

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, January 13, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 1, January 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I wish a Happy and Healthy 2012 to all of our members. Try to remember that resolution to invite a neighbor to one our meetings in 2012.

The program for January 13, 2012 (described below) promises to be informative, entertaining and the topic is very close to home.

I want to thank Larry Smith for producing this newsletter over the past year. He does a very nice job with a difficult task. His December article on "Wenonah Water (1885 - 1945)" may have seemed a bit "dry" to some but municipal water and sewer services are the unglamorous infrastructure vital to the existence of any town.

Before There Was Wenonah ...

The community of Wenonah was founded 141 years ago and the history of this charming town is a rich and fascinating one. But, occasionally all of us have all wondered about what was here before there was a Wenonah—before the lovely Victorian homes and grid of peaceful tree-lined streets, and before the directors of the Mantua Land & Improvement Co. came and chose this place as the site for the planned community that has endured and become our home.

For our January program, Richard Dilks—a life-

long Wenonah resident—will present Before There Was Wenonah:

The past is a vast territory to explore. In Wenonah's most distant past, its land was part of a supercontinent, then the floor of a shallow sea at the end of the age of dinosaurs. When men and women first came here 12,000 years ago, our town was part of a subarctic tundra where the now extinct mega fauna grazed. For thousands of years the Lenni Lannapi people lived peacefully in our region and have left behind their trails and artifacts to remind us that they too were here. In the 17th century, European powers—Holland, Sweden and Great Britain—sought, won and eventually lost colonial empires here. The American Revolution swept through this one square mile that would become Wenonah and the men who lived here played their parts in that struggle. We will explore not only what was here in Pre-Wenonah's ancient past and

colorful history, but what was here in the final decades before 1871, and what remnants of that time still survive in our town today. Join us on this journey through time and discover what was here before there was Wenonah.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER?

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 and postage costs, and if there is something in color photo you will be able to see the colors.

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.

Thoughts about Leaving Wenonah
by Marjorie Lentz

December 30, 2011

Over fifty years ago my husband Bob and I moved to Wenonah and immediately we were earmarked as an odd couple. We did not own a car. Everybody in Wenonah had one. As Bob often said that it was not that we could not afford a car, but that it was not needed in Wenonah.

It was only a hop and a skip and jump to walk up the street where squeezed together were a meat market (Tony Sacca's), a grocery store (George and Jane Bowker), a post office, a barber shop (Oram Shuster), a haberdasher (Wayne Post) and a notions store (Southard's). Every town should have a notions store and Wenonah had one. The best part of walking uptown was that you met other people walking and you were able to socialize. That was the way you met people in Wenonah.

Eventually we had two boys who attended the grammar school where they walked home for lunch. Because we probably lived the farthest distance from the school, they often had to run back before the second bell rang. The teachers were stern and that was all right. Because of the solid foundation in learning they received many students including our sons went on to secure advanced degrees.

The best part in living in Wenonah was the opportunity to share your talents. Volunteerism was a way of life. Every one had an opportunity

whether it was coaching baseball, hacking trails along the Mantua Creek, reading stories to children in the library. With all the many clubs in town there were lots of ways to volunteer.

Another of the rewarding aspects of living in Wenonah was the diverse population. People came from all parts of our country and shared their stories which enriched our knowledge.

Now at 96 years and with limited mobility I have had to adjust to a new way of living in Pitman Manor. I miss my home and the woods and the frequent deer that visited our property.

Frequently there were three deer but one morning there were eight.



Living here has been a big step for me. However with your frequent visitations and communications you have helped me with the transition. Thank you

Jennie McQuaide gave me a book containing about three hundred pages. The book is

currently empty. Jennie suggested that every day I write something for which I am grateful. So on the first day of 2012 I will begin. First I am grateful that I spent my mature years in Wenonah where I took time out to volunteer, where I could enrich my life by contact with diverse people. With your assistance and helpful thoughts I will learn to adjust to a new way of living.

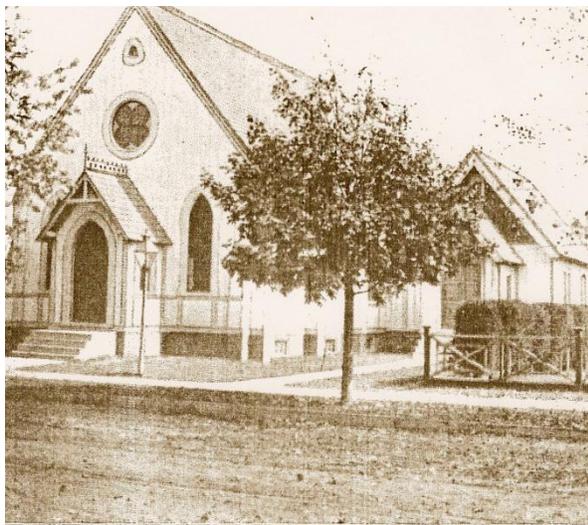
Oh, yes, we did eventually purchase a car. I forgot to mention that.

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The following house photos and information have been provided by Frank Eggert.

FEATURE HOUSES
5 North Clinton Avenue and 8 West Mantua Avenue

The house at 5 North Clinton Avenue was built in 1873 by the First Presbyterian Church (now Memorial Presbyterian Church). The building at the rear of the original church, as shown in the photograph below, was moved to 8 West Mantua Avenue in 1883. It has housed various enterprises over the years, including the Lutheran Church, and is now September Rose Studio.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WENONAH, N. J.



5 N. Clinton Ave

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1873
Wenonah Historical Society



8 W. Mantua Ave

PRESBYTERIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
1883
Wenonah Historical Society

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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Here

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
