

# 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.

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## 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**

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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.

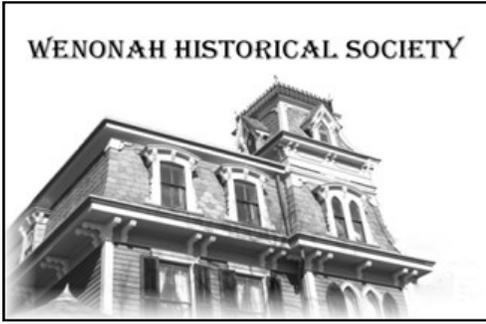
Mr. Edward Benson has gone to Wyoming.

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.



Stamp  
Here

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2016

## 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 YEAR

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090