

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 6 September 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;
Welcome Back!

PORCH PARTY FRIDAY SEPT 14TH 7:00PM

We are all looking forward to a fun filled and interesting year. First, Vicki and I are looking forward to again hosting and seeing all of you at this month's porch party at our home at 300 East Mantua Avenue on Friday the 14th at 7:00 pm to kick off our Fall schedule. Speaking during the meeting will be Karl Anderson on conservation in Wenonah. Refreshments and snacks will be served. We hope to see you there and remember, **start time 7: 00 PM!**

SUMMER 2007 ROUND UP

As you may or may not know, the theme for the 2007 July 4th again celebrated Wenonah's rich history. Our members were well represented in the patriotic ceremonies and in orchestrating the set-up and running of the open house historical exhibit "In the Beginning" at the Community Center. The exhibit was very well done and well attended. I have heard a lot of compliments about it. Very special thanks to all who helped on the Fourth, including but surely not limited to Betty Rose, Pat Sole, Helen Sheppard and Jo Dominy.

WENONAH FAMILY ALBUM

Related to Jack Sheppard and Vicki's speeches on the Fourth is the

importance of the need to document and preserve what we have today before it is gone. I again urge you to please take the time to compile some photos and stories/memories you cherish and want to share with future generations of you and/or your family living in Wenonah. Please give them to Barb Cappelli or myself so we may compile them in order to safeguard one of our richest natural resources-our history.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

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

With Deepest Regrets – Our condolences to Betty and the MacLeod family on the passing of her husband Doug during the summer. He will be missed but he will always remain one of Wenonah's finest.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

OCTOBER 12th: Paul Stankard ~ glass arts

NOVEMBER 9th: South Jersey Ghost Research ~they're ba-ack!

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

WENONAH SCHOOL
FALL DISPLAY

In partnership with the Gloucester County Historical Society, the first display for the school year will begin on September 12, 2007. The theme will be about Native Americans, with the main focus on the Lenape tribe living in and around our area. Artifacts on display will include arrow and spearheads, axes, smoking pipes, hoes, clay bowls, pottery shards as well as information on this subject. The exhibit will continue through mid November.

You are invited to view the exhibit during school hours. Display cases are in the main entrance on North Clinton Avenue. Hopefully you will find this display both interesting and informative.

HISTORICAL FACTS

Prior to 1875 Wenonah children went to the Mantua school, and it was not thought a hardship for them to walk the couple miles there and back. After 1875 for some reason it was decided to send the children to the Monongahela School in Deptford, which was located about three miles east of Wenonah in a farming district.

The parents hired Charlie Buckman, who ran the flourmill that then stood at the foot of what is now called Warner's Pond, to carry the children back and forth in his one-horse stage about a dozen children attended the Monongahela School

Wenonah Historical Society Activity – Summer of 2007

by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Well as much as it pains me to say it the summer of 2007 is all but over, but what a summer it was. Great weather for summer lovers like me with an outstanding Fourth of July. Belated congratulations are due Betty Rose who chaired the open house display in the Community Center along with the many member volunteers who assisted her. Also kudos to Pat Sole who set up the fund-raiser display and sold many items during the open-house period.

For those who missed the event the theme was “The Beginning”, especially the railroads and the part they played in the creation of Wenonah. Worthy of particular note were the following photographs and displays that were featured;

- A photo of the West Jersey railroad track route prior to 1866 via what is now Jefferson Avenue. The tracks were adjacent to Wenonah Lake crossing the Mantua Creek at “Clay Hill”. Also a plaque containing a cross-section of rail from that route. (both items contributed by member Carol Campbell)
- A large (36” X 48”) map of the Wenonah area between 1770/1870 showing owner’s names of farms that became Wenonah. The current street layout is superimposed on the drawing.
- Photos of the first Wenonah station (circa 1866), the current station (circa 1893) and other stations including North Woodbury, Woodbury, Pitman, Glassboro and Clayton.
- An exhibition of “HO” gauge model trains provided by former Wenonah resident Len Morgan.
- Photos of the Wenonah House Hotel (circa 1872) that became the Wenonah Inn (circa 1890) that of course became the Wenonah Military Academy (circa 1904).
- An aerial view of Wenonah with the Military Academy in the center.

The summer of 2007 also saw continuing gains in the creation of the WHS Museum in the Community Center building. Julie Ream and her volunteers continued the cataloguing of Military Academy artifacts and photos. For those who may have forgotten what Julie is doing, the work consists of identifying the various historic objects and

photographs, mostly but not entirely Military Academy, entering the information in the computer, and then suitably storing the materials in the various boxes, files, closets and shelves available to us.

I find it advisable to remind the membership from time to time that the “Museum” being created cannot be the kind you normally think of when the word “museum” is mentioned. Due to the nature and location of the second floor space with the single narrow and winding access stairway and lack of fire protection facilities, open public access to the collection is out of the question. Instead the materials will be readily retrievable for display in the first floor space, or through computer access, or both, and possibly by links to the library and the school. The other advantage the repository provides is the ability to receive and store historic materials from contributors so items of Wenonah history will no longer leave town in a trash receptacle, as may have happened too-often in the past.

Lastly, the Borough performed some curb installation and street paving activity adjacent to the station during the summer. However at this writing there is still no definite timetable for repairs and improvements to the building itself. According to Borough Engineer David Kreck any such rehabilitation activity will not occur until 2008 or later. Considering the deplorable condition of parts of the station, (birds are actually nesting in holes in the gable-end woodwork), our Society may want to consider taking the lead in providing emergency repairs ourselves. Could be by volunteer work, financial contributions, or some combination of both.

Comments by Chairperson Betty Rose

Many of the viewing public commented favorably on the total exhibit, various articles of particular interest to them and they were happy to see old documents, discover facts they were unaware of pertaining to Wenonah and its growth.

The focal point of the exhibit was an old enlarged map of farm land (which would become Wenonah) overlaid with the layout of proposed building lots, Incorporation papers for the Mantua Land and Improvement Company and an Aerial view of the

early town all helped to draw the viewers interest. As the theme of the exhibit was Wenonah – In the Beginning, it featured many photos and written material pertaining to the town and how it evolved.

Many guests commented in a positive way about this event in general and each had favorites they enjoyed viewing. The ten oldest homes on the Wenonah Historical Society register were well received and led visitors to inquire on how to register and obtain a plaque. The large display of old photos drew a great deal of interest. No positive identification of any photo took place but the viewers seemingly enjoyed viewing them, especially the Victorians who were dressed to the nines in the heat of summer.

Over 200 people attended our “open-house” event, many from out of town, one from Vancouver, Canada, several from Spartanburg, SC, one from Charlotte, NC, one from Melbourne, Australia, one from Sarasota, FL., and four from PA. Our new guest book served us well! As we all know, celebrating Independence Day, Wenonah style is full of activities so it is all the more gratifying when we have a large number of the public take the time to visit our exhibit each year, obviously there are many people interested in revisiting the past, in and around Wenonah.

Sincere thanks to the many members who helped make this event possible by volunteering to help on this hectic, but fun-filled day.

Vicki McCall's Comments on the Fourth

Vicki was the featured speaker during the Patriotic Ceremonies. She spoke on growing up in Wenonah. I would like to share with you an excerpt of her speech that day:

“We learned the most about our home when we visited Wally Farr who was the first of 6 children born in the house in 1891. Our son Sean was the next generation to be born at the house in 1995. Wally shared many stories of Wenonah. Growing up in a town where young boys loved the woods, muskrat hunting, and canoeing from Wenonah to Cooper River. His shared experiences from the past made me realize that what stand out as the MOST important feature of this town are its people.”

Our friends and neighbors are the fabric of this place we call home. It is the Jack Sheppard's who we all have honored today for his tireless dedication to this town, it is the Chuck Forsmans and Bevilacquas and Frank Eggerts who spend endless hours making sure all future generations enjoy the Wenonah of their childhoods with the endless trails, forts, streams, and lakes. It is the Rachael Knissels who put us to shame with her constant tending of the gardens around the train station; it is Mr. Ehlers walking through the park every morning rain or shine, stopping to speak to neighbors, the crossing guard, as we are taking our children to school. It is Kathy Ralston who taught and mentored many of us here and her husband Don Ralston whose heartfelt prayers from a bible given to him by his mother when he went to war. It is Lucy Schultz who has lived in this town longer than anyone here. She still remembers when Cedar/Langston Field was a racetrack complete with racehorses. She was fortunate enough to actually attend dances at the Military Academy.

For all of you new to this town, take the time to say hello to these new neighbors. They have the stories, the fabric that binds this town together as a community. Do NOT miss the opportunity to get to know those who have guided and nurtured this town for so long and with so much love.

The roots of this town also lie with those who are no longer with us. It is Milton Webb who knew more secrets about this town and more history than anyone would think possible for one man's brain! It is the Victor Anderson's, the Harry Schroeder's, and the Doug Macleod's. It is Jane Ramsay who brought me into the fabulous and interesting fold of the Wenonah Historical Society...And for the unknowing, this group can party with the best of them. So get on board and pay your dues and be a part of the history of this town! OK....that's my plug for the day....

The bottom line is that this town is a community because of its people;...it is held together by a blending of the past with visions for the future. It is all of you here today who somewhere in the back of your head are humming the words to the Boss's song” This is your hometown”

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

Stamp
Here

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2007

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOUR HOME
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANs

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
