

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, January 8, 2016  
Volume 14, Issue 1, January 2016

## Protective Associations in Gloucester County

Prior to the age of the automobile, horses were a valuable commodity. They were not only used for transportation but for farming as well. Many local communities formed Protective Associations as residents banded together to protect themselves against horse thieves. Mullica Hill, Mantua, Swedesboro, Woolwich Township, Deptford Township and Woodbury were among those communities.

In August 1896, the Mullica Hill Grange appointed a committee to organize an Association. In September, the Mullica Hill Protective Association was formed and ready for business. Besides officers and directors, there were 33 charter members.

In June 1867, the Mantua Protective Association was formed at a meeting held in the Barnsboro Hotel. Its purpose was to protect its members from the prevalent stealing of horses, carriages and harnesses, recovery of stolen property and apprehension of the thieves. There were 58 charter members (all men). One advantage of membership was that thieves, realizing they would be pursued by a posse, would usually bypass the property of known Association members. Over the years, cash dividends were sometimes paid to members or used toward the annual banquet.

During the summer of 1922, shortly before disbanding, the Association participated in one final act of apprehending a horse thief. After the horse of Jacob Tomlin of Jefferson was stolen, the horse was quickly recovered and the thief committed to jail thanks to the quick action of the Association officers and Deputy Sheriff W.D. Bundens. This completed a clean record for the Association. On February 12, 1923, the final meeting was held at Smith's Hall in Mantua. A liberal reward was given to Deputy Sheriff Bundens and the officers and members received \$20 each as his share.

Mickleton formed "The Mickleton Pursuing and Detective Association" to aid in the capture of those stealing horses, poultry and farm produce. In 1915, the Association boasted 198 members and claimed that thievery had decreased since its organization.

Once use of the automobile became commonplace, there was no longer a need for the Protective Associations and they were eventually all disbanded.

## How Times Have Changed!

The news items below were taken from the pages of the *Woodbury Daily Times* of January 1916.

Letters being held at the post office were advertised in the newspaper.

A poultry show at the Woodbury Armory was held annually.

A corner property in Mantua with gas range, garden and stable rented for \$7 per month.

Jeddo brand coal was advertised as the "very acme of heat production."

The Waldheim Gun Club of Wenonah held their annual turkey shoot.

Fredrick of Wenonah and Chew of Mantua were agents selling the fully equipped Allen Motorcar for \$795.

Hotel Paul in Woodbury rented rooms for \$2 per day while the Newton Hotel was \$2.50.

Urban's Candy Store in Woodbury made and sold their own menthol cough drops.

Local grocers sold pork and scrapple from the Haines Pork Shop of Mickleton.

The weekly subscription rate for the *Woodbury Daily Times* was five cents.

Hickory garters were sold for children as an undergarment worn to support stockings.

A seven-room house on one acre with outbuildings and poultry house adjacent to the Woodbury Country Club rented for \$15 per month.

Twenty-five Cozens Cold Pills could be purchased at Cozens Drug Store in Wenonah for 25 cents.

A visit to Howard H. Thoman could result in a new wristwatch and a pair of eyeglasses. He advertised as both jeweler and optician.

## WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Scott Barnes
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month  
(except June, July and August)  
at the Train Station Community Center

### You're Invited...



To an Encore Presentation of

### *If These Walls Could Talk*

(a brief history of the GCHS Museum and its prominent residents)

Sunday, January 31, 2016 @ 1:00pm  
Snow/Sleet Date February 28, 2016

Gloucester County Historical Society Library  
17 Hunter Street  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
Free Admission to the Museum and Library!



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. We last met at the Telford Inn on Friday, December 11th for our annual Holiday Dinner. It seems to have been a successful event at a new venue. Our January meeting comes early this month (this coming Friday, January 8th at 7:30) due to New Years Day falling on the first Friday of the month. Below is a summary of our program. In keeping with the past few years, we are using local members as presenters in case inclement weather affects us.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2016. **The WHS Plaque Program has been revived and is moving forward.** I will have some comments on this topic this coming Friday.

*Charlie Horan, Pres. WHS*

*I exist because my Granddad liked to play piano and my Grandma had a sensitive tooshie:*

*The Second World War affected people on every continent. The history of what happened on the battlefield is well documented as is the direct attack on Great Britain known as the Battle of Britain and the 'Blitz'. What is less well known is how everyday life carried on in the shadow of the war and the legacy it has left today. This will be a short presentation about the life of my family in North London during the war, the highs, the lows and the quirks of fate without which I would not be here to give this month's presentation.*

*Dan Cooper, Member WHS*

## WENONAH

### A Century Ago

- \* The Intermediate Group of the YMCA had an unusual meeting on Thursday night when the members had a workman's social at which time they repaired everything which was broken in their room, built new shelves after which they sat down to a lunch each boy brought with him topped off by ice cream provided by the group leader, Charles Hobson.
- \* The midwinter drill and dance of the WAY will be held at the Academy Gym on Friday evening
- \* Master Edward Grosscup entertained a few of his kindergarten friends at a magic lantern show recently at his home.
- \* The Camp Fire Girls are planning for a play called "The Belles of Blackville."
- \* A regular meeting of the fire company was held on Friday evening. The ladies' auxiliary presented the company with two rims for alarms to be placed in different parts of the town. They were received by the president, Mr. George Greenig, Sr., with thanks.
- \* J. Edward Charles has been appointed Postmaster here and will take charge on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Jesse English, the present postmaster, has held that office for the past ten years.
- \* Miss Helen Neely, principal of our school, is quite ill with the grip at her home in Gettysburg. Miss Edna English is substituting in her place.
- \* This Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, is to be observed as go-to-church Sunday in our borough. Everybody is urged to attend the church they are accustomed to attend.
- \* In a very close and exciting game, our Boy Scouts basketball team defeated the strong Junior team of the Academy by the score of 19 to 16.
- \* Skating is once more becoming popular and although the ice is rather rough, a number of young people are enjoying it very much.
- \* The stork left a girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Thatcher.
- \* Mr. Rambo of Pitman has purchased the milk route of Mr. Lafferty and has moved into Harris' home at the corner of Willow Street and Monroe Avenue and will open a milk depot there.
- \* The new pumping station was opened for inspection on January 1<sup>st</sup> from 2 to 4 pm.
- \* The Misses Mary Ogden, Eleanor Stout and Elizabeth Mehorter attended the Twelfth Night Party given by the class of '14 of the WHS in Woodbury on Thursday night. Miss Mehorter was queen of the party.
- \* Mrs. Josephine Miller and daughter, Mrs. Springer, have been visiting friends in Washington, DC. Mrs. Springer recently returned from missionary work in Africa and addressed the prayer meeting in the ME Church on Wednesday evening.
- \* The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Felsburg at Sewell on Friday and left a son. Mrs. Felsburg will be remembered as Miss Rose Holt of our borough.
- \* Miss Helen Neely, principal of our school, has returned to her duties of teacher. Miss Neely has just recovered from a severe attack of the grip.
- \* The Intermediate Group of our YMCA took their regular yearly educational trip on Friday. In the morning, they visited Independence Hall, Scout Headquarters, Curtis Publishing Co. and other points of interest nearby. Then they went to the Central Branch of Philadelphia YMCA for a swim in the pool and a good lunch at the Cafeteria YMCA building. After a little recreation in the gym, they went to the Academy of Natural Sciences for the afternoon. Every boy voted the day a great success.

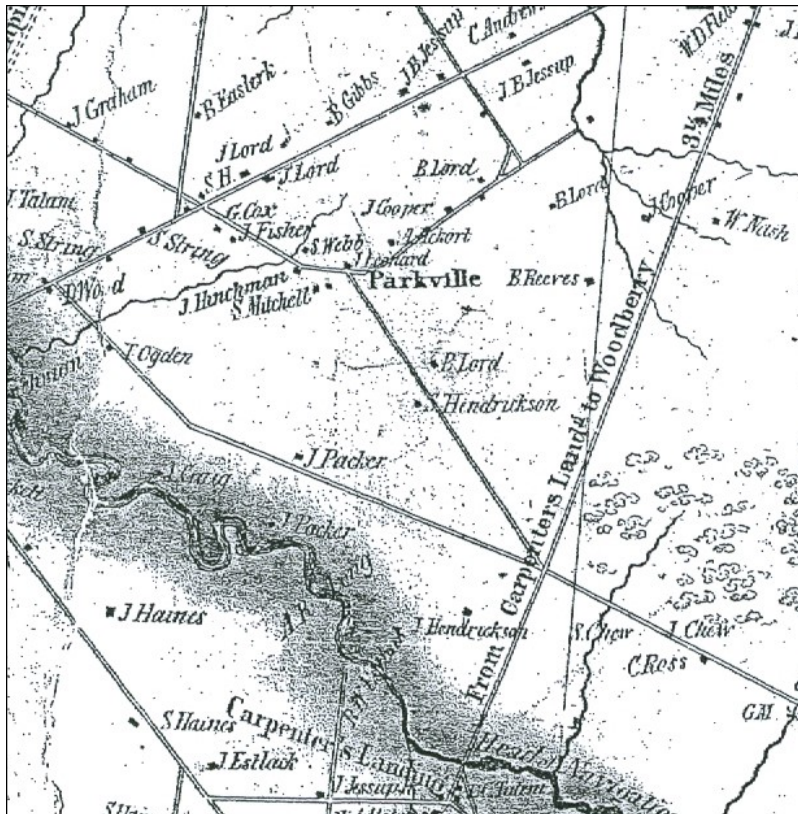
# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, February 12, 2016

Volume 14, Issue 2, February 2016

## The Hydropathic Institute at Parkville



1849 map showing the location of Parkville with the Mantua Creek to the south and the road from Carpenter's Landing (today's Mantua) to Woodbury (present-day Rt. 45) Copied courtesy of Gloucester County

Woodbury's *Constitution and Farmers' and Mechanics' Advertiser* of April 11, 1848, announced that "the proprietors of the new village of Parkville near this place are preparing to open a Hydropathic Institute, or Water-Cure establishment...The preparatory building for the Institute, now in progress of erection, will be ready for patients on or about the first of July next." At that time, Parkville was in the part of Deptford Township that is today the Mantua Grove section of West Deptford Township. The Institute was located near the railroad tracks on today's Parkville Station Road, not far from its intersection with Kings Highway. The Institute was built strictly for use as a hydropathic establishment. At that time, many water cures were given in large converted homes or hotels. The location was easily accessible daily from Philadelphia by steamboat to Red Bank and then the Clarksboro stage, arriving in time for supper.

The first physician in charge was Dr. Sanford Bell who was appointed as Resident Physician. It was said that Dr. Bell had previously been the head of one of the largest Hydropathic Institutes in the United States. Persons wishing to reserve a place at the Institute were referred to Samuel Webb, Esq., 59 South Street, Philadelphia. Investors purchasing more than \$3,000 in capital stock were entitled to treatment until cured in place of dividends and after that twelve percent per year would be paid. The Institute was incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly on February 15, 1850. Eight of the corporators

were from Philadelphia, one from New York and one from Parkville.

Soon the Institute had been expanded to accommodate fifty patients. Hydropathy, also known as the "water cure," was touted as a remedy for cholera, gout, rheumatism, bronchitis, consumption, paralysis and other diseases. It claimed to cure what medicine could not. Separate buildings were available for those suffering from insanity, drunkenness or an inclination toward stimulants, opiates or narcotics. These patients were guaranteed all the benefits of an asylum with the comforts of home. Terms were \$8.00 to \$10.00 per week including board, treatment and everything else except laundry. In the January 30, 1850 issue of *The West Jerseyman*, readers were asked, "If they cannot (cure), nobody will employ them, for who will pay eight or ten dollars per week if they experience no relief?" Patients were to bring "two linen sheets, two large woollen blankets, four comfortables and half a dozen crash towels." Horses could also be boarded. A steward, matron, servants and bath attendants were ready to make a patient's visit more comfortable. A series of pure water springs ran all year round at an average temperature of fifty degrees Fahrenheit.

The main building of the Institute was three stories high and consisted of thirty to forty rooms. There were two separate cottages used for bathing by male and female patients. At the rear of the property stood three additional cottages: one for laundry and the other two occupied by servants. Hydrants were used to bring the spring water to the cottages and underground drains carried away the waste water. A round stone building contained the water works with a large cedar reservoir with five hundred barrels ready to receive the pure, cold water. Three cast-iron hydraulic rams were kept busy by the constant descent of spring water into the reservoir. On the first floor of the water works

## WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Scott Barnes
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month  
(except June, July and August)  
at the Train Station Community Center

were a bath and dressing room with marble tables. Excess water from the reservoir was carried to a fountain in the yard surrounded by weeping willow trees. Below the water works was a swimming pool with a stream of water constantly flowing through it. The bathing department was a two-story building containing large packing rooms, plunge baths, half baths, sitz baths and foot baths. Some patients received treatments of being plunged into hot water and then cold water.

In 1851, the Institute was advertising in several newspapers in South Jersey, Philadelphia and New York City. In *Cummings Evening Bulletin* of Philadelphia, this three-line advertisement appeared, "The Physician of Parkeville Water Cure may be consulted at No. 13 Filbert Street, tomorrow afternoon, at 3 o'clock." Free transportation was offered from Philadelphia for patients.

Despite all of the water cure claims and advertisements, the Parkville Hydropathic Institute was closed by mid-1852. In the July 1852 issue of the *Water Cure Journal*, it was advertised for sale "with or without the furniture, erected expressly for a water-cure establishment." The property was later used as a private home and farm by the Clement family. Many years later, Rebecca Clement recalled living in the house in the early 1920s when there was a narrow water source flowing through the basement. On November 5, 1967, the property, then used for storage, was destroyed by fire.

This article was compiled from the notes of Howard R. Kemble and newspaper clippings in the Hydropathic Institute vertical file in the library of the Gloucester County Historical Society. It was originally published in June 2005 issue of the Society's *Bulletin*.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

This Friday Feb. 12th at 7:30, at the Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center, we continue with our "home grown" presentations featuring a program on the Wenonah Cemetery.

As you may recall, we had a successful walking tour back in October. Bill Caraker, along with Bob Bevilacqua and others, have been working diligently to manage and reinvigorate this somewhat neglected cemetery with the goal of restoring its former splendor. Bill's presentation will cover the past, present and future plans for Wenonah Cemetery. Topics such as the original founders and burial techniques of the past will be discussed.

Please come out for some local history, community and light refreshments this coming Friday evening. Hope to see you at the train station.

*Charles Horan, Pres. WHS*

## Visit the Wenonah Historical Society on the Internet

If you would like to keep in touch with the Wenonah Historical Society more frequently, you can find us on the Internet. We have both a Facebook group site and a website. The Facebook site can be found by searching for "Wenonah Historical Society" on Facebook or going directly to [www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/). We now have 430 group members! You'll be able to view items from the WHS Museum and items posted by group members, and participate in some interesting on-line conversations about Wenonah's history.

Our very informative website can be found at [www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org). Here you will be able to view photo galleries, maps (including an interactive one), and our newsletters. The website is a work in progress that changes frequently. The site has been visited more than 6,000 times, with visitors from 49 of the 50 states.

WENONAH  
A Century Ago

Walter Wagner has sold out his restaurant business in Philadelphia and has returned to his home here with his family.

The mid-winter dance and drill held at the WMA was a large affair and was well attended, a large number being from out of town. The gym was beautifully decorated with flags and bunting and the Academy Orchestra rendered excellent music. The drill was much enjoyed as it was especially good after which was held the dance.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Little have moved into their handsome new home on Glassboro Road at the entrance of Mantua Ave.

Mr. Albert Green of Mantua Avenue will move to the house formerly occupied by Mr. McClure on West Jersey Avenue.

Mr. G.E. Platt has moved from here to Haddonfield where he has built a new home for his family.

About noon on Saturday a fire broke out in the home of Mr. Edward Knight on North Clinton Avenue caused by a defective flue. The alarm was soon given and the Wenonah volunteers soon responded but by the time they arrived the roof was a mass of flames. Men, women and children also hastened to the call of fire and succeeded in getting most all of the furniture out of the home. The volunteers worked bravely but on account of the high wind the fire seemed to spread rapidly, so Mantua and Woodbury companies were sent for, Woodbury bringing their steamer. The sparks threatened several houses around but by careful watching no harm was done. On account of the cold weather the water froze on the men's clothes but the ladies made huge pots of coffee and served it to the firemen. After three hours of hard work the fire was extinguished but Mr. Knight will rebuild it com-

pletely over again. The loss will reach about \$3000 covered by insurance.

Our Borough Clerk, Geo. C. Grosscup, through the Civil Service Commission, has been appointed a member of the State Prison Labor Commission.

Miss Irvin of Ohio spoke to the school children on Monday on temperance. She is going to every school in Gloucester County.

The coasting is fine around here, especially on Comey's hill, where they have rolled it and it is in fine condition. There are coasting parties there every evening.

Edwin H. Ballinger and wife have moved into their new bungalow on So. West Jersey Avenue which has just been completed. Their bungalow is certainly a credit to the Borough.

Mr. J.E. Charles, our new postmaster, took charge Tuesday and we wish him success in his new undertaking.

The Wenonah Military Academy five defeated the Villanova Preparatory school five by the score of 34 to 18 Saturday night. Though the score indicated a one-sided game it was by far the most exciting game of the season. Huddock, the Academy's elusive forward, led with seven field goals in the scoring. Wells and Wadlinger put up a cracker-jack game.

The Current Events Club met last week at the library. There were about twenty members present. Mrs. William Carey of Philadelphia was the leader and had for her topic, "The Present War." Rev. H.R. Gage spoke on preparedness.

Don't forget the fried oyster and chicken salad supper to be held in the M.E. Church parlors on February 7th.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, April 8, 2016

Volume 14, Issue 3, April 2016



Wagon of W.H. Sithens, Cash Grocer, Wenonah Branch, at 206 E. Willow Street  
From Sue McNally, courtesy of Rick Mitchell

**W**illiam H. Sithens operated a grocery store in Woodbury and delivered to nearby towns including Wenonah. The store was located on the west side of South Broad Street where the Pep Boys Automotive Store is today.

He was raised on a farm between Mickleton and Swedesboro, the son of Daniel P. Sithens and Hannah A. Shimp. On February 15, 1877, he and Miss Phoebe L. Green, daughter of Senex and Jane Green, were married by Rev. G.K. Morris of Camden at the Woodbury home of the Greens. From that time on, W.H. Sithens was a resident of Woodbury.

Shortly after moving to Woodbury, William and his brother-in-law, Theodore P. Green, began a grocery busi-

ness known as Sithens and Green. This was a short-lived partnership with Sithens continuing in the business on his own.

The store advertised heavily in the Gloucester County daily and weekly newspapers as well as in the Philadelphia papers. Besides groceries and seasonal produce, Sithens offered five-cent cigars and the "Sithens Gem," a broom made in New Jersey especially for the store. His shop was a designated stop for Locke's Express which ran from Woodbury to Philadelphia. He employed young men to drive his grocery wagons and collect money from customers. In addition to the grocery business, in later years he also farmed a ten acre plot of asparagus near Woodbury.

(Continued On Page 2)

## WHS OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Charles Horan</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Paul Lader</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vicki McCall</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carol Wiltsee</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Scott Barnes</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Louis McCall</b>

**Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month  
(except June, July and August)  
at the Train Station Community Center**

(Continued From Page 1)

In the early to mid-1890s, Sithens was advertising as a real estate and insurance agent for residential and business properties. Around this time, he built a row of bricks houses, used for rental income, on Woodbury's Harrison Street. Those houses are still standing today.

Around the turn of the century, W.H. Sithens began to manufacture and distribute "Sithens Speedy Rheumatic Cure." In 1899, the medicine was selling so well throughout South Jersey that he had a new wagon built just to sell it. In 1901, it was advertised in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as being available for 75 cents per bottle at all druggists and general stores.

In addition to his many business enterprises, Sithens was also active in civic life in the city of Woodbury. In 1899, he was elected on the Republican ticket to serve on the City Council. When it was time for re-election in 1902, he declined the nomination. In 1905, Sithens Grocery sponsored a men's baseball team. He belonged to the congregation of Kemble Methodist Episcopal Church where he served as a steward for many years. He was a member of the Woodbury Lodge No. 54 of the International Order of Odd Fellows and the Gloucester County Pomona Grange. Mr. Sithens was described in 1911 as an automobile enthusiast.

By 1919, he was advertising his store for rent. He and his wife were spending summers at their cottage in Ocean City, NJ. By 1930, he was officially retired. In 1934, he passed away following a long illness. He and his wife are buried in the family plot in Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Our April 2016 meeting will take place this coming Friday evening at 7:30 at which time elections of officers for 2016-17 will take place.

Long time Wenonah resident Bob Thomas will be our presenter. He has described his topic as stated below. Bob Thomas has been instrumental in bringing the Wenonah Historical Society into the 21st Century with the creation of our web site ([www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org)). This, along with our Facebook page, (Larry Smith) are two items that will serve us well as our organization progresses into the future. We look forward to Bob's visit from New York State.

Topic: A 1906 postcard from a child in Atlantic City to a child in Wenonah leads to the story of an event that changed the life a Wenonah man and hundreds of others forever. Presenter will be Bob Thomas, whose family lived on N. Monroe Ave. from 1958 until 2004.

We had a wonderful time and turnout (34!) visiting the historic Bodo Otto home on Saturday March 12th. Many thanks to our gracious hosts Robert & Corrin Sellen who reside in that most storied dwelling on Kings Highway in Mickleton, NJ.

Hope to see you this Friday evening.

## Gloucester County Historical Society

Is Sponsoring

### *A Bus Trip to Gettysburg*

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

\$70 per person

**Includes transportation, narrated bus  
tour of the Battlefield  
and a buffet lunch.**

Please call (856) 845-4771 for information/reservations.



WENONAH  
A Century Ago

The Academy baseball team easily defeated Bordentown Academy on Saturday by the score of ten to three.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bradway and daughter will move to Tioga on May 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Hatch and family have moved into Mr. James Baylies' new bungalow on South Monroe Avenue.

The stork left a son at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Thomas Mulvey on Tuesday.

Mrs. William Platt is suffering from an attack of typhoid fever.

Mr. J.K. Patton and family have returned from the city and taken up their former residence.

Some of our citizens coming down on the last train at 12:30 o'clock Monday evening discovered a fire at the home of Charles Broes on West Jersey Avenue. The alarm was given and volunteers responded at once. The flames were confined to the basement and kitchen and undoubtedly the entire house would have gone but for the quick work of the firemen. No one was at home and the fire is of unknown origin.

Mrs. Mary Hendrickson and two sons will move to North Woodbury.

As a token of appreciation of the services rendered by our fire department on Saturday, February 19th, when the home of Mr. Edward Knight was destroyed by fire, Mr. Knight has presented to the fire laddies ten long oil-skin coats.

An Epworth League has been organized in the ME Church with the following officers: president, Lewis Hendrick; vice-president, William Scroggy; president social department, Pauline Gil-

-mour; treasurer, Elizabeth Ekey; secretary, Niles Poff. The devotional meetings will be held on Sunday evenings at 6:45 o'clock. All young people are urged to be present.

The Wenonah Military Academy has closed the most successful season of basketball the Academy has ever known by walloping the crack George School by the score of 48 to 21 here on Saturday. Previous to the game, the George School had not lost a contest and claimed the Eastern Academic title.

Mr. Edward Benson has gone to Wyoming.

The stork flew over our Borough and left a son at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter George last week and a son at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wright on Monday.

The pupils of our school had quite a scare on Wednesday morning. A mad dog ran in the fifth and sixth grade rooms and frightened the children so that they were compelled to stand on their desks. Finally two of the boys put it out, one of the boys narrowly escaping being bitten.

Since Mr. J. Edward Charles has been made postmaster, extensive improvements have been made to the post office. The partition between the old exchange and the post office has been removed, which gives us an office equal to any secondary post office in the State. In the old post office, persons experienced great difficulty reaching their boxes, especially around train time, due to the small space. Now there is plenty of room in front and also in back of the boxes, enabling everyone to work with greater ease and comfort.

Quite a number of people took advantage of the opening of trout season on Saturday and Warner's Lake presented quite a busy scene.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Friday, September 9, 2016  
Volume 14, Issue 4, September 2016

## Wenonah Cemetery History

By Nora Taylor



*Chew Mausoleum, Wenonah Cemetery*

**By** 1900, Wenonah was a thriving town with about 500 residents. Philadelphians built “cottages” to enjoy the beautiful lakes and to escape the city heat. Wenonah was considered an ideal community with telephone and electric service and streets laid out at right angles. It was populated by many Philadelphia businessmen.

*The Woodbury Daily Times* reported on December 3, 1900, that Isaac Stevenson had sold a plot of

land on the west side of Mantua Creek to real estate agent William C. Cattell. Stevenson had only recently bought the land from the Mantua Improvement Company. Cattell represented a party of capitalists with plans to start a new cemetery.

On January 3, 1901, the Times reported that the Wenonah Cemetery Association had been formed, with Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia, Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Stout, Harry G. Peddle, and William C. Cattell, all of Wenonah, Miss Sara R. Chew of Mantua and David O. Watkins of Woodbury as elected trustees.

The association had purchased thirty acres of land, and they were immediately planning to lay out the grounds with the help of experienced landscape gardeners.

On January 18, 1901, it was announced that “the Wenonah Cemetery Company are having plans drawn for laying out their new plot, and work on grading and marking will be commenced early this spring. This is one of the prettiest natural plots for this purpose in the state.”

November, 1901 saw the cemetery open for business, inviting people to come and see this pretty space. By January, advertisements were in the *Woodbury Daily Times* each day.

April, 1902 was a busy month for the cemetery. Grading and sodding was completed down to Mantua Avenue, the driveway was graveled and the area was being prepared for the summer months’ visitors. Construction of a handsome granite mausoleum by Miss Sara Chew was taking place. Parts of the mausoleum, believed to weigh over ten tons, were delivered to the Wenonah Depot.

“Mantua Mentionings” in the *Woodbury Daily Times* on April 14, 1904 noted that “Miss Sarah Chew, of The Oaks, had her father and mother re-

## WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Nora Taylor
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Scott Barnes
Trustee	Paul Lader
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month  
(except June, July and August)  
at the Train Station Community Center

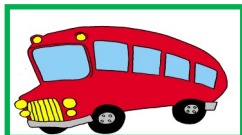
moved from the Mantua Cemetery, yesterday, to her mausoleum in Wenonah Cemetery. They had been dead about seven years. Their caskets were in excellent condition.”

In May, 1901, a carload of granite arrived at the depot for use at the cemetery. June saw workmen at the cemetery. It was said that Miss Sarah Chew would spend \$12,000 to beautify the cemetery. In July, grading was completed.

In February and March of 1902, snow blanketed the cemetery, and trees and hedging were added. Shade trees were added along Mantua Avenue.

Just over 100 years later, residents still enjoy the natural beauty of the Wenonah Cemetery. The new board of trustees hopes to maintain the standard set by the original trustees as they move forward in this century.

Bus Trip to Lancaster County  
Saturday, November 5



\$95 per person includes:

- ◆ Admission to National Christmas Center
- ◆ Dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord
- ◆ Shopping at several locations
- ◆ Transportation and gratuities

Call Gloucester County Historical Society  
@ 856-845-4771 for reservations

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

You are cordially invited to welcome the 2016 -2017 season of the Wenonah Historical Society at the home of Larry and Sue Smith on **Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm. This beautifully restored home is the work of noted Philadelphia architect Isaac Pursell who also designed Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wenonah. The church is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Please bring an appetizer to share for this always enjoyable event!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 15**, when the society, in coordination with the Wenonah Cemetery Association, will host our second annual cemetery tour. Every plot has a story to tell and you will have the opportunity to meet spirits of the past as local actors re-enact the dear departed!

Self-guided tours begin at 4pm and end at 5:30pm. Dinner will follow for Wenonah Historical Society members at the Jack C. Sheppard Community Center.

The new cemetery board is making a terrific effort to bring the cemetery back to pristine condition. This includes plans to restore the stone wall on Mantua Avenue.

On **Friday, November 11**, John Dominy, our mayor and Wenonah Fire Company member, will present a history of the fire company. Come out and celebrate the past and present volunteers who make Wenonah a wonderful place to live.

**Thursday, December 8** is the Annual Christmas Party at the Telford Inn. This is our second year at the Telford and was well attended last year. Details for reservations will be available at the November meeting and in the newsletter.

For 2017, we will host local speakers for the winter months, a spring field trip, and the annual picnic. Stay tuned for details. We also hope to offer a special family friendly event this spring.

*Charles Horan*  
President

WENONAH  
A Century Ago

Mrs. R.A. Sargent is recovering from her recent attack of typhoid fever and was able to be out of doors on Monday.

Mrs. Charles Fredericks, recently of our borough, is seriously ill with typhoid fever at St. Luke's Hospital, Phila.

Mr. Ira Burdsall and family will move to Philadelphia and Mr. Albert Porter and family will move to Audubon.

Our public school opened on Monday with good attendance. Miss Ethel Grosscup has accepted the position of physical director of Hopkins College, Virginia, and left for her new post of duty on Monday.

Paul, the 8-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rieban, died of infantile paralysis at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning. The house will be quarantined for two weeks. Interment was made in Wenonah Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. A meeting of the Board of Health was called Saturday evening and precaution taken to prevent a spread of infantile paralysis here.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Warren and daughter have returned home after spending the summer in Pennsgrove.

Mr. Robert Comey and son Paul sailed for Europe on Saturday and expect to be gone six weeks.

Mrs. Edward Snow, who has been quite sick with a nervous breakdown, is recuperating at the home of her parents at Atlantic City.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckman and sons have moved from here to their former home at Boston, Mass.

Householders of our borough are notified to place their garbage in proper receptacles in convenient

places, as arrangements have been made for the collection of same on evenings of Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

It is thought at this writing that our public school will begin on Monday as the quarantine will be lifted from the house where the Rieban child died of infantile paralysis on Saturday.

Mr. Edward Knight's beautiful new home on N. Clinton Avenue is rapidly nearing completion.

Captain Samuel Barnard has moved his household goods to be stored in Camden. His daughter, Bernice, will make her home with relatives in Philadelphia.

Wenonah's tax rate is \$2.12, an increase of 15 cents.

Mr. Walter Wentzell and family have moved into the house formerly occupied by Mr. Harry Glading and family, corner Willow St. and Monroe Ave.

The Sunday School of the M.E. Church will be held after the morning service until the quarantine is lifted.

Miss Clara Turner has returned from the mountains much improved in health.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dye and son have returned from a month's visit with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dye at State College.

Miss Rebecca Flagg, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Mass., is visiting her uncle, Rev. R.H. Gage.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement Mattson, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Sargent and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hendrickson motored to Avalon on Sunday.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 15, 2016  
Volume 14, Issue 5, October 2016

## Photographic Postcard to a Wenonah Boy Opens a Window on History by Bob Thomas



**E**aster in 1906 was on April 15. The next Thursday on April 19th Claire sent a postcard from Atlantic to Master Stuart DeKlyne in Wenonah saying that she would see him on Sunday April 22. Stuart was the adopted son of William H. Stuart and Sarah Alice Stuart.

Perhaps they met in Atlantic City or perhaps in Wenonah. Claire and Stuart probably had little choice in their meeting. Stuart turned six years old in October of 1906. Claire's age is not known to me.

The West Jersey and Seashore Railroad had advanced to the point of installing electric powered passenger rail service during 1906. Going to electric would make for a quick clean ride from Camden to Atlantic City. On the express train you could get to Atlantic City in about one hour which is nearly as good as you can do today by car.

Mr. Stuart can be found in the US Census records for Wenonah as living on Princeton Avenue in 1910 and 1920 and working as a clerk for the Pennsylvania Railroad. From cemetery monuments in Wenonah Cemetery, it can be seen that William and Alice tried hard but unsuccessfully to have a family. Sarah gave birth to Mary Elizabeth in 1879. In 1881 while Mary Elizabeth was just a toddler, Robert Stuart was born. Both children died in August of 1883. I can't determine what carried the two children off. It could have been measles, smallpox, chol-

era, or diphtheria. The bacterium that causes diphtheria was not described until 1883.

On October 28, 1906, nearly 110 years ago, the Stuart family made an afternoon trip to Atlantic City, perhaps to visit Claire's family. They could spend most of the afternoon on the boardwalk if the weather was decent and get back to Wenonah in time to get a good night's sleep before Monday morning. Perhaps William could take his family free using some sort of rail pass offered to railroad employees. William and Alice took along Stuart and found seats in the middle car of three cars. The train had about 94 people on board.

Among those on board there was Tosca's Royal Artillery Band from Philadelphia headed down to Atlantic City for a week's engagement. William Edward of Woodbury and his girlfriend, were also on board.

As they approached the last stop before Atlantic City at Pleasantville, they passed another electric train headed up to Camden. That train had been delayed for a few minutes as a newly constructed swing bridge had been opened to allow the schooner Sinbad to pass along a creek call "The Thoroughfare." Once the bridge was closed the eastbound train proceeded normally.

In Atlantic City a number of people waited for the arrival of the express train from Camden.

In Pleasantville thirteen lucky people got off the train, some without a good explanation of why they got off as they originally intended to go all the way to Atlantic City.

At least 51 of the people who remained on the train never made it to the Atlantic City station alive.

As the train was crossing the bridge the first car derailed and went off the south side of the bridge pulling the rest of the train with it. The second car went under water as did the first, but the third and last car hung on the bridge for a moment and the brakeman in that car opened the rear door and held it open for people to escape. The cars fell into the water and the people trapped in the first two cars had very little chance for escape. Some did get out, and

## WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Nora Taylor
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Scott Barnes
Trustee	Paul Lader
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month  
(except June, July and August)  
at the Train Station Community Center

some who got out even dove down to try to rescue others.

Among those who had been reported missing was William H. Steuart of Wenonah, NJ, whose wife and adopted son are included in the list of dead. Steuart was located last night in the city hospital. He was suffering from shock and bruises. He told a remarkable story of his experience. With his wife and their adopted son, Steuart occupied seats in the second coach. When the train plunged into the stream, he saw his wife and son hurled to the floor of the car. Steuart, who had been sitting near a window, was thrown into the water.

When he came to the surface, he floated through an open window back into the coach, and his hand came in contact with the bell rope. Hanging on to this rope, Steuart dragged himself to the door of the car and was soon on the roof. The coach had been completely engulfed, and from his perilous position he was rescued and hurried to the hospital in an unconscious condition. Not until later did he learn that his wife and son had been killed.

The first modern press releases were created by Ivy Lee to cover this story. Lee's agency was working with the Pennsylvania Railroad at the time of the 1906 Atlantic City train wreck. Ivy Lee and the company collaborated to issue the first press release directly to journalists, before other versions of the story, or suppositions, could be spread among them and reported. He used a press release, in addition to inviting journalists and photographers to the scene as a means of fostering open communication with the media.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*



Hello to all,

I want to begin by thanking Sue and Larry Smith for once again opening their lovely home to the WHS for our well-attended annual Meet and Greet last month. It was a very nice evening of food, beverage and socializing.

Vice President Nora Taylor has been busy planning the Second Wenonah Cemetery walking tour. This event, despite the Borough Calendar and Newsletter, takes place on **Saturday October 15th** from 4:00 - 5:30. We will meet at the cemetery. This year promises to be even better than last year. Light food and refreshments will follow at the Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center/Train Station. Feel free to bring an appetizer if you are so inclined. The rain date is October 22, 2016; same times.

Speaking of October 22, the Wenonah Historical Society will have an information table at the Wenonah Fall Festival to be held on October 22, 2016 in the park from 11 - 3. This will be our third year participating in this event.

We now have 451 members on our Facebook group site and a steady stream of visitors to our website at [www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org/).

. If you haven't visited them in a while, please take a look.



## Casino Bus Trip

*Monday, December 5*

**\$50 ticket includes transportation, lunch & \$25 for gambling! Call Gloucester County Historical Society for reservations @ (856) 845-4771**

WENONAH  
A Century Ago

A communication was received from Mr. Knight tendering his resignation to take effect immediately, stating as his reason for resigning, unusual business conditions that would prevent the attention to the duties of Councilman which the residents have a right to expect. The resignation was not accepted by Council.

Luther Chew & Son have installed a Bell phone in their place of business on Wenonah Avenue, Mantua.

For Rent—10 room house on Mantua avenue, Wenonah. Pleasantly located. All modern improvements, Dr. Stout, Wenonah, NJ.

Our members of Battery B returned home from the Mexican border and were warmly welcomed by the townsfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Shellenberger of Germantown have rented the house formerly occupied by Mr. Porter on Mantua Avenue.

Prof. Curtice Lewis of Philadelphia was in town last week renewing old acquaintance with his former scholars, among them Mrs. Wm. Cattell and Mrs. H. Coles.

The Academy football team will open the season Saturday with the Perkiomen Seminary team on the home grounds.

Mrs. Wm. Hallman and Mrs. W.B. Poff went to Asbury Park this morning to spend three days at the W.C.T.U. State Convention.

The first dance class of the season was opened on Friday night at the Academy. A large number of cadets have joined and many outsiders also attended.

Messrs. Cattell, Beckett and Benj. Leap went reed

bird shooting at Port Elizabeth last Thursday.

Commandant McFeely has rented the home of Mr. Ira Burdsall on Mantua Avenue and will move in shortly. Mr. Burdsall and his family will move to the city.

A very pretty wedding took place in the Borough last Saturday when Miss Evelyn G. Urian and Mr. Stirrett H. Allen of Woodbury were married at the home of the bride.

Don't forget that the masqueraders will be around on Tuesday night, so have lots of "eats" ready.

Dr. and Mrs. William Greene and son Stephen have closed their home and returned to their winter home in the city after spending the summer here.

Thomas McKean and Herbert Titus, desiring to enlist in the US Navy, went to League Island for their examination yesterday.

Ice served to all who wish it in Mantua and Wenonah. Your patronage is earnestly desired with the best of service assured. Mail orders given prompt attention. Ralph Adams, Mantua, NJ.

For Sale—A milk bottler and washer. Walter Kugler, Wenonah. Bell 48-M.

The Street and Sidewalk Committee reported that one car of the cinders authorized to be purchased at the last meeting of Council had arrived and been placed on the street.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farr and family have returned to their home after spending the summer in Cape May.

The third annual carnival of the Wenonah YMCA was a grand success.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

November 2016

Next Meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
Friday, November 11, 2016

## WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY DINNER THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016 TELFORD INN, MANTUA, NJ

Cocktails 6:00 PM

Antipasto, Vegetable Platter, Pepperoni and Cheese Tray

Dinner 7:00 PM

Menu

Waldorf Salad

Choice of Entrees

Turkey and Stuffing

or

Baked Ham

Both entrees served with Mashed Potatoes, Succotash and Cranberry Sauce

Sour Cream Apple Walnut Pie

-----  
Cut off and Save Details

Please send reservation form to Mrs. Jean Cowles, 304 N. Stockton Ave., Wenonah, NJ 08090 by December 1, 2016, or bring the reservation form to the November meeting. No refunds after December 5, 2016.

Check Payable to: Wenonah Historical Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

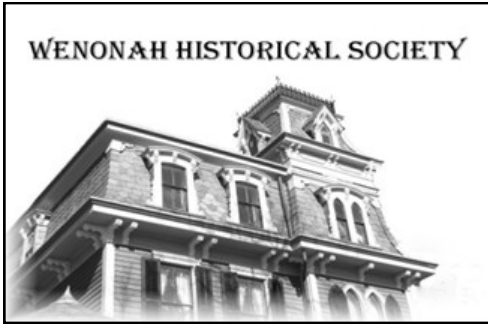
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey: \$22.00 Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Baked Ham: \$22.00 Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Beginning in 2017, this newsletter will be published three times per year: Fall, Winter and Spring.**





Stamp  
Here

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all,

Many thanks to those that made our October Wenonah Cemetery Tour a resounding success. First to Nora Taylor who had this idea over a year ago. She had a lot of help bringing it to fruition through the efforts of the following: Bob Bevilacqua, Bill Caraker, Barbara Conway, Dan Cooper, Barbara Karp and Diane MacWilliams. Then there are the reenactors who all did such a fine job of bringing some of Wenonah's residents of a bygone era back to life. Kudos to Jennie McQuaide, Grace Flynn, Richard Dilks, Paul Lader, Mark Houldsworth and Carl Hausman. This event made the front page of the *South Jersey Times* the following Monday! Such coverage greatly enhances the profile of the WHS within Wenonah and throughout Gloucester County.

I am very much looking forward to this month's program which will feature the history of the Wenonah Fire Company. I am proud to be a Life Member of the WFC serving Wenonah for 15 years. I hope to see you this coming Friday, November 11th at 7:30.

*Charlie Horan*

Friday, November 11 , 2016 @ 7:00pm

Wenonah Train Station

History of the Wenonah Fire Company

Presented by John Dominy and Rich Black

Including history, photos and artifacts!



NEW JERSEY WOMEN UNDERSTAND PUBLICITY. Mrs. John L. Drummer, president, and Mrs. J. G. Marshall, chairman, of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Wenonah Fire Co., don fire hats to advertise a fair. Ledger Photo Service.