

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 7 September 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The summer season is just about over and we now look forward to our Fall and Winter Seasons.

With great sorrow we note two of our members have passed away since our last meeting. Helen Smith Manners and Harry Schroeder, both faithful members of the Wenonah Historical Society and long time residents of Wenonah. We will miss their presence at our meetings.

Our September meeting is scheduled for the second Friday, September 8th, 2006. Vicki and Lou McCall have again graciously offered their home for this meeting. Normally we start our meeting at 7:30 p.m. However this meeting we will start an hour earlier at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite "libation" or dessert to share with others. An informal business meeting will be held.

On Saturday, September 30th, 2006 the 18th Annual Wenonah Harvest Fair will be held in Wenonah Park., from 9: a.m. to 4: p.m. Betty MacLeod is in charge of our location where we will be selling our merchandise. We invite every member to purchase one or more items for sale. If you do not already have one of our banners with our logo at your home, we have a lot to sell. This is the way we advertise our organization. Another item is the booklet, "Map Overview of Wenonah" written by Chuck Forsman. It is a wonderful

story of Wenonah and makes a great gift for your grandchildren. We will have caps, place mats, photographs and other items that were displayed on the Fourth of July.

The Fourth of July Open House was a big success with twelve local organizations displaying their historical items. Our thanks go to Chairperson Betty Rose and her committee of Pat Sole, Jo Dominy, and Betty MacLeod.

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

A large crowd, mingled, enjoyed fellowship and the various exhibits.

Frank Eggert reports that to date 101 historical home identification plaques have either been installed or are on order. If your home is 75 years or older or you know of someone whose home meets this criteria, contact Frank.

With respect to the proposed renovations to the Community Center, Wenonah is waiting for approval of the revised specifications from the NJ Dept. of Transportation in Trenton.

In the fall, work on cataloguing our artifacts will also be resumed.

For those who are interested, on Saturday September 9th "One Night of Song and Dance" will be held at the Wenonah Lake. Enjoy another evening at historic Wenonah Lake.

As we all know Bradley Caraker passed away earlier this year from leukemia. On Sunday, October 1, 2006 a Run/Walk for T-Cell Research will be held to benefit the Children's Hospital and T-Cell Research. It will start at 8:15 a.m. at the Wenonah School. If you cannot physically participate perhaps you would make a donation to assist with this excellent cause. This fundraiser is dedicated to Bradley's memory.

Thank you for your support of the Wenonah Historical Society these past several years.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Gloucester County Democrat 4/22/87.

Mr. E.L. Farr, the Camden manufacturer has plans perfected and contracts made for the erection of a palatial residence at Wenonah. The site is on the main avenue nearly opposite Mr. Synnott's house. The house will be a combination of Chestnut Hill and Indiana limestone and pebbledash, and finished in a variety of the finest hard woods. The work will be done by Woodbury mechanics, Mr. E.P. Henry having the contract for the stonework and Wilmer B. Haines will superintend the carpenter work. The cost of construction will be about \$20,000.

Glimpses into Wenonah's Past

Gloucester County Democrat April 20, 1893

This beautiful residence borough (Wenonah) is now taking its longest stride forward. New buildings are being erected of a character that give the town an air of stability and thrift, possessed by new suburban places, and the borough authorities are evincing a public spirit in keeping with period by the introduction of a complete system of sewerage, Insuring to the people surroundings that shall be as healthful as the borough is beautiful.

The Wenonah Inn Company, of which Stephen Greene, Dr. George W. Bailey, Dr. Wm. Greene, Chas. M. Wilkins, T. W. Synnott, Isaac Stevenson, J. Frank Shall are Directors, and of which Stephen Greene, is President; Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, Vice President; Dr. Wm. Greene, Treasurer, Is just completing a magnificent hotel designed to accommodate 150 guests. The house and furniture will cost at least \$70,000 and be completed in time for this season's business. The erection of this hotel was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad are erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks, immediately opposite the old station. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

Another evidence of the broad and liberal platform on which the borough of Wenonah is constructed is, that in public affairs, politics is eschued [sic] and public servants are chosen on the basis of fitness. At the Borough election last week Wednesday, J. Blair Smith and Ed. K. Grosscup, Democrats, were elected Commissioners for three years, and Richard Ballinger, for one year, to fill the unexpired term of H. C. Hess. The Board of Commissioners organized by electing Mr. T. W. Synnott, President. Stated meetings are held on the last Friday evening of each month, and at the next meeting the President will announce the Committees.

Real estate has had a boom here the past week, and this is only a forerunner of what is to follow. Mr. R. J. Clark has bought back from Jesse English the store property for \$8,000. The price of

the stock is to be fixed by an appraisement. Blair Smith, bought four houses of the Horatio Mulford estate, and has already sold one of them. Commissioner Ed. E. Grosscup has bought four lots on William Street from the Cohen estate. Rumor says he will do some building soon.

Mr. J. Frank Shull has clothed his residence in fashionable and becoming colors, and it is one of the beautiful houses of the borough.

Gloucester County Democrat December 7, 1893

The jingle of sleigh bells, the merry shouts of the school children, the whirling of the snow, and the debut of Ulster's and gum boots remind us that winter is here.

The right Rev. John Scarborough, Bishop of the diocese of N.J. held services at St. Barnabas Chapel last Sunday. In spite of the inclemency of the weather quite a number of our Episcopalians were among the congregation.

The corporation owning the Wenonah Inn has closed the contract for the management of this elegant establishment, which will be opened to the public some time in April.

Mr. Wm. McCowan's imposing residence on Mantua Avenue is one of the numerous, handsome and attractive houses lately erected on that thoroughfare.

The real beauty of our little station is more highly appreciated these cold wintry mornings than during the summer months. To the early birds especially, the bright cheery waiting room presents a most attractive appearance. The building of the station master's house in connection with the office is a great improvement also making it not only more convenient for this official, but giving him a better opportunity of fulfilling the duties of his position.

Mr. Thos. W. Synnott was missed from his accustomed place in the Presbyterian Sunday school last Sabbath. His old trouble, rheumatism visiting him again.

The Shull Peddle wedding is still the talk of the village, and the Gloucester County Democrat graphic account of the same has met with pleasant commendations.

In the way of modern improvements we can now claim to be ahead of any village in South Jersey. Businessmen, clerks and salesmen in Philadelphia appreciate this as is evinced by the increased demand for houses. Fifty houses could be rented here before Spring, but we have not a vacant house in the Borough.

Mr. Frank Cookson's youngest son Raymond, is convalescent from his recent illness.

Gloucester County Democrat December, 1894

George Vogt has returned from Philadelphia after a three week absence where he was engaged decorating several large private residences. (George did a lot of planting in our park)

Last Saturday evening the Wenonah assembly had a large card party at Noblitt's Hall.

Proprietor Piggott of the Inn announces that the hotel will be closed until May 1895 when he expects to reopen for the Spring and Summer season.

Sylvester Chew is laying sewer pipes to connect with the residences of Stephan Green, J. Frank Shull, Blair Smith, Edgar Smith and Edward Farr. After completion of this work these residences will have the most complete drainage system in South Jersey (raw sewage was discharged into the Mantua Creek where the children swam.)

The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches united in celebrating Thanksgiving Day. The collections were donated to the house for feeble-minded children in Vineland.

George R. West has opened an office in the building occupied by William C. Cattell on Mantua Avenue. (This building was on the corner of NW and Mantua Aves called the Borough Commissioner's building, moved to present site of Wild Iris Florist Shoppe)

The butcher shop on West Jersey Avenue, which is owned by Thos. Dilks has been closed for the winter season (SW corner SW and Park Avenues)

Mr. Stephan Greene is laying several hundred yards of flagging in the southeast end of the borough.

The decisions of the Supreme Court against the rights of women to hold office as school trustees has created a great deal of discussion here. Our lady trustees, notably Mrs. Carey, were acknowledged among the best our school has had.

A dance was held by the Wenonah Assembly in the Amusement Hall of the inn on Saturday evening.

An entertainment consisting of music and tableaux will be given on Friday night by the Forget-me-not Mission Band of the Presbyterian Church in the Amusement Hall of the Wenonah Inn.

The Wenonah Water Company are boring several artesian wells and erecting a large pumping and engine house in the glen near the lake. (Warner's Lake)

On account of not all the tickets being in for the prize bicycle, the award will not be made until next Monday.

The receipts of the post office for the past year are over seven hundred dollars and the average daily number of letters which has passed through the mail has been two hundred and thirty.

Last Wednesday the Wenonah branch of the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children held their first business meeting.

Charles Bilderback has contracted with J.T. West for a new roof to be placed on his house. (This house, a replica of Holly Bush in Glassboro was demolished to provide land for our Free Public Library)

Sweet potatoes are selling here from \$1 to \$4.35 per barrel.

On Monday evening, a Christmas service was held in the ME church at which Santa Claus appeared in all his glory, giving beautiful gifts and pleasant greetings to all the little folks. A large collection of groceries and vegetables was made to send to the worthy poor of Philadelphia.

In making the excavations for the foundation of the new building for the Wenonah water works contractor Brown struck a large vein of dark marl in which was imbedded mammoth oyster shells measuring one foot across and almost round.

Gloucester County Constitution

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
