

# Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 7 November 2005

MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

As we head into the fall and winter seasons, our membership continues to grow and at the end of October totals 92. If any member is aware of friends or neighbors who would like to join the Historical Society please notify membership chairperson Jean Cowles.

Betty Rose reported that the display case, in the Wenonah Public School lobby has been filled with decades old farm equipment on loan to us from the Gloucester County Historical Society. If you have not had a chance to view this exhibit please do so before the materials are returned.

Jack Sheppard, chairman of the committee filing our historic artifacts reports progress. Julie Ream of our Academy Hill section, who has considerable experience in cataloguing and filing, has been working with Jack. They have been consulting with the Gloucester County Historical Society who use a computer program similar to ours as their filing system. I am pleased to report this progress. At a date in the near future volunteers will be called upon to assist with identifying, labeling and storing the historical objects and records of Wenonah.

Although our organization is not the custodian of the Community Center Jack recently became aware of three problems with this building. The heating and cooling system thermostat failed as did the oil burner.

Also a falling roll of carpeting broke a window. The problems were taken care of by the borough.

We wish to thank Bob Bevilaqua and Frank Eggert for the fine program they presented at the October meeting describing the Conservation area surrounding Wenonah and the trails they have built through the area.

The program for the November 11th meeting features a skit written by Marjorie Lentz about the founding of the Woman's Club in 1922.

### WHS OFFICERS 2005

<b>President</b>	<b>Don Ralston</b>
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Jack Sheppard Sr.</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Eileen Caraker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carol Wiltsee</b>
<b>Corr. Sec.</b>	<b>Betty MacLeod</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Vicki McCall</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Lucy Schulz</b>

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

The original idea of forming a local club was proposed by Jessie White after she had attended the 1922 New Jersey State Federation of Women's annual convention in Atlantic City.

Jessie and Nathaniel White were long time residents of Wenonah.

Nathaniel White and George Eldridge were instrumental in promoting the idea and securing assistance from the estate of Frank Stewart to acquire the lands surrounding Wenonah known as the Conservation Area.

We want to congratulate Rachel and Ralph Knisell who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 17th, 2005. Rachel is a charter member of the Wenonah Historical Society. She is now designated as the official historian for Wenonah. Rachel has been honored by the Cape May County Historical Society for the very large collection of scrape books and photo albums she has assembled for that section of South Jersey. Rachel is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her family tree extends back to the early 1700's. A large amount of our historical artifacts were gathered by Rachel.

Eileen and Bill Caraker extended their thanks to all in the Historical Society for the generosity and support during their son Bradley's stay in the Children's Hospital. They truly appreciated our kindness and prayers.

Please plan to attend our November meeting. Several of our members are also members of the Woman's Club.

### HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Researching old Wenonah records one gets the impression that during the early days our town was overrun with animals. There were dogs, goats, cows, horses pigs and chickens wandering through people's yards and ruining the grass in the park. There were frequent complaints about dogs biting citizens. But when Borough Council introduced legislation to control the problem people turned out in droves against such regulations.

# PUBLIC SALE!

## 100 BUILDING LOTS

WILL BE SOLD

### AT PUBLIC AUCTION

On THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23d, 1890.

AT THE

WENONAH HOUSE, WENONAH, N. J.

100 OF THE MOST ELIGIBLE AND DESIRABLE BUILDING LOTS  
IN THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH.

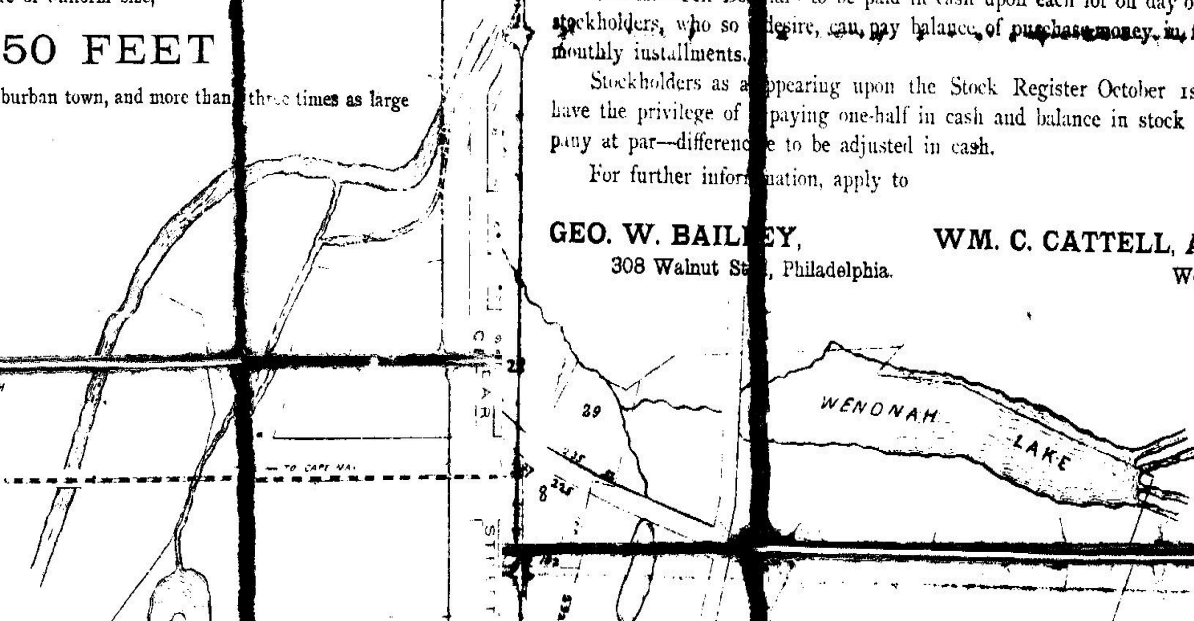
SALE POSITIVE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER,  
WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.

With a single exception, and the lots reserved for business purposes west of  
the railroad, the lots to be sold are of uniform size,

### 75X150 FEET

THE LARGEST offered by any suburban town, and more than three times as large  
as some.

- SOLD AND IMPROVED
- ▲ SOLD
- TO BE SOLD
- † M. E. CHURCH
- + PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- WENONAH HOUSE
- ⌒ PUBLIC SCHOOL



# WENONAH

Enjoys the most beautiful location on the line of the West Jersey Railroad, and offers advantages superior to any other town in New Jersey adjacent to Philadelphia.

WIDEST AVENUES, HIGHEST LOCATION, LARGEST LOTS,

SHADED AVENUES, FLAGGED WALKS, LIGHTED STREETS,

THRIVING CHURCHES, EXCELLENT SCHOOL, GOOD STORES,

PURE SPRING WATER, ECONOMICAL BOROUGH GOVERNMENT,

FREEDOM FROM SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS,

CHEAP COMMUTATION RAILROAD FARES, FREQUENT TRAINS,

GOOD SOCIETY, LOW TAXES.

IN FACT, ABOUT EVERY ADVANTAGE WHICH THE MOST PARTICULAR COULD REQUIRE.

If you are considering the question of a residence in the suburbs, where your family will be free from the contaminations of a city life, and enjoy the benefits of fresh air and pure water, then you cannot afford to determine upon a location without first informing yourself as to the advantages which Wenonah has to offer.

The lots will be conspicuously marked prior to day of sale, and the Agent of the Company may be found at his office at Wenonah daily.

Sale to commence at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

TERMS.—Ten Dollars to be paid in cash upon each lot on day of sale. Non-stockholders, who so desire, can pay balance of purchase money in five per cent monthly installments.

Stockholders as appearing upon the Stock Register October 1st, 1890, can have the privilege of paying one-half in cash and balance in stock of the Company at par—difference to be adjusted in cash.

For further information, apply to

GEO. W. BAILLEY,  
308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

WM. C. CATTELL, Agent,  
Wenonah, N. J.

## Wenonah Land and Improvement Company Sale of Building Lots - 1890

The documents shown on the opposite page are from an original blueprint on linen backing. There were little or no plastics in those days and paper was not useful for blueprints and other drawings when they were intended for long-term use. This plat plan is in excellent condition although over 110 years old. It is only illegible at the folds.

As you can see the sale date was "October 23d, 1890" and the sale was for the purpose of selling "100 Building Lots".

As mentioned some legibility is lost at the folds and in the copying process so I will retype the smallest type to avoid eyestrain on your part trying to read it. It says the following:

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"Wenonah . . .Enjoys the most beautiful location on the line of the West Jersey Railroad and offers advantages superior to any other town in New Jersey adjacent to Philadelphia".

"Widest Avenues, Highest Location, Largest Lots, Shaded Avenues, Flagged Walks, Lighted streets, Thriving Churches, Excellent School, Good Stores, Pure Spring Water, Economical Borough Government, Freedom From Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, Cheap Commutation Railroad Fares, Frequent Trains, Good Society, Low Taxes. In Fact, About Every Advantage Which the Most Particular Could Require"

"If you are considering the question of a residence in the suburbs, where your family will be free from the contaminations of a city life, and enjoy the benefits of *fresh air* and *pure water*, then you cannot afford to determine upon a location without first informing yourself as to the advantages which Wenonah has to offer."

"The lots will be conspicuously marked prior to the day of sale, and the Agent of the

Company may be found at his office at Wenonah daily."

"Sale to commence at 1 o'clock in the afternoon"

"Terms – Ten Dollars to be paid in cash upon each lot on day of sale. Non-stockholders, who so desire, can pay the balance of purchase money in five per cent monthly installments."

"Stockholders as appearing upon the Stock Register October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1890, can have the privilege of paying one-half in cash and balance in stock of the Company at par – difference to be adjusted in cash."

"For further information, apply to"

Geo. W. Bailey, 308 Walnut Street,  
Philadelphia

Wm. C. Cattell, Agent, Wenonah, N.J.

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William C. Cattell was a land surveyor who did most of the Wenonah surveying.

Dr. George Bailey was one of the first citizens of Wenonah and played a very important part in our town's creation.

He was born on a New Jersey farm near Paulsboro, carried a musket in the Civil War, and taught school while studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1871 he had a residence dwelling built at the SE Corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues across from the Library. It is still there.

He was an original member of the Mantua Land & Improvement Company, the company that created Wenonah.

Dr. George W. Bailey appears to have been born in the year 1840 or thereabouts. If this is so he was 76 years of age when he died. He is interred along with his wife at the Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro, NJ.]

By Jack C. Sheppard Sr. , Editor



Wenonah Station Winter 2005

Stamp  
Here

Wenonah Historical Society  
PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005

### Membership Benefits

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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