

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, March 11, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 3, March 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Once again, I want to thank Larry Smith for stepping up and taking the reins as Editor of this newsletter. Jack Sheppard got a bit "religious" in his expression of gratitude to Larry for assuming this task at the February meeting.

The topic of last month's newsletter was fabulous in its detailing of the history of the Stone House Farm and Tavern. When I first moved to Wenonah, I was surprised and confused by the juxtaposition of this structure and its date of construction (1763). Since then, I have become better versed in its background as well as the history of Wenonah and the surrounding area. The history of the Stone House is reflective of the dynamics of transportation over the years. Stage coaches and shallops for shipping goods and people were giving way to railroads just as Wenonah was being "born."

Thanks go out to Vicki McCall and Lynne Carey for the special Valentines Day themed refreshments last month especially the cascading chocolate "tower." WOW!!!

Also, kudos to Eileen Shanahan and Patty Hrynenko of the Gloucester Historical Society

for their most interesting presentation at our February meeting.

The upcoming March meeting will feature the parts of and discussion on a documentary on the Blue Comet passenger train that ran from Jersey City to Atlantic City during a bygone era. The presenter will be Rutgers professor Roberts A. Emmons, Jr. This should be especially interest to "train enthusiasts" (Lou McCall) of all ages so think about inviting a friend.

Reminder: try to keep the morning of Saturday, May 7, 2011 clear. This is Clean Communities Day and the WHS can receive a grant in the neighborhood of \$300 if we can field of team of 10 volunteers. Last year, we mulched the flower beds around the Community Center/ Train Station. Registration for all groups takes place at 8:30 AM at the Train Station.

See everyone Friday, March 11th at 7:30 PM.

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.

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

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, you will be able to see the colors.

SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor.

2011 WHS DUES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that the 2011 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any of the WHS officers.

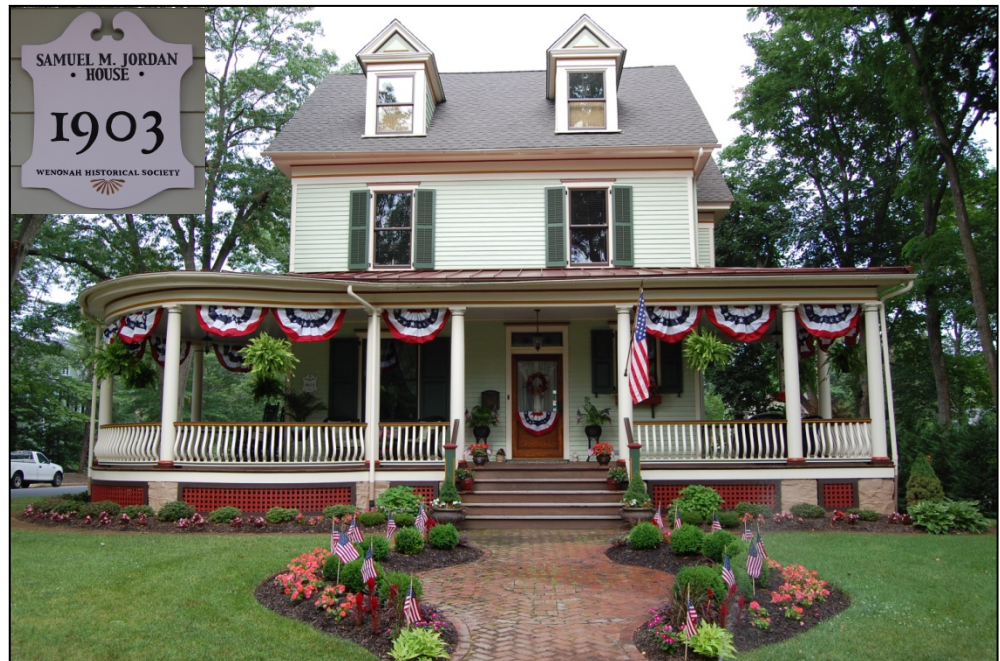
FEATURE HOUSE
Samuel M. Jordan House
by Larry Smith

Many of you know that Sue and I renovated the house at 110 South Clinton Avenue, across the street from the Wenonah Methodist Church. What you may not know ...

- On January 28, 1878, Thomas W. Synnott purchased the lot where the house now stands at the northwest corner of South Clinton Avenue and East Willow Street from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company.
- Twenty-five years later on June 19, 1903, Synnott sold the

lot to Samuel Monroe Jordan, my great-grandfather, for \$700.

- Within a year, Samuel Jordan hired Isaac Pursell, a Philadelphia architect, to design a home for the Jordan family and entered into an agreement with Charles H. Nicholson of Pitman to construct his new house in Wenonah.
- In December 1904, construction of the Samuel M. Jordan house was completed, and 17 craftsmen, suppliers, and tradesmen documented its completion by signing a final release of liens. The cost of the new house was \$3,542.
- Samuel Jordan then moved his family from Alloway Township to 110 South Clinton Avenue. The family and the first five to call the house "home" were Samuel, his wife Anna, and their three teenage daughters—Ada, Olive and Ellen. Shortly thereafter, Samuel's sister Bessie Jordan joined the five, moving from Philadelphia into a room on



the third floor.

- Ada Jordan later married a recently widowed Fred Smith. Fred and his two daughters—Anna and Irene—joined the five members of the Jordan family in Wenonah, increasing the number of occupants of the house to eight. (Samuel Jordan’s wife Anna had died prior to the marriage of Ada Jordan and Fred Smith.)
 - The two sons of Ada and Fred Smith—Frederick Laurensen (my father, Larry) and Orville Duffield Smith—were born in the house and named after pastors of the Wenonah Methodist Church.
 - Olive and Ellen Jordan later taught at Wenonah Elementary School and continued to live in the house until their deaths in 1951 and 1960, respectively.
 - Orville Smith called the house “home” for more than 80 years. All toll, members of my family have spent more than 400 years (and counting) of their lives in the house.
 - My father, Larry Smith married Helen Wilkins (my mother) of Woodbury and lived on the third floor of the South Clinton house from 1940 to after World War II.
 - Three families eventually returned to Wenonah and lived in the South Clinton house:
 - Helen Smith and her children—Larry (me), Linda and Ronald—from California after my father Larry died In 1961.
 - Linda (Smith) and her husband Kevin Todd and their children Jacquelyn, Sarah and Cassie from West Virginia in 1982.
 - Sue and I from Texas in 2004.
 - Nine family members died while living in the house.
 - The renovation of the house by Sue and I took approximately 5 years to design, demolish, construct and refurbish, compared to the single year it took Samuel Jordan to design and construct the house originally.
 - In addition to the work that Sue and I did, 11 artists, craftsmen, and suppliers in Wenonah contributed to finishing the renovated house.
 - The house has been in the Jordan/Smith family since it was built by Samuel M. Jordan in 1903-1904. Sue is the 20th family member to live in the house. In addition to Sue and myself, its occupants have been:
 - My great-grandfather and great-grandmother (Samuel and Anna Jordan)
 - My grandfather and grandmother (Fred and Ada Jordan Smith)
 - Two grandaunts (Olive and Ellen Jordan)
 - A great-grandaunt (Bessie Jordan)
 - Two step-aunts (Anna and Irene Smith)
 - My father and mother (Larry and Helen Smith)
 - An uncle (Orville Smith)
 - My brother (Ronald Smith), and sister and brother-in-law (Linda Smith Todd and Kevin Todd)
 - Three nieces (Jacquelyn, Sarah and Cassie Todd)
- I wonder how many of the other wonderful houses in Wenonah have remained in the same family for over 100 years.



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Here

PO Box 32
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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

WHS PO BOX 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
