

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.  
Friday, February 14, 2014  
Volume 12, Issue 1, January 2014

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Our January 2014 meeting was an enjoyable and successful gathering. Fellow members recounted some memories of days gone by in Wenonah as well as "back stories" relating to the circumstances that brought them to this beautiful borough. We will continue with this format for the February and March meetings. Any contribution of a reasonable length to these topics is most welcome.

A reminder: 2014 WHS Annual Dues are due (\$15.00) "A Bargain at Twice the Price." Please bring a check to the February meeting.

See you there.

## 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

## Historic House Plaques



Is your Wenonah home at least 90 years old?

If so and you would like a deed search and a plaque for the exterior of your home, please contact Frank Eggert at [baldeagle0910@yahoo.com](mailto:baldeagle0910@yahoo.com) or (856) 468-6465. Cost is \$75.



If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, please let us know at [b.price111@comcast.net](mailto:b.price111@comcast.net).

The newsletter will arrive sooner, reduce our printing and postage costs, and if there is something in color, you will be able to see the colors.

# The Wide Awake Campaign in Gloucester County

by Charlesanna Fallstick

Originally published in the *Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society*, September 2004

Every presidential election has its own campaign slogans and origins. Some campaigns have more effect on the history of the United States than others. The Wide Awake Campaign of 1860 was such a campaign.

At this time, the country was facing a difficult time with the Civil War looming on the horizon. The Wide Awake clubs were formed in 1859 by a group of young, energetic men from Hartford, CT. They were upset with the political situation and reactions of the general government under President James Buchanan and the Democratic Party. The group adopted the slogan, "Union, Liberty, Honor."

News of the Wide Awakes quickly spread among the northern states. In Gloucester County, voters in several communities such as the townships of Deptford, Greenwich, Clayton, Glassboro and Harrison and the city of Woodbury were interested in the organization's ideas. Young male leaders would first form a committee to set up an organizational meeting. In June 1860, they posted notices in local newspapers announcing the meeting date and place. The various clubs selected the name of Lincoln-Hamlin Clubs with the exception of Deptford Township [this would include Wenonah at the time] which remained as the Wide Awake Club. To keep the attention of voters, meetings of the clubs were held bi-weekly with prominent men speaking out in support of the Opposition Party's candidates, Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. These meetings were well-attended and local newspapers carried both criticism and supportive comments.

In the summer of 1860, these clubs selected various delegates to attend conventions held in Woodbury, Camden and Trenton. The selected slate of candidates were John T. Nixon of Cumberland County for the First Congressional District, and the

following men from Gloucester County: John Pierson for Senator, John Starr and Joseph H. Duffield for State Assembly, Joseph Carter for Sheriff and William Bowers, Richard F. Springer and William H. Hannold for Coroners.

As the Fall of 1860 approached, the campaigning became stronger with pig roasts, torchlight processions in various towns, distribution of hand bills and for the last demonstration of the campaign, the Grand Wide Awake Procession.

The banner of Woodbury's weekly newspaper, *The Constitution*, carried the names of Lincoln and Hamlin from May until Election Day, November 6, 1860. Election results were printed in the paper on November 13. In its support of the Opposition Party, the newspaper did not ignore the conventions and platforms of the Conventional Union (Whig) Party and the split Democratic Party. However due to its endorsement of the Opposition Party, the paper devoted much of its limited space to that party.

When the election was over and votes were counted in Gloucester County, the majority of voters had not supported Lincoln in his quest for the presidency. However the Wide Awake clubs continued and eventually became allied with the Republican Party.

Political campaigning has changed drastically since 1860. During that year, the *Woodbury Constitution* reported campaign news for a period of six months. Today, campaigning lasts much longer. Yet, voter turnout in 1860 was approximately 80%.

The Gloucester County Historical Library has the complete run of the *Woodbury Constitution* and many other local newspapers. Researchers are always welcome to visit and learn more about our local history!

WENONAH  
FEBRUARY 1908

- It is said here that Dr. Stout was a busy man as the result of the pie eat at the Grange last night. That pie eat was a great affair with pies of all kinds and sizes. Some people will not want any more pie until next winter.
- Mr. Urian had four loads of goods brought down from Philadelphia to his home on West Jersey Avenue. The road was very bad and one of the teams got stuck on Farr's Hill [East Mantua Ave.] and had to remain there all night.
- Farmers are unloading a carload of fertilizer here.
- There is considerable talk of taking the old hedge out of the park. This would be a great improvement.
- Farmer Stevenson is suffering from a sore ankle. He got mixed up with his horse and both fell on the ice. Mr. Stevenson underneath and got the worst of it. [Isaac Stevenson lived on the farm which is now being developed as the Woods of Wenonah. He cut ice at Wenonah and Pelkington Lakes.]
- The dance and reception at the Wenonah Military Academy last evening was largely attended and everybody reports a happy time.
- The water pipes at the depot froze and broke yesterday and all the oil stoves available were secured to heat the place.
- Milk for sale 6 cents a quart delivered to your door-Geo. Kean Mantua.
- There was another pleasant quilting party at the home of Mrs. Custer, given by the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the occasion being another quilt pieced together by Mrs. Margaret Ramsey who is in her ninetieth year, and they have sold it already for \$3.

- A bell phone has been placed in the ticket office.
- FOR RENT 6 room house, garden attached, near Wenonah, 5 \$ per month apply to Howard Hendrickson, Wenonah.
- The Five Hundred meet at the home of Mrs. James Carey Saturday evening.
- The fireman fed close to four hundred people Tuesday night. They desire to thank all who kindly assisted. If you have lost any dishes call at the home of Chief Andrew Savage.
- Houses are still in a great demand here. They are rented again as soon as vacated and there is hardly a day goes by but there are new parties in town looking for houses.
- Among those who have measles are Cornelia Truncer, Miss Olive Brown and Edith Hurff.

*Woodbury Daily Times* February 1908

From the files of Milton H. Webb

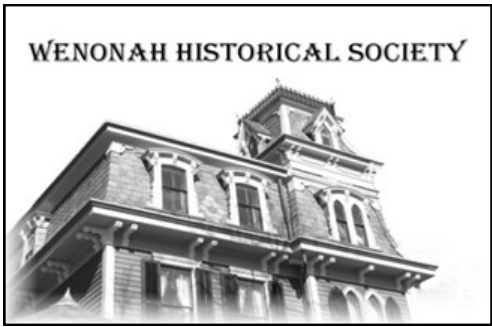
*Howe's Gloucester & Salem Directory*

1890-91

**WENONA**

Is a handsome residence village of 400 inhabitants, located in Deptford Township, on the West Jersey R. R., 2½ miles south of Woodbury, the county seat and location of nearest bank. The place is 11 miles from Philadelphia, and offers most excellent advantages for summer residences. One Presbyterian church is sustained. Produce is the principal shipment. Daily stage to Mantua, fare, 10 cents; Mullica Hill, fare, 35 cents, and Harrisonville, fare, 50 cents. J. W. English, postmaster.

**CATTELL WILLIAM C.**, real estate, insurance and surveyor  
 Chew Sylvester H., livery stable and coal  
**ENGLISH JESSE W.**, postmaster and general store  
 Fisler Samuel D., general store  
 Gilmour & Son, dentists  
**MERRITT JOSEPH W.**, druggist, Broad cor Cooper, Woodbury, N. J.  
 Richmond Eldoras, washing machines  
 Savage Thomas J., cigars  
 Sickler William B., dentist  
**STEVENSON I. C. & Co.**, canned goods  
 Stout Harry A., physician  
 Vogt William, florist



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