

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2007

MESSAGE FROM
VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CAPELLI

Dear Members;

Spring has finally arrived here in our sunny Wenonah. Spring brings new life, re-growth and reminds us that warm weather is almost here to stay. This first Historical Society meeting of spring will bring us a fun and educational presentation by Judy Thompson and Charla Newland, members of the Quilter's Group of Wenonah. They will share with us information on the Wenonah Commemorative Quilt that marked the 100 year anniversary of the train station (1993). Judy and Charla will also share with us a photo scrapbook showing the progression of the quilt. I hope to see you all Friday and don't forget to bring a friend!

Now, back to thoughts of spring. Spring and summer can also be a great time for spring cleaning! So, perhaps somewhere in your attic or basement you'll come across some great family heirloom or something that is historically relative to our great Wenonah. Possibly, this prized possession will elicit some great memories of family and friends you have adored. I think it is very important to our future to reflect and remember times past and where we came from.

Maybe a favorite story, photograph, or item from long ago can be shared with your children and if we

are lucky enough maybe you will share it with all of us at our June picnic. From now until June, hopefully you can find time to clean out those closets in search of some special piece in time that will recall special memories dear to your heart.

I can remember many evenings as a child that my dad would entertain us with old slide shows of family, friends, and special events. Those slide shows were filled with great family stories and memories of lives past.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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

I was always particularly interested in our family's origin and what life was like when my grandparents and great grandparents grew up. I think more families need to bring back these memories and stories of family history for their children. After all, without those stories being told, they will soon be lost forever.

So, whether it is something you can share with our group or not, make sure to have a fun family night of history. If you should come across

something particular to the preservation of Wenonah's history or even some great memories of times past in Wenonah, please make sure to come to June's picnic and share your treasures. Eventually, we'd like to document these stories and items in a book about Wenonah.

Therefore, let's welcome spring, its renewal of all those things living and let's not forget all the people, friends, and family that have shaped us and made us who we are today.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Wm. C. Cattell has bought the land recently sold by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to J.C. Stevenson on the west side of Mantua Creek. A party of capitalists will organize and at once lay out a beautiful cemetery, which is very much needed in our midst.

Gloucester County Democrat
December, 6, 1900

Editor's Note:

What was to become known as the Wenonah Cemetery did organize the following year. The article said "thirty acres of land were purchased between here and Mantua and will at once be put in shape. This will be one of the prettiest cemeteries in this section. The trustees were Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia; Dr. H.A. Stout, H.G. Peddle and Wm. C. Cattell of Wenonah; Miss S.R. Chew of Mantua, and D.O. Watkins of Woodbury.

There were nearly a hundred people assembled in the M.E. Church last night to welcome their new pastor, Rev. Mr. Cobb and family. The evening was exceedingly pleasant with music, and the sociability of the people made the new pastor feel as if he were among friends. After partaking of ice cream and cake the people left, all wishing the new "Dominie" and his family a pleasant happy year.

Both our stores have fine stocks of garden seeds etc on hand for early spring planting.

Our people who have been residing out of town during the winter months are returning to their residences here. (Wenonah was still considered a summer resort, by many, at this late period. They resided in Camden and Philadelphia in the winter.)

It is said there was a lively time at the annual school meeting held at Noblitt's Hall last night. There were five candidates. The appropriation of \$2,300, which has been asked for the past few years, was endorsed.

R. H. Clark has erected a new grape arbor at his home in "Browntown" and expects to erect a new shed when the weather settles. (Browntown was the first block on West Willow Street.)

The grounds of the Inn are being put in shape for the coming season. (The Inn was the Wenonah Inn, east of the Borough Park.)

Turner and McCormick's store was a pleasing sight on Saturday filled with a fine line of fresh southern fruit.

Constable Drummer captured two suspicious characters loitering about town about 12:30 last night, and locked them up until morning. They made the excuse that they were looking for a friend.

After months of agitation enough interest in the Fire Company has been aroused to form such an organization, which was effected last night. A number of representative citizens meet and after weighing the matter well, elected councilman W.B. Oat, President; Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T. W. Savage, Chief, and Joseph Truncer, foreman.

What is everybody's business is nobodies business and for years all have been fireman and though we have been very free from disastrous fires, the lack of organization, so that each one would know his place and fill it in the least possible time, would have been seriously felt had a conflagration broken out. Now all will lend their assistance as before but there will be someone in authority to direct and use the brain and muscle of our stalwarts to the best advantage.

The decision of the Democrats to put a ticket in the field this spring has put the Republicans on the anxious bench as to who the nominees will be. No one seems to know until Saturday night, when the citizen's caucus will be held.

That our borough is a healthy place is proven by the fact that nearly all our doctors are dentists. The death rate is hardly mentionable and there is very little sickness. The population is increasing all the time.

Officer Drummer was not so successful in capturing the last man he went after. In company with officer Dopson and Deputy Savage, he started after John Tilden at Jericho wanted for resisting an officer in Woodbury about a year ago. The two officers entered the house but Tilden's father denied that his son was in the house. One started up the stairs and the other, it is said, looked in the room where the son was hiding but did not see him, when Savage called out "there he goes" and heard some one drop from the window. A hot chase ensued in which the officers shot at the fleeing darky nine times but he waded through a large pond, nearly to his waist, and escaped while they were groping around.

Bachelors and old maids, those very necessary adjuncts to all properly managed towns, as they always know the theory of bringing up children and other duties are remarkable for their scarcity in our borough. We have, though, some comely widows and the prettiest young girls in the State - this is a fact strongly attested by the young men thereabouts.

The best on earth Wenonah corn and tomatoes Turner and McCormick Wenonah, NJ.

The borough's nomination election will be held Saturday at the land office, tomorrow evening to name a Mayor for two years, two members of council for three years, one commissioner of appeal for three years, a pound keeper and Justice of the Peace.

The plumbers are about the busiest people in the town this time of year.

L. F. Feitner, a clerk for Job Scott, is nursing a gathering on his finger from running a large splinter in it.

The most unique form of entertainment provided for our people for some time was a "Stocking Social" held at the residence of Mrs. Cookson last evening. It was in charge of one of the Missionary Committees of the Presbyterian Church and was most successful. The Orchestra and Mandolin Club furnished entertainment for a while and refreshments took up the remainder of the evening. Each person who

attended was supplied with a small silk hose into, which was placed two pennies for each size of stockings worn. The receipts amounted to about \$22.50. The inference is very small hosiery -worn.

The need of a baseball team here this summer is already being felt, and some steps are being taken toward the formation of such a club. We have the material and it would take very little money to put up a good team in the field and we could have some amusement on Saturday afternoons. Push the good work along.

A carload of trees arrived yesterday to beautify the already pretty property of Stephan Green. (These trees, white pine, still exist particularly on South Princeton Avenue and significantly Pine Street.)

Daniel W. Brown is laying a new stone pavement in front of his property on West Mantua Avenue. (Victor Anderson's property)

Always on the watch for anything crooked or suspicious, Officer Drummer tells that he was almost sure he was about able to swoop in on a daring burglar early yesterday morning. As a rule thieves and thugs give him a wide berth knowing well his reputation for fearlessness in capturing them, and so when he saw lights in the home of Dr. Harvey he suspected at once that some daring desperado had foolishly entered his preempted domain to do violence. Accordingly plans were arranged for a surprise of the wrong doers, and just as the swoop was about to take place the timely discovery was made that the doctor and family had arrived home late last night from Newport News, Va. where they had been spending the winter.

The annual reception of the Monday Club was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. H. Lake Gilmour last evening and was a brilliant affair. Vocal and instrumental music and a social hour occupied the attention of the guests for a while when a beautiful collation was served by Caterer Claphan of Woodbury. (The Monday Club still exists today.)

Fred Middleton and Miss Margaret Farr are the graduates of our school, being the only ones passing the county examination just concluded.

Schools of herring are reported in the creek and the boys are having delightful fishing. (This was an annual event in Wenonah for many years) The butchers say they will be glad when the shad season is over.

The automobile, which went through here yesterday, scared several horses and had many

craning their necks to see what was causing all the excitement.

Ice dealer Joe Warner has put his wagon on for the summer to serve the people.

A lady demonstrator is at Richard Clark's store in the interest of Walker's Gasoline Borax soap that is said to avoid so much hard work in the wash.

The new bicycle ordinance has been posted forbidding riding on the sidewalks.

New trestlework has arrived for Dr. Bailey's coal yards. (Across from the firehouse.)

The rehearsal for the musicale and cantata last evening was all that can be desired. The young misses that are in charge of the affair are much pleased. The admission is only three cents, the proceeds to be turned over to the church.

Hiram Leap has received another bag of seed from the grange, which he is kindly distributing among his friends and neighbors, who have gardens (The Grange Hall was on North Marion Avenue, originally Joseph Noblitt's Hall, later the American Legion Hall.)

Quite a number of our people witnessed the solar eclipse here this morning. The weather was clear and a good view of the phenomenon could be had.

J.L.Drummer has just completed a nice boardwalk in front of postmaster Wilson's property. (It was quite common at this period to have wooden sidewalks called boardwalks.)

Rev. R.H. Gage will give an illustrated lecture of the tour of the continent made by he and Edward Farr in the Presbyterian Church tonight. (They spent half a year in Europe.)

A number of G.A.R. men from this section are to attend services in the M.E. Church on Sunday afternoon. (The Grand Army of the Republic was a Civil War veteran's organization.)

Mr. Lewis, the lessee of the Wenonah Inn, is making arrangements to open it sometime this month.

The electric light wires seem to be burning the tops of the trees in several places about town.

It seems your correspondent was wrongly informed regarding the dog of Dr. Stout having symptoms of rabies. Dr. Stout accounts for the bloody and disheveled appearance of his dog from the fact that the animal received a laceration of one ear while chasing through the swamp, which bled freely and covered its jaws with blood and dust

Woodbury Daily Times - Milton Webb archives

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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