

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, January 11, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 1, January 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

A heartfelt wish to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year 2013. I feel our 2012 Holiday Party was another resounding success. The unanticipated visit by the Presbyterian Church Carolers that evening was most enjoyable and really helped kick off the festive Christmas season. Our thanks have been conveyed to them. I also want to thank again Jean Cowles for her diligent efforts in planning this annual event.

This month marks the end of a two-year term for myself and Paul Lader as President and Vice President, respectively. Elections will be held this Friday evening during our January 2013 Business Meeting. The current slate of WHS Officers are willing to serve another two-year term subject, of course, to member approval. Nominations from the floor will be accepted per Roberts Rules of Order.

Our presenter this month will be Tom Wilk, a resident of Pitman. Tom has worked as a reporter and copy editor for the Gloucester County Times (now SJ Times) and the Courier-Post between 1975 and 2012. He is the co-author of "New Jersey Firsts: The Famous, Infamous and Quirky of The Garden State" (Camino Books) and "Tales of South Jersey: Profiles and

Personalities" (Rutgers University Press). He also has written for New Jersey Monthly, Inside Jersey magazine, Atlantic City Magazine and Atlantic City Weekly, among other publications. Tom has had a longtime interest in New Jersey history and we look forward to his presentation.

I look forward to seeing you this coming Friday evening. Invite a friend.

## 2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2013 are now due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer or mailed using the membership application on the last page of this newsletter.

## ODDS AND ENDS

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Cara DeHart Lewis and Gerard McGarrity are currently working out the schedule for completing their video on Wenonah's rich history as well as the people that have made it into a wonderful town.

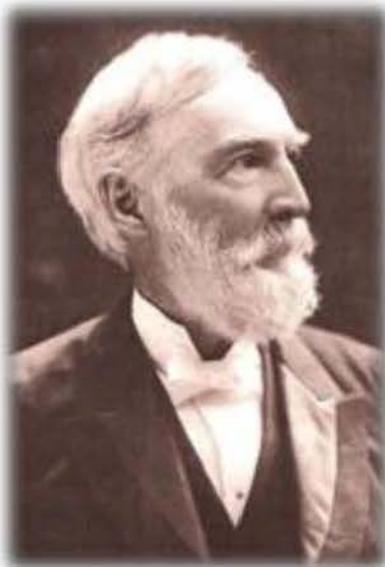
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The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. Sources of information for the article were "The Business Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania" by John Woolf Jordan, et al., and the book "Wenonah 2009" by Marjorie K. Lentz.

**STEPHEN GREENE: A FOUNDER AND PIONEER IN WENONAH**  
*by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.*



Stephen Greene  
1831 - 1908

In the interests of learning more about the founders and the bygone days of Wenonah, I rented a time machine at a nearby rental agency, had it delivered to the center of Wenonah park, and set the date-dial for September 20, 1904, the day the Wenonah Military Academy opened. A short time later I opened the door and stepped into the Park, the former front yard of the hotel that had been deeded to the town in perpetuity by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. It was a beautiful, warm Fall day. The park didn't look that different but as I looked toward the train station, a steam locomotive pulling passenger cars came into view with steam and smoke belching from it. On Mantua Avenue, which was still a dirt road, I saw a mixture of horse drawn wagons and automobiles. I walked toward the converted former hotel and standing on the veranda was Stephen Greene, there to cut the ribbon and welcome the first cadets to the school. He was an extremely distinguished looking man with white hair and beard. I introduced myself and asked if I could interview him

for an article I was writing. I decided to refrain from telling him I was from 108 years in the future as I thought it would focus attention on me and possibly thwart my reason for being there, to interview him.

Mr. Greene graciously agreed to be interviewed. We sat in cane-backed rocking chairs on the front porch of the former Wenonah Inn hotel, now an aspiring military/academic school, while activity swirled all around us on this the opening day.

This picturesque little town named Wenonah had only been here for 33 years, created by the West Jersey Railroad Company in 1871 to stimulate its passenger and freight business. The beautiful station located just a few hundred feet from the academy was a center of activity as trains arrived at the station disgorging a number of excited young men, anxious to get started on their higher education and careers. They were met by instructors and professors, many wearing military uniforms. They welcomed the youngsters and immediately commenced instilling in them the military discipline that was the backbone of the military style educational system.

The excitement was infectious and it was a great time to be in this wonderful small town named Wenonah.

I started the interview with Stephen Greene:

**Question:** When and where were you born?

**Stephen Greene** I was born in Bainbridge, New York on September 25, 1831. At age three my family moved to Columbia, Lancaster County Pennsylvania where I spent my young years and received my formal education.

**Question:** After your early years in Columbia where did you go next?

**Stephen Greene:** In 1846, I left home for Hellam Township, York County, Pennsylvania where I taught briefly in a district school. Although I eventually decided against a teaching career, throughout my life my interest in the education of young people was intense. I became friendly with the Dean and higher-ups at the University of Pennsylvania and assisted many young people in obtaining an education there.

**Question:** Tell me about your marriage and family.

**Stephen Greene:** In 1853, I married Martha Houston and started a family that eventually included a son and five daughters.

**Question:** You said you were a teacher but decided against that as your life's work. What did you do next?

**Stephen Greene:** After my brief teaching experience, I decided to take up a career in printing. I entered the printing field in 1847 working my way up the business ladder through employment with several printing companies, learning the printing business from the bottom up. By 1881, I felt I had enough skill and experience to succeed on my own in the printing business so I started the Stephen Greene Co., Printers, with myself as President.

**Question:** You were in the printing business in Philadelphia. Why and how did you become involved in the creation of a small town in New Jersey?

**Stephen Greene:** Earlier in my career, in 1870 while working for the Liesenring Printing Company in Philadelphia, I invented a method for printing a new type of railroad tickets with consecutive numbering, the first ever used in the railroad industry in this region. While doing research for this purpose I met with several railroad owners and operators including Civil War General William Sewell who was vice-president of the West Jersey Railroad Company. The West Jersey had recently realigned its rail system south of Camden, NJ making it a much more attractive and profitable freight and people mover. Following the track realignment, General Sewell and his Chief Engineer William F. Allen conceived the idea of creating a new town along the tracks, the chief objective being to stimulate business for the railroad. They were advertising a virtual Eden along the tracks offering fresh air and water, a new station, easy commutation to and from Philadelphia, all prerequisites for a "new suburban town." It sounded like a grand idea to me so I joined the General and several other businessmen in the venture. So on March 15, 1871, I joined Samuel A. Whitney, General William J. Sewell, George Wood, Horatio J. Mulford, George Harris, John Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas P. Carpenter, and Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the West Jersey Railroad, as the first Board of Directors of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. The Company was authorized to lay out building lots as well as boulevards, alleys and parks. It was directed to build a hotel and erect residences. In short, a town was born and they named it "Wenonah." I saw this place as a good business venture.

**Question:** I can understand the business investment attraction for you but you were in the printing

business in Philadelphia. Why did you become personally involved in the creation of a town where nothing existed except for fields of sweet potatoes and a few farm houses?

**Stephen Greene:** Philadelphia where I lived at this time and had my business was not only crowded but hotter than Hades in summer. I listened to the vision of Wenonah as expressed by General Sewell and his engineer William Allen and believed this would be an ideal place not only as an investment, but also as a cool and refreshing retreat for my family in the summer.

**Comment:** My interview was interrupted at this time by the arrival on the porch of Mayor Charles Lorence and Councilmen Thomas Synnott, Henry Peddle, James Carey, John HOLETON, Charles Yost and Daniel W. Brown. The group proceeded to welcome Stephen Greene and the Military Academy to Wenonah. Mayor Lorence made some brief remarks in which he commended Stephen Greene for his devotion to Wenonah commencing in 1870 when Mr. Greene was one of the original founders of Wenonah. He pointed out that Mr. Greene's investment in Wenonah of both money and time was to a substantial extent the reason for the town's success and reputation as a wonderful place to reside and raise a family. Councilman John HOLETON mentioned that he had an 8-year old son Arthur J. HOLETON, who he hoped would attend the Academy when he was old enough.<sup>1</sup>

**Sheppard:** I'm glad I was here when the Mayor and Council arrived as I already knew a lot about them having studied the history of the Borough Council, but it was great to have been able to meet them in person. Now, back to our interview:

**Question:** As Mayor Lorence mentioned, in 1870 you participated in the creation of Wenonah as an original member of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. Having done your part to get the town started you could have resumed a typical investor role by returning to Philadelphia and leaving the start-up work to the locals. Why did you stay around and get involved?

**Stephen Greene:** It was because of the new people I met during the start-up activities. In addition to General Sewell, there were Sam Whitney and Tom Synnott in the glass business, builder Dan Brown, Tom Carpenter in the boat-building and shipping business (Carpenter's Landing on Mantua Creek), and local farmers Isaac C. Stevenson and Charles Starns. They all seemed to have the same motivation as I did. They were self-made business successes with the American entrepreneurial spirit seeking to play a part in the growth of the railroads that were transforming the country. Remember, this region, so close to Philadelphia, still relied on horses on dirt roads and barges in the Mantua Creek to transport farm-products, goods and people to and from the cities.

**Question:** Well I can certainly understand your wanting to stay involved with the people involved in the creation of the town but you went further, you bought more building lots than any other investor. Why was that?

**Stephen Greene:** Mainly because I had a vision of what Wenonah could become and I wanted to play a part in it. Once it was decided to build the Wenonah House Hotel in the southeast quadrant of town, I could foresee that this section would grow the fastest, and not only provide the most housing sales opportunities, but would also be the most enjoyable to live in. I envisioned a large

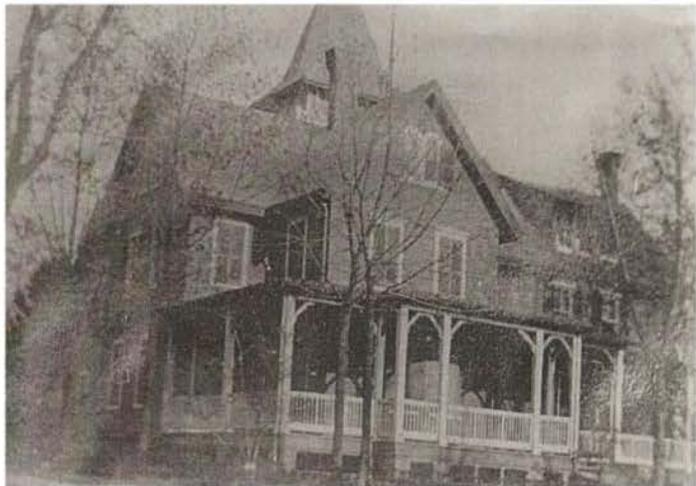
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<sup>1</sup> In fact, Arthur J. HOLETON did attend the Academy graduating in 1916. He lost his life in France during World War I. Wenonah American Legion Post 192 is named for him.

summer residence that my family could enjoy in the heat of the summer. I pictured one or more churches nearby to help with the religious needs of my family, and I hoped to build houses that would attract homebuyers having the same principles and objectives as I held.

And above all, it was a great experience starting a town from scratch and being involved with people such as Daniel Brown, Horatio J. Mulford, A. McFarland and Thomas W. Synnott. Double cottages were built facing the railroad tracks and a row of houses on West Willow Street was named "Brown Town" for Daniel Brown, the builder. The east side of the tracks where I took up residence was nicknamed "Greene Town" after me. Some builders used the identical plans on various lots and they can still be identified throughout Wenonah.

I built my home on the corner of South Clinton and East Willow streets and kind of got carried away with it. It became very large and part of a block-sized complex including a dwelling for my caretaker John Truncer, a coachman's dwelling, a laundry and living quarters for our cook and laundress, and a barn and stables. I also built a gazebo for my Dutch garden and a peacock house with a brick wall mortared with flecks of oyster shells bordering the peacock run. I even hired a Japanese gardener to care for the gardens and greenhouse. Once I got started it seemed as though I couldn't stop.



Stephen Greene's Home in Wenonah

So after completing my "residence" block, I developed South Marion Avenue at my own expense, lined the street with pine trees, laid many yards of flagstone, built a dam at the foot of Marion Ave. and developed Lake Cornelia, naming it for Cornelia Truncer, the wife of my caretaker. To aid in making the Wenonah House Hotel an even-more attractive destination I added a two-storied boathouse and a Japanese-designed bridge beside the lake. I built arbor-covered walks from rose gardens leading to a glen known as the Hermitage near my lake. I also built the town's first sanitary sewer system to serve the hotel and my various properties. I even built a sports complex at Cedar and Clinton streets for various sports including a grandstand seating 300 spectators. These were the predominant amusements at the time and were so successful I eventually expanded the grandstand to a capacity of 500. The sports attracted a lot of people to Wenonah, many of whom stayed and/or ate at the hotel. I did all this while running a successful printing business in Philadelphia. I was a busy guy.

*\*\*\* Jack Sheppard's interview of Stephen Greene will continued in the February newsletter. \*\*\**

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, February 8, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 2, February 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

I hope those in attendance enjoyed the presentation (verbal and photo) given in January by local author Tom Wilk. His presentation highlighted the history that surrounds us here in southern New Jersey. While it may not always be on a grand scale of national events (although some of it is), often it may be overlooked or taken for granted. I am drawn to it partly because it is close-by and easily accessible. Our own Wenonah Library has a nice selection of books that cover topics related to local history. Examples: New Jersey from Colony to State by legendary Rutgers history professor Richard McCormick. John Cunningham is a notorious New Jersey author of several books on local history topics. The library has available a number of his publications as well as various other authors.

Our program for February 8, 2013 will be given by Patricia A. Waltman Hrynenko, the Museum Collections Coordinator of the Gloucester County Historical Society. Her PowerPoint presentation will feature Sibyl Tatum Jones: Her family genealogy, history, heirlooms and dedication to the Gloucester County Historical Society. Patricia will expand on a current exhibit at the GCHS Museum

entitled "Stitched Through Time: A Legacy of Quilts, Part II."

I look forward to seeing you this coming Friday evening. Please bring a guest along.

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## ODDS AND ENDS

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➤ President Horan and I would greatly appreciate your ideas, thoughts and suggestions on the following:

- Programs for future meetings
- Feature stories or enhancements to the newsletter
- Ways to attract new members

Please send me an email or letter (110 S. Clinton Ave., Wenonah, NJ 08090), or give me a call (856-468-3480).

## 2011 WHS OFFICERS

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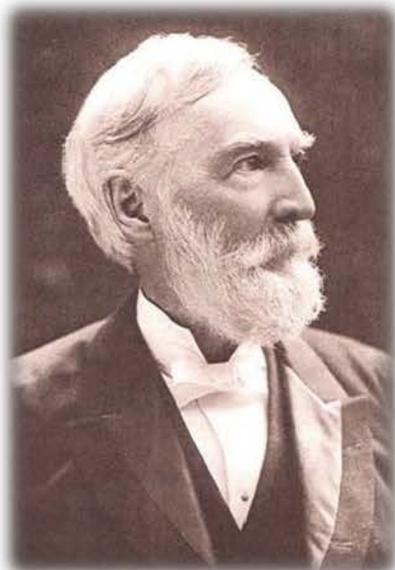
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The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Sources of information for the article were "The Business Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania" by John Woolf Jordan, et al., and the book "Wenonah 2009" by Marjorie K. Lentz.

This part of the article concludes Jack's return to September 20, 1904 by time machine and interview of Stephen Greene on the front porch of Wenonah Military Academy. (The first part of the interview appeared in the January newsletter.)

## STEPHEN GREENE: A FOUNDER AND PIONEER IN WENONAH (PART 2)

by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.



Stephen Greene  
1831 - 1908

**Question:** You mentioned the construction of churches in your grand plan for Wenonah, what was that all about?

**Stephen Greene:** Wenonah started out as a very Christian community. Not only was Tom Synnott a devout Presbyterian, he had the financial means to build our beautiful church and donate it to the town. My parents raised me as an Episcopalian and I served as a vestryman and rector's warden of the St. Peters Episcopal Church near where we lived in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Also my wife was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal faith. I wanted the same access for our family when away from home. So I provided the ground for the Methodist Episcopal Church across the street from my home.

We laid the cornerstone of the Church on August 15, 1883 with Bishop Matthew Simpson presiding. Simpson had preached at Abraham Lincoln's funeral service. The silver trowel used in the cornerstone ceremony was presented to the Bishop and is now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. The day was stormy so the services were held on the front porch of our home across the street.

In 1884 I awarded a contract for \$5,300 to build the church. Work on the building progressed slowly and it was soon discovered the builder wasn't trustworthy and hadn't paid his suppliers. To resolve the problem I bought the building and obtained a new builder who finished the church. I then donated the church to the parishioners. My wife also donated an oak book case with 250 books for use by the Sunday School.

And speaking of "Sunday Schools" let me tell you about another of Wenonah's pioneers, Dr. George W. Bailey, who practically invented Sunday Schools. He started one in Wenonah and in time was responsible for the creation of many others throughout the state, the country and overseas. He eventually became the president and driving force for a world-wide Sunday School Association. A wonderful person, a credit to Wenonah.

**Question:** It has been 35 years since the founding of Wenonah and you and your partners in the Land & Improvement Company spent a lot of serious time getting the town to the status it now

enjoys. Was it all business during that time or did you take some time to have a little fun and enjoyment time?

**Stephen Greene:** Glad you asked. Yes, we did have many good times while creating our beautiful Wenonah. There were many memorable events such as the time we had orange blossoms shipped into Wenonah for the wedding of Fanonda Lorence. At a reception in Thomas W. Synnott's home every room was decorated with a different color with flowers from his conservatory. Bob Comey's boathouse on his lake at "Camelback" and my boathouse on Lake Cornelia were both the scene of many weekend festivities. Dinners were catered, orchestras were imported from Philadelphia, our naphtha powered boats provided rides on the lake and on one occasion Enrico Caruso sang. I occasionally invited members of the Philadelphia Opera Company to give impromptu concerts on my front porch and fifty singers under the direction of Dr. H. Lake Gilmour presented Gounod's Faust at the Wenonah Inn. One visitor while visiting his sister's home joined a group of local masqueraders at Halloween. He wore no mask and a resident said to him, "You look just like Groucho Marx." It was Groucho Marx. I was told Groucho Marx treated all the boys to ice cream at the Wenonah Drug Store whenever he came to Wenonah.

To provide outdoor sports the Wenonah Field Club was started in 1890 using my athletic park, which was completely enclosed by a high board fence and included a grandstand that held 300 visitors. I even had space prepared under the grandstand for storing the carriages and bikes of those who rode to the grounds to witness the athletic events. I had a bicycle track, baseball diamond, tennis courts and even held horse shows there. You asked if we had any fun along the way, I think you will agree that we certainly did.

**Question:** We are sitting here on the front porch of a military academy that until just a few years ago was the Wenonah Inn, a fine country hotel. What happened to the hotel and what caused it to become a military school?

**Stephen Greene:** Toward the end of the century the hotel business started experiencing hard times. Due to the advent of the automobile people were no longer restricted to going only where the railroad took them, they could make use of the "horseless carriage," as the automobile was first called, to go wherever they pleased. Also the building was old and lacked amenities such as improved plumbing facilities and electric lighting. The hotel was sold a couple of times but it seemed no one could make a go of it. The building remained empty. The *Constitution* newspaper noted "the Wenonah House is of no advantage to the owner or to the Borough." In 1891, an attempt at a public sale was a disaster. Only the furniture was sold. I saw what was happening and understood the reason for it. However, in 1892 the building was advertised for sale for \$5,000. At that price I couldn't resist it. I figured I would buy it and find a use for it later. In hindsight my purchase of the building at that time and eventually turning it into a Military Academy probably assisted the town in surviving the great depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Following the purchase, I immediately organized a syndicate named the Wenonah Company. It was composed of myself as president, Thomas W. Synnott, who was then the president of the Whitney Glass Works in Glassboro, Dr. George W. Bailey, owner of a coal business, J. Frank Shull, the owner of a wholesale grocery firm, Charles M. Wilkins, owner of a company that manufactured electrical supplies, my son Dr. William H. Greene, and Isaac C. Stevenson.

We promptly demolished the old original Wenonah House hotel. On the same site we built a new

hotel to accommodate 150 guests, three times as many as the original hotel. It included a barber shop, a laundry, a 30-foot by 60-foot amusement hall and an engine-dynamo room to make electricity. In a separate building there was a ten pin (bowling) alley and a billiard room. It was a big improvement and immediately attracted new guests along with many of the old visitors. In May 1894 the hotel opened as the Wenonah Inn and it again resumed its whirl of concerts, hops, nightly entertainments and daily parade of turnouts. Several trains were put on railroad sidings for dances and other special events for the convenience of the hotel guests.

Other improvements followed such as servants' quarters and an ice house as well as stables for horses and sheds for carriages. A sewage system was installed for use of the hotel and some homes in the hotel area. Flagstone walks were installed replacing the wooden walks and there was even a small golf

course. The hotel staff was increased including a manager, chief clerk, night clerk, chef, head waiter, head cook, head engineer, head porter, master-of-ceremonies, bell boys and waiters.



Wenonah Military Academy  
1904 - 1935

Business was excellent for the next several

years, but nearing the turn of the century it became noticeable that more guests were arriving by automobile than by train, and by the early 1900s there were not enough guests to justify keeping the hotel open, so it closed. The automobile had presented people with a choice of locations for events and vacations not determined solely by the railroad destinations.

My business skills, although adequate for most purposes, couldn't buck this nationwide trend of the automobile replacing the horse and the train for moving people. But I got lucky. Major J. R. Jones, former head of a drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store in Philadelphia, while riding past our vacant hotel conceived an idea for the use of the building. He immediately met with me and presented the idea for a military school. Because of my lifelong interest in the education of young people, I thought it a great idea and started almost immediately on the conversion.

And that brings us to this day, September 20, 1904, the opening day for the Wenonah Military Academy.

The people that I have been introducing you to during the course of this interview are the first

officers of the Wenonah Military Academy. Over there is my son, Dr. William H. Greene, who I am proud to say is an internationally known scientist. He is vice-president. Local, Dr. Harry A. Stout, is treasurer and Major J. R. Jones is the secretary. On the Board of Counsel are local Presbyterian Rev. Raymond H. Gage and my long-time friend Thomas W. Synnott. That handsome uniformed gentleman over there is Captain Percy C. Jones, commander of the cadets.

**Sheppard:** There being no further reason for my presence, I walked down the steps and into the park where I had parked my time machine and reluctantly dialed in my return to the future. I hated to leave. I intend to use the machine again soon to visit Wenonah on the day the Wenonah House Hotel opened in 1871 and for other important occasions.

**End Note by Sheppard:**

During its thirty years of existence the Wenonah Military Academy gained renown throughout the country and had many students from foreign countries. Its student cadets excelled in academics and sports. Much of its success can be attributed to the educational and moral standards of its founder Stephen Greene.

In September 1935, Dr. Charles H. Lorence announced that the Wenonah Military Academy would not reopen "because of economic reasons." Just as the doors of the Wenonah Inn closed an era, so did the doors of the Wenonah Military Academy close an era. Wenonah had gained strength from both institutions. As dogwood trees in the park were maturing into full grown beautiful trees, so was the Borough maturing.

After a useful life and career, a considerable amount of which was spent in and around Wenonah, Stephen Greene died at the age of 77 on May 21, 1908. In his eulogy it was noted "Stephen Greene needs no monument of marble to perpetuate his memory, the recollection of his life of honor and usefulness and of his kind and charitable nature being his most fitting memorial. His life should prove an inspiration to every ambitious young man showing, as it does, what can be accomplished by a clean living boy and man with a high purpose."

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Volume 11, Issue 3, March 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Due to the threatening weather forecast last month and after consulting with other members, I felt it was prudent to cancel our February meeting. Although the actual weather on the evening of the scheduled meeting was not quite as bad as predicted, I would rather err on the side of caution and safety in such matters. I hope everyone received notice in a timely fashion. Many thanks to Larry Smith and Jennie McQuade for helping to spread the word at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

The Wenonah Lions Club program coordinator, Jonathan Funk (Frank & Calie Magin's son-in-law) asked me if I could address their meeting on February 26th and talk about the Wenonah Historical Society. I gave a brief overview of the 1982 formation and mission statement of our organization as well as examples of recent presentations at our monthly meetings. Richard Dilks accompanied me and gave an abbreviated, but very interesting, reprise of what was here just prior to 1871 at the inception of Wenonah.

Patricia A. Waltman Hrynenko, the Museum Collections Coordinator of the Gloucester County Historical Society, has been so kind

to accommodate our group and give her presentation entitled "Stitched Through Time: A Legacy of Quilts, Part II" at our meeting on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

As always, I look forward to seeing you this Friday evening. Please bring a guest along who might be interested in this month's presentation.

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**WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY  
1904-1935**

The Academy grounds are large and ample, overlooking a charming park in the foreground. The building is only a few minutes' walk from the railroad station, telegraph office and churches; it is three stories high, and has comfortable rooms for 130 students under one roof; it is heated by steam, lighted by electricity and gas, and furnished with an ample supply of pure water from the plant of the borough, in addition to which the Academy has a separate and entirely independent supply from an artesian well 351 feet in depth. Careful analysis has demonstrated this water to be of absolute hygienic purity, and this purity is assured for all time, as the water cannot become contaminated by any organic matter from surface drainage. The entire drainage system, designed and constructed under the personal supervision of one of the most accomplished and experienced engineers of the country, is believed to be as nearly perfect as expert skill can make it.

The Academy building is the home of the cadets. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the building is considered one of the best-adapted school edifices in the East. Its unique plan affords peculiar advantages for a school home for boys.

A description of the building follows. On a central angle of 50 feet, three wings of 100 feet extend, with a massive tower rising to 70 feet over the central angle; consequently the building has abundance of light all day long. The lower floor, or basement, is occupied by the spacious drill-room, containing 2000 square feet, amusement-rooms, boiler-room, lavatories and laundry. On the main floor are rooms for the superintendent and masters. The general assembly room is in the south wing. In the central angle are the reception-room, the library and reading-room. From this diverge the assembly, class and dining-rooms.



Wenonah Military Academy  
1904 - 1935

The second, and third floor also, contains 30 sleeping-rooms and lavatories. An 8-foot hallway extends the full

length of each wing. The sleeping-rooms are warmed by steam, regulated to keep an even temperature. Danger from fire is at a minimum, for the reason that no stoves or heating apparatus other than the steam heat are allowed in the building. Two exits for each hallway, one by a short stairway of only 12 feet, the other by an enclosed stairway, furnish immediate access to the main entrance. Altogether there is not another building where such extreme caution has been taken in providing for the general care and safety of the student.

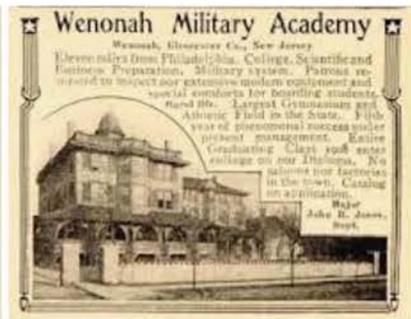
The students' rooms are large, heated by steam and nicely furnished with first-class furniture, the beds having woven-wire springs, hair mattresses and the best sheeting and woolen blankets. The rooms on all floors are 10 by 16 feet and 14 by 16 feet in size, and are arranged for cadets wishing to room alone, or for two cadets. Eight bath and toilet rooms are on each floor, constructed in the most modern and improved manner.

The class-rooms are provided with every convenience for the work of instruction. They are ample in size and number, and convenient in arrangement.



Typical Cadet Room

The library, 43 by 50 feet in size, is lighted by large windows opening upon the great piazza, beyond which may be seen the beautiful Academy grounds. The library is always open to the booklovers among the cadets. Among the periodicals on file are Harper's Magazine, The Century, Scribner's, The Forum, The Cosmopolitan, McClure's, Munsey's, Review of Reviews, World's Work, Outing, St. Nicholas, The Youth's Companion, Harper's Weekly, Collier's Weekly, Country Life in America, The Scientific American, The Critic, The Churchman, The Church Standard, The Evangelist, The Outlook, The Independent, and many other standard publications.



# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, March 8, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 3, March 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Due to the threatening weather forecast last month and after consulting with other members, I felt it was prudent to cancel our February meeting. Although the actual weather on the evening of the scheduled meeting was not quite as bad as predicted, I would rather err on the side of caution and safety in such matters. I hope everyone received notice in a timely fashion. Many thanks to Larry Smith and Jennie McQuade for helping to spread the word at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

The Wenonah Lions Club program coordinator, Jonathan Funk (Frank & Calie Magin's son-in-law) asked me if I could address their meeting on February 26th and talk about the Wenonah Historical Society. I gave a brief overview of the 1982 formation and mission statement of our organization as well as examples of recent presentations at our monthly meetings. Richard Dilks accompanied me and gave an abbreviated, but very interesting, reprise of what was here just prior to 1871 at the inception of Wenonah.

Patricia A. Waltman Hrynenko, the Museum Collections Coordinator of the Gloucester County Historical Society, has been so kind

to accommodate our group and give her presentation entitled "Stitched Through Time: A Legacy of Quilts, Part II" at our meeting on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

As always, I look forward to seeing you this Friday evening. Please bring a guest along who might be interested in this month's presentation.

## 2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2013 are now due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer or mailed using the membership application on the last page of this newsletter.

## ODDS AND ENDS

➤ If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, let me know at [smithlr@att.net](mailto:smithlr@att.net). The newsletter will arrive sooner, reduce our printing costs, and if there is something in color, you will be able to see the colors.

➤ President Horan and I would greatly appreciate your ideas, thoughts and suggestions on the following:

- Programs for future meetings
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- Ways to attract new members

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*The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.*

**WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY  
1904-1935**

The Academy grounds are large and ample, overlooking a charming park in the foreground. The building is only a few minutes' walk from the railroad station, telegraph office and churches; it is three stories high, and has comfortable rooms for 130 students under one roof; it is heated by steam, lighted by electricity and gas, and furnished with an ample supply of pure water from the plant of the borough, in addition to which the Academy has a separate and entirely independent supply from an artesian well 351 feet in depth. Careful analysis has demonstrated this water to be of absolute hygienic purity, and this purity is assured for all time, as the water cannot become contaminated by any organic matter from surface drainage. The entire drainage system, designed and constructed under the personal supervision of one of the most accomplished and experienced engineers of the country, is believed to be as nearly perfect as expert skill can make it.

The Academy building is the home of the cadets. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the building is considered one of the best-adapted school edifices in the East. Its unique plan affords peculiar advantages for a school home for boys.

A description of the building follows. On a central angle of 50 feet, three wings of 100 feet extend, with a massive tower rising to 70 feet over the central angle; consequently the building has abundance of light all day long. The lower floor, or basement, is occupied by the spacious drill-room, containing 2000 square feet, amusement-rooms, boiler-room, lavatories and laundry. On the main floor are rooms for the superintendent and masters. The general assembly room is in the south wing. In the central angle are the reception-room, the library and reading-room. From this diverge the assembly, class and dining-rooms.



Wenonah Military Academy  
1904 - 1935

The second, and third floor also, contains 30 sleeping-rooms and lavatories. An 8-foot hallway extends the full

length of each wing. The sleeping-rooms are warmed by steam, regulated to keep an even temperature. Danger from fire is at a minimum, for the reason that no stoves or heating apparatus other than the steam heat are allowed in the building. Two exits for each hallway, one by a short stairway of only 12 feet, the other by an enclosed stairway, furnish immediate access to the main entrance. Altogether there is not another building where such extreme caution has been taken in providing for the general care and safety of the student.

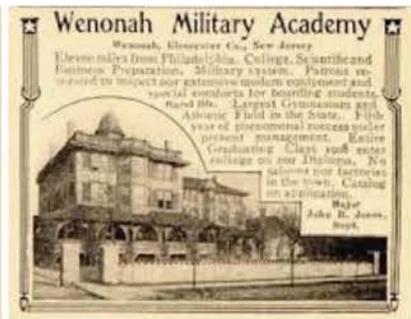
The students' rooms are large, heated by steam and nicely furnished with first-class furniture, the beds having woven-wire springs, hair mattresses and the best sheeting and woolen blankets. The rooms on all floors are 10 by 16 feet and 14 by 16 feet in size, and are arranged for cadets wishing to room alone, or for two cadets. Eight bath and toilet rooms are on each floor, constructed in the most modern and improved manner.

The class-rooms are provided with every convenience for the work of instruction. They are ample in size and number, and convenient in arrangement.



Typical Cadet Room

The library, 43 by 50 feet in size, is lighted by large windows opening upon the great piazza, beyond which may be seen the beautiful Academy grounds. The library is always open to the booklovers among the cadets. Among the periodicals on file are Harper's Magazine, The Century, Scribner's, The Forum, The Cosmopolitan, McClure's, Munsey's, Review of Reviews, World's Work, Outing, St. Nicholas, The Youth's Companion, Harper's Weekly, Collier's Weekly, Country Life in America, The Scientific American, The Critic, The Churchman, The Church Standard, The Evangelist, The Outlook, The Independent, and many other standard publications.



# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, April 12, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 4, April 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

I predict that by Friday at 7:30 PM it will be 70 degrees and still bright outside. Unlike Punxsutawney Phil, I hope no legal action is brought against me if am wrong.



Regardless, better weather is definitely in the forecast. I thought last month's presentation on Sibyl Tatum Jones by our partners at the Gloucester County Historical Society was interesting local history. Although sometimes mundane, the real stories of those who lived in this region in the past hold a special fascination for me. We thank the GCHS for their presentation.

This month's presenter is David M. Boone — Marine Artist. David grew up in the Fairview section of Camden close to the north branch of Newton Creek. David developed an interest in tugboats and shipping along the Delaware River from an early age. He worked as a local tugboat dispatcher for 28 years. He will be speaking of the legacy of shipping and tugboats in this region. David's art has been displayed at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia for "Tugboats: The Art of Dave

Boone" exhibit. We look forward to an informative talk on this topic so vital to the growth and history of the Delaware Valley.

As always, I look forward to seeing you this Friday evening. Please bring a guest along who might be interested in this month's presentation.

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*The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.*

## **WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY "TAUGHT BOYS HOW TO LIVE"**

by Elm McCormick – *Salem County Sunbeam* – January 7, 1977

Wenonah Military Academy. To the youngster of this day the name means nothing.

But to those who attended the institution in Gloucester County a few miles south of Woodbury, it's another world.

It still brings to mind days of warm friendships, studies under strict but pleasant conditions, parties, military balls, and of course, athletics, and everything else which went with a well operated educational institution.

Railroad tracks toward the shore still pass the remaining part of the immense athletic grounds. Here Academy teams strove against other private school groups and some of the better high school teams.

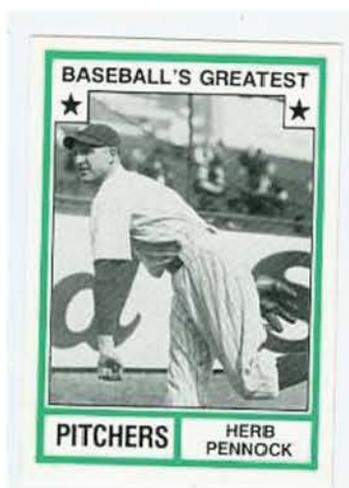
The period: in the early fall of 1904 to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

To don the military blue of the Academy, to march with newly made friends, to play on the athletic squads or just to be part of what was one of the best military complexes of its time — that was something to be desired.

Many a boy reached that stage, where his entry wish was fulfilled. And he was the better for it. Faculty members were learned in their subjects. Coaches knew thoroughly they sports they taught.

One of their games was polo. Edgar W. Holton, class of 1924, recalled "we were so good that one year we beat the championship team at West Point Military Academy."

Holton, now retired and an active member of the Woodstown Rotary Club, is president of the alumni association which meets twice a year.



Herb Pennock, one-time famed pitcher for the Athletics and the New York Yankees, did his school day hurling at Wenonah. Dozens of others who had their beginning at the Academy went on to greater recognition in college or with independent athletic groups. It was at a time, however, when only a small percentage of scholastic graduates sought higher education.

Holton played with the semi-pro Penns Grove Red Devil footballers. Under an assumed name, of course; he was still with the Academy team other Salem County boys were there.

Brought to mind by Holton were the Shuman boys (they were hot in the three main sports, football, basketball, baseball), and Jim Goslin, brother of the late big league diamond star, Goose Goslin. There were a number from this county over the years who were athletically inclined in a fiercely competitive athletic world. Some of them did not flash to the extent of drawing the headlines.

It wasn't just the athletic life of the Academy community which concerns Holton now. He's interested in keeping track of the many living grads who make up the alumni rolls.

"Many of our boys were from this area," he said, "New Jersey, Pennsylvania and nearby, and yet we had them from all over.

"Florida, California, Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, Idaho and places even outside the country. The students came from everywhere."

He recalled two Mexicans who were at Wenonah in the 20s. And several boys living in the town of Wenonah found the private school so to their liking that they transferred from the public classes.

Hap Farley, long-time political leader in Atlantic City, rarely misses one of the alumni gatherings. Several others come long distances to be with their classmates of 50 and more years ago.

Holton recalled that when their spring meeting was held at the shore last year, Bill Woodburn came from Riverside, Cal. So that the business of association can be carried on more readily, all officers are from this area.

Bill Graupner is secretary. One of the better athletes at the Academy, he had been just as good at Collingswood High School. He continued his athletic participation after leaving Wenonah.

Michael S. Cetti (right away you think of the Salem Community College) was in the '34 class. Roy Bloomingdale, active in Pitman sports, kept up his playing field participation. So did Nick Caterina at Vineland.

A.W. Chandler is now retired as a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Another who entered the service Kenneth E. Dilks, '31, lieutenant colonel, retired, has his home in Thailand.

Athletics continued to be a part of Roy Coble (Woodbury) after he departed the Academy. Retired at the DuPont Chambers Works, Nicholas V. DeLucia, Penns Grove, '35, now lives in Runnemede.

Bill Graupner, Collingswood, in the '28 class, went in for officiating after a brilliant career in sports. A Swedesboro Higher, Cleveland Sholders, was a grid performer after entering in '34. Another in the field of athletics was Carl

Tripician, '26 of Margate.

All-rounder (any sport you wanted to name) Maurice P. Shuman (they called him Kid) went to Peddle Institute at Hightstown, became a coach there and finally head master. He was a Salem boy. Footballer William B. Vanneman, '17, now living in Wilmington, recently published his first book.

Some of the earlier meetings of the old grads were devoted to the possibility of restoring the Academy to the stature of former days. But, no buildings remained. The cost of construction was prohibitive.

Holton recalled how officials would tell of the school's catalogue being sent far and wide. It included a thought, "We teach boys how to live." Remembered, too, on the front wall of the study hall was the inscription, "He conquers who conquers himself".

While the Wenonah Military Academy as the oldsters remember it is no more, there's still a plaque to note the passing of the once famous institution. "Lest we Forget", it reads. The dates, "1902-1935," are followed by "Fond Memories, the Alumni Association."



In recent years a display of Academy memorabilia was set up in the Gloucester County Historical Society building in Woodbury. Graduates provided most of the material which they had treasured for years.

The alumni members have something to look forward to. Holton has sent out word that the annual spring gathering will be held on May 14. It'll be at the accustomed shore point, the Port-O-Call.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, May 10, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 5, May 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

This month will be the last regular monthly meeting before "Summer Break". We have a nice program to be presented by local author Lee Ireland. It is described below. Also noted is information on our November 2012 presenter, Dr. Ken Lacovara. He will be in Wenonah this coming Thursday evening. As always I look forward to a good turn out Friday night for an informative and social evening.

Why are there so many places with the word "Egg" and "May" in their name? Isn't it obvious that Atlantic City's Boardwalk was named for the boards that you walk on? What other reason could there be? Did the developer of Vineland and Sea Isle City

really try to create a county named for him? Where is the "Harbor" in "Egg Harbor City?"

Lee Ireland's latest book, *Place Names of the Jersey Shore-Why Did They Name it That?* answers these questions and reveals that today's "Shore Road" in Atlantic County was built on an Indian trail and during Colonial times was named "The King's Highway." In Cape May County, it was named the "Queen's Highway." These examples provide just a small taste of the more than 300 place names described.

"Place Names of the Jersey Shore" is an authentic, local title, written by a life-long resident of the area whose family in America goes back to at least the 1700s (Grandfather was a conductor on the Shore Fast Line). All of Atlantic County is covered, as well as, all of Cape May County.

Dr. Ken Lacovara will be addressing the Gloucester County Nature Club (GCNC) on Thursday evening. Members of the Wenonah Historical Society are invited to attend.

Dr. Lacovara's program, "The Fossils at Inversand and the KT Boundary Mass Extinction" will be on Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 P.M at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church at 3 Lenape Trail, Wenonah. All GCNC programs are free and open to the public. The nature club's is also having its annual plant sale at the church that evening at 6: 00 P.M. Anyone who comes a bit early can check that out too.

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Our annual WHS Picnic is scheduled for June 14th. Try to keep that evening open. Details to follow.

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*The following article was researched and written by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Source materials were from Milton H. Webb and Marjorie K. Lentz.*

**DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON BAILEY**  
**DECEMBER 5, 1840 – DECEMBER 10, 1916**  
**Pioneer of Wenonah Elementary School and Sunday Schools Worldwide**  
by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.



**Dr. George Washington Bailey**

Following my "time-travel" voyage to Wenonah in 1904 on the opening day of the Military Academy I was so pleased with my Stephen Greene interview I decided on another trip. This time I wanted to go all the way back to the earliest days of our town to meet Dr. Bailey, another of the handful of men who were its founders, movers and shakers. I had already done some preliminary research before making my trip back in time and learned the following:

George Washington Bailey, son of William and Lydia (Densten) Bailey, was born on his father's farm near Clarksboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey, December 5, 1840. His early education was in the public schools of Gloucester County and the State Normal School in Glassboro. In his early years he carried a musket in the Civil War serving on the Union side loyally and faithfully as a sergeant in Company E, Twenty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers with distinguished service at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. After the Civil War he entered the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania from which he graduated in 1868 with the degree of M. D. He then engaged in the general practice of his profession in

Philadelphia. In 1872 his health began to fail under the strenuous labor in which he was engaged, and he was compelled to abandon his practice. He then for a time engaged in the real estate business in Camden, New Jersey, and after this in the wholesale coal business in Philadelphia. Finally he entered into the business of mining and shipping coal. As a result of his business activity he was for many years an influential member of the boards of directors of a number of business corporations. He was one of the prominent organizers of the Camden National Bank and served on the Boards of the Bridgeton and Glassboro National Banks. The latter brought him into Gloucester County.

I set the time machine dial for September, 1871 and the location as the front yard of the Wenonah House Hotel which was under construction and only partially completed. The intended opening date was to be the following year on Independence Day July 4, 1872. I went there to interview Dr. George Washington Bailey whose accomplishments in the early days of Wenonah, especially its scholastic and religious activities are legendary.

I opened the time machine door and found myself in front of the hotel, surrounded by construction materials and workmen hurrying to take advantage of good construction weather. The partly constructed hotel appeared to be less than half the size of the Military Academy building that it later became. I looked beyond the park limits to see what the town looked like and all I could see were a few houses in the process of being constructed and a railroad station a short distance from the park. Everywhere else was just farm fields and a few isolated farm houses. Horses and wagons passed by on Mantua Ave., a dirt road.

The park in front of the hotel was just raw earth and was split in two with a street (to be Park Avenue) running through it to Clinton Avenue (also under construction). I asked one of the workmen where I could find Dr. Bailey and he pointed toward a very dignified, bearded gentleman standing nearby, observing the construction. He looked to be in his early thirties. In response to my request to speak privately with him he nodded agreement, led me to a pair of rocking chairs away from the construction and that is where the interview took place.

I introduced myself and said to him "Please don't ask me to explain how I know, but I already know you are a native of Gloucester County born on your father's farm near Clarksboro. I know of your early education and that you served honorably in the Civil War. I know you are a medical doctor but that you left that profession and are now in the business of coal mining and shipping with an office in Philadelphia. But what I want to learn more about is why you are here, in a tiny town to be, surrounded by sweet potato fields, and with an uncertain future. What do you have in mind?"

**Dr. Bailey:** For some time now I have had a business relationship with Sam Whitney, who owns and operates the Whitney Glass Works in Glassboro. He told me of his relationship with the West Jersey Railroad Co. which he makes use of to improve the delivery of his glass products to the Camden and Philadelphia markets. It was Sam who told me the railroad company was starting a town called Wenonah to stimulate passenger travel along its new rail line and asked if I would be interested in investing in it.

During my life thus far I have been extremely interested in education, especially religious education. I believe a good education is going to be necessary for success in our fast-growing young country. I also believe strongly in the teaching of religion for moral development of American youth and this can best be achieved in Sunday schools. What better opportunity could I ever have to start one of each kind of school that hopefully will grow as the town grows. I am so enthused about the prospect I am investing in Wenonah by buying land and building a home here. If you look over your shoulder the house being constructed on the corner (southeast corner of S. Clinton and E. Mantua Aves) is mine. Although I have a home and an office in Philadelphia I intend to commute frequently by train to and from Philadelphia and live full-time in Wenonah during the summer months.

I am already heavily involved in Sunday school related activity as president of the New Jersey State Sunday School Association and chairman of its executive committee. I also serve as treasurer of the International Sunday School Association, and member of the executive committee of the World's Sunday School Association.

**Question:** Do you mind my asking what is your religious faith?

**Dr. Bailey:** Not at all. I am a Presbyterian by birth and by choice and have for several years been a member of the board of trustees of the general assembly of that denomination as well as vice-president of the general assembly's board of education. I'm a member of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Hospital and vice-chairman of the West Jersey Orphanage for Destitute Colored Children. I am also conferring with two other Wenonah founders, Thomas Synnott and Andrew Carey, about starting a Presbyterian church here in Wenonah. To get started we plan on bringing Glassboro's Presbyterian Pastor up the tracks on a "hand-car" and holding services in the train station. We even have plans for a Presbyterian Chapel to be built up Clinton Avenue near Andy Carey's house. This is all very exciting for me.

**Question:** You make it sound as if Wenonah is going to be a great family town. Any prospects for marriage and family in your future?

**Dr. Bailey:** Yet another reason for my building a residence here in Wenonah. My marriage date is already set for December 8, of next year 1872. My intended is Rebecca (Hyder) Hurff, daughter of Thomas W. Hurff of Hurffville, Gloucester County. Mr. Hurff is a farmer who at one time served in the house of the New Jersey legislature.

**Question:** Is it just you, Stephen Greene, and the other fellow you mentioned, Andrew Carey that are leading the development of this new town?

**Dr. Bailey:** No, there are a few others. In fact we have organized a company, the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to further our objectives and sell building lots. We incorporated it by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature in February of this year. In addition to Steve Greene and Andy Carey there are Thomas Yorke and Gen. William Sewell who are the President and Vice-President of the West Jersey Railroad Company, Horatio Mulford, John Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins and Thomas Carr.

The two homes under construction over there, and there (pointing to two other construction sites a short distance away) are for Tom W. Synnott from Glassboro, a nephew of Sam Whitney, also of Whitney Glass Co., and Andy. Carey, general manager of a dental manufacturing firm in Philadelphia. I wasn't aware of the town creation project in February nor was Andy Carey so we are not directors of the Land Company. We are however maybe even more enthused about the prospects for Wenonah than the Directors themselves. That is why Andy and I intend to be the first Wenonah residents.

**Question:** Dr. Bailey, I am sorry to say I have to leave now. But your information about the role you have played in the creation of Wenonah and the people involved in it so far has been interesting and helpful to me. May I return at a later date and talk with you to learn more about the status of the town and your part in its development?

**Dr. Bailey;** You certainly may and let me say it has been a pleasure talking to you about what we hope will happen on this very small part of a large and great country. Come back any time.

**Editor Comment:** Of course I know about the growth of the town in the years following my interview with Dr. Bailey, mostly based on historical information compiled by local historians Milton Webb and Marjorie Lentz and a few other research resources. But I wanted to know more from him about some of the more important details.

So I returned to the Time Machine and dialed in a new date, 1910, the year where in Washington D.C. Dr. Bailey was elected president of the World Sunday School Association. Truly the lifetime achievement he had sought and worked so hard for.

This time instead of meeting him at the hotel, now in its sixth year as the Wenonah Military Academy, I simply walked across the park to his house on Mantua Avenue across from the Wenonah Free Public Library. I found him sitting on his porch. He seemed startled to see me and said "why you don't seem to have aged a day since I last saw you 39-years ago. Please sit down and we can resume our conversation about the early days of Wenonah".

**Question:** When last we spoke you had retired from your career as a physician and appeared to be doing very well in the coal business. Are you still in that business?

**Dr. Bailey:** No I am not. In fact I did so well in business it enabled me to retire early and devote full-time to my Sunday School work. My Sunday School activity began here in Wenonah where on September 15, 1872 at my request citizens of Wenonah and guests of the Wenonah House met in Dr. Garrison's office to create a



Dr. George W. Bailey Residence — 1 South Clinton Avenue  
circa 1872

Sunday School. Twenty adults and twenty-one children arrived the first day. At the meeting I was elected superintendent, Andrew W. Carey became secretary-treasurer and Thomas W. Synnott was made librarian.

I immediately sought out scholars and arranged for classes to be held. I rounded up everyone in town who had any capacity to act as teachers. We held classes in my house but soon had to move to the train station where there was more room. Preaching was held at irregular intervals, sometimes in the afternoon following Sunday School. Curiously, although I and the Presbyterians organized the Sunday School, the first sermon preached in Wenonah was by William S. Cattell, a Methodist. However as a community we were of one mind, no friction, each willing to work, no one seeking preferment. We were indeed a happy family."

**Question:** With all your obvious talents for teaching religion and general education were you also in charge of musical education?

**Dr. Bailey:** I could have probably taken care of that too but we were blessed by having several individuals with greater talent in that regard than mine.

The singing for the Sunday vespers services was often led by Dr. Henry L. Gilmour of Wenonah, a song leader who was in such demand that he led conventions and camp meetings as far away as Chicago, and by Methodist Church Rev. Henry J. Zelle also a popular song leader. They were so capable and enthusiastic it was rumored the singing in Wenonah park was so spirited it could be heard as far away as Mantua. While in Wenonah the two of them wrote literally hundreds of gospel songs and edited innumerable gospel song books. Among their works which gained nationwide recognition were the gospel songs, "Heavenly Sunlight" and "I've Anchored My Soul to the Haven of Rest." All of this out of little Wenonah. It was just amazing.

**Question:** You obviously had the religious education well in hand. What about primary general education for the youth of Wenonah?

**Dr. Bailey:** With regard to general education, children of some of the new residents in Wenonah attended boarding schools in Philadelphia while other children walked to the Mantua School even though it was not in Deptford Township. However in 1875 the parents hired Charles Buckman to drive our school-aged children to the one-room Monongahela School where my sister Sallie Bailey was the teacher. This school was three miles east of Wenonah down a lane that passed the former Benjamin Clark brick farm house.

However Wenonah was growing quickly so in 1876 I proposed a school for Wenonah. I sent a letter to William Milligan, Gloucester County Superintendent of Public Instruction, outlining a plan. I said we are holding classes in a private dwelling. On October 31st we expect to occupy a part of the Wenonah House hotel. Please send us books and blanks which as I understand the matter are furnished by the state. We then began holding classes in Joseph Noblitt's building on North Clinton Avenue commonly called Noblitt's Hall, and in the winter classes met in the dining room of the hotel. I remember our school budget for the first year was \$605 which included my sister Sallie Bailey's annual salary of \$360.

Two years later in 1878 we built the two-storied school on the edge of the town plot just behind the Presbyterian Chapel where it is now. By the end of the first year 55 of our children were registered. The one complaint of the new school is recorded when a neighbor declared the school bell a real nuisance and pleaded it be torn down.

*\*\*\* Jack Sheppard's interview of Dr. George Washington Bailey will continued in the next newsletter. \*\*\**

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, September 13, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 6, June 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Memorial Day Greetings - let us remember those who have and continue to serve this great nation.

At an executive meeting held on Wednesday, May 22nd, one topic on the agenda was the 2013 WHS picnic scheduled for Friday June 14th. Due to mitigating circumstances and logistics, we have decided to forego the picnic for this year. Next year it will be held on the second Friday of May. Other issues of importance to our fine organization were discussed. They will be detailed and presented at the October regular meeting.

I hope you will agree that despite the weather related cancellation of the February meeting, it has been another interesting year for the Wenonah Historical Society. The executive committee has some proposed changes planned that will hopefully enhance the vitality of the WHS going forward.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer. Mark your calendars for our "Meet and Greet" to be held on September 13th. Details to follow.

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Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.

.....  
*The following article was researched and written by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Source materials were from Milton H. Webb and Marjorie K. Lentz. Jack's research suggests that Dr. George Washington Bailey was the founder of Wenonah's school system.*

*This part of the article concludes Jack's return by time machine to interview of Dr. Bailey. (The first part of the interview appeared in the May newsletter.)*

**DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON BAILEY**  
**December 5, 1840 – December 10, 1916**  
**Pioneer of Wenonah Elementary School**  
**and Sunday Schools Worldwide**  
**by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.**

**Question:** When I interviewed you in 1871 you told me you were to marry Rebecca Hurff the following year. How did that work out? Is she still your wife?

**Dr. Bailey:** No I am sorry to say, and may God rest her soul, my Rebecca died in 1888. Although we had 16 great years together we

were not fortunate to have any children. After a few years I married again, a Wenonah girl, Annie McGill. She is the daughter of George S. McGill of Wenonah who is a molasses merchant in Philadelphia. We have two lovely daughters, Grace and Anna who were born here in Wenonah.

**Question:** Obviously Wenonah was growing rapidly in the care and control of you “volunteers”. When did you decide a more formal organization was necessary to run the town?

**Dr. Bailey:** When by the early 1880’s Wenonah had grown to fifty “cottages” and a population of three hundred we polled the residents and they agreed it was time for us to establish our town as a separate entity from Deptford Township. We put it to a vote and on March 8, 1883 our residents chose to be incorporated as a Borough Commission. Those elected to office were me as President, Isaac C. Stevenson, treasurer, Thomas W. Synnott, Andrew W. Carey, M. H. Perry, J. Frank Shull and Cunningham B. Johnston.



**Dr. George Washington Bailey**

The “Commission” structure enabled us to act independently from Deptford Township in many ways. However we were still part of the Township and paying taxes to them. In 1896 we again polled Wenonah’s residents asking for permission to adopt a newly created form of government in New Jersey, the Borough form. The residents approved the change. This new arrangement fully separated us from Deptford, created a Mayor and Council and provided authority to use all of the ensuing property taxes for Wenonah purposes only.

**Question:** I know you are a busy man and this interview is taking a lot of your valuable time so I will make my remaining questions as brief as I can. Will you summarize for me the other important activities you either initiated or participated in?

**Dr. Bailey:** Yes indeed, and I should say I and all of the other original activists that started Wenonah continued almost as a team in providing the facilities and functions necessary for a successful community.

In addition to the changes in the form of government resulting in our separation from Deptford we also found the time to create the school system, the Presbyterian and Methodists churches, the rebuilt Wenonah Inn that became the Military Academy the Wenonah Water Works and others of small but useful and necessary function. Both the Wenonah Inn and the Military Academy aided in creating an attraction in Wenonah that resulted in additional growth, support for Wenonah’s business, and a reputation for excellence that extended far beyond our corporate boundaries. During my national and worldwide travels I frequently meet people who have heard of our town and hold it in high regard.

**Question:** You mention your worldwide travels and I assume you mean those connected with your Sunday School activity. Can you tell me more about how you went from a Sunday School in Wenonah to heading up similar activity worldwide?

**Dr. Bailey:** I’ll be glad to. Following the creation of Wenonah’s Sunday School I began spreading the message of the benefits of such schools throughout the region and the state. These activities resulted in my being elected to the state “Sunday School Association” becoming its president, a position I held for twenty-seven years. Then while in that position I was elected to an international Sunday School committee to represent New Jersey. The following year I was put in charge of the finances of the entire American Sunday School

Association. And most recently, in 1910 I was entrusted the arrangements for the great World Sunday School Convention at Washington, D. C. And finally, later in 1910 I was elected president of the World's Sunday school Association. In that position I attended and presided over an international convention in Zurich, Switzerland in 1912. Didn't take long to describe those activities but they were important and they started right here in our beloved Wenonah.

**Question:** Dr. Bailey, you have apparently decided to dedicate the rest of your life to creating Sunday Schools, not only here in Wenonah and America, but around the world as well. Can you tell me why Sunday Schools are so important to you that they have become your life's goal?

**Dr. Bailey:** I certainly can and I'm glad you asked. As the worldwide population expands it is vitally important to provide our youth with a knowledge base that includes moral teachings. How else are they to learn about good and evil, right and wrong, moral versus immoral activities and the like. Since Sunday Schools are attached to our churches we can provide the biblical "Ten Commandments" and other similar Bible-based teachings. And for those choosing to go through life without benefit of religious teachings we can repackage the Commandments as "Ten Good Ideas" and teach them in our elementary schools. I consider it mandatory that citizens here and worldwide be taught how to live in peace and harmony with one another so we need to establish basic rules on how to accomplish this. Sunday Schools are an excellent means of getting these messages across to current and future populations.

**By Questioner:** Thank you Dr. Bailey. The way you describe it I can readily understand your prodigious drive and ambition. I wish you all success for the future.

I have to leave now but before going I want to tell you how much I enjoyed this visit with you and learning more about your life's work, aims and ambitions. As I mentioned to you earlier, I can't tell you how I know, but you can be assured your activities will have a positive impact on future generations and that this town will be a success. Thank you for giving us Wenonah.

**Author's Comments:** While researching the lives of Wenonah's founders I learned much about them and what it was like to function at their level in our society in the period 1870 through the early 1930's. I was impressed. These people were self-made, intelligent; religious, and very much involved in their community, state and nation. They worked hard, created substantial wealth, and were very generous with contributions to those less fortunate. It was a time that I wish would return but I doubt ever will. It was a unique era in the history of our country.

Dr. George Washington Bailey died December 10, 1916 and is buried at the Eglinton Cemetery. In a eulogy it was said of him "Generous to a fault, kind hearted and true, with a personality that won the respect and admiration of rich and poor alike, he filled a big place in the social and religious uplift movement of his generation. He was one of God's noblemen."

A monument commemorating his work with the World's Sunday School Association, which preceded the World Council of Churches, has been erected at an entrance to the Cemetery.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on  
Friday, September 13, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 6, September 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Greetings fellow members of the Wenonah Historical Society. After a long hiatus, I am preparing and looking forward to a new and different 2013-14 season of interesting historical presentations and social affairs. I hope everyone survived and enjoyed the wet and wild summer and the firing of Phillies skipper Charlie Manuel!

Of course it would not be the second Friday of September if we were not attending our annual "Meet and Greet End of Summer Throwdown." This year's kickoff will be held at the Community Center / Train Station. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend on Friday, September 13th at 6:00 P.M. This is not a bad luck date but a Good Luck soiree where we see each other again after a long break and share stories of the summer.

I ask that attendees bring appetizers and desserts based on the first letter of your last name.

- A through M, please bring an appetizer.
- N through Z, please bring a dessert.

Beverages will be provided.

I look forward to a good turn out and a good time.

## HELP WANTED

There is need for one or more persons to assume responsibility for the future of the Wenonah Museum (located on the second floor of the Community Center). Such person(s) need not be professionals of any sort, nor computer geeks, nor highly trained museum experts. All that is necessary is an interest in preserving the history of one of the best small towns in the County, bar none. One or more Wenonahians willing to take on the challenge can meet with Julie Ream and Jack Sheppard to discuss the current status of the museum and to consider

needs to finalize the facility and render its contents available to Wenonah residents. This is an opportunity to participate in a venture that will greatly benefit Wenonah residents, especially our children, for a lifetime and more. Let's get together and talk about it.

*Jack Sheppard Sr.*

## ANOTHER POSSIBILITY

If someone would like to take over the newsletter, I would be able and willing to take over the museum venture.

*Larry Smith*

## 2011 WHS OFFICERS

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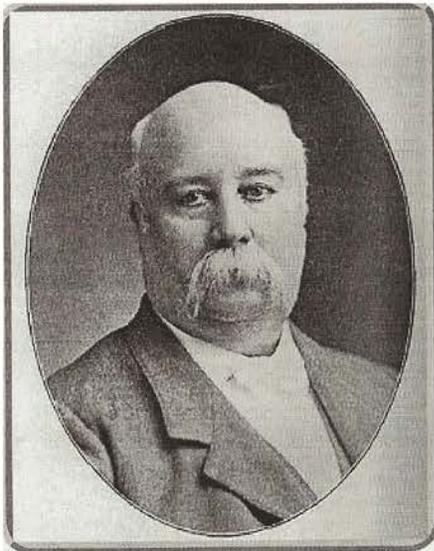
*The following article was researched and written by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Information for the article was provided by Marjorie K. Lentz.*

**DR. HENRY LAKE GILMOUR, SR.**  
**(1836-1920)**  
*by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.*

Henry Lake Gilmour was born in Londerry, Ireland on January 19, 1836. His father was a tanner in Ireland and was a very strict disciplinarian.

At 16, Henry, according to the traditions of his community went to sea to learn the skills of navigation. He sailed on a vessel and found himself in port in Philadelphia and was very impressed, although he was offered a position as navigator by the captain of the ship, he decided to remain in America. He settled in Cape May, NJ and began a career as a house painter. It was in Cape May he met Miss Letitia Pauline Howard and they were married in 1858.

Very soon after the beginning of the Civil War, Henry left his wife and, then, two year old son to enlist in the First New Jersey Cavalry. He served a total of 4 four and a half years in the Union Army and held the rank of Major at the time of the Confederate surrender. His memories of his service were permanently etched in his mind. He had been captured by Confederate forces and held as a prisoner-of-war in the "Libbey Prison," a converted furniture factory, just outside of Richmond, VA. He was released in a prisoner exchange after being held for three months. During his imprisonment he developed an interest in dentistry and took care of his fellow prisoners teeth. Upon his release and discharge from the Army he enrolled in classes at the Philadelphia College of Dentistry. He opened an office in Cape May and later in Philadelphia. On the train commute between offices he began to notice and became impressed with the beautiful little community of Wenonah, NJ. Dr. Gilmour moved his family to Wenonah in 1869 into a house on Mantua Ave., the main street in Wenonah.



***Dr. Henry Lake Gilmour, Sr.***

While living in Cape May, Dr. and Mrs. Gilmour were very active members of the Cape May Methodist Church, but when they arrived in Wenonah there was no Methodist church so they began attending Memorial Presbyterian Church where he took an active leadership role. Dr. Gilmour became chorus director for the Pitman Camp Meeting Association, a position he held for more than 40 years, and worked at camp meetings and revivals in Mountain Lake Park, Maryland and Ridgeview Park, Pennsylvania.

In 1885, Dr. Gilmour headed-up, along with an ardent group of Methodists, the formation of the Wenonah Methodist Episcopal Church. Not only did they organize the society, but they built the Church building, which is still in use today as the Wenonah United Methodist Church. Dr. Gilmour served as a trustee, steward, Sunday School superintendent, class leader and chorister at his little Wenonah church and in spite of very attractive offers from several large city churches in Philadelphia, Dr. Gilmour remained faithful to his beloved Wenonah Church.

Dr. Gilmour was a man of rugged frame and a strikingly strong bearing. On Monday, May 17, 1920, he was taken ill with uremic poisoning and did not realize or admit that it was any more than a minor ailment. He went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 20, 1920. His funeral service was held at the home of his son, Dr. H. Lake Gilmour on May 24, 1920. Brief addresses were made by Rev. R. H. Gage of the Memorial Presbyterian Church and Rev. F. B. Morley, pastor of the Wenonah Methodist Church. Dr. Gilmour was interred in the Wenonah Cemetery. At the time of his death Dr. Gilmour was survived by his wife, two sons; L. D. H. Gilmour, of Newark, NJ, and Dr. H. Lake Gilmour Jr. of Wenonah, and a daughter, Mrs. Mary P. Hatch, of Delair, NJ.



A memorial service was held at the Wenonah Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday, June 6, 1920 at 4:00 P.M. Dr. Gilmour's hymns were sung and there remarks by Prof. William J. Kirkpatrick and Rev. DeWitt C. Cobb. An appreciation of Dr. Gilmour was read by Dr. H. J. Zelly and resolutions adopted by the Official Board of the local church were read by Dr. David Schoch. C. Austin Miles of

Pitman was also in attendance and spoke about his long time friendship with Dr. Gilmour.

Throughout his life, Dr. Gilmour never lost his love of the sea and many of his hymns echoed that love. His constant memory of his time spent as a prisoner-of-war is also seen in his writings.

Some of his hymns are:

- He Brought Me Out
- Jesus, I Go Through With Thee
- Like A Mighty Sea
- Saved From The Wreck
- Watchman, Blow the Gospel Trumpet When Israel Out Of Bondage Came

Note: Son Dr. H. Lake Gilmour Jr. served as mayor of Wenonah for 14 years from 1931 through 1944. He was succeeded as mayor by William I. Conway, grandfather of WHS member Barbara Conway Horan, who served from 1945 through 1959.

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, October 11, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 8, October 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed our annual "Meet and Greet End of Summer Throwdown."

Jennie McQuaide's family recipe for Zucchini Cornbread Casserole is included in this newsletter. I know it was a favorite at the gathering. Thank you for sharing it with us, Jennie.

Robert Catando will be the speaker at our meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>. He will provide a brief history of battleships and then talk specifically about the Battleship New Jersey, concluding with a virtual tour of the ship and "all of its parts."

Robert earned a bachelor's degree from Juniata College (History and Political Science) and a master's degree from Temple University (Secondary Education and Administration). His 38-year career in education included positions in Paulsboro, as High School Principal (1974-1983) and Elementary Principal (1984-1989), and in Alloway Township as Superintendent of Schools (1989-2001).

Since retiring in 2001, Robert has worked on Battleship New Jersey – both in restoration and as a tour guide. Robert serves on the speaker's bureau for the Battleship and works on the Cruiser Olympia in Penns Landing. Robert also works with homeless veterans and is chairman of a scholarship

fund at his church, which awards scholarships to worthy church members interested in pursuing a post-secondary education.

In his spare time, Robert is an avid bicyclist, having ridden 8,500 miles last year and 5,600 miles thus far in 2013.

I look forward to seeing you this Friday at the Train Station Community Center!

## ZUCCHINI CORNBREAD CASSEROLE *from Jennie McQuaide*

3 c. grated zucchini (about 1 pound)  
1 med. onion, diced  
2 eggs, beaten  
2 c. Pepperidge Farm Corn Bread Stuffing  
1 stick melted butter/margarine  
Grated Locatelli cheese

Mix first five ingredients together. Place in 1 ½ quart greased casserole. (I use Pam® olive oil cooking spray.) Top with grated cheese.

Bake at 350° for 45 minutes – until golden brown on top. If necessary, raise temperature to 375° for last 10 to 15 minutes to achieve nice color.

Notes:

For a double recipe, I use a 9" x 13" pan.

I've reduced the butter to 6 tbsps. with good results and fewer calories.

Sometimes I add a grated carrot for color.

Be sure to use a good quality cheese for best flavor. Kraft just doesn't measure up.

## 2011 WHS OFFICERS

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Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.

*The following article was furnished by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.*

## **WENONAH 96 YEARS AGO – NOVEMBER 1917**

The Biddle Men's Bible Class of the M.E. Church meets at 8:00 PM in the church. There was a debate by six men on "Resolved, that Palestine should be given over to the Jews to govern by themselves."

There will be a delightful lecture by Miss Mortie Stokes on "The beauties of Yellowstone Park" on Friday in the M.E. Church. Beautiful stereopticon pictures will be shown and as Miss Stokes has recently viewed this wonderful place, her talk on the subject will be worth hearing.

Offer of Mr. Geo. E. Fredrick to Automobile Owners. Starting November 26th and continuing the balance of 1917, all profits on gasoline will be turned over to the Wenonah Branch of the American Red Cross. Mr. Fredrick's new gasoline tank holding 500 gallons is now in operation, ready to serve you promptly.

A letter (to council) was received from the Home and School League, addressed to the Superintendent of the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad Company requesting that a foot bridge be placed over the railroad tracks at Elm Street and West Jersey Avenue, and the members requested that council approve of the letter and that they adopt a suitable resolution to that effect. While the council heartily agreed with the sentiments expressed in the letter, it was decided to have the borough engineer prepare plans and specifications for such a structure and to secure estimates of the probable cost so that the matter could be more intelligently taken up with the railroad officials. (It was finally erected in 1924).

The Fire Company was authorized to burn off vacant lots where it was deemed necessary for the prevention of fires. (This was a practice for many years.)

The Superintendent of the Water Works reported having experienced serious difficulty in obtaining sufficient coal to keep the water plant in operation, but that he had finally succeeded in getting in touch with a party in Pittsburgh who was able to fill the borough's requirements in this line, and that one car of the coal had arrived just about as the available supply in the bins had been almost exhausted.

The Park Committee (of council) reported that the park was in good condition and that the tulip bulbs had already been placed in the circular bed. (This was the original purpose of putting the concrete circle in the middle of the park)

Sealed proposals for a new motor driven fire apparatus: "The equipment should be first class in every detail and painted and lettered with the words "Wenonah Fire Company" all complete in good workmanlike manner. It must contain at least a complete chemical equipment and a body to carry at least 500 feet of water fire hose and also the usual accessories accompanying a fire apparatus above described. The chemical equipment must consist of two 35 gallon copper chemical tanks of standard thickness with necessary attachments together with 300 feet of chemical hose and basket or reel to carry same. The truck or chassis must be of at least 1 1/2 tons capacity and be of standard make. (The result was the purchase of a Ford Model "C" Auto Fire Truck, the first motorized apparatus in Wenonah.)

The Needlework Guild held an interesting exhibit of over 400 garments and bed linen donated by members in the recreation room of the M.E.Church. These 400 items have been sent to the Deaconess Home in Camden, The Children's Home in Trenton and the Seamen's Mission for Wrecked Sailors.

Sergeant M. Patton of Wenonah is not a deserter. He enlisted in the Quartermaster Department of the

Federal Government in May 1917 and is still with his company.

The regular midmonth meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was held yesterday the home of Mrs. Ella Sargent, superintendent of Scientific Temperance Instruction, and a pleasant time was spent in the discussion of that subject. Mrs. Sargent conducted a "Quiz". Mrs. Poff read a paper and Mrs. Sarah Johnson read a portion of the State report on the subject. (Undoubtedly, the women had a ball.)

Mr. Conover's theme on Sunday in the union service in the Presbyterian Church will be "Putting Wenonah on the Map."

Offer of Mr. Walter Wentzell; On Saturday the entire profits of the ice cream, oyster and sandwich business will be turned over to the War Fund of the Y.M.C.A. Mr. Wentzell made this offer without any solicitation and in addition to his personal cash contribution. Our citizens should remember his generosity and give him due patronage.

AT IT AGAIN; Chicken thieving has become quite popular again in the vicinity of Wenonah and Sewell and some arrests will probably be made if the practice is continued, as it is said the authorities can place their hands on the guilty parties at short notice. About 50 were gently lifted from their roosts of Howard Hurff's hennery and 65 from a place near Wenonah. Six or seven places were visited last week and good hauls made. Chickens are not all that are being confiscated either, as a barrel of potatoes and a barrel of apples were taken from John Weimer's place near Tyler's Mill.

On an emergency call the Wenonah branch of the Red Cross sent to Woodbury headquarters: 2 dozen triangular bandages, 1 1/2 T bandages, 2 dozen many tailed bandages, 250 four tailed bandages, 36 muslin rolled bandages, 180 gauze compresses and 168 oakum pads.

Former President William Howard Taft will speak in the Court House (Woodbury) on Friday afternoon in support of the \$35,000 Y.M.C.A. campaign for work among the soldiers. Judge Starr will preside and Hon. J. Boyd Avis will also speak. Mr. Charles A. Whitall, who recently visited the battlefields of Europe will also tell of his experiences. All men and women of Gloucester County are invited to attend.

The Wenonah Military Academy has 100 fine young men enrolled this season.

The yearly community supper will be held in the M.E. Church dining room on Thursday evening.

A call has been sent out by the N.J.S.F. of Women's Clubs for musical instruments, sheet music, and Victrola records to be sent to the boys at Camp Dix. Music inspires the soldier, cheers the homesick and is a tremendous power for good in the camps.

The Camp Fire Girls held a masquerade party at the home of their guardian, Mrs. William Potter on Tuesday evening. A merry time was passed by the girls with all the games in keeping with the Halloween time.

WENONAH GARAGE; Allen Dealer

Store your car in a warm garage this winter, cheaper than non-freezing fluid. Two old cars \$100 each for sale

The United Church's' two week campaign closed Sunday evening with a large attendance in the Presbyterian Church. Rev. E.M. Conover preached one of his real gospel sermons, leaving no loophole for the sinner to escape, so plain he made the two roads; the narrow one leading up to life and the broad one leading to destruction. (He also built a house on the Northeast corner of South Marion Ave. and East Willow Street – the John Schad home)

*Woodbury Daily Times November 1917 mhw*

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on  
Friday, November 8, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 9, November 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

I hope those in attendance last month enjoyed the Battleship New Jersey presentation by Bob Catando. Bob is a retired teacher/administrator and has direct ties to Gateway High School. He recognized a few members as fellow educators at the beginning of his excellent presentation.

With Veterans Day close at hand, we are continuing this Friday with another military-related topic as well as having an educator as our presenter. Lt. Col. Beth Ann Lumpkin (USAF retired) is currently the Aerospace Science Instructor at nearby Washington Township High School. While serving in the Air Force, Lt. Col. Lumpkin received the Meritorious Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal, and Combat Readiness Medal. Her topic will be "Women in the Military, Past and Present".

Hopefully many of you are planning to attend our annual Christmas Dinner on December 13. The event is always a most enjoyable evening of good food and friends and serves as a nice start to the holiday season. As noted below, your payment must be received by Jean Cowles by this Wednesday.

I hope to see you this Friday evening at the Train Station Community Center.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our WHS Christmas Dinner is scheduled for 5:00 PM on December 13. It will be catered by the Telford Inn.

However, we must have enough members (and guests) attend to make it worthwhile for the Telford. So far the response has been poor. If we do not have more commit, we will have to cancel.

If you are interested in attending, please get your payment (\$22/person) to Jean Cowles no later then this Wednesday (November 6). Jean's address is 304 N. Stockton Ave. Her phone number is 856-468-6031. Please make your check payable to "Wenonah Historical Society".

## CHANGE OF NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Barbara Price has offered to take over as your newsletter editor, allowing me to switch

my focus to our museum. I will work with Jack Sheppard, Sr. and Julie Ream to finalize the facility so its contents can be made available to all Wenonahians.

Barbara has been a resident of Wenonah for 32 years. She has been the Librarian at the Gloucester County Historical Society and the editor of its newsletter since 1998. Barbara can be reached at [b.price111@comcast.net](mailto:b.price111@comcast.net).

Our current plan is for Barbara to take over with the January 2014 newsletter.

### 2013 WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.

*The following article was furnished by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. from Milton Webb's archives.*

## **WENONAH 106 YEARS AGO – DECEMBER 1907**

Mrs. Lummis is selling fresh dairy butter.

Mantua Avenue speedway is in fine condition. (The people were outraged at cars going through town at 20 miles per hour.)

Almost all the little men and women are having the chicken-pox.

Both Sunday Schools are beginning preparations for Christmas and from all indications their little folks will have a good time.

The Needlework Guild gives a very gratifying report of its work for the current year. Over three hundred and fifty new garments were contributed which will be distributed among the needy poor.

The W.C.T.U. held its regular monthly meeting yesterday. The barrel which was to be sent to Ellis Island is by no means full. You surely have some discarded clothing which will keep some child warm. Infant's clothing will be greatly appreciated. Little stockings are needed. Safety pins, picture books and toys that can be easily packed. Do try to give something to help this worthy cause.

Tonight is prayer meeting in both churches. Why don't you come out? You need to be a faithful attendant and don't you remember how much good it did you.

We are certainly long suffering patient people. For two weeks or more the little folks have had no convenience at school. Part of that time the basement floor was covered with water, now the water is turned off and there is actual physical suffering among the children and yet we try to be good and submit: for we know that everything comes to him who waits.

A beautiful flag has been presented to the Public School by the Board of Education, at the assembly of pupils, a few impromptu but appropriate exercises were rendered and a unanimous vote of thanks was expressed to the Board of Education for the gift.

The Wenonah Building and Loan Association which organized so successfully last month will hold its second meeting next Saturday evening. A large number of shares have been subscribed guaranteeing the success of the organization and promising well for the future.

Our young students are returning home for the holidays and everything points to a happy Christmas. The chicken pox is almost over and the grip is abating so we will be able to enjoy our turkey without first wiping one weeping eye and then the other and then our nose.

The "Tourist Club" will have another meeting this Saturday evening. Anyone with a desire to advance intellectually is invited to become a member. Come to the library and talk it over.

Miss Rose Holt, Miss Dorothy Holt and Miss Florence Spidden took in the Christmas sights yesterday in the city.

For Sale MILK 6 cents a quart Geo. Kean.

There were several interesting looking couples in church last night and it looks as if there will be more wedding bells soon.

Judging for the crowds going up in the trains and the number of packages delivered, "Christmaticus" has struck our borough hard.

Boys Brigade tonight.

The Teddy Bears meet tonight at the home of Miss Rose Holt.

We do not understand why it takes a letter that is mailed here at 9 a.m. to not reach Woodbury until 1:30 (They didn't have computers.)

The Christmas music in both churches was delightful. They may say what they please, but when it comes to singing, Wenonah is hard to beat.

Academy students take notice: You will want to take something nice home to mother or sister or somebody else for Thanksgiving or Christmas. The ladies of the borough are making the daintiest things imaginable for the bazaar on Tuesday in Noblitt's Hall. Home made candy a specialty.

Photographic calendars. Views of Wenonah at the Post Office.

The Christmas entertainment by the Methodist Sunday School last night was very enjoyable. Nine young ladies dressed as gypsies rendered the cantata "The Gypsies Christmas" in a very creditable manner. The Primary Department received, besides their candy and oranges, dolls for the little girls, penknives for the boys, and balls for the babies. Rev. and Mrs. Duffield were generously remembered by the Ladies Aid Society.

The Christmas entertainment at the Presbyterian Church Sunday School was very enjoyable.

In one-corner of the large room stood a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and at its base were grouped candy and gifts for the children. Just back of the tree was a fireplace through which a real live Santa Claus came at the close of the exercises and gave the children their gifts. Rev. Gage read Dickens Christmas story while Rev. Duffield used lantern slides to illustrate the story.

*Woodbury Daily Times*  
*December 1907*

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 5:00 P.M. on  
Friday, December 13, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 10, December 2013

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Seasons Greetings to all! We are looking forward to our WHS Holiday Dinner this Friday (December 13) at 5:00 P.M. It is an excellent festive start to the Yuletide Season as we share fellowship and good times. For those of you who have reserved a spot, we will have the gift exchange this year. If you intend to participate, please limit the value of your gift to approximately \$10. Participation is optional.

In looking forward to our first two programs in 2014, I want to try something different at our January and February meetings.

Considering the possibility of inclement weather and having an outside

presenter travel to Wenonah, I propose the following: WHS members will put on their thinking caps during December and give a short summary (on January 10) on "How I came to live in Wenonah" or any related topic that you feel would be of interest to our group. Think of your "back story" to share informally with our group. Even a short anecdote will be well received.

## CHANGE OF NEWSLETTER EDITORS

As a reminder, Barbara Price will be taking over as newsletter editor, beginning with the January 2014 edition. I will work with Jack Sheppard, Sr. and Julie Ream to advance our museum to a point where its contents can be enjoyed by all Wenonahians.

*Larry*

### 2013 WHS OFFICERS

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Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.



**2013 Wenonah Christmas Tree Lighting**  
*Photo by John Dominy*

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*The following article was furnished by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. from Milton Webb's archives.*

## WENONAH 106 YEARS AGO – MARCH 1907

The Boston Laundry horse got into a hole here Saturday and was considerably bruised up.

The military hop given by the cadets Saturday night was one of the prettiest social functions ever given by the cadets. The young ladies were the prettiest ever seen at a cadet dance. About 150 were present. The next event will be a minstrel show which promises to eclipse all former efforts in this line.

Report of the Wenonah Public School: 7th & 8th grade pupils 21, 5th & 6th grade pupils 21, 3rd & 4th grade pupils 31. 1st & 2nd grade pupils 33.

Contractor John Drummer is sending some of his friends pictures of his cabin in the midst of the red wood trees in San Diego County, California. They have a gold mine located but the Indians are very troublesome, and will not work themselves nor will they let others work. Mr. Drummer says that if he had a Galling gun he would fix them. He expects to return home soon but will go back in the fall when he will take an arsenal with him. (John Drummer was one of the most remarkable people to have lived in our Wenonah. He was borough Marshall, a charter member of the fire company and a builder. More about him in future editions.

Mr. Loomis has rented the old ice house attached to Baylies' barn. (At the site of the present post office.) He put 60 tons of ice in it yesterday, which is as much as it will hold. Billy Stevenson did the job.

An Italian by the name of Nune is the new day watchman at the railroad crossing.

Our milkman got his milk delivered nearly on time this morning, but he had to put on two wagons to do it. The sled-coasting is still very good.

Mrs. Morogue has lost her dog Sam and, if anyone sees him, she will be pleased if they would notify her. (Her son William was the first and only combat casualty from Wenonah in the First World War.

Mantua Grange took in four new members last night. The Grange now numbers 201 members. (They meet in Wenonah at Noblit's Hall on North Marion Avenue. The majority of the officers were from Wenonah. The Grange, at this time, was a strong political force and their endorsement was a prerequisite to winning an election.)

The Wesley Brotherhood met last evening and had a debate, the title of which was "Should Capital Punishment be Abolished?" The negative side won.

Oscar B. Redrow, who was struck by an electric train at Woodbury last Saturday is not able to leave the house yet. (He lived in the house on the northeast corner of W. Buttonwood and N. Jefferson streets. He was the County Prosecutor.)

Captain Percy Jones and Cadets Fox, Martin, Updike and Cormany went to Washington to witness and take part in the unveiling of the General McClellan monument. The cadets will take the part of buglers.

The fireman will clear about \$100 on their supper, which was held Saturday evening. It was a decided success and everybody went home too full for utterance.

Charles Kirkbride left Clark's store Saturday night and started work at Baylies' store this morning. (The two stores were competitors, both general stores within a stones throw of each other, one where Mary Kaye is today and the other at the former location of the One Stop Shop. )

Mud, mud everywhere.

Captain Miller's goose bone prophesy of the winter came true. (Lost in the annals of history is what a "goose bone prophesy" is.)

Assemblyman William C. Cattell stood up nobly for the women at Trenton yesterday. One of the legislators said that women were not educated up to the point of voting intelligently. Mr. Cattell replied that many women are more intelligent than men and all knew how to vote on the liquor question and he is right. (This assured Uncle Billie that he would be warmly welcomed by the women of Wenonah when he came home.)

Mrs. John Holeton entertained a number of her friends at her home last evening. The evening was a great success. The dining room was prettily decorated. Long ribbons of red crepe paper were draped from the comers and sides of the room to the electrolier. The lights were shaded in red and the table had a border of the same material. Two large bouquets of red carnations decorating the table finished the color scheme. The guests enjoyed themselves immensely. One of the features of the evenings entertainment was a game in which everybody took the name of some animal and it was very interesting to see the baboon making love to the hyena; the jack-ass (he brayed long and loud) did not forget to keep an eye on the muskrat. The porcupine was pinched by the lobster, while the giraffe stretched her neck this way and that, looking for trouble. The rhinoceros appeared to be troubled and the gorilla and ape enjoyed things immensely. We hope to meet again in the near future.

William Stevenson was kicked on the shin by one of his horses.

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