

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 3 March 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOUIS MCCALL

Dear Members;

The program for our next meeting will take us on a trip back in time to the high seas 150 years ago!!!

We are extremely pleased and honored to have member Pat Hart make a presentation to us during this month's meeting March 9, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Wenonah Community Center.

All of those fortunate enough to be in attendance will experience the extremely unique opportunity of being taken back in time to a sea voyage that took place in 1857, exactly 150 years ago. Our voyage will be second-handed of course through a narration by Pat of the life and times of husband Jack's great-grandmother, Elenora Green. She was the wife of a clipper ship captain whose home port was Baltimore, who often sailed around the world. Remember at that time in history a trip around the world was a quite substantial voyage on the high seas. Especially as there was no Panama Canal to use as a short cut, the trip required going "around the Horn", a very dangerous and exacting passage.

Although the Hart's have a few general diaries of Jack's great-grandmother Elenora, Pat will read excerpts from the diary of a special voyage where she accompanied her husband on his ship's voyage around Cape Horn, and they were accompanied by one of their baby children.

Those in attendance will also be privileged to see many related artifacts that the Hart's are in possession of including a shawl the Captain gave his wife as a gift from a voyage to China along with period dishware, a silver mug from that era and pictures from the Captain's and Elenora's Homestead in Virginia.

On another topic mentioned at our last meeting, please gather up those photos, memories and stories for inclusion in the upcoming Wenonah

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

Family Album. Many thanks to Don Davis for the excellent photos and stories already submitted.

I look forward to seeing you Friday March 9th at 7:30 pm.

HISTORIC WENONAH

The Wenonah Inn on South Clinton Avenue had a bowling alley.

In 1900 Stephen Greene, owner of the Wenonah Inn had a golf course laid out extending from the present Cedar avenue ball field to the Comey's Lake area.

The first improvement to the streets of Wenonah was laying down cinders from the West Jersey railroad and oyster shells brought in from Port Norris.

Originally the Wenonah Park was divided in half with Park Avenue running through its middle.

In 1911 there were 35 different clubs and societies in Wenonah.

A woman, Hannah Bossler, owned the first automobile in Wenonah. In 1900 she was the winner of a Locomobile in a picture puzzle contest offered by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

William Fredrick Allen, Chief Engineer of the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, created the original street layout for Wenonah.

The grist mill at Wenonah Lake was started by Abraham Dilks before the Revolutionary War.

Jonathan Chew, owner of the "Stone House Farm" (South West Ave & Cherry St.) was a Tory Captain in the British Army during the Revolutionary War. He was captured and sentenced to death but was pardoned upon his exile to Canada.

There were 14 veterans of the Civil War living in Wenonah at the turn of the century.

Mantua Avenue was a gravel road until 1925.

The streetlights in Wenonah were gas until the 1920's.

There were three livery (horse) stables in Wenonah in the 1880's.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY by Elm McCormick 1/7/77

To the youngster of this day the name means nothing. But to those who attended the institution in Wenonah, Gloucester County a few miles south of Woodbury, it's another world.

It still brings to mind days of warm friendships, studies under strict but pleasant conditions, parties, military balls, and of course, athletics, and everything else which went with a well operated educational institution.

Railroad tracks toward the shore still pass the remaining part of the immense athletic grounds. Here Academy teams strove against other private school groups and some of the better high school teams.

The period: in the early part of the 1900's to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

To don the military blue of the Academy, to march with newly made friends, to play on the athletic squads or just to be part of what was one of the best military complexes of its time—that was something to be desired.

Many a boy reached that stage, where his entry wish was fulfilled. And he was the better for it. Faculty members were learned in their subjects. Coaches knew thoroughly the sports they taught.

One of their games was polo. Edgar W. Holton, class of 1924, recalled, "we were so good that one year we beat the championship Army team at West Point Military Academy."

Holton, now retired and an active member of the Woodstown Rotary Club is president of the alumni association, which meets twice a year.

Herb Pennock, one-time famed pitcher for the Athletics and the New York Yankees, did his school day hurling at Wenonah. Dozens of others who had their beginning at the Academy went on to greater recognition in college or with independent athletic groups. It was at a time, however, when only a small percentage of scholastic graduates sought higher education.

Holton played with the semi-pro Penns Grove Red Devil footballers. Under an assumed name, of course as he was still with the Academy team. Other Salem County boys were there.



Brought to mind by Holton were the Shuman boys (they were hot in the three main sports, football, basketball, baseball), and Jim Goslin, brother of the late big league diamond star Goose Goslin. There were a number from this county over the years who were athletically

inclined in a fiercely competitive athletic world. Some of them did not flash to the extent of drawing the headlines.

It wasn't just the athletic life of the Academy community that concerns Holton now. He's interested in keeping track of the many living grads that make up the alumni rolls.

"Many of our boys were from this area," he said, "New Jersey, Pennsylvania and nearby, and yet we had them from all over. Florida, California, Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, Idaho and places even outside the country. The students came from everywhere."

He recalled two Mexicans who were at Wenonah in the 20s, and several boys living

in the town of Wenonah found the private school so to their liking that they transferred from the public school classes.

Hap Farley, long-time political leader in Atlantic City, rarely misses one of the alumni gatherings. Several others come long distances to be with their classmates of 50 and more years ago.

Holton recalled that when their spring meeting was held at the shore last year, Bill Woodburn came from Riverside, Cal. So that the business of association can be carried on more readily, all officers are from this area.

Bill Graupner is secretary. One of the better athletes at the Academy, he had been just as good at Collingswood High School. He continued his athletic participation after leaving Wenonah

Michael S. Cettei (right away you think of the Salem Community College) was in the '34 class. Roy Bloomingdale, active in Pitman sports, kept up his playing field participation. So did Nick Caterina at Vineland.

A.W. Chandler is now retired as a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Another who entered the service Kenneth E, Dilks, '31, lieutenant colonel, retired, has his home in Thailand.

Athletics continued to be a part of Ray Coble's (Woodbury) after he departed the Academy. Retired at the DuPont Chambers Works, Nicholas V, DeLucia, Penns Grove, '35, now lives in Runnemede.

Bill Graupner, Collingswood, in the '28 class, went in for officiating after a brilliant career in sports. A Swedesboro Higher, Cleveland Sholders, was a grid performer after entering in '34. Another in the field of athletics was Carl Tripician, '26 of Margate.

All-arounder (any sport you wanted to name) Maurice P. Shuman (they called him Kid) went to Peddie Institute at Hightstown, became a coach there and finally head master,

He was a Salem boy. Footballer William B, Vanneman, '17, now living in Wilmington, recently published his first book.

Some of the earlier meetings of the old grads were devoted to the possibility of restoring the Academy to the stature of former days. But no buildings remained. The cost of construction was prohibitive.

Holton recalled how officials would tell of the school's catalogue being sent far and wide. It included a thought, "*We teach boys how to live.*" Remembered too on the front wall of the study hall was the inscription,

"He conquers who conquers himself".

While the Wenonah Military Academy as the oldsters remember it is no more, there's still a plaque to note the passing of the once famous institution. "*Lest we Forget*" it reads. The dates, "1902 – 1935 are followed by "Fond Memories, the Alumni Association."

In recent years a display of Academy memorabilia was set up in the Gloucester County historical Society building in Woodbury. Graduates provided most of the material, which they had treasured for y ears.

The alumni members have something to look forward to. Holton has sent out word that the annual spring gathering will be held on May 14. It'll be at the accustomed shore point, the Port-O-Call.

Moze Segal, who was playing for Paulsboro High at the time, recalls a Wenonah visit. He was both a baseball player and a track teamer. The diamond match was halted for a couple of minutes while Segal went over to the track area where the Oilers and Academy teams were in conflict. Moze got his jumps in, went back to the ball field and the tilt was resumed. It was several years ago, you know, he said, and the scores, or who won have escaped him.

Salem County Sunbeam— January 7, 1977

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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Here

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2007

Membership Benefits

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- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
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