

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, April 12, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 4, April 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I predict that by Friday at 7:30 PM it will be 70 degrees and still bright outside. Unlike Punxsutawney Phil, I hope no legal action is brought against me if am wrong.

Regardless, better weather is definitely in the forecast. I thought last month's presentation on Sibyl Tatum Jones by our partners at the Gloucester County Historical Society was interesting local history. Although sometimes mundane, the real stories of those who lived in this region in the past hold a special fascination for me. We thank the GCHS for their presentation.

This month's presenter is David M. Boone — Marine Artist. David grew up in the Fairview section of Camden close to the north branch of Newton Creek. David developed an interest in tugboats and shipping along the Delaware River from an early age. He worked as a local tugboat dispatcher for 28 years. He will be speaking of the legacy of shipping and tugboats in this region. David's art has been displayed at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia for "Tugboats: The Art of Dave



Boone" exhibit. We look forward to an informative talk on this topic so vital to the growth and history of the Delaware Valley.

As always, I look forward to seeing you this Friday evening. Please bring a guest along who might be interested in this month's presentation.

2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2013 are now due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer or mailed using the membership application on the last page of this newsletter.

ODDS AND ENDS

➤ If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, let me know at smithlr@att.net. The newsletter will arrive sooner, reduce our printing costs, and if there is something in color, you will be able to see the colors.

➤ President Horan and I would greatly appreciate your ideas, thoughts and suggestions on the following:

- Programs for future meetings
- Feature stories or enhancements to the newsletter
- Ways to attract new members

2011 WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.

WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY "TAUGHT BOYS HOW TO LIVE"

by Elm McCormick – *Salem County Sunbeam* – January 7, 1977

Wenonah Military Academy. To the youngster of this day the name means nothing.

But to those who attended the institution in Gloucester County a few miles south of Woodbury, it's another world.

It still brings to mind days of warm friendships, studies under strict but pleasant conditions, parties, military balls, and of course, athletics, and everything else which went with a well operated educational institution.

Railroad tracks toward the shore still pass the remaining part of the immense athletic grounds. Here Academy teams strove against other private school groups and some of the better high school teams.

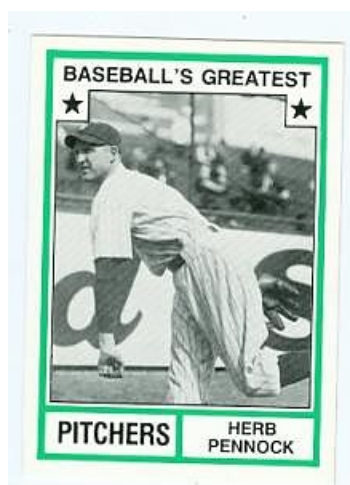
The period: in the early fall of 1904 to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

To don the military blue of the Academy, to march with newly made friends, to play on the athletic squads or just to be part of what was one of the best military complexes of its time — that was something to be desired.

Many a boy reached that stage, where his entry wish was fulfilled. And he was the better for it. Faculty members were learned in their subjects. Coaches knew thoroughly they sports they taught.

One of their games was polo. Edgar W. Holton, class of 1924, recalled "we were so good that one year we beat the championship team at West Point Military Academy."

Holton, now retired and an active member of the Woodstown Rotary Club, is president of the alumni association which meets twice a year.



Herb Pennock, one-time famed pitcher for the Athletics and the New York Yankees, did his school day hurling at Wenonah. Dozens of others who had their beginning at the Academy went on to greater recognition in college or with independent athletic groups. It was at a time, however, when only a small percentage of scholastic graduates sought higher education.

Holton played with the semi-pro Penns Grove Red Devil footballers. Under an assumed name, of course; he was still with the Academy team other Salem County boys were there.

Brought to mind by Holton were the Shuman boys (they were hot in the three main sports, football, basketball, baseball), and Jim Goslin, brother of the late big league diamond star, Goose Goslin. There were a number from this county over the years who were athletically inclined in a fiercely competitive athletic world. Some of them did not flash to the extent of drawing the headlines.

It wasn't just the athletic life of the Academy community which concerns Holton now. He's interested in keeping track of the many living grads who make up the alumni rolls.

"Many of our boys were from this area," he said, "New Jersey, Pennsylvania and nearby, and yet we had them from all over.

"Florida, California, Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, Idaho and places even outside the country. The students came from everywhere."

He recalled two Mexicans who were at Wenonah in the 20s. And several boys living in the town of Wenonah found the private school so to their liking that they transferred from the public classes.

Hap Farley, long-time political leader in Atlantic City, rarely misses one of the alumni gatherings. Several others come long distances to be with their classmates of 50 and more years ago.

Holton recalled that when their spring meeting was held at the shore last year, Bill Woodburn came from Riverside, Cal. So that the business of association can be carried on more readily, all officers are from this area.

Bill Graupner is secretary. One of the better athletes at the Academy, he had been just as good at Collingswood High School. He continued his athletic participation after leaving Wenonah.

Michael S. Cetti (right away you think of the Salem Community College) was in the '34 class. Roy Bloomingdale, active in Pitman sports, kept up his playing field participation. So did Nick Caterina at Vineland.

A.W. Chandler is now retired as a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Another who entered the service Kenneth E. Dilks, '31, lieutenant colonel, retired, has his home in Thailand.

Athletics continued to be a part of Roy Coble (Woodbury) after he departed the Academy. Retired at the DuPont Chambers Works, Nicholas V. DeLucia, Penns Grove, '35, now lives in Runnemede.

Bill Graupner, Collingswood, in the '28 class, went in for officiating after a brilliant career in sports. A Swedesboro Higher, Cleveland Sholders, was a grid performer after entering in '34. Another in the field of athletics was Carl



Tripician, '26 of Margate.

All-rounder (any sport you wanted to name) Maurice P. Shuman (they called him Kid) went to Peddle Institute at Hightstown, became a coach there and finally head master. He was a Salem boy. Footballer William B. Vanneman, '17, now living in Wilmington, recently published his first book.

Some of the earlier meetings of the old grads were devoted to the possibility of restoring the Academy to the stature of former days. But, no buildings remained. The cost of construction was prohibitive.



Holton recalled how officials would tell of the school's catalogue being sent far and wide. It included a thought, "We teach boys how to live." Remembered, too, on the front wall of the study hall was the inscription, "He conquers who conquers himself".

While the Wenonah Military Academy as the oldsters remember it is no more, there's still a plaque to note the passing of the once famous institution. "Lest we Forget", it reads. The dates, "1902-1935," are followed by "Fond Memories, the Alumni Association."

In recent years a display of Academy memorabilia was set up in the Gloucester County Historical Society building in Woodbury. Graduates provided most of the material which they had treasured for years.

The alumni members have something to look forward to. Holton has sent out word that the annual spring gathering will be held on May 14. It'll be at the accustomed shore point, the Port-O-Call.

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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Here

Wenonah Historical Society

Membership APPLICATION 2013

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO _____

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU
WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090
