

# Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 1 January, 2011

## WENONAH 1871 - 2011

About 140 years ago in February of 1871 a town was created along the right-of-way of the West Jersey Railroad Co. and named Wenonah.

A settlement located in and part of Deptford Township; Wenonah was lovingly and carefully nurtured by several of its creators until 1883 when the first formal government was established, a Commission.

By this time there were about 50 dwellings in existence and a permanent population of about 300 people living here.

The first members of the Commission were Dr. George W. Bailey (elected President), C.B. Johnson, Isaac Stevenson, Andrew Carey (WHS members the Laders live in his house across from the park), M.H. Perry, Thomas W. Synnott and J. Frank Shull.

The Commission government continued until April of 1896 when through the efforts of Dr. George W. Bailey a bill was approved by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey awarding "Borough" status to Wenonah. Charles M. Wilkins was the first elected Mayor of Wenonah.

Coming forward in time Wenonah has had 16 individuals elected to the position of mayor, recently sworn-in Mayor Tom Lombardo becoming the 17th.

Given the major financial problems facing our towns today, our continuing existence as a separate, community will be tested.

## ABOUT FORMER WHS PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

For anyone who hasn't already heard, Don and Catherine Ralston were involved in a serious auto accident Christmas Eve afternoon on Route 45 near Woodbury Heights. Both suffered significant injuries but Catherine's were the worst. As of this writing she is in Cooper Hospital awaiting release to a rehabilitation facility. Meanwhile Don is at home.

labors here have resulted in great good to the church.

"You never miss the water till the spring runs dry" and you never know the importance of a barber shop until the establishment is closed. The tonsorial establishment at the Inn was a perfect boon to us all, the closing of the Inn deprived us of the tonsorial artist and now there is a premium offered for a good barber.

Mrs. Eliza Packer has recovered from her late illness.

Grocer Eldore Richmond was complimented with a visit from his brother George, who is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Richmond holds quite a responsible position with the United States Biscuit Company.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being the common cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a goodly sprinkling of the older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt's Hall and indulged in the favorite winter pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

Miss Wilson will spend the month of February at the capital of the nation, where she has quite a large circle of friends,

We regret to learn that good natured Blair Smith Is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold.

## WHS OFFICERS 2010

President	Barbara Capelli
Vice President.	Charles Horan
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

## JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM

Member Paul Lader will present a slide presentation on the Civil War.

## WENONAH 137 YEARS AGO FEBRUARY, 1874

The Rev. James Burns, of the M. E Church, has been assisting Pastor C. B. Ogden in the revival service\* now in progress in the neighboring village of Mantua, Rev. James Burns is a very forceful speaker and his

The recently organized choir in the M E church, composed of the young people of the congregation, is meeting with gratifying success. Good singing and good preaching go hand in hand.

The Rev. A. P. Botsford of the Presbyterian Church gave two very interesting discourses on Sabbath last. In the morning he spoke of "The Gospel's production of holiness" and in the evening the subject was "The antidote to fear and sorrow, or Jesus and the ruler of the synagogue."

There are quite a number of Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over near Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

The anniversary service\* of the society of the Y. P. S. C. E of the M. E. Church took place last Sunday and drew quite a large gathering of friends from the surrounding country. Mr. Hamilton Turner took charge of the services.

Boys and girls keep your eyes on next week's papers; there will be something in the Wenonah items that will interest you.

Woodbury Times

FROM THE INTERNET  
ACTUAL CHURCH BULLETINS

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced during church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: will be 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love.
- Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..

- The church will host an evening of dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

WHS NEWSLETTER NEWS

Except for one regrettably short period when Brenda Birkland took over as editor I have been producing the WHS Newsletter for eight years.

The time has come for a new person with new ideas. Therefore I have submitted my resignation and this is my last issue as editor.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

# Frank Eggert Historic House Identification and Memorialization Project

Historical Society member Frank Eggert has nearly completed his long-term project to memorialize the historic older structures of Wenonah.



Andrew W. Carey 11 North Clinton Ave

Frank has spent many hours over a period of several years identifying, the oldest, most historic houses in Wenonah.

Once a residence is selected, Frank makes one or more trips to the Gloucester County Court House where he laboriously researches the birth and history of each property. Armed with this information he can recite the name of the original owner and/or builder, and the names of subsequent owners.



Henry Gilmour 7 E. Poplar

After the research and identification Frank contacts the homeowner(s) to determine if they are willing to sponsor a plaque with the builder name and date for mounting on the front wall of the structure. If so, he gives the information to Don Davis who makes the actual plaque, then to Chick Cowles who paints it.

Frank photographs the homes to illustrate the final record. He then contacts the current owner of the home and offers the information in exchange for purchase of an identifying plaque which is mounted in a prominent location on the front of the property.

Three of the selected homes are shown on this page to show what the houses with the plaques actually look like. All are prime examples of Victorian era styles.



E. A. Arnesbroug, 101 E. Poplar St

Our next objective is to create a digital slide show featuring Frank's collection that can be shown at our school, the library, or at group meetings. It may also be possible to access the collection on home computers by way of a computer "web site" we hope to create soon.

The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to Frank Eggert for the dedication and hard work he has provided to make this project a reality. Frank, a native of Wenonah, in addition to this project has been substantially responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Wenonah "nature trail" system.



Stamp  
Here

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

---

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

WHS PO BOX 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

---