

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, March 14, 2014  
Volume 12, Issue 2, February 2014

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

As more lovely Winter weather unveils itself to us in episodic fashion, seemingly every six or seven days, we all look forward longingly for relief in the "can't arrive soon enough" season of Spring. Hopefully this Friday, February 14 will be clear and safe for our Valentine's Day soiree.

Many thanks to Debbie Mix for volunteering her time and artistic talents to assist Frank Eggert in the painting and lettering of our Historic House Plaques.

A reminder: please bring your checkbook for annual dues and also your story of how you came to live in the Borough of Wenonah. Presentations, however brief, will be welcome.

## 2014 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



Valentine Cards

Courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

## CITY INTELLIGENCE.

### Miscellaneous.

**ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.**—This is the anniversary of the patron saint of all young people who are affected with that "immortal mystic feeling," 'yclept Love. It is as natural for some parties affected in the region of the heart to give utterance to the same on this day, on highly-embossed note paper, as it is for others to make presents on Christmas day. Many a young damsel's happiness or despair will be measured to-day by the number and character of fancy envelopes received, containing the best poetry and finest penmanship of her admirers. Many a loving swain's thoughts will be more on his *inamorate* than on his business duties, waiting, in nervous expectation, for the coveted, highly-scented, gilt-edged message, that proves to him his passion is not a hopeless one.

Many a crusty old bachelor will receive a hint from indignant fair ones, of his selfish, solitary state, in the shape of broad and frequently insulting caricatures. Many a fop, coquette, flirt and old maid will be disagreeably reminded of their weaknesses or misfortunes by the same (too frequently disreputable) means. Anger, merriment, scorn or indifference will be produced according to the nature and disposition of the recipient of those questionable missives, which, we are pleased to record, are fast going out of date, the Comic Valentine.

Philadelphia Inquirer, February 14, 1863



*Ice Cutting on Wenonah Lake, circa 1900*  
*Photograph courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society*

**B**efore the advent of refrigeration, this was the time of year when ice houses were filled. Ice cutting was both a time-sensitive and high-pressure endeavor. Sudden increases in temperature or a blizzard could hinder the cutting and ice was necessary to preserve food throughout the year. Ice was retrieved from lakes, ponds or streams in the winter and stored in ice houses or pits for later use. On farms, streams were dammed to flood a meadow in the early part of the winter. Filling ice houses was hard work whether one used a saw, an axe or a mule-drawn wagon.

It would several days of sub-freezing temperatures to form ice thick enough for either skating or storing. Ice was ready to be cut when it was 10 to 18 inches thick. Usually there would be a community ice skating party on the evening before the planned ice cutting.

Some ice houses were for personal use while others were operated at various lakes in Gloucester County. Moore's Lake in Clayton boasted three or four large ice houses. There ice was marked out in blocks by horse-drawn markers then sawed and shoved into the houses.

At Warrington's Pond in Woolwich Township, a long sled with very sharp steel runners was used to cut the ice. The cutter would be run both ways to cut out blocks sized for easy handling. The cut was not made down to water level but just far enough in order for the blocks to be broken off with long-handled bars

made by a local blacksmith. A channel would be cut out in the pond to float the blocks to the bottom of a wooden ramp running up to a platform. Several blocks of ice could be hauled up the ramp by a horse. A heavy iron clamp was placed on the back of the bottom block and a rope, attached to the clamp, was run through pulleys and attached to the horse's swingle-tree. As the ice landed on the platform, it was easily slid into the wagon for its trip home to the ice house.

Besides ice houses, pits were also utilized to store ice. Sawdust was placed in the pit first and then the ice was put in. Some pits were lined with Jersey sandstone.

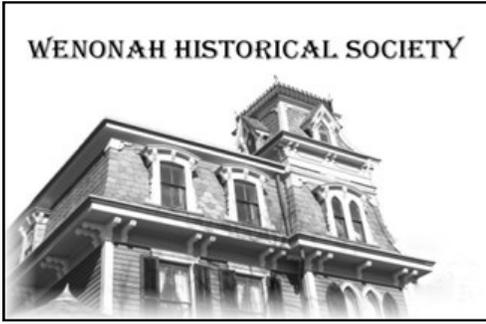
After the ice house was filled, a big dinner was served as reward to everyone who participated in the work.

With a sufficient supply of sawdust, ice could keep until late August, depending upon summer temperatures. When ice ran out, commercial ice plants such as the Woodbury Ice Plant on Russell Street could provide ice for home ice boxes. Ice at the plant was stored in a walk-in, insulated ice box that was attached to the Plant.

Before the modern convenience of the refrigerator and freezer, people depended upon Mother Nature to provide ice. Much hard work went into cutting and retrieving the ice. Today we are fortunate and take for granted the ease with which we preserve our food.

WENONAH  
FEBRUARY 1914

- ◇ Wenonah will be well represented with exhibits at the Gloucester Co. Poultry show on Friday and Saturday in the Woodbury Armory.
- ◇ Two letters came to the post office from south Africa for Mrs. Josephine Miller this week. They have been started back, and it will be interesting to know which will reach Kambone first, as Mrs. M. herself left for Kambone about three weeks ago.
- ◇ The moving pictures given in the Y.M.C.A. building on Saturday evening for the benefit of the Missionary Society was a success and a similar entertainment will be given this Saturday evening.
- ◇ Wenonah Military Academy trimmed the Salem lads by the score of 33 to 20 in basketball on Saturday evening.
- ◇ It was reported in last week's items that Munico Orogalle, who left for Italy to visit his mother on December 1st, had not been heard from and it was feared he had met with foul play, but on Monday word was received that he arrived safe and well and would soon be back in the good old U.S.A. again.
- ◇ Miss Winifred Langston gave a Washington birthday party on Saturday afternoon at her home on South Princeton Avenue to a number of her little friends. The after noon was spent in games, music and dancing, after which delicious refreshments were served, the ice cream being served in paper flower pots with a small cherry tree in the center. Each child present was given a soldier hat and a hatchet filled with cherries.
- ◇ Our goose bone farmer weather prognosticator has hit the weather all right so far. He says that we are to have another cold snap later on.
- ◇ Mr. George Hendrickson, carpenter for William Borg, contractor, has purchased an automobile roadster.
- ◇ Mr. and Mrs. Harry Green of Monroe Avenue have returned to their home here after spending the winter with her parents in Philadelphia.
- ◇ Mr. William Murry, one of our policemen, has handed in his resignation to Mr. Fowler Cline, the Mayor.
- ◇ A new dancing class was formed on Friday evening at the Wenonah Military Academy, under the supervision of Miss Marian Hendrickson.
- ◇ The new and large telephone exchange is now ready for occupancy.
- ◇ The new government commandant of the Military Academy is on the grounds.
- ◇ The work on the boulevard between Woodbury Heights and Wenonah is going ahead despite the cold and inclement weather.
- ◇ Mrs. John Holeton's Sanitary Bakery is running exceedingly well now. Mrs. Holeton has quite a route, taking in Woodbury Heights, Sewell, Mantua and Wenonah.
- ◇ The dancing class composed of a number of young married people from our borough met Wednesday in Carey's boat house.
- ◇ The Wenonah Junior Boy Scouts were defeated by the Woodbury team of Boy Scouts by the score of 22 to 14.
- ◇ The Camp Fire Girls will give a ceremonial meeting in the recreation room of the Presbyterian Church on Friday evening at 8 o'clock. This meeting will show you something that is taking hold of great numbers of the girls of our nation.



Stamp  
Here

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

## 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