

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 5 May 2006

MESSAGE FROM

PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The Historical Society will have its monthly meeting on the second Friday, May 12, 2006. We will be discussing plans for the June picnic which we have decided to have in the Community Center. Please bring a dish of food or a dessert. The Society will provide the beverages.

The entertainment for the May meeting will be a Memorial Day service provided by the Arthur J. Holeton Post #192, American Legion. I believe we should have Wenonah organizations tell of their history. We have had several participants speak. We will give a brief history of Post 192 since its founding in 1920.

On May 15, 2006, the Home and School Committee will have its annual Ice Cream Social at the Wenonah Public School. We should all support this program. This organization does a wonderful job of assisting the teachers and the administration in the education of our children. While you are at the school please visit our display in the school lobby. Betty Rose keeps it filled with historic items. This time it will have pictures and artifacts that pertain to the history of Wenonah.

On May 30, 2006 The Women's Club is sponsoring the annual Red Cross Blood Drive at the Presbyterian Church from 2: PM to 8: PM. Phone calls are being made seeking donors. Donors should call Jennie McQuaide at 468-3001 to make an appointment.

As to the proposed rehabilitation of the Community Center, revised specifications were sent to the historical architect and from there to Trenton.

The time period is about 6 weeks, then requests for bids can be solicited. Then another 6 weeks for review of the bids and their acceptance.

Betty Rose, Chairlady of the Fourth of July Open House, has formed a committee and letters will be sent out to 12 Wenonah Organizations asking them to display historical pictures or artifacts. Individual citizens will also be asked to show any historic items they may have.

The Wenonah Historical Society banner is now on display at the ball

WHS OFFICERS 2006

President	Don Ralston
Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

field located at South East Avenue and East Cedar Street. Jack Sheppard did the design. If you have not yet seen it please do so.

Pat Sole, Jack Sheppard and I have had an opportunity to examine the model sailing ship hand-crafted by an original citizen of Wenonah, Andrew Carey. The model is in very good shape in a glass case. After the Community Center renovations we will move it here for display. The model is over one hundred thirty years old.

May is when Americans pause to honor their fallen heroes. Memorial Day was commemorated after the Civil War when Ladies of the Confederacy placed flowers on the graves of their soldiers.

On Saturday, May 27, 2006 Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, will place flags on the graves of Veterans buried in the Wenonah Cemetery. Veterans buried there are from the Civil War through the Vietnam War until the present.

We thank you for your interest in the Wenonah Historical Society and the support you have given to it.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Hard to remember now, even harder for younger generations of Americans to grasp, but back in the days of the first and second world wars the defense of our homeland was not taken for granted.

As a teenager during the early days of World War II, before entering the Navy in 1944, I had many experiences that when I tell my grandchildren about them they seem incredulous.

For example, total blackouts on the Ocean City boardwalk during summers in 1942 and 1943. Strict food rationing as well as other commodities including gas, and no pleasure driving allowed. Horses and wagons being used for deliveries of milk and bread, as well as to get racing patrons to Eugene Morie's brand new Garden State Race Track. The wagons picked up people on street corners in the area around the track and returned them after the races.

That kind of patriotism has just about disappeared from the United States today and we are a different people and country without it, at least in my opinion.

Frankly, hindsight being what it is, there is a greater chance of Wenonah being "invaded" by the enemy during this current war of terror than ever existed during prior conflicts. But home defense was a serious matter during both of those wars as the following newspaper articles and excerpts will indicate.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

WORLD WAR I

Woodbury Daily Times April, 1917

Last evening a big patriotic mass meeting was held in the Wenonah Military Academy gymnasium. Every seat was taken and a number had to stand, but still we had room for the few more whose faces we did not see. A most enthusiastic gathering was there, however.

After seats had been secured for as many as possible the Scouts and Camp Fire Girls came in. and then the Academy boys, led by their band, marched in.

The meeting was opened by the singing of America accompanied by the Cadet Band. After this Rev. R. H. Gage led in a splendid prayer, praying God for his mighty help in this struggle. Following the prayer Mayor Fowler Cline gave an enthusiastic appeal to the people, dealing with the purpose of the meeting. Then Hon. David O. Watkins, of Woodbury was Introduced by Mayor Cline and delivered an especially fine address which fired the people with patriotism.

Mr. Geo. Grosscup. Borough Clerk read the minutes of the meeting of the Joint committees. Mr. Charles Hobson then gave a talk on the work of the census committee, of which he is chairman, after which Mayor Cline gave a call for volunteers for military training for home defence, to which more than forty responded. There are quite a number of men in our town already in the service of their country, but there are others who could have offered their services.

The Nakomls Camp Fire Girls of Wenonah offered their services In any way possible and asked for permission to practice rifle shooting.

There will be drills three nights a week in the gymnasium, which was very kindly offered us by Dr. Lorence. Captain McFeely has also volunteered his service to drill the men, so there is no doubt that the men should become finely trained soldiers. Dr. Lorence then gave a short address telling the men that these drills were to be regarded as very serious affairs and also explaining other military subjects. Then everyone arose and, accompanied by the band joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner". There were nearly four hundred people who attended.

Next, six months later, is a letter from Mayor C. Fowler Cline to the citizens. It appears the patriotism exhibited during the April rally had fizzled out and

he felt the need to send a personal letter to stir renewed enthusiasm. He apparently felt if you could drill properly it would enable you to fight well. Notice his accusation at the end, that the women were doing more than the men.

Wenonah, N.J., Sept. 18, 1917.

Dear Sir:

You are cordially invited to attend the rally and reorganization of "Wenonah Home Guards" in Academy Drill Hall, Monday Eve., Sept. 24th, 8 o'clock, at which time plans for the winter work will be decided and a full list of officers elected by the members.

Those in authority in both Nation and State urge upon us the need and importance of organized, drilled companies of Home Guards. Wenonah has done splendidly and has made quite a reputation in the County as a leader in this work. The need for such Organizations exists now as much as at any time and the fact that we have had no need for actual service arid cannot now see any actual, visible danger does not prove that such need does not exist.

Gardens, vacations and a number of members entering active service has interfered with our attendance at drills during the summer months but now that winter evenings are here and we plan to drill but one evening a week we expect renewed Interest.

Every one of those who have attended our meetings and drills claim to have derived real benefits from the drills and exercises as well as genuine pleasure from the social intercourse with their fellow men of Wenonah.

We believe it to be the patriotic duty of every man who is physically able to do his bit toward the protection of his home and community.

Come out to this meeting and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you. It will do you good, you will do good and you will enjoy it. Don't let the fact that you have never drilled keep you away; the officers will take care of that.

Membership .In "Wenonah Home Guards" is for service in the Borough of Wenonah only, just as its name implies.

The women of our town are doing splendid work, are the men going to let them do it all?

Respectfully yours,
C. Fowler Cline, Mayor

Woodbury Daily Times May, 1917

The Wenonah Woman's Service Committee since the first of the year have made 4,531 bandages, 1,496 oakum pads, 7,002 gauze compresses, 450 towels, 140 wash rags, 50 surgical sponges, 72 eye bandages, 107 sweaters, 80 helmets, 70 wristlets, 50 pairs of socks, 92 trench caps, 3 coverlets and 1 Belgian shawl. We call on everyone in our town to do something for this great and necessary cause.

Woodbury Daily Times May, 1917

In a letter to Mr. Edw. L. Farr, President of the Wenonah branch of the American Red Cross the Rev. Elbert M. Conover stated "The Methodist Episcopal Church has, sometime ago, placed its entire force and organization at the command of the Government for the purpose of helping win the war at the earliest possible time".

The letter went on to say the Wenonah church has a patriotic Service Committee composed of Messers. Hobson, Fleming, Ekey, Bell and Evans who are asking each church member to commit to giving a certain sum each month and advising the amount of \$10.00 has been volunteered already.

Woodbury Daily Times June 1919

HOME GUARDS ATTENTION! We are invited to take part in the big Fourth of July parade next Friday morning. It's the last time we shall be called upon so let us respond with all the fervor and enthusiasm of the days when we believed we should be needed to defend our own immediate firesides.

WORLD WAR II

And this apparent need to act on the home front to defend our borders and community continued at the onset of the next "great war". Consider the following;

Woodbury Daily Times Feb, 1942

Wenonah Pupils to Build Model Planes. Pupils in manual training classes of the Wenonah School soon will be making models of hundreds of airplanes to assist in a national program to instruct defense units to identify enemy aircraft David Starr, chairman of the manual training committee explained.

Woodbury Daily Times Apr. 1942

All auxiliary trainees of Wenonah, including are raid wardens, auxiliary firemen, auxiliary police, first aid groups, demolition squads, home nursing classes, gas and decontamination units, members of

the Wenonah defense council and the citizens of Wenonah are requested to attend a meeting to be held at the American Legion Hall Thursday April 30th. Experts will attend and explain the proper procedure to follow in event of gas attack on our community.

Another on the same date;

Citizens of Wenonah; Commencing this Saturday your local salvage committee is instituting a collection campaign for waste materials that are urgently needed by your government. The boys in the front lines are doing a swell job. Let's show them we are behind them on the home front and "get in the scrap".

Woodbury Daily Times May. 1942

On Thursday evening commencing at 9:00 p.m. and ending at 9:30 p.m. there will be a practice simulated air raid in the Borough of Wenonah. It is only by practice that we can function properly and smoothly in case a real air raid should occur. Norman L. MacLeod, Chairman Local Defense Committee and Wayne M. Ralston, Acting Chief, Wenonah Fire Company.

Woodbury Daily Times Sept. 1942

Air Warning!! How many Wenonah people know where the observation post is located, that protects you and our community. Do you know it is manned 24 hours each day? Have you ever thought, as you hear the planes roar overhead, that it might be an enemy plane?

Woodbury Daily Times Oct. 1942

Urging every man, woman and child in Wenonah to hasten the day of victory by salvaging needed scrap materials, Mayor Gilmour today pledged full support to the local salvage campaign. He said "As you search for scrap in your own home remember that the scrap you are looking for will give our armed forces more weapons for a quicker victory."

Woodbury Daily Times Nov. 1942

More volunteers are needed to assist in the bandage-folding project now in progress each Wednesday at the Legion Hall.

Woodbury Daily Times Jan. 1943

Volunteers are needed to man the airplane observation post on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 to 5 a.m. This is the most difficult watch to fill and a service demanding real sacrifice.

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

Stamp
Here

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2006

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOUR HOME
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGEABLE HISTORIANS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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
