## Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

### **March 2021**

#### **WHS OFFICERS & TRUSTEES**

President, Charles Horan

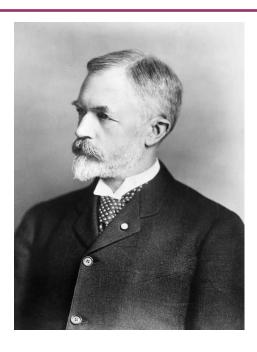
Vice-President, Nora Taylor

Secretary, Jennie McQuaide

Treasurer, Scott Barnes

Trustee, Lou McCall

Trustee, Paul Lader



Scott Barnes will present a program on the life of William Frederick Allen (1846-1915), a civil engineer and New Jersey native who was instrumental in the founding of Wenonah in 1870. Later in his career, he tackled the thorny problem of how to synchronize clocks across the vast expanse of the United States, at a time when railroads were enabling rapid travel from place to place. The time zone system he perfected for American railroad use is largely the same one used worldwide today.

#### **OFFICERS and TRUSTEES MESSAGE**

#### Dear Members and Friends:

Did you have the opportunity to take the "Story Walk" in Wenonah Park, sponsored by the Wenonah Library and the Wenonah Historical Society? The walk told the story of Wenonah's early days, as it became a true community. If you missed it, please take the time to view the storyboards on our website at <a href="http://ourtownnews.info/wenonah-nj/sites/default/files/WHS%20Story%20Walk%20%20A%20Town%20is%20Born%20-%20FINAL.pdf">http://ourtownnews.info/wenonah-nj/sites/default/files/WHS%20Story%20Walk%20%20A%20Town%20is%20Born%20-%20FINAL.pdf</a>.

#### **Wenonah History Quiz**

How many correct answers can you come up with?

- 1. What is the only structure in Wenonah that is on the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places?
- 2. Mr. Comey made straw hats. Where did he live?
- 3. Where is the Grosscup Building located?
- 4. Victor Anderson held many patents and was a Civil War buff. Where did he live?
- 5. Hannah Bailey Farr died while on vacation in Italy over 100 years ago, leaving a large estate. What business occupies her home?

Hint: All the answers are on Mantua Avenue. The answers will be posted next month!

#### **MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Our next meeting will be March 12 at 7:30 pm. You will be able to link at

https://meet.jit.si/WenonahHistoricalSociety

#### **The Wenonah Environmental Commission**

#2 in a series about the history of Wenonah organizations



As Wenonah's population expanded in the 1950s, several residents saw the need for publicly owned conservation lands in the borough. Planning Board members Nat White and George Eldridge began acquiring land around the perimeter of town with the assistance of the Stewart Estate Trust. In 1965, a Natural Woodlands Council initially led by Frank Eggert was formed to manage this growing body of land and to make it accessible to the public.

In 1975, the Council evolved into the Wenonah Environmental Commission (WEC), which is an all-volunteer arm of borough government. Land acquisitions continued under the leadership of Chuck Forsman, who envisioned a "Ring of Green" around the whole town. As lands were acquired, they were connected to a network of naturalsurfaced hiking trails managed by Frank Eggert. Disused telephone poles, deck planks, and railroad ties were employed to bridge streams and wetlands along these routes.

Today the WEC maintains over six miles of trails, including dozens of bridges and boardwalks, plus various information kiosks and directional signs. Recent natural events such as the 2015 "macroburst" windstorm, 2018 heavy rains, and beaver dam construction have led to trail improvements built to survive persistent wet conditions. A prime example is a 300-foot boardwalk that \$\times\$ WEC and the Lions Club built in just two weeks during 2017.

WEC has a long tradition of public outreach as well. Public hikes are normally offered three times a year, in addition to more focused events for school and scouting groups. From 2006 to 2012, WEC coesponsored the unique East Coast Vulture Festival to bring positive attention to birds that some viewed as unwelcome intruders. WEC also co-sponsors the Mad Hatter's Tree Party, an outdoor celebration of trees with a whimsical "Alice in Wonderland" theme.

To learn more about the WEC and view our Trail Guide, please visit our website at

www.WenonahEnvironmentalCommission.org. On Facebook we are "Friends of Wenonah Trails."

#### Wenonah a Century Ago

#### From the Woodbury Constitution, March 1921

- The Memorial Presbyterian Church had a big day Sunday. In the morning, communion was observed, a large congregation communing, fourteen new members were received and five babies were baptized, Forrest Nolan Magee, Dorothy Marie Shultz, Margaret Florence Martin, Gladys Bernice Martin and David Cunningham Schwarz.
- Rev. F.B. Morley and family left Wenonah on Thursday afternoon for their new charge. Their many friends wish them successful in their undertaking.
- Rev. Chas. St. C. Fees, pastor of the ME Church, arrived with his family, at the parsonage, Saturday, where they were given a warm reception by the committee in charge.
  - Mr. Churchill Hungerford Sr., who is a member of the Ocean City Fishing Club, was one of the distinguished guests at the angler's dinner held in the ballroom of the Hotel Astor, New York City, last evening. Mr. Hungerford's subject was "Sea Angling on the Jersey Coast" and the necessity of protection of salt water fish along the entire Atlantic coast line.
- The West Side members of the Wenonah Athletic Club have challenged the East Side members to an indoor meet to be held in the gymnasium on Monday evening next. The West Side members demonstrated their superiority at volley ball at the last meeting and are confident of winning the indoor meet. All members should attend the meetings regularly and keep in trim for the big event.
- The folks of nearby towns were amazed and amused on Saturday afternoon by the sight of Wenonah's fire engine filled with women firemen. They were members of the Ladies' Auxiliary out for the purpose of advertising the Poverty Social they are giving this Friday evening in the Academy gymnasium for the benefit of their building fund. There will be fine entertainment given of vocal and instrumental solos and fancy dances and drills and a general good time with refreshments and general dancing to top off the evening. Any one wearing good clothes or jewelry will be fined a few cents in addition to the admission of thirty-five cents for adults and twenty-five cents for children. Every one is invited to come and help make the affair a success.



PO Box 32 Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Benefits	NAME:
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER	Address:
Monthly meetings with interesting programs	
Access to historical archives and memorabilia	
INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS	
	PHONE:
	EMAIL ADDRESS:
	RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO
Bring form and payment to meeting, or mail.	AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK CASH
WHS PO Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090	Any information you would like to see presented in future programs or newsletters?
Dues: \$15.00 per family household per year	