boyhood zeal for medicine remained with him to young manhood, so much so that he decided to choose this profession for his lifework. He, therefore, translated this decision into action by attending and graduating, in 1831, from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College. Now a full-fledged doctor, Myles Synnott returned to his birthplace at Mays Landing, where for about ten years

he practiced the healing art on many of the patients who had known him first as the boy interne.

In 1841 Dr. Synnott brought his medical kit, equipment, and skill to Glassboro to begin a long and fruitful twenty-six year career. Exactly what attracted the young doctor to the glassmaking village is not known. But not long after his coming he provided solid evidence that his was not to be a transitory stay. For, in 1842, he married Harriet Heston Whitney, daughter of Ebenezer and Bathsheba Whitney. By this union, young Dr. Synnott became the brother-in-law of the up-and-coming Whitney Brothers, a relationship which must have given the young physician immediate status in the glass community.

By coming to Glassboro, Dr. Synnott earned the distinction of being its first doctor. The young physician had no trouble in building up a large practice, for the people "down in the woods" were in need of medical care, and the supply of doctors was short. Dr. Synnott serviced Glassboro residents. He also saddled and rode his horse to make calls in the outlying villages of Cross Keys, Williamstown, Franklinville, Fislerville, Mullica Hill, Five Points, Bethel, Barnsboro, and Mantua.

Some conception of the extent of his practice can be gleaned from his account books, which showed that Glassboro's first doctor had 450 patients, not a small number when it is realized that Glassboro's entire population in 1842 numbered only 604 people. The good doctor was a busy man engrossed and dedicated to his healing work. He apparently had little or no time for any other activities. His name for example, fails to appear among those nineteenth-century boro citizens holding political or civic offices. His sole service to the community was getting and keeping its people well not an unworthy contribution.

What was this dedicated medical man really like? Those who remembered him best have left some fascinating written answers to this question. Among other characteristics, they tell us that Dr. Myles Synnott was a man with a few delightful idiosyncrasies, among which was an excessive fondness for cigars.

He was a tall, slim man, noted for his native wit, his dedication to his profession, and incidentally, his love for cigars. He wore a high hat, filling the upper section with cigars, holding them in place by a large handkerchief between the cigars and his head using about one hundred a week, usually between house to house visits to his patients. However, he did not smoke them all the way and the Glassboro urchins used to linger about Doctor Synnott, waiting for the generous butts . . .

Doctor Synnott must have had a cheerful bedside manner for he is remembered as having a ... "humorous disposition and the scene of his labor is full of dry jokes, and numerous witty sayings". Notwithstanding this light touch, he could be stern when the occasion demanded sternness. The doctor

stood for no nonsense from his patients. He expected them to follow his instructions explicitly. It is said, perhaps apocryphally that: . . . "he once blistered a man's feet because he would not stay in the house when the doctor ordered it."

Fellow members of the medical profession held Glassboro's first physician in high esteem. Among other things they admired his dedication, his abhorrence of quackery in or out of the profession, his quiet, unassuming competence, his willingness to counsel and encourage budding young medical colleagues. Undoubtedly, there were times when Doctor Synnott's medical contemporaries considered him a bit rigid in applying his high professional standards. Nevertheless, they forgave him his flashes of dogmatism because they realized that the medical profession was fortunate in having Myles Synnott as one of its members.

Death came to Glassboro's first physician in 1867 his widow and three children were his survivors. Before he died, Dr. Myles Synnott had provided his only son, Thomas Whitney Synnott, with a sound educational background! in Glassboro's public school, at Plainfield Academy in Pennsylvania, and at Bridgeton's West Jersey Academy. Furthermore, the Doctor's son, two years before his father's decease, had begun what was destined to be a long and profitable business career, one which made him a worthy son of his worthy father.

Thomas W. Synnott began work in his uncle Whitney's glassworks as an assistant bookkeeper. For working six days a week and eleven and one-half hours daily, Thomas collected \$300.00 annually. The salary was low, but there were other compensations. For one thing, he took advantage of the opportunity to learn thoroughly the commercial aspects of operating a large glass manufacturing plant. His progress was so rapid that by 1872, his uncles admitted him into the firm's management as a partner with a fourth interest, the other partners being Thomas Whitney, Samuel Whitney, and John P. Whitney, Thomas' son. Approaching retirement, the two elder Whitney's, Thomas and Samuel, increasingly placed the active management of the Whitney Works in the hands of the younger men. At age twenty-seven, Thomas Synnott had become general business manager of the Glass Works, with headquarters in Philadelphia; his cousin, John P. Whitney operated the actual manufacturing end of the business at Glassboro. Ten years later, in 1892, Thomas Whitney passed away. With his death Thomas Synnott and John P. Whitney became the sole owners of the Whitney Works. And in 1887, the business was legally incorporated as the Whitney Glass Works. Thomas Synnott was made the first president of the corporation. Four years later, in 1891 Synnott retired from the glass business after a nineteen-year service stint which was marked by a doubling in the Whitney Plant output.

Synnott had retired from the Whitney Glass Works at the relatively young age of forty-six. On the surface this seemed to be a puzzling step for a successful businessman to take.

But the explanation is that Synnott wanted more time to devote to his banking and investment interests. In 1892, one year after his retirement from glassmaking, he became President of Glassboro's First National Bank. Shortly after taking over Synnott faced an unpleasant situation. A trusted employee's dereliction placed the bank in financial jeopardy. After this act became publicly known, bank officials braced themselves for a run on bank deposits. Bank President Synnott forestalled this calamity *by* posting a notice taking upon himself full responsibility for the bank's fiscal ability to meet its obligations. Synnott's reputation, together with his firm action, was all that was needed to restore depositor confidence, although some Glassboro residents of that time gave some credit to an incident which occurred during the crisis. It seems that funds hastily requested from Philadelphia had reached Glassboro by railroad transportation. Harried bank officials met the train at the station, piled the greenbacks in a wheelbarrow, and raced to the bank. Depositors, seeing money arriving in wheelbarrow volume, were satisfied that all was well. The story may be a dubious one, but it does seem interesting.

But banking and investments were not Thomas Synnott's sole interests. While he made no attempts to hold political offices of any kind, Mr. Synnott devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to educational and church matters. He was, for example, a member of the State Board of Education for eight years; President of the Board of Trustees of Princeton's Theological Seminary; and a trustee of Lincoln University. Among his church activities were: Vice-president of the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; Vice-president of the Presbyterian Board of publications; President of the Lord's Day Alliance in New Jersey; Vice-president of the Lord's Day Alliance in the United States; and member of the Presbyterian General Assembly's Evangelistic Committee.

Thomas Synnott took his religion seriously. As a leader in the Lord's Day Alliance, he led the fight against the motion picture, liquor, and racing interests. In effect he acted the role of a legislative lobbyist determined to defeat bills calling for legal approval of gambling, motion pictures, and racing on Sundays. Synnott was no political amateur when the threat of commercializing the Sabbath was the issue. He won his legislative battles. Sundays remained a day of rest and worship, at least during the 1890's.

There is no question that the Synnotts belong in the tight little category of Glassboro's first families. Like the Hestons and Carpenters, the Synnotts brought prestige to the community. Their achievements, professional and commercial, were recognized far beyond the Glassboro boundaries; for very often in the nineteenth century, outsiders thought of Glassboro in terms of the Synnotts. But still more important, the Synnott family was a potent force in promoting the Glassboro community and in making its steady growth possible.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We have started off the year 2005, in a very positive manner; Membership turn out has been very large. Members volunteering to work on the various projects of interest to the Society is also gratifying. Our programs have been well received. The second floor area has been cleared and made ready for filing, cataloguing and storing historical papers and artifacts. The refreshments prepared by our ladies have been delicious.

The speaker, Joe Colanero, author of "Down Jersey Cooking", was very interesting. At the meeting twenty-two of his books were sold @ \$ 20.00, with \$5.00 refunded by Joe to the Wenonah Historical Society. Since then six more have been purchased at an additional \$30.00, net \$140.00, a very pleasant way to raise funds for the Society. We thank the members for their support. For those unable to attend the meeting and wanting to acquire a copy of the book, contact Corresponding Secretary Betty MacLeod and we will try our best to get one to you.

I am pleased to announce that Eileen Caraker has agreed to return as Secretary of the Society. Rachel Knisell will continue to gather historical documents and artifacts for

our collection.

The Historical plaque program is underway. Should you be aware of any resident whose home is at least 90 years old (built prior to 1915) and would like a plaque, notify the Plaque Committee Chairman, Frank Eggert.

I refer you to the February 2005 newsletter for the projects we are planning to pursue, except the Life Membership has been tabled for now.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Don Ralston |
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Eileen Caraker |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Macy Pedersen |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

We have many fine members and volunteers but we need and encourage each to step forward to become future officers and trustees of the Wenonah Historical Society.

MARCH 1TH PROGRAM

Mayor Thomas J. Capaldi will be our speaker. Tom has been a member of Borough Council for many years,

and has just been elected to his second term as mayor. I have asked him to speak on programs of Wenonah now in the planning stage, existing problems, such as Homeland Security, water shortage, traffic control, and the Tea-21 grant for restoration and repairs to the Community Center. Please plan to attend this meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, is coming along well with the recovery from serious surgery. She is currently staying with her daughter in Delaware.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Chuck Forsman, a member of the Planning Board and Environmental Commission as well as a member of our Society has published a booklet entitled "Historical Overview of Wenonah, Gloucester County. NJ".

It is an outstanding description of the origin and growth of Wenonah over these many years. At our March meeting I will present this booklet to be placed in our archives. I am going to recommend the Wenonah Historical Society underwrite the cost of printing this booklet in some quantity so it can be distributed to the school, public library, and the municipal building.

Don Ralston

The severe snowstorm of last week blocked the trains cutting off communication with the outside world, causing considerable anxiety to those of our townsmen doing business in Philadelphia.

Saturday morning a heavy run was made on the grocery stores, and by noon those who had not done their marketing had little hopes for Sunday dinner.

Postmaster Eldridge reports no mails delivered from Friday of last week till Monday of this due to the storm.

Miss Rena Moore accidentally shot herself while examining a revolver.

A number of interesting young people formed themselves into an amateur choir Wednesday evening last in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in rendering the music for the service assisted the pastor very materially.

The boys having cleaned the snow off the ice at Wenonah Lake are indulging themselves in the healthful pastime of skating.

It is understood that "The Inn" will be opened very early in the spring. There is no reason why this beautiful and home like house cannot be made a success.

Thomas W. Synnott and wife and Clayton Synnott have gone to Lake Worth, Florida where they will remain several weeks.

Clifford Farr, whose family are residing in Philadelphia for the winter visited us last week. (Quite a few people wintered in Philadelphia)

Another one of our oldest inhabitants has passed away, Mrs. Christina Allen, widow of Josiah Allen, who was buried from the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. James Carey on Friday. Mrs. Allen was among the first settlers here, her family being among the oldest in the county.

The Musical Society met last Tuesday at the residence of I.P. Eppiesheimer and decided to continue the class rehearsal for another quarter.

The supper given by the W.C.T.U. in Noblitt's Hall last week was a very successful one.

Samuel Whitney was visiting friends here last week. (He and his brother Thomas founded the Whitney Glass Works, founded the Glassborough bank and were large stockholders of the West Jersey and Seashore Rail Road)

The borough was treated with a sensation on Friday last. Francis Williams and his wife while walking along one of our thoroughfares got into an altercation over some of their domestic affairs. Francis became very much excited and forgetting his vows to be good and true struck his spouse with great violence; fearing that the blow was fatal he skipped for parts unknown while Rebecca went the magistrate and laid out a complaint of assault and battery with intent to kill. The dusky pair reside in Jericho.

Little Ed Benson feels a foot taller than any of his comrades - he caught a live muskrat.

Richard Clark has a very spirited horse- he is a trotter, his proud spirit rebels at being hitched to a delivery wagon and at times gives an exhibition of his rebellious spirit by running away. Last week while in charge of Will Price went into a mad gait and before his driver could bring him down to the delivery wagon trot he succeeded in making kindling wood of a portion of the vehicle.

The West Jersey ferryboats experience great difficulty in crossing the river, on account of the ice. On Sunday many people walked across the Delaware from Camden to Philadelphia on the ice.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a good sprinkling of older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt Hall and indulged in the favorite pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

We regret to learn that the good-natured Blair Smith is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold (he had the first drivers license issued in Gloucester County)

There are quite a few Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over at Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury, New Jersey February 1895

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: 1. Overture-Bonnie Scotland Orchestra; 2. Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. Dmetrius- Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J.McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelle, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the ME Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter, Mrs. Mehorter, and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the 'wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies. At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

August and September 1896
 Gloucester County Democrat
 Gloucester County Constitution

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 3 April 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We are now through the winter season and entering the springtime. This season brings out the very beauty of Wenonah.

The Wenonah Lions Club theme for the 4th of July this year will highlight the Wenonah Military Academy for the years it was in existence from 1904 until it closed, allegedly as a result of the depression, about 1934.

The Wenonah Historical Society has a large number of artifacts from the former Military Academy. Therefore we are planning to display them on July 4th with an open house at the Community Center. By then we hope to have many, if not all of our historical papers, photographs and artifacts identified and catalogued by our filing committee. We will also do some fund raising activities on the Fourth such as selling Wenonah flags, hand bags, and possibly donations will be on hand.

Membership chairperson Jean Cowles has sent out a letter requesting those who have not yet paid their dues for the current year to please do so.

At our March meeting speakers Bob and Carol Cassel, presented a very interesting program on the wildlife in South Jersey. The pamphlets on

"Conserve Wildlife" they provided are interesting to read. The Cassels sent a thank you note to our organization for allowing them to speak.

I encourage all members to be active in the Wenonah Historical Society. Should you have any subject, a speaker, or program preference you wish to be presented please bring it to our attention.

In closing I wish to emphasize

WHS OFFICERS 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Don Ralston |
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Eileen Caraker |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Macy Pedersen |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

once again that although we have many fine members and volunteers, we need and encourage you to become future officers and trustees of the Wenonah Historical Society.

APRIL 8TH
PROGRAM

Mayor Thomas J. Capaldi, will be our speaker for this meeting.

Tom has been a member of Borough Council for many years,

and was recently elected to a second term as mayor. I have asked him to speak about the Tea-21 grant for restoration and repairs to the Community Center. Also about programs now in the planning stage covering problems, such as Homeland Security, the water shortage and traffic control. Please plan to attend this meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, has recovered from her recent surgery for a fractured hip and is currently staying at the Mews in Woodbury.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

The Wenonah Inn Company of which Stephen Greene is president, Dr. Geo W. Bailey Vice President, Dr. Wm. Greene Treasurer, is just completing a magnificent hotel, designed to accommodate 150 guests. The house and furniture will cost at least \$70,000 and be completed in time for this season's business. The erection of this hotel was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad company is erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks immediately opposite the old station. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

From the *Gloucester County Democrat* April 20, 1893

The following is the text of a letter I prepared and sent to our federal and state legislators recently expressing my concerns about putting trains on the old tracks through Wenonah.

Like most of you I too have pleasant memories of the days when you could board the train in Glassboro or Pitman, Wenonah or Woodbury Heights and go to Woodbury, Camden and eventually Philadelphia. But that was a long time ago, a time that ended back in the sixties when the railroads finally admitted railroad passenger service could no longer compete with the convenience of the automobile.

Since then a great amount of development has taken place in our part of the state with the result that the majority of people in the tri-county region want to go to the Deptford, Cherry Hill and Echelon Malls, as well as to numerous housing projects that are not remotely close to Camden or Philadelphia.

As a result, even though it sounds like a good idea, in my opinion recreating train passenger service may be great for a trip down memory lane, but for all practical purposes it will just result in one more heavily subsidized system that will not solve our traffic woes but in fact will add to them.

By now anyone living in south Jersey for any length of time has to be familiar with the frequently recurring studies of transportation needs in our Gloucester, Camden, Burlington County region. Most of the studies were sponsored and conducted by the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and New Jersey Transit (NJT) either singly or in combination.

The earliest modern study done in 1975 concluded with the recommendation that a high-speed rail line in the median of Route 55 be implemented. The reason given for the recommendation was that "Although a Glassboro Line alignment following the PRSL Millville Branch has been studied, this alignment has been proven inferior on the basis of capital costs and disruption to the local community".

The most recent study in 2003 by the DRPA apparently went nowhere at the time but has now re-emerged as the "Route 55 to Philadelphia Corridor Transit Study" and has as its stated objectives an assessment of the need and opportunity for improved transit services in Gloucester and Cumberland Counties, improved transit passenger distribution to Penn's Landing and other business districts in Philadelphia, and improved connections between the High-Speed Line and the Camden waterfront.

I attended the transit study "Open House" at the Deptford Township Municipal Building March 3rd and was fortunate to run into former state Senator John Matheussen, now the new head of the Delaware River Port Authority. It provided me with an opportunity to present him with several of my previous writings on the subject and to discuss with him my thinking on why an extension of light rail from Camden to Glassboro on the old railroad tracks is still not a good idea.

There is a fundamental reason why trains on the old tracks and/or trains in the right-of-way of Routes 42 and 55 will not significantly address and appreciably resolve our transportation problems.

According to a Philadelphia Inquirer study conducted in 1996, "While 13,500 Gloucester County residents work in Philadelphia, nearly four times that number work in Gloucester County". "Only about one in ten workers who live in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties works in Philadelphia according to a special compilation of statistics from the 1990 Census".

Today employment opportunities are to be found in every direction, wherever there is a road to take you there.

Unfortunately our major roads follow the old railroad routes like spokes on a wheel generally toward and away from the major cities. Studies in the 1960's by the transportation-oriented agencies indicated there was a great need for construction of "cross-county corridors" but action on these failed to materialize. As a result there is a great tide of traffic morning and night from the residential areas to the commercial areas in and

around the Deptford, Cherry Hill, Moorestown and Echelon Malls. Many would be surprised to learn how many people are employed at the large number of industrial parks in and around the tri-county region.

Traffic heading toward these and other similar areas zig and zag their way through local streets in Glassboro, Pitman, Wenonah, Mantua, Woodbury Heights and Woodbury, with much stop and go driving.

Will the implementation of railroad service generally heading in a north/south direction relieve the congestion on these roads? I think not and predict that grade level train traffic will disrupt the cross-county traffic flow and result in even slower driving times, if that is at all possible.

However it is not enough to just criticize the ideas of others who are trying their darnedest to find a way to address and resolve our traffic problems. Anyone criticizing should at least offer what might be a better idea.

My idea is this. Instead of concentrating all our eggs in one basket, that being an extremely expensive, long-term construction project to put trains in the infields of our major north-south highways, we should give priority to alternatives that could be implemented more quickly.

One way to get started on this is by adding another element to the study that is currently being conducted, and that is “demand-activated bus systems”.

Give immediate priority to construction of cross-county road improvements. Certainly not limited access highways, we have no space available for them, but a few new roads where it is still possible to build them, and third or fourth lanes added to existing roads.

You have seen the small busses currently in use on our roads. They come in many different sizes and configurations, attractive, with comfortable seating and other amenities. Unlike trains on their fixed tracks, the bus routing can be changed very quickly to suit changing needs and routes can be designed to pick up numbers of people with the same or similar destinations.

Busses would be afforded reserved portions of the

new and widened roads at certain times of the day thereby aiding greatly in getting one-person vehicles off the road during peak periods of traffic.

One thing is absolutely certain. With the traffic congestion as bad as it is we need action and we need it now. Possibly the best part of this idea is that it can be implemented almost immediately as soon as busses can be acquired, with the road additions and improvements coming along as time and funding permit.

As I mentioned earlier in this letter I have been involved in many of the studies of transportation needs in this region and can almost predict the outcome of this one.

No doubt the current “Corridor Study” will once again determine that “light rail”, whether on old tracks or in the center of Routes 42 or 55 will be tremendously expensive and take a long time to construct. But due to the intense pressure to do something, even if it won’t do the job, a lot of money will be put into some part of a project with little anticipation of a beneficial return. See “Camden to Trenton Line” as an example.

However there is a new and different aspect of the current study that we haven’t heard before and that should be of great concern to Wenonah residents. In response to the often cited criticism that the trains will disrupt “cross county” auto traffic at the crossings during peak traffic periods, this new proposal is to either raise the tracks above grade on elevated piers, or to bury the tracks below grade in a pit similar to the below-grade line through Haddonfield. The problem this creates for us especially is that the right-of-way width needed for construction purposes will have serious consequences for our beloved Community Center and the new Borough Hall that are located very close to the existing track bed.

We need a solution and we need it now!! But it must be a solution that doesn’t ruin Wenonah while trying to help the problem.

Let us give some serious thought to the idea that offers a quicker and better “bang for our buck”, “light-busses” instead of “light-rail”.

May I suggest you contact our elected officials.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4 May 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We begin this newsletter with a note of sadness. WHS member Dorothy Diament was injured recently in an auto accident. Bob Gartside, her friend and ours didn't survive the accident. We extend our condolences to Dorothy and to the Gartside family.

At our May 13th meeting we will have a Memorial Service honoring Wenonah' past and current military veterans. Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, American Legion, will conduct the service.

On display will be photos of veterans showing what they looked while in the service of our country. We ask them to recite an event involving themselves or a fellow comrade, or any interesting vignette they may recall. Members of the Historical Society who had a spouse, relative, or child who perished in one of our country's wars are invited to bring a photo, memento or recollection.

On May 29, 2005, The Memorial Presbyterian Church will conduct its annual Memorial Day Service. I have been asked to give the Memorial Day address. Refreshments will follow the service. They will also have on display personal objects or memorabilia from veterans or their loved ones.

The Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192 is currently recording the names of Wenonah residents who are in the military. Capt. Keith Wyckoff, son of Dr. and Mrs. Wyckoff, is stationed in Iraq. Lt. Jillian McNulty is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and is scheduled for deployment. John and Karen Barry's

son-in law has just completed officers training and is to be stationed in Alabama. Lt. Jg Cory Weeks, grandson of Harry and Mary Alyce Schroeder, is in the Coast Guard and has been in the Middle East.

Membership chairman Jean Cowles sent 24 letters to those members who have not paid the dues. She is pleased to report that 14 have paid.

We call your attention to the light on the Community Center flagpole which now operates from evening to morn.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Don Ralston |
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Eileen Caraker |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Macy Pedersen |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

**Meetings second Friday of the
month at the Wenonah
Community Center except
June, July and August**

Many thanks to Doug Gehring for making the repairs.

Also thanks to Mayor Tom Capaldi for his enlightening presentation on the many programs important to Wenonah, especially the plan for development of the Lizzi property on Glassboro Road as a senior housing project of 40 homes. The Planning Board has held hearings on it.

Also discussed was the possibility of the extension of a light rail line on the present railroad in the center of our town. Hearings have been held and the Delaware River Port Authority as well

as Woodbury and Glassboro favor this route. I refer you to the April newsletter article, written by Jack Sheppard on the serious impact it would have on our community.

Please, please plan to attend our May 13th meeting when we honor those veterans who have gone to their eternal reward.

In June we will have our picnic.

MAY 13TH PROGRAM

Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, American Legion, will conduct a Memorial Service honoring past and current Wenonah military veterans.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

In regard to the recent removal of telephone service from our borough there seems to have been a very serious misunderstanding between the telephone company and our Borough Commissioners recently.

For months past there has been a pile of telephone poles laying on the sidewalk of West Jersey Avenue.

The Borough Commission notified the telephone company to remove these poles from the street.

The telephone company understood the notice to mean the upright poles and the public phone in the pay station and Hotel. The error was not discovered until the telephone company employees removed all phone service from the Borough.

Happily for all concerned the service has been restored and the "pile" of telephone poles removed.

Glouco *Democrat*, April, 1894

Mrs. Hannah B. Farr, after a pleasant visit of several weeks in Philadelphia, has returned to her home on Marion Avenue. (She and her husband Lincoln built the house which is now Dr. Wycoff's dental office, she was the mother of Edward Farr.)

The Progressive Euchre Club which has been meeting every two weeks at Noblitt's Hall held their last meeting for the year last Saturday evening.

On last Friday the trustees and teachers of our public school united in celebrating Arbor Day, which is one of the most important National holidays of the year. Unfortunately through the rapacity and greed of a great many citizens in the North, North west and South, large acreage of our timber lands are being destroyed. In the years which are to come on account of this wholesale slaughter, there will be no forest unless we judicious plant trees to take place of those which are being destroyed. The scholars planted twelve Norway maples on the grounds surrounding the school house after which addresses were made by the trustees and teachers. Reading, recitations, vocal and instrumental music were furnished by the scholars of the school.

Our musicals have become so well known and appreciated that even a stormy night cannot prevent a good attendance. Mrs. I. P. Eppelsheimer tendered the use of her home for the semi-monthly meeting on last Monday evening.

Quite a large delegation attended the Princess Bonnie performance at Woodbury Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Miss Bugbee began her examinations yesterday. (She was a teacher and principal of the Wenonah Public School)

Lake Cornelia is receiving several little improvements. (This lake, on the lands of Stephan Green, was sited on the east side of the Marion Avenue Bridge.)

A report is in circulation that work will commence soon on the trolley bridge and that the employees are to be colored. Such ought not to be, as it is not doing Mantua people justice. (This was in the Mantua section. The trolley line was being built from Woodbury by the Camden, Gloucester and Woodbury Electric Railway Company.)

The game of baseball on Saturday was unfair as the Wenonah players did not know of the game until Friday night and not more than half of the regular players were there.

A Camp Fire will be held at the M.E. church, Wenonah, Monday evening. Stirring war songs, thrilling experiences, eloquent speakers, Comrade Wm. P. Haines, "the Fighting Quaker", and Dr. and Mrs. H.L. Gilmour will relate their army experiences. A silver collection will be taken at the door. Proceeds for benefit of Gen. Howell Post No.31 G.A.R. and for a flag for the church. (Dr. Gilmour was a prisoner at Libbey prison during the Civil War. The G.A.R. was the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization of the survivors of the Civil War.)

The attendance at the Prayer Meeting on Friday night was unusually large.

The Wenonah Inn was the scene of a lively time on Saturday. The occasion was the Opening day at the Inn. Progressive Euchre was played until eleven o'clock after which a hop was given. The guests remained over night and a great number returned to their homes on Sunday evening.

An exploring party engaged a wagon of Sylvester Chew on Saturday last and visited all the marl pits in the vicinity. (That's different !)

An Aunt Jerusha's Photograph Album Entertainment was given at Noblitt's Hall. (?)

Ice cream can be had at the residence of Mrs. Phelps or at the residence of Mrs. Russell Green. The former makes the cream herself.

Frank Van Hess, who has been with Sylvester Chew for a long time, seems right at home now in his new position, having charge of baker Koch's wagon.

We are glad to see the railroad company have placed a flagman at our Mantua Avenue crossing for the season. We need gates and a flagmen the year round. (Railroad traffic increased considerably in the summer due to vacationers to Cape May and Atlantic City.)

Our Wenonah men who do not go to the city daily appreciate the opening of the barbershop at the Inn.

The *Constitution* May 1895, Woodbury, NJ

Miss Sue Lynch was married at high noon on Saturday in historic old Christ Church on Second Street, Philadelphia to Howard Earle of Philadelphia. Mr. Earle is business manager for the large seed house of Burpee and Company.

Our churches are beautifully decorated for Easter, large congregations attending for morning and evening services.

Real Estate Agent, William C. Cattell has suffered a severe relapse of la grippe that has developed into typhoid pneumonia. We wish for him an early convalescence.

The death of Mrs. Irwin Middleton which took place on Saturday last was a shock to her many friends in the community. Mrs. Middleton leaves six children, the eldest being but thirteen years of age. (She was the grandmother of our friend and member Lucy Schulz. They built and lived in the Cox-Cook house, corner of Cherry and South East Avenue.)

Mr. Nelson Strong is making some attractive improvements to his already handsome property.

Miss Carrie DeZouche, who has charge of the kindergarten department of our public school, is confined to the house by illness (this is the first mention of a kindergarten in our public school system)

Contractor George H. West is supervising the additions now being made at the "Wenonah Inn."

The Wenonah Water Company in boring the artesian wells in the glen near the lake struck a deposit of mineral which is claimed to be copper, some of the mineral has been taken to Camden for analysis.

The M.E. Parsonage was greatly improved by the committee of ladies for the reception of the Rev. Mr. Zelly and family.

The kitchen and bowling alley of the Wenonah Inn are being enlarged by the company. The Inn will be opened for the reception of guests about the middle of next month.

The tramp nuisance has reached our borough and is likely to reach such proportions that the authorities will have to take some action in the

matter, some of the nomads are very impudent and disposed to make trouble.

The Forget-Me-Not mission band of the Presbyterian Church took in over \$30 at the fair held in Noblitt's Hall.

The foundation of the engine house in the glen by the lake has been completed. When this improvement is made Wenonah will have a flow of the purest water in South Jersey. (Previous to this the residents were drinking the water out of Dilkes' Little Pond - Davis Lake.)

George Jennings (He was a veteran of the Civil War) is one of the early birds with peas, as he has them three inches above the ground.

A large party of young people have been scouring the woods for the beautiful trailing arbutus. (They did a good job as arbutus in Wenonah is now non-existent in the wild.)

The warm spring days are bringing a number of visitors to the borough.

We cannot vouch for the truth of the rumor, but give it for what it is worth. It is said we are to have a Roman Catholic church erected in the borough. We trust the rumor is correct, we cannot have too many churches. If the proper effort is made it is more than probable that Bishop Scarborough would consent to the removal of the St. Barnabas P.E. chapel to the borough.

Dr. George W. Bailey is making his usual spring improvements to his model residence corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Synnott and Master Clayton Synnott returned from their winter home in Florida the past week. (Master Clayton was the father of Tom Synnott which we knew. They had a summer home in Ranglely, Maine.)

The members of Dr. George W. Bailey's, Mrs. Greens' and Mrs. Whitman's classes in the Presbyterian Sunday School assembled at the residence of George Green on Mantua Avenue and passed a few pleasant hours of social intercourse. Samuel Carey and John Voight assisted in entertaining with selections on the banjo and mandolin

The *Constitution* April 1885, Woodbury, NJ

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 6 October 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

I hope that our membership had a very pleasant and enjoyable summer.

We started a new year with a lovely get together at "Little Grange", the home of Vicki and Lou McCall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the McCall's hospitality. The fellowship, refreshments and the socializing was just great. We thank Vicki and Lou for once again making their home available to us. At this September meeting we received applications for membership from Frank and Claire Magin and Paul and Joetta Eldridge.

I wish to reflect on the presentation of all the artifacts of the Wenonah Military Academy which were displayed on the Fourth of July. We had wonderful help from our members who arranged the display. The public appeared genuinely interested in all of the items we displayed and it helped focus attention on our Historical Society.

It is with sadness and regret that I must advise of the illness of Bradley Caraker, eight year old son of Bill and Eileen Caraker. He has been in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for treatment. I understand that he is coming along nicely and is even being tutored while there. Several of our members and his friends have been able to send him e-mails wishing him a speedy recovery. Anyone wishing to send best wishes via this medium can send them to www.caringbidge.org/about.htm

The October meeting will be held Friday, October 14th. The program will be presented by the Wenonah Environmental Commission. It will be conducted by Chairman Bob Bevilacqua, members Chuck Forsman, and Frank Eggert who was a founding member of the Natural Woodlands Council in 1965. They are called "Friends of the Wenonah Trails." It will deal with the Acquisition and Restoration of Historical Sites within our Conservation Lands, Streams, Lakes Ponds and Trails.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Don Ralston |
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Eileen Caraker |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

At our November Meeting, the Women's Club will present a sketch under the direction of Jenny McQuaide and Marge Lentz. More details will be given in the November letter.

In December we will have our Annual Christmas Party.

If any member has any suggestions for programs for 2006 please let me know.

At the Harvest Craft Fair on September 24th, under the direction of Betty MacLeod the Wenonah Historical Society had a very successful sale of caps, banners, large and small tote bags and postcards. Other members of the Historical Society assisted her.

Please plan to attend our meeting on October 14th, enjoy the socializing, the program and the refreshments

If any member has any news that they wish to be included in our newsletter please let me know.

PHOTOGRAPH ON PAGE 2

The picture on the next page is an enlarged section of an aerial shot centered around the Military Academy. It reveals a historical curiosity. The Weems medical center is at the center of the picture and in the center foreground is the "Senior House" of the military academy. The former Synnott mansion is at the upper right and at the top are the Synnott farm outbuildings. Please note the black arrow on the left pointing to a beautiful Victorian home with a domed tower. This building is no longer there and is now the site of the Wenonah Free Public Library that opened in 1927. Apparently the residence was acquired by Edward Farr (Little Grange) only to be torn down to provide the necessary space for the library. Anyone knowing anything about the origins of the house such as when it was built, who lived in it before it was torn down, or any other information please let us know.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 7 November 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

As we head into the fall and winter seasons, our membership continues to grow and at the end of October totals 92. If any member is aware of friends or neighbors who would like to join the Historical Society please notify membership chairperson Jean Cowles.

Betty Rose reported that the display case, in the Wenonah Public School lobby has been filled with decades old farm equipment on loan to us from the Gloucester County Historical Society. If you have not had a chance to view this exhibit please do so before the materials are returned.

Jack Sheppard, chairman of the committee filing our historic artifacts reports progress. Julie Ream of our Academy Hill section, who has considerable experience in cataloguing and filing, has been working with Jack. They have been consulting with the Gloucester County Historical Society who use a computer program similar to ours as their filing system. I am pleased to report this progress. At a date in the near future volunteers will be called upon to assist with identifying, labeling and storing the historical objects and records of Wenonah.

Although our organization is not the custodian of the Community Center Jack recently became aware of three problems with this building. The heating and cooling system thermostat failed as did the oil burner.

Also a falling roll of carpeting broke a window. The problems were taken care of by the borough.

We wish to thank Bob Bevilaqua and Frank Eggert for the fine program they presented at the October meeting describing the Conservation area surrounding Wenonah and the trails they have built through the area.

The program for the November 11th meeting features a skit written by Marjorie Lentz about the founding of the Woman's Club in 1922.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Don Ralston |
| Vice Pres. | Jack Sheppard Sr. |
| Secretary | Eileen Caraker |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Corr. Sec. | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Vicki McCall |
| Trustee | Lucy Schulz |

**Meetings second Friday of the
month at the Wenonah
Community Center
except June, July and August**

The original idea of forming a local club was proposed by Jessie White after she had attended the 1922 New Jersey State Federation of Women's annual convention in Atlantic City.

Jessie and Nathaniel White were long time residents of Wenonah.

Nathaniel White and George Eldridge were instrumental in promoting the idea and securing assistance from the estate of Frank Stewart to acquire the lands surrounding Wenonah known as the Conservation Area.

We want to congratulate Rachel and Ralph Knisell who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 17th, 2005. Rachel is a charter member of the Wenonah Historical Society. She is now designated as the official historian for Wenonah. Rachel has been honored by the Cape May County Historical Society for the very large collection of scrape books and photo albums she has assembled for that section of South Jersey. Rachel is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her family tree extends back to the early 1700's. A large amount of our historical artifacts were gathered by Rachel.

Eileen and Bill Caraker extended their thanks to all in the Historical Society for the generosity and support during their son Bradley's stay in the Children's Hospital. They truly appreciated our kindness and prayers.

Please plan to attend our November meeting. Several of our members are also members of the Woman's Club.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Researching old Wenonah records one gets the impression that during the early days our town was overrun with animals. There were dogs, goats, cows, horses pigs and chickens wandering through people's yards and ruining the grass in the park. There were frequent complaints about dogs biting citizens. But when Borough Council introduced legislation to control the problem people turned out in droves against such regulations.

PUBLIC SALE!

100 BUILDING LOTS

WILL BE SOLD

AT PUBLIC AUCTION

On THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23d, 1890.

AT THE

WENONAH HOUSE, WENONAH, N. J.

100 OF THE MOST ELIGIBLE AND DESIRABLE BUILDING LOTS
IN THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH.

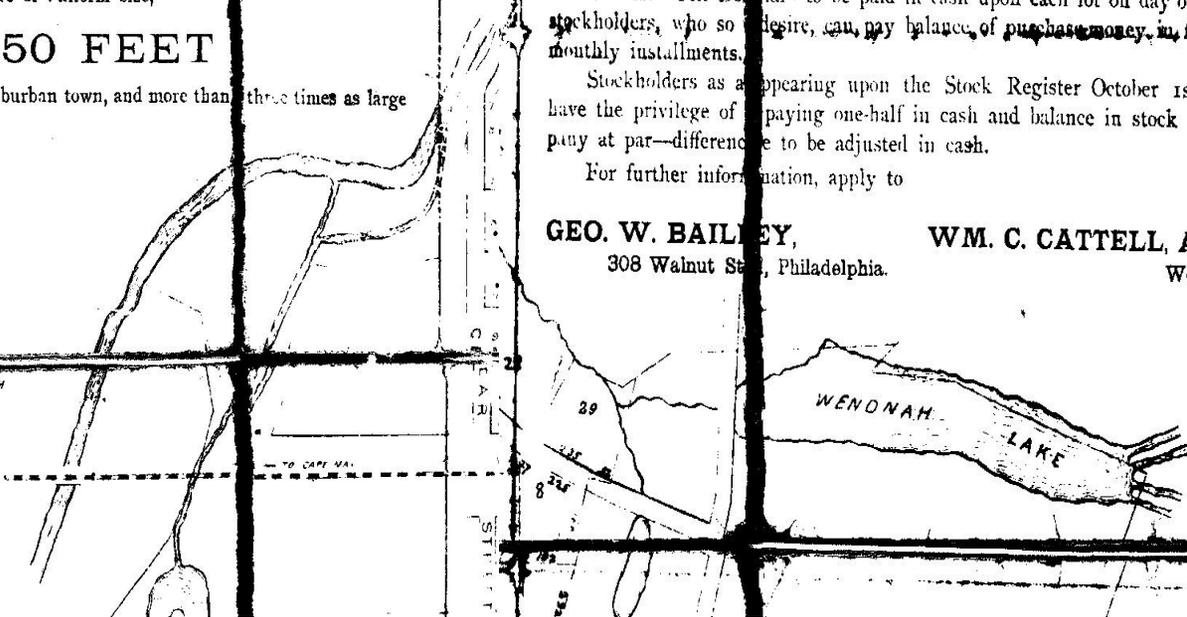
SALE POSITIVE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER,
WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.

With a single exception, and the lots reserved for business purposes west of
the railroad, the lots to be sold are of uniform size,

75X150 FEET

THE LARGEST offered by any suburban town, and more than three times as large
as some.

- SOLD AND IMPROVED
- ▲ SOLD
- TO BE SOLD
- † M. E. CHURCH
- + PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- WENONAH HOUSE
- ⌒ PUBLIC SCHOOL



WENONAH

Enjoys the most beautiful location on the line of the West Jersey Railroad, and offers advantages superior to any other town in New Jersey adjacent to Philadelphia.

WIDEST AVENUES, HIGHEST LOCATION, LARGEST LOTS,

SHADED AVENUES, FLAGGED WALKS, LIGHTED STREETS,

THRIVING CHURCHES, EXCELLENT SCHOOL, GOOD STORES,

PURE SPRING WATER, ECONOMICAL BOROUGH GOVERNMENT,

FREEDOM FROM SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS,

CHEAP COMMUTATION RAILROAD FARES, FREQUENT TRAINS,

GOOD SOCIETY, LOW TAXES.

IN FACT, ABOUT EVERY ADVANTAGE WHICH THE MOST PARTICULAR COULD REQUIRE.

If you are considering the question of a residence in the suburbs, where your family will be free from the contaminations of a city life, and enjoy the benefits of fresh air and pure water, then you cannot afford to determine upon a location without first informing yourself as to the advantages which Wenonah has to offer.

The lots will be conspicuously marked prior to day of sale, and the Agent of the Company may be found at his office at Wenonah daily.

Sale to commence at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

TERMS.—Ten Dollars to be paid in cash upon each lot on day of sale. Non-stockholders, who so desire, can pay balance of purchase money in five per cent monthly installments.

Stockholders as appearing upon the Stock Register October 1st, 1890, can have the privilege of paying one-half in cash and balance in stock of the Company at par—difference to be adjusted in cash.

For further information, apply to

GEO. W. BAILLEY,
308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

WM. C. CATTELL, Agent,
Wenonah, N. J.

Wenonah Land and Improvement Company Sale of Building Lots - 1890

The documents shown on the opposite page are from an original blueprint on linen backing. There were little or no plastics in those days and paper was not useful for blueprints and other drawings when they were intended for long-term use. This plat plan is in excellent condition although over 110 years old. It is only illegible at the folds.

As you can see the sale date was "October 23d, 1890" and the sale was for the purpose of selling "100 Building Lots".

As mentioned some legibility is lost at the folds and in the copying process so I will retype the smallest type to avoid eyestrain on your part trying to read it. It says the following:

"Wenonah . . .Enjoys the most beautiful location on the line of the West Jersey Railroad and offers advantages superior to any other town in New Jersey adjacent to Philadelphia".

"Widest Avenues, Highest Location, Largest Lots, Shaded Avenues, Flagged Walks, Lighted streets, Thriving Churches, Excellent School, Good Stores, Pure Spring Water, Economical Borough Government, Freedom From Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, Cheap Commutation Railroad Fares, Frequent Trains, Good Society, Low Taxes. In Fact, About Every Advantage Which the Most Particular Could Require"

"If you are considering the question of a residence in the suburbs, where your family will be free from the contaminations of a city life, and enjoy the benefits of *fresh air* and *pure water*, then you cannot afford to determine upon a location without first informing yourself as to the advantages which Wenonah has to offer."

"The lots will be conspicuously marked prior to the day of sale, and the Agent of the

Company may be found at his office at Wenonah daily."

"Sale to commence at 1 o'clock in the afternoon"

"Terms – Ten Dollars to be paid in cash upon each lot on day of sale. Non-stockholders, who so desire, can pay the balance of purchase money in five per cent monthly installments."

"Stockholders as appearing upon the Stock Register October 1st, 1890, can have the privilege of paying one-half in cash and balance in stock of the Company at par – difference to be adjusted in cash."

"For further information, apply to"

Geo. W. Bailey, 308 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia

Wm. C. Cattell, Agent, Wenonah, N.J.

William C. Cattell was a land surveyor who did most of the Wenonah surveying.

Dr. George Bailey was one of the first citizens of Wenonah and played a very important part in our town's creation.

He was born on a New Jersey farm near Paulsboro, carried a musket in the Civil War, and taught school while studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1871 he had a residence dwelling built at the SE Corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues across from the Library. It is still there.

He was an original member of the Mantua Land & Improvement Company, the company that created Wenonah.

Dr. George W. Bailey appears to have been born in the year 1840 or thereabouts. If this is so he was 76 years of age when he died. He is interred along with his wife at the Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro, NJ.]

By Jack C. Sheppard Sr. , Editor