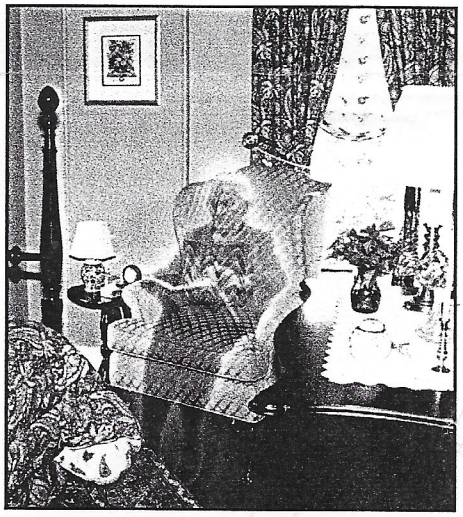
WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



October 2000
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

WHAT GOES BUMP IN THE NIGHT IN YOUR HOUSE?



We just couldn't resist the combination of Halloween and Friday the 13th to offer a program to discuss, shall we say, "unusual happenings" in our local historic homes. A few of our town "frequent haunters" will be present to tell you about the popular lore of otherworldly activities in their homes, and we invite everyone to share their own personal experiences. Let's hear about all those sounds in the attic that you logically dismiss but deep-down know that something else is going on while you're sleeping!

This is the meeting to bring the kids and all your friends to!

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · OCTOBER 1900

Compiled by Milton Webb

F.I. Savage and William Holt took a trolley ride to New Castle, Delaware yesterday.

There was plenty of amusement yesterday at the meeting of the Republican Club. After listening to the able presentation of the Law and Order League of the county, each member present had to tell why he was of such a political faith under penalty of a fine. There was some head scratching to avoid such a fine.

Farmers about here have the fall plowing nearly all done and most of the corn husked. Wheat has sprouted in several sections.

Manager Lewis of the Inn was down yesterday and formally closed the well-known hostelry for the season. It will open next year about June first.

F.J. Bossler was in the auto parade at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia on Friday.

"Zella," a clever presentation of a gypsy encampment will be given in Noblitt's Hall Saturday evening under the auspices of the Daisy Club. Adult tickets 25 cents, children 15 cents.

Constable Drummer stopped an auto, which was going through town after dark last night and made the driver "light up."

Flowers which have beautified so many of our lawns all summer are being taken indoors.

The formal opening of the Free Public Library took place last evening. The affair was highly patronized by our citizens who appreciated the efforts of the ladies and gentlemen who made such a convenience possible for our young folks that they might have the proper kind of reading instead of the lower class literature so easy to get nowadays.

Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson went through here on the Cape May express for Millville this morning.

A suspect was an inmate of the lockup last night. He was found acting suspiciously about town. Officer Drummer put him in for the safety of the town.

There were not many out at the depot to see the Prohibitionist's special train go through this morning.

There is to be a cineograph exhibit at Noblitt's Hall tonight.

A number of our people will go to Washington Park tomorrow to see William Jennings Bryant.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

Welcome to Our New Newsletter

We hope you find it to be both informative and interesting. Yes... this first issue is sparse, but we would like to incorporate member contributions and much more material of historical significance in future issues. If you have ideas for articles or would like to submit something for publication, send them to Curt Kapus · PO Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090. Thank you and see you at Friday's meeting!

In Memory of
KATHRYN WENONAH WAGNER KNIGHT
1908-2000

We will surely miss you. You were the personification of the good things that we possess in our wonderful town. Your knowledge and association with the Wenonah Military Academy, Camp Wenonah, and the past events of our town were a valuable source of historic information. We were honored to have had you as a founder and member of the Wenonah Historic Society.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE



WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, October 13th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center

Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

There have been many new additions to our Wenonah community since our last meeting in the summer, and we invite everyone—both young and "experienced"—to attend and see what our local historical society is up to. We have a great deal planned for the coming year; your participation can help make it all a success!

Ralph & Rachel Knisell
100 West Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090



WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
PO Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form · 2000-2001

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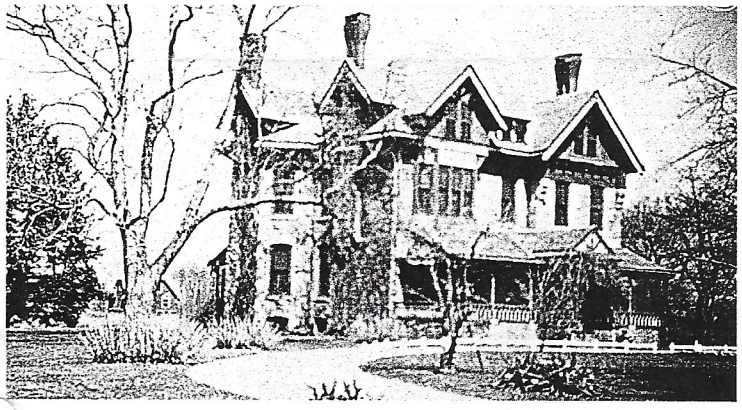
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Cost: $10 per family household per year

WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter

November 2000
Published by the
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THE LEGACY OF THOMAS SYNNOTT



Thomas Synnott's first "Hollybush" at the corner of North Marion and East Mantua Avenues in Wenonah as it stood mid-century.

For our November meeting, Karen Bruner of Rowan University will be speaking about the life of one of Wenonah's well-known residents of the last century, Thomas Whitney Synnott. Her presentation will cover the legacy left after his death in 1941, including a large collection of business and personal letters, manuscripts, selected documents, and the process of making Rowan University Library's Stewart Room collection ready for patron use. Synnott played an important role in the foundation of the State Normal School for Teachers in Glassboro, eventually to be known as Rowan University, along with being one of Wenonah's founding residents.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · NOVEMBER 1900

Compiled by Milton Webb

A masquerade ball was held in Noblit's Hall last night. There were about thirty present from Mantua, Westville, Woodbury and Wenonah.

Butter prices are going up but Turner and McCormick are keeping their prices as low as possible.

The Junior Athletic Club will open their football season tomorrow with a game with Sterling Junior of West Philadelphia. Admission to the ball grounds will be free.

The democrats of the borough think they will poll something like fifty votes next Tuesday. Time will tell just how many are of that persuasion however.

Stephan Greene has moved some of the furniture of the Inn to his boathouses in Atlantic City.

All the arrangements have been made for the vaudeville entertainment and food by the Republican Club in Noblit's Hall. The club members are looking forward to the best time in the history of the organization. Cards of admission have been issued. The program will be interspersed with returns by telegraph when they come in.

McKINLEY AND ROOSEVELT CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE TO CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF STATE—A REPUBLICAN LAND SLIDE, Wenonah: McKinley 89, Bryan 21.

If the children in town had made half the noise the men did last night there would have been trouble for the juveniles surely.

REWARD The subscriber will pay $5.00 reward for information which will lead to the conviction of a party or parties who alleged to burn Nobit's Hall on Saturday evening –Joseph Noblit, Wenonah

A new telephone is being put in the depot to connect to the marl pits.

Regular services in the churches tomorrow with prospects of large congregations. Our pastors are quite popular with their people and the houses are always nearly full.

The cottage prayer meeting of the M.E. congregation was held at the house of W.J. McGowan last evening. Tonight it will be held at the home of Mrs. Cline.

An extension of South Marion Avenue is to be laid out across the meadows [Mantua Creek] making a more direct course and shorter drive.

The entire number of lots of land of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company—268 lots—were sold at their recent sale. Dr. Baily, Stephan Greene, and Thomas Synnott were the principal buyers. This practically puts the land company out of business as they have nothing more to be in business for and it will be probably disbanded.

Wanamaker's deliver goods here now on Tuesdays and Fridays.

George Dilkes lost a valuable cow Saturday. (He would graze it in the park.)

Who would bother with a horse? No one after a ride in Blair Smith's Locomobile. Mr. Smith almost froze a Times representative on a trip from here to Woodbury this morning. Most of the time the speed was fully 20 miles per hour.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE



WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, November 10th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center

Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

Our last meeting in October was a huge success with many, many new faces. We hope to continue this tradition and that everyone who came out for last month's meeting will join us this month, too. We have an interesting presentation planned, and Mary Ready will be our hostess providing victuals and beverages.

Ralph & Rachel Knisell
100 W. Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090



WENONAH
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PO Box 32
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WENONAH
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December 2000
Published by the
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CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Annual Holiday Party is upon us again and will be held at the regular meeting time of 7:30 on Friday, December 8th. "Chef Bud" will be catering for us—as he did last year—with ample food! A Wenonah Historical Society tradition, the holiday event is usually well attended, so it is advised that you contact Jane Ramsay at 468-5593 as soon as possible to reserve your seats. The cost will be the same as last year, $12 per person, and we request that everyone attending please bring an unwrapped "door prize" for the drawing (it's always nice if everyone present receives a gift). We'd also like to remind anyone who volunteered to help decorate and set-up to arrive around 10am the morning of the party. We've all been extremely pleased at our meeting turnouts lately, and hope you'll all attend!



Santa hasn't changed much in the last hundred years, except nowadays he does not deliver rifles with affixed bayonets. This illustration from the December 24, 1900 Woodbury Daily Times seems to also be making a political statement about the raging Spanish-American War, or as Twain referred to it, "the incident in the Philippines."

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · DECEMBER 1900

Merry Christmas from Martha and Milton Webb!

On Saturday real estate agent William C. Cattell bought in the land recently sold by the Mantua Land Company to Isaac Stevenson on the west side of the Mantua creek for a party of capitalists who will organize and at once begin to lay out the spot in one of the finest cemeteries in South Jersey. The land has many advantages for vaults, etc.

Marie Knibloe, the Boston Warbler, is to give one of her unique entertainments in Noblitt's Hall next Tuesday for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Hollinger will open her select dancing class in Noblitt's Hall tomorrow evening. The cost will be 25 cents a lesson.

John Colbert would like the party who took half of his hen roost to bring it back or come take the rest. Divided up it is not worth much good to either party.

Dr. Harvy is talking of taking a trip to Honduras in the near future on an exploration expedition with Dr. M.B. Huey of Philadelphia. The doctor has been an extensive traveler. Winter struck us rather suddenly after all and we have some skating for the boys and girls.

Surveyor Cattell and George L. Dilkes are running out the lines of the new cemetery on the bluff today.

A parlor meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Hamilton Turner in honor of Mrs. Gilmour, Brown, Greene, Holeton and Savage delegates to the Women's Christian Temperance Convention held in Washington last week. The delegates gave a very interesting report of the convention and also of their sightseeing on their trip having the honor of shaking hands with President McKinley and an introduction to Mrs. McKinley. Mrs. Gage with four other ladies helped receive the delegates at the White House, a sight long to be remembered by them and which seemed like entering fairyland of which Mrs. McKinley was the sweet looking fairy, everything was so beautiful.

Christmas trees are being erected in many homes.

By the number of express bundles it looks as though Santa Claus was not to overlook the little ones in our borough. We hope he will remember the poor ones as the more well to do.

Our grocers are prepared for a big holiday trade.

The holiday festival of the Methodist Sunday School was held last night and was enjoyed by a large audience. Sune Taro, a Japanese magician, formed considerable amusement with his deft tricks. The Christmas exercises of the public school were held last Sunday evening.

B.F Buzby is wondering who snow balled him. He will be surprised that it was not a boy.

It is stated the electric light plant from which we get our service has changed hands. (Electric service during this period was very undependable.)

The public feels grateful to Tom Savage for opening up the paths after the snow stopped falling last night.

It is said Ed Farr's children have the prettiest tree in this place. It is sure a handsome one.

Our stores are trimmed in holiday attire.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER!



WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, December 8th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center

Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

We would like to thank Karen Bruner of Rowan University for her interesting and informative presentation on Thomas Synnott at last month's meeting. To learn of the impact that Wenonah resident Synnott had on the business world and local community of the past century was quite impressive.

Ralph & Rachel Kniselí
100 W. Mantua Ave.
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January 2001
Published by the
Historical Society
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Another woodcut from the turn-of-the-century Times.

JANUARY MEETING TOPICS

Happy New Year! We have a lot of exciting things happening for 2001, and this first meeting of the new millennium will be an important one for everyone who wishes to have a voice in the Society to attend.

For "entertainment and education" Rocco Doto will be presenting a slide presentation that he prepared for the historical preservation course he attended at Burlington County College. We may also have another surprise guest (which you will have to attend to find out who!) to participate in a question and answer session.

Many topics will be on the table for discussion, including ideas for future meetings, ideas for special Society events, and the formation of a few committees for various purposes (sorry for the vagueness...but we'd like to put these ideas to the membership at the meeting before making them public).

Also, I'm sure you've noticed that the newsletter has expanded by two pages for this issue. We hope you enjoy the new features, and if you have anything you'd like to submit, we'd be happy to publish it!

See you at the meeting.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · JANUARY 1901

Compiled by Milton Webb

The birth of the new century was welcomed in here last night with a great deal of gusto and flourish. The churches were well-attended and deep spiritual feeling exhibited.

Our people are all happy in the beginning of the new century and there seems to be bright prospects about for all.

About 40 young people attended the masquerade ball at Noblitt's Hall. There was a watch night service at the Methodist Church.

Pastor Cobb has been presented with a handsome new watch and Mrs. Cobb was remembered with a handsome silk umbrella.

Icehouses are being filled here and we understand Dr.Stout, Will Stevenson, Frank Hendrickson and Turner and McCormick are among the number. (There were numerous icehouses in Wenonah including a large one at the Wenonah Inn and Joseph Warner's at the Wenonah Lake.)

George Sawyer is carrying a pretty severe cut across his eye from being hit over the head with a lantern in the hands of the brakeman on the 6:40 southbound train. It is said the trouble arose over an altercation over Sawyer's ticket, which he refused to give up and the later was intoxicated.

The telephone exchange is to be located in Richard Clark's store where there is now a pay station. (This is now Mary Kaye hair dresser, 3 East Mantua Avenue.)

We understand parties are negotiating toward starting a laundry here in the near future. (This never happened however there was out of town laundry picked up and delivery for many years in town, White Star and Cascade being two of them.)

Mrs. Hamilton Turner surprised her quests with a dinner of fish and oysters and the good things that go with them. The occasion was greatly enjoyed by the ladies. The merry laughter proving to the passer by that there were other good things beside the dinner.

The snow hangs on well.

As February nears the Rail Road men are experiencing a sort of dread for fear the blizzard of two years ago may be repeated.

It is reported that some of the scholars put red pepper in the heater at the school yesterday to shorten the session but their session is now somewhat extended.

Rudolph's big Camden bakery is delivering free samples of bread here today.

There is someone harboring my black and tan hound dog, Therefore I give notice that I will prosecute to the full extend of the law any person or persons in whose possession he is found. -W.H. Sithens

It is reported that a certain well-known contestant for fancy skating had to go to the doctors after a rather severe effort a day or so ago.

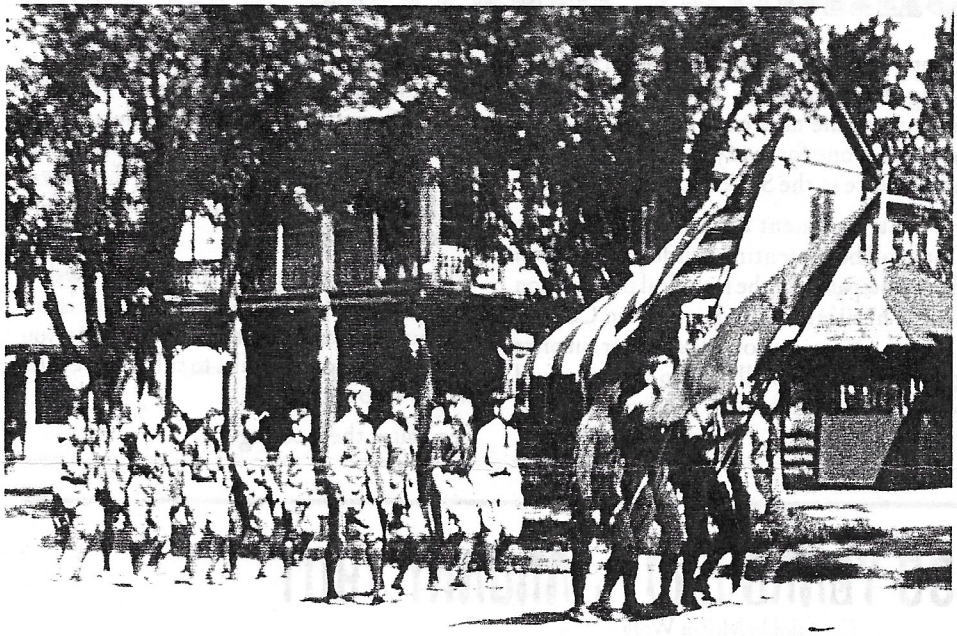
From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

THE HOWARD-WENTZELL BUILDING

7 West Mantua Avenue

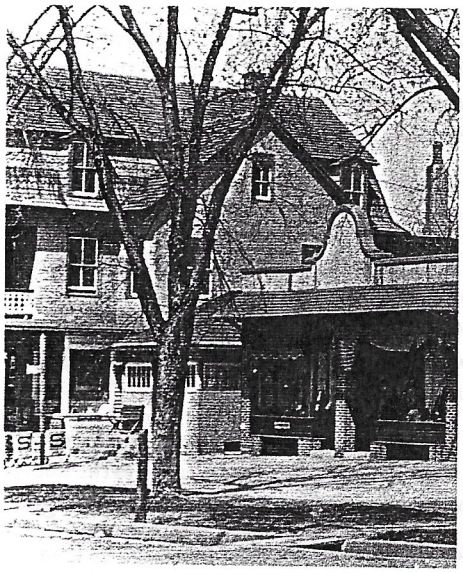
First in a series of articles detailing the histories of some of Wenonah's more notable structures. By Milton Webb

If one were asked what is the most historically significant building in Wenonah a likely candidate would be the Howard-Wentzell Building in the business district of our town. The old timers in Wenonah have known this for many years as the Wentzell apartment house. However there is much more to be told about this building than its role as an apartment house.



The Wentzell building with the 1914 Fourth of July parade passing in front of it...

...and and another photo taken during its life as a store.



In December of 1872 the "Constitution", printed in Woodbury, stated "Mr. Ramson Howard is building a handsome three story store at Wenonah, the raising taking place Saturday last. The basement will be used for a restaurant while the third floor will be devoted to public purposes." This was an ambitious project considering the new village of Wenonah having less than two dozen houses was only a year old.

The Howard building was finally erected after a bad start when a twister destroyed the partially weather boarded unfinished structure, completely leveling it, a loss estimated at $1,000. Completion was accomplished in the year 1873, a giant step forward for the vision of creating a new town along the tracks of the West Jersey Rail Road.

One of the first tenets was newly formed School District 54 of Wenonah who rented space for schooling. Previous to this, teaching took place in a private home (Dr. Garrison's), the rail road depot and a room set aside in the "Wenonah House" This space was used for two years, from 1876 until 1878 when a new permanent building was put up on North Marion Avenue. Many years later, Edward Farr in reminiscence of his early school years refers to the building as "Daddy "Howard's school. History does not record why it was called thus.

In 1878, the newly formed YMCA moved into the third floor. The "Wenonah Advance" reported, "The YMCA is now fully organized and is a fact. The association has a cozy room in the Howard Building and has upon its tables magazines, newspapers, games for the profit and pleasure of its members and its primary object viz to provide a comfortable room for the improvement of the young men of Wenonah and vicinity. The room is open on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of every week." This use lasted until 1916 when they moved into what later became the Legion Hall on North Marion Avenue.

A new era evolved in the building when Walter and Elizabeth Wentzell opened a store on the first floor in 1910. Previous to this he was the local huckster who was noted for having a mule to pull his cart. His specialty was seafood, particularly. oysters brought in by rail from Port Norris-Bivalve on the Delaware River. Upon opening, they advertised selling vegetables, fruits, pickles, fruitcakes, ice cream and oysters. As time went on they became a Purina feed dealer, the Inquirer news distributor and pumped Gulf Gas out front. They afforded home delivery to their customers for many years.

In 1913, they built an ice cream pavilion next door where Keller's insurance office is sited today. This was a favorite of the academy boys where they reportedly were allows privileges not allowed elsewhere such as smoking. The pavilion was a great place to go not only for them but also for the people of Wenonah. This stood for many years until the Wenonah Food Market building was erected. Out front there was a cast iron horse-watering trough, which was the donation to the citizens of Wenonah by the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The Wentzell heritage extended into later decades, when after the new store next door was built their daughters Francis and Jennie ran it as a food market. They later married becoming Fran Sweeney and Jane Bowker. Tony Sacca joined with Jane and her husband George later and opened up a meat department in the store Jane and Francis' brother Earl, a graduate of the Wenonah Military Academy, became a doctor and was our local physician for many years until 1965. He was one of the primary founders of the Memorial Hospital in Woodbury.

Fortunately, Rocco and Colleen Doto, members of our Wenonah Historical Society, now own The Howard-Wentzell Building. Their love of our local history has been expressed in the efforts they have made to bring it back to its former appearance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

New to the Newsletter...

Each month this space will be reserved for reports from the various committees which are forming in the society. It can be a place to update the membership on what you have accomplished, on what you need volunteers for, or any other pertinent information you would like to share. To submit your reports, please either provide a disc to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file, or just eMail it to *wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com*

We look forward to hearing about your progress.

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Attention all Members: Do you have memories of Wenonah's past that you think should be recorded for future generations? Are you interested in donating pictures, letters or other mementos that can be used for exhibits or for cataloging our town's history for others to enjoy? If you or someone you know is interested in preserving our past—Wenonah's past—please contact Rocco Doto, Chairperson for the Archiving Committee. Also, if you are interested in joining our newly formed committee please call Rocco at 415-1215.

LIFE A CENTURY AGO

1801

Reprinted from the January 3, 1901 issue of the Woodbury Daily Times.

One hundred years ago a man could not take a ride on a steamboat.

He could not ride a bicycle.

He could not send a telegram.

He had never crossed an iron bridge.

He had never taken a ride in an elevator.

He had never heard of an automobile.

He had never used anything but a wooden plough.

He had never seen his wife using a sewing machine.

He could not call in a stenographer and dictate a letter.

He had never received a typewritten communication.

He had never struck a match on his pants or anything else.

He had never seen a McCormick reaper or a self-binding harvester.

He could not go from Washington to New York in a few hours.

He had never seen an electric light nor dreamed of an electric car.

He never loked (sic) pleasant before a photographer or had his picture taken.

He had never heard of the germ theory nor worried over bacilli or bacteria.

He couldn't take an anaesthetic and have his leg cut of (sic) without feeling it.

He had never imagined such a thing as a typesetting machine or a type writer.

He couldn't talk through a telephone, and he had never heard of the hello girl.

He never heard a phonograph talk or saw a kenetoscope turn out a prize fight.

He never saw though a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary with the aid of a Roentgen ray.

He had never purchased a 10 cent magazine which would have been regarded as a miracle of art.

He could not buy a paper for a cent and learn everything that had happened the day before all over the world.

In short there were several things he could not do and several things he did not know.

WENONAH

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WENONAH Historical Society

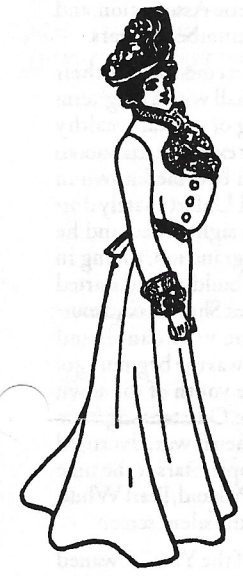
Next Meeting will be held
Friday, January 12th, 2001 · 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center

Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

WENONAH
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February 2001
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WHAT FEBRUARY HOLDS...



Our program for February is another one which depends on your participation. We would like to make our February meeting about "the things you love." Since Valentine's Day is upon us, we thought this month would be a great time for yo u to share with the society one object that you love (other than your spouse!). So bring in that one treasure that sits at the center of your front parlour and tell us why it means so much to you. It doesn't necessarily have to be a Wenonah artifact, and the more unusual the better!

We will also be starting a new "feature" at our meetings: "Can You Identify It?" At the commencement of each meeting, we will present an object to you for identification. If you can guess its purpose... the payoff is big! You gain the admiration and adoration of your fellow Society members and the nickname "Know-it-All."

Our next newsletter will also be expanding, with regular columns on "Why I Moved to Wenonah", "Letter from the President," and "Letters." As part of our meetings and newsletters, we will gradually incorporate some of the ideas presented during our January meeting. We appreciate any help or contributions you can offer.

Thank you to Bill DeAscentiis for answering our questions about the new municipal building and Rocco Doto for his fine presentation in January!

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · FEBRUARY 1901

Compiled by Milton Webb

There is considerable complaint about the electric light service again.

Checkers have become a fad here again and several of our players would like to meet some who think they can play from other communities.

The first meeting of the tourist club was held at the home of Miss Edith Farr last evening. (The Farr's were great travelers with many frequent trips to Maine and later to Europe, particularly Switzerland.)

The small pox scare has reached this town in the past few days and has caused a number of the mothers to keep their children from attending school.

Charles E. Simpson is engaged in the Belgian hare business quite extensively. (This was on North Jefferson Avenue north of Buttonwood Street. He had over five thousand rabbits at one time. The Wenonah depot became the main debarkation point for these animals in New Jersey. We were the rabbit capital of South Jersey!)

There was an interesting all day missions meeting at the Methodist Church yesterday.

There is complaint because of the ordinance prohibiting the dumping of ashes in the streets is not being enforced.

There is a prospect of renting several of our houses this spring. (This was the tail end of Wenonah being a summer resort. A hand full of houses was still unoccupied in the winter in anticipation of summer rental.)

Officer Drummer picked up a man about 3:00 o'clock this morning. The officer declared a man with good intentions would hardly be prowling about in the cold at that unseemly hour. He was locked up but nearly froze and so was released at daylight.

Good ice is making but most of people have their icehouses filled.

A missionary lunch was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Bilderback. (The site of this home later became the Wenonah Free Public Library.)

The grip epidemic seems to be abating.

Frank Hendrickson has his tomato and cabbage beds sown.

A bargain for sale because of want of use. An 8-year-old bay horse-kind, sound, and gentle-can road ten miles per hour-price $50-credit of 3 months can be given-apply to Charles Fedser

One of Job Scott's grays is dangerously ill this morning. (These were draft horses used to pull the lumber and coal wagons from his Mantua lumberyard.)

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

JOE NOBLIT'S HALL

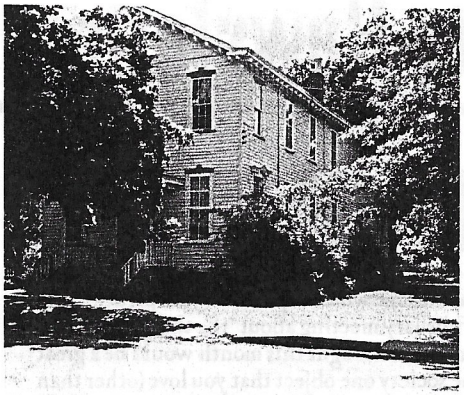
6 North Marion Avenue

Second in a series of articles detailing the histories of some of Wenonah's more notable structures. By Milton Webb

On March 19, 1878 in three public places in Wenonah the newly formed school district 54 posted the following notice: *The annual Wenonah school meeting will be held in the school room in the Wenonah House on the Tuesday of the week following the town meeting at which meeting will be submitted the question of voting a tax to maintain a free public school, the amount thought to be three hundred dollars. The question of building a schoolhouse will also be considered with the matters related thereto. The amount thought to be necessary for this purpose is twentyfive hundred dollars. George Baily District Clerk.* The meeting was a public forum where *the question of building a schoolhouse was thoroughly talked over and a free expression of opinion given. It was agreed that the Board of Trustees be authorized to build a school not to cost over $2500 exclusive of well, out buildings and fences.* There was one vote in the negative. The Mantua Land and Improvement Company donated the land and Dr. Fithian purchased the entire bond issue.

The contract for the erection of the building was let out to Daniel Brown, a local builder and developer for $2245.95. Other contracted items were to Sam Chew, digging a well $15; Henry Frederick, well pump $13.50; William Allen, bell and lightning rods $9.00; Sam Dilks, carting $3.00; Isaac Stevenson, grading and digging cellar hole $38.00 and Ed Ward, plans and specifications $30.50. The building was completed in the early months of 1879 and classes were immediately started in the new schoolhouse. This building, as a schoolhouse was to serve the community until 1894 when it was replaced by the "Stone School House" on North Clinton Avenue.

Several expenditures were significant during this period. Ella English to be employed as teacher at a salary not to exceed $35 dollars a month. Sam Chew coal for the year $37. May Clark to assist Tracy Waddington at a salary of $1 a day.

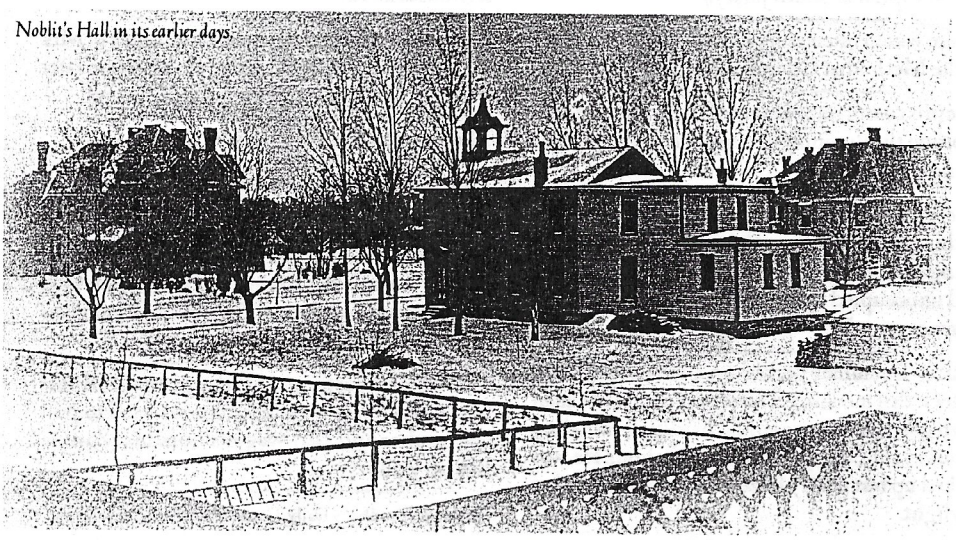


The building in its role as the American Legion Hall in 1959.

During the period of use as a schoolhouse the trustees rented out the building for other purposes. The most significant was the Mantua Grange #39, Patrons of Husbandry. It might be noted that the Granger movement was a powerful political force and this chapter was large, numbering over two hundred members. Lectures were held and auctions of produce and grain held in the building. Also the tradition of this building as a polling place started lasting over one hundred years.

In June of 1894, the Trustees of the school district sold, at auction, the building to Joseph Noblit for $1,500. He was a well-known citizen of the community. A farmer by trade, he also was the Deptford Township clerk. Wenonah still was a part of this township at this time. Known as "The Old War Horse," he was a veteran of the Civil War having served with the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Civil War veteran's organization.

Noblit's Hall in its earlier days.



Every up and coming community during this period had what was known as an "Opera House" and this building would fall into the category. On several occasions an advertisement would mention that an event would be held at Noblit's Opera House. He leased out the building for a number a varied social affairs. The Mantua Grange continued to use the hall as well as several political organizations. In 1989 the Wenonah Field Club was formed which was the forerunner of our modern Wenonah Athletic Association, and they used the building for a number of years.

In 1913 The YMCA was reconstituted their organization and rented the hall with a long-term lease. They had the backing of several wealthy citizens who provided funds for extensive renovations to the building. It was then became known in Wenonah as the YMCA Hall. Unfortunately during this period Joe Noblit's sight failed and he moved to Oregon with his grandson, dieing in 1915. The Y took title to the building and started a large undertaking of activities. Shuffleboard tournaments were held and there were dances and socials for the teenagers. This was the beginning of the ongoing concern for the youth of the town through providing recreation. Outstanding were the Saturday night movies when it was advertised -seating capacity for 250 people. Stars at the time were Charles Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Pearl White, Buster Keaton and others of the silent screen.

Interest in the local chapter of the YMCA waned and the building went into disuse. Probably the greatest reason for this was the growing interest in the scouting movement under the leadership of Dr. Gage. In 1922, the newly organized J. Arthur Holeton Post 192, American Legion purchased the YMCA Hall. Previous to this they were meeting at what is now the Wild Iris floral shop, formerly the offices of the Wenonah Realty Company. Now the building became known as the "Legion Hall", the name lasting for over half a century. It became the center of social activity in the town. Saturday movies were started again for the children as well as teen-age dances, travel lectures, potluck dinners, strawberry festivals, band concerts and public forums. Voting was still held there. The American Legion Rifle and Pistol Club, the oldest NRA sponsored club in New Jersey build an indoor pistol range in the basement. In the second floor were recreational facilities including a fine old slate pool table.

In 1984 the Legion sold the building to a private owner after they began using the newly renovated train depot for their meetings, a new era emerged in the history of the hall.

Regardless of what you call it—Public School House, Grange Hall, YMCA Building, Legion Hall or my house—it is still a grand building. Basically it still retains its exterior architectural integrity and if treated kindly should exist another one hundred and thirty years.

Feb 2001

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

We would like to present our mission statement for this newly formed committee:

Mission Statement

Committee for the identi⁵cation, archiving, and preservation of Wenonah's historical treasures for future generations to enjoy. To identify all existing Wenonah Historical Society artifacts. To secure additional Historical treasures relevant to Wenonah's heritage and History.

The overriding goal is to prevent the destruction or damage of historical artifacts.

Currently the steering Committee for this new Committee is made up of Milton Webb, Diane Magarelli, Curt Kapus and Rocco Doto. The committee has had two additional volunteers and they are Larry Ledrick and John Mullens.

Our immediate goals are:

- Catalogue the existing inventory of W.H.S. documents and artifacts
- Identify Archival storage materials and conservation supplies
- Identify a temporary storage facility
- Identify a computer-based program that we can use for storing data about documents, photographs, and artifacts, and make the information available on a web page for all to enjoy.

Our goals are ambitious and we will need everyone's cooperation. We encourage all to learn as much as possible about the history of our special town. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or articles to donate to the Historical Society please feel free to contact me.

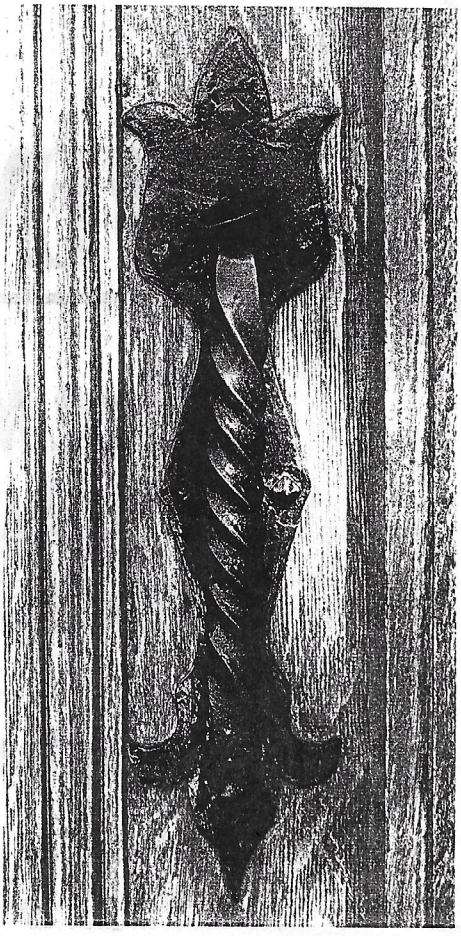
Rocco F Doto · 415-1215 · *rockracc@aol.com*

To submit your committe's report:

- Provide a disc to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file
- eMail your file to *wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com*

Your report must be received two weeks before our monthly meeting for inclusion in the newsletter.

Remember to bring the thing you love to this month's meeting! See you there.



WHERE IS IT?

Can you identify this building by this key piece of hardware? Each month we'll feature an architectural detail from one of Wenonah's structures for you to ponder. Don't worry...they'll get harder as we go along! If you haven't already figured it out, you can find out the answer at this month's meeting.

WENONAH LIBRARY

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form · 2000-2001

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check #_____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting. Thank you!

Return to Wenonah Historical Society · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: $10 per family household per year



WENONAH Historical Society

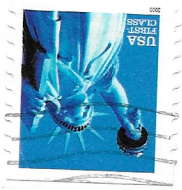
Next Meeting will be held
Friday, February 9th, 2001 · 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center

Bring the Thing You Love to Our Meeting this Month!

08030-1823 06

Ralph & Rachel Kniselí
100 West Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



March 2001
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · MARCH 1901

Compiled by Milton Webb

While at the B.F. Davis sale at Lambtown on Wednesday surveyor Cattell had a runaway as one front axle broke throwing the occupants out of the buggy and the horse continued on towards Almonesson where it was caught.

FOR SALE one bay pacer 15½ hands high 6 years old can show better than a 2:30 pace without training. Inquire Dr. Harry A. Stout (He lived and had his practice at 5 East Mantua Avenue)

The annual town meeting of the borough will be held Monday evening in Noblit's Hall where the yearly financial report will be on record and other business transacted as may come up before the meeting.

The Wednesday evening prayer meeting of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches will be combined this week to hear Miss Effie Braddock, a returned missionary who spent seven years in Indian. She is said to be a pleasing speaker.

A citizens meeting has been called to be held in Noble's Hall to nominate an assessor, 2 councilmen for three years, one for one year and a justice of the peace.

There was talk of having the school children vaccinated but the small pox scare is over and it might be delayed or forgotten.

Politicians are out with their war paint and it is said to be the hottest election we have had in some time.

There was general sorrow expressed here this morning over the death of ex-president Harrison.

Eggs are selling at 18 cents per dozen and may go lower.

Richard Clark went to the city today to lay in his stock of seed peas, onions etc. (Traditionally peas and onions were planted on Saint Patrick's Day.)

There was much interest manifest in school matters in our borough Tuesday evening. It was rumored no women were to be placed on the board and this aroused the women of our town to action and the result was the highest vote ever cast at a school election. 70 were cast for Mrs. Annie Johnson, 65 for Eldora Hurff and 62 for Ed Farr. 23 of the ballots had written on them "no taxation without representation."

Several of our horse owners about town think they have some speed and don't have to take the dust of anyone. There seems to be one way to prove this, however driving separately even though the animals do make a record seems unsatisfactory. There must be a race. Sylvester Chew believes he has speed to burn while Hi Leap splits the air with his rig and John Holton says he takes no back seat. A course has been prepared on Mantua Avenue and about all it will take to get a meet some afternoon is for someone to name the hour and there will be several starters.

Bring out the dish pan-here comes the fish man with toothsome Delaware shad.

J. Vandergrif who has the bakery route is the prime favorite with all the boys as he sometimes has samples to pass out.

Both the residents of Mantua and Wenonah are again reviving the question of damming the Mantua Creek. Should this be done it is claimed we would have one of the finest lakes in South Jersey. (In 1885, William Allen, the engineer who laid out the streets of Wenonah created a plan to dam the creek. This was to be done at what we call today "Clay Hill" or the old West Jersey Rail Road trestle embankment. The lake created would have extended to an area near what is now Moore's Liquor store. This plan was again considered in 1901 and later on several occasions.)

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

Upcoming Historical Events

March 10, 2001 · 9:15am to 2:30pm · Winter meeting of The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. Mauricetown Methodist Church, Second and Noble Streets, Mauricetown, NJ.

March 25, 2001 · 2:00-5:00pm · Gloucester County Historical Society presentation "Crazy About Quilts" in observation of Women's History Month. Gloucester County Historical Museum, 58 N Broad Street, Woodbury, NJ.

May 12, 2001 · 2001 Historic Preservation Awards Program, New Jersey State House in Trenton, NJ.

President's Letter

It has been a real inspiration to me to see such a great turn out for our meetings. I welcome all the familiar and the many new faces! It is a huge help to have so many volunteering to take on committees that are helping us to fulfill our mission statement. This is not an easy or a quick task. It takes the efforts of many and we still need lots of help...so, don't be shy...get involved! I want to take this opportunity in our first President's Letter to extend my gratitude to some of you who have been so instrumental in making this organization a success. A heartfelt thank you goes to:

· Jane Ramsay for her guidance and mentoring

· Milton Webb for his "100 Years Ago" letter that we have all been enjoying for so long... and for his newest column in the newsletter on our Historical Buildings and homes!

· To Jack Sheppard for keeping our mission statement foremost in our thoughts, for always taking on any task, and for his photography support

· Rocco Doto and staff for taking on the DAUNTING task of cataloguing Wenonah's archives! Please call if you have any help or archives to add!

· Curt Kapus for taking on the office of Vice President and presenting us with this wonderful newsletter...truly a great piece of historic journalism!

· Rachel Knisell for her dedication to keeping our Victorian Garden alive!

· And to all our officers' past and present who have set the solid groundwork from which we are able to go forward

· And finally, to all our members for it is your support that keeps our organization and this town's rich history alive!

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Bring a friend and introduce them to the many benefits of the Historical Society.

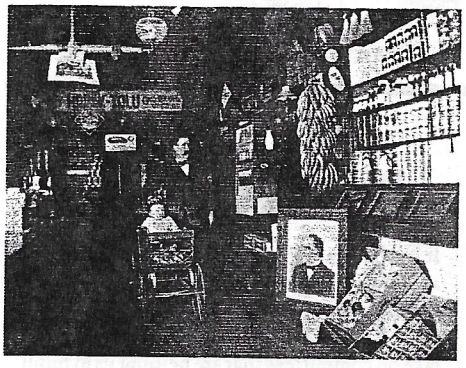
It is the knowledge of our past that keeps Wenonah the historically rich town that it is ...a place where people not only stay, but still call home after moving away!

-Vicki McCall, President

THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER

3 East Mantua Avenue

Third in a series of articles detailing the histories of some of Wenonah's more notable structures. By Milton Webb



Interior of the Richard Clark General Store 1897. Herbert Clark is in the baby carriage. Picture is of William Jennings Bryan.

Lavander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he conducted a general grocery store on the premises. This was a short-lived enterprise as the store and property were deeded to Richard J. Clark in September of 1888.

The store was expanded with *honest goods and honest prices.* The stock consisted of dry and fancy goods, notions, furnishings, boots, hats, caps etc. During this period he was in competition with Turner and McCormick who had similar goods. He outlasted them and eight other competitors until 1912. He was quite active in the community serving on the town commission and various church boards. His sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert would operate the coal yard business where the borough public works is today. Jim became a semiprofessional baseball player.

The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central" in his store serving the thirty telephones within the town. Five years later when the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone Company wanted to house their exchange but he refused because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark sold the business and the building to John Madara. He was a glass blower at Whitney Glass Works in Clayton. He continued the dry goods and grocery business successfully until 1920 when he sold it to a Norman Brown.

The business continued under his leadership until 1925 when it went up for public sale. The advertisement for the sale gives insight into the business. Listed was *the store stock of shoes, hosiery, hardware, notions, dry goods, groceries, a meat cutter, refrigerator display, and everything to be found in a general store. This is one of the best residential and business properties in town located at the Wenonah station and across from the Military Academy Park.*

Bill Seiders at this time had a hardware store in the northern part of the Grosscup building, being formerly owned by John Viereck. He was seeking a new location. Milton Webb, a salesman for Winchester-Simmons Hardware Company, was persuaded by him to go into partnership in the 3 East Mantua Avenue building and to create a new hardware store. Mr. Webb, with the consent of his wife, also was talked into moving to town. They moved into the apartment next to what would become the hardware store. Soon after moving they were assessed $500 for the concrete paving on Mantua Avenue that was their welcome to the town.

They called the store "*The Little Hardware Store Around the Corner.*" The Winchester Simmons Company was the forerunner of our present True Value, Ace and other hardware chains. The stock was quite varied: sporting goods, tools, hardware cutlery, paints, and building materials. The barn in back was turned into a warehouse. The enterprise was quite successful despite the depression. However in 1935 the academy closed and this was a disaster to all the businesses in town and the area. The store closed in 1937.

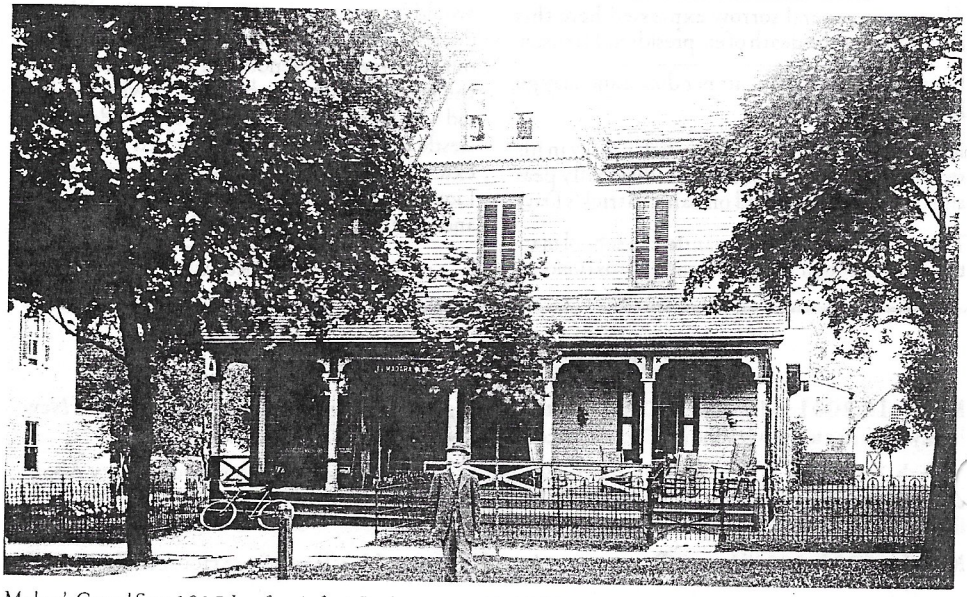
The store was then leased to Mr. A.H. Williams who opened up a Fairlawn grocery store which was unsuccessful and closed in two years. After this Charlie Hill opened a hobby shop, which went out of business in 1940. The store was then turned into an apartment unit. During this period Mary Bilderback, formerly a piano teacher at the academy, taught music in the second floor. Many a child from Wenonah started their music careers with her.

In 1949 Mr. Webb sold the building to Jim and Eleanor Ross. Eleanor's father was Charlie Hohlweg who owned Charlie's later called the Tall Pines. Jim and Eleanor successfully created the Jim-El Sweet Shoppe, which was in business for fifteen years. This was basically a luncheonette and coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch. Many years later Eleanor after returning from Florida opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Margery and Bill Fox. This was an institution in Wenonah. In the morning for breakfast there was an influx of workers from Atlantic City Electric, Bell Telephone, and other locals. For lunch were those from Marmac and Newton Tool Works and the schoolteachers. It was a gathering place for the community, so many fond memories. Sadly Marjorie died but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys's husband was Herb Clark who was born in the building and whose father was Richard Clark the early owner.

The next owners were George and Jane Bowker who ran the business under the name of The Carriage Shoppe. They ran it for several years but Jane's ill health caused it to close. Several attempts were made to reopen, but were unsuccessful. Roy Duffield bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who have conducted an outstanding business there since that time.

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed its message is that it would be good to have a coffee shop again as we did years ago. This is something that is lacking in our community. For those who remember, we know.



Madara's General Store 1915. Iron fence in front. Porch was removed in 1925.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

The committee met on February 27th at the home of Milton Webb. The following items were discussed and agreed upon to be our main objectives:

1. Produce manual inventory list of all items recently acquired by the committee.
2. Prepare a receipt form to give to members handing over Wenonah Historical Society memorabilia.
3. Secure and prepare interim storage space at 9 West Mantua Avenue.
4. Identify purchase needs to submit to Executive Board for approval.
5. Review Grant Program 2001 pamphlet from New Jersey Historical Commission for possible eligibility.
6. Arrange a meeting of the entire archiving committee.
7. Inventory the two lockers in the basement of the library.
8. Produce an inventory of all historical society artifacts
9. Identify any Historical Society artifacts not on the archiving committee list.

Our goals are ambitious and we will need everyone's cooperation. We encourage all to learn as much as possible about the history of our special town. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or articles to donate to the Historical Society please feel free to contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215 · *rockracc@aol.com*

To submit your committe's report:

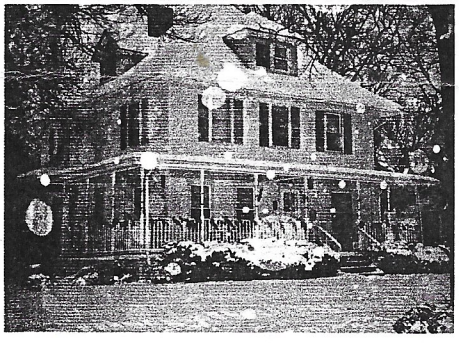
· Provide a disc to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file

· eMail your file to *wenonahhistorical-news@home.com*

Your report must be received two weeks before our monthly meeting for inclusion in the newsletter.

WHY WE MOVED TO WENONAH

Featured Residents:
Jim, Mary, and Zachary Ready



We moved from Woodbury to Wenonah five years ago to live in a quieter and safer community. We knew that we wanted a "small town" environment in which to raise our family. Another draw to this town for us was the beauty and charm of the houses—every one was different and had a unique style. We also wanted to live within a town where the community cared and took pride in its town. You can se this by looking at our park, trails, and lake.

We found our house by accident. We were searching for the Wenonah Cemetery, made a wrong turn, and came upon this run-down house on 8 South Princeton. There was something about the house that drew us in-we knew we had to have it! After driving through the town we had confirmed our thoughts: "we were moving to Wenonah" and here we'll stay!

OUR TRIBUTE TO THE WENONAH LIONS CLUB

On April 21st of 1951 Charter Night was held for this local service organization. The group was made up of many outstanding citizens of the community many of which are no longer with us-to name a few: Lew Hambrecht, Dave Knight, Norm Sanger, Bill Buckley, Howard Blithe, Charlie Hornberg, Tony Sacca, and Ted Worthington. Since then their work and outreach to the community has been outstanding. Foremost is the time and effort they put into organizing our annual, traditional Fourth of July. They have contributed equipment to our local fire company, aiding people in time of need and did much toward the restoration of our historic gem, the Wenonah Community Center. This is our opportunity on their fiftieth anniversary to say thank you for so much.

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form · 2000-2001

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check #_____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting. Thank you!

Return to Wenonah Historical Society · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: $10 per family household per year

March 2001

THE 4TH OF JULYS OF WENONAH'S PAST

Next Meeting will be held Friday, March 9th, 2001 · 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center



Our March meeting will feature a slide presentation of the Fourth of Julys of Wenonah's past. John Mullens is organizing the slides graciously donated by Marjorie Lentz at last month's meeting. Come point yourself out in the parades! There are many shots of old automobiles, homes in their former lives, and some of our town's long-time residents in their junior days.

Please leave your evening free for an interesting program and come ready to have a good and entertaining time!

INFORMATION WANTED!

· Does anyone have information on what the round stone structure is behind the McCall/Braun/Farr house located in the woods behind the house?

· Curt Kapus is looking for information about or photographs of his home's interior and exterior at 11 West Mantua Avenue. Anything you can provide will be appreciated!

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.

2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.

3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.

4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.

5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.

6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph & Rachel Knisell
100 West Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter

Published by the Historical Society of Wenonah, NJ

PRESIDENT' S LETTER

As we head into spring, this is a great time to walk our historic streets and really take notice of the beautiful architecture in our town. Many of our own members have been working diligently (and I'm sure the task seems UNENDING) to restore their homes to the charm of another century. Their efforts have not gone unappreciated! Our small town is a truly an example of historic integrity. Our Goal as Historic Society members is to keep striving in our efforts to keep it that way!

As members of the Wenonah Historical Society, we are all proud of our heritage and we value the things that reflect this community's history. It has come to my attention that as citizens, there are tools available to us to help us in our efforts to preserve the historical significance of our town. One of these tools is a Section 106 review, which is a law that can be utilized to influence Federal decisions. By law, we are entitled to a voice when Federal actions will affect properties or districts that qualify for the National Registrar of Historic Places.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was established by Congress to preserve historical foundations of the Nation as a part of community life. Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal Agencies or Agents licensed under Federal Regulations to consider the effect of their actions or undertakings on historic properties. Part of the section 106 process involves identifying and consulting with interested public parties prior to implementation of any Federal undertaking. This section gives us a voice in determining how Federal projects may effect our town!

In speaking with the State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office it was determined that our town, while not registered as a Historic District, is RECOGNIZED as a Historic District. This is important on many levels. As to current undertakings in our town, as many are aware, there is an approved site for a cell tower on our water tower in Wenonah. This application by AT & T, a Federally licensed company that would be required to follow the Section 106 guidelines, was approved at State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office based upon AT & T's representation under Section 106 that there would not be an adverse effect on the town. The Historic Society was not consulted by AT & T on that site or on that undertaking, and accordingly, there remains a question as to the due diligence followed under Section 106. There is another application coming before Planning Board to approve an alternate site for a Cell Tower. The Agency requesting this approval (AT & T) is required under the National Historic Preservation Act to initiate a Section 106 process. This should entail AT&T identifying the Historical Society as an interested party and consulting with us on this matter. This affords us the opportunity to discuss and determine whether we feel that a cell tower at this site or any site requested will be an adverse effect on this historic community.

The State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office recognizes that wireless communication towers can have adverse effects on the view sheds of historic districts, sites, and landscapes. Knowledge about the New Jersey State Register Review and the Section 106 review and the Telecommunications Act is critical to understanding the regulation behind the placement of these towers.

This process is an important means of giving us the right and opportunity to give input on maintaining the Historic integrity of this town. We as members need to be aware of this and to speak up on our behalf to responsible parties that we do wish to have a voice and be considered in any Federal undertaking, whether it be a telecommunications issue, or how federal money will be used on any projects within our town.

I will have available at the meeting information on The National Historic Preservation Act section 106 Review. Please take a moment to read it and bring comments and suggestions to our meeting. I will be unable to attend the April meeting but am available to any who wish to call me on this matter.

Information about these regulations can be found at www.achp.gov/regs.html.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO-APRIL 1901

Misses Florence and Anna Greenig are ill with quinsy.

Palmer Finch is now employed at the Blasius Piano Works in Woodbury.

A large stock of Easter hams and fresh jersey eggs and all other necessities will be found at Turner and McCormick. (Corner of West Mantua and South West Avenue)

Irwin Middleton was remembered with a large box of rockfish from a friend in Port Norris.

The topographical work on the new cemetery is nearly complete and the landscape work will soon commence.

Our people are pleased with the new platform at the train depot.

George Greenig and Howard Holt caught 45 sunfish in the Mantua Creek yesterday.

Pretty lawns are all ready in evidence here.

A number of children are out of school with the chicken pox.

It is confidently asserted that we are going to have a dramatic association organized here in a short time.

The pleasant weather no doubt will have a tendency to fill out churches tomorrow. It is thought in proportion this town has actually the largest attendance in churches on Sunday of any other place in this part of the state.

The funeral of Isaac Stevenson will be held Thursday morning, internment at Blackwoodtown. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. At one time he was the owner of nearly all of the land that is now Wenonah. It is reported he is nearly a millionaire.

Edward L.Farr is on an extended trip through the west.

Dominee Cobb is enjoying his new wheel in this fine weather.

Woodbury Daily Times

Woodbury, New Jersey

Milton webb

THE FIRE HOUSE

In the beginning fire protection was very sporadic. Efforts to create a hose company started in 1888 and indeed were partially successful with the acquisition of a hose cart and organized manpower. Storage of the hose cart was in the barn of the Wenonah House, later moved to Thomas Synnott's icehouse on East Mantua Avenue. Two more carts were acquired and the need became apparent that a centralized location of equipment was needed. In 1902 this was expressed in the Woodbury Times-*the fireman again are agitating the removal of the fire station to a more central location somewhere near the depot would be most preferable.* At this time the fire company consisted of 22 members, three hose carts, 1000 feet of hose, axes, lanterns, ladders and fire buckets.

A building committee was formed consisting of George L. Dilks, Hon. William C.Cattell and Joseph Truncer. These men, held in great respect in the community, gave momentum to the realization that the town would have a fire station. Several sites were considered and the Harris Estate lot on South West and West Cherry Streets was purchased for $150. Bids were solicited for a two story concrete block building, the low bidder being Daniel Brown. He was President of the fire company and the largest builder of dwellings in Wenonah. His bid was $1475. Additional costs were $60 for paving and $39 for grading. It is interesting to note the architectural style was very basic, the same replicated in Mantua, Mount Royal and Clarksboro. The structure was to be *nicely heated* and illuminated with electricity and gas. On January 24th 1909 there was a housing of the apparatus. *The members of the borough council were present to witness the event.* At this time there was no motorized equipment. The fire bell was moved to the new building from McCormick and Turner's store on Mantua and South West Avenue. Out front, a gas lamp with a glass sign marked Wenonah Fire Co. was installed.

There was much discussion about the uses of the second floor. It was agreed that it could be used as a smoking room and to play cards but, of course, there would be no gambling. Dick Ballinger who lived across the street in the Stone Farm House provided furniture. A slate topped pool table was installed. Borough council who had previously met in the offices of the Wenonah Reality Company started meeting there as well as the Gloucester County Poultry Association. When the Wenonah Building and Loan was formed this was their regular meeting place. The new fire station became the town hall as well as the barn for housing the equipment.

The first piece of motorize equipment housed in the barn was a 1915 Model C Auto Fire Truck. It was a dual-purpose vehicle as it was used to tow the hose cart and in the case of large fires the ladder wagon, which was, previously horse drawn. The second truck to be housed was a 500-gallon pumper and hose car made by the Stutz Fire Engine Company. This was at the time the ultimate pumper and it was commented in the paper that *they (the fireman) all think we have the best lot of councilmen in the state.* The cost was $9,500 a considerable amount of money for the period. In 1928 a Seagraves pumper was purchased to replace the 1915 Ford. The cost was $6,000.

Housing of the new pumper created a problem and it was determined to build an addition on the back of the barn. The addition was made of concrete block one story high. Part of the addition was a vault to store borough records, a new heating boiler and a jail. The jail replaced the one in the barn at 1 East Mantua Avenue. In order to finance the new addition carnivals were held in the park starting in 1921. This did not set too well with some of the citizens. One such person was Rev. Elbert M.Conover who was quoted in the Woodbury Times-

The writer has just learned with surprise and disappointment that gambling devises, chance selling etc are to be used at the Wenonah Fireman's Carnival. We had thought that the members of the Wenonah Fire Company and Women's Auxiliary were upholders of the law, order and decency. Evidently such members are in the silent minority. Is Wenonah so poverty stricken that we must resort to such low-grade methods of securing fire protection? Wenonah has gotten along without such degrading projects and should continue to do so .As much as the zeal of the workers for the carnival is to be recommended their effort is badly misdirected and entirely unnecessary. Wenonah has gotten along without such degrading projects and can continue to do so.

To which the Ladies Auxiliary of the Wenonah Fire Company replied to him in the same newspaper-

We are free to admit that we lack his evident knowledge of "rowdyism", "roughneck affairs" and "leg shows". Traveling about from place to place has its advantages for good or evil, of course, and if one seeks baseness and roguery he can easily find it. We stay- at- homes in this sleepy hamlet of Wenonah having little opportunity of learning the trickery of the outside world are content to jog along, getting a little mild amusement here and there, believe the best of our fellow man and keep in mind the old adage-Evil to him who evil thinks. . Mr. Conover asks that Wenonah wake up. We think that is a good idea also. Let it wake up to the fact that we have some red blooded men and women in our midst who scorn the saintly contenance and nasty mind. Their respectability is beyond question and they will not tolerate the language of the red light district. He must realize he is not addressing a gutter gang.

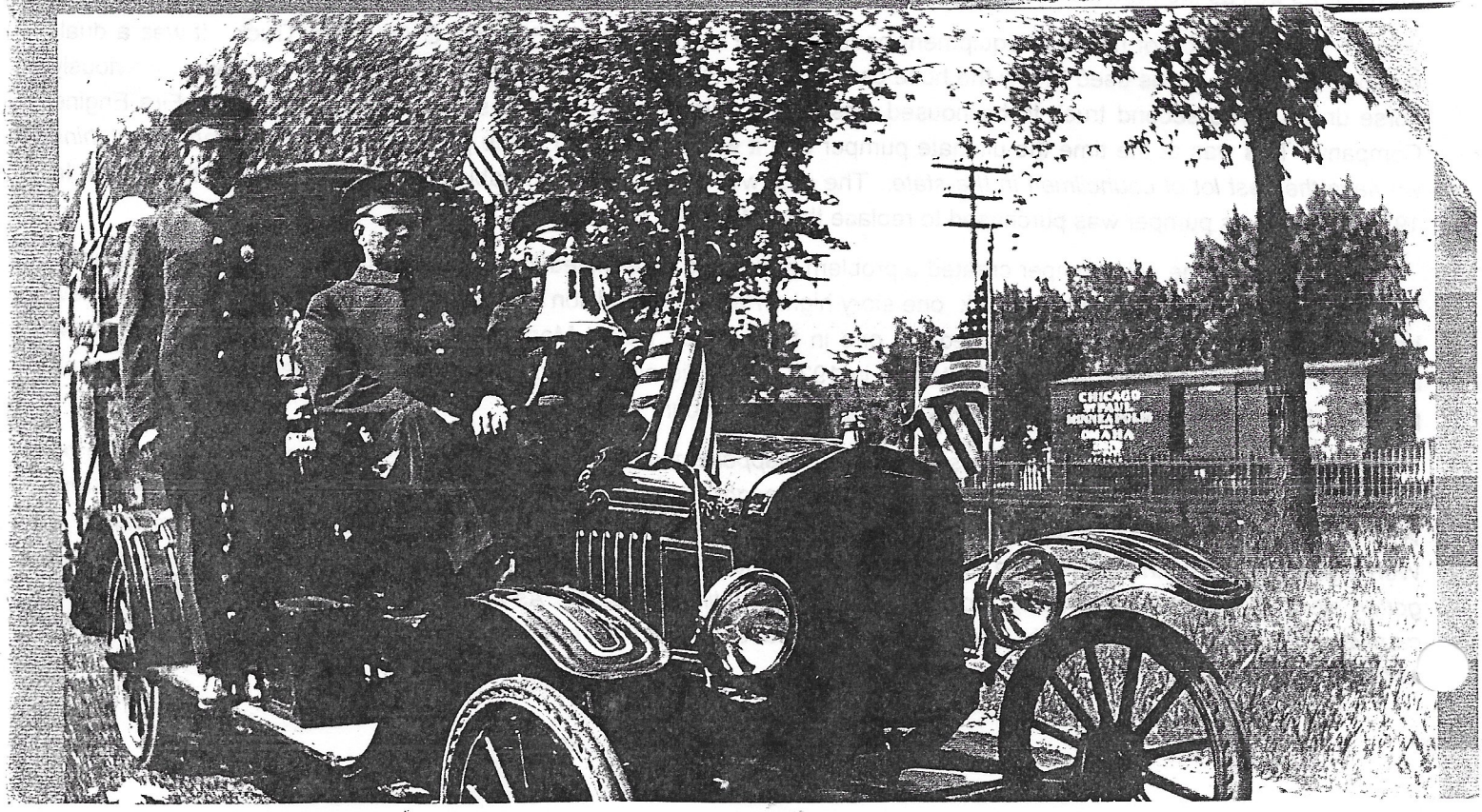
The town was polarized on this issue as it would in many other issues in the future. Public discussion and concern has always been one of the beautiful benchmarks of our community. The firemen's carnival was successful as a fundraiser and was held for annually in the park. It became one of the causalities of the Second World War and never revived afterward.

To be continued next month

The new fire house, picture taken in 1909



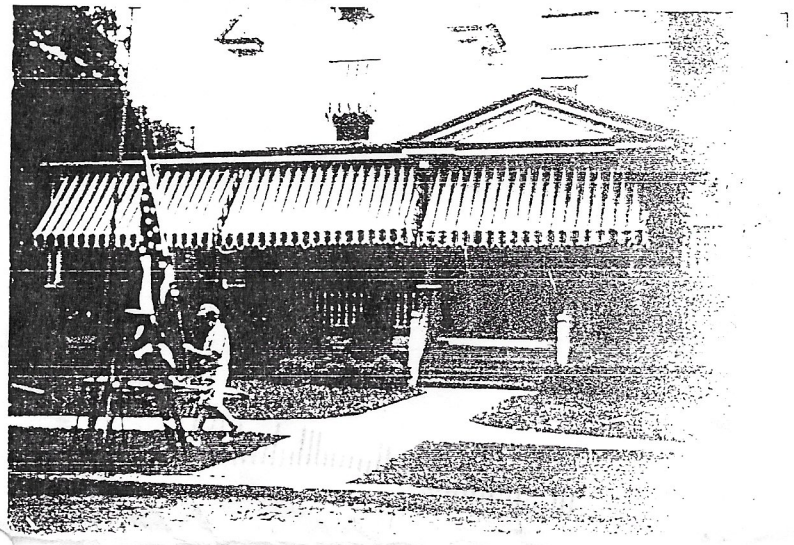
1915 Model C auto fire truck in service until 1928



John Viereck

DO YOU REMEMBER?

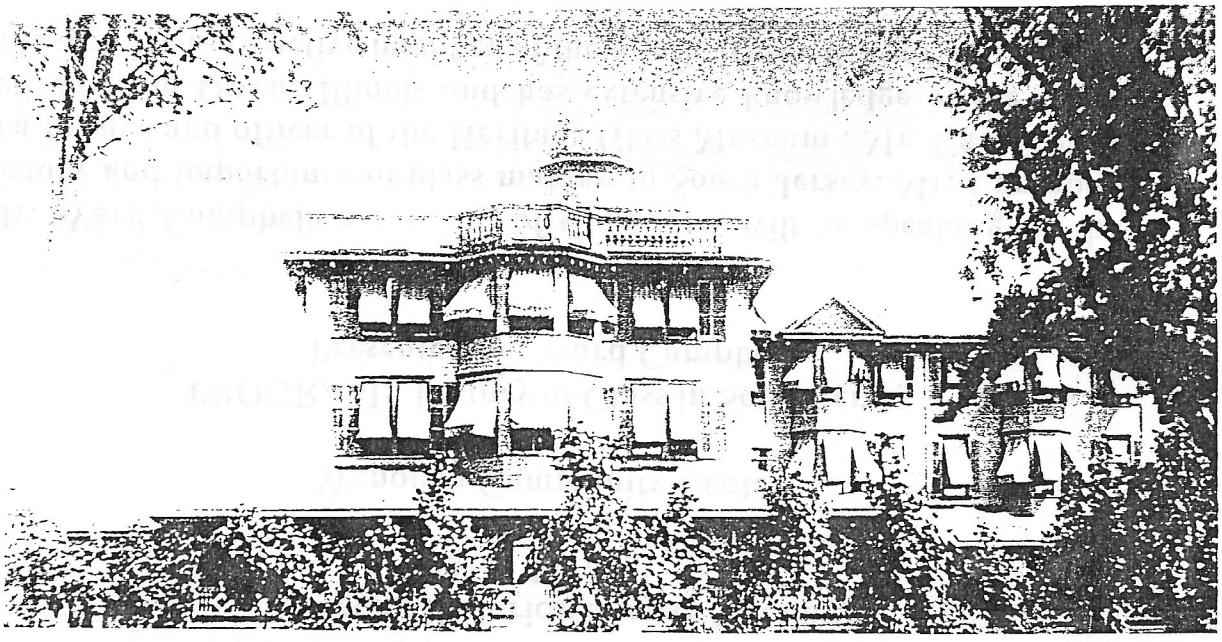
In the late spring workmen arrived in Wenonah to put up the awnings which had been stored for the winter on the houses of Wenonah. This was a big occasion. The whole appearance of the house changed with the new additional coloration. It was a welcome sign that summer was coming. Sitting on the porch was enhanced by the shade afforded by the awnings. It added a certain comfort to the house and served as a canopy to the entry area. In the fall the process was reversed and we knew that winter was on its way. Wouldn't it be grand if this tradition came back?



Typical configuration of awnings.

-101 South Marion Avenue C1930

The Wenonah Inn C.1890 In the Victorian period there was large use of awnings



Wenonah Historical Society Meeting
May 11, 2001
7:30 pm
Wenonah Community Center

PROGRAM: History of Glass in South jersey
Presented by: Ward Campbell

Mr. Ward Campbell, a resident of Glassboro, will be speaking on the history and importance of glass making to South Jersey. Mr. Campbell is a trustee and officer of the Heritage Glass Museum . Mr. Campbell is retired from Owens Illinois and has extensive knowledge of the Glass industry. He is an active member of the South Jersey Bottle Club.

Please join us for an informative and hands on evening. Feel free to bring in any bottles that you would like Mr. Campbell to comment upon.

Ralph & Rachel Knisell
100 W. Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090

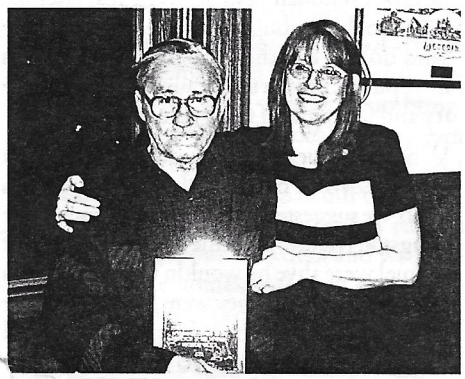
WENONAH Historical Society
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PO Box 32
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WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter

August 2001
Published by the
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of Wenonah, NJ

Thoughts on the Passing of Milton H. Webb, Jr.

By Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.



Milton receiving the Society's Millenium Award from President Vicki McCall at the March meeting.

Since there are many people on the Wenonah Historical Society mailing list who are not from this area, a copy of the *Gloucester County Times* obituary for our friend Milton H. Webb, Jr., is enclosed.

Although the obituary is very much complete and factual, to some extent it fails to convey the full relationship that Milt had with his region and his community.

Although I was a classmate of Milt's sister Marjorie, Woodbury High Class of 1944, I didn't come to know Milt until Helen and I moved into Wenonah in the early 1950's and I was elected to Wenonah Borough Council.

Milt was extremely interested in the flora and fauna of Wenonah and encouraged Planning Board members George Eldredge, Nat White, and others to acquire parts of bordering woodlands using funds made available through the estate of Woodbury resident and naturalist Frank H. Stewart.

Once lands were acquired Milt was appointed to the Wenonah Woodlands Council, which at his urging became the Wenonah Environmental Commission. Milt was it's first chairman and a member for over twenty-five years.

Milt's knowledge of the origins and history of Wenonah was legendary. He spent countless hours in Wenonah and at the County Historical Society library researching and photocopying information related to Wenonah from the old newspaper records of the *Gloucester County Constitution*, *Democrat* and the *Woodbury Daily Times*.

Anyone researching Wenonah history or simply curious would stop by Milt's family home on South Marion Avenue and almost instantly Milt would produce one or more articles or photos on a particular point of interest.

My own personal relationship with Milt and his family was a great source of satisfaction to me. Many visits to Milt and his mother before her passing were very enjoyable as well as educational.

For those who haven't heard this story before, I was passing the house on my bike one day and saw Mrs. Webb, then in her eighties, on her hands and knees under the shrubs in front of the house. I stopped and asked if I could help her and that was my first experience with "Martha", the just acquired family kitten. Since that time Milton and Martha and I have spent many hours on Milt's porch, Milt and I talking about Wenonah and Martha attempting to gnaw through my shoe. Milt would just roll his eyes and tell me another tale about Martha's latest conquest, usually a chipmunk, squirrel or bird that Martha had dragged to, or into the house.

Milt's overwhelming interest in resisting change to the Wenonah he so fervently loved caused him to call me for discussion and advice many, many times.

He had spent a great many hours as part of the volunteers restoring the former train station and he hated to see it not being properly maintained or being altered in some way that was inconsistent with it's origins.

As development growth occurred in town he spent many hours perusing the plans and making constructive suggestions to the Planning Board and Borough Council.

He loved Wenonah absolutely and without concession.

I said at an ash scattering ceremony in the Wenonah woods that "heaven" is different things to different people and not necessarily just a wonderful place "up there". Some folks believe we can spend eternity in a place that was heaven to us while we were on earth. If this is possible then Milt is now a resident of Wenonah back at the turn of the previous century and will spend eternity roaming the streets of his favorite place in the universe, Wenonah.

We will all miss Milton H. Webb Jr. and I am sure I speak for all members of the Wenonah Historical Society in saying we extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to his family.

The Executive Board and membership would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of those who have so graciously contributed money to the Wenonah Historical Society. Your thoughtful donations will continue to enable us to preserve and promote the wonderful history and priceless artifacts of our town through projects such as this newsletter, the Archiving and Preservation Committee, and future endeavors. *Again* . . .

Thank You!!!

President's Letter

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. As most of you are aware, we lost a very dear member this summer. We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Milton H. Webb. We sent our condolences to his family and to his numerous friends. We will miss him terribly.

As we go forward into this new year, I hope you will take a moment to think about the amount of time and effort that Milton so freely gave to our Historical Society. There are not many places in this town that you can go and not be reminded of Milton. He touched so many of our hearts and it was his tireless efforts to keep this town true to its roots that have made Wenonah what it is today. In that spirit we must continue these efforts to keep the historical integrity of our town that Milton fought so hard to keep.

Take a close look around you ... at your own home and those surrounding it ... at the beautiful woods and nature trails that surround this town. Wenonah truly represents one of the few towns that can still boast a sense of community, a spirit of camaraderie, and a commitment to the town and its people. Let us never lose sight of that and let us renew our own promises to enrich this town.

In Milton' honor and in the honor of all our members who have passed that have shown such a commitment to this town (Jean Ehlers, Dorothy Fiege, and the many others) please, please, please volunteer your time and commit to continuing the efforts of those before us.

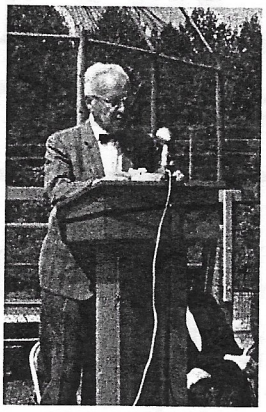
Join us at the annual Porch Party at Littlegrange on September 14, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend and hopefully you will come prepared to help us in our efforts to immortalize and honor this town.

As part of the evening's events, I would love it if you could bring a written story about how Milton Webb may have touched your life so that we can put his story forever in our archives as he put Wenonah forever in his heart.

-Vicki McCall, President

History of the Athletic Field

By W. George Gehring (July 4, 1969) [Edited for space considerations]



W. George Gehring giving this speech at Langston Field, 1969.

Langston Field was originally the Wenonah Military Academy Athletic Field. The Academy was located in the block bounded by Mantua Avenue, South Clinton, East Cherry, and South Marion Avenue. The stone wall in front of the home of a former teacher at the Academy, Captain David Knight, on South Clinton is the original wall of the Academy grounds and thereon is a plaque marking the site. Langston Field is where the cadets played football and baseball, held track meets and military maneuvers, and practiced horsemanship. It had an enclosed grandstand. The Academy was founded in 1905 and lasted until 1935. Old-timers will recall that a baseball pitcher by the name of Herb Pennock attended here and went on to become a star in the Major League, pitching winning ball for 23 years and making the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Another famous graduate was State Senator Frank Farley.

After the Academy closed its doors in the famous depression of the 1930s, the Wenonah Athletic Association played ball there and many were the battles with Woodbury, Paulsboro, Pitman, and Glassboro. A few remaining residents of Wenonah performed on that team. In the 1940s and 50s, the Wenonah Boys' Club was organized by Bill Queale and myself. Our best pitcher was Gordon Scargle, who was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals.

In the early 1950s, the Lions Club International came to Wenonah and what a lucky day for us. One of the finest deeds they offered to do was to take on the responsibilities of the athletic field and the organization of the various teams. We now have an immaculate diamond, replete with well constructed backstop, dugouts, grandstand, a refreshment house with water and electricity, and also a basketball court. Three years ago [1966] the Lions Club sponsored the formation of the Wenonah Athletic Association which is now operating baseball under the capable guidance of many men and women of the Borough.

Now, let us go back 21 years and I'll acquaint you with a most unusual incident that took place in June of 1948. We were playing ball when a bulldozer came on the field and began digging a hole right through the cinder track in left field. We ran out and asked the man what was going on. He told us that the ball field had been purchased and was to be sold into building lots. Mrs. Samuel Langston heard of this and within a month's time convinced the new owner to sell her all but a half-acre in the outfield. She did this to save it for the girls and boys of Wenonah. A little over a year later she sold it to the Borough of Wenonah for a thousand dollars less than she paid for it. So it is now public property because of the generosity and foresight of this great woman.

When Bill Queale and I went around to thank her in 1948 on behalf of the Wenonah Boys Club, we suggested that the field be named the Langston Memorial Athletic Field. She said if Samuel were alive he wouldn't agree to it. This is the kind of people they were. I remember during the formation of the Wenonah Playground Association around 1940 that most of the large equipment was purchased by the Langstons.

On September 30, 1967, Mrs. Langston departed from this mortal life of nearly 87 years of fruitful living. Immediately we began a movement to perpetuate the memory of this great benefactor of Wenonah with a fitting memorial. The Lions Club was very happy to do this and now our dreams have come true.

Truly our community is enhanced as a nicer place to live by her deeds. This town has been blessed with a great spirit of patriotism and local pride and we aim to safeguard it by instilling such a spirit in our youth. They take over when we are gone. The finest example of such a spirit during my 40 years in Wenonah was accomplished in 1948 by your friend and mine, Jessica Wood Langston.



Letters to the Editor

Please see below right for where to send your letters. Thank you!

Dear Editor,

It has been a great pleasure to receive the Wenonah Historical News. My husband and I thoroughly enjoy reading the news that brings back a flood of memories.

We have lived in Florida for forty-one years this coming New Years' Day. I was forty years old when we arrived and my husband was forty-three, so you can imagine the expanse of time that has slipped by since living up North.

My family moved to Wenonah when I was two years old, and I can recall the day of arrival, Momma and Papa with their five children. Needless to say, we had a wonderful up-bringing in the small town of Wenonah. For my own experiences, I recall living in many different homes, with the exception of our one home on S. Monroe Ave. and Willow St. My parents built this and the one next door and we lived there until the homes were lost due to the great depression of those days. We moved to Woodbury for a short span of time, but soon returned to Wenonah and lived there until the day I was married and moved elsewhere only to return to Wenonah for approximately three or four more years with our two young children. After this, we had to leave my beloved town so that my husband could locate closer to his place of work.

During all the years of my absence from Wenonah, my memories of my home town dwelled on thoughts of my young years. There was never a lack of things to do, for in those days, we had the wooded areas to play in, and very often, all of us kids when living on S. Monroe Ave., would have a great time climbing down the trunk of a big old tree on the Mantua Creek which was on S. Jefferson Ave, at the Cann's residence. At that time.there were other woods where we would pick Violets from the great expanse of tiny flowers peeping up at us near the swamps on the north side of Lincoln Ave. On the west side of the street , we used to cross the swamp area on logs. Of course, there was Warner's lake and all the activities there through out all the years I lived there, namely swimming, ice-skating and just walking around the lake. I still recall all my grammar School Days and my Sunday School activities at the Wenonah Presbyterian Church and all the youngsters we knew and played with. My memories are endless and of course, how well we remember the Millitary Academy and the performance of the Cadets on certain occasions in town. During my absence from my home town, I often thought of returning, but it was not to be. My thoughts and memories were quickly revived thru the Newsletters we now receive. My brother, Sylvanus Beucler's name is inscribed on the Veterans list in the park. I have no family left except our very own. Hank and I have two children, four grandchildren, and four greats. All are our hearts' delights and deep infilling joy. Now our home is in Jupiter, Florida, and we love it very much here.

Gods love and blessings,
Janet and Hank Picucci

Committee Reports

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Our committee is going strong. The *PastPerfect* software has been tested and thus far there have been no problems. It is very clear to us that this endeavor will take much more time than first expected. We have already located over 500 items and numerous collections. Our next step will be to produce the computerized database and photography for all members to take pride in and see our vast holdings. Now we have to think about ways of storing and displaying our artifacts.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

To Submit Your Committee's Report, Letters, or Articles to the WHS Newsletter

- **Provide a Disc** to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file
- **eMail Your File** wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

Your report or article must be received three weeks before our monthly meeting for inclusion in the newsletter.

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check #_____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. BOX 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: $10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

Annual Porch Party Meeting

Next Meeting will be held Friday, September 14th, 2001 • 7:00pm
Littlegrange • 300 East Mantua Avenue (The McCall Residence)



September's meeting will be our annual Porch Party at the McCalls' home. Please feel free to bring food or beverages to this opening of our "season." We look forward to seeing everyone at this always social and casual event.

Dues notice

Please note that yearly membership dues are due at the September Porch Party. Please accompany your payment of $10 with the form on the inside of this newsletter. Thank you... your dues are what make everything possible for us!

How to Contact Us

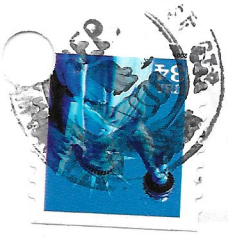
Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090



Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



October 2001
Published by the Historical Society of Wenonah, NJ

A Plea for Your Knowledge



With the passing of Milton Webb, we lost one of our most prolific contributors to this newsletter. Without his monthly articles, our newsletter has been left sorely empty and wanting for pieces dealing with the past of Wenonah coming from the hearts and minds of those who have experienced it. If you can provide information about, or write yourself, an article for a future issue, please contact us. We need your help! Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Our knowledge of the *PastPerfect* software has grown since the last meeting as we continually find ways to make the program do what we require. We are also at this point attempting to locate any and all items owned by the Society that are being stored personally so that they may be cataloged and photographed. As we progress through this undertaking, the sheer scope and size of the job is becoming evident.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

Please Submit Your Committee Reports or Articles to the Newsletter

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Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

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October Business Meeting

Next Meeting will be held Friday, October 12th, 2001 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



October's meeting will concern itself with many important business issues that we must discuss and vote upon. Your attendance and input is requested for this most important gathering. November's meeting will feature a guest speaker and program.

Dues notice

Please note that yearly membership dues are now due. Please accompany your payment of $10 with the form on the inside of this newsletter. Thank you... your dues are what make everything possible for us!

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November 2001
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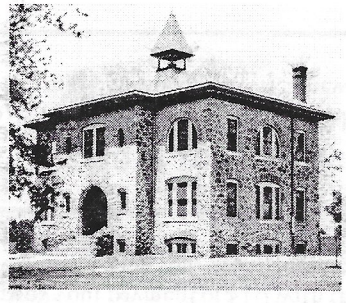
History to be Displayed at Wenonah School

Our mission as a Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and display our town's artifacts. To this end we have been diligently working. I thank the Archive Committee for all their hard work and look forward to unveiling some of our treasures in the very near future. We have commissioned David Ramsay Cabinetmakers to design and create our FIRST Display Cabinet. This Cabinet will be put up in the Wenonah Elementary School. This will provide us with a wonderful method of bringing our history to future generations. The first display will be up in time for Parent Visitation at the Wenonah School on November 14–15, 2001. We are hoping to have a dedication ceremony as well.

I am extremely excited about finally being able to display and share our town history with the school and the children. I hope you too will share in this enthusiastic project and volunteer to help with the set up and unveiling!

At this month's meeting, input from the membership would be greatly appreciated on what we should include in the school display. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the treasures we have been accumulating.

We will also be planning the Christmas Party for December. Please come and bring us some new ideas!



Committee Reports

Archiving and Preservation Committee

The Archiving Committee has completed its Inventory of all known items. Some of the items are magnificent like the WMA Sabers and Silver Trophies from the Wenonah Military academy. Some items are in poor condition like a Red Victorian Dress and a WMA Silk Flag that is beautiful but deteriorating quickly.

There are other pieces of Wenonah's History like the hand drawn map outlining the main streets of Wenonah and the Wenonah Reality Company's sale of lots on July 8th, 1916. We also have lots of photographs and postcards from the early 1900s. Most of these items are unknown to most people, particularly the newer people in town. It would sure be nice to have somewhere to show our Wenonah pride and joy.

If you have any ides or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

WENONAH Historical Society Membership Form • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

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Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: $10 per family household per year

Return to Wenonah Historical Society • P.O. Box 32 • Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

November Meeting

Next Meeting will be held Friday, November 9th, 2001 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



Due to health issues among our officers and their families, we will not have a program at the November meeting. We are planning to use the meeting time to determine the articles, pictures, and artifacts that we want to use for the first ever school display.

Dues notice

Please note that yearly membership dues are now due. Please accompany your payment of $10 with the form on the inside of this newsletter. Thank you... your dues are what make everything possible for us!

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

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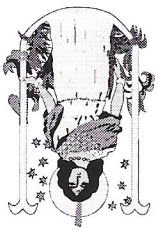
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6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090





WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



December 2001
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

As the holiday season approaches I want to take the time to thank you for all of your support and help. We have accomplished some important items over the last year. Our archive committee has documented and updated all our records and have prepared a database that will soon be available to all. We have accomplished setting up our first display cabinet in the Wenonah School. Be sure to stop in and see this wonderful piece. I wish to thank David Ramsay Cabinetmakers for the wonderful work they did with the design. Our first display is dedicated to the memory of Milton Webb. He would be very proud to see us finally reaching one of our goals...bringing our archives to the public's attention.

In these times of world wide turmoil do not forget to take a minute every day to count your blessings. Let each of us look around and find ways, no matter how small, to reach out and help others. I wish you all a VERY HAPPY and HEALTHY HOLIDAY!!!

-Vicki McCall

Wenonah's Christmas in the Past

1890

The Methodists had a very interesting Christmas entertainment on Thursday evening. Beside the part taken by the little folks and the excellent part taken by the choir there was a short address by Dr S.D. Risley, formerly a resident here. Several of the Sunday school teachers received valuable presents from their classes, and the Pastor Herr was presented with a costly gold watch, purchased by contributions from members of the church and other friends.

1891

As is its custom, the Wenonah Presbyterian Sunday school provided the inmates of the West Jersey Orphanage for Destitute Colored Children at Camden with their usual Christmas dinner of poultry and all the "fixins." (Thomas W. Synnott was one of the founders of this institution)

1893

The jingle of sleigh bells, the many shouts of school children, the whirling of the snow and the debut of ulsters and gum boots reminds us that winter is here. Christmas morning was joyously welcomed by our little folks whom Santa Claus had treated with great liberality. He made many little hearts happy and warmed the hearts of older folks with true Christmas cheer by the sight of their happy faces. "Peace and good will toward men" reigned supreme in the borough. Our post office has a very festive air in its decorations of Christmas greens.

1899

On Monday evening (Christmas night) an entertainment will be given for the Presbyterian Sunday school in Noblit's Hall. As usual at the M.E. church a collection will be received for the poor. Nothing will be refused from a ton of coal to a bar of soap.

1900

The Sunday school entertainment of the M.E. Church will be held on Christmas Eve. The children will give a cantata entitled "The New Santa Claus" forty nine taking part. Silver offering at the door for adults.

1903

A substantial and much appreciated gift comes to the Presbyterian congregation in the shape of a residence adjoining the church. The donor, Stephan Green has done much for the welfare of Wenonah and its residents, and has a warm place in the hearts of the citizens. (This Victorian house was sited where the social hall stands today.)

1904

The Christmas cantata of the Presbyterian Church will be held at Noblit's Hall. A rather unique admission will be charged- an apple or a potato or their equivalent in anything else or more. These are to be donated to the worthy poor irrespective of color, denomination or nationality.

Collected from the:
Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury Daily Times

1908

A large audience enjoyed the Christmas Cantata "Sleepy Santa Claus" in the Methodist Church. The little folks chorus "The Sleepy Head Band" was quite the hit of the evening. Misses Truncer, Gringo and Jordan were very attractive as "Toy Factory Girls." Misses Eleanor Stout, Elizabeth Mehorter and Hazel Nightingale were the fairies. The scholars of the school received candy and oranges. Hon. William C. Cattell, in a stirring speech, presented the Pastor with a liberal remembrance from the congregation.

1909

The Christmas services of All Saints Mission Sunday School was held at the home of Rev. G. Livingston Bishop. Regular services at Noblit's Hall on Sunday morning at 10:45 all welcome. The Christmas cantata entitled "Santa Claus Junior" will be given December 30th and promises to be interesting.

1911

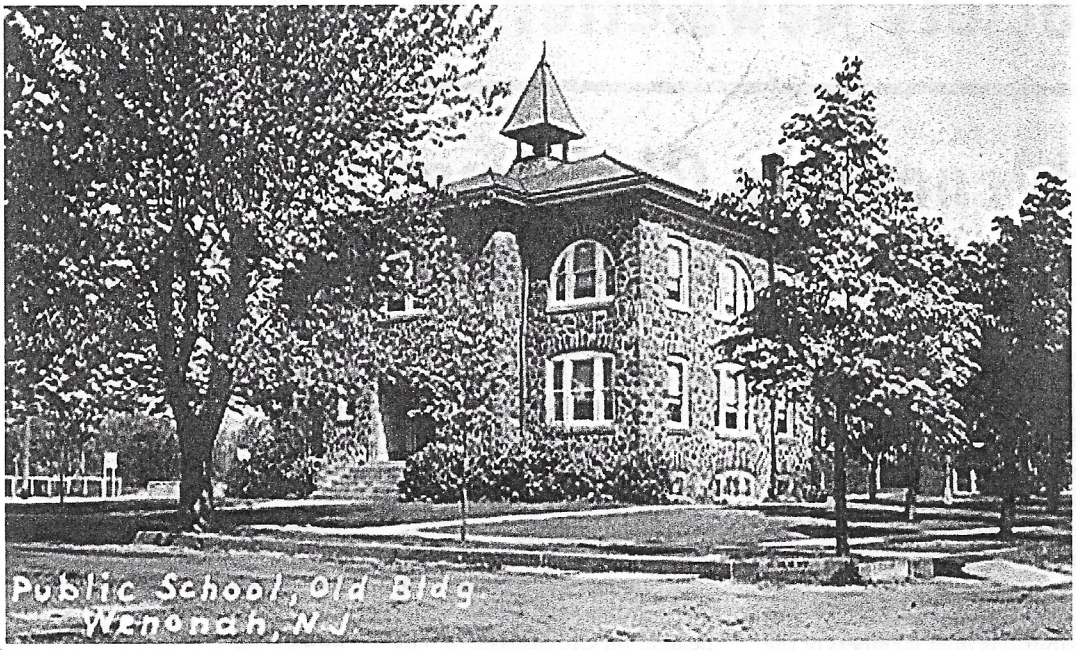
The Christmas cantata "Why Santa is Happy" rendered by the members of the M.E. Sunday school in the new recreation hall was a decided success, the participants entering into the spirit of the occasion in a most creditable manner due, no doubt, to the careful training of Mrs. Charles Hopson. Dr. Lake Gilmour as Santa Claus acted the part to perfection. The little tots claiming him for their sweetheart in song.

Wenonah School

N. Clinton Avenue and E. Elm Street

Fourth in a series of articles of some of Wenonah's more notable structures (series started by Milton Webb in February 2001)
Excerpts taken from Marge Lentz's book, A History of Wenonah

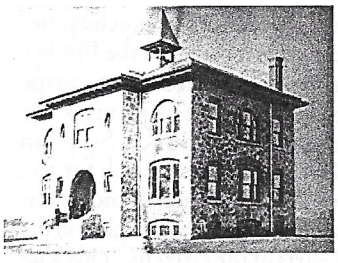
by Vicki McCall



According to the annual report of The Mantua Land and Improvement Company, fifteen residential lots and four business lots had been sold and $75,000 worth of buildings had been erected by May 8,1873. Over the next ten years, fifty "cottages" were built which, can be identified today by their Mansford roofs, slate roofs, Mansford double doors, fish scale shingles, and towers with iron cresting.

Children of some of these new residences attended boarding schools in Philadelphia or attended the Mantua School. In 1875, parents hired Charles Buckman to drive the school aged children to the one-room Monongahela School where Sallie Baily was the teacher. This school was located three miles east of Glassboro Road, down a lane that passed the Benjamin Clark farmhouse (now on Gloucester County College property).

In 1876, District Clerk George Baily, brother of the teacher Sallie Baily, proposed a school for Wenonah. He wrote a letter to the Gloucester County Superintendent of Public Instruction stating that "The school during



the months of September and October will meet in a room in a private dwelling. On October 31st we expect to occupy a part of the Wenonah House. Please send the books and blanks which, as I understand the matter, are furnished by the state."

After this, classes were held in The Howard-Wentzell Building located at 7 W. Mantua Avenue. This building was referred to as, "Daddy Howard's School". During the winter months, the children met at The Wenonah House, a hotel, in the dining room. Teacher Sallie Baily was paid an annual salary of $360 and was given an allowance to purchase a stove to heat the dining room of The Wenonah House. Classes were held in this manner from 1876 to 1878.

On March 19, 1878, the annual meeting of School District 54 in the County of Gloucester was held at the Wenonah House. The President read the following call, which had been posted in three public places: "Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of School District No. 54 in the County of Gloucester, that the Annual School meeting will be held at the school room in the Wenonah House, on the Tuesday of the week following Town meeting, being the 19th day of March 1878 at 8 o'clock in the evening, at which meeting will be submitted the question of voting a tax to maintain a free Public school the coming year.

The amount thought to be necessary for the purpose is ($300) three hundred dollars.

The question of building a school house will also be considered, with all matters relating there to.

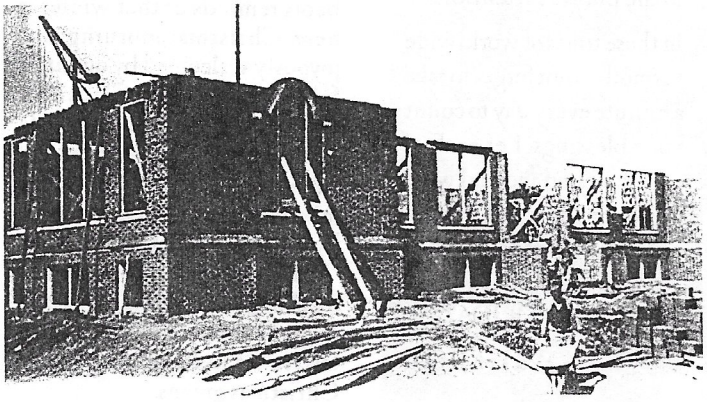
The amount thought to be necessary for this purpose is ($2,500) twenty five hundred dollars.

Dated this Fourth day of March 1878"

-George W Baily, District Clerk

This was the official start of the Public School system in Wenonah!

The first school building was located at 6 N Marion Avenue It was completed in 1879 and classes immediately started. This building served as the Schoolhouse until it outgrew its capacity for the growing number of school children in Wenonah. In June of 1894, the trustees of the school district sold this building at auction to Joseph Noblit.

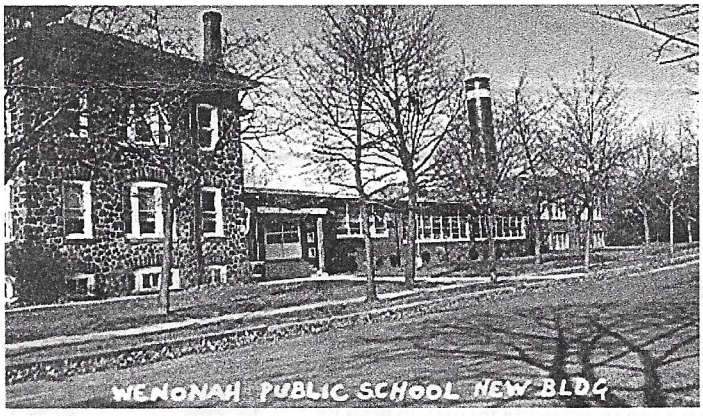


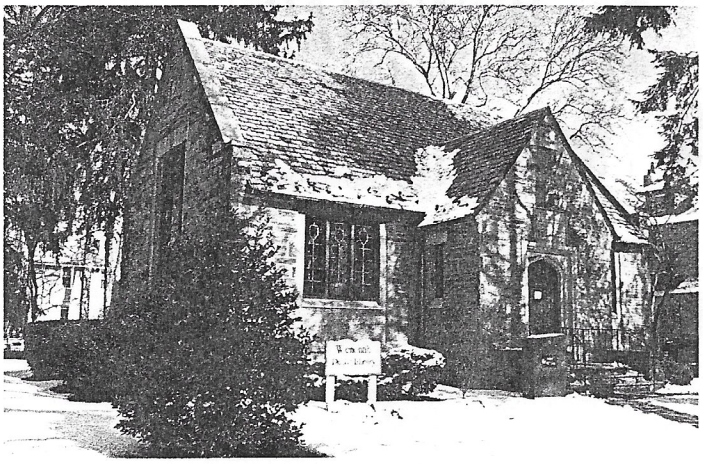
A new school was built in 1894 in the section of Wenonah known as "Sand Town." The new building was known as The Old Stone School and now houses the third and fourth grade classes. Mrs. Andrew Carey and Mrs. Edward Farr were the FIRST women in Wenonah to be elected as school Trustees. Wenonah was the second school district in Gloucester County to elect women to this post. The Old Stone School in 1894.

In the 1890's, an article in a monthly newspaper called "The Wenonah News," Wenonah was described as "a model home town with pure spring water, conveniences, hot and cold water, best schools, established churches, and seventeen trains for the city, and no salons. The article added it is "just the place for you and better still for your children."

As news of this great town spread, more people moved in and the population continued to grow. A new brick addition was added to the school ground in 1921 to house the older classes through eighth grade. In 1955 the two schools were joined by the brick addition that today houses the Kindergarten through second grade.

WENONAH SCHOOL: "A great place for you and better still for the children"





Don't forget the Wenonah Holiday House Tour!

Tour some of Wenonah's most historic public spaces and most delightfully decorated residences on Sunday, December 9th from 2–7pm. Tickets are available $10 in advance or $12 at the Community Center the day of the tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Photography has commenced to accompany the recorded written records in our database. This is the most laborious aspect of the archiving, but will also reap the most rewards for use on the internet and future generations. Digital photographs and scans are being used to record our holdings and will be available to anyone who may request them. We are working toward a February deadline to make a presentation to the society.

If you have any ides or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

Rocco F. Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

WENONAH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

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Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. BOX 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: $10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

December Christmas Party

Annual Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 14th, 2001
Community Center • 6:00pm Wine & Cheese • 6:30pm Dinner



Our annual Christmas Party costs $15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped) and we will also have a special raffle!

RSVP to Jane Ramsay at 468-5593 as soon as possible.

January's meeting

Our first meeting of the year 2002 will be a special one. Bring an item or two for appraisal at our own "Antiques Road Show" on Friday, January 11th at 7:30pm at the Community Center.

How to Contact Us

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E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

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Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090



WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
PO Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



January 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a very happy holiday and that the year 2002 is a very good one for all! We have some great programs for the upcoming months as we listed in the December newsletter.

I hope to see a lot of faces this year and I hope we see some renewed interest in our town's rich history. If you have not had a chance to see the new display cabinet in the Wenonah Elementary School, be sure to stop in. We need someone to volunteer to do the next display for February... perhaps the Military Academy. There is a lot available, we just need some hand to do the set up.

I look forward to seeing you Friday night!

–Vicki McCall

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

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Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

January Meeting

January 11th, 2002 • Wenonah Community Center • 7:30pm

Special "Antiques Road Show" Program



At this month's meeting, Cross Roads Antiques of Woodstown will present a special program about the antiques appraisal process. Each member is invited to bring with them one item for appraisal. Cross Roads Antiques has been in business for over 35 years and specializes in 18th, 19th and 20th century items.

Remember to bring one item with you for appraisal!

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WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



February 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

It was great to see such a wonderful turn out at the January meeting. It seems everyone enjoyed the Antique Road Show. We certainly seem to have some unique hidden treasures in our town! Much thanks to Crossroads Antiques!

The upcoming year promises to bring some interesting and unique programs. This month our program will be about archaeology and digs.

Next month we will be presented with an hour video presentation by South Jersey Ghost Research! Be sure to see their website!

Thank you to all of you who have helped bring these to fruition!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to continue with the various parts of our newsletter that we have all come to appreciate. This month's article on the Military Academy was put together by Eileen Caraker. Be sure to go to the Wenonah School in February to see the display of the Wenonah military Academy Artifacts. This should be up by Valentine's Day.

May the month of February find you all in good health and in the spirit of the season—filled with LOVE!

Happy Valentine's Day!

-Vicki McCall

A Reader's Submission

The picture of the old Railway Station in the October Newsletter made me think of the little gentleman that used to lower and raise the crossing gates when the trains came through town. He had a little shack on the S.E. corner of the railroad crossing where he could sit and wait for their arrival. At one time I lived at 5 E. Mantua Avenue. It had been my Grandfather Stout's home when he was the country doctor on Wenonah. It was either Sunday or Saturday that the Wenonah Military Academy would have their weekly parade down Mantua Avenue to the corner of the park where they would then turn south to their drill field. It was fun to watch. our phone number in those days was #1. I remember when the phone company changed it to #200 and my Grandfather Stout was upset. All calls went through the switchboard that was located on the second floor of the building across the street from the station. When we went to Woodbury High School we could take the Wood Bus or the train. The cost was 10¢ on the train or the bus, but you could get 50 trips for $4.50 on the train if you purchased a block ticket. Therefore, the Wenonah School Board would give us $4.50 to cover 50 trips to Woodbury. That represented 25 school days. I can remember walking up Clinton to Wenonah Elementary School in the early 30s when there were several homes in those two blocks that were boarded up because they had been lost to the mortgage holder. They didn't get used until the war years brought in people to work in industry in our area. The Woodbury Times cost 3¢. As a paperboy, I got 2/3 of a cent per paper to deliver it. Wenonah was a great place to grow up in.

-Bob Sundt, Tucson, AZ

WENONAH
Historical Society Membership Form • 2001-2002

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Address _____

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Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check # _____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Many thanks for your suggestions!

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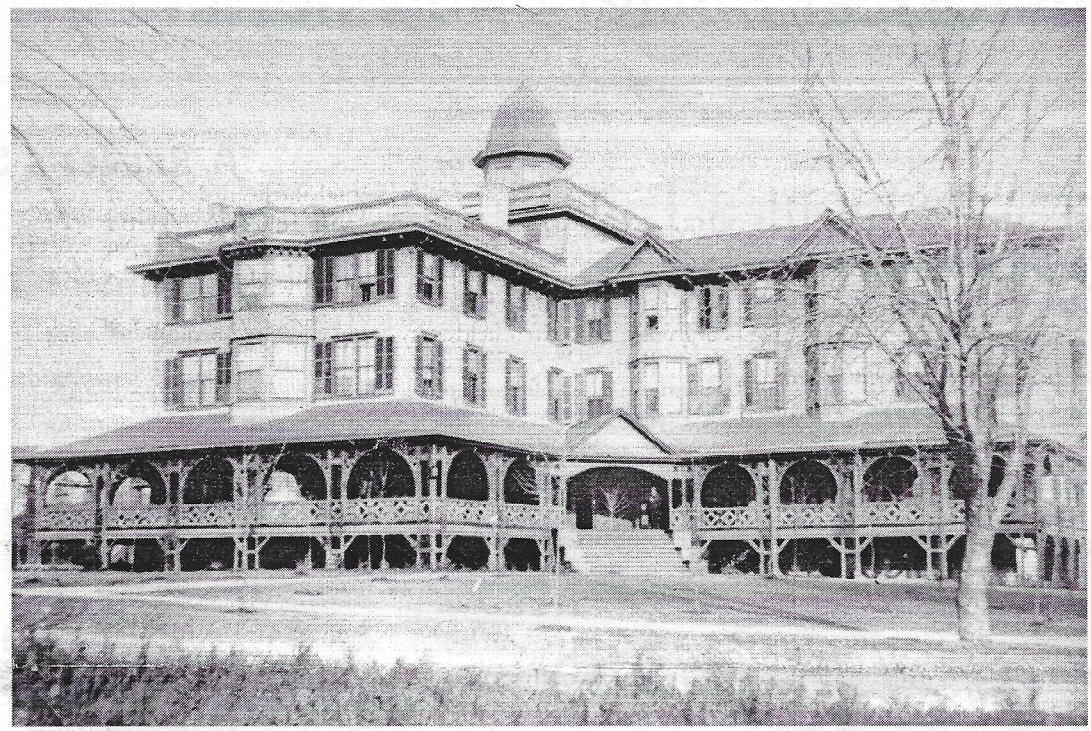
COST: $10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

The Wenonah Military Academy

1904–1934

Fifth in a series of articles of some of Wenonah's more notable structures (series started by Milton Webb in February 2001)
Excerpts from Marge Lentz's book, A History of Wenonah

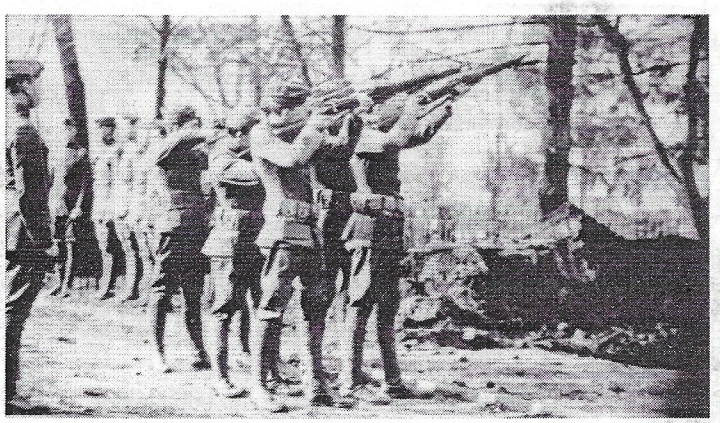
by Eileen Caraker



The Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors September 20, 1904 in what was previously known as The Wenonah Inn. The Academy was situated on the block east of Wenonah Park. The rooms that formerly accommodated hotel guests who were interested in dances and the cuisine now accommodated cadets interested in horsemanship and the highest standard of academic and military education. Hotel rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitories, a library, a chapel and an infirmary. The Academy consisted of a main building, a gymnasium, two cottages, two athletic fields, and stables for the horses. The main building, three stories high, contained the lobby, a large dining hall, a kitchen and bakery, a library, reading room, science hall, an infirmary with six beds, and sixty rooms which made up the dormitory and classrooms.

The first officers of the Wenonah Military Academy were Stephen Greene, president and owner, his son and vice-president Dr. William H. Greene, who was an internationally known scientist, local doctor H. A. Stout, treasurer and Major J. R. Jones secretary. It was Major Jones who originally conceived the idea of a military academy. On the Board of Counsel were the Rev. Raymond H. Gage and Thomas W. Synnott. Captain Percy C. Jones was commander of the cadets.

Although Wenonah was accustomed to social activities at the Wenonah Inn during the summer months, the Wenonah Military Academy kept the town hopping during the school term. The first month the Academy was opened, there were several activities including, a reception and dance for two hundred people, a skating carnival on Warner's Lake with hundreds of lighted lanterns, a minstrel show, a house party and numerous football games. This was in fact the beginning of a social whirl that kept Wenonah spinning for the next thirty years. Wenonah residents were invited to band concerts, glee club performances, drama productions, declamation contests and horsemanship exhibitions. Local girls were invited to dances and on Sunday the whole town turned out for the dress parade and drill demonstrations. The big annual events were two gala dances, the Mid-Year Drill and Dance, and the Senior Prom at the end of the year. The Cadets wore full dress uniform with white cotton gloves and the girls wore full-length gowns. Dance etiquette at the time ensured that partners danced with six inches of space between them.



During the Presidency of Dr. Charles H. Lorence, the Wenonah Military Academy reached its peak with of 200 cadets who came from as far away as California and Cuba. The average student enrollment was 125 cadets. Cadets enrolled in the classical, Latin-scientific, or English-commercial courses. Military science included instruction in rifle practice, infantry drills, horsemanship and military discipline. Horsemanship instruction was $100 extra; this included the rental of the horse.

In its advertising the Wenonah Military Academy emphasized the following: "Established as its guiding principle the formation of moral character, the teaching of respect for authority and the adherence to the fundamentals of a sound academic and business education". It went on to say "Wenonah has a quiet seclusion and is sufficiently removed from the dangerous enticements of the city and yet is within easy reach of the city streets on the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad. Wenonah is an entirely residential town with no factories. It has its own entirely independent sanitary drainage system. The sale of intoxicants within a mile of the Academy is absolutely prohibited by law and the town has a marked freedom from sickness and disease."

In 1913 the annual charges of $600 include: tuition, board, heat,

light, twelve pieces of laundry and mending of underclothing. Tuition doubled during the years while adding to its services, table lined, pressing and use of firearms. However, this tuition did not include the $250 cost for a uniform. The cadet wore a uniform of gray with a white belt and white crisscross straps both in front and back of the jacket and a chinstrap held the hat. The officers' full dress uniform included a sword, sash and a shako. The uniforms alternated between the khaki of the U.S. Army and the gray of West Point Academy. After the 1920's the uniforms stayed the same as the U.S. Army consisting of khaki puttees, high-laced shoes, jackets that buttoned at the neck, and overseas caps (a tall, neat cap worn by French soldiers). By 1916 the Academy announced that there is "now a waiting list: every available space is filled." Military training was under ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) regulations. Lessons were taught in accordance with U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations. All formations were in a military manner, cadets were expected to stand erect at all time and salute their officers. Rooms were inspected every day for dust or dirt, and properly made beds. The U.S government assigned guns, ammunition, and equipment to the cadets, which had to be returned at the end of the year. To ensure that the cadets were on their toes an inspection of rifles, bayonets, uniforms and shoes was performed every week, and dirty equipment earned extra duty for the offending cadet. Extra duty consisted of walking guard duty at 128 steps per minute in the cadet's spare time, polishing the Civil War cannons at the campus entrance, or walking around the track in the athletic field with rifle in hand. Smoking was considered the worst offence; it earned fifty hours of extra duty, and a two-week suspension.

A Day in the Life of a Wenonah Military Academy Cadet

· 6:00 a.m. Reveille was called, signaling rising of the calisthenics. Breakfast in the dining hall

· 8:00 a.m. Classes start until 2:00 p.m.

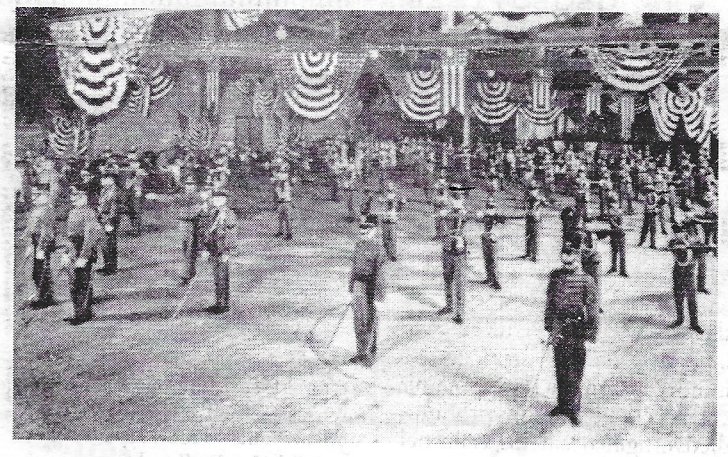
· 2:00–4:00 p.m. Drills took place in the park or in the field

· 4:00 p.m. Sports Practice

Formal assemblies were held every evening before dinner. The cadets assembled in front of the Academy, and the band played and marched in parade formation for Retreat- the lowering of the flag.

· 6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Mess Hall

· 7:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m. Cadets studied in their quarters



· 9:00–9: 30 p.m. Cadets were allowed to socialize

· 9:30 p.m. Call to the quarters preparation for bed

· 10:00 p.m. Final room check Taps sounded to signal the end of the day

Academics were rated in four classifications, distinguished, Honor, Profaning, and Unclassified. Classes were posted quarterly, and decorations were awarded: The Honor role allowed for certain privileges such as reporting late on Saturday night. The classes were small, with eight to twelve students. Teachers were expected to stay close to their students, each faculty member had his own group, and they lived with their group and ate in the mess hall. The school motto was "Send us your boys and we will return to you the man". The Academy focused high intellectual achievement, but with equal consideration to the development of a sound body and superior ideas.

The military discipline soon earned the Academy the name of "The West Point of South Jersey" and athletics brought fame to the school. Stephen Greene's athletic field boasted a grandstand that held 500 spectators. Cadets ran a quarter-mile cinder track, played football with prep schools like Malvern, Seton Hall and Pennington, played baseball and practiced horsemanship and military tactics. A twelve-acre field along Woodbury-Glassboro Road was used for polo and lacrosse. Golf was played in the Oak Valley Country Club or, originally Altwald Golf Links, which was situated in a wooded area off Ogden Road. The word "ogden" is derived from the Swedish word meaning "valley of the oaks."

During the summer the polo ponies were taken to the Pocono area where Camp Wenonah was established for a number of years. On the Wenonah polo field one polo team defeated a West Point team. Many graduating cadets gained recognition on college teams and Herbert J. Pennock, who became a major leagues pitcher, is named in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In addition to the Wenonah Inn, the Military Academy occupied the Charles H. Lorence Cottage which housed senior cadets, currently known as 11 S. Clinton Ave and owned by Joe and Diane Magarelli. The Clayton A. Snyder Cottage which housed junior cadets is located on the corner of Mantua and Clinton Avenues. A drill hall was built behind the Academy along Cherry Street and it was claimed to have the largest floor space of any gymnasium in South Jersey. It was large enough to drill an entire battalion, and of course, to accommodate dances attended by as many as six hundred people. A stone wall was added fronting the Academy and in 1916. The building formerly housing Wenonah Inn's bowling alley was converted to a science laboratory.

At the start of the 1935 school year Dr. Charles H. Lorence announced the Wenonah Military Academy would close "because of economic reasons." The closing of the Wenonah Military Academy ended an era. The main building of the Academy was demolished in 1938 leaving its gray stonewall to mark its former location. The Academy's drill hall was declared unsafe and it along with the Cedar field grandstand was demolished. The fabric of Wenonah had been enriched by the presence of this great academy. As dogwood trees in the park were maturing into full grown beautiful trees, so was the Borough maturing. Although the Academy was gone, never to return again, Wenonah had gained a rich legacy from the Academy along with new residents and a strong sense of patriotism.

February Meeting

Friday, February 8, 2002 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



Our February meeting will be a program of interest about archaeology and archaeological digs. For a more detailed description of the program, please contact Jane Ramsay.

March's meeting

Come next month to see an hour-long video presentation by South Jersey Ghost Research. To find out about SJGR, visit their web site at www.sjgr.org

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: temporarily unavailable due to the demise of @home

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.

2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.

3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.

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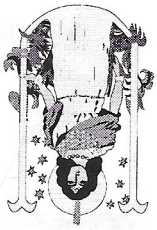
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.

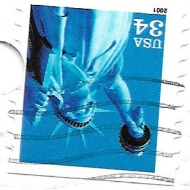
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

08090+1823

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032







WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter

April 2002
Published by the Historical Society of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

Welcome to our many new members!!! We have received a great response to our presence in the Wenonah School. The Display Cabinet and newsletters have been instrumental in bringing in some new faces. It is rewarding to see such a renewed interest in our town's history.

As some of you know, my father recently passed away. I wish to thank you for all your support and kindness. My father dearly loved this town and my parents recently pledged a donation of a town clock. This clock will be in his memory and the family hopes to see up in time for the Fourth of July.

We have some wonderful programs in the coming months. This month fellow townsperson Arnold Karp will be doing a slide presentation on effects of September 11.

We hope to see some of the new faces at the upcoming meetings

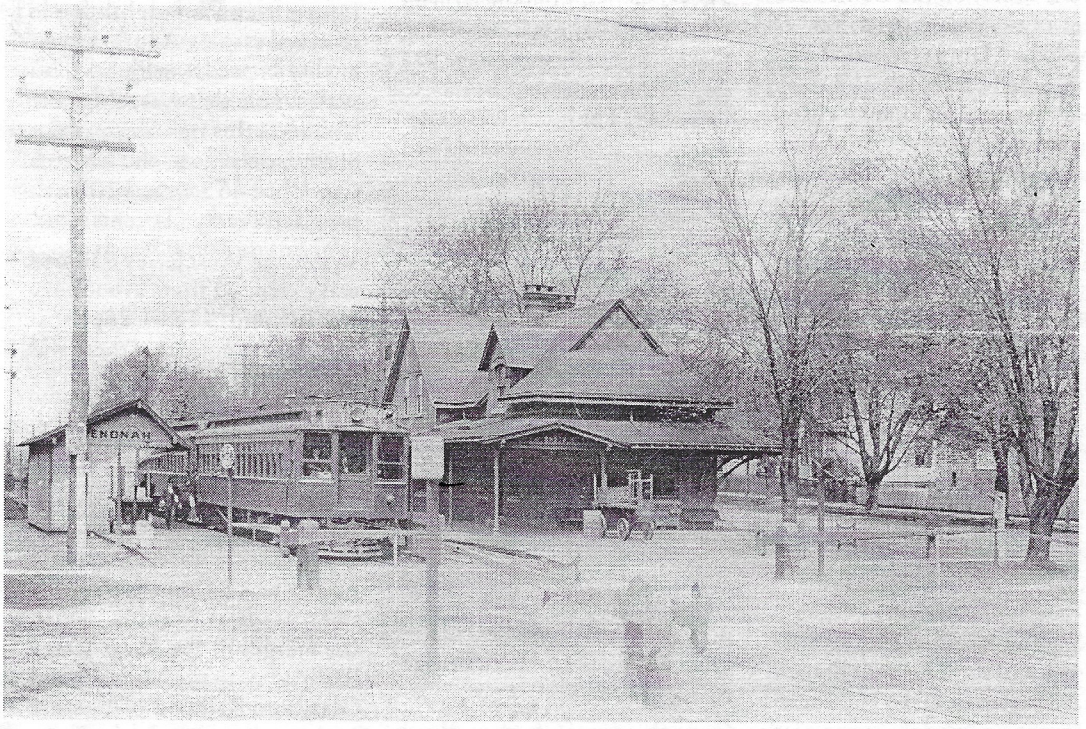
-Vicki McCall

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail:
wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

The Railroad and Wenonah, Part 1

Sixth in a series of articles about Wenonah's heritage.
Compiled by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.



The new railroad station[i] along the west side of the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad stood incongruous among the fields surrounding it. Farmers had eyed the station with interest because they anticipated it would be a convenience in transporting their sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets. However, as the newspaper, The Constitution stated, the station looked far "too elegant" for sweet potatoes because it boasted of "two compartments, one for the sale of tickets and joined by a comfortable passenger saloon."

Heading toward the station on December 19, 1870 was a special train that left Camden, New Jersey, just before noon. The train followed the West Jersey Railroad tracks past Gloucester, past Westville and at Woodbury took the Y that made a beeline to the station known as the New Mantua Station. The passengers who detrained that day were not in the least interested in transporting sweet potatoes, but they were interested in converting the sweet potato patches into building lots and in transporting commuters to a new suburban town.

From the rise of the land at the New Mantua Station the visitors had a sweeping view of the fields now sliced by the railroad tracks. They saw Henisey's Landing Road that led to the busy wharves along the Mantua Creek. Within sight of the station they looked across to the dwelling of the Stone Farm House[ii] already 97 years old. A short distance away were meandering lanes that led to a few other farmhouses and to the west was the abandoned road bed[iii] of the railroad tracks that previously surmounted a thirty-two

Continued on next page....

Acknowledgement: *Some of the information in this document is from a book authored by Marjorie Lentz on behalf of the Wenonah Historical Society and distributed in connection with the Community Center dedication July 4th, 1976. The remainder of the information is from research, personal records, and information from a book by J.C. Sheppard Sr.*

The Railroad continued . . .

foot high trestle[iv] over the Mantua Creek leading to the old Mantua Station.

The stop at the station was brief, but while the passengers were there they envisioned how the land could be leveled, the country lanes erased and the existing farmhouses squared and placed properly on straight streets. After "a site visitation the Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" at 1:15 p.m. when Samuel A. Whitney read a proposal for forming a "Real Estate and Improvement Company to operate at the New Mantua Station of the West Jersey Railroad." Whitney augmented the report by noting that the land, consisting of 572 acres, could be purchased for $69,575. The group unanimously agreed and in a few minutes $29,500 was subscribed.

It was just a railroad station but it witnessed the beginnings of a town and the town, still unnamed, already had a history.

Early maps reveal small campsites of the Unalachtigo Indians of the Lenni Lenape tribe spotted along the banks of the Mantua Creek and the Chestnut Branch that flows into it. In the 1600's cartographers named the streams for the Indians who lived by them, and it is assumed that the Mantua Creek was named for the Manteses, a small band of Indians who had campsites along these waterways. The trails that border Mantua Creek and Break Back Run are considered to be Indian trails and it is along these waterways that arrowheads, net sinkers, stone hammers and axes have been found. Potsherds of the Woodland Period have been discovered and sufficient fragments at one site have made possible the reconstruction of pottery revealing a skillful design of inverted V's.

Some of the land bordering the Indian trails was owned by Nathaniel Chew who in 1712 recorded in Gloucester County's earmark book the marks of his pigs, "a slitt in each ear and half penny on each side." One of his sons, Jeffrey Chew, inherited a part of the acreage and to his holdings purchased 125 acres from Samuel Maffett. Maffett either retained or later secured a five-acre plot from the farm on which in 1773 he built a dwelling that traditionally was a stage line stop on the route from Camden to Cape May. The house was strategically located on the Old Ford Roadv which led to the edge of Chew's farm to the only place below Berkeley, now Mount Royal, that stage lines could cross the Mantua Creek. During the ownership of Robert Sparks it is recorded that "the militia met in a field in 1777 to practice, hold meetings and elect officers at the stonehouse." Deeds note that the five-acre plot was later joined to the farm and it was known as the Stone House Farm.

Traditional accounts relate that a Revolutionary War skirmish occurred at the intersection of Old Ford Road and Bark Bridge Road.[vi]

On both sides of Glassboro Road was the "plantation of Benjamin Clark. The story has been told that while the British camped along the Monongahela Trail in 1777 they seized Clark's team of horses and a load of wheat he was driving to Valley Forge for General George Washington's Army. However, that night Clark crept into the British camp and retrieved his horses hiding them on an islandvii in the Mantua Creek. Also that same winter General Anthony Wayne foraged for supplies for Washington's army and records note that he secured hay along the Mantua Creek in this area and probably some of the hay was secured from the Stone House Farm.

By the 1850's the Mantua Creek was bustling with shipyards where an open boat fitted with oars or sails or both. Shallops[viii] and flatboats were built. To the Philadelphia markets were shipped sweet potatoes, buckwheat, turnips and shad and in return from Philadelphia was received staples. Another commodity received from Philadelphia was manure that was sold to the farmers in this area. Shipped out of Philadelphia to the Mantua Creek in 1855 were 120 loads priced at seventy-five cents a load.

When the West Jersey Railroad was extended from Woodbury to Glassboro in 1861, a newspaper account notes that there was "difficulty in bridging the Mantua Creek." When a Danforth locomotive was added to the line it was reported that it had a three hundred ton traction and that "the power of this massive iron horse was seen recently when it took 24 loaded cars up the steep grade at Mantua." With the merger of the West Jersey Railroad with the Millville and Glassboro Railroad plans were made to relocate the tracks to alleviate a dangerous curve and to reduce the height of the tracks.

New railroad tracks, a new station, easy commutation to and from Philadelphia, "healthy breezes that promised a malaria free area, high elevation above the Mantua Creek that assured adequate drainage" were all prerequisites for a "new suburban town."

William FAllen, resident engineer of the West Jersey Railroad and son-in-law of the President of the railroad, made contact with the seven landowners whose lands were adjacent to the tracks. Each one agreed to sell his land. The largest landowner was Isaac C. Stevenson who owned about 244 acres extending from the New Mantua Station northward to Glassboro Road and south to Bark Bridge Road. Charles Starn owned 163 acres in the area of the railroad station reaching westward toward the Mantua Creek. The Peter Kier landowners were David Kay who owned the land including Dilk's Little Mill and the mill pond, Edwin Stokes whose land bordered the northern stretch of the new railroad tracks, Nathaniel Chew, a tanner whose land bordered the northern section of Glassboro Road and Samuel W. Chew who owned a small slice of land on the road leading to the mill.

On December 14, 1870 Allen invited a group of twenty-one businessmen to the Camden office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider a plan to organize a land development company. Horatio J. Mulford of Bridgeton was appointed presiding officer and he named a committee to prepare the proposal.

Five days later on December 19, 1870 the businessmen reassembled in the Camden office and heard the first reading on the proposal which had been submitted by Samuel A. Whitney, former President of the Millville and Glassboro Railroad and leader in the glass industry.

General William J. Sewell, Vice-President of the West Jersey Railroad who secured the special train for the site visitation. George Wood, a director of the West Jersey Railroad and president of the Millville Manufacturing Company and William F Allen. The entire group then boarded the special train that took them to the New Mantua Station.

Although the visitors may have seen dormant sweet potato patches that winter day, they visualized the possibilities of a "new suburban town." The Constitution reported that "from the known energy of the gentlemen at the head of the enterprise, there is no doubt of its success."

Much pride centered on the railroad station. Flowerbeds were groomed and permanent plantings established. The People's Stage Line brought passengers from Woodstown, Mullica Hill and Mantua. In 1873 passenger receipts from the West Jersey Railroad were $9,232.34 and freight receipts were $1,469.94.

By 1875 the Pennsylvania Railroad owned 80% of the West Jersey Railroad stock and plans were developed for a double track to extend from Wenonah to Glassboro. With increased railroad service, troubles grew. Accidents were frequent. South of Wenonah a train collided with a Cape May freight and six cars were demolished. As one observer described the scene, "a more complete train wreck cannot be imagined." A Bridgeton freight lost a wheel forcing three cars down an embankment. Locomotive sparks started frequent brush fires, on-coming trains killed trackwalkers and passengers were discouraged from standing on the platform as the trains approached. With the railroad came a deluge of tramps that were blamed for stealing everything from watermelons to trousers from local clotheslines.

The railroad controlled the town. No special church service, no musical program, no out-of-town dinner guest was scheduled without first consulting the time table. Advertisements to Presbyterian musicals noted that "Woodbury people can take the 7:07 for Wenonah and return on the 10 o'clock train." Even funeral announcements included the time when trains arrived in Wenonah and one as far away as Mullica Hill noted that "carriages will meet the 8 o'clock train from Philadelphia at Wenonah station." Special cars were attached to regular trains. Special cars brought visitors to the dedication of the Presbyterian Chapel, to weddings, and, of course, to the annual meetings of the Board of Directors of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company.

To be continued next issue...

Notes

i Relocated and now a residence at 8 South West Ave.

ii 100 South West Ave.

iii Extended through the parking lot of Wenonah Playground to Mantua Creek, slightly west of South Jackson Ave.

iv Remains still visible in the Mantua Creek at location commonly called Clay Hill.

v Extended from South Monroe Ave. To the area of West Cedar St. Where it curved through the woods fording the Mantua Creek.

vi In area of West Cedar St. And South West Ave.

vii In Mantua Creek opposite South Jefferson Ave.

viii An open boat fitted with oars or sails or both.

Who remembers this program???

HATS OFF to our members!!!



WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check #_____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. BOX 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: $10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

April Meeting

Friday, April 12, 2002 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



Arnold Karp, 177th Fighting Wing, Air National Guard will present a slide and picture presentation of the

Effects of September 11, 2001

Future meetings

May 10, 2002	**Historic Postcards and Ephemera** Jo White and Sallie Murphy
June 14, 2002	**Family Picnic at Wenonah Lake**
July and August	**No Meetings**
September 13, 2002	**Porch Party at Little Grange**
October 11, 2002	**South Jersey Ghost Research** Scientific approach and study of the paranormal

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Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

WENONAH Historical Society

WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



May 2002
Published by the Historical Society of Wenonah, NJ

ALL AROUND TOWN

Garden Fair

The Wenonah Lake is having a fundraiser on May 18, 2002. There will be a plant sale and fair in the Wenonah Park from 10:00am–12:00pm.

A garden tour of some of our resident's home (including our Mayor) will start at 11:00am. For more information, contact Bernadette Faix at 468-4912.

Hitorical Society Picnic at Wenonah Lake

We will have our annual picnic at the lake on June 14, 2002. Join us for food and fun and good conversation. We provide the hotdogs and ice tea; we ask everyone to bring a share dish. For more information contact Vicki McCall at 589-2774.

Victorian Herb Garden

RACHEL KNISELL

Thanks to Rachael Knissel for all her hard work as she cares for the Victorian Herb Garden at the Community Center. Her painstaking attention to this project keeps this garden looking beautiful for our visitors. If you happen to walk by while Rachael is "trimming", you may even be the beneficiary of some aromatic herbs!

Fourth of July

YES, it is almost that time again! Roco Doto has offered to do a historical slide presentation at the Community Center between 11:00am and 1:00 pm. He has given this presentation at several local organizations and it has been very well received. If you would like to help out, please let us know! Look for more on this in June's newsletter.

We will be reintroducing the House Decorating Contest this year. The theme for this year's parade is "A Salute to America's Heroes." The House decorations can be in this theme or any patriotic manner. We will have judges going around and awards will be given during the evening ceremonies. All participants will receive an 8 x 10 photo of their decorated home compliments of Tomorrow's Treasures, Inc. of Woodbury Heights, NJ (Thanks to George Braun for this ongoing tradition!). Applications will be available at the Wenonah Library. Look for more information in the June newsletter.

Japanese Teahouse Restoration

The Environmental Commission has been working VERY HARD to restore the Comey Lake Japanese Tea House. This project was the brainchild of Chuck Forsman and his perseverance is paying off! The commitment of people like Chuck Forsman, Bob Bevilaqua , and John Schad is truly appreciated. We thank the Environmental Commission for their efforts to bring back to life a monumental historic structure in this town. Anyone interested in donating to this cause can contact Chuck Forsman at 304 Mohawk Dr., Wenonah, NJ 08090. Look for updates and an article on this project in upcoming letters!

Help Needed

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do the research for "Milton Webb's 100 Years Ago" PLEASE, PLEASE CALL US!

We can start you off with Milton's meticulous files. Groundwork is already done for much of this. This is an opportunity to really get to know your town!

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

President's Letter

April's program featured a moving slide presentation by Arnold Karp that portrayed events from the September 11th attacks. The presentation brought home the importance of remembering those events and realizing the ongoing importance of protecting our country. Thank you Arnie for sharing with us your own personal experiences and reminding us that the events of September 11th should not be forgotten are taken lightly.

We have a full business schedule for the May meeting and it is important that we have a good turn out. There are some exciting events coming up and of course the Fourth of July is just around the corner! There are plenty of fun projects for you to participate in. so, even if you've never volunteered before, here is your chance to do your part!

There are many members who no longer reside in Wenonah. We would love to get some letters from you about your life in Wenonah that we could put in the newsletter. Anyone who would like to share an experience, please write in!

I look forward to seeing you Friday night.

-Vicki McCall

The Railroad and Wenonah, Part 2

Sixth in a series of articles about Wenonah's heritage.
Compiled by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Continued from our April issue...

The manure problem created heated arguments. With the mixing of Philadelphia commuters and Wenonah House guests who used the passenger service of the railroad, and farmers who used the freight service there was bound to be a conflict. The commuters declared the unloading of manure in the center of town a nuisance and the railroad was requested to build a siding near the water pumping station to unload the manure. However some farmers were not satisfied with the new location and wrote letters claiming they would never use the railroad again. The siding was installed and the farmers did use it. Also the commuters did attempt to prevent freight trains from stopping more than five minutes and they complained of excessive locomotive whistling at night.

Freight service accelerated. Joseph Cattell shipped his baskets of sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets and T.P.Darlington, a local poultry shipper, sent four tons of poultry a week out of the Wenonah Station. Sweet potatoes, watermelons and tomatoes were leading farm crops. Charles Buckman continued to operate his Wenonah Mills at the millpond, John Steward operated a steam corn sheller, and on a sad note, John Kromer's cow died from eating potato vines sprinkled with Paris Green. One farmer boasted of a hog that weighed 775 pounds and another farmer displayed a watermelon in Thomas Savage's tobacco shop that weighed 63 pounds. The story was reported in the newspaper that "two young ladies were told they could have the watermelon for nothing if they could carry it away without letting it down to rest on the way. The ladies put the watermelon in a clothes basket and carted it home." The Duell and Perry canning house was still purchasing the farmers' tomatoes and one progressive farmer succeeded in raising very large potatoes by using chemical fertilizer.

The town was growing at a rapid pace and by the early 1890's the old "New Mantua Station" was deemed inadequate to handle the number of people coming to Wenonah. Also, the Wenonah House, originally constructed in 1871, was apparently not attractive or large enough to provide the drawing power the railroad company felt was necessary for the greater number of passengers they sought.

A news article in April 1893 put it this way; "The Wenonah Inn Company is just completing a magnificent hotel designed to accommodate 150 guests." The erection of this hotel, which replaced the Wenonah House, was reportedly one of the conditions under which the West Jersey Railroad erected a handsome railroad station of rough-faced Pompeian bricks to "harmonize with general improvements and surroundings of the Borough."[IX]

Trains were scheduled every fifteen minutes "during the busy part of the day and no break of more than one hour on the schedule from five-thirty in the morning until midnight." A total of sixty-one trains a day ran between Philadelphia and Wenonah. An advertising brochure issued by C.C. Grosscup, President of the Wenonah Realty Company, noted that Wenonah has every "modern convenience, artesian water, sewers, electric light, gas, both telephones, graded and curbed streets and paved sidewalks." Also "it has a high moral tone and an earnest, happy social life that makes it a good place in which to live." The water has no "filtering or boiling process" and "the high pressure maintained by the Holly System for every house." Furthermore the brochure stated "the sewerage system is one of the few entirely satisfactory systems in the state. Sidewalks are of flagstone and concrete and there are one hundred thousand feet of walks. Every street is well lighted at night by gas lamps of sixty candle power. Both electric and gas available for homes. No industries. Churches are thoroughly organized for service."



A newspaper article in 1896 noted that "the Inn is full, the cottages are all occupied and the people prefer the proximity to Philadelphia instead of the shore." A few years later a warning signal was sounded when the same newspaper revealed that "several of the summer residents have autos and sometimes the streets are lively with them." Before the advent of the car, the railroad brought summer visitors to the Wenonah Inn after the advent of the car, the automobile tempted summer visitors to more distant resorts. Fewer and fewer visitors spent their summers at the Inn. The Wenonah Inn closed its doors. In 1890 the Wenonah Hotel Company sold the hotel, the servants' quarters and the sewer plant to Stephen Greene.

Summer visitors were not the only people who owned cars. Local people also owned them. Blair Smith is believed to be the first resident of Wenonah to own a car. George Frederick owned an Allen, Oscar Odgen, Theodore Rison and Clement Mattson owned Waltham-Orient Touring cars, Dr. H.A. Stout had a Buick and Edward L. Farr had a White Steamer that could hold seven passengers. Automobile parties traveled as far as Salem and sometimes to Atlantic City. By 1912 there were enough cars in Wenonah for all the children in the Borough to ride in the fourth of July parade and after the parade they were treated to rides as far as Sewell. In fact so many cars appeared that "Go Slow" signs were erected at the town entrances. The town bulletin board was often rammed by cars and cars often rammed residents' carriages. Garages were built instead of carriage houses, although Edward E. Grosscup, when he built his house[X], constructed both a garage and a carriage house. George Frederick built a garage[XI] large enough to hold fifteen cars at one time. He not only serviced cars, but also had one of the earliest car agencies in this area.

Although the automobile forced the closing of the Wenonah Inn and ultimately railroad passenger service, a new era opened in Wenonah. Major J. R. Jones, former head of the drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, riding past the vacant Wenonah Inn, conceived an idea for the use of the facility. He immediately relayed his plan to Stephen Greene and on

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September 20, 1904 the Wenonah Military Academy opened. But that is a story for another time.

There is still a railroad station. Somehow it reflects the whole story of Wenonah.

When the original railroad station outgrew its usefulness, a more adequate station was built. Wenonah also rebuilt as it grew, sometimes discarding the old for the new. However, throughout the history of Wenonah, the railroad station has been a part of its growth. From the station, farmers' sweet potatoes were shipped to Philadelphia markets, summer visitors arrived to spend the season at the Wenonah Inn, the cadets arrived to attend the Wenonah Military Academy, the commuters rode to their places of employment beyond Wenonah. Still changes came. Trains became less and less frequent. And one day the passenger train no longer stopped, and the freight train shrieks and rumbles by, it too, no longer stopping at Wenonah. The railroad station stood useless, forlorn and dilapidated.

And then came an event that was both unforeseen and fortunate for the future of the station and for the Borough.

During the early 1970's Mayor Jack C. Sheppard Sr.[xii] had been researching Borough history using old Borough records belonging to Thomas Synnott III, grandson of one of the founders of Wenonah.

During this research he discovered a Letter from the West Jersey Railroad Company to the then Borough Commission stating in part, ..."The West Jersey Railroad Company hereby accepts the provisions of the Ordinance of the Borough Commission of Wenonah, New Jersey entitled "An Ordinance to vacate a portion of the west side of West Jersey Avenue, between Mantua Avenue and Poplar Street, adjoining the right of way of the West Jersey Railroad Company and to sanction the use thereof by the West Jersey Railroad Company for station purposes", passed January 10, 1893, and hereby agrees to use the land in said Ordinance described, for the purpose and in the manner in said Ordinance described and not otherwise."

By marvelous coincidence about this same time the Mayor heard a rumor that Conrail had sold the station to a private party. Contacting the Railroad Company he was told that the station had already been sold to a party who purportedly intended to open a food service shop of some sort and that the deal was already done. When Mayor Sheppard protested the sale and advised the railroad real estate agent of the words of the 1893 Ordinance he was told "your information is too old, it has no validity today."

The Borough challenged the sale in the Superior Court of New Jersey and it was the unique wording of this Ordinance that gained Wenonah ownership of the railroad passenger station in 1973. Superior Court Judge John B. Wick decided this provision was valid and governing and decreed the land should revert back to the Borough. The railroad company, no longer owning the land under the station and unable to convey clear title to any buyer, somewhat grudgingly agreed to sell the building to the Borough for $3,000.00.

Volunteers from every section of town, ~~from~~ Academy Hills, from the Synnott Tract, from the original town plot and from beyond gave freely of their skills. Their skills were varied. They planned and painted, hammered and hauled, landscaped and labored. Together they restored the station, which was opened and dedicated to community use on July 4, 1976.

From that time until today the railroad station turned Community Center has served as a focal point for the community. The building houses Wenonah's Municipal Court and Council Chambers, the Court Clerk's and Borough Clerk's offices, and is in constant use by all Boards, Commissions and private groups in Wenonah.

The railroad station seems to be a symbol. Just as many people representing many skills have made possible the preservation of this landmark, so have many people representing many skills made possible the preservation of a heritage that belongs in Wenonah.

Notes

ix See historical information on page 5

x 9 West Buttonwood St.

xi Rear of 203 West Mantua Ave.

xii Serving Wenonah 1962 thru 1990

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check # _____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: $10 per family household per year

Return to Wenonah Historical Society • P.O. Box 32 • Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

May Meeting

Friday, May 10, 2002 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



May's program will feature Joanne White and Sallie Murphy of Murphy's Loft in Mullica Hill, NJ. They will be sharing information on historical postcards, letters, and memorabilia. Please join us for an informative "SHOW AND TELL".

Bring in your own items for evaluation!

Future meetings

June 14, 2002	**Family Picnic at Wenonah Lake**
July and August	**No Meetings**
September 13, 2002	**Porch Party at Little Grange**
October 11, 2002	**South Jersey Ghost Research**
	Scientific approach and study of the paranormal

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.

2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.

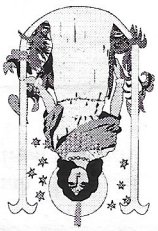
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.

4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.

5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.

6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

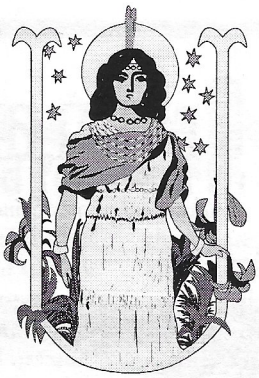


WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032





WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



September 2002
Published by the Historical Society of Wenonah, NJ

Her Life was Rich by Example

Reprinted from the Gloucester County Times, August 19, 2002 · By Bob Shryock

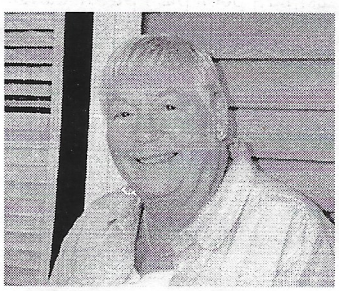
The oldest of the six Ramsay children was 10 years old when their father left home. But Jane Tucker Ramsay, their mother, never wavered in her awesome responsibility as a single parent.

"She was a strong woman who was very protective of her children," says David Ramsay, oldest of the six. "She always showed us a positive attitude. Things could be bad for her but she'd still come up smiling, get through the days and weeks, and have dinner for us. We went through a lot of powdered milk and goulash.

I remember Christmases with $5–$10 budgets per kid. We always had hand-me-down clothes. She had a specific definition of what she'd accept and what she wouldn't. She didn't want charity from people who felt sorry for her, but she'd accept from good neighbors, and she was always helping others as well. She would absolutely refuse public assistance of any form. She wouldn't take Food Stamps. She wouldn't take unemployment."

Jane Ramsey died June 27. She is survived by her six adoring children: David, Tucker, Jimmy, Ed, and the twins, Jane and Louise. Four graduated from college. Five of the six are in business for themselves, and successful, a classic case of them mirroring their mother's powerful independence.

"We grew up with a very strong work ethic," David Ramsay says. "She taught us that and she demonstrated it. "She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and she



worked 53 years as a dental hygienist. Her independence traveled through us. We were one adult and six kids who stood our ground. As a family, we were very cohesive and balanced and backed each other up. We fought among ourselves like cats and dogs but we always stuck together as a family.

"It was a very good environment to be raised in. She didn't play favorites. She focused on our strengths and encouraged us to do whatever was good for us—as long as we had good grammar and used good English. She taught us to be independent, believe in ourselves, and beat the odds.

"Her kids were her life. After our father left, she shut down her social life. In the days after he left a single woman didn't get invited out so she decided early to stay out of the fray.

"Her legacy was that she accepted people for who and what they are. One of my brothers said that since her death we realize who she was as an individual. Hundreds have come forward to tell us how she gave them, and others, encouragement. She loved people and loved to be around them. Mother wasn't invited out much, and she hated to miss a party."

Jane lived in a big, sprawling house, and was a resident for all but one year of her life.

She gave back to the town what she felt the town gave to her. She belonged to the Wenonah Reading Club, the Wenonah Woman's Club, the Wenonah Historical Society, and served as Sunday school treasurer of AllSaints Episcopal Church. A free spirit, she also was a member of the Wenonah Rifle and Gun Club as a young woman.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Dentistry, she worked for four dentists, including Dr. Don Furey in her hometown of Wenonah, and during her career worked with and educated children, migrant farm workers, and underprivileged children and adults in the Camden Free Dental Clinic. She was a uniquely talented woman whose many interests ranged from potterymaking to jewelrysmithing to watercoloring to antiquing and carving.

Besides her children, her work and her hobbies, Jane Ramsay also had a healthy love for the uniqueness of Wenonah. No one loved the day-long Fourth of July celebration in Wenonah more than Jane. She passed away a week before the 2002 parade and festivities. Jane would have loved to be there, seeing old friends, remembering the good times, and perhaps the tough times as well.

"But I think she wanted to check out before the Fourth," son David says. "Mother never wanted to do anything halfway."

President's Letter

This had been a difficult year for many of us and we have experienced many losses. It is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of a DEAR friend to the Historical Society, the town, and to me. Jane Tucker Ramsay passed away in June. She leaves a legacy of friends and family. She inspired us all to follow her lead and dedicate ourselves to preserving the wonderful history of this town. Jane raised her family in this town and LOVED every bit of this town. She loved life and taught many of us how to savor each day.

Her love of the Historical Society was unquestioned She brought new life to this organization under her terms as President and Vice President. She will TRULY be missed

-Vicki McCall

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32
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wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

The Origin and History of Comey's Lake

Acknowledgments: Some data derived from the archives of Wenonah Historian Milton H. Webb



Milton Pierce, a member of the Mantua Land Improvement Company, had a Carp pond in 1872 along a stream called "Patrick's Run" in the vicinity of what is now Comey's Lake, where natural land contours had already created a water reservoir. It is believed that this was part of Aquadale Lakes where high quality Carp were raised to sell as food in Philadelphia and surrounding areas to the Jewish population as Gefilte Fish. A large lake was established in about 1885 when a leveling dam was placed at the South end of the Patrick's Run stream and the dam increased the water area to about four acres. In 1886 the first Wenonah Parks and Woodland Improvement Association was formed and they participated in the improvements to the lake. The inlet stream to the lake was later named "Camels Back Run". During the Spring of 1890, Stephen Greene purchased the land around the lake and made important improvements to it. In 1894 a new leveling gate and other improvements were made to the lake dam and they named it Camels Back Lake. That same year, the Northern end of the lake had filled up with silt to such an extent that 20 men were employed for six weeks by Mr. Greene to clean and deepen it. This made the lake better for boating.

Robert H. Comey bought the lake and surrounding property Feb. 1904 from Stephen Greene. He bought an adjoining 27 acres April 1904 from George L. Dilks and started construction of a handsome, large White Mansion for $25,000.00 as his residence on Mantua Ave. He also had a servants building nearby (presently located at #12 Lenape Trail). April 1905 he received a large number of shade trees for a Park on his property that was to be stocked later with Deer. March 30, 1908 he moved into his new house. March 13, 1910 the Northern end of Mr. Comey's Lake was dug out again by eleven men to make a better boat landing. Dec. 7, 1910 he built a beautiful Wooden Arched Bridge with decorative side rails (constructed of Long Leaf Yellow Southern Pine) fifty feet over the upper lake and it was painted a bright Vermilion color. April 3, 1911 he built a new dam on his lake and added a colorful Japanese Tea House, built by John L. Drummer, on Cedar pilings at the North end of the lake. An Amphitheater with five levels was built on the East side of the Tea House. Canoes and small rowboats were docked under and around the base of the Tea House for the use of guests who dressed in their finest for a ride in the lake. Adjacent to the amphitheater a large pool was built that was shaped like the State of NJ and a Tennis Court was also built nearby. A variety of Yellow, Gold and White Algae eating fish were introduced into Comey's Lake. The predominate fish species was Carp and although not specifically mentioned, it is believed that the others were a variety of Koi.

By June 1912 large catered parties were held at the Tea House area. The lake and Tea house were beautifully decorated with colored electric lights and all around the lake Japanese Lanterns peeked from the green foliage. The Tea House was illuminated with hundreds of lanterns and it looked like a fairy garden. A full string orchestra played all the catchy tunes while the guests sang with them. Launches plied up and down the lake for the pleasure of the guests and the evening ended while they danced under the stars.

In 1924 Ethel R. Hassrick bought the property from Robert Comey. One year later she sold it to Doctor H. Wesley Jack and wife Pearle C, who carried on the tradition of parties at the lake until 1958. On 3/17/58 the lake and surrounding property were sold to Bryant and Sarah Langston. That same year Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sanderson bought the mansion on 4.760 acres. The Langston's built a large home overlooking the lake.. The Sanderson's sold the mansion in 1979 to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sharp who made wonderful improvements to the building and grounds. The mansion was again sold to Mr. Lou Paolino in 1985. He made many additional improvements to the home, pool, tennis court and outbuildings and he is still the current owner.

During the 1960's the lake became known as Langston's Lake. Bryant and Sarah Langston died in a private plane that Bryant was piloting when it crashed in 1969. Through the efforts of the Wenonah Woodlands Council, the entire lake and the land on the East and West sides was dedicated to the Borough of Wenonah by the Stewart Estate for inclusion in their conservation lands. The house on 1.003 acres was then sold to Anthony S. and Carol (Wick) Balchan on Feb. 27, 1970. The house was sold again on May 8, 1971 to Jerome A. and Delores W. Hoffman. On July 8, 1982 the home went to Sheriff George G. Small for lack of tax payment. The 1st National Bank of Princeton took over the property Feb. 11, 1983. On May 15, 1985 Charles and Dolores Cornell purchased the house overlooking the lake. They made many improvements to the home, built large gardens around it and cleaned debris from the Southern portion of the lake. Charles and Dolores Cornell

are still the current owners of the lakefront home.

Mr. Edwards, a builder, purchased additional land of about 30 acres adjacent to the lake in 1966, subdivided it into building lots and constructed 49 homes (Academy Hill). Up to this time the lake had remained crystal clear for over eighty years. As homes were built and lawns established, the rainwater runoff into the lake increased and along with it came fertilizer. This added excessive nutrient to the lake causing more and more Algae and Duckweed blooms on the surface. At the same time there were less Algae eating fish species due to other predator fish like Pickerel and Bass.

In 1972 Robert & Jane Kitz who owned the Tea House property, with the help of Chuck Forsman, Environmental Commission Members and neighbors, completed a partial restoration of the Tea House and Amphitheater. There was a large celebration with celebrity guests, music, dancing, entertainment, great food and drinks. From 1973 through 1982 Chuck Forsman promoted a massive cleanup of the area surrounding the lake and trail plus dam repair projects, which were all done by volunteers from the homes in Academy Hill.

In 1983 a second overflow dam was built adjacent to the existing dam. It was paid for by Heinz Hoeffers to handle the increased water runoff by new homes he was building in the Brookmeade Development (Tom Synnott's property). Slowly silt filled the Northern end of the lake diminishing the size to about two acres. Chuck & Dolores Cornell, owners of the lakefront home, developed attractive gardens down to the lake on their property, where they built a trail and allowed hikers to pass by.

By 1991 the lake developed a total cover of Green Algae and Duckweed during the summer months and although the basic quality of the water remained good, it was not a pleasant sight to see the green cover over the water. In 1993 a pump from the lake to an attractive waterfall was built by the Cornell's, which helped aerate the water and increase the oxygen content. During the following years, Chuck Forsman with the help of volunteers, filled in the earthen area at the dam and raised it two feet to contain the erosion at the lake. A variety of indigenous plantings were placed over the area and the outlet stream was cleaned of debris. The original 1885 dam was rebuilt with material and funds provided by Bob and Dan Bevilaqua in 1995. A wooden dock was built in 1995 as a protective cover over both the original leveling dam and the 1983 overflow dam, with funds provided by the Cornell's. Two hatches in the dock provide access to the dams for maintenance and repair. In 1996 the Northern end of the lake inlet channels were cleared by hand with 7 local volunteers led by Gary Reddig. Frank Eggert and Chuck Forsman restored a bridge over the inlet stream with wood from the original arched bridge and placed a sample of the original bridge side rails nearby in 1996. During 1997, 1998 and 1999 several large trees were removed from the lake with many volunteers.

A program was instituted by Chuck Forsman of the Wenonah Environmental Commission in 1999 & 2000 to decrease the fertilizer runoff into the lake, rake off the bulk of the Algae, increase aeration, increase water activity/circulation and increase the Algae/Duckweed eating fish and fowl population. A railing was also added to the dock. The Cornell's again donated funds for these projects. Old and new trails around the lake were defined for hiking and equipment access. They were lined with mulch by volunteers in preparation for the annual 4th of July trail hikes conducted by the Wenonah Environmental Commission members.

December 2000 the Japanese Tea House was exhibiting such severe damage that drawings and specifications were developed by Chuck Forsman in preparation for restoration. During that severe snowy winter the structure began to collapse and by April it was down. A call for volunteers to clear away the enormous amount of debris went out along with a request for $5,000.00 in donations to purchase materials for the restoration of the Tea House.

Chuck Forsman, with the assistance of Bill Schnarr operating a tractor along with nineteen men and women, removed all the debris except key reusable parts of the Tea House. The group was so inspired that they also removed all the vines that had covered a wonderful 5 level cement Amphitheatre next to the Tea House. The only disappointment was later that week when 8 of the 20 had Poison Ivy infections. The base of the Tea House still had the original nine concrete foundation columns. Three of them needed masonry repair. Bob and Dan Bevilaqua donated forms, concrete and their time to complete the repairs on 6/2/01.



Chuck Forsman asked John Schad (Wenonah builder, Schad Construction Co.) to volunteer his time to reconstruct the Tea House. He agreed and the first upright beams were in place on 6/12/01. Donations for materials began to arrive and by 6/15/01 $2,370.00 had been received from former and current residents. Again, the Cornell's made a generous contribution towards the materials. By 6/23/01 John Shad had all the vertical posts, floor beams and knee braces in place despite the frequent and very heavy rainfall, which created terrible working conditions. Work continued on the Tea House in September. By October 26 th $4,300.00 had been donated, the decking was complete and roof beams were installed. December 2001 the roof rafters were installed. January 2002 the upper roof was enclosed. Nearby, a new trail and repairs to the inlet stream waterfall were completed by Jonathan Nate as an Eagle Scout project with the help of his volunteers. March 2002 the lower curved roof was installed. By May 2002 the steps and railings were installed and the project was completed within the one-year time frame. The goal of $5,000.00 for materials was achieved. Another new trail was designed to go north from the Tea House Waterfall area and connect to Synnott's Pond on Elm Street, which would allow the trails to encircle two thirds of Wenonah.

Comey Lake ERI Document, Phase 4. Do not reproduce without express permission of C.R. Forsman, Chairman, Comey Lake Historical Restoration & Maintenance Committee 1973-2002.

Jane T. Ramsay

Jane T. Ramsay of Wenonah, NJ on June 27, 2002 at home among her children. Born Jane Tucker to Samuel Lewis and Frances Rode Tucker in Swedesboro, she moved to Wenonah at the age of 1 and resided there until her passing. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry, she was a licensed dental hygienist for 53 years. She began her career in private practice working with Dr. Sausser of Center City, Philadelphia and later with Dr. Don Furey of Wenonah and Dr. Don DeFonce of Mantua. Also during her career she worked with and educated children and migrant farm workers throughout southern New Jersey and later for underprivileged children and adults to the Camden Free Dental Clinic. She then joined H.I.P. of South Jersey from where she retired, but ended her career back in private practice working part-time for Dr. Holtzheimer of Mantua.

Mrs. Ramsay's hobbies and interests included designing, making and painting pottery for the last 60 years, jewelrysmithing, gem cutting, painting in water colors, antiques, cooking and carving. Her particular interest was spending time and exchanging stories with her family and many friends. She was a member of the Wenonah Reading Club, the Wenonah Woman's Club, and of the former All Saints Episcopal Church, where she served as Sunday School Treasurer for many years. As a young woman she was a member of the former Wenonah Rifle and Gun Club. She remained a very active member of the Wenonah Historical Society until her passing.

She was previously married to David Ramsay, Jr. Together they had six children, all of whom survive her. The are: David Ramsay III and his wife Linda of Wenonah, Tucker Ramsay and his wife Tina of Woodbury Heights, James L. Ramsay and his wife Terry of Wenonah, Edward A. Ramsay and his wife Clare of Pittsgrove, Jane Ramsay, Jr. of Annapolis, MD and Louise Ramsay Cotta and her husband Chuck of Annapolis, MD., and four grandchildren, David IV, Scott, Victoria and Rebecca, also survive her. Also surviving are her sisters, Nancy Mohr of Yellow House, PA and Louise Tucker of Wenonah. Her brother, Donald K. Tucker predeceased her.

Friends and neighbors may call Monday evening 6-8pm at Smith Funeral Home, 47 Main St., Mantua, NJ. Funeral services Tuesday 10:30 am at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, N. Monroe and W. Poplar Streets, Wenonah, NJ. Interment will immediately follow at Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro. Memorial contributions may be made to either the Wenonah Historical Society, PO Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032 or the Wenonah Fire and Rescue Department, 14 S. West Ave., Wenonah, NJ 08090.

Committee Reports

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Photography is still underway to accompany the recorded written records in our database. As the cooler fall evenings and shorter days come upon us, we will have more time to work indoors to get back to the task of photographing the remainder of the archives.

If you have any ides or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

Rocco F. Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

Japanese Tea House Restoration Completed for Fourth of July!!!

The efforts of many volunteers under the guidance of Chuck Forsman and Bob Bevilaqua were rewarded at a dedication ceremony led by Chuck Forsman. John Schad, a resident builder, was recognized for his untiring volunteer efforts in the reconstruction of the nearly destroyed 1911 Japanese Tea House. The Historical Society thanks the many volunteers who have worked VERY HARD to restore the Comey Lake Japanese Tea House. The commitment of people like Chuck Forsman, Bob Bevilaqua, and John Schad is truly appreciated. We thank all those who contributed to the efforts to bring back to life a monumental historic structure in this town. Anyone interested in donating to this cause can contact Chuck Forsman at 304 Mohawk Dr., Wenonah, NJ 08090.

All Around Town

Fourth of July

YES... it was a banner year for the Parade. There was a HUGE turn out and patriotism galore. We did ourselves PROUD!

The House Decorating Contest this year was also a success. We Thank all those who entered. The theme this year was "A Salute to America's Heroes." The judges had many entries. All entrants will receive an 8 x 10 photo of their decorated home compliments of Tomorrow's Treasures, Inc of Woodbury Heights, NJ (thanks to George Braun for this ongoing tradition!).

The Top Three Winners Were:

1st Place.....The Snock Family at 8 N. Monroe

2nd Place.....The Scott Shaver Family at 1 N. Jackson

3rd Place.....The Redmond Family at 103 S. Marion

HELP NEEDED

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do an article, interview a longtime resident, or can contribute in any way PLEASE CALL. This is a great opportunity to get to KNOW your town!

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form · 2002-2003

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check #_____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

Return to Wenonah Historical Society · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: $10 per family household per year

September Meeting

Friday, September 13, 2002 • 6:00pm

The September Meeting will be held at two locations:

First, at 6pm at the newly restored Japanese Tea House will be the dedication of the plaque from the Wenonah Historical Society recognizing the efforts of Chuck Forsman, Bob Bevilaqua, John Schad, and the many other volunteers who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this historic treasure. For those who have not seen this wonderful restoration, this is a good time to come and bring a friend to thank those who have followed our mission statement and preserved the integrity of one of Wenonah's structures!

Second, at 7pm, we will have our meeting at Littlegrange (The McCall Porch). Refreshments will be served.

In the event of rain, both events will be held in the Community Center.



Future meetings

October 11, 2002.....**South Jersey Ghost Research**
Scientific approach and study of the paranormal

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The objectives of this Society shall be:

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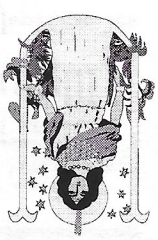
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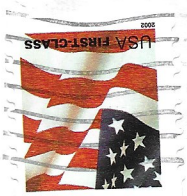
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

08090+1829 06

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Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
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WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter



October 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

Speak of the Devil

Over the past century, the Jersey Devil has been sighted throughout our area—including in Wenonah.

Move over, Dracula and Frankenstein. When Halloween comes to South Jersey, trick-or-treaters in the know tremble at the mention of our own local monster: The Jersey Devil. Sightings of the creature have been recorded throughout the 20th century, from 1909 to 2000. The list is long in Ocean and Atlantic counties (Winslow Township, Bamber Lake, Whiting, Leeds, and Mays Landing) but also closer to home in Salem and Gloucester counties (Salem, Greenwich, Woodstown, Gibbsboro, Bridgeton, Penns Grove), including right in our own backyard (Sewell, Barnsboro, Woodbury, Mantua, and yes, even in Wenonah!)

The appearance of the creature and its behavior varies only slightly. It is portrayed with a horse or monster turtle's head on which eyes glow. Its slimy, feathered body stands 3-1/2 to 6 feet high, on long back legs, crane- or frog-like. Its front legs or arms are short, and bear sharp claws. Its bat wings always help it to fly away. It lets people know of its presence by howling, hissing, or barking and can also produce unearthly, chilling screams. It has left behind strange giant prints of cloven hooves.

Even though it is accused of savagely killing many domestic animals, it has never injured a human being. Instead, it stalks unfortunate hikers in dark woods or peeps through windows at night.

Though many Wenonah residents have heard of the Jersey Devil, some may be unfamiliar with the macabre legend of its birth and life. According to South Jersey lore, a woman living in the Pine Barrens near Leeds Point gave birth to a child in 1735- her thirteenth. Its freakish anatomy included a horse's head, the wings of a bat, cloven hooves and a serpent's tail. Originally called Leed's Devil, and later dubbed the Jersey Devil, the newborn beast is said to have flown away into the woods, where it has been hiding ever since. Through the years, it has been the subject of many a fireside story, and has even inspired two recipes: the Jersey Devil sandwich (eggs, pork roll, cheese and fried peppers and onions on a roll) and a Jersey Devil chocolate cake.

In 1909, the year a rash of sightings occurred throughout South Jersey, Wenonah had its very own sighting. According to the Gloucester County Times, "There was a skating carnival last night at Green's Lake. It was largely attended by the boys of Wenonah. They declared that they saw the (Jersey) Devil. They said it spit fire and had a head on it like the Gorgon Medusa."

In the same year, mysterious tracks were reported throughout South Jersey towns, including in Wenonah, and Professor Breitkoph of Philadelphia identified them as those of a Jurassic lizard, Peleosaurus Cattelleya. He recommended feeding the creature fish and milk. If you are inclined to follow his advice, you could be the next observer of the Jersey Devil. As long as we preserve Wenonah's woods, we have a good chance of seeing it again.

For more information on the Jersey Devil, you can visit the web: *www.pressplus.com/pinelands/folklore* or *www.parascope.com/en/cryptzoo/predators03.htm*

President's Letter

We have a busy and entertaining evening ahead of us. Come prepared for a work session and then enjoy the program as South Jersey Ghost Research joins us with tales of the paranormal and shares with us the scientific instruments used to measure paranormal activity. Our own Train Station seems to be alive with "traces from the past!"

Our agenda for the evening will include nominations for officers for the upcoming terms, program scheduling, Christmas party discussion, and the purchase of memorial items.

We will be reviewing our accomplishments of the past year and setting goals for the new term. As many of you are aware, there are some major changes that may be taking place in our town over the next several years. The town's new Community Center will mean changes for our Railroad Station. Many of you spent a LOT of effort and time in preserving the Train Station and it is our hope that we continue in this vein. Jack Sheppard is serving on the Committee that will review how a grant that was received will be used for the Train Station restoration.. Roco Doto is also working on having the train Station recognized as a State Historic Structure.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to share ideas and time. **We need your support!**

We hope to see all of you at this meeting and please bring a friend. We have been fortunate in having a lot of new members that have contributed to the growth of the Historical Society. Each new face brings new and welcome ideas.

Refreshments will be probided.

Reminder: Please be sure to send or bring your dues: $15 per family. (We have increased dues from $10 to $15 per year. If this causes difficulty for any member, please contact our treasurer for alternatives.)

-Vicki McCall

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

The Wenonah Fire Company

Condensed by Vicki McCall from "Wenonah" by Marjorie Lentz and an article from Wenonah's "100 Year Celebration" pamphlet



The first record of the Wenonah Fire Company was on April 17, 1883 in a report from the Fire and Lightning Committee to Borough Council that 22 galvanized fire buckets were in good condition at the freight station. At the same meeting, Council passed a motion to purchase a 15' and 25' ladder for a cost of $9.25!

On December 11, 1883 the cellar of the Wenonah School (later the Legion Hall and now a private residence) on N. Marion became the first fire house. Three years later, the Wenonah Water Works was built adjacent to the dam at Warner's Lake and the first fireplug was installed. Also in this year, official formation of the Wenonah Fire Company was initiated.. The first piece of equipment, was purchased in this year, a one hose cart and 45' of hose. These were housed in the barn of the Wenonah Inn (which later became the Military Academy). The first test for this equipment was done by setting fire to a pile of barrels on the outskirts of town. Within 9 minutes, the hose cart and team arrived and extinguished the fire.

On April6, 1888 tit was recorded in the Borough minutes that the Wenonah Fire Company had been officially formed. The first Fire Chief was E.R. Winthrop. The equipment consisted of two hose carts and hoses. They were stored at Birdall's Garage (located on the site of the present Library) and in Synott's Ice House. After one year of existence, there were NO fires!

In 1905, the lot where the Fire House now stands, known as Harrison Lot, was purchased for $150. On June 21, 1906, the Fire Company was incorporated with ten charter members. In 1908, the building was constructed for a cost of $1,420. This is the front portion of the older section of the present firehouse.

During the early years before electric sirens, striking a suspended locomotive wheel rim with a sledgehammer sounded the alarms. This was eventually replaced with a rope pull bell. And for years the Methodist Church bell was used as a fire alarm. In 1918 the first siren and tower was placed at the corner lot of S. West Ave and Cherry St.

In 1918 the Fire Company purchased its first piece of motorized equipment. In 1921 a new Stutz fire truck was purchased giving Wenonah two motorized trucks.

Beginning in the early 1920's, a carnival was held every August as a fundraiser. This continued until 1942. In 1940, Wayne Ralston suggested an annual get together dinner. The first banquet was December 2, 1941. This eventually evolved into a "Stags Night" and a "Ladies Night".

In 1943, an application was made to The American Red Cross. This was approved and Wenonah became one of the first Fire Company's with an official rescue squad in the State.

In 1960, with the increased equipment purchases it became necessary for the Fire Company to build an addition. This was completed in 1963. An upstairs game room was completed in 1969 with an original bar from the Telford Inn.

The first female member of the Fore Company was Susan Auerbach

In 1976. As a member of the ambulance squad and a fire fighter, Lorraine Geston became the first female line officer. Today, the Fire Company is open to men and women and welcomes all volunteers.

The Fire Company has served our community for over 100 years. It is through the support of volunteers, Borough Council, and the community that we are fortunate enough to have our own Fire Station.

The Wenonah Historical Society thanks all of our Fire volunteers for their service and commitment.

Be sure to see the Historical Display presented by the Fire Company in the Wenonah Elementary School in honor of Fire Prevention Month.

Committee Reports

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Photography is still underway to accompany the recorded written records in our database. As the cooler fall evenings and shorter days come upon us, we will have more time to work indoors to get back to the task of photographing the remainder of the archives.

If you have any ides or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

HELP STILL NEEDED!

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do an article, interview a longtime resident, or can contribute in any way PLEASE CALL. This is a great opportunity to get to KNOW your town!

THANK YOU!

- To the children from Wenonah who participated in the dedication of the Japanese Tea House by singing songs from THE MUSIC MAN. We truly enjoyed the performance. The Gloucester County Times did a nice write up on the Tea House and the event on September 26, 2002.
- To Diane Magarelli, Roco Doto, Bernadette Faix, and Eileen Caraker for running the cart at the Wenonah Craft fare . They sold Historical Society bags and flags.
- To the Wenonah Fire Department for their display of archives in our cabinet at the Wenonah Elemenatry School. Be sure to stop in for a peek.

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM · 2002-2003

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid $ _____ ☐ Check #_____ Enclosed ☐ Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY · P.O. BOX 32 · WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: $15 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

October Meeting

Friday, October 11, 2002 • 7:00pm

Guest Presentation by South Jersey Ghost Research

Free lecture with photo displays, equipment displays, EVPs and videos.

SJGR is a group of investigators that can trace it's roots back to 1955. They conduct discreet investigations, assist people in need, educate the public, conduct field research and promote the learning and understanding of ghosts and other psychic phenomena. They use the latest scientific methods and tools as well as psychic investigators in our research. SJGR members come from all walks of life, from nurses and psychologists to grandmothers and teachers. Most have years of personal experience dealing with ghosts and hauntings. SJGR routinely investigates documented hauntings and conducts field research to gain more knowledge of the phenomenon.



Future meetings

November 8, 2002.....**No Program Set as of Yet**
December 13, 2002.....**Annual Christmas Party**

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.

2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.

3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.

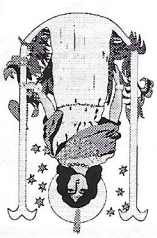
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.

5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.

6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

08090+1823 06

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090



Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032





WENONAH
Historical Society Newsletter

November 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

We have a full business schedule for the November meeting and it is important that we have a good turn out. We will be electing officers, trustees, discussing programs, and planning the Christmas Party. There are plenty of fun projects for you to participate in. so, even if you've never volunteered before, here is your chance to do your part!

There are many members who no longer reside in Wenonah. We would love to get some letters from you about your life in Wenonah that we could put in the newsletter. Anyone who would like to share an experience...please write in!

I would like to thank all who came out for the October meeting. We had a great program from South Jersey Ghost Research. They shared some very interesting information on the paranormal. The South Jersey ghost Research team will be conducting a study of the Train Station on...of all days...Friday the 13th! This will take place following our Christmas Party. Stay tuned for their finding!!!

As the holidays approach and my long running term as President comes to an end, I want to thank you all for all your help and support. I wish you all a Happy and Bountiful Thanksgiving.

I look forward to seeing you Friday night.

-Vicki McCall

Proposed Changes to WHS By-Laws

October 30, 2001

Notification to Members;
Re: Proposed By-Law Changes

Dear Members:

At the October 2002 meeting of the Society a request was made by President Vicki McCall for the elimination of the post of second vice president.

It was further proposed that the terms of officers be increased from one to two years.

Finally, due to the conflict posed by the December meeting being an annual Christmas party and not a business meeting, it is proposed that the Nominating Committee be appointed at the November meeting with nominations/elections to take place at the January meeting.

To accomplish that goal it is proposed that the by-laws be amended as noted on the reverse side of this letter.

In compliance with the requirement of the Constitution for changing the Bylaws this proposal is being provided "at least one week" in advance of the meeting at which it is to be acted upon, that being the meeting to be held Friday, November 8th 2002.

Should you have any questions concerning the above please feel free to contact President Vicki McCall (468-9555) or myself (468-8724) at your convenience.

Sincerely,
Jack C. Sheppard Sr., Proposing Member

Proposed Constitution and By-Law Changes

Constitution, Article IV - Officers and Trustees, Sections 1. and 2.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

The officers of the Society shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of these five Officers plus two Trustees, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Society.

Proposed Wording

The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of these four Officers plus two Trustees, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Society.

Article V - Election of Officers and Trustees, Sections 1. and 2.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

The Officers and Trustees shall be elected for terms of one (1) year by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting.

Proposed Wording

The Officers and Trustees shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

A Nominating Committee consisting of two (2) members of the Board of Trustees and two (2) regular members of the Society shall be selected by the membership at the regular meeting preceding the Annual Meeting, and at the Annual Meeting shall present a slate of five (5) Officers and two (2) Trustees.

Proposed Wording

A Nominating Committee consisting of two (2) members of the Board of Trustees and two (2) regular members of the Society shall be selected by the membership at the November Meeting, and at the Annual Meeting shall present a slate of four (4) Officers and two (2) Trustees.

Bylaws - Article I, Section 3.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

The First and Second Vice-Presidents shall in the absence of the President have all the powers and prerogatives of the President, and be subject to all restrictions of the President. In the absence of both, the Board of Trustees shall appoint one of their members to preside.

Proposed Wording

The Vice President shall in the absence of the President have all the powers and prerogatives of the President, and be subject to all restrictions of the President. In the absence of both, the Board of Trustees shall appoint one of their members to preside.

November Meeting

Friday, November 8, 2002 • 7:30pm

HELP NEEDED!

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do an article, an interview, or share a story, PLEASE , PLEASE CALL US!

How to Contact Us



Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

Future meetings

December 13, 2002.....**Annual Christmas Party**

THE MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The objectives of this Society shall be:

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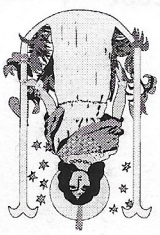
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Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090



WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032





WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DECEMBER 2002

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is hard to believe this is my last letter as President. I have truly enjoyed the honor of serving as an officer of the Wenonah Historical Society. I thank all of our long-term members who have been so generous with their time and expertise. Without your help, I would not have been able to accomplish the many goals we set. Like many of you, I will miss the company and stories of our two favorite Wenonah residents, Jane Ramsay and Milton Webb. I am so very grateful for having known them and so honored to have called them "friend".

Our new officers come to you with a lot of energy and commitment to this town. I know that under their leadership we will see many new accomplishments. We should all welcome them and offer whatever help we can. It is as a team that we make a difference. Step up and let your voice be heard. Every contribution, no matter how small it may seem, is a huge step towards keeping this Historical Society alive. Let's keep up the hard work that people like Jane Ramsay, Milton Webb, Jack and Jean Ehlers, Jack Sheppard, Rachael Knissel, Betty Macleod, Lucy Schulz …just to mention a few…have done for so long!

This is a WONDERFUL town and in the spirit of the season, lets' remember that, as in Bedford Falls, Wenonah captures the spirit of Community and Friendship… it is why we all have chosen to live here. Truly, "It's a Wonderful Life"!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 13, 2002
6:00 pm Wine and Cheese
6:30 pm Dinner

WENONAH COMMUNITY CENTER

$ 15.00 per person

RSVP Betty Macleod 468-6981
Lucy Schulz 468-5392

BRING AN UNWRAPPED DOOR PRIZE

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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BRING AN UNWRAPPED DOOR PRIZE

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Wenonah Historical Society Vol. 1 Issue No. 1 January, 2003

Next Meeting Friday January 10th at the Wenonah Community Center

There will not be a formal program for the meeting; instead it will be a session for becoming acquainted with the new officers of our organization and a discussion of plans and programs for the coming year 2003.

President:	Rocco Doto	Vice President:	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary:	Eileen Caraker	Treasurer:	Carol Wiltsee
Corresponding Sec.:	Betty MacLeod	Trustee:	Vicki McCall

Please attend and make your thoughts known on our important responsibility of seeking out, accepting, preserving and displaying the historic photos and artifacts constituting the history of our proud and beautiful town.

(Former) President's Letter by Vicki McCall

It is hard to believe this is my last letter as President. I have truly enjoyed the honor of serving as an officer of the Wenonah Historical Society. I thank all of our long-term members who have been so generous with their time and expertise. Without your help, I would not have been able to accomplish the many goals we set. Like many of you, I will miss the company and stories of our two favorite Wenonah residents, Jane Ramsay and Milton Webb. I am so very grateful for having known them and so honored to have called them "friend".

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Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

[OVER]

The severe snowstorm of last week blocked the trains cutting off communication with the outside world, causing considerable anxiety to those of our townsman doing business in Philadelphia.

Saturday morning a heavy run was made on the grocery stores, and by noon those who had not done their marketing had little hopes for Sunday dinner.

Postmaster Eldridge reports no mails delivered from Friday of last week till Monday of this due to the storm.

Miss Rena Moore accidentally shot herself while examining a revolver.

A number of interesting young people formed themselves into an amateur choir Wednesday evening last in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in rendering the music for the service assisted the pastor very materially.

The boys having cleaned the snow off the ice at Wenonah Lake are indulging themselves in the healthful pastime of skating.

It is understood that "The Inn" will be opened very early in the spring. There is no reason why this beautiful and home like house cannot be made a success.

Thomas W. Synnott and wife and Clayton Synnott have gone to Lake Worth, Florida where they will remain several weeks.

Clifford Farr, whose family are residing in Philadelphia for the winter visited us last week. (Quite a few people wintered in Philadelphia)

Another one of our oldest inhabitants has passed away. Mrs. Christina Allen, widow of Josiah Allen, who was buried from the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. James Carey on Friday. Mrs. Allen was among the first settlers here, her family being among the oldest in the county.

The Musical Society met last Tuesday at the residence of I.P. Eppiesheimer and decided to continue the class rehearsal for another quarter.

The supper given by the W.C.T.U. in Noblitt's Hall last week was a very successful one.

Samuel Whitney was visiting friends here last week. (He and his brother Thomas founded the Whitney Glass Works, founded the Glassborough bank and were large stockholders of the West Jersey and Seashore Rail Road)

The borough was treated with a sensation on Friday last. Francis Williams and his wife while walking along one of our thoroughfares got into an altercation over some of their domestic affairs. Francis became very much excited and forgetting his vows to be good and true struck his spouse with great violence; fearing that the blow was fatal he skipped for parts unknown while Rebecca went to the magistrate and laid out a complaint of assault and battery with intent to kill. The dusky pair resides in Jericho.

Little Ed Benson feels a foot taller than any of his comrades - he caught a live muskrat.

Richard Clark has a very spirited horse, a trotter. His proud spirit rebels at being hitched to a delivery wagon and at times gives an exhibition of his rebellious spirit by running away. Last week while in charge of Will Price went into a mad gait and before his driver could bring him down to the delivery wagon trot he succeeded in making kindling wood of a portion of the vehicle.

The West Jersey ferryboats experience great difficulty in crossing the river on account of the ice. On Sunday many people walked across the Delaware River from Camden to Philadelphia on the ice.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a good sprinkling of older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt's Hall and indulged in the favorite pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

We regret to learn that the good-natured Blair Smith is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold (he had the first drivers license issued in Gloucester County)

There are quite a few Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over at Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury, New Jersey February 1895

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 February. 2003



Wenonah Free Public Library – See Page 2

FEBRUARY MEETING

Friday February 14th, 2003 7:30 p.m. at the Wenonah Community Center, Mantua Ave. at the Railroad.

The program for the evening will be a presentation by Victor Anderson of the history of his home at 13 West Mantua Avenue, Wenonah.

Victor will describe the rooms and features of his home in words and photographs.

Should provide for a very interesting meeting with refreshments following.

A Message from the President
Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

In my first month as your new President I have found that the job of President is both exhilarating and difficult. I sincerely respect my predecessors, especially Vicki McCall and the Late Jane Ramsey. Vicki still serves on our executive board and has been a life saver with her guidance and availability with any questions that I have… And I have many.

I am also lucky to have the support of our other officers and already have reaped the benefits of their various talents, experiences and expertise.

We have many ambitious plans for 2003. Our plans include;

- Displaying Memorabilia/learning exhibits in our elementary school.
- Exhibiting historical artifacts in our Library
- Creating a permanent museum in our beloved Train Depot, once the municipal building is completed.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

President:	***Rocco Doto***
Vice Pres.	***Jack Sheppard***
Secretary	***Eileen Caraker***
Treasurer	***Carol Wiltsee***
Corr. Sec.	***Betty MacLeod***
Trustee	***Vicki McCall***
Trustee	***Diane Magarelli***

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

We also plan to continue to offer informative programs each month and to actively publicize these programs to get as many residents interested in attending our meetings.

In fact, I have made it a personal priority to increase our membership. I have delivered Historical Society welcoming packages to all new residents that moved to our Historic town during 2002.

I think that it is so befitting or ironic that the first building by the Mantua Land & Improvement Company was the Wenonah Inn in 1872, one hundred and thirty years ago.

In addition we are planning to have Wenonah Historical Society Posters around town announcing the date, time, and place of our meetings.

All of our meetings will be advertised in the Gloucester County Times and we will always have a message in the Wenonah Newsletter.

I also plan to add all of the major Borough organizations to our mailing lists so that our Newsletter reaches as many involved residents as possible.

I ask all of our membership to help me with increasing the membership of our organization. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join the Society.

I can't imagine why anyone living in such a jewel of a town with such a rich history not wanting to be a part of the Historical Society.

I thank all of you for being supporters and members of The Wenonah Historical Society.

Future Meetings

The March meeting program will be a presentation of the *"Gibson Girl Friday meets the Victorian Lady"* that you won't want to miss. Because of the anticipated larger attendance the meeting will take place at the Wenonah Elementary School All-Purpose Room. The date March 14th at 7:00 p.m.

The topic for April will be "Preservation Problem Shooting: Maintaining the Older Home" by Margaret Westfield of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants Co.

Did You Know?

The lands that are Wenonah today were farms specializing in the growing of sweet potatoes. The railroad delivered manure to the farmers who picked it up in the center of town.

WENONAH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
by *Ann Zuber*

Much of what I have learned about our library has been passed on to me from those who have spent years in service to the library; Lucy Schulz, Dave and Meta O'Connor, and Carol Wiltsee.

I also spent some time reviewing documents including the minutes of the organizing body of this library-the Wenonah Library Association. This organization was the brainchild of the Sorosis Club in Wenonah in the 1890's and was formally organized and chartered in 1900. The funding for the first collection of books came from the Sorosis Club, $150.00 raised for this purpose, plus the initial investment of the "members" of the association. The members of the original board included familiar names such as Edward Farr, Thomas Synnott, H. Lake Gilmore, Mr. Stout, Mr. Gage, and Mr. Wilkins. Meetings were held at the homes of the committee members until a room was rented in the house of Mrs. Lashley (Wenonah's Quality Shop?) behind the post office in June of that year. The committee drew up a constitution; which stated that members could have lifetime library privileges for $50.00 or join annually for $5.00. They hired Emma Lichty, our first librarian. In 1902, the Association hired Miss Mortie Stokes, who saw the library through many changes.

By 1905 more space was needed and the former Presbyterian Sunday school Annex was received as a donation and moved to its current location at 8 W. Mantua Ave. The original building was half the size of the building that we now know as September Rose Studios. Between 1906 and 1908 the library was used for borough council meetings. In 1914, the Association became the Wenonah Free Public Library, a public entity to be supported in part by the Borough of Wenonah.

In a report submitted to borough council in 1921, the library claimed 600 card-holding members.

MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

The board of trustees of the library began negotiating the purchase of the property at Clinton and Mantua Aves. with the Bilderbach family. The land was purchased and the house razed to allow for the building of the current library building, which was donated by the Edward Farr family in 1927.

In 1988, an idea for an expansion to the building was discussed. The idea was investigated with estimates from builders and a public questionnaire and was ultimately decided against.

In 1998, in conjunction with the automation project at the Elementary School, the library set up Internet access for the public and planned to automate the collection.

One of the most interesting things I discovered while reviewing the library's history is the number of people that have been devoted to this library. The longevity is impressive. I didn't document dates for the Farr family's tenure, but there were at least 2 generations involved and their financial contribution cannot be equaled. Mortie Stokes was our librarian for 42 years, from 1902-1944. Lucy Schulz has been on the library board since April 13, 1961-that's 41 years. Meta O'Connor and Carol Wiltsee have been the mainstays at this library since 1986, when Dorothy Nugent retired after 18 years. Most of our librarians and board members have worked with the library for more than 10 years.

The library has benefited from the attention of many groups and individuals over the years. Mrs. Edward Farr and the Women's Club hosted an English Country Fair in 1923 and raised $600.00 for the library. A Paul Stankard paperweight and a trip to Mexico were raffled to benefit the library. The Women's Club has continued to support the library with monetary, furniture, and book

Continued Over

donations. The Junior Women's Club has joined in this tradition.

Many families from town have chosen to suggest a library donation in memory of their deceased loved ones. The Hobson family donated the beautiful bookcases, which make up our children's section downstairs. The Hopkins/Bennett family donated the round table in the junior section downstairs. Another table in that section was donated in memory of Louise Wiler, our librarian from 1966-1978. Most recently the family of Dorothy Nugent, our librarian from 1978-1986, suggested donations be made in her name to the library. The David Ramsey family donated the audio and video display racks to the library in recent years. Mr. Ramsey has used his talents to help maintain the special atmosphere by crafting many of the improvements to match the original architecture of the building. Often families that have participated in programs at the library, such as story time, choose to donate books as a remembrance. Daniel Navins, one of our young residents, chose to refurbish the grounds of the library last year as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The project included a bench for the back yard and an irrigation system and perennial flowers for the border gardens.

While the grounds were being improved, the library board moved forward with the installation of a technology based card catalog and circulation system by hiring Anne Zuber, part time Elementary School Librarian. The system chosen is the same one used in the Wenonah Elementary School and so would be familiar to those students. In July of 2000, the shelf list was reviewed and updated and sent to the Follett Software Co. for conversion. In January 2001, volunteers helped apply the barcode labeling necessary to use the computerized system. We began to use the system in June 2001. Since that time we have recovered many books missing for up to two years, but the biggest benefit to having the computerized system is in its search capabilities. Not only will the computer search by keyword, but it will also show if the book is checked out.

Some of our expectations for the future of the library include making connections with more of the citizens of our town. One way might be to showcase some of the historical memorabilia of Wenonah. We have been in contact with members of the Historical Society and have discussed the showcase they have had installed at the Elementary School and the possibility of something in the library. We are shopping for appropriate cabinetry. Having the library entered into the Historic Buildings Registry is being investigated.

The next step technologically would be to put our Card Catalog on the Internet. This would make it possible to search our collection from your home computer. At last spring's Ice Cream Social at the elementary school, an opportunity was given to see a demonstration of OPAC. OPAC is the On-line Public Access Catalog system.

Each book, audio book, or videotape that the library has available for circulation is recorded. The display provides the same information that a card catalog card would show but is located by the computer in a great variety of search methods. The card drawers provided cards for each book listed under Title, Author, and Subject, with the possibility of added subject entries and series. The computer can search by Call # and Keyword. Keyword is an invaluable search tool.

Some of the services this library can provide include; quick and easy search for materials, timely access to current adult fiction, interlibrary loan access to material not on our shelves, copier and internet access, expanded hours on Wednesday (9AM-9PM), and Story Time. Story Time is growing! We have offered both Wednesday and Thursday Story Time at 10AM for Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions. We have great expectations for a really fun Summer program. Our theme is "Library Safari"! We are in the planning stages and hope to enlist the help of many local residents in whatever area they may choose to help. Those of you with artistic ability are especially welcome! We are having a planning meeting this Wednesday 3/13/2002 at 12:00 at the library.

This presentation was made before the Woman's Club of Wenonah on 3/9/2002 by Anne Zuber, director of Wenonah Free Public Library.

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 3 March. 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

Another exciting month. I have seen a few of our objectives come to fruition early in the year starting with our publicity campaign. Posters advertising dates and time of meetings are now in the Post-Office, Library, Train Station and its Kiosk. We succeeded in exhibiting several Wenonah Military Academy items in the Library. Please be sure to stop in and see the display. The items look great and certainly look better than when tucked away in a closet. Lastly we have received a grant from the NJ Council for the humanities, providing two presentations in 2003. I hope to see you at the March meeting and please bring a friend.

March Meeting Program

Our March program is "***The Gibson Girl Friday Meets The Victorian Lady"***. This program compares the lives and fashions of a turn-of-the-century society lady and a working class "typewriter", as those who first operated the typing machines were called. We will also be given a historical look at women's undergarments and the practice of tight lacing (of corsets). Obstacles women encountered entering the male-dominated world of office work and employment practices before and after marriage are also presented. Because we are offering this presentation to the general public, the **location will be at the Wenonah Elementary School**. The hour-long program will **start at 7 PM** with light refreshments being served afterwards.

Following the refreshments there will be a short business meeting.

The speaker for the evening is Barbara Meyer Darlin. Ms. Darlin studied ballet and acting before deciding on a career in costuming. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in theatre from Indiana University, she began a journey of creative experience ranging from her own fashion design business to costume designer for regional dance and theatre companies. In 1987, Barbara moved into a 100-year-old house and began her love affair with the Victorian Era.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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Vice Pres.	***Jack Sheppard Sr.***
Secretary	***Eileen Caraker***
Treasurer	***Carol Wiltsee***
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Fascinated by the 19th century, she produced "Unlacing the Victorian Woman", a fun, costumed lecture/demonstration that explores the impact of turn-of-the-century women's fashions on their lives. Barbara has added two more programs to her repertoire: "The Gibson Girl Friday Meets The Victorian Lady" which we will be offering, and "Arsenic and Tight Lace: Beauty Secrets of La Belle Époque" about turn-of-the-century beauty secrets.

Ms. Darlin performs these entertaining and educational programs for historical societies, libraries, schools, women's groups, museums, retirement communities, and at conventions, but not at bachelor parties! She has given talks up and down the East Coast, as well as at the Biltmore Estate in NC, the Taft Museum in Cincinnati and several venues in the Berkshires. She is a familiar face at Cape May's Victorian Festivals. She has been featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine and Main Line Today.

Ms. Darlin is a founding member of the Costume Society of America and lives in Swarthmore, PA, with her husband and two cats.

We are fortunate to have this program sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The NJCH is a non-profit organization established in 1973 as the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Programs are offered free and open to the public. The mission of the NJCH is to develop, support and promote projects that explore and interpret the human experience, foster cross-cultural understanding and engage people in dialog about matters of individual choice and public responsibility. The Council's Horizon Speakers Bureau supplies lecturers to non-profit organizations in humanities areas as wide ranging as ethnic studies, history, literature, interpretation of the arts and public policies. Learn more about the NJCH by visiting their website www.njch.org or by calling 1-888-FYI-NJCH.

Membership Dues 2003

A reminder that quite a few members have not remitted dues for 2003. Sorry but the newsletter will not be sent in April to those remaining unpaid.

HISTORY OF THE *WOMAN'S CLUB OF WENONAH*
BY PAT HART

During the year 2003, the Wenonah Woman's Club is celebrating its 80th anniversary. The following is a brief history of the first 40 years.

In 1922, Jessie White went to The New Jersey State Federation of Woman's Clubs Convention in Atlantic City at the invitation of member of The Woman's Club of Woodbury. She returned to Wenonah fired up about the group because they were really eager to make the world a better place in which to live. The stated purpose of the organization is "The study of subjects affecting the development, the welfare, and the advancement of women, and cooperation in Federation and community projects." Jessie and several friends discussed the idea, found it appealing, and formed The Woman's Club of Wenonah.

Quoting from a letter that Mrs. White wrote for the 40th anniversary in 1963: "The idea of having a woman's club in Wenonah was actually spontaneous. It was every woman's wish ...everyone's work."

Jessie believed from the outset that much could be done for the local library. The first project, 80 years ago was to earn money for it. She had the brilliant idea to turn her house, (which is now the home of Jim and Pat Haney at 210 N. Jefferson Ave.) into a Dickens' house and fortunately, her husband, Nate, went along with the idea. She, with the help of other members of the Woman's Club, decorated one room to represent "The Tale of Two Cities." Then they decorated another room to represent Bleak House. Another was "David Copperfield." The members dressed in costumes of the time. One special room was just for children. It was decorated entirely with cobwebs made of yarn and sprinkled with chocolate spiders. The children could select their favorite spider.

In May 1925 another major event held by the new club was a May Fair under the direction of Mrs. White and Mrs. Walter Farr. Mrs. Farr was the member who suggested that the library become the club's project. It was held on the "greensward" in front of the Farr estate, now owned by Vicki and Lou McCall. The Tudor style of architecture fitted in with the period portrayed by the affair, the Elizabethan age.

At 3:15 the church bells rang to call the folks to the festive scene. Woman's Club members dressed in costumes representing vendors, jesters, Gypsies, milkmaids, chimney sweeps, and dancers. There were May pole dances and booths where toys, food and beverages could be purchased. Husbands also participated as noted by Simple Simon and the pie man. A highlight was the crowning of the May King and Queen.

Also, there was a parade including 40 young girls pushing their decorated doll coaches. The program ended with the Men's Club Chorus singing several old-time songs. Quite a large sum of money, $600, was realized for the benefit of the Wenonah Public Library.

"A Pageant of Women" in 14 episodes was held in the Military Academy Gymnasium on Saturday, October 20, 1928. Once again the Wenonah library was the beneficiary of the event. Each episode featured an outstanding woman in history, from Deborah the Hebrew Prophetess to a grand finale featuring the Spirit of Motherhood. There were 75 women in the cast. And more than 400 people enjoyed the pageant!

On Saturday, September 28, 1929, the members staged the continuous perform of Le Jardin De Paris (The Garden of Paris) a gay resort of French Art Students, for the benefit of the library. The production took place in the gardens at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Erskine at the corner of South Princeton Avenue and Cherry Street. In addition to several dances, vocal renditions and a string ensemble, the comedy play "The Prince who was a Piper" was performed. Supper was served to more than 260 guests. A matinee was given in the afternoon at three o'clock for children.

During the '30's, our club performed an annual play, often in the Legion Hall or at the home of Mrs. Farr, Little Grange. Several titles were "A Chip off the Old Block," "Sardines," and "Shall We Join the Ladies." The latter was an unusual play because it was only the first act of an unfinished mystery play by Sir James Barrie. One year they gave an original play written by a member, Miss Elizabeth Farr, the Marjorie Lentz of that day.

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6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

In 1931 a very elaborate program entitled "The Little Shawl Pageant" was given to a very appreciative audience in the Legion Hall (originally Joe Noblitt's Hall on N. Marion Ave behind the Weems Medical Center). 15 tableaus, including music and dance, shawls of the ages from the early Egyptian period to the gorgeous silk shawls of that day were presented.

A Beggars Fair was held in the Wenonah Park in 1933. It was composed of many booths with food, games, books, etc. Also Major Lorence kindly offered the services of the Military Academy's Cadet Band. The afternoon affair ended with a dance in the drill hall, for which the band also played. The club netted $88 for the library fund. In those days, the Woman's Club donated the bulk of the money spent by the library for book purchases.

In 1936 the club joined with the PTA to beautify the school grounds with shrubbery. The first Borough tree commission was appointed in 1938, largely through the efforts of the club. Musical instruments were purchased for the Wenonah Elementary School in 1939. Thirty of the lovely dogwood trees in the Wenonah Park were donated by the club.

During the early 1940's, much of the club's activities were channeled toward the war effort. During these lean years {beginning back in the '30's), there were often disbursements for welfare such as milk and eggs to needy families. Quite often there were expenses for materials for Red Cross projects such as ditty bags and saltines. A fair was held in September of 1944 and it turned a profit of only $13.55, a testament to the lean times.

In the mid-1940's the club aroused interest in acquiring a community athletic field and urged that a referendum be placed on the November ballot to purchase it. The referendum passed. Mrs. S.M. Langston purchased the field for $4,000 to make sure it was still available for the Borough once approved.

Club meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church until 1948 when they were moved to the American Legion Hall. Beginning in 1956, the club met in the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall; and they still meet there today, 46V2 years later.

The practice of sending a Citizenship Institute delegate to Douglass College began in 1948. Girls from the entire State meet there for four days in June. The program is now called Career Institute and delegates are introduced to many career options for women, in addition to getting a taste of college life.

Beginning the "50's, a Women's Chorus was organized under the direction of Iris Starke. That chorus, directed by several other members also, was in existence until the late '70's.

Sometime during the '50's, the club decided to purchase a heifer. To quote a newspaper article: "Although the club has shown interest in a variety of fields, this is the first time it has expressed an interest in livestock. The group hastens to note, however, that the heifer will not be tethered to a dogwood tree in the Borough Park, but will be tethered to a kapok tree in Java. After examining many methods of expressing good will to other peoples, the Woman's Club evaluated the Heifer Project as being the most constructive approach to maintaining peace."

On Friday, September 28, 1956, a flower show and art exhibit was held in the Fellowship Hall. This was a community project planned by The Garden Club of Wenonah, The Junior Garden Club of Wenonah, and The Woman's Club of Wenonah. It was non-competitive and free. There was even a division for children's arrangements. For the Christmas program in 1959, the Millville Madrigal Singers entertained. The newspaper noted that this type of singing was "almost a lost art." But we know better than that today, since our own Gateway Madrigal Singers are alive and well. At present they provide the entertainment for the Woman's Club December programs.

Beginning in 1962 the club members cared for all repairs to library materials, mending or rebinding approximately 100 books per year. It is not clear how long the project continued but it is not in practice today.

The 1963 Christmas meeting included dances performed by a group of South American dancers that lived in the Philadelphia area. Food for the evening was typical of Latin America and was prepared by club members who were part of the Spanish Language class taught by member Ada Jacksen.

On May 25, 1963, the club's 40th anniversary was celebrated. An original skit, "Melvine's Trunk," marked the occasion. The trunk used in the play was the original trunk that for many years was passed from president to president, to store mementos of the club's activities. It had been recently rediscovered thereby explaining the curious item that appeared in early treasurer's reports. Annually the item, "transporting trunk: $.30 appeared. In reading the remarks made at the anniversary, several more interesting facts about earlier years were discovered. Because meetings were originally held in members' homes, the amount of $1.75 was set aside each month to purchase chairs so that there would be adequate seating. (Apparently they were transported from house to house as necessary). Dances sponsored by the Woman's Club were held for young people in the Legion Hall in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4 April 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

This year is shaping up to be one of many accomplishments for the Historical Society. We continue to gain new members, many who are new to our historical town.

Our programs thus far have been geared to a slide show of Victor Anderson's 18 room, Victorian mansion, the Daniel Brown house, which was a treat for all who attended.

Our March Program, which was funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities, was titled "The Gibson Girl Friday meets The Victorian Lady". This was an excellent program providing a historical slice of life during the Victorian era. The program was so well received that we had to hold the meeting in the all purpose room at the elementary school.

Special thanks go out to all those members who helped make this night a success.

If you haven't seen our Victorian display in the front entrance of the elementary school you should make plans to stop by.

April 11th Meeting Program

This program for this months meeting is titled "Preservation Problem shooting/ maintaining the Older House."

This topic will certainly be of interest to the many owners of the beautiful older homes we are so proud of.

The Guest Speaker will be Margaret Westfield, owner of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants in Haddon Heights. Margaret has a Masters of Arts degree in Preservation History as well as a Degree in Architecture. Margaret worked for the New Jersey State Preservation office.

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She currently teaches in both the Burlington County College and Drew University's Historic Preservation Programs. Don't miss this presentation!

We continue to make strides in our Archival collection and its organization. Hopefully many of our postcards and photographs will be preserved properly and be readily available. If you have any historical items you might wish to donate please bring them to our next meeting.

Alert!! Alert!! Alert!!

Please note the awful condition of our irreplaceable Community Center. The roofing, supporting lumber, exterior surfaces, windows and parts of the interior of the structure are in deplorable condition. Communicate your concerns to the Mayor and Council that we are greatly concerned about the situation and ask immediate assistance.

Did You Know?

Andrew W. Carey was one of several men instrumental in founding our town. He served as a member of the original Borough Commission commencing in 1883 and was Mayor during 1897, 1898. Shown below is a model sailing ship that he hand-crafted He died in 1905.



His son James W. Carey served on Borough Council from 1900 through 1908. He was the father of J. Allen Carey who served on our Board of Assessors, Registrar of Vital Statistics and as Borough Clerk 1962 through 1967. He died July 8, 1978.

HISTORY OF THE WENONAH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

(The following history is "borrowed" from a booklet that was part of the Milton Webb collection of documents provided to us by his brother Bernard after Miltons' death)

"The Wenonah A.A. came into being in the Spring of 1965. The reason for the formation of the A.A. was the need for additional recreation programs for the youth of Wenonah under one organization.

The following men were instrumental in its formation: Lou Stahl, Charles Lake, Jack Wiler, Ray Condell, Bob Root, and Charles Wingate.

Prior to the formation of the A.A. we were represented in the Gloucester County Tri-League by a Babe Ruth team and a Pony team, which were then sponsored by service organizations such as American Legion and Lions Clubs at quite an expense to these organizations.

The summer of '65 the A.A. added another team, then called the Minors (Midgets). Our first annual banquet was held that year in the Presbyterian Church, at which time the first of many League trophies was presented to our championship Pony team. It is interesting to note that two members of that team are still continuing their baseball careers in college: Barry Root and Gary Condell. Also still participating from our first Minor team is Bob Schweigart. Others from the original group of boys have come back to aid the A.A. from a coaching position. They are Herb Danner, Joe Cipriano, and Sonny Mecholsky.

The year I966 was probably the most important year in terms of growth. In one year we increased our program from the original Babe Ruth, Pony, and Midget teams to a total of eight teams. Three Minor teams were added and a girls' program was put under way with the formation of two softball teams. This year was important also in the expansion of our athletic facilities. The use of the Tall Pines field was obtained and put into playing condition, thanks to many friends of the A.A. Considerable hard work was contributed by the members, who were then operating on a very limited budget. The Snack Bar had its inception that summer, thanks to the generosity of Jim Henry, and the hard work of Ray Condell, Al Mecholsky, George Anderson, and Dave Miller.

It should be noted and underscored here that much of the physical work that has been done to increase our facilities, such as backstops, fences, dugouts, snack bar, and lighting has been done only through the hard work and generous donations of time by many men. Special thanks should go to Ray Condell and Al Mecholsky. These men gave more than their fair share and the A.A. will be forever in their debt.

From these modest beginnings the A.A. has grown to include many more teams, which will participate in either inter-town or in-town leagues:

During these years of growth many improvements were made to our physical facilities, including the construction of an outdoor basketball court, baseball dugouts, and backstops. The existing facilities also required constant maintenance. (In the number of fields) we are in deep trouble, as evidenced by the number of teams we have as compared to the number of fields (3), two of which do not belong to either the Borough of Wenonah or to the A.A. These latter fields are the Tall Pines fields, which in all likelihood will not be available to the

A.A. for the year 1975. This possibility puts our position of providing athletic facilities for the boys and girls of the town in jeopardy.

Over the years many policies of the A.A. were established.

Two of the more important ones are:

1. Every child who registers will be assigned to a team. (Contrary to the policies of many of our neighboring towns, we do not "cut" anyone. This policy has been upheld many times by the A.A. despite the arguments of some who feel we cannot compete against towns that play only their best players. Our trophies, which are currently on display at the Wenonah Food Market, disprove that theory.

2. Participation by and development of the individual is the primary responsibility of team managers. (Resolution adopted 4/21/71)

It would be impossible to list all of the men and women who have contributed both financially and physically to the growth of the Wenonah Athletic Association. Special thanks, however, should go to a few loyal friends of the A.A. They are: Helen Sheppard, G. Wayne Post, Tony Sacca, Ray Condell, Al Mecholsky, Dave Miller, and Chuck Peters.

The following men have helped guide the early growth of the Wenonah A.A. to its present size:

Presidents: Lou Stahl, Jack Wiler, Charles Miller and Chris Carroll.

MESSAGE FROM THE A.A. PRESIDENT:

With the influx of more and more families moving into Wenonah, the tedious job of assigning children to teams becomes exceptionally more difficult, especially in the light of losing two minor fields at Tall Pines in 1975. Our present team enrollment could be seventeen this year.

We of the Athletic Association are trying to meet these demands by working closely with the Borough Council in securing new and usable ball fields. These areas, however, are not easily found. We are hoping by this June to have a commitment from the Borough in turning the present Sewer Treatment Plant on West Mantua Avenue into a minor league ball field. We are also working on the possibility of a field outside our Borough.

We cannot overstress the importance of parent participation in Wenonah. Whenever possible, please try to come out and support your son or daughter's team. They will really appreciate it, and I am sure the managers and coaches will also. Come out and lend a hand. Get involved in the Wenonah Athletic Association. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Fire Hall. All are welcome."

(Note: This history apparently written about 1974. Author unknown)

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Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 5 May 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that the May meeting will be the last formal meeting before our June Picnic and our summer break. After this past winter, I am sure that you are all looking forward to summer. Please continue to talk to others in town not yet members of our great Historic organization. This is the one organization that everyone has a stake in. Talking about a stake in our town, I am sure that you have all been noticing the deplorable condition of our historic Train Depot. If you talk to a member of council, please express your concerns to them.

This month's program should be very interesting for everyone. The program is on Photo preservation and album making, stressing the importance of and the requirements for safe and proper storage of precious family photographs.

Marni Cunard will be the presenter and she is a teacher, preservation specialist, consultant for Creative Memories and the founder of the Family Photo Preservation Society of Southern NJ.

The new elementary school display for May and June will be related to past Wenonah Fourths of July. If you have anything that you might want to add you can contact me or Eileen Caraker.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 9th, meeting.

Did You Know?

Mayor Tom Capaldi who took office in January is the 18th mayor of Wenonah. He replaced Mayor Ed. Burger who filled the position for two terms.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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

The first person holding the position of "mayor" was C.M. Wilkins who took office in 1896.

Wenonah was originally incorporated in 1883 with a "Commission" government. The head of the Commission was titled "President" and the first of these was Dr. George W. Bailey, a wonderfully talented individual whose activities in connection with the early days of Wenonah will be detailed in a future newsletter.

The only mayor to die in office was William I. Conway who died December, 1959. Council's choice was to hold a special election to elect a mayor or wait until the next regular election to be held in November. They chose the latter. Thus Wenonah had no mayor the entire year 1960.

ALERT!! ALERT!! ALERT!!

The photo below shows the base of one of the wrought iron pipe columns that hold up the trackside roof of the railroad station Community Center.



The deterioration is typical of many parts of the building. At the American Legion meeting in May pieces of ceiling materials fell to the floor.

WHS members are again encouraged to contact Borough Council members with a request to get started on repairs before the damage is terminal.

The star entertainment given by the Jericho Military Guards, here, last evening was a grand success; about one hundred enjoyed the fun. Ice cream and dancing helped make the occasion delightful.

It is reported that Mr. Loomis and Mr. Genther will put up an ice cream plant here.

Mr. Wright, our new operator (telegraph) and ticket agent, thinks Wenonah is just the right place for a slim man to spend the summer.

FOR SALE one rooster and three Bantam hens - Charles Youst

Andrew H. Savage will sell his six weeks old bull to the butcher this week.

Oscar Redrow, who was hit by an electric train in Woodbury Saturday evening, is still confined to his house.

Howard Vandergrift, who lights the gas lamps here was knocked down and rendered unconscious Friday night by a live wire. He was lighting the lamp at the main entrance to the park, when the accident occurred. His left hand was burned nearly to the bone. The current had been turned off and the company offers a reward of $50 for the identification of the party who turned the switch on.

The Wenonah Military Academy baseball team won their fourth straight victory by defeating the strong Villanova Academy team. The game was close from beginning to end.

The roof is nearly completed on R. H. Comey's mansion.

The cadets of the Wenonah Military Academy. went on a practice march to Blackwood yesterday and to National Park today.

Letter to the Editor, *Woodbury Daily Times*:-

> I am glad to see by Tuesday's paper that someone has interest enough in our park to bring its condition to the attention of the councilmen. It seems strange that they had not discovered it themselves. Isn't it a pity that one day in the year (4th of July) should be set aside to make the park so beautiful while the other three hundred and sixty-four days it looks like an abandoned beer garden. Why not take enough money from the 4th of July fund to keep the park in order, if the borough can't afford it. Citizen

Two rooms of the school were closed this morning on account of a case of scarlet fever.

Health Inspector Dawson, of Woodbury, was down this morning and fumigated the school rooms.

Theo. Geisel, of Woodbury, came near being run over at Middleton's crossing (there was a crossing at Cherry Street during this period) by an electric express Monday afternoon. He had just drove his laundry wagon on the track when he noticed the north bound coming a few feet away. With rare presence of mind he backed his horse off just as the train passed by. It was a narrow escape and Mr. Geisel has been quite nervous and unable to sleep since. This is the place that butcher Robinson's team had such a narrow escape.

A young man by the name of Slavin, who said he represented a cigar firm, called at Holeton's livery here and said he would be around several days. He had his team put up and fed and he got his supper and breakfast but nothing has been heard of his since. Mr. Holeton would like him to call and settle the bill.

George L. Dilks got lost last night while going through the park. The grass was so high he lost his way

Can anyone tell where Dikerson bought the fish he brought down to the baseball grounds on the end of the pole ? Ben Cloud would like to get one of the same kind.

Automobile Club News

R.C. Ballinger went to Salem Saturday in his Cadillac.

Mr. Ogden had his car thoroughly cleaned and put in good condition last week

Mr. H. Leap has not received his new four cylinder buckboard as yet.

Mr. E.L. Farr has received his long overdue 1907 model Pierce car. It is a "Red Devil."

Mr. Benson is looking around to see which car he likes the best.

Stephen Greene received 1,000 small perch yesterday which he will stock his beautiful lake here.

Come to the Spinsters Convention and see the old maids transformed into beautiful young maidens before your own eyes at Noblit's Hall May 7. Benefit of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Woodbury. Admission 25 cents

FOR SALE - Model F Ford Touring Car, with top, in first class condition. Address Box 67, Wenonah, NJ

The fountain has not started yet, and some people are anxious to have it in operation. (There was a public water fountain in town for horses and people donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The big mystery is where it was located.)

The Academy relay team covered themselves with glory Saturday by winning their race against Blight School, Philip Brooks School, Franklin and Marshall Academy, Hamilton Institute, Glen Mill School, Maplewood Academy, Perkiomen Academy and Wilmington Friends School. Winning in the fast time of 3:57. The school received a banner.

The man who was arrested here for threatening Adam Knight was caught while sitting at Mrs. Lashly's table (She ran the drug store at 1 East Mantua Avenue.) The fellow walked in and said he wanted his dinner.

The people of this village in general are glad that Edward Gibson who attacked Miss Dorothy Paris, here last week, landed in State Prison, but some seem to think they could get better satisfaction and feel more satisfied if they could get their hands on him.

Mr. Harry Genther is running a huckster wagon in Wenonah.

May Day. Did you gather flowers?

Rain stopped a ten-inning game between the military academy and Cheltenham H.S. here. The score was 6 to 6.

E.P.Klinger expects to bring his horse home from his father's place in Clayton tonight.

The entertainment given for the benefit of the M.E. Sunday School by the Vespers Sketch Club was not very well attended.

Notice- On account of death in my family I will not be able to run my huckster wagon here before next Wednesday. E. Sharp

Those interested in Fourth of July celebration met last evening in Noblit's Hall, and good hustling committees were appointed to look after matters.

Automobiles were in full force Saturday.

Woodbury Daily Times April and May 1907

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 June 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

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I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 9th, meeting.

Did You Know?

The railroad tracks between Camden and Woodbury were constructed in 1857 and extended to Glassboro in about 1861. However the track arrangement was unsuitable and dangerous due to a steep grade and a dangerous curve in the right-of-way. To correct these problems the right-of-way was leveled and straightened in 1866.

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

Following the track realignment, Civil War General William Sewell, President of the West Jersey Railroad Company and it's Chief Engineer William F. Allen conceived the idea of laying out a town along the tracks about 3 miles south of Woodbury, the objective being to increase ridership and therefore business for the railroad.

Once this layout was accomplished it was reported that "A number of Gentlemen met at the office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider the expediency of organizing a Land and Improvement Company to operate at a new Mantua Station on the West Jersey Railroad. On December 19, 1870 in a special train the men visited the site. After an inspection of the land the "Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" and a town was born". The Mantua Land & Improvement Company then proceeded to purchase tracts of lands consisting of about 572 acres at a price of $26,162.50.

At a meeting held April 3rd, 1871, handwritten in pencil on a scrap of paper it was: "Resolved that the name of the town and lake be Wenonah".

A hotel and four cottages were erected in 1872. Andrew W. Carey, Thomas W. Synnott and George W. Bailey were the first to erect cottages for the purposes of occupying them.

By the year 1883 there were about 50 dwellings in existence and about 300 souls living in Wenonah.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 September 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

Hello everyone. It is hard to believe that summer is officially over. Our September "Porch" Party is always a treat to start the fall meetings after our summer break. It is very gracious of Lou & Vicki McCall to host the gathering at their home. I always look forward to this meeting and I think it has a lot to do with where it is held. I admit that I have solicited new members with the promise of the meeting at the "Tudor Mansion".

We did receive great news from Borough Council, that is the promise of the upper rooms in the Train Depot for us to establish our much overdue Wenonah Museum. We will need lots of volunteers to help with all aspects of this project.

Another exciting thing for us recently is that we supplied items for the Wenonah "Time Capsule". We included the current names and addresses of all members of the Wenonah Historical Society. I am sure that our grandchildren or great grandchildren will get a surprise when the Capsule is opened. We also included the "Wenonah" book by Marge Lentz, with her autograph. This book provides a wonderful account of Wenonah's history.

We also included a copy of the Wenonah Realty brochure, which is also an interesting piece of memorabilia. I also added a personal letter on Wenonah Historical Society letterhead giving a short depiction of life in Wenonah in 2003.

I hope to see all of you at the September 12th meeting. I will have a table offering our new Mugs, Buttons, Wenonah Realty brochures and our Princess Wenonah garden size flags for future fundraisers.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

President:	***Rocco Doto***
Vice Pres.	***Jack Sheppard Sr.***
Secretary	***Eileen Caraker***
Treasurer	***Carol Wiltsee***
Corr. Sec.	***Betty MacLeod***
Trustee	***Vicki McCall***
Trustee	

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

From Vicki McCall

Eileen Caraker and I just installed the new display in the school display case. It is "A LOOK AT SCOUTING". This display will be at the school for the months of September and October and then we will need a new theme.

Members are encouraged to pass along any ideas you might have.

We have not yet received the new, smaller size garden flags. I called this morning and am waiting for a call back. For the sake of our President I hope they will be here in time for the September 12th meeting.

The meeting on September 12th will start earlier than usual, at 6:30 p.m. to take advantage of the natural light. There is not enough artificial light on the porch. As for the meeting itself, I will supply wine, iced tea, coffee, and paper products. Should any member wish to bring anything else such as cookies, snacks, etc. they will be welcome to do so.

Guest speakers for the October meeting will be the South Jersey Ghost Research organization. Following the meeting Ghost Research personnel need to get into the community center where they will stay doing research until; about midnight. We need someone to go with them to open up and stay with them and then lock up when they leave. Any volunteers???

Lou McCall did it last time but he will be at a fireman's convention and not available.

WHS members Invited to learn about the proposed Wenonah School Addition

Woman's Club of Wenonah President Jennie McQuaide informs us that on Monday, September 8 the Woman's Club will host a program presented by Christine Smith, Chief School Administrator and school board member Cheryl Morris.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Morris will explain details of the proposed additions and renovations to the Wenonah Elementary School. A three dimensional model will be available for inspection. The impact on property taxes will be discussed. This program will provide an opportunity for borough residents to ask questions and to learn the rationale behind the proposed changes so that they can vote wisely on this issue on Tuesday, September 30.

The Woman's Club meets in the Fellowship Hall at the Wenonah United Methodist Church at Willow and Clinton Streets. The business meeting begins at 7:30 PM followed by the program at 8:30 PM. All members of the community are welcome to attend both the business meeting and the special program that is being presented as a service to residents. Those who prefer to attend only the informational meeting should arrive at 8:30.

For further details, contact President, Jennie McQuaide, at 468 – 3001

Community Center

Now that the new Borough Hall all but complete the time is rapidly approaching when the clerk's offices will be moved to the new building.

Our hope of course is that the vacated rooms on the second floor will be turned over to the Historical Society for artifact storage and use as a museum.

As we have discussed many times in the past we will then be able to solicit and accept items related to Wenonah history that are currently stored in members attics, basements, and the Wenonah Public Library.

Obviously we are looking forward to this benefit and will have more information for the members as the transition takes place.

Old Wenonah 1896

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's residence (on route 45 where CVS is now) to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3,000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: l. Overture-Bonnie Scotland ..... Orchestra; 2.Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. D-metrius- Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook-Sounds of Domestic Fowls-

The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent. Mr. and Mrs. W.J.McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelley, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the ME Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter Mrs. Mehorter,

and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the 'wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies.

At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

August and September 1896
Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 7 October 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

Hello everyone. The October 10th meeting should be an exciting one. The South Jersey Ghost Research group will be providing a presentation on the results of their study of the Train Depot over the last year. It should be a lot of fun.

We also will be having a fun presentation at our November 14th meeting. Our speaker will be Margaret Westfield of Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants, located in Haddon Heights.

Her slide presentation will be on the restoration of the National Landmark "Lucy The Elephant", which is in Margate New Jersey and was built in 1881. Margarets' company was responsible for this project and has been showcased on television and in Preservation magazines.

Once again I would like to reiterate that we did receive great news from Borough Council and that is the promise of the upper rooms in the Train Depot for us to establish our much overdue Wenonah Museum. We will need lots of volunteers to help with all aspects of this project.

Anyone having Wenonah Historical items and would like to donate them to The Wenonah Historical Society, should contact one of the Officers.

Great news for our fundraiser, we have now added "Princess Wenonah" garden size flags to our collection. I hope that all of our members will purchase one for your yard.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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Vice Pres.	***Jack Sheppard Sr.***
Secretary	***Eileen Caraker***
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Trustee	—

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

Lastly, I would like all of you to take notice of the continuing deterioration of the Train Station. We have been promised renovations that include a new roof and the unreasonable amount of time that it is taking, is only doing more harm to our Landmark Building. I urge you to ask your Mayor and Borough Council to use the $350,000 grant that Wenonah received in 2001, for the purpose that the funds were originally requested for. (I have the January 31st, 2001 Times article in my file and would be glad to provide you with a copy.)

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the October and November meetings.

Community Center Update

The new Borough Hall is now occupied.

Borough employees have moved from the old Borough Hall on Cherry Street to the new building.

Clerk/Administrator Dawn Human has moved from the Community Center offices leaving only court clerk Jo Dominy in that building. It is understood the court will not make the move until January of 2004.

Also according to Dawn Human bids for the Community Center roof replacement are currently being solicited and should the costs be within the amount allocated, the roofing could be completed yet this year.

south jersey ghost RESEARCH

The Delaware Valley's Oldest Ghost Research Group

SJGR is a professional research group with years of experience investigating ghosts and hauntings in the New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and the NYC area.

SJGR is a group of investigators that can trace its roots back to 1955. We conduct ghost research, discreet investigations and promote the learning and understanding of ghosts and other psychic phenomenon. We use the latest scientific methods and tools as well as psychic investigators in our research. SJGR members come from all walks of life and many have years of experience dealing with ghosts and hauntings.

SJGR routinely investigates hauntings and conducts field research to gain more knowledge of the phenomenon. SJGR also assists owners of haunted properties *free of charge*. We are all serious about the pursuit of knowledge and assisting those in need of help.

Featured in: The New York Times, The Courier Post, Trenton Times, Burlington County Times, South Philly Review, Idiot's Guide to Ghosts and Hauntings, Pottstown Mercury, Phillyburbs.com, Garden State Ghosts

Featured on: MSNBC Investigates, Comcast Newsmakers, Eyewitness News, Action News, KYW1060, CN8, WWOR Channel 9, RTL German TV, Westwood 1 radio network.

We conduct seminars and lectures to help educate the public about ghosts and our research. Most of these events benefit local historical societies or community groups. We have conducted events at The Franklin Mint, Gabreil Daveis Tavern, General Wayne Inn, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Camden County Historical Society, Wenonah Historical Society, Woodbury Kiwanis, Moorestown Rotary Club and many others.

SJGR is an incorporated 501(c)(3) Non Profit, Tax Exempt Organization funded solely by it's members, outside grants and donations. All donations are tax deductible.

SJGR's Mission:

Our goal is to gather and collate data that will lead to the better understanding of ghosts and hauntings. In the process of pursuing the goal, we also wish to aid any individuals having problems dealing with or understanding a situation. We hope to do this by educating them as to the true nature of their situation and giving them the information and understanding to create a livable resolution for the person and the spirit. We will also assist people who cannot live with their situations.

For more information about SJGR including information, photos, videos and recordings from some of our cases, please visit our website at: **http://www.sjgr.org**

Contact us at:
Voicemail: **1(877) 478- 3168**
Email: **help@sjgr.org**

SJGR services range from discreet investigations for homeowners and business owners to scientific research in public places and historic sites. Here are just a few of the places we have investigated:

The Winward House, Cape May, NJ
Rowan University Dorm, Glassboro, NJ
The Cranbury Inn, Cranbury NJ
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Burlington County Jail, Mt Holly, NJ
Columbus Inne, Columbus, NJ
Gabreil Daveis Tavern, Glendora, NJ
The Logan Inn, New Hope, PA
Fort Mott, Salem, NJ
Eastern State Penitentiary, Phila, PA
Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia PA
Gloucester County Courthouse
The Ritz Theater, Oaklyn, NJ
Gibbstown Ambulance Corps
East Greenwich Twp Municipal Hall

For a consultation or questions, contact us at **help@sjgr.org** All our services are free.



Research, Assistance and Understanding

The cottage prayer meetings in the six homes, Thursday night, were attended by 91 people and still there's room for more, so come out tomorrow night to the nearest meeting. It is an interesting fact to note that there has been a total number of 349 people in the four night's meetings. Surely a blessing must follow.

The Union Choir for the United Church Campaign will meet for rehearsal Tuesday evening at 8:10 o'clock in the Presbyterian Church. Great results are hoped for from the big choir Mr. Stevenson is organizing with the help from each church.

Camden, NJ Oct.18,1917

Gentlemen:-

The Mayor of the Borough of Wenonah appointed the Trustees of the Free Library a committee to collect subscriptions for the War Library Fund. We have forwarded to the treasurer $186.00, the result of the efforts of the committee. As the allotment for the Borough was $35.00, the citizens of Wenonah can feel gratification for the liberal response.

Edward L.Farr

Two hundred ladies are wanted tonight to attend the union service in the Methodist Episcopal Church when the women's organizations of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches will attend together, the Presbyterian ladies on the west side and the Methodist ladies on the east side of the church. (It was never recorded who was responsible for the seating arrangement or why it was necessary to keep the women separated)

FOR SALE -25 pairs of mated Belgian Homers from thoroughbred imported stock. To be sold at once for $1.20 per pair. W.J.Parks So. Monroe Avenue, Wenonah

FOR RENT- House with modern improvements, with store suitable for drug store, having ice cream cabinet and soda fountain installed. Apply Jesse English, Wenonah (3 East Mantua Avenue, now Mary Kaye)

Gasoline 22 cents a gallon

Having installed a new Standard Motor Gasoline Pump, I will sell gasoline Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 22 cents a gallon.

Walter Wentzell, Wenonah

(Walter Wentzell had a store for many years where Wayne Post was later located . He was the father of Jane Bowker, Frances Sweeney and Dr. Earl Wentzell)

Wenonah Garage

Used Cars

1 Oakland Touring, like new	$150
1 Buick Roadster	$50
1 Allen Touring, like new	$40

George E.Fredrick

Wenonah

(George was the father of Charlie and Ed)

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel G. Bernard, formerly of Wenonah was yesterday elected Colonel of the Second Regiment of Field Artillery of New Jersey.

Miss Eleanor Stout was home from Swarthmore College for the weekend. (many years later her sons Bob and Wilson's Company, the M.M. Sundt Construction Company moved the London Bridge to Arizona among many other engineering feats)

Red Cross Note

Shipment was made today of seven cases to France containing 3,749 articles for hospital use.

The change of time on the W.J.& S.S.R.R. which went into effect yesterday makes less trains to Atlantic City. Instead of running every hour they only go every other hour. The morning trains to the seashore resort are 7.26, 9.11, and 11.26 P.M. trains 1.26, 3.05, 5.05, 8.05 and 11.26 (Woodbury times, for Wenonah add five minutes)

Borough Council meeting

The mayor and Borough Council were authorized to sign a contract between the borough and the Electric Company of New Jersey for electric service at the firehouse for lighting and for use in connection with the new fire siren.

Dr. Stout reported that he had purchased a steel tower for the new fire siren and that the same would be delivered in a few days and erected at a cost not to exceed $100. The fire company furnished written consent to the placing of the tower on their property.

Woodbury Daily Times, Woodbury, New Jersey October 1917 from the files of Milton H. Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 8 November 2003

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

Hello everyone. The October meeting was one of our best-attended meetings. There were more than 60 people in attendance. (and numerous spirits). I guess the South Jersey Ghost research group appeals to a lot of people especially during the Halloween season. I apologize for not being there but my wife and I were out of Town.

The program for the November 14th meeting is "Landmark Lucy", by Margaret Westfield of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants. Margaret's company was responsible for the restoration of this Historic landmark in Margate. We are also very lucky that the New Jersey Council for the Humanities is sponsoring the program for us. The meeting is open to the general public, so please feel free to bring a friend.

Vicki McCall, Eileen Caraker, Jack Sheppard and I had a very productive meeting with Mayor Capaldi and other council members related to the Train station Community Center. We were assured that everything is being done to expedite the complete replacement of the roof.

The October Wenonah Newsletter reiterated this and the roofing contract has been awarded.

Once the roof is complete we have been told that other needed repairs will be attended to by Borough Council. I can assure you that we will work closely with borough officials to make sure our "Town Jewel" is preserved into the future. Once the new roof is on we can get started preparing the upper rooms of the train station for our Wenonah Museum. We will be looking for lots of volunteers.

I look forward to seeing you at the November 14th meeting.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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Trustee	

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

November Meeting Program

Guest speaker Margaret Westfield, RA is a historic architect in Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants. She will present a slide show about New Jersey's famous seashore landmark Lucy the Elephant.

The presentation will cover the initial construction and rich history. Illustrations of the progressive decay that threatened her with demolition is followed by the details of the thirty-year restoration campaign that ultimately secured Lucy's place as one of New Jersey's premiere tourist destinations.

December Christmas Meeting

Our annual Christmas Party will be Friday December 12th at the Community Center. Wine and Cheese at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. "Chef Bud" will cater it. The cost is $15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped). RSVP to Betty MacLeod at 468-6981 or Lucy Schulz at 468-5392 before Friday Dec. 5th.

Tidbits From the Archives

In 1886 our Schoolteachers' Salary ranged from $25.00 to $55.00 per month. For the 1891/92 school year the total school expenditures were as follows: Teachers salaries ($1,000.00), fuel ($20.07), mortgage ($500.00), Incidentals ($263.61).A receipt dated December 20th, 1889, indicates $5.00 was paid for sweeping the schoolhouse for 15 weeks.

By Jack Sheppard Sr.

Two years ago on November 30, 2001, as the representative of the Wenonah Historical Society I sat in on a meeting with officials of the NJ Department of Transportation at which the TEA 21 railroad restoration grant was reviewed.

The following is a copy of the description in the grant application of areas needing rehabilitation to restore our unique and invaluable railroad station community center.

NJDOT TEA 21 Grant Application by Municipal Clerk Dawn Human

Grant for "Rehabilitation and Operation of a Historic Transportation Building".
The grant was announced in August, 2001

The train station is over 110 years old and has always been the unofficial heart of Wenonah, as the entire community was designed around it. The station received a minor renovation approximately 25 years ago but is suffering some serious structural problems which could threaten the longevity of this important landmark. Renovation plans include the following:

Roof replacement - involving the replacement of underlying wood sheathing and use of reproduction historically correct shingle material. Shingles are currently missing, cracked and damaged. We lose more with every storm and water leakage is a problem.

Stucco work - The stucco material on the exterior of the train station is buckling and crumbling due to water damage, exposure, pests and insects, etc. We would like to re-stucco the facility, but repairs to the most seriously damaged areas would be welcomed.

Exterior wood trim - the exterior wood trim is original to this facility and is in the advanced stages of rot. Every area of damage allows the stucco, the jersey stone foundation, and other areas and weather conditions to affect the structure.

Termite damage - Some inner walls in the basement area need to be replaced due to past termite damage, as do some floor joists. The evidence of termite activity is clearly evident in the crumbling wall areas along the stairways.

Plaster repairs - Water damage, train vibrations and shifting of the facility have caused some cracks and splitting in the plaster wall and wainscoted areas. Minor repairs are needed here,

Re-pointing of Bricks - The mortar material between the bricks has long since eroded and has caused water infiltration to the structural center o f the facility. Loss o f the or/ginal bricks is in an intermediate stage and immediate attention is necessary in order to preserve the original building materials and features. The chimney is falling apart and is an area of water infiltration.

Replacement of corner moldings and other woodwork - During the previous informal restoration attempts, damage was evident in some comer moldings. Other cornices and rosettes have been missing for many years, but the oak is solid and restoration and duplication is possible with financial assistance. This would restore the elegance

MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

and integrity of this structure.

Installation of a sprinkler system - The facility currently houses many historical artifacts and municipal documents. However, il was constructed in a period where firewalls and sprinkler systems were unheard of, Therefore, this structure is very susceptible to the threat of fire. According to our local Fire Chief, without a sprinkler system or firewalls, fire would spread swiftly through this wood and plaster facility and its complete destruction would be the likely result in a very short period of time. Installation of these features could save this historic transportation facility for another 100 years,

Redesign and Reconstruction of landscape areas between Mantua Avenue and the facility - New lighting, plantings, benches and paving work would be done at this site in order to restore the outside aesthetics of this facility. Reproduction lighting would be used and existing crumbling and deteriorated planters would be replaced with acceptable reproductions. Existing benches, which suffer from many years of weather and use, would be replaced with the more user friendly, and historically correct looking, cast aluminum benches that currently accompany the reproduction light fixtures in nearby Wenonah Park. Our local Environmental Commission has been involved in many projects where historically native plants are utilized for landscaping purposes. We will be considering their recommendations for this area as well. In addition, curbing would be added to the west side of N. East Avenue, along the front entrance of the train station. Currently, there is no distinguishable entrance path and some deteriorated railroad lies are imbedded in the ground to distinguish the asphalt street from the concrete sidewalk. Curbing would distinguish the entranceway to the building and provide for a safer pedestrian path.

Restoration of the passenger platform - This area is filled in with a combination of asphalt and concrete. It is cracked, uneven and very unstable. The Borough is seeking assistance in restoring the 16 x 110 ft, platform with the same antique style pavers that would be used in sections of the pedestrian paths around the building and crosswalks. The asphalt pedestrian trails could then be tied in to this area. More stable footing area expands the feasible use area of the facility and provides a clear and safe area differentiating the passenger area from the tracks. The installation of a cast aluminum fence for this area (the length of the patio only) would also be very helpful in protecting those using the building from their exposure to the tracks which still have moderate use by slow moving Conrail trains, mostly in the evening hours, Such a fence is shown in old photos protecting residents from walking near the infamous electrified "third rail".

Obviously, due to passage of time, it has been two years since the approval of the grant; most everything costs more including the work to be done on the station. At a recent meeting of the TEA-21 committee I was advised there may be need to apply for additional funds from the Community Block Grant program to complete all of the desired repair and improvement items. For that reason all that will be completed this year will be the roof work.

At the same meeting we were advised that the roof work will start almost immediately, must be completed within 60-days of granting the contract, and the building may be closed for approximately 48-hours at some time during the roof installation work.

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1 January 2004

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

The Wenonah Historical Society has had a very active 2003. Our membership has reached an all time high of over 100 Families. We have been reaching out to the community and have been actively recruiting new members, particularly targeting new residents with welcoming packets.

We have advertised our monthly programs and meetings in both our local newsletter and the Gloucester County Times. Two of our programs were both sponsored and paid for by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities-Horizon Speakers Bureau. Margaret Westfield, a Historic Architect, Preservation Consultant and Coordinator of the Burlington County College Historic Preservation Certificate Program also provided two programs.

We have been very active in fundraisers and have added several new items for purchase including a Garden Flag of Princess Wenonah, and an updated mug with a color photo of the Historic Train station.

Lastly we have started to plan for the conversion of the upper floor of the train station into a Wenonah Museum. The museum will showcase our collection of artifacts, maps, newspapers and pictures. This endeavor may be costly and time consuming and we will be reaching out to the community for financial contributions and Volunteers. We would like to have the Museum Officially open for our Fourth of July Celebration.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

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Trustee	

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we will continue to work with the Mayor and Council with regard to the renovations planned for the Train Station as part of the T21 grant that Wenonah was awarded by the State.

We will also be responding and clarifying our Nomination of Historic Places (Train Depot) to the State Historic Preservation office which has tentatively approved our submission.

2004 will be an exciting year and I am so thankful to be your President and coordinate with the other Trustees our long dreamed about museum. I am sure that the whole town will be as surprised as I was in seeing all of the various artifacts in our possession and the many more that we continue to receive.

I wish all of you a Peaceful, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Community Center Update

The railroad station Community Center finally has its new roof, matching that of the new Borough Hall building opposite the post office. To say that we are happy would be an understatement, as the building was fast becoming an eyesore.

Information about the Wenonah Inn Hotel

"People desirous of witnessing the program for the celebration of the Fourth of July in Wenonah and remain throughout the day will be served with dinner and supper at reduced rates. Prices for dinner, 75 cents, supper 50 cents."

From the Constitution newspaper circa 1880

The following notice was retrieved from the files of Milton H. Webb

SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias, to me directed. issued out of the Court of Chancery of the State -of New Jersey, will be exposed at Public Sale, on

Friday, the 18th day of October 1935

next, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock, to-wit, at 2 o'clock Standard Time in the afternoon of said-day, at the Sheriff's Office, County Building, In the City of Woodbury. County of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey, all the following described Real Estate, that is to say:

ALL the following tract or parcel of land and premises hereinafter particularly described, situate; lying and being In the Borough of Wenonah In the County of Gloucester and State, of New Jersey, bounded and described as follows;

BEGINNING at a point In the East line of Clinton Avenue 150 feet South of the. South-east corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues and running thence (1) In an Easterly direction parallel with Mantua Avenue, 300 feet to the West line of Marion Avenue; thence (2) in a Southerly direction along the said line of Marion Avenue, 297 feet 6 inches to the North line of Cherry-Street; thence (3) in a Westerly direction along the said line of Cherry Street 150 feet to a point; thence (4) in a Northerly direction at right angles with said line of Cherry Street 100 feet to-a corner; thence (5) In a Westerly direction parallel with said North line of Cherry ,Street 150 feet to the said East line of Clinton Avenue; thence (6) in a Northerly direction along the said line of Clinton Avenue 197 feet 6 -inches to the place of beginning.

TOGETHER with all and singular the goods and chattels, furniture, household utensils, machinery, books, linen, rifles, equipment, and any and all other property of every kind and description contained in those certain building or buildings known as The Wenonah Military Academy and used in connection with that institution, including all, good and chattels which may hereafter replace the same and all goods for which the same may be exchanged.

It being the intent that the above description includes all of the property, real and personal, used in the. operation of the military academy formerly the Wenonah Military Academy and now known as Wenonah Military Academy, Inc.

The approximate amount of decree sought .to be satisfied by this sale is$65,500.

Seized as the property of Anna J; .Lorence, widow, et als, Defendants, and taken in execution at the suit of. Walter Lee Sheppard, substituted trustee, et als, Complainants, and to be sold by

WILLIAM A. DOWNER, Jr., Sheriff

Dated September 24, 1935.

RIGGINS & DAVIS, Solicitors

Price of above advertisement is $25.16.

Although the automobile forced the closing of the Wenonah Inn built in 1871, a new era opened in Wenonah. Major J.R. Jones, former head of the drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, riding past the vacant Wenonah Inn, conceived an idea for the use of the facility. He immediately relayed his plan to Stephen Greene.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened September 20, 1904.

In rooms that formerly accommodated hotel guests interested in hops and cuisine, the rooms now accommodated cadets interested in horsemanship and, supposedly, Cicero. Hotel rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitories, a library, a chapel and an infirmary, although a communication to parents hinted the infirmary would rarely be used.

Although Wenonah was accustomed to the social activities of the Wenonah Inn during the summer, the Wenonah Military Academy kept the town hopping during the school term. The first month the Academy was opened, there were a reception and dance for two hundred people, a skating carnival on Warner's Lake with hundreds of lighted lanterns, a minstrel show, a house party and numerous football games. This was the beginning of a social whirl that kept Wenonah spinning for the next thirty years. Wenonah residents were invited to band concerts, glee club performances, drama productions, declamation contests and horsemanship exhibitions. Local girls vied for invitations to dances and on Sunday the whole town turned our for the dress parade and drill demonstrations.

During the presidency of Dr. Charles H. Lorence, the Wenonah Military Academy reached its peak with an enrollment of 200 cadets who arrived from as far away as California and Cuba. Upon the death of Dr. Lorence, Major Clayton A. Snyder assumed the presidency. For 23 years Major Lloyd L. Lammert was headmaster and athletic director. Other key members of the faculty included Captain Thomas A. Clingan, instructor in mathematics and Mary Bilderback, instructor in instrumental music. Dr. Thomas J. Mulvey was director of advertising. Cadets enrolled in the classical, Latin-scientific, or English-commercial courses. Military science included instruction in rifle practice, infantry drills, horsemanship and military discipline. Horsemanship instruction was $100 extra, but it included the rental of the horse.

In 1913 the annual charges of $600 included "tuition, board, heat light, twelve pieces of laundry and mending of underclothing." Tuition doubled during the years but included "table linen, pressing and use of firearms." However this charge did not include the $250 cost for a uniform. The cadet wore a uniform of gray with a white belt and white crisscross straps both in front and back of the jacket and the hat was held by a chinstrap. The officers' full dress uniform included a sword, sash and shako. By 1916 the Academy announced that there is "now a waiting list; every available space is filled."

While military discipline soon earned the Academy the name of "The West Point of South Jersey," athletics brought fame to the school. On Stephen Greene's athletic field where the grandstand held 500 spectators, cadets ran a quarter-mile cinder track, played football with prep schools like Malvern, Seton Hall and Pennington, played baseball and practiced horsemanship and military tactics. A twelve-acre field along Glassboro Road was used for polo and lacrosse. Golf was played at the Oak Valley Country Club, sometimes referred to as the Wenonah Country Club or, originally Altwald Golf Links, which was situated in a wooded area off Ogden Road. The word "ogden" is derived from the Swedish word meaning "valley of oaks."

During the summer the polo ponies were taken to the Pocono area where Camp Wenonah was established for a number of years. On the Wenonah polo field one polo team defeated a West Point team. Many graduating cadets gained recognition on college teams and Herbert J. Pennock, who became a major league pitcher, is named in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY

In addition to the former Wenonah Inn, the Wenonah Military Academy occupied the Charles H. Lorence Cottage that housed senior cadets and the Clayton A. Snyder Cottage that housed junior cadets. A drill hall was built behind the Academy and it was claimed to have the largest floor space of any gymnasium in South Jersey. It was large enough to drill an entire battalion, and of course, to accommodate the dances. At one mid-term reception and dance six hundred people attended.

After the games and dances the cadets escorted their guests to the Wenonah Drug Store and to Walter Wentzell's store for sandwiches and ice cream.

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2 February 2004

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

If you would like to learn more about the history of our great town, please consider joining the Wenonah Historical Society. We meet at 7:30 on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Historic Train Station. We offer informative newsletters and great monthly programs. For 2004, programs about the history of Gloucester County, a presentation on other Wenonah's around the country and a round table discussion by long term Wenonah Residents are being planned to name just a few.

Great news about our planned Wenonah Museum! The borough has already turned over two of the three rooms in the upper level of the Train Station to the Historical Society. This now provides a permanent safe storage area for our artifacts and documents as well as a work area to organize our possessions.

We have begun working with a local resident who has volunteered his time to help design the official Museum. This individual is a professional display expert and has worked on the museum at the Baseball hall of fame.

If you would like more information or want to make a tax-deductible contribution to the WHS to help with the museum, please contact Rocco F Doto at 415-1215

Community Center Update

The following is a communication from the Borough Engineer to Mayor Capaldi providing the latest information concerning the much needed repairs to the Community Center.

From: KLE Consultants

To: Mayor Tom Capaldi

Subject: TEA 21 Grant

Dear Mayor,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to update you as to the status of the TEA 21 Project so you can relay the information to the Historical Society.

Late last week, I rec'd comments from the NJDOT Bureau of Environmental Services regarding the information that was submitted by ARH. Basically, there were a number of issues that still need to be addressed in order to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I will be reviewing and addressing these comments during the next few weeks and I may need the assistance of the Historical Commission.

Therefore, should the Society ask you regarding the status, feel free to relay this message and I will most likely be asking for a contact person at the Historical Society that I can work with to coordinate a few of the remaining requirements.

Signed; David Kreck, P.E.

Upcoming Programs

The speaker at our February meeting will be William Kephart from Pitman, NJ. Bill is a local living in Pitman for 47 years. He has a keen interest in history and is a former Trustee of the County Historical Society.

Bill will present a slide program entitled "Historical Sites of Gloucester County" which he has previously presented to many organizations, schools and colleges in the region. He is a member of the American Museum of Glass in Millville, NJ. Should be an interesting session.

Mark your calendars for the next meeting March 12th as our speaker will be world-renowned glass artist Paul Stankard who lives in neighboring Mantua. Those who have seen his work will not want to miss this meeting.

1912 - 1913

Excerpts from the Catalogue of the

Wenonah Military Academy

The Wenonah Military Academy was. instituted during the winter of 1904, and opened its doors to its first pupils September 19th of that year.

Major John R. Jones, of Camden, New Jersey, was the organizer and superintendent. The Academy has grown in size and in efficiency under practically the same academic staff, with Major Jones as superintendent and proprietor.

The Academy aims at giving the boy a physical, moral and intellectual training; accepting boys as young as ten years of age, it fits them for college or for business life.

While the college preparatory training is a feature of the school, it does- not dominate it; consequently, in response to a. widely felt need, it supplements the four years of high school work with courses in advanced English, and subjects of practical value in the scientific, business and political world.

The idea that the high school course should simply train for college entrance examinations is fast disappearing, and the integrity of the preparatory school as an independent unit in education and in culture is being sought and fostered by the leaders of secondary education.

The achievement of this modem product in its graduates is one of the aims and ideals of W. M. *A.*

Testimonial Letter from Pleased Father

May 20, 1912.

Major John R. Jones, Superintendent
Wenonah Military Academy
Wenonah, N. J.

My Dear Major Jones;

Permit me to thank you for the very satisfactory manner in which you have educated my son, Raymond.

The progress he has made in his studies is most pleasing. I do not doubt that any boy of average ability could make rapid advancement at W. M. A. for he tells me "If a fellow shows inclination for his work, the faculty are only too glad to give him personal attention."

From my recent visit to Wenonah I was deeply impressed by the beautiful town in which the Academy is located. It is so free from all temptations which seek young men that I believe it is not too much to say the moral surroundings are ideal.

Another great item of school life is athletics and I must congratulate you on the fine records your school has made in that branch. The reason no doubt is the encouragement which sports receive at W. M. A. My son has told me you request the boys to spend the most of their recreation time on the athletic field and the gymnasium. This I approve of very much and the boys will know how to thank you only when they begin to realize their physical development.

A military school in my estimation is the only kind of a school for boys of the habit-forming age. The sooner parents realize this the better for their boys, the benefit which my son received from the daily Setting Up exercise and military drill is evident in his carriage and general bearing. I must say the discipline of your school is firm without being severe and the habits which my son has formed under your influence will be of great value to him during his college career and later in life.

Again I want to thank you for the splendid results accomplished.

In closing will say I know of no other school in which I would rather have sent him to complete his preparatory work.

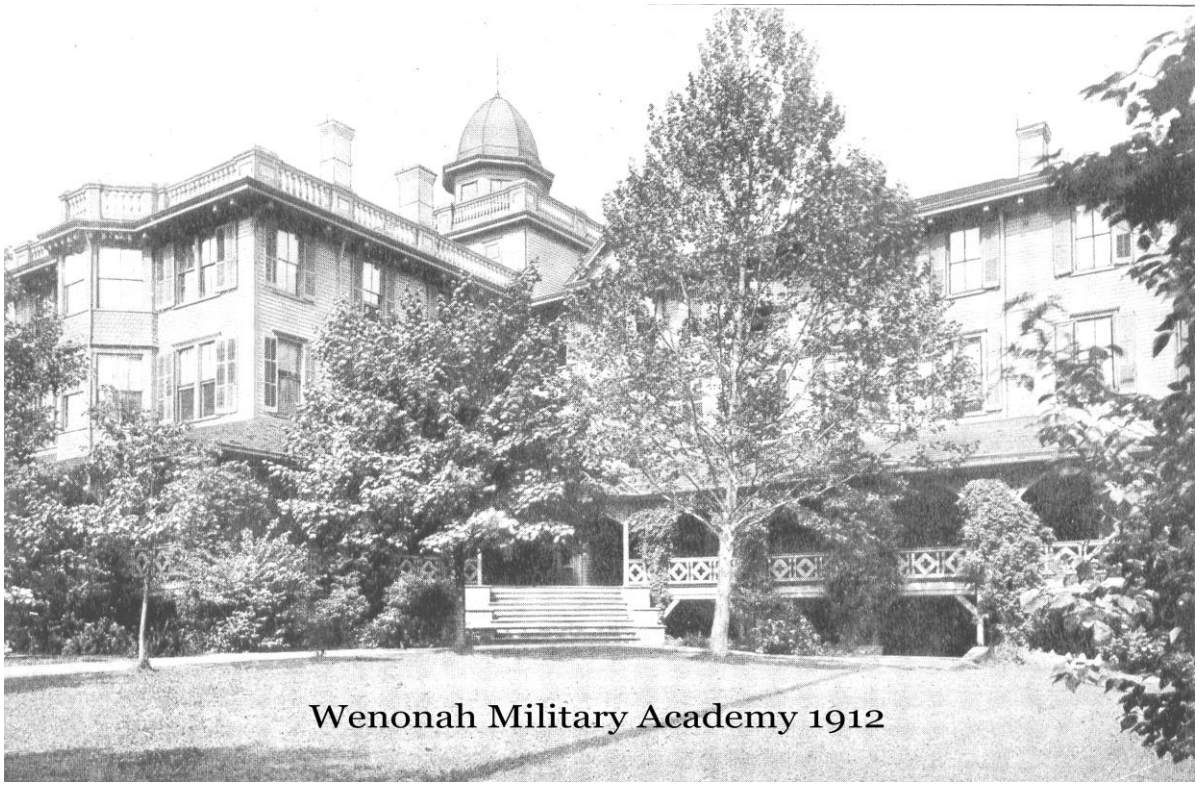
Wishing you and W. M. A. continued success, I remain;

Very Respectfully Yours,

J. V. OSMUN
31 Alton Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey



Wenonah Military Academy Football Team 1912 (L.L. Lammert top left)



Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3 March 2004

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

We have started out 2004 with lots of activities and optimism. The Museum is certain to become a reality. We have already taken over two rooms on the second floor of the train Depot Community Center. We have File cabinets, desks and an antique map cabinet that was donated to the Society by Cynthia Baum. Cynthia's father was Bill Baum, long-time borough engineer as well as Gloucester County Engineer. The Wenonah Library has also given us two sets of Card Catalogue cabinets.

We now have a safe space to store our artifacts and more importantly to start organizing and cataloging our items. Lots of work is needed in this area and we need volunteers to help in many ways. Please contact me if you are interested in helping! There is a job for everyone.

Our Monthly programs have been outstanding and I believe that the February program about the history of Gloucester County was one of the best attended. This month's program by glass artist Paul Stankard should without doubt be very exciting.

This is a very exciting time to be a part of the Wenonah Historical Society. The WHS is certainly a group on the move.

Should you want to volunteer or make a tax-deductible contribution to the organization to help with the museum, please contact me at 415-1215.

PS; we have received an exciting contribution to the Society and you must come to the March meeting to see it!

WHS OFFICERS 2004

President:	**Rocco Doto**
Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Eileen Caraker**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

Community Center Update

Report by Jack C. Sheppard, WHS designated member to the TEA 21 Community Center Grant Committee.

I was invited to a meeting held Tuesday, March 2nd at the Community Center attended by Mayor Tom Capaldi, Councilman Bill Schnarr, and Bill Schramm. The meeting was conducted by Borough Engineer David Kreck. The purpose of the meeting was to be brought up to date on the current status of the grant in relation to station building need, and to set a course of action for the immediate future.

Not meaning to downplay the grant effort but I have to point out the first meeting of the Committee I attended was November, 2000 and thus far we have managed a roof.

It does appear that to continue our qualification for the grant funding it is up to the town to express support for the building repairs both in writing and at a public meeting that will be held for information and support purposes

March Program

The speaker at the March 12th meeting will be world-renowned glass artist Paul Stankard who lives in neighboring Mantua.

On page 2 of this issue there is information about Paul describing his early life, how he got his start with the glass paperweights and listing some of the accolades and awards he has been given.

We can all look forward to this meeting, it should be great.

Historical Tidbit

On May 28th, 1887, an agreement was made to build a Two Room School House on Marion Avenue. Daniel W. Brown, a local builder (who built many Houses in Town) was contracted by George W Baily, E.C. Stevenson and Andrew W. Carey. The cost was $2,245.85. The contract provided Brown would be paid as follows:

$100.00 when the foundation is finished; $250.00 when the building is raised; $250.00 when the building is enclosed; $500.00 When the carpenter and mill work is finished; $645.85 when completely finished.

As most of us know Paul Stankard lives in Mantua Township where he maintains a studio.

Paul was born in North Attleboro, Massachusetts on April 7, 1943. He struggled through high school and in 1961 decided to attend Salem County Vocational Technical Institute (now Salem Community College) where he studied scientific glassblowing for two years. Afterwards, he worked in the scientific industry for eight years for such companies as McAllister Scientific, Fisher Scientific, and Philco-Ford. During this time, he developed an interest in making small lamp-worked animals as a way of satisfying his creative urges, but what he really wanted to do was to make paperweights. In 1969 Paul stopped making the animals and devoted himself entirely to paperweights, working tirelessly to develop his skills.

For the past thirty years Paul Stankard has been practicing an art of gentle persuasion. Using glass as his medium he has quietly but persistently been spreading a message that the natural world, especially the realm of wild flowers, testifies to a higher, spiritual ideal.

Looking at a Stankard botanical sculpture or paperweight one is immediately struck by the dazzling technical achievement it represents. Years of dedication and experimentation have honed Paul's natural talent to an extraordinarily high level. But more than skill is evident in these intimate sculptures and Stankard's interest goes far beyond simply replicating the forms of nature. He is expressing a deeper idea as he creates what critic James Yood has called "…some of the most poetic and nuanced commentary on the wonders of nature as exists in any medium anywhere in contemporary art."

From 1971 to 1975, his reputation grew so that he became well known for his floral paperweights. By 1977, he was making a limited edition series of weights for the Smithsonian, and by 1982, another for the Art Institute of Chicago. His weights progressed from those that resembled the traditional round French floral weights to rectangular botanicals composed of two or more laminated pieces to create a complete scene. His celebrity grew and his pieces continued to be highly sought after.

These botanicals transformed the collective attitude of paperweight enthusiasts. Stankard's pieces were thought of as sculpture, challenging the traditional notion of what a paperweight was. As other artists took notice of his success and tried to emulate his work, Paul found himself an important influence on both paperweight making and glass art as a whole.

Stankard is the world's leading paperweight artist. His work embodies the spirit and soul of his subject matter, needing no explanation or justification. Each piece contains his personal poetic vision expressed with a technical mastery unmatched in contemporary paperweight making. The imagery goes far beyond what might be construed as simply realistic. Paul's botanicals imagine spirits inhabiting the roots of plants. They seem to dance in a frozen choreography with insects as their counterparts above the ground. These communities are suspended in crystal space like tiny galaxies, complete in their environment and perfect in their spirit.

Today, Stankard is without peer, precisely because of an unwavering commitment to integrity and a firm belief in his art. "My work is my prayer", he says, stating in words what his pieces express silently in color and form. His work is included in nearly every important museum and collection, private and public, in the world

His work is included in permanent museum collections in nine countries and has been featured in over 50 articles and videos. He has received several awards for his contributions to the field, including the Urban Glass Award for Innovations in Glassblowing Techniques. In 2000, Paul was awarded the prestigious honor of being named a Fellow of the American Craft Council and was elected to the ACC Board of Trustees. In 1999, Salem Community College named him a Distinguished Alumnus. The College has named the gallery in the Glass Center in his honor.

In recent years, he has lectured and taught workshops in the United States, Scotland and Japan, influencing new artists throughout the world. He continues to promote the formal education of flameworked glass at Salem Community College by providing artistic guidance and teaching classes.

The Wenonah Historical Society is privileged and honored to have Paul Stankard attend our meeting and speak to us.

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3,000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: l. Overture-Bonnie Scotland ..... Orchestra; 2.Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. D-metrius- Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J.McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelley, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the ME Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter, Mrs. Mehorter, and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the 'wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies. At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4 April 2004

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

Spring is in the air and flowers and trees are blooming all around town. Ideas are also blooming about the creation of the Wenonah Museum. We are still waiting for the Court and Court Clerks office to move to the new building so that we can begin some of the physical changes. Hopefully the move, planned for April will be on schedule. We have been provided with some preliminary Museum designs but are still in the fact gathering stages. We will have to work hard in order to have the grand opening of the Museum for July 4th.

Many volunteers are needed and as I like to say we can find a job for anyone. Not all of it is physical and much cataloging and identification of artifacts and photographs are needed. I have had requests by at least five different people for either copies of photographs or News articles and House plaque information that I no longer can accommodate until the complete transition of The Wenonah Historical Societies collection is reorganized.

I am lucky to have a great group of Trustees that I can rely on but welcome any help that you offer. Please call me at 415-1215 if you are available or sign up at our next regular meeting.

Talking about our next meeting, it should be quite exciting. Frank Eggert is bringing together a group of individuals for a "round table" program of live Historical accounts of early Wenonah experiences. I am sure that we will all share some laughs and tears and be reminded of the "simpler" days. It's a program not to be missed and please bring along one of your neighbors!

I look forward to seeing you all on April 9th.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

President:	**Rocco Doto**
Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Eileen Caraker**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

April Program

The format for the April 9th meeting will be unusual and hopefully very informative and entertaining.

Member Frank Eggert, a life-long resident of Wenonah has proposed a "round-table" format comprised of other residents of our region with memories of an earlier time in our town.

The idea will be for those who have volunteered to be part of the group arrangement to recall as many memories as they can about growing up in or near Wenonah.

There will be a record kept of the proceedings using both visual and voice recording equipment so the recollections will become part of the Society's permanent record.

All members and attendees are invited, in fact encouraged to join in with any memorabilia they may recall or bring with them.

This kind of meeting, should it prove successful, could bear repeating. It is the kind of activity our Mission Statement envisioned.

Historical Tidbit

It was a nice little village, bearing an Indian name "Wenonah"; a quiet safe country town, ideal for bringing up children.

I was born in Philadelphia in 1885, but my first recollection of being alive would be 1890 in Wenonah where both my sisters were born. There was a ravine called "The Glen" in that part of the town then known as Frogtown. The glen was a shady, cool place, containing a spring with good, pure clear water. The outflow from the spring had been dammed up to form a very small pond in which I remember seeing catfish, probably placed there by some neighborhood men for future use in a frying pan. Many a drink we boys enjoyed from that spring, returning home from swimming in the railroad culvert, the outlet from upper lakes….If you want to hear more of the story come to the meeting on April 9th.

Dr. George W. Bailey
1841 - 1916

George W. Bailey was born near Clarksboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey, December 5, 1840, and eventually lived in both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Wenonah, New Jersey. He was born on his father's farm and for his early education was sent to the public schools of Gloucester County and to the State Normal School.

He served loyally and faithfully on the side of the North in the civil war as a sergeant in in the Twenty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers with distinguished service at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. He also served in the hospital service in the Spanish American War.

After the civil war he entered the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1868, and 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.

It was about this time that he bought land in Wenonah and built his home on the southeast corner of Mantua Avenue and South Clinton.

Very much interested in religion he was elected Superintendent of Wenonah Presbyterian Sunday School in 1871, shortly after the church first located in Wenonah.

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, and 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;

He eventually withdrew from his connection with all financial organizations with the exception of the Bridgeton National Bank and the Glassboro National Bank. Among the other important organizations with which Dr. Bailey was prominently connected should be mentioned Whitney Glass Works Company.

In 1906 he finally withdrew from active business.

Since early manhood Dr. Bailey was greatly interested in the organization and advancement of Sunday school work and he was a prominent and active member of some of the most important associations and organizations with that object in the country.

He was for many years the president of the New Jersey State Sunday School Association, and chairman emeritus of the executive committee of that association.

For many years also he was the treasurer of the International Sunday School Association, and chairman of the executive committee of the World's Sunday School Association.

In religion he was a Presbyterian and he was for many years a member of the board of trustees of the general assembly of that denomination as well as the vice-president of the general assembly's board of education. He was also a member of several special committees of that body and a member of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Hospital. He was vice-chairman of the West Jersey Orphanage for Destitute Colored Children. In politics Dr. Bailey was a Republican,

Dr. Bailey married Annie McGill on June 2, 1891 at Wenonah, New Jersey. Annie was the daughter of, George L. McGill, a Philadelphia molasses merchant. They had two children, both of whom were born in Wenonah.

While in Wenonah Dr. Bailey was a very important person with involvement in community affairs as well as the church.

He was instrumental in the acquisition of the Commission form of government convincing the state legislature to introduce and adopt that legislation.

Dr. Bailey was as President of the Wenonah Commission and served in that capacity through 1885 and as a member of the body until 1893.

He was one of the owners of the private water company that served Wenonah. Wenonah eventually bought the water system in1912 after a 106 to 48 vote by Wenonah citizens. The election was held at Joseph Noblitt’s Hall on N. Marion Ave.

In a eulogy following the death of Dr. Bailey it was said Dr. Bailey was a true soldier. “He distinguished himself in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, but he will be best known as a “soldier of the Cross”. He was a champion of evangelism, a promoter of world movements, a business man and a Christian gentleman.”

Dr. George W. Bailey was one of the main forces in the creation of Wenonah and for its widespread reputation as a Christian community.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2004

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that this will be our last formal meeting before our June picnic and summer break.

Our program last month was great. For those of you who couldn't attend, it was a "round table" format of twelve "long time" residents who gave live historical recollections of early Wenonah experiences. Member Frank Eggert stepped up to the plate and coordinated the discussions.

It is truly something to hear first hand accounts of Wenonah history. Nothing can replace live accounts of the past. We were lucky enough to have a volunteer videotape the entire discussion. This tape will surely be a part of the planned museum. We also recorded the audio separately and I am hoping to have my wife transcribe them over the summer. Depending how they come out we may bind them and sell them as a fundraiser.

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200 East Mantua Avenue

Hannah B. Farr Residence

circa 1877

The following information was provided by Wally Farr, son of Edward and Bertha Farr, and grandson of Hannah Farr:

Hannah B. Farr was a daughter of a leading manufacturer and niece of C.M. Bailey, a financial magnate and oilcloth manufacturer of Winthrop, Maine.

Hannah Bailey Farr and her husband, Lincoln D. Farr, originally from Maine, was from a long line of Puritan and Quaker stock, including direct lineage tracing back to the early days of Plymouth Rock.



Hannah Bailey Farr together with her son Edward and his young family lived at 200 East Mantua Avenue on the S.E. Corner of Marion and Mantua Avenues until Edward Farr deemed the house he was building at Princeton and Mantua Avenues, "Little Grange", complete enough during 1897 for his wife and children (a growing family needing more room) to leave the mother's home and move into his newly built stone residence just on the other side of the Presbyterian Church from Grandmother Hannah.

This move by Edward left the roomy residence to Hannah to enjoy and entertain her grandchildren as they came and went by train to their schools including MIT and Princeton University.

Hannah's son Edward eventually became a founding member of the Mantua Land and Improvement Co. that was instrumental in developing Wenonah. He was President of the family's business in Camden, the Farr and Bailey Manufacturing Co. that developed linoleum from its oilcloth business before merging with the Congoleum Company in the early 1920's, President of the Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company, served the Wenonah Board of Education for 25 years, President of the Wenonah Free Public Library and headed Cooper Hospital as its Manager (chairman) of the Board (Cooper was Edward's first wife's family name. She died suddenly after they moved away from Hannah and into Little Grange).

The Farr's were a driving force in Wenonah very much involved in the social activities in the town and contributors of time, money and physical facilities, the most notable of which, our public library.

Today, the original Hannah B. Farr residence serves as the Wyckoff dental offices. It bears her name on a Historical Society plaque in front of the residence as testament and in memoriam to the grand matriarch of one of Wenonah's original and most volunteer oriented families.

Wenonah 97 Years Ago 1907

The star entertainment given by the Jericho Military Guards, here, last evening was a grand success; about one hundred enjoyed the fun. Ice cream and dancing helped make the occasion delightful.

It is reported that Mr. Loomis and Mr. Genther will put up an ice cream plant here.

Mr. Wright, our new operator (telegraph) and ticket agent, thinks Wenonah is just the right place for a slim man to spend the summer.

FOR SALE one rooster and three Bantam hens - Charles Youst

Andrew H. Savage will sell his six weeks old bull to the butcher this week.

Oscar Redrow, who was hit by an electric train in Woodbury Saturday evening is still confined to his house.

Howard Vandergrift, who lights the gas lamps here was knocked down and rendered unconscious Friday night by a live wire. He was lighting the lamp at the main entrance to the park when the accident occurred. His left hand was burned nearly to the bone. The current had been turned off and the company offers a reward of $50 for the identification of the party who turned the switch on.

The Wenonah Military Academy baseball team won their fourth straight victory by defeating the strong Villanova Academy team. The game was close from beginning to end.

The roof is nearly completed on R. H. Comey's mansion.

The cadets of the W.M.A. went on a practice march to Blackwood yesterday and to National Park today.

I am glad to see by Tuesday's paper that someone has interest enough in our park to bring its condition to the attention of the councilmen. It seems strange that they had not discovered it themselves. Isn't it a pity that one day in the year (4th of July) should be set aside to make the park so beautiful while the other three hundred and sixty-four days it looks like an abandoned beer garden. Why not take enough money from the 4th of July fund to keep the park in order, if the borough can't afford it. Citizen

Two rooms of the school were closed this morning on account of a case of scarlet fever.

Health Inspector Dawson, of Woodbury, was down this morning and fumigated the schoolrooms.

Theo. Geisel, of Woodbury, came near being run over at Middleton's crossing (there was a crossing at Cherry Street during this period) by an electric express Monday afternoon. He had just drove his laundry wagon on the track when he noticed the north bound coming a few feet away. With rare presence of mind he backed his horse off just as the train passed by. It was a narrow escape and Mr. Geisel has been quite nervous and unable to sleep since. This is the place that butcher Robinson's team had such a narrow escape.

A young man by the name of Slavin, who said he represented a cigar firm, called at Holeton's livery here and said he would be around several days. He had his team put up and fed and he got his supper and breakfast but nothing has been heard of his since. Mr.Holeton would like him to call and settle the bill.

George L.Dilks got lost last night while going through the park. The grass was so high he lost his way

Stephen Greene received 1,000 small perch yesterday which he will stock his beautiful lake here.

Come to the Spinsters Convention and see the old maids transformed into beautiful young maidens before your own eyes at Noblitt's Hall May 7. Benefit of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Woodbury. Admission 25 cents

FOR SALE - Model F Ford Touring Car, with top, in first class condition. Address Box 67, Wenonah, NJ

The fountain has not started yet, and some people are anxious to have it in operation. (There was a public water fountain in town for horses and people donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The big mystery is where it was located.)

The Academy relay team covered themselves with glory Saturday by winning their race against Blight School, Philip Brooks School, Franklin and Marshall Academy, Hamilton Institute, Glen Mill School, Maplewood Academy, Perkiomen Academy and Wilmington Friends School. Winning in the fast time of 3:57. The school received a banner.

The man who was arrested here for threatening Adam Knight was caught while sitting at Mrs. Lashly's table (She ran the drug store at 1 East Mantua Avenue.) The fellow walked in and said he wanted his dinner.

The people of this village in general are glad that Edward Gibson who attacked Miss Dorothy Paris, here last week, landed in State Prison, but some seem to think they could get better satisfaction and feel more satisfied if they could get their hands on him.

Mr. Harry Genther is running a huckster wagon in Wenonah.

The entertainment given for the benefit of the M.E. Sunday School by the Vespers Sketch Club was not very well attended.

Notice- On account of death in my family I will not be able to run my huckster wagon here before next Wednesday. E. Sharp

Those interested in Fourth of July celebration met last evening in Noblitt's Hall, and good hustling committees were appointed to look after matters.

Woodbury Daily Times April and May 1907 Milton H. Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6 September 2004

A Message from President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that this will be our last formal meeting before our June picnic and summer break.

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The Wenonah Military Academy, a Brief History

By Linda Haegele

During the 1920's, military academies were held in high esteem as an institution of learning. Even though World War I ended during 1918, patriotism still ran high in the country, and as a result, military academies flourished (Jay Scott, personal communication, March 7, 1989). One academy in particular was a roaring success, as demonstrated by the loyalty and love its alumni hold for it; namely the Wenonah Military Academy (WMA).

Fortunately, some of the former cadets of the WMA were willing to share some memories they have of life at the Academy. Edward Bayuk, Richard S. Beebe, Edgar W. Holton, and Robert Q. Hinckle attended the Academy during the early 1920's, and Percy Wise, Jay Scott and Joseph A. DiLemmo were students during the later 1920's. Even the wife of one of the teachers, Kathryn Knight, supplied invaluable information on life at the Academy. They each provided a deep insight into the loyalty and affection that developed there, as a result of the rural surroundings, the military training, the faculty and schooling, sports events and the various social activities in which the cadets vigorously participated.

The WMA opened its doors in 1904, and grew in popularity until, due to the Depression, it was forced, to close in 1935. It was founded by Stephen Greene, a wealthy printer from Philadelphia who, while driving through Wenonah, saw the potential in the old Wenonah Inn for a military academy (Richard S. Beebe, personal communication, March 31, 1989). In the early 1900's,'Wenonah was a small town with only one thousand people, according to Jay Scott (1989). He says that the town was surrounded on all sides by woods. Warner*s Lake, used for swimming and skating, added to the peaceful, secluded setting (1989). To Stephen t Greene, it was the perfect place for a military academy (Beebe, 1989).

The Academy was situated on the block opposite Wenonah Park. It consisted of a main building, gymnasium, two cottages, two athletic fields, and stables for their horses. The main building, three stories high, contained the lobby, a large dining hall, a kitchen and bakery, a library and reading room, the Science Hall, an infirmary with six beds, and sixty rooms which made up the dormitory section and classrooms (Joseph A. DiLemmo, personal communication, February 22, 1989). Next to the main building was the gymnasium, which was considered to be the largest gymnasium of a New Jersey school at that time (Quigley, 1986). This building was used as a drill hall, shooting range, during Commencement exercises at year end, and for the Mid-Year Drill and Spring Dance (DiLemmo, 1989). The two cottages, Charles H. Lorence cottage and the Clayton A. Snyder cottage were used by the junior and senior class, and officers of the class (O'Neill, 1963). Situated nearby was a five acre athletic field, which was used for football, baseball and track, and a twelve acre field used for lacross and polo (Pituk, 1976).

Sources for this article;

Linda Haegele, a Gloucester County College student wrote this piece in 1989 as a research paper with help from members of the Academy Alumni Association.

According to Mr. Joe DiLemmo, then President of the Association, "Everyone was most cooperative and as a result she received an A+ for a grade."

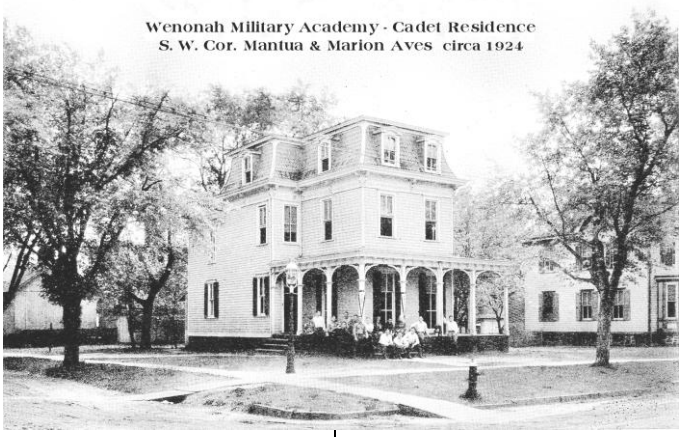
The "Junior House" (S.W Cor. Marion and Mantua Aves.) photo on the next page was contributed by relatives of former Wenonah resident Clifford S. Greenig who was a cadet at the Wenonah Military Academy during the final class in 1934.

The cadets who attended the WMA were, for the most part, from wealthy families (Kathryn Knight, personal communication, February 13, 1989). They came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, NY, Ohio, NJ, and from as far away as South America, Mexico, and Puerto Rico (Scott, 1989). They comprised grades five through twelve, with the junior grades (five through eight) kept separate from the older boys (Hansen, 1954). The student body enrollment averaged about 125 students during the peak years of the Academy (Scott,1989).

A military atmosphere pervaded every aspect of life at the Academy. Military training was under ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) regulations, and under the supervision of a U.S. Army Officer (Edgar W. Hoiton, personal communication, March 2, 1989). It was taught in accordance with the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations (Beebe, 1989). According to Edward Bayuk (Personal communication, 1989), "all formations were in a military manner," and cadets were expected to stand erect at all times, and salute their officers. "Proper arrangement of all articles" were also required, says Mr. Bayuk. Rooms were inspected every day for dust and dirt, and properly made beds (1989). The U.S. Army assigned guns, ammunition, and equipment to the cadets, which had to be returned at the end of the school year (Beebe 1989).

Each cadet was therefore responsible for the maintenance of his equipment (1989). To ensure that the cadets were on their toes, an inspection of rifles, bayonets, uniforms and shoes was performed every week, and dirty equipment earned extra duty for the offending cadet (Bayuk, 1989).

Extra duty consisted of walking guard duty at 128 steps per minute in the cadet's spare time (Scott, 1989), polishing the Civil War cannons at the campus entrance (Bayuk, 1989), or walking around the track in the athletic field with rifle in hand (1989). Several violations earned extra duty in addition to dirty equipment; insubordination, visiting friend's rooms without permission, fighting, and smoking in your room (1989). Smoking was considered the worst offense; it earned fifty hours of extra duty, and a two week suspension (1989).



Clothing was also regulated by military rules. The cadets wore uniforms that alternated between the khaki of the U.S. Army, and the grey of West Point Academy, until the late 1920's (DiLemmo, 1989, Bayuk, 1989). After that, the uniforms stayed the same as the ones that the U.S. Army wore in WWI; khaki puttees, high laced shoes, jackets that buttoned at the neck, and overseas caps (a tall, neat cap worn by French soldiers)" (Scott, 1989).

A typical day for the cadets was militarily structured from morning to night. At 6:00 am, reveille was called, signaling raising of the flag and setting up exercises (Beebe, 1989). Exercises consisted of calisthenics, which developed muscles and lungs, and the Butt's Manual, which developed shoulders and back muscles (Ihe Sabre, 1922). After exercises, cadets dressed for breakfast and ate in the dining hall (Percy Wise, personal communication, April 3, 1989).

Classes started at 8:00 am, with a twenty-five word spelling test (Bayuk, 1989), and finished at around 2:00. From 2:00 until 4:00, drills took place out in the park or in the field, practicing field manuevers (Wise, 1989). At 4:00, some of the cadets had sports practice (1989), while the other cadets were allowed to socialize around the local drug store, or on the Academy steps (Beebe, 1989).

Formal assemblies were held every evening before dinner (Scott, 1989). According to Bayuk, "the cadets assembled in front of the Academy, and with the band playing, marched in parade formation for Retreat- the lowering of the flag" (1989).

Dinner, at 6:00, was held in the Mess Hall (Beebe,1989). After dinner, until 9:00 pm, cadets studied in their quarters (1989). From 9-9:30, cadets who had permission from their parents were allowed to go to the smoking room (1989). At 9:30, there was a call to quarters, when the cadets prepared for bed (1989). Final room check was called at 10:00, and taps was sounded to signal the end of the day (1989).

This strict military regimentation at the academy extended into the scholastic atmosphere. The curriculum was also strictly regimented, as the "Secretary of War directed that the WMA" was permitted "to devote 1 ½ hours daily in instruction in branches not devoted to the military department of the Academy" (War Department, Adjutant General's Office, KMA Washington, D.C., Letter to WMA, February 24, 1913).

Classes were small, with only eight to twelve students in each class (Wise, 1989). The former cadets considered the faculty excellent. Teachers were expected to stay close to the cadets; for example, "each faculty member had his own group of boys. Officers lived with his group, and ate in the Mess Hall with his group" (Pituk,1976). During study hours, the faculty members were close at hand for any help that the students might need (Beebe, 1989).

The cadets did not receive letter grades (Pituk, 1976). Instead they were divided into four classifications (1976). These classifications, Distinguished, Honor, Proficient, and Unclassified, were based on the cadets averages in conduct and scholastics, with added emphasis on Military Science and Tactics (The Sabre, 1922). Grades were posted quarterly and decorations warded, to be worn only while the class standing was maintained (1922).

In addition to decorations, cadets maintaining a B average with no infractions were placed on the Honor Roll, which allowed them certain privileges, including the privilege of reporting in late on Saturday night (Bayuk,1989).

In addition to maintaining the full, rigidly structured day of military drills and classes, the cadets of the WMA found time for extracurricular activities, such as sports, social events, and clubs. For instance, sporting events were essential to the boys, and they excelled in more than their share. WMA was referred to as the West Point of New Jersey, because of their consistently superior polo team (Robert Q. Hinckle, personal communication, 1989). In fact, in 1927 the WMA polo team traveled to West Point to play their freshman team, and won (Wise, 1989)! The WMA played other preparatory schools and some college freshman teams in baseball, basketball, and football, as well (Hinckle, 1989). For instance, in 1923, they won the University of Pennsylvania Scholastic Basketball Tournament (Bayuk, 1989). Also, "one year, the football team was undefeated and untied. It was not scored upon until the final season game against National State Farm School, who blocked a kick behind a goal" (Scott, 1989). And, on November 22, 1930, President Herbert Hoover met the cadets at a White House Reception for the Football team in Washington, D.C. Naturally, there were many first place banners hanging on the assembly room walls at the WMA (Beebe, 1989).

Social events were also greeted with enthusiasm by the cadets. There was an informal dance in the gym every Friday night, with music provided by an orchestra made up of cadets (Beebe, 1989). These dances were attended by girls from Wenonah and surrounding towns (1989). But the big events were the two gala dances - the Mid-Year Drill and Dance, and the Senior Prom at the end of the year. Cadets spent a week cleaning, dusting, shining, and decorating the gym with real trees and plants (Hoiton, 1989), and draping the room with flags. They wore white cotton gloves with their uniforms (Bayuk, 1989), and the girls wore floor length formal gowns (Knight, 1989). Propriety ensured that partners danced with at least six inches between them (Bayuk, 1989). There was no charge for these galas, but the guests had to be invited by a cadet to attend (1989).

To start the affair, the gymnasium doors, which took up an entire wall, were fully opened (Knight, 1989). It was an impressive sight, as the Cadet Drill Team then came out onto the floor and went through their drill, with the sounds of gun butts resounding as they hit the floor when the cadets came to attention (Scott, 1989). For the Senior Prom, the final event was "always a military parade or exhibition, or sometimes a sham battle on the athletic field" (Hinckle, 1989).

Cadets also actively participated in several clubs at the Academy, such as the Dramatic Society, the Adelphic Literary Society, and the Radio Club which worked on the theory and building of radio receiving sets (The Sabre, June, 1923). Another club, the Sabre Club, put on plays, such as "Nothing But the Truth" (Scott, 1989), "That's That", a musical comedy, and even staged a scene with cadets performing a Tango (1989). The cadets also published their own yearbook, The Sabre, complete with a Class Poem, Class Prophecy, Last Will and Testament, Y's Cracks (humor), and highlights of the year's sporting events.

In addition to the sports, clubs, and dances, the cadets organized their own bands. According to a letter by Win Shewell, two cadets, Minor McGeorge and Henry LeCour, organized a jazz band in 1932 called the "Wenonians" (May 13, 1974, private letter to anonymous person). This band was made up of eight talented boys who, amazingly, played eighteen instruments; two trombones, a baritone horn, piano, two trumpets, slide cornet, two clarinets, three alto saxophones, tenor sax, C-melody sax, musette, piccolo, drums, and bass horn (1974).

Some of the stories related to me by former cadets help to illustrate the camaraderie of the boys at the WMA. For example, Edward Bayuk said that the "cadets living on the second floor would climb out through their window, and walk along the roof to visit other cadets" thereby risking disciplinary action. Mr. Bayuk explained that it wasn't really dangerous but that it was considered adventurous by the boys (1989). Also, Richard S. Beebe said that some of the cadets who wanted to sneak a cigarette in their rooms would pry up the wood planks in the floor, to provide a draft that would dissipate the smoke (1989). According to Beebe, cadets managed to keep this secret from their superiors, and so didn't get caught very often (1989).

The cadets also liked to band together to pull pranks on their teachers and each other. For example, Robert Q. Hinckle told of the time that Captain Gulden, the English teacher, found his false teeth posted on the bulletin board (1989). Another time, at night after the lights were out, one of the boys closed the two gates of the driveway after one of the teachers drove into town (1989).

When the unsuspecting teacher "returned, he made a wide sweep to come through the stone pillars" on either side of the driveway, and was surprised "when the head lights picked up the black iron gates. It left quite an impression on his front bumper" (1989).

Even the rigidity of the Military Drills wasn't immune to the imagination of the cadets. The Military Drills were a formal display, held at graduation, and judged by a Marine Officer from Philadelphia (Scott, 1989). One year, Captain Swartez of South America was in charge of the drill (1989). That year, one of Capt. Swartez's cadets always went right when he was supposed to go left, and went left when the order was to go right. For the drill, the captain locked this cadet in his room, and told the rest of his group, "We're now going to win!", and they did (1989)!

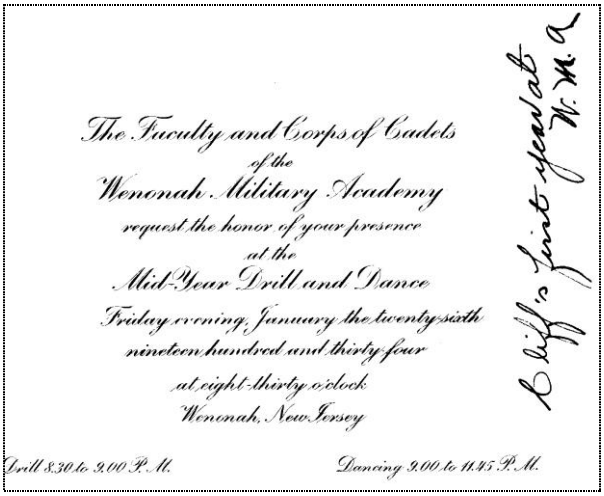
The cadets of the WMA were close knit, motivated, highly competitive, active, and imaginative. How did the Academy achieve these goals in its student body? The emblem associated with the Academy, 'Vincit Qui Se Vincit," which means "He conquers, who conquers self" (Beebe, 1989) gives an idea of the type of school this was. The school gave its cadets not only an excellent education in scholastics, but also an education in themselves. The school motto "Send us the boy and we will return to you the man" (Beebe, 1989) illustrates that one of the primary motives of the school encompassed the education of the whole boy. It pushed them to their limits, both physically and mentally. In 1921, when Dr. Charles H. Lorence became president of the Academy, he expressed that "the purpose of education was to teach the pupil how to live" (O'Neill, 1963). The "Academy placed great emphasis on training for high intellectual achievement, but with equal consideration to the development of a sound body and superior ideals" (1963).

The WMA was successful in achieving these ideals, in that all aspects of life at the Academy seemed to encourage development of high physical and mental standards. For example, the Academy being in a secluded community, and the typically busy day, left no room for socializing outside of the Academy. As a result, the cadets turned to each other for friendship, and healthy competition. Further, the military training, and the military form of self-government also helped the cadets develop a respect for each other, along with authority figures. In addition to learning Math, Science and English, the boys learned the value of discipline, obedience, leadership, and judgment (Beebe, 1989). Also, the highly respected faculty and grading system made the cadets competitive, yet respectful of each other. Last, the high activity level in sports, clubs, and social activities, which indicates the strong bonds felt by the cadets for each other, was effective in developing high standards.

After graduating, many cadets went on to various universities (Bayuk, 1989, Scott, 1989). Some cadets were inducted into the U.S. Army, where they excelled as Commissioned Officers (DiLemmo, 1989). Other cadets went on to become influential, successful businessmen (Bayuk, 1989).

Life at the Academy clearly made a profound impact on the cadets' lives, and successfully prepared them for their place in society.

All that is left of this fine institution is a part of the stone wall that once surrounded the campus, and the vivid memories that the former cadets cherish of their days at the Academy. Since 1954, when the Wenonah Military Academy Alumni Association first met to honor Captain Lammert on his 70th birthday, some of the former cadets have met to reminisce about those days, and to catch up on the events going on in their lives now. They have never missed a year, and "although the troops are thinning, there is always an enthusiastic turn-out" (DiLemmo, 1989). These men are proud to have attended the Wenonah Military Academy and although the buildings are long gone, the institution continues to live on in their hearts and minds.


The Faculty and Corps of Cadets
of the
Wenonah Military Academy
request the honor of your presence
at the
Mid-Year Drill and Dance
Friday evening, January the twenty-sixth
nineteen hundred and thirty four
at eight-thirty o'clock
Wenonah, New Jersey
Drill 8.30 to 9.00 P. M.
Dancing 9.00 to 11.45 P. M.
Cliff's first year at W. M. A.

Apparently Cliff Greenig's first year at WMA was his last as the institution closed at the end of the year, never to reopen.

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6 October 2004

Resignation of former President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

As most of you know I have enjoyed being the President of this organization for the last 18 months. I enjoyed every minute of it and I am confident that we accomplished many things together. One of the most important accomplishments was achieving a sense of status with the Mayor and Town Council, as an important and vital organization in our Town. Nothing pleases me more than the recognition of the Wenonah Historical Society as the authority on historical events, documentation and artifacts of Wenonah's past.

Most importantly the sense of being the "unofficial curator" of the Town Treasure, the Train Depot.

I no longer feel that I can achieve my ambition of creating the Museum in our Historical Train Station and lead our Organization. In no way is my decision based on any negative WHS event. It is based on personal issues that include a new business, my well-being, and my family. I will continue to be a cheerleader and supporter for the WHS but cannot serve as President or in any other officer or trustee position.

According to our Bylaws the Vice President shall in the absence of the President have all the Powers and prerogatives of the President. New elections are to be held in January with a nominating committee chosen in November.

October 8th Program

The October meeting of the Society will be held starting at 7:30 p.m. in the train station community center at Mantua Avenue at the railroad tracks.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Eileen Caraker**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

Following a brief business meeting we will be entertained by Wenonah resident Arnold Karp. Arnold is a Master Sergeant in the NJ National Guard serving in the 177th fighter wing.

He will present a slide program relating to the Civil War entitled "Three Days that Changed a Nation". Light refreshments will be provided.

Please bring or send your dues, which are $15.00 per year. For Information call (856) 468-6981.

Historical Afghans

The Wenonah Fire Company Auxiliary has asked us to mention that Wenonah Coverlets are available again this year. These 50 X 70 inch Afghans of red, white & blue Jacquard depict historical Wenonah buildings and scenes.

The price for them is $50.00 and they make lovely Christmas gifts. Order forms will be available at this meeting. For more information call (856) 468-5345.

Historical Tidbit

The Myers, Don and Cecelia and their daughters have left Wenonah for a new home out West. Those of you who knew them were aware they lived, as we say in Wenonah, in the historic "Peddle House" at the corner of Mantua and N. Clinton Aves.

The handsome dwelling was actually built by Mr. J. Frank Shull, one of the original members of the first formal Wenonah government established April 10, 1883. He served for two years. Apparently bad feelings occurred between the Commission members and Mr. Shull when Shull constructed a "small, cheap and undesirable building" east of the railroad tracks. This resulted in a Commission Resolution restricting the construction of buildings under $2,000 east of the railroad and $1,000 west of the railroad. The Shull residence was eventually occupied by Harry G. Peddle, a relative, who served on Borough Council from 1899 through 1910.

The Wenonah Military Academy, a Brief History

By Linda Haegele

During the 1920's, military academies were held in high esteem as an institution of learning. Even though World War I ended during 1918, patriotism still ran high in the country, and as a result, military academies flourished (Jay Scott, personal communication, March 7, 1989). One academy in particular was a roaring success, as demonstrated by the loyalty and love its alumni hold for it; namely the Wenonah Military Academy (WMA).

Fortunately, some of the former cadets of the WMA were willing to share some memories they have of life at the Academy. Edward Bayuk, Richard S. Beebe, Edgar W. Holton, and Robert Q. Hinckle attended the Academy during the early 1920's, and Percy Wise, Jay Scott and Joseph A. DiLemmo were students during the later 1920's. Even the wife of one of the teachers, Kathryn Knight, supplied invaluable information on life at the Academy. They each provided a deep insight into the loyalty and affection that developed there, as a result of the rural surroundings, the military training, the faculty and schooling, sports events and the various social activities in which the cadets vigorously participated.

The WMA opened its doors in 1904, and grew in popularity until, due to the Depression, it was forced, to close in 1935. It was founded by Stephen Greene, a wealthy printer from Philadelphia who, while driving through Wenonah, saw the potential in the old Wenonah Inn for a military academy (Richard S. Beebe, personal communication, March 31, 1989). In the early 1900's,'Wenonah was a small town with only one thousand people, according to Jay Scott (1989). He says that the town was surrounded on all sides by woods. Warner*s Lake, used for swimming and skating, added to the peaceful, secluded setting (1989). To Stephen t Greene, it was the perfect place for a military academy (Beebe, 1989).

The Academy was situated on the block opposite Wenonah Park. It consisted of a main building, gymnasium, two cottages, two athletic fields, and stables for their horses. The main building, three stories high, contained the lobby, a large dining hall, a kitchen and bakery, a library and reading room, the Science Hall, an infirmary with six beds, and sixty rooms which made up the dormitory section and classrooms (Joseph A. DiLemmo, personal communication, February 22, 1989). Next to the main building was the gymnasium, which was considered to be the largest gymnasium of a New Jersey school at that time (Quigley, 1986). This building was used as a drill hall, shooting range, during Commencement exercises at year end, and for the Mid-Year Drill and Spring Dance (DiLemmo, 1989). The two cottages, Charles H. Lorence cottage and the Clayton A. Snyder cottage were used by the junior and senior class, and officers of the class (O'Neill, 1963). Situated nearby was a five acre athletic field, which was used for football, baseball and track, and a twelve acre field used for lacross and polo (Pituk, 1976).

The cadets who attended the WMA were, for the most part, from wealthy families (Kathryn Knight, personal communication, February 13, 1989). They came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, NY, Ohio, NJ, and from as far away as South America, Mexico, and Puerto Rico (Scott, 1989). They comprised grades five through twelve, with the junior grades (five through eight) kept separate from the older boys (Hansen, 1954). The student body enrollment averaged about 125 students during the peak years of the Academy (Scott,1989).

A military atmosphere pervaded every aspect of life at the Academy. Military training was under ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) regulations, and under the supervision of a U.S. Army Officer (Edgar W. Hoiton, personal communication, March 2, 1989). It was taught in accordance with the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations (Beebe, 1989). According to Edward Bayuk (Personal communication, 1989), "all formations were in a military manner," and cadets were expected to stand erect at all times, and salute their officers. "Proper arrangement of all articles" were also required, says Mr. Bayuk. Rooms were inspected every day for dust and dirt, and properly made beds (1989). The U.S. Army assigned guns, ammunition, and equipment to the cadets, which had to be returned at the end of the school year (Beebe 1989).

Sources for this article;

Linda Haegele, a Gloucester County College student wrote this piece in 1989 as a research paper with help from members of the Academy Alumni Association.

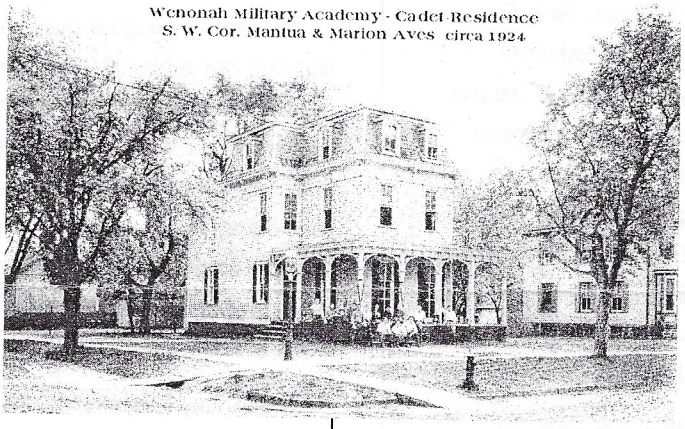
According to Mr. Joe DiLemmo, then President of the Association, "Everyone was most cooperative and as a result she received an A+ for a grade."

The "Junior House" (S.W Cor. Marion and Mantua Aves.) photo on the next page was contributed by relatives of former Wenonah resident Clifford S. Greenig who was a cadet at the Wenonah Military Academy during the final class in 1934.

Each cadet was therefore responsible for the maintenance of his equipment (1989). To ensure that the cadets were on their toes, an inspection of rifles, bayonets, uniforms and shoes was performed every week, and dirty equipment earned extra duty for the offending cadet (Bayuk, 1989).

Extra duty consisted of walking guard duty at 128 steps per minute in the cadet's spare time (Scott, 1989), polishing the Civil War cannons at the campus entrance (Bayuk, 1989), or walking around the track in the athletic field with rifle in hand (1989). Several violations earned extra duty in addition to dirty equipment; insubordination, visiting friend's rooms without permission, fighting, and smoking in your room (1989). Smoking was considered the worst offense; it earned fifty hours of extra duty, and a two week suspension (1989).

Clothing was also regulated by military rules. The cadets wore uniforms that alternated between the khaki of the U.S. Army, and the grey of West Point Academy, until the late 1920's (DiLemmo, 1989, Bayuk, 1989). After that, the uniforms stayed the same as the ones that the U.S. Army wore in WWI; khaki puttees, high laced shoes, jackets that buttoned at the neck, and overseas caps (a tall, neat cap worn by French soldiers)" (Scott, 1989).



A typical day for the cadets was militarily structured from morning to night. At 6:00 am, reveille was called, signaling raising of the flag and setting up exercises (Beebe, 1989). Exercises consisted of calisthenics, which developed muscles and lungs, and the Butt's Manual, which developed shoulders and back muscles (Ihe Sabre, 1922). After exercises, cadets dressed for breakfast and ate in the dining hall (Percy Wise, personal communication, April 3, 1989).

Classes started at 8:00 am, with a twenty-five word spelling test (Bayuk, 1989), and finished at around 2:00. From 2:00 until 4:00, drills took place out in the park or in the field, practicing field manuevers (Wise, 1989). At 4:00, some of the cadets had sports practice (1989), while the other cadets were allowed to socialize around the local drug store, or on the Academy steps (Beebe, 1989).

Formal assemblies were held every evening before dinner (Scott, 1989). According to Bayuk, "the cadets assembled in front of the Academy, and with the band playing, marched in parade formation for Retreat- the lowering of the flag" (1989).

Dinner, at 6:00, was held in the Mess Hall (Beebe,1989). After dinner, until 9:00 pm, cadets studied in their quarters (1989). From 9-9:30, cadets who had permission from their parents were allowed to go to the smoking room (1989). At 9:30, there was a call to quarters, when the cadets prepared for bed (1989). Final room check was called at 10:00, and taps was sounded to signal the end of the day (1989).

This strict military regimentation at the academy extended into the scholastic atmosphere. The curriculum was also strictly regimented, as the "Secretary of War directed that the WMA" was permitted "to devote 1 ½ hours daily in instruction in branches not devoted to the military department of the Academy" (War Department, Adjutant General's Office, KMA Washington, D.C., Letter to WMA, February 24, 1913).

Classes were small, with only eight to twelve students in each class (Wise, 1989). The former cadets considered the faculty excellent. Teachers were expected to stay close to the cadets; for example, "each faculty member had his own group of boys. Officers lived with his group, and ate in the Mess Hall with his group" (Pituk,1976). During study hours, the faculty members were close at hand for any help that the students might need (Beebe, 1989).

The cadets did not receive letter grades (Pituk, 1976). Instead they were divided into four classifications (1976). These classifications, Distinguished, Honor, Proficient, and Unclassified, were based on the cadets averages in conduct and scholastics, with added emphasis on Military Science and Tactics (The Sabre, 1922). Grades were posted quarterly and decorations warded, to be worn only while the class standing was maintained (1922).

In addition to decorations, cadets maintaining a B average with no infractions were placed on the Honor Roll, which allowed them certain privileges, including the privilege of reporting in late on Saturday night (Bayuk,1989).

In addition to maintaining the full, rigidly structured day of military drills and classes, the cadets of the WMA found time for extracurricular activities, such as sports, social events, and clubs. For instance, sporting events were essential to the boys, and they excelled in more than their share. WMA was referred to as the West Point of New Jersey, because of their consistently superior polo team (Robert Q. Hinckle, personal communication, 1989). In fact, in 1927 the WMA polo team traveled to West Point to play their freshman team, and won (Wise, 1989)! The WMA played other preparatory schools and some college freshman teams in baseball, basketball, and football, as well (Hinckle, 1989). For instance, in 1923, they won the University of Pennsylvania Scholastic Basketball Tournament (Bayuk, 1989). Also, "one year, the football team was undefeated and untied. It was not scored upon until the final season game against National State Farm School, who blocked a kick behind a goal" (Scott, 1989). And, on November 22, 1930, President Herbert Hoover met the cadets at a White House Reception for the Football team in Washington, D.C. Naturally, there were many first place banners hanging on the assembly room walls at the WMA (Beebe, 1989).

Social events were also greeted with enthusiasm by the cadets. There was an informal dance in the gym every Friday night, with music provided by an orchestra made up of cadets (Beebe, 1989). These dances were attended by girls from Wenonah and surrounding towns (1989). But the big events were the two gala dances - the Mid-Year Drill and Dance, and the Senior Prom at the end of the year. Cadets spent a week cleaning, dusting, shining, and decorating the gym with real trees and plants (Hoiton, 1989), and draping the room with flags. They wore white cotton gloves with their uniforms (Bayuk, 1989), and the girls wore floor length formal gowns (Knight, 1989). Propriety ensured that partners danced with at least six inches between them (Bayuk, 1989). There was no charge for these galas, but the guests had to be invited by a cadet to attend (1989).

To start the affair, the gymnasium doors, which took up an entire wall, were fully opened (Knight, 1989). It was an impressive sight, as the Cadet Drill Team then came out onto the floor and went through their drill, with the sounds of gun butts resounding as they hit the floor when the cadets came to attention (Scott, 1989). For the Senior Prom, the final event was "always a military parade or exhibition, or sometimes a sham battle on the athletic field" (Hinckle, 1989).

Cadets also actively participated in several clubs at the Academy, such as the Dramatic Society, the Adelphic Literary Society, and the Radio Club which worked on the theory and building of radio receiving sets (The Sabre, June, 1923). Another club, the Sabre Club, put on plays, such as "Nothing But the Truth" (Scott, 1989), "That's That", a musical comedy, and even staged a scene with cadets performing a Tango (1989). The cadets also published their own yearbook, The Sabre, complete with a Class Poem, Class Prophecy, Last Will and Testament, Y's Cracks (humor), and highlights of the year's sporting events.

In addition to the sports, clubs, and dances, the cadets organized their own bands. According to a letter by Win Shewell, two cadets, Minor McGeorge and Henry LeCour, organized a jazz band in 1932 called the "Wenonians" (May 13, 1974, private letter to anonymous person). This band was made up of eight talented boys who, amazingly, played eighteen instruments; two trombones, a baritone horn, piano, two trumpets, slide cornet, two clarinets, three alto saxophones, tenor sax, C-melody sax, musette, piccolo, drums, and bass horn (1974).

Some of the stories related to me by former cadets help to illustrate the camaraderie of the boys at the WMA. For example, Edward Bayuk said that the "cadets living on the second floor would climb out through their window, and walk along the roof to visit other cadets" thereby risking disciplinary action. Mr. Bayuk explained that it wasn't really dangerous but that it was considered adventurous by the boys (1989). Also, Richard S. Beebe said that some of the cadets who wanted to sneak a cigarette in their rooms would pry up the wood planks in the floor, to provide a draft that would dissipate the smoke (1989). According to Beebe, cadets managed to keep this secret from their superiors, and so didn't get caught very often (1989).

The cadets also liked to band together to pull pranks on their teachers and each other. For example, Robert Q. Hinckle told of the time that Captain Gulden, the English teacher, found his false teeth posted on the bulletin board (1989). Another time, at night after the lights were out, one of the boys closed the two gates of the driveway after one of the teachers drove into town (1989).

When the unsuspecting teacher "returned, he made a wide sweep to come through the stone pillars" on either side of the driveway, and was surprised "when the head lights picked up the black iron gates. It left quite an impression on his front bumper" (1989).

Even the rigidity of the Military Drills wasn't immune to the imagination of the cadets. The Military Drills were a formal display, held at graduation, and judged by a Marine Officer from Philadelphia (Scott, 1989). One year, Captain Swartez of South America was in charge of the drill (1989). That year, one of Capt. Swartez's cadets always went right when he was supposed to go left, and went left when the order was to go right. For the drill, the captain locked this cadet in his room, and told the rest of his group, "We're now going to win!", and they did (1989)!

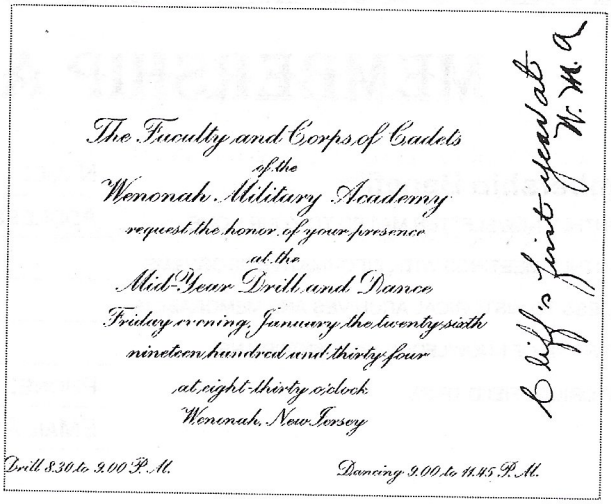
The cadets of the WMA were close knit, motivated, highly competitive, active, and imaginative. How did the Academy achieve these goals in its student body? The emblem associated with the Academy, 'Vincit Qui Se Vincit," which means "He conquers, who conquers self" (Beebe, 1989) gives an idea of the type of school this was. The school gave its cadets not only an excellent education in scholastics, but also an education in themselves. The school motto "Send us the boy and we will return to you the man" (Beebe, 1989) illustrates that one of the primary motives of the school encompassed the education of the whole boy. It pushed them to their limits, both physically and mentally. In 1921, when Dr. Charles H. Lorence became president of the Academy, he expressed that "the purpose of education was to teach the pupil how to live" (O'Neill, 1963). The "Academy placed great emphasis on training for high intellectual achievement, but with equal consideration to the development of a sound body and superior ideals" (1963).

The WMA was successful in achieving these ideals, in that all aspects of life at the Academy seemed to encourage development of high physical and mental standards. For example, the Academy being in a secluded community, and the typically busy day, left no room for socializing outside of the Academy. As a result, the cadets turned to each other for friendship, and healthy competition. Further, the military training, and the military form of self-government also helped the cadets develop a respect for each other, along with authority figures. In addition to learning Math, Science and English, the boys learned the value of discipline, obedience, leadership, and judgment (Beebe, 1989). Also, the highly respected faculty and grading system made the cadets competitive, yet respectful of each other. Last, the high activity level in sports, clubs, and social activities, which indicates the strong bonds felt by the cadets for each other, was effective in developing high standards.

After graduating, many cadets went on to various universities (Bayuk, 1989, Scott, 1989). Some cadets were inducted into the U.S. Army, where they excelled as Commissioned Officers (DiLemmo, 1989). Other cadets went on to become influential, successful businessmen (Bayuk, 1989).

Life at the Academy clearly made a profound impact on the cadets' lives, and successfully prepared them for their place in society.

All that is left of this fine institution is a part of the stone wall that once surrounded the campus, and the vivid memories that the former cadets cherish of their days at the Academy. Since 1954, when the Wenonah Military Academy Alumni Association first met to honor Captain Lammert on his 70th birthday, some of the former cadets have met to reminisce about those days, and to catch up on the events going on in their lives now. They have never missed a year, and "although the troops are thinning, there is always an enthusiastic turn-out" (DiLemmo, 1989). These men are proud to have attended the Wenonah Military Academy and although the buildings are long gone, the institution continues to live on in their hearts and minds.



The Faculty and Corps of Cadets
of the
Wenonah Military Academy
request the honor of your presence
at the
Mid-Year Drill and Dance
Friday evening, January the twenty-sixth
nineteen hundred and thirty-four
at eight-thirty o'clock
Wenonah, New Jersey

Drill 8.30 to 9.00 P. M. Dancing 9.00 to 11.45 P. M.

Cliff's first year at W. M. A.

Apparently Cliff Greenig's first year at WMA was his last as the institution closed at the end of the year, never to reopen.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 7 November 2004

A Message From Vice President Jack Sheppard

Dear Members,

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Wenonah Historical Society require us to a have a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees for terms of two years. This group constitutes the Board of Trustees of the organization.

We are also required to appoint a Nominating Committee at the November meeting for the purpose of presenting a slate of names for those positions at the January Meeting. The Nominating Committee is to be made up of two members of the Trustee Board and two regular members.

The terms of office on the Board are two years and all terms are due to expire at the end of 2004.

At a recent meeting of the officers and Trustees the current situation, that of the President stepping down and the entire Board needing to be replaced was duly noted. There was then a general discussion of names in the entire membership in an attempt to determine members who might want to become more involved in Society activities, either as candidates for the Board or as volunteers for museum creation activities.

There was also considerable discussion of the great need to get moving on the objectives of the Society, especially those related to the preservation of historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of our community.

The future of the Community Center as a repository and museum for these purposes is in our hands but if we don't get moving on the project soon we may lose our claim to the building.

Accordingly we are looking toward establishing volunteer "work parties" very soon to commence work on the following tasks;

- Second floor clean up, fix up.
- Move Military Academy artifacts from the Library.
- Sort, identify, classify and store those materials.

We do have a list of volunteers from a previous solicitation but all members are encouraged to get in touch if in fact you haven't been contacted before now.

The first of these "work party" activities will occur Friday the 19th of November when we will move the Military Academy material from our Public Library into the Community Center first floor, and then up to the second floor storage area. Anyone wishing to help with this please make yourself known at the November 12th meeting.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Eileen Caraker**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

November 12th Program

The November meeting of the Society will be held starting at 7:30 p.m. in the train station Community Center at Mantua Avenue at the railroad tracks. Member Rocco Doto will present a history of the Wenonah Military Academy.

It is also nearly time for dues payments for the coming year 2005. Please bring or send your dues by the end of December. They are still $15.00 per year. For Information call (856) 468-6981.

Historical Tidbit

Wenonah was created from a group of five adjacent farms that mostly grew sweet potatoes. Animal manure was used to fertilize the crops and the manure cars were delivered to a siding in the center of town. Apparently the smell was horrible and by 1892 the Borough Commission and citizens appealed to the West Jersey RR Company for relief. A new siding was then built at the current location of the Borough garage, Maple Street at the railroad.

Mr. Oscar Ogden, Thomas Ritson and Clement Mattson have purchased handsome Waltham-Orient touring cars from H.D.Leap who represents the Waltham Manufacturing Company in this area.

The best supper ever had for 25 cents will be served at Noblitt's Hall in connection with the fair next week.

All Saints Episcopal Mission. Service in Noblitts Hall tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. All welcome.

The town was very lively yesterday. Every train bringing a load of visitors and the beautiful weather kept them on the streets enjoying the air.

The woods were full of gunners here yesterday, but the bags were rather small. Whether due to unskillful marksmanship or lack of rabbits is hard to tell. It is certain that enough shots were fired in the neighborhood.

Captain Persey is no longer a member of the Campers Union at the Wenonah Military Academy. The union was organized for the special benefit of the bachelors of the academy and lost a very active member when he quietly married Miss Racliffe of Camden.

A family passing through the town on the way to their Thanksgiving dinner meet with an accident on Marion Avenue. The horse they were driving fell and broke a leg and had to be shot.

The epidemic of colds, which almost put a number of cadets in bed, has almost subsided and all were able to eat turkey today.

The Ladies Aid of the M.E. Church particularly requests that you defer buying your Christmas gifts till you come to their supper and bazaar next Tuesday. Beautiful articles, useful and ornamental will be on sale. A table of dressed dolls, at very reasonable prices, presided over by Miss Jessie Baylies' class of little girls will be one of the features. Mrs. Cline's class of young ladies will have a Christmas tree covered with gifts. Ice cream will be on sale, also cakes, bread and pie.

A large shipment of live pigeons was made from this station this morning-about 100.

Mrs. James Carey gave a "500" last evening.

A traveling Uncle Tom's Cabin Company will entertain our people tonight at Noblitt's Hall.

The public school building has been connected to the sewerage system and sanitary conditions will be much improved.

John L. Drummer was elected constable over Thomas J. Savage, who was on both tickets by 61 majority.

There is considerable discussion as to what use the room over the new fire house should be put other than regular meetings of the Fire Company. There seems to be a desire on the part of some to use it as a smoking room and a place to play cards. Of course there will be no gambling under the new administration.

A ballot was taken this morning at the Academy on the Presidential candidates and the results are as follows. Taft 38, Chafin 3, Bryan 6.

Politics, politics, there is more politics in this town today than any other town of its size in the state.

Fine Black Sateen Petticoats $1.00 Outing Flannel 25 and 50 cents Gingham 25, 50 and 75 cents try a pair of our ladies 25 cent stockings. H.E.Wood 185 So. Broad Street, Woodbury

Try Pan Dandy Bread

The painting of the Methodist Church is about to be done and it will be a decided improvement.

A REPUBLICAN LANDSLIDE TAFT SWEEPS THE COUNTRY IN THE GREAT CONTEST FOR THE NATION'S NEXT EXECUTIVE. Gloucester County gives Taft 1610 plurality and elects entire county ticket. (Wenonah's vote Taft 138 Bryan 18)

The young ladies of the Embroidery Club which meet at the home of Miss Clara Turner Saturday afternoon proposes to fill a bride's chest for the first member married.

With the streets well scattered with masqueraders and the Academy dance in full swing Saturday evening, Wenonah was quite lively for once.

Woodbury Constitution Milton H. Webb

There is to be a Fair in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, November 4th Fancywork, groceries, candy, home made bread and cake. Supper 35 cents.

Wonder whom the two young ladies were who got bewildered on the road between Cooper's Hill and Wenonah.

The River and Harbor Committee meet at Hohlweg's Hotel (now Telford Inn) yesterday to determine whether to have the Mantua Creek dug out. Several appeared before the committee urging the creek be opened up to the Wenonah Bridge.

A workman in the employ of the gas company was knocked unconscious here yesterday by the bursting of a gas pipe. He was taken home in serious condition. No one would have thought there was so much force in the pipes.

In order to make an equitable charge for water to all customers, the Wenonah Water Company will place water meters on the premises of all water takers. The installing of the meters will be done during the present month and the meter rates will commence January 1st, 1910.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union held their business meeting and finding out that they had money immediately proceeded to spend it. It was voted to offer a prize of $5.00 to the Wenonah Military Academy and $5.00 to our public school for the best scientific temperance essay.

Bryn Athyn and Wenonah Military Academy played a tie game on Bryn Athyn grounds Saturday, neither team being able to score. The game was fast and clean throughout.

Call at the public library and look over the latest books. (The library was in the former Presbyterian Church Chapel which was moved from North Clinton Avenue to West Mantua Avenue in the first block.)

The Wenonah Mutual Improvement Association will place three carloads of manure on the lawn of the park. (This is one way to get peoples attention to the park.)

There was a fire last night at the M.E. parsonage on Willow Street, and but for its timely discovery the parsonage would have been burned down. Miss Cornelia Truncer saw a light in the third story of the building and concluded at once that there was something wrong. She went to the parsonage and asked if there was anyone in the third floor with a lamp. She was told there was not, and upon investigation it was found that a box of papers was on fire. A bucket brigade was formed and the blaze was soon subdued. The Fire Company did not go into service. Just how the fire started is a mystery, but it might be the old story of mice and matches.

Pastor Senser worked like a beaver in carrying buckets of water up the stairs and he thinks that his heart is all right or he could never have stood it.

Mr. Thomas W.Synnottt will lead the prayer meeting this evening at the Memorial Presbyterian Church. (Mr.Synnott was one of the founders of the town and at this period had land holdings of almost one fourth of the total area of the town.)

Lost, strayed or stolen-One black and white hound dog, black face. Answers to the name "Doc" John T. Moore

The question, which is puzzling our gunners, is where to gun on Monday, when the rabbit season opens. In almost every direction one looks in the country his eyes beholds a notice, which forbids gunning on the premises.

An exciting runaway occurred here last evening. A farmer drove into town to meet the train, and his horse was frightened and ran up the street east of the depot and down the embankment north of the station where it meet an express train and turned off the track at the flag house completely circling the depot. No damage was done, but how the horse missed the third rail is a mystery. It also had a narrow escape from the express train.

The machine pipeline digger of the Pitman Gas Company is digging a trench from the Wenonah Bridge to Woodbury Heights,. This will give gas to all the farmers along the line.

Quite a number of our young matrons have enrolled themselves as students in the "Domestic Science Class" recently organized.

Mrs. McGill's house looks well with its new coat of paint. (N.E. corner of Clinton and Cherry Streets –Now the home of the Thompsons.)

Our Improvement Association has two classes of members, those who contribute money and those who contribute advise as to how it should be spent. These later are mostly knockers and are a hindrance to the growth of the town.

Woodbury Heights is improving rapidly notwithstanding its lack of electric lights, sewer, artesian water, library, fire company, and church and school facilities such as Wenonah has.

A little girl visiting barber Fisher's was badly cut about the head Saturday by a flowerpot. The flowerpot was in the second story window and fell on the little girls head.

We see the hurdles have disappeared in the park and hope they will not come back. (People had been making their own paths through the park.)

Source *Woodbury Daily Times* by Milton H. Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 8 December 2004

A Message From Vice President Jack Sheppard

Dear Members;

Wherever did the time go? Seems like yesterday was the start of 2004, our June picnic was last week and now we are almost into 2005.

Well the year isn't officially over for the Wenonah Historical Society until after we have our annual Christmas Party at the Community Center.

This years' event will take place on Friday December 10th and we are hoping for a good turnout to be with each other and to enjoy the cheerfulness of the holiday season.

Getting back to the swift passage of time I remind everyone that in January at our annual Reorganization Meeting we must choose a president to lead us along with a team of officers to assist in the endeavor. By the time you receive this newsletter the nominating committee will have met and selected a slate of individuals to recommend to you at that meeting. Hopefully it will have chosen members who are totally interested and capable of moving us forward in our role as historians for Wenonah. There is much to be done if we are to create a repository for historic memorabilia before it is lost forever and provide for its classification and proper storage.

We know there is much material held by members and others and realize everyone wants to be assured the materials will have a proper and secure home.

What is also very important the continuation of a relationship with Mayor Capaldi and the Borough administration that will provide for the proper care and maintenance of the railroad station Community Center. The objective will be to create a system of care for the structure itself and suitable procedures for the use of the building.

It must be kept in mind at all times that the building is held in trust by the Borough for the use of all of Wenonah's citizens. However the historical society must be assured of primary responsibility inasmuch as the building will ultimately contain all of the records and artifacts of Wenonah's history and these items must be maintained securely at all times, yet be available for viewing and study.

Quite a challenge but I am sure that with proper leadership we are up to the task.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas get together.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Eileen Caraker**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

December 10th Christmas Meeting

Our annual Christmas Party will be Friday December 10th at the Community Center. Wine and Cheese at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. "Chef Bud" will cater it. The cost is $15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped). It will be helpful if you will RSVP to Betty MacLeod at 468-6981 or Lucy Schulz at 468-5392 before Friday Dec. 3rd.

Historical Tidbit

Saturday November 27th 2004 about 100 Wenonah residents gathered in Wenonah Park for the 2nd annual Christmas tree lighting and Cookie fest in the railroad station Community Center.

If only we had access to a time machine and were able to go back in time 100 years to the same two locations we might have seen a lot of similar activity in both the park and the station.

100 years ago in 1904 the Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors for the first time. Wouldn't it have been great to see?

Reagan Surgeon Raised In Wenonah

Gloucester County Times September 24, 1989_ByFrank Kummer, Staff Writer

What has been the highlight of Thoralf M. Sundt's career so far, asked an increasingly nervous reporter from a phone several thousand miles away.

Being named head of the Mayo Clinic's neurology department? Working as editor of a leading neurology journal? Being a veteran of the infamous "Pork Chop Hill" battle in Korea? Graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point? Or being named the country's top neurologist by a national magazine?

Was it as a paperboy for the Woodbury Daily Times, now the Gloucester County Times? Doubtful,

The highlight probably came two weeks ago when former President Ronald Reagan, suffering from complications after falling off a wildly bucking horse in July, underwent brain surgery and Sundt was called in to perform the operation.



Dr. Thoralf Sundt
former Times Newsboy

Sundt, chairman of the Mayo Clinic's Department of Neurology, thought the term "highlight" was a poor choice of words and the now-sweating reporter had to admit he was right.

Despite the admittedly ill-chosen phrasing, Sundt, former Wenonah resident and Woodbury High School student, was pushed into the world of the mainstream media.

For one hour Sundt, on Sept. 9, was assisted in his operation on Reagan by two neurological surgeons, three nurses and an anesthesiologist at the clinic, located about *70* miles southeast of Minneapolis.

Sundt drilled a hole in Reagan's skull to remove a buildup of blood detected during a routine physical examination. The operation went smoothly and the "evacuation" of the puddle of blood *was* successful.

The next day a CAT scan viewed the upper right portion of Reagan's head where the hole was drilled. A drain was placed on the skull and Reagan went on to recuperate rapidly.

"He's a very, very nice person. That's all I'll say about it," Sundt said about the surgery to an increasingly relaxed reporter.

Sundt is down-to-earth and affable. Or, as one medical journal put it, "unpretentious."

"I used to deliver the Woodbury Times. I was a delivery boy when they changed the price from 2 to 3 cents and I lost eighty-some customers," Sundt said with a laugh from his Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn,, office.

Sundt lived in Wenonah until he was 16. The year was 1945 and his family moved to Tucson, Ariz. where young Thor, or "Brud" as he was nicknamed here, entered the construction business.

After two years of working as a contractor with the family firm of M.M. Sundt, the Gloucester County native decided to apply to West Point and eventually make the military his career.

"It was the hardest examination I ever had to pass," Sundt said in a recent interview with a neurological journal.

After graduation he was assigned to the Engineers in Korea in 1952. A platoon leader and later company commander in the 32nd Regimental Combat Team, Sundt was the last to leave the battleground at Pork Chop Hill. He left unscathed and was later awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Cluster.

Peacetime proved boring, so Sundt enrolled in medical school at the University of Tennessee. He took his residency in neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic and pursued pioneering work in the field.



The original Sundt residence located at Jackson and Mantua Avenues.
Now the home of Mr. & Mrs D. Shaver

In fact, while still a student, Sundt developed a technique in repairing aneurysms ripped from the parent vessel during surgery. He devised other new surgical techniques that improved patient recovery and performed a large number of aneurysm procedures and endarterectomies.

Setting big Latin words and titles aside Sundt is indeed unpretentious. Shunning the posture taken by the public relations department at the Mayo Clinic Sundt talked freely about himself.

"I came back last year and Woodbury High hasn't changed much," Sundt said. "Around the outside areas though, the anatomy is all torn up with off-ramps. That's really changed.

"By the way, how's the Woodbury High football team doing this year?"

Sundt's family has a strong lineage in Gloucester County. His maternal grandfather Harry Stoudt, was the first physician in Gloucester County and was known as "the old family doctor," according to one local resident of Wenonah. An uncle was also a local physician.

Old friends say they are proud of Sundt.

"He was a real nice guy," said Milton Webb, an old high school friend from Wenonah. "Very typical We're sort of proud of him. I mean all my friends are truck drivers."

Still, what was Sundt's proudest moment? '

Could it have been in 1945 when he was elevated to Eagle Scout? The Times carried a picture Mar. 28, 1945 of two merit badges earned by Sundt with another boy who also received scouting's highest honor. '

One of the merit badges is for first aid.

Editor's Note:

Dr. Thoralf Sundt died from cancer of the bone marrow, an affliction he fought for 8 years before succumbing in 1992

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1 January 2005

Message From Vice President Jack Sheppard

Dear Members;

Happy New Year. The program for the January 14th meeting should be very interesting

The first order of business will be to nominate and elect a slate of officers. The Bylaws require four officers and three trustees to be elected for "terms of two years by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting". Please note the Bylaws further provide that "any member in good standing may make additional nominations from the floor".

I am pleased to report that the nominating committee has selected a slate of qualified individuals and will offer it at the meeting.

At our most recent meeting of officers and trustees I made the comment that the year 2005 may well be considered a "make or break" year that will determine if the Society is to be simply a social organization or if it is to fulfill the aims and objectives set forth in our Constitution. We now have the availability of the full upstairs of the Community Center consisting of one large and two smaller offices. We envision that the smaller spaces can serve as workshops and a headquarters area while the large room can be used to store and display the many historic articles in our possession.

The first order of business will be to survey the furnishings left by the Borough employees when they moved to the new building and determine what should stay and what should be gotten rid of.

Next we need to poll our most recent list of member volunteers to determine areas of interest and capability.

Once these steps are completed we will be able get on with the business of identifying the papers, photographs and artifacts we currently have on hand and start the process of sorting, identifying, cataloging and storing these items.

At that point we should finally be able to reach out to the surrounding community and say, "please let us have your historic materials".

WHS OFFICERS 2004

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Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
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In that way we will finally start to comply with that part of our Constitution that essentially calls for us to acquire and preserve the Borough's backlog of historic materials.

January 14th Program

Robert Sandes of Glassboro will speak to us about his recently completed second book entitled *Glassboro*, published by Arcadia Publishing. It captures historic Glassboro in the past two centuries as a booming southern New Jersey community at the height of its glass industry.

Bob Sandes Jr. has been fascinated with the history of Glassboro from his early years in growing up there.

He is a 1981 graduate of Glassboro High School and graduated from a photography school in Philadelphia. He spent 10 years in the television field as a news director in Atlantic City and in Harrisburg, PA.

Returning home 3 years ago he became the Museum Coordinator for the Gloucester County Historical Society.

Robert is currently working with Barbara Turner, president of the Gloucester County Historical Society, on a book for Arcadia about Woodbury.

He is currently a full time student at Rowan University where he plans to become a secondary education social studies teacher.

Historical Tidbit

From the Gloucester County Constitution, March 7th, 1894

Miles Nerve & Liver Pills

Act on a new principle – regulating the liver, stomach and bowels through the nerves.

A new discovery. Dr. Miles Pills speedily cure biliousness, bad taste, torpid liver, piles, and constipation. Unequalled for men, women and children.

50 doses for 25 cents. Samples free at A.S. Marshall's Pharmacy.

WENONAH

Gloucester County Constitution April 19, 1871

This is the name adopted for the new village at Mantua Station, about two and a half miles below Woodbury. The directors have gone to work and in a very short time a surprising change will be seen by those who remember the "truck patches" of that locality. We hear that about 100 acres have been laid out into building lots, those lots 75 x 150 feet each

The two central avenues, West Jersey and Mantua, are each 100 feet wide. On West Jersey Avenue the railroad company reserves 100 feet in the center, and on each side of their reservation will be avenues for carriages and driving of 75 feet width, with sidewalks of 15 feet.

An imposing hotel is now in process of erection. It is to be 45 x 52 feet in dimensions, three stories high with back buildings 26 by 40 feet, and the whole surrounded by a verandah 12 feet wide. Each room is to contain water and gas and furnished in elegant style.

The hotel is to be on the Doric style of architecture, and surmounted with a splendid cupola. This hotel is contracted to be finished in June next, at a cost of $15,000. During the summer about twelve other elegant cottages are to be completed. All the streets, except the two main avenues, are to be 66 feet wide.

The location of this piece of ground is peculiarly adapted for the building up of a suburban village, being high and healthful with pure and cool wells of water for all domestic purposes. It is 65 feet above Mantua Creek and from its summit can be seen the steeples of Swedesboro and many prominent points in the surrounding country.

The name selected for this young village is Wenonah (Daughter of the West Wind) from Longfellow's "Hiawatha".

The prices of lots have been fixed from $200 to $400 and the extensive Improvements contemplated by the company have already given to the place an impetus, which cannot fail to make it one of the most desirable points along the West Jersey railroad.

Over 600 trees, mostly maples have already been set out along the avenues. The creek in the vicinity affords grand waterpower for manufacturing purposes, which will be at once taken advantage of and converted into use.

Remembering Wenonah's Early Days

By Bob Shryock March 17, 1985

Claire Poff Jones of Woodbury, who will be 83 next month, pleasantly occupies some of her time by reflecting on her early 20th-century upbringing in historic Wenonah. After reading a post-Christmas column about Wenonah nostalgia, Mrs. Jones taped her own memories. The tape belongs in the Gloucester County Historical Society archives.

Mrs. Jones dedicates her thoughts to her brother, Walter Poff, a paperhanger and decorator well known throughout Gloucester County for many years. The longtime Woodbury Heights resident died three years ago.

"Our family moved to Wenonah in 1906, when it was a quiet little town with all dirt streets," Mrs. Jones says. Wenonah, for more than a century, had been a 180-acre farm known as "stone house farm"; then in 1871, it was plotted and successfully promoted.

Mrs. Jones recalls spending 5 cents to attend silent movies at the American Legion hall on North Marion Avenue; spending another nickel on touring car rides from the old Wenonah Inn {now Dr. Churchill Blakey's home on South West Avenue) across miles of farmland to Salem City; frolicking at a huge lake that today is East Mantua Avenue; and graduating from the old Wenonah schoolhouse in 1913 as grammar school valedictorian in a class of four.

Wenonah in the early 20th-century was a quiet, shade-tree summer refuge for rich city folks;

cactus and scrub pines; streams where violets grew; strutting peacocks; the Wenonah Military Academy; and, as it still is today, THE place to be on the Fourth of July.

"In those days, we had dusty Fourth of July parades on Mantua Avenue," Mrs. Jones says. "The bands would be playing, Mrs. Greene would be singing the Star Spangled Banner, and there would be Japanese lanterns in the park. Candles would be lighted at night, and everyone who ever lived in town and had moved away would come back for that day.

"The Fourth of July ballgame was a little different then. Men from the west side of the railroad tracks had to play left-handed baseball, and men from the east side had to wear skirts. It wasn't really fair, because my father, Walter Poff Sr., played for the west side, and he was a left-handed pitcher."

Mrs. Jones explains that the west side of town was known as "Brown Town," which, she says, "was named for Daniel Brown, who built many of the houses, and was the 'poor' part of town. The east side of town was considered the wealthier part."

But most of the county looked at Wenonah as a wealthy community regardless of which side of the tracks you came from.

"We would go through Mantua on hay wagons for Sunday School picnics in Pitman, and the Mantua kids would throw dirt at our wagons and holler, 'We don't know you". We chanted back, 'Wenonah is just the stuff.'"

The Wenonah Military Academy was one of the premier prep schools in the East before it went bankrupt in the early 1930s. "The cadets would march to the churches in their white dress suits and present us drills at the park on Sundays. We'd all come out to watch. And the Academy had a social center where there were many happy dances for the townspeople."

Mrs. Jones recalls the day William Howard Taft unexpectedly came to town on the train to do a bit of campaigning for the presidency. "How he happened to come to Wenonah, I don't know. But we were intrigued by this huge man who was giving a political talk at the park, and we stopped to listen. Just then, the new Mrs. Thomas Farr (Farr built and lived in the current George Braun home) rode along in her limousine and asked her chauffeur to stop to see what was happening. "But just then, Mr. Farr walked across the street and really gave his wife a lecture about listening to a politician. They got in the limousine and drove home. It made quite an impression on us because it seemed so rude to Mr. Taft."

Some of Mrs. Jones' fondest memories are of Dr. Harry Stout, a beloved, old-fashioned family doctor who for many years served Wenonah. ' 'There was no one he wouldn't go to help, regardless of the weather. He brought my sister (Estelle Silver) through spinal meningitis in the days when there were no wonder drugs. My sister was so bad, Dr. Stout even went to church asking for people to give prayers for her. But she recovered and is living in Haddonfield today.

"Dr. Stout was overworked, and he always undercharged. When he died at 58 from a heart condition, there were hundreds of thousands of dollars on his books he never collected. He could never be replaced in the hearts of the people he helped."

And some of the old-timers who read the Gloucester County Times will remember not only Mrs. Jones' brother, Walter, but also her mother. From 1908 to 1935, Lillian Poff wrote a Wenonah column for the old Woodbury Times.

"They paid her three cents an inch to write it, and a lot of it was 'gossipy' stuff," Mrs. Jones says. "My mother's main source of news was the one and only telephone operator we had in town."

Bob Shryock, a veteran Gloucester County Times newsman writes about people and happenings in the county. Bob and his family spent years in Wenonah and is still thought very highly of by his many friends who wish he still lived here.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday February 11, 2005

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2005

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

As the New Year begins I am pleased the membership has elected me to be their President. I hope to contribute as much to the organization as past presidents have done.

As we started the January meeting, I stated we have two main objectives during the two years of my term as President. First to complete the identification and cataloguing the various documents and artifacts in our possession and second, to assist with the restoration of our historic railroad station building, both inside and out.

Ours is a volunteer organization and it was especially gratifying to see the large turnout at the January meeting. Many have volunteered to assist in our projects and meetings to make them more enjoyable.

We have in the past and will continue in the future to strive to accomplish the objectives set forth in our Mission Statement. The gist of those objectives are to acquire and preserve historical material related to Wenonah, keep them in a suitable place, encourage the preservation of historic places within Wenonah, encourage historical research, and make all of our acquisitions available to our citizens, especially the children.

Since the January meeting our objective was to survey the furnishings left by the Borough when they moved to the new building and dispose of unneeded furniture. This has been accomplished. The next activity will be to do a raw inventory of the many documents, photos and artifacts and decide how best to identify, classify and store the materials. For this work we will need some willing and able volunteers. We have some names of those who volunteered at the last meeting. If you were not contacted and wish to become involved please contact me or any other officer so we can add you to the list.

Future Projects we need to pursue are:

- Acquire a computer to help in the filing and cataloguing process.
- Reinstate the plaque program for those dwellings that qualify. We will have to establish an age of the dwelling, such as over 90 years old, and a cost to the dwelling owner.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

President:	**Don Ralston**
Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Rachel Knisell**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

- Reinstate an exhibit and open house on the 4th of July.
- Look into the possibility of creating a "Life Membership" fee, in conjunction with the annual fee.
- Establish an annual budget and audit of our finances.
- Encourage and train members to become officers of our Organization. We need a good continuity of our leadership, especially the younger members.
- Make a contact with the Wenonah Public School to see if we if we can establish an essay program for the 6th grade students, on the subject of the *History of Wenonah*.
- Develop a questionnaire for members to complete, as to future topics of interest, or programs to increase interest in our organization.

February 11th Program

Joe Colanero , Author of *Down Jersey Cooking*. "*Celebrating Our Heritage From Past to Present*.", will be our speaker. His book sells for $19.95. He will return $5.00 to our organization for each one sold at our meeting. Joe will also do sample cooking for our enjoyment during the course of the meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, is currently recovering from recent hip surgery at the Manor Care Health Center 550 Jessup Road, West Deptford, NJ 08068.

Should you wish to send a card to Lucy she is in room 108, 2nd bed.

Historical Tidbit

As young boy, living in Wenonah, I remember, 1936 was a very cold month. Temperatures were as low as 6 below. Ice on Warner's Lake was measured 14" thick. Gordon Fay would drive his car on the Lake.

We ice skated with old clamp skates and built bonfires on shore to keep warm.

It was a wonderful period of time in Wenonah. To clear the sidewalks Mr. Carr used a mule with a wooden plow. Little did we realize that 5 years later our country would be involved in a worldwide war.

The War Memorial in Wenonah Park contains the names of the Wenonah citizens who served. Don Ralston

At the January meeting Bob Sands, author of a new book about the origins of Glassboro spent much time describing the Whitney family, whose glass manufacturing operations were probably the most important factor in the towns creation. I thought it interesting that Thomas Synnott who went to work as a $300.00 per year clerk at the Whitney Glass Works eventually became a partner in the Company. In the late 1800's he became involved in the creation of another town, Wenonah, building and living in the beautiful mansion at Mantua and Marion Avenues.

The following narrative was excerpted from "The Glassboro Story 1779 – 1964" by Robert D. Bole and Edward H. Walton Jr.

THE SYNNOTT FAMILY BEFORE WENONAH

This is the only Glassboro first family of Irish stock. Long before the first Synnott left the old country, the family had played a heroic role in Ireland's sad and turbulent history Colonel David Synnott, for example, a military governor of Wexford, Ireland, had contested bravely but futilely the Puritan Oliver Cromwell's ruthless siege of Wexford, in 1649. For his efforts the Colonel paid the highest price a man can pay in defense of home and country; he was slain in a brave but vain attempt to throw back the English invaders. Martin Synnott, a descendent of the courageous Colonel David, was the first of the proud Irish family to leave the old country and settle in America. In 1794 Martin established himself in the shipping business at bustling Philadelphia, where he built a fortune but lost most of it in 1812, when the British intercepted and confiscated his ships on the high seas. A few years before this unhappy event, the Irish immigrant had shifted the base of his operations from the Quaker City to Mays Landing, New Jersey. It was at this place that Martin Synnott died at the early age of thirty-six, leaving behind a widow and four children, one of whom was a six-year-old boy named Myles. This was the Synnott who later became a part of the Glassboro Story.

Myles Synnott was eight years old when his widowed mother remarried; her second husband was the medical doctor. Jacob Fisler. By marrying Dr. Fisler, Myles' mother made it possible for her son to grow up in a medical atmosphere of patients, pills, and medicine. He developed a great interest in the medical profession, probably accompanying his stepfather on his daily rounds of home visitations and in many ways acquiring a kind of pre-internship in the medical field. Myles' boyhood zeal for medicine remained with him to young manhood, so much so that he decided to choose this profession for his lifework. He, therefore, translated this decision into action by attending and graduating, in 1831, from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College. Now a full-fledged doctor, Myles Synnott returned to his birthplace at Mays Landing, where for about ten years he practiced the healing art on many of the patients who had known him first as the boy interne.

In 1841 Dr. Synnott brought his medical kit, equipment, and skill to Glassboro to begin a long and fruitful twenty-six year career. Exactly what attracted the young doctor to the glassmaking village is not known. But not long after his coming he provided solid evidence that his was not to be a transitory stay. For, in 1842, he married Harriet Heston Whitney, daughter of Ebenezer and Bathsheba Whitney. By this union, young Dr. Synnott became the brother-in-law of the up-and-coming Whitney Brothers, a relationship which must have given the young physician immediate status in the glass community.

By coming to Glassboro, Dr. Synnott earned the distinction of being its first doctor. The young physician had no trouble in building up a large practice, for the people "down in the woods" were in need of medical care, and the supply of doctors was short. Dr. Synnott serviced Glassboro residents. He also saddled and rode his horse to make calls in the outlying villages of Cross Keys. Williamstown, Franklinville, Fislerville, Mullica Hill, Five Points, Bethel, Barnsboro, and Mantua.

Some conception of the extent of his practice can be gleaned from his account books, which showed that Glassboro's first doctor had 450 patients, not a small number when it is realized that Glassboro's entire population in 1842 numbered only 604 people. The good doctor was a busy man engrossed and dedicated to his healing work. He apparently had little or no time for any other activities. His name for example, fails to appear among those nineteenth-century boro citizens holding political or civic offices. His sole service to the community was getting and keeping its people well not an unworthy contribution.

What was this dedicated medical man really like? Those who remembered him best have left some fascinating written answers to this question. Among other characteristics, they tell us that Dr. Myles Synnott was a man with a few delightful idiosyncrasies, among which was an excessive fondness for cigars.

He was a tall, slim man, noted for his native wit, his dedication to his profession, and incidentally, his love for cigars. He wore a high hat, filling the upper section with cigars, holding them in place by a large handkerchief between the cigars and his head using about one hundred a week, usually between house to house visits to his patients. However, he did not smoke them all the way and the Glassboro urchins used to linger about Doctor Synnott, waiting for the generous butts . . .

Doctor Synnott must have had a cheerful bedside manner for he is remembered as having a ... "humorous disposition and the scene of his labor is full of dry jokes, and numerous witty sayings". Notwithstanding this light touch, he could be stern when the occasion demanded sternness. The doctor

stood for no nonsense from his patients. He expected them to follow his instructions explicitly. It is said, perhaps apocryphally that: . . . "he once blistered a man's feet because he would not stay in the house when the doctor ordered it."

Fellow members of the medical profession held Glassboro's first physician in high esteem. Among other things they admired his dedication, his abhorrence of quackery in or out of the profession, his quiet, unassuming competence, his willingness to counsel and encourage budding young medical colleagues. Undoubtedly, there were times when Doctor Synnott's medical contemporaries considered him a bit rigid in applying his high professional standards. Nevertheless, they forgave him his flashes of dogmatism because they realized that the medical profession was fortunate in having Myles Synnott as one of its members.

Death came to Glassboro's first physician in 1867 his widow and three children were his survivors. Before he died, Dr. Myles Synnott had provided his only son, Thomas Whitney Synnott, with a sound educational background! in Glassboro's public school, at Plainfield Academy in Pennsylvania, and at Bridgeton's West Jersey Academy. Furthermore, the Doctor's son, two years before his father's decease, had begun what was destined to be a long and profitable business career, one which made him a worthy son of his worthy father.

Thomas W. Synnott began work in his uncle Whitney 's glassworks as an assistant bookkeeper. For working six days a week and eleven and one-half hours daily, Thomas collected $300.00 annually. The salary was low, but there were other compensations. For one thing, he took advantage of the opportunity to learn thoroughly the commercial aspects of operating a large glass manufacturing plant. His progress was so rapid that by 1872, his uncles admitted him into the firm's management as a partner with a fourth interest, the other partners being Thomas Whitney, Samuel Whitney, and John P. Whitney, Thomas' son. Approaching retirement, the two elder Whitney's, Thomas and Samuel, increasingly placed the active management of the Whitney Works in the hands of the younger men. At age twenty-seven, Thomas Synnott had become general business manager of the Glass Works, with headquarters in Philadelphia; his cousin, John P. Whitney operated the actual manufacturing end of the business at Glassboro. Ten years later, in 1892, Thomas Whitney passed away. With his death Thomas Synnott and John P. Whitney became the sole owners of the Whitney Works. And in 1887, the business was legally incorporated as the Whitney Glass Works. Thomas Synnott was made the first president of the corporation. Four years later, in 1891 Synnott retired from the glass business after a nineteen-year service stint which was marked by a doubling in the Whitney Plant output.

Synnott had retired from the Whitney Glass Works at the relatively young age of forty-six. On the surface this seemed to be a puzzling step for a successful businessman to take. But the explanation is that Synnott wanted more time to devote to his banking and investment interests. In 1892, one year after his retirement from glassmaking, he became President of Glassboro's First National Bank. Shortly after taking over Synnott faced an unpleasant situation. A trusted employee's dereliction placed the bank in financial jeopardy. After this act became publicly known, bank officials braced themselves for a run on bank deposits. Bank President Synnott forestalled this calamity *by* posting a notice taking upon himself full responsibility for the bank's fiscal ability to meet its obligations. Synnott's reputation, together with his firm action, was all that was needed to restore depositor confidence, although some Glassboro residents of that time gave some credit to an incident which occurred during the crisis. It seems that funds hastily requested from Philadelphia had reached Glassboro by railroad transportation. Harried bank officials met the train at the station, piled the greenbacks in a wheelbarrow, and raced to the bank. Depositors, seeing money arriving in wheelbarrow volume, were satisfied that all was well. The story may be a dubious one, but it does seem interesting.

But banking and investments were not Thomas Synnott's sole interests. While he made no attempts to hold political offices of any kind, Mr. Synnott devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to educational and church matters. He was, for example, a member of the State Board of Education for eight years; President of the Board of Trustees of Princeton's Theological Seminary; and a trustee of Lincoln University. Among his church activities were: Vice-president of the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; Vice-president of the Presbyterian Board of publications; President of the Lord's Day Alliance in New Jersey: Vice-president of the Lord's Day Alliance in the United States; and member of the Presbyterian General Assembly's Evangelistic Committee.

Thomas Synnott took his religion seriously. As a leader in the Lord's Day Alliance, he led the fight against the motion picture, liquor, and racing interests. In effect he acted the role of a legislative lobbyist determined to defeat bills calling for legal approval of gambling, motion pictures, and racing on Sundays. Synnott was no political amateur when the threat of commercializing the Sabbath was the issue. He won his legislative battles. Sundays remained a day of rest and worship, at least during the 1890's.

There is no question that the Synnotts belong in the tight little category of Glassboro's first families. Like the Hestons and Carpenters, the Synnotts brought prestige to the community. Their achievements, professional and commercial, were recognized far beyond the Glassboro boundaries; for very often in the nineteenth century, outsiders thought of Glassboro in terms of the Synnotts. But still more important, the Synnott family was a potent force in promoting the Glassboro community and in making its steady growth possible.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday March 11, 2005

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2005

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

We have started off the year 2005, in a very positive manner; Membership turn out has been very large. Members volunteering to work on the various projects of interest to the Society is also gratifying. Our programs have been well received. The second floor area has been cleared and made ready for filing, cataloguing and storing historical papers and artifacts. The refreshments prepared by our ladies have been delicious.

The speaker, Joe Colanero, author of" Down Jersey Cooking", was very interesting. At the meeting twenty-two of his books were sold @ $ 20.00, with $5.00 refunded by Joe to the Wenonah Historical Society. Since then six more have been purchased at an additional $30.00, net $140.00, a very pleasant way to raise funds for the Society. We thank the members for their support. For those unable to attend the meeting and wanting to acquire a copy of the book, contact Corresponding Secretary Betty MacLeod and we will try our best to get one to you.

I am pleased to announce that Eileen Caraker has agreed to return as Secretary of the Society. Rachel Knisell will continue to gather historical documents and artifacts for our collection.

The Historical plaque program is underway. Should you be aware of any resident whose home is at least 90 years old (built prior to 1915) and would like a plaque, notify the Plaque Committee Chairman, Frank Eggert.

I refer you to the February 2005 newsletter for the projects we are planning to pursue, except the Life Membership has been tabled for now.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

President	**Don Ralston**
Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Eileen Caraker**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Macy Pedersen**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

We have many fine members and volunteers but we need and encourage each to step forward to become future officers and trustees of the Wenonah Historical Society.

March 11th Program

Mayor Thomas J. Capaldi will be our speaker. Tom has been a member of Borough Council for many years, and has just been elected to his second term as mayor. I have asked him to speak on programs of Wenonah now in the planning stage, existing problems, such as Homeland Security, water shortage, traffic control, and the Tea-21 grant for restoration and repairs to the Community Center. Please plan to attend this meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, is coming along well with the recovery from serious surgery. She is currently staying with her daughter in Delaware.

Historical Tidbit

Chuck Forsman, a member of the Planning Board and Environmental Commission as well as a member of our Society has published a booklet entitled "Historical Overview of Wenonah, Gloucester County. NJ".

It is an outstanding description of the origin and growth of Wenonah over these many years. At our March meeting I will present this booklet to be placed in our archives. I am going to recommend the Wenonah Historical Society underwrite the cost of printing this booklet in some quantity so it can be distributed to the school, public library, and the municipal building.

. Don Ralston

The severe snowstorm of last week blocked the trains cutting off communication with the outside world, causing considerable anxiety to those of our townsman doing business in Philadelphia.

Saturday morning a heavy run was made on the grocery stores, and by noon those who had not done their marketing had little hopes for Sunday dinner.

Postmaster Eldridge reports no mails delivered from Friday of last week till Monday of this due to the storm.

Miss Rena Moore accidentally shot herself while examining a revolver.

A number of interesting young people formed themselves into an amateur choir Wednesday evening last in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in rendering the music for the service assisted the pastor very materially.

The boys having cleaned the snow off the ice at Wenonah Lake are indulging themselves in the healthful pastime of skating.

It is understood that "The Inn" will be opened very early in the spring. There is no reason why this beautiful and home like house cannot be made a success.

Thomas W. Synnott and wife and Clayton Synnott have gone to Lake Worth, Florida where they will remain several weeks.

Clifford Farr, whose family are residing in Philadelphia for the winter visited us last week. (Quite a few people wintered in Philadelphia)

Another one of our oldest inhabitants has passed away, Mrs. Christina Allen, widow of Josiah Allen, who was buried from the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. James Carey on Friday. Mrs. Allen was among the first settlers here, her family being among the oldest in the county.

The Musical Society met last Tuesday at the residence of I.P. Eppiesheimer and decided to continue the class rehearsal for another quarter.

The supper given by the W.C.T.U. in Noblitt's Hall last week was a very successful one.

Samuel Whitney was visiting friends here last week. (He and his brother Thomas founded the Whitney Glass Works, founded the Glassborough bank and were large stockholders of the West Jersey and Seashore Rail Road)

The borough was treated with a sensation on Friday last. Francis Williams and his wife while walking along one of our thoroughfares got into an altercation over some of their domestic affairs. Francis became very much excited and forgetting his vows to be good and true struck his spouse with great violence; fearing that the blow was fatal he skipped for parts unknown while Rebecca went the magistrate and laid out a complaint of assault and battery with intent to kill. The dusky pair reside in Jericho.

Little Ed Benson feels a foot taller than any of his comrades - he caught a live muskrat.

Richard Clark has a very spirited horse- he is a trotter, his proud spirit rebels at being hitched to a delivery wagon and at times gives an exhibition of his rebellious spirit by running away. Last week while in charge of Will Price went into a mad gait and before his driver could bring him down to the delivery wagon trot he succeeded in making kindling wood of a portion of the vehicle.

The West Jersey ferryboats experience great difficulty in crossing the river, on account of the ice. On Sunday many people walked across the Delaware from Camden to Philadelphia on the ice.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a good sprinkling of older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt Hall and indulged in the favorite pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

We regret to learn that the good-natured Blair Smith is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold (he had the first drivers license issued in Gloucester County)

There are quite a few Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over at Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury, New Jersey February 1895

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: l. Overture-Bonnie Scotland ..... Orchestra; 2.Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. Dmetrius- Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J.McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelley, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the ME Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter, Mrs. Mehorter, and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the 'wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies. At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

August and September 1896
Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 8, 2005

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 3 April 2005

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

We are now through the winter season and entering the springtime. This season brings out the very beauty of Wenonah.

The Wenonah Lions Club theme for the 4th of July this year will highlight the Wenonah Military Academy for the years it was in existence from 1904 until it closed, allegedly as a result of the depression, about 1934.

The Wenonah Historical Society has a large number of artifacts from the former Military Academy. Therefore we are planning to display them on July 4th with an open house at the Community Center. By then we hope to have many, if not all of our historical papers, photographs and artifacts identified and catalogued by our filing committee. We will also do some fund raising activities on the Fourth such as selling Wenonah flags, hand bags, and possibly donations will be on hand.

Membership chairperson Jean Cowles has sent out a letter requesting those who have not yet paid their dues for the current year to please do so.

At our March meeting speakers Bob and Carol Cassel, presented a very interesting program on the wildlife in South Jersey. The pamphlets on "Conserve Wildlife" they provided are interesting to read. The Cassels sent a thank you note to our organization for allowing them to speak.

I encourage all members to be active in the Wenonah Historical Society. Should you have any subject, a speaker, or program preference you wish to be presented please bring it to our attention.

In closing I wish to emphasize once again that although we have many fine members and volunteers, we need and encourage you to become future officers and trustees of the Wenonah Historical Society.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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

April 8th Program

Mayor Thomas J. Capaldi, will be our speaker for this meeting.

Tom has been a member of Borough Council for many years, and was recently elected to a second term as mayor. I have asked him to speak about the Tea-21 grant for restoration and repairs to the Community Center. Also about programs now in the planning stage covering problems, such as Homeland Security, the water shortage and traffic control. Please plan to attend this meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, has recovered from her recent surgery for a fractured hip and is currently staying at the Mews in Woodbury.

Historical Tidbit

The Wenonah Inn Company of which Stephen Greene is president, Dr. Geo W. Bailey Vice President, Dr. Wm. Greene Treasurer, is just completing a magnificent hotel, designed to accommodate 150 guests. The house and furniture will cost at least $70,000 and be completed in time for this season's business. The erection of this hotel was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad company is erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks immediately opposite the old station. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

From the *Gloucester County Democrat* April 20, 1893

The following is the text of a letter I prepared and sent to our federal and state legislators recently expressing my concerns about putting trains on the old tracks through Wenonah.

Like most of you I too have pleasant memories of the days when you could board the train in Glassboro or Pitman, Wenonah or Woodbury Heights and go to Woodbury, Camden and eventually Philadelphia. But that was a long time ago, a time that ended back in the sixties when the railroads finally admitted railroad passenger service could no longer compete with the convenience of the automobile.

Since then a great amount of development has taken place in our part of the state with the result that the majority of people in the tri-county region want to go to the Deptford, Cherry Hill and Echelon Malls, as well as to numerous housing projects that are not remotely close to Camden or Philadelphia.

As a result, even though it sounds like a good idea, in my opinion recreating train passenger service may be great for a trip down memory lane, but for all practical purposes it will just result in one more heavily subsidized system that will not solve our traffic woes but in fact will add to them.

By now anyone living in south Jersey for any length of time has to be familiar with the frequently recurring studies of transportation needs in our Gloucester, Camden, Burlington County region. Most of the studies were sponsored and conducted by the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and New Jersey Transit (NJT) either singly or in combination.

The earliest modern study done in 1975 concluded with the recommendation that a high-speed rail line in the median of Route 55 be implemented. The reason given for the recommendation was that "Although a Glassboro Line alignment following the PRSL Millville Branch has been studied, this alignment has been proven inferior on the basis of capital costs and disruption to the local community".

The most recent study in 2003 by the DRPA apparently went nowhere at the time but has now re-emerged as the "Route 55 to Philadelphia Corridor Transit Study" and has as its stated objectives an assessment of the need and opportunity for improved transit services in Gloucester and Cumberland Counties, improved transit passenger distribution to Penn's Landing and other business districts in Philadelphia, and improved connections between the High-Speed Line and the Camden waterfront.

I attended the transit study "Open House" at the Deptford Township Municipal Building March 3rd and was fortunate to run into former state Senator John Matheussen, now the new head of the Delaware River Port Authority. It provided me with an opportunity to present him with several of my previous writings on the subject and to discuss with him my thinking on why an extension of light rail from Camden to Glassboro on the old railroad tracks is still not a good idea.

There is a fundamental reason why trains on the old tracks and/or trains in the right-of-way of Routes 42 and 55 will not significantly address and appreciably resolve our transportation problems.

According to a Philadelphia Inquirer study conducted in 1996 , "While 13,500 Gloucester County residents work in Philadelphia, nearly four times that number work in Gloucester County". "Only about one in ten workers who live in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties works in Philadelphia according to a special compilation of statistics from the 1990 Census".

Today employment opportunities are to be found in every direction, wherever there is a road to take you there.

Unfortunately our major roads follow the old railroad routes like spokes on a wheel generally toward and away from the major cities. Studies in the 1960's by the transportation-oriented agencies indicated there was a great need for construction of "cross-county corridors" but action on these failed to materialize. As a result there is a great tide of traffic morning and night from the residential areas to the commercial areas in and

around the Deptford, Cherry Hill, Moorestown and Echelon Malls. Many would be surprised to learn how many people are employed at the large number of industrial parks in and around the tri-county region.

Traffic heading toward these and other similar areas zig and zag their way through local streets in Glassboro, Pitman, Wenonah, Mantua, Woodbury Heights and Woodbury, with much stop and go driving.

Will the implementation of railroad service generally heading in a north/south direction relieve the congestion on these roads? I think not and predict that grade level train traffic will disrupt the cross-county traffic flow and result in even slower driving times, if that is at all possible.

However it is not enough to just criticize the ideas of others who are trying their darnedest to find a way to address and resolve our traffic problems. Anyone criticizing should at least offer what might be a better idea.

My idea is this. Instead of concentrating all our eggs in one basket, that being an extremely expensive, long-term construction project to put trains in the infields of our major north-south highways, we should give priority to alternatives that could be implemented more quickly.

One way to get started on this is by adding another element to the study that is currently being conducted, and that is "demand-activated bus systems".

Give immediate priority to construction of cross-county road improvements. Certainly not limited access highways, we have no space available for them, but a few new roads where it is still possible to build them, and third or fourth lanes added to existing roads.

You have seen the small busses currently in use on our roads. They come in many different sizes and configurations, attractive, with comfortable seating and other amenities. Unlike trains on their fixed tracks, the bus routing can be changed very quickly to suit changing needs and routes can be designed to pick up numbers of people with the same or similar destinations.

Busses would be afforded reserved portions of the new and widened roads at certain times of the day thereby aiding greatly in getting one-person vehicles off the road during peak periods of traffic.

One thing is absolutely certain. With the traffic congestion as bad is it is we need action and we need it now. Possibly the best part of this idea is that it can be implemented almost immediately as soon as busses can be acquired, with the road additions and improvements coming along as time and funding permit.

As I mentioned earlier in this letter I have been involved in many of the studies of transportation needs in this region and can almost predict the outcome of this one.

No doubt the current "Corridor Study" will once again determine that "light rail", whether on old tracks or in the center of Routes 42 or 55 will be tremendously expensive and take a long time to construct. But due to the intense pressure to do something, even if it won't do the job, a lot of money will be put into some part of a project with little anticipation of a beneficial return. See "Camden to Trenton Line" as an example.

However there is a new and different aspect of the current study that we haven't heard before and that should be of great concern to Wenonah residents. In response to the often cited criticism that the trains will disrupt "cross county" auto traffic at the crossings during peak traffic periods, this new proposal is to either raise the tracks above grade on elevated piers, or to bury the tracks below grade in a pit similar to the below-grade line through Haddonfield. The problem this creates for us especially is that the right-of-way width needed for construction purposes will have serious consequences for our beloved Community Center and the new Borough Hall that are located very close to the existing track bed.

We need a solution and we need it now!! But it must be a solution that doesn't ruin Wenonah while trying to help the problem.

Let us give some serious thought to the idea that offers a quicker and better "bang for our buck", "light-busses" instead of "light-rail".

May I suggest <u>you</u> contact our elected officials.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday May 13, 2005

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4 May 2005

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

We begin this newsletter with a note of sadness. WHS member Dorothy Diament was injured recently in an auto accident. Bob Gartside, her friend and ours didn't survive the accident. We extend our condolences to Dorothy and to the Gartside family.

At our May 13th meeting we will have a Memorial Service honoring Wenonah' past and current military veterans. Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, American Legion, will conduct the service.

On display will be photos of veterans showing what they looked while in the service of our country. We ask them to recite an event involving themselves or a fellow comrade, or any interesting vignette they may recall. Members of the Historical Society who had a spouse, relative, or child who perished in one of our country's wars are invited to bring a photo, memento or recollection.

On May 29, 2005, The Memorial Presbyterian Church will conduct its annual Memorial Day Service. I have been asked to give the Memorial Day address. Refreshments will follow the service. They will also have on display personal objects or memorabilia from veterans or their loved ones.

The Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192 is currently recording the names of Wenonah residents who are in the military. Capt. Keith Wyckoff, son of Dr. and Mrs. Wyckoff, is stationed in Iraq. Lt. Jillian McNulty is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and is scheduled for deployment. John and Karen Barry's son-in law has just completed officers training and is to be stationed in Alabama. Lt. Jg Cory Weeks, grandson of Harry and Mary Alyce Schroeder, is in the Coast Guard and has been in the Middle East.

Membership chairman Jean Cowles sent 24 letters to those members who have not paid the dues. She is pleased to report that 14 have paid.

We call your attention to the light on the Community Center flagpole which now operates from evening to morn. Many thanks to Doug Gehring for making the repairs.

Also thanks to Mayor Tom Capaldi for his enlightening presentation on the many programs important to Wenonah, especially the plan for development of the Lizzi property on Glassboro Road as a senior housing project of 40 homes. The Planning Board has held hearings on it.

Also discussed was the possibility of the extension of a light rail line on the present railroad in the center of our town. Hearings have been held and the Delaware River Port Authority as well as Woodbury and Glassboro favor this route. I refer you to the April newsletter article, written by Jack Sheppard on the serious impact it would have on our community.

Please, please plan to attend our May 13th meeting when we honor those veterans who have gone to their eternal reward.

In June we will have our picnic.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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

May 13th Program

Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, American Legion, will conduct a Memorial Service honoring past and current Wenonah military veterans.

Historical Tidbit

In regard to the recent removal of telephone service from our borough there seems to have been a very serious misunderstanding between the telephone company and our Borough Commissioners recently.

For months past there has been a pile of telephone poles laying on the sidewalk of West Jersey Avenue.

The Borough Commission notified the telephone company to remove these poles from the street.

The telephone company understood the notice to mean the upright poles and the public phone in the pay station and Hotel. The error was not discovered until the telephone company employees removed all phone service from the Borough.

Happily for all concerned the service has been restored and the "pile" of telephone poles removed.

Glouco *Democrat*, April, 1894

Mrs. Hannah B. Farr, after a pleasant visit of several weeks in Philadelphia, has returned to her home on Marion Avenue.(She and her husband Lincoln built the house which is now Dr. Wycoff's dental office, she was the mother of Edward Farr.)

The Progressive Euchre Club which has been meeting every two weeks at Noblitt's Hall held their last meeting for the year last Saturday evening.

On last Friday the trustees and teachers of our public school united in celebrating Arbor Day, which is one of the most important National holidays of the year. Unfortunately through the rapacity and greed of a great many citizens in the North, North west and South, large acreage of our timber lands are being destroyed. In the years which are to come on account of this wholesale slaughter, there will be no forest unless we judicious plant trees to take place of those which are being destroyed. The scholars planted twelve Norway maples on the grounds surrounding the school house after which addresses were made by the trustees and teachers. Reading, recitations, vocal and instrumental music were furnished by the scholars of the school.

Our musicals have become so well known and appreciated that even a stormy night cannot prevent a good attendance. Mrs. I. P. Eppelsheimer tendered the use of her home for the semi-monthly meeting on last Monday evening.

Quite a large delegation attended the Princess Bonnie performance at Woodbury Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Miss Bugbee began her examinations yesterday. (She was a teacher and principal of the Wenonah Public School)

Lake Cornelia is receiving several little improvements. (This lake, on the lands of Stephan Green, was sited on the east side of the Marion Avenue Bridge.)

A report is in circulation that work will commence soon on the trolley bridge and that the employees are to be colored. Such ought not to be, as it is not doing Mantua people justice. (This was in the Mantua section. The trolley line was being built from Woodbury by the Camden, Gloucester and Woodbury Electric Railway Company.)

The game of baseball on Saturday was unfair as the Wenonah players did not know of the game until Friday night and not more than half of the regular players were there.

A Camp Fire will be held at the M.E. church, Wenonah, Monday evening. Stirring war songs, thrilling experiences, eloquent speakers, Comrade Wm. P. Haines, "the Fighting Quaker", and Dr. and Mrs. H.L. Gilmour will relate their army experiences. A silver collection will be taken at the door. Proceeds for benefit of Gen. Howell Post No.31 G.A.R. and for a flag for the church. (Dr. Gilmour was a prisoner at Libbey prison during the Civil War. The G.A.R. was the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization of the survivors of the Civil War.)

The attendance at the Prayer Meeting on Friday night was unusually large.

The Wenonah Inn was the scene of a lively time on Saturday. The occasion was the Opening day at the Inn. Progressive Euchre was played until eleven o'clock after which a hop was given. The guests remained over night and a great number returned to their homes on Sunday evening.

An exploring party engaged a wagon of Sylvester Chew on Saturday last and visited all the marl pits in the vicinity. (That's different !)

An Aunt Jerusha's Photograph Album Entertainment was given at Noblitt's Hall. (?)

Ice cream can be had at the residence of Mrs. Phelps or at the residence of Mrs. Russell Green. The former makes the cream herself.

Frank Van Hess, who has been with Sylvester Chew for a long time, seems right at home now in his new position, having charge of baker Koch's wagon.

We are glad to see the railroad company have placed a flagman at our Mantua Avenue crossing for the season. We need gates and a flagmen the year round. (Railroad traffic increased considerably in the summer due to vacationers to Cape May and Atlantic City.)

Our Wenonah men who do not go to the city daily appreciate the opening of the barbershop at the Inn.

The *Constitution* May 1895, Woodbury, NJ

Miss Sue Lynch was married at high noon on Saturday in historic old Christ Church on Second Street, Philadelphia to Howard Earle of Philadelphia. Mr. Earle is business manager for the large seed house of Burpee and Company.

Our churches are beautifully decorated for Easter, large congregations attending for morning and evening services.

Real Estate Agent, William C. Cattell has suffered a severe relapse of la grippe that has developed into typhoid pneumonia. We wish for him an early convalescence.

The death of Mrs. Irwin Middleton which took place on Saturday last was a shock to her many friends in the community. Mrs. Middleton leaves six children, the eldest being but thirteen years of age. (She was the grandmother of our friend and member Lucy Schulz. They built and lived in the Cox-Cook house, corner of Cherry and South East Avenue.)

Mr. Nelson Strong is making some attractive improvements to his already handsome property.

Miss Carrie DeZouche, who has charge of the kindergarten department of our public school, is confined to the house by illness (this is the first mention of a kindergarten in our public school system)

Contractor George H.West is supervising the additions now being made at the "Wenonah Inn."

The Wenonah Water Company in boring the artesian wells in the glen near the lake struck a deposit of mineral which is claimed to be copper, some of the mineral has been taken to Camden for analysis.

The M.E. Parsonage was greatly improved by the committee of ladies for the reception of the Rev. Mr. Zelly and family.

The kitchen and bowling alley of the Wenonah Inn are being enlarged by the company. The Inn will be opened for the reception of guests about the middle of next month.

The tramp nuisance has reached our borough and is likely to reach such proportions that the authorities will have to take some action in the matter, some of the nomads are very impudent and disposed to make trouble.

The Forget-Me-Not mission band of the Presbyterian Church took in over $30 at the fair held in Noblitt's Hall.

The foundation of the engine house in the glen by the lake has been completed. When this improvement is made Wenonah will have a flow of the purest water in South Jersey. (Previous to this the residents were drinking the water out of Dilkes' Little Pond -Davis Lake.)

George Jennings (He was a veteran of the Civil War) is one of the early birds with peas, as he has them three inches above the ground.

A large party of young people have been scouring the woods for the beautiful trailing arbutus. (They did a good job as arbutus in Wenonah is now non-existent in the wild.)

The warm spring days are bringing a number of visitors to the borough.

We cannot vouch for the truth of the rumor, but give it for what it is worth. It is said we are to have a Roman Catholic church erected in the borough. We trust the rumor is correct, we cannot have too many churches. If the proper effort is made it is more than probable that Bishop Scarborough would consent to the removal of the St. Barnabas P.E. chapel to the borough.

Dr. George W. Bailey is making his usual spring improvements to his model residence corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Synnott and Master Clayton Synnott returned from their winter home in Florida the past week. (Master Clayton was the father of Tom Synnott which we knew. They had a summer home in Rangley, Maine.)

The members of Dr. George W. Bailey's, Mrs. Greens" and Mrs. Whitman's classes in the Presbyterian Sunday School assembled at the residence of George Green on Mantua Avenue and passed a few pleasant hours of social intercourse. Samuel Carey and John Voight assisted in entertaining with selections on the banjo and mandolin

The *Constitution* April 1885, Woodbury, NJ

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday October 14, 2005

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 6 October 2005

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

I hope that our membership had a very pleasant and enjoyable summer.

We started a new year with a lovely get together at "Little Grange", the home of Vicki and Lou McCall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the McCall's hospitality. The fellowship, refreshments and the socializing was just great. We thank Vicki and Lou for once again making their home available to us. At this September meeting we received applications for membership from Frank and Claire Magin and Paul and Joetta Eldridge.

I wish to reflect an the presentation of all the artifacts of the Wenonah Military Academy which were displayed on the Fourth of July. We had wonderful help from our members who arranged the display. The public appeared genuinely interested in all of the items we displayed and it helped focus attention on our Historical Society.

It is with sadness and regret that I must advise of the illness of Bradley Caraker, eight year old son of Bill and Eileen Caraker. He has been in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for treatment. I understand that he is coming along nicely and is even being tutored while there. Several of our members and his friends have been able to send him e-mails wishing him a speedy recovery. Anyone wishing to send best wishes via this medium can send them to www.caringbgidge.org/about.htm

The October meeting will be held Friday, October 14th. The program will be presented by the Wenonah Environmental Commission. It will be conducted by Chairman Bob Bevilacqua, members Chuck Forsman, and Frank Eggert who was a founding member of the Natural Woodlands Council in 1965. They are called ""Friends of the Wenonah Trails." It will deal with the Acquisition and Restoration of Historical Sites within our Conservation Lands, Streams, Lakes Ponds and Trails.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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

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

At our November Meeting, the Women's Club will present a sketch under the direction of Jenny McQuaide and Marge Lentz. More details will be given in the November letter.

In December we will have our Annual Christmas Party.

If any member has any suggestions for programs for 2006 please let me know.

At the Harvest Craft Fair on September 24th, under the direction of Betty MacLeod the Wenonah Historical Society had a very successful sale of caps, banners, large and small tote bags and postcards. Other members of the Historical Society assisted her.

Please plan to attend our meeting on October 14th, enjoy the socializing, the program and the refreshments

If any member has any news that they wish to be included in our newsletter please let me know.

Photograph on Page 2

The picture on the next page is an enlarged section of an aerial shot centered around the Military Academy. It reveals a historical curiosity. The Weems medical center is at the center of the picture and in the center foreground is the "Senior House" of the military academy. The former Synnott mansion is at the upper right and at the top are the Synnott farm outbuildings. Please note the black arrow on the left pointing to a beautiful Victorian home with a domed tower. This building is no longer there and is now the site of the Wenonah Free Public Library that opened in 1927. Apparently the residence was acquired by Edward Farr (Little Grange) only to be torn down to provide the necessary space for the library. Anyone knowing anything about the origins of the house such as when it was built, who lived in it before it was torn down, or any other information please let us know.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday November 11, 2005

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 7 November 2005

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

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

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

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

Although our organization is not the custodian of the Community Center Jack recently became aware of three problems with this building. The heating and cooling system thermostat failed as did the oil burner. Also a falling roll of carpeting broke a window. The problems were taken care of by the borough.

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

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

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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

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

Jessie and Nathaniel White were long time residents of Wenonah.

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

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

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

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

Historical Tidbit

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

PUBLIC SALE!

100 BUILDING LOTS

WILL BE SOLD

AT PUBLIC AUCTION

On THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23d, 1890,

AT THE

WENONAH HOUSE, WENONAH, N. J.

100 OF THE MOST ELIGIBLE AND DESIRABLE BUILDING LOTS

IN THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH.

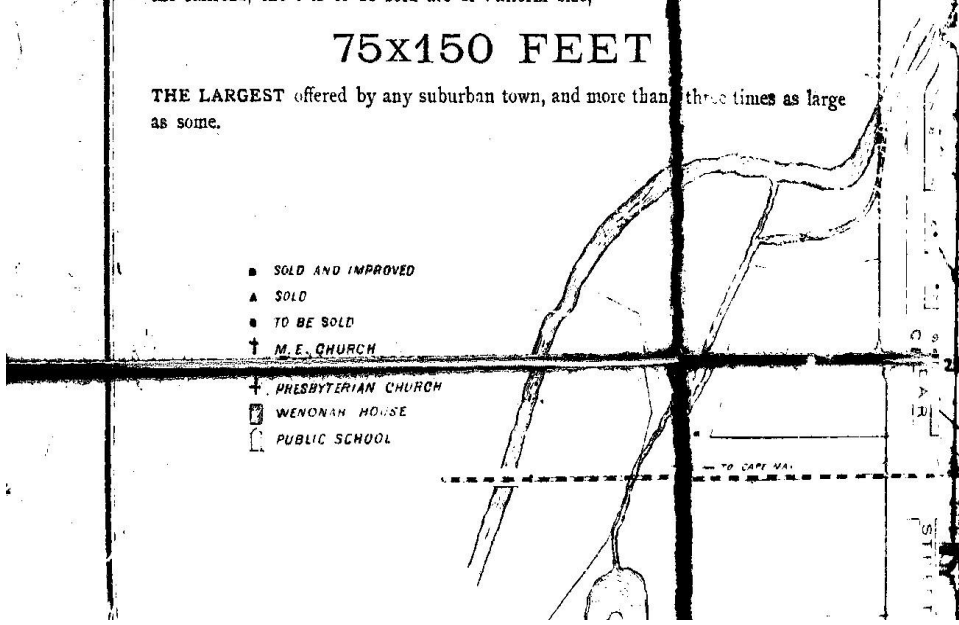
SALE POSITIVE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER,

WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.

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

75x150 FEET

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



WENONAH

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

WIDEST AVENUES, HIGHEST LOCATION, LARGEST LOTS,

SHADED AVENUES, FLAGGED WALKS, LIGHTED STREETS,

THRIVING CHURCHES, EXCELLENT SCHOOL, GOOD STORES,

PURE SPRING WATER, ECONOMICAL BOROUGH GOVERNMENT,

FREEDOM FROM SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS,

CHEAP COMMUTATION RAILROAD FARES, FREQUENT TRAINS,

GOOD SOCIETY, LOW TAXES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information, apply to

GEO. W. BAILEY,
308 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

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



Wenonah Land and Improvement Company
Sale of Building Lots - 1890

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"For further information, apply to"

Geo. W. Bailey, 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Jack C. Sheppard Sr. , Editor

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday January 13, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 1 January 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

I sincerely hope all of our members had a Merry Christmas and will enjoy a happy, prosperous and healthy 2006.

I hope that in the year 2006 we will find peace for the whole world, and that we will not again be tortured by natural catastrophes, as was so often the case during last year.

Looking back over 2005, we find that our organization accomplished several things. All files and artifacts were moved from the library to the Community Center. A computer system has been set up to start creating a permanent record. Our membership list has been updated. New members have been added; more merchandise was obtained and sold.

On the 4th of July an open house was held to display artifacts from the Wenonah Military Academy. This was well received by visitors and members alike. The monthly meetings were well attended.

During 2006 we look forward to the commencement of work on restoration of the Community Center. Mayor Tom Capaldi appeared at our March 2005 meeting and described the progress that is being made along this line.

In addition to this newsletter we contribute to the Wenonah Town Watch newsletter. You can track other items of community interest between our newsletter and the Town Watch letter.

Wenonah is noted for Volunteerism. and it is amply shown in the Wenonah Historical Society. Our officers and members have shown this trait in our various committee assignments. Jack Sheppard is head of cataloguing and filing and of the Building Committee. Carol Wiltsee, Treasurer for many years keeps track of our finances. Membership chairperson Jean Cowles has updated the membership list and added new members. Betty MacLeod handles merchandise ordering and sales. Acting secretary Jo Dominy, has done a great job filling in for Eileen Caraker whose son Bradley has some medical problems. Rachel Knisell, historian who's many diaries compiled over the years have recorded the growth and history of our town for all to see.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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

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

The historical house plaques program started originally by Jean and Jack Ehlers is now overseen by Frank Eggert, Don Davis and Chick Cowles.

Each committee has been helped by other member volunteers.

Vicki and Lou McCall opened their home to us for our September meeting as they have for several years. It was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Pat Sole organized our annual Christmas Party and she and her committee did a spectacular job! Besides decorating the Community Center and having the dinner catered an exchange of gifts took place.

The speaker for the January meeting will be Victor Anderson. He will tell us of his many years of auctioneering and handling the sale of estates, from attics to basements

During 2005 there were several things we planned to do but did not complete. We will do our best to accomplish the following tasks during the coming year.

1. Complete the filing and cataloguing of our artifacts
2. Purchase a Historical Society banner for the Wenonah Ball Park.
3. Update our by-laws to build in their protection for the future.
4. Prepare a budget and audit process.

We entertain any and all suggestions from the membership to help make the organization prosper and grow and continue to be a force and voice in the Wenonah cultural activities.

Sincerely yours; Don Ralston

Historical Tidbit

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council.

April 12, 1912 Jesse English was placed in charge of the Borough's water plant at a salary of $120.00 per year.

At the June 6, 1912 meeting a Resolution was introduced on first reading proclaiming; "That bathing or swimming in the upper lake, known as Warner's Pond in a nude state is prohibited. Those desiring to avail themselves of the bathing privilege must be provided with suitable clothing and avoid all indecent or unseemly exposure."

Jack Sheppard Sr.

The following story and photos are from the newsletter of the Hereford inlet Lighthouse Museum at the northern end of Wildwood. Our Rachel Knisell was interviewed during the early part of last year by Betty Mugnier, lighthouse Manager. Rachel has been designated Wenonah's Historian and it is a title she has earned and deserves. She provided me with a wonderful historical recollection concerning the battleship Maine that was sunk in Havana Harbor. The story is too long to relate here but I strongly recommend we ask Rachel to be the speaker at a future meeting. She has volumes of information and recollections about history in general and Wenonah in particular.

Several years ago a busload of senior citizens came to tour the Lighthouse as many do during the "shoulder" seasons. One of the women from the bus asked if anyone would be interested in seeing some scrap books that she brought with her. "Yes I would love to see them" I said without hesitation. We have learned from experience that you never know when a new piece of information about our history is going to turn up. In this case, it turned out to be a real treasure trove and the beginning of a great friendship. I called Steve Murray right away knowing that he would be very interested in the books Rachel had brought with her. While the others from the bus took the tour Rachel sat and talked to us as we browsed through her albums. When she saw our interest in these treasures she made an arrangement with the bus driver to continue the bus tour without her and come back later in the afternoon to pick her up for the trip home. She had decided at this time to leave the material with us to be returned to her at a later date.

Rachel Burke Knisell is a sweet soft-spoken woman with an incredible knowledge of history. She shared with us this day just several scrapbooks and photo albums from her collection of 130. She began putting these together over 60 years ago. There are rare magazine articles, maps, almanacs, photos, diary entry's, newspaper clippings and much more. Most of this is maritime history. Much of it is her own family's history.

Her family tree has so many branches of early and important Cape May County Families, it is truly amazing. The surnames read like a "who's who" of the county's history. Burke, Corson. Cresse. Smith. Stiles, Hickman, Ross, Young. Whilden, Somers, Godfrey, and on and on.

Rachel's interest in history began at age nine during trips to her grandmother's home in Woodbury. Adult conversations always turned to some fascinating story of her family's history. This captivated the young girl.

Rachel told me that she was born in Wildwood on Glenwood Ave. 77 years ago. Her mother Emily, a teacher at Glenwood School, first caught a glimpse of her future husband at a fire at the Marine Bank. Emily was among the crowd watching the Wildwood Fire Company battle a blaze at the bank on Pacific Ave. She saw a brave and handsome fireman on the roof surrounded in smoke and wondered how he could survive this. She was very relieved when later, she saw him on the ground and they struck up a conversation. The fireman was Horace Burke. He and Emily eventually married.

Rachel's ancestry goes way back - probably to the Mayflower. The earliest known relative she has been able to trace is Anthony Ludlam, born in Long Island in the I670's.

Of particular importance to Hereford are some names that have played important roles in our history. Her great, great, grandfather was John S. Ludlam. He was the commissioner of wrecks or "Wreck Master" from the "Dry Inlet on Learnings Beach to Turtle Gut Inlet." His job was to find and secure wrecks and cargo and place notice of this until the legal owners were found. He was also in charge of the first Life Saving Station in Anglesea from 1849 - 1863. This was long before Hereford Lighthouse was constructed.
In 1857 he was awarded a silver medal for his courage in saving the crew of the Schooner "Race Rock", lost on Hereford Bar on Christmas day 1856.

Rachel's grandmother's half brother was Henry S. Ludlam, Keeper of the Anglesea Life Saving Station from 1902 - 1914. His numerous well-known rescues included the wreck of the Schooner Fannie Bailey in 1882 and the party boat Nora in 1906.

Another relative of Rachel's was the famous Christopher Ludlam, Keeper of the Anglesea Station from 1883 - 1897. Christopher was considered a national hero and received a gold medal for his December rescue of the crew of the Schooner D. H. Ingraham in 1886. He is responsible for saving 232 lives and $641,000 in property (1890's dollars) during his career.

Not all of Rachel's famous relatives lived in the 19th Century. One of her father's brothers was Raymond Burke, founder of Burke Motors. Another uncle was Richard L. Burke, President of Sun Ship Yard in Chester, Penna.

Rachel's collection of historical information includes the whalers, pirates, Life Saving Service, Lighthouses, sunken treasure and much more. She is a very talented woman that admires the self-sufficiency of our ancestors. She said she always wanted to learn to do everything herself. She still does her own carpentry work!

Rachel's husband, Ralph Knisell, is a well-known outdoor sports writer and radio personality in the Cumberland County area. They have two sons, Harry Wilson Knisell and Richard Ludlam Knisell.

It is a pleasure to spend time with Rachel who comes down several times a year to visit. She always brings more gems for us to display or put in our archives. She is also a "Friend" and we are much appreciative of her sharing her wealth of knowledge and family history with us.

Betty Mugnier
Manager Hereford Lighthouse



Rachel Burke Knisell with photo of her great great grandfather John S. Ludlum



Henry S. Ludlum

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday February 10, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 2 February 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

The regular meeting of the Wenonah Historical Society will be held Friday February 10, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Wenonah Community Center.

Our meetings this past year of 2005 have been well attended. The meetings gave us an opportunity to learn more about the history of our town and the progress we have made in increasing our knowledge through the collection of many artifacts, photos and documents.

I am pleased to report on the health of a few of our members who were incapacitated. Marge Lentz is now recovering nicely at her home after her hip operation. Jennie McQuaide is no longer "house bound". We look forward to both again attending our meetings.

At our January executive meeting it was agreed to again sponsor an "Open House" on the Fourth of July. We will show more artifacts and items from our past rather than just those related to the Wenonah Military Academy.

We will solicit other organizations in town, such as churches, Lions Club, Fire Company and the Wenonah Public School to display any artifacts they may have and even individual citizens who may have such artifacts in their homes.

We still have some fund raising objects remaining to be sold and we will order more of these items such as banners, hats, postcards and booklets of the history of Wenonah. They are an excellent means of raising funds for WHS operations.

The speaker at our February meeting will be Anne Zuber who is currently the part-time librarian in the Wenonah Elementary School and is also director of the Wenonah Free Public Library. She began the process of automating the library collection through the World-wide Web it is connected to the website of our school.

Victor Anderson, the speaker at our January meeting gave an interesting program on his experiences of selling contents of estates in Wenonah.

A request was made for our programs, to have other organizations in town appear and advise of their history in the formulating of our town.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
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Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

A banner has been ordered to be part of the display at the ball field on South East Ave. It will say" *Preserving Wenonah's Heritage*" with the WHS logo, a picture of the "tower" of the historic Shull House on Mantua Ave.

Bradley Caraker, son of Eileen Caraker and grandson of Eileen Honabach , both Society members, is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant on February 7th. Let us all pray that it will be successful.

"A Ladies Night Out" is planned for March 25th, at the Incarnation Hall, Mantua, NJ. This is a fund-raiser to help with the tremendous expenses involved in Bradley's treatment and recovery.

I refer you to our January Newsletter for the tasks we wish to complete during 2006..

Sincerely yours; Don Ralston

Historical Tidbit

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council. (and Commission)

April 10, 1883 "The first meeting of the Wenonah Borough Commission was held in the public school house of Wenonah for the purpose of electing a permanent organization, and transacting such business as may come before it".
"T.W.Synnott called the meeting to order and a permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers." President Dr. George W. Bailey, Secretary C.B. Johnson, Treasurer I.C. Stevenson, other members A.W. Carey, M.H. Perry, T.W. Synnott, and J. Frank Shull.

At the April 17, 1883 meeting "Dr. G. Bailey, on behalf of the Mantua Land & Improvement Co. presented to the borough 2 squares of land for our Borough Park. It was formally accepted by the Borough by means of a Deed received Sept. 11, 1883.
Editor's Note; The meaning of "2 squares of land" is that a street, Park Avenue split what now is our park into squares, or blocks. Park Avenue east of the railroad was vacated in 1896 and the park then became 1 square or block as it is today. This accounts for the Park frequently being referenced as "squares" in many meeting Minute notations.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: l. Overture-Bonnie Scotland ..... Orchestra; 2.Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. Dmetrius-Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent. Mr. and Mrs. W.J.McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelley, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter, Mrs. Mehorter, and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the 'wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies. At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

August and September 1896, Gloucester County Democrat & Gloucester County Constitution

Turner and McCormick will furnish Java coffee for the missionary supper at Noblit's Hall tonight.

The thermometer registered 4 above zero here this morning

The safety gates are now assured us. It seems almost incredible that over 300 teams use the crossing at the depot in a day

The library association is rapidly arranging matters to have the room in the rear of the post office open for use soon, which will be highly appreciated by our people. (This was at 1 East Mantua Avenue.)

The iron fence to be placed between the tracks has arrived and now when the safety gates get here we will be nearly satisfied. (The iron fence was short lived as the advent of the electric line in 1905 made the fence a potential hazard.)

The only drawback to the ice cream social of the Forget-Me-Not Mission Band at the home of Mrs. English was the spoiling of about 10 quarts of ice cream by it being saturated with salt water. (Remember when we made ice cream using rock salt in the hand cranked ice cream maker?)

Some think there will be a Democratic and Republican ticket in the field here for borough officers this spring while it is hinted by others that this is just what some do not want-for their own success. However it will soon be known positively and then the political pot may boil with a vengeance.

Since the death of Mr. Fullerton we have been without a Justice of the Peace. But we have very little need for such an officer here, but they are rather handy to have around when they are needed.

The pleasant "at homes" which were held quite frequently not long ago have been discontinued for some unaccountable reason.

Daniel W. Brown went to Burlington yesterday to hear the "silver tongued" orator, William Jennings Bryant.

There was a little excitement on the ice pond Saturday while the house of Turner and McCormick was being filled. Frank Clark, driving the team of J. Chew, thought he would show them how to cut ice and picked up a saw. When he cut off the cake he was standing on and took an icy bath for his health. Thomas Savage heard a splash and gurgling sound and as he turned around saw George Dilkes pulling Clark out of the water.

Poor Dash, he came all the way from Barnesboro to get a bone, and as he was crossing the track ahead of the Cape May express about 5 o'clock last night, lost his life by collision with the engine, which was moving faster than he was.

C.W. Hussey had a serious runaway yesterday. While hitched in front of John Vierick's place on Mantua Avenue, the horse flew back and broke the bridle and halter, and dashed up the street, striking a post or two, almost completely demolishing the wagon. No one was injured.

The Cape May freight, due here about six o'clock last night was laid over till 2 o'clock this morning because the engine threw a tire from one of her drive wheels. Two engines and a wrecker were sent down and travel was delayed. The wheel broke 100 yards north of the depot but the train could not be stopped for nearly a half mile. There was considerable excitement for a while.

We have become accustomed to the new lights at the depot, and they are so in keeping with the other streetlights, that we can scarcely realize that we put up with oil lights for so long. Progress is the motto of the age.

Grocer Richard Clark has a curiosity on exhibition in the shape of a monster collar button which is a showcase for eight different styles. It is at least 10 inches high and the same across and is a striking advertisement for patent buttons he has for sale.

Our people are anxiously awaiting the result of the skating contest.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society in Noblit's Hall will give a supper tomorrow from 6 to 8. Tickets 25 cents

Turner &McCormick have secured a vicious bulldog to guard their store. A stitch in time saves nine.

The shelter on the southbound track is completed except the tin on the roof and it meets the requirements.

J.S. Chew had to call Dr. E. Bassett Kirby of Woodbury to see two of his horses, which were sick, this morning.

J.W. English, treasurer of the Wenonah Conclave, I.O.H. has received a check for $2,000 death benefit for the late Benjamin F. Coles, a member of the order, to be paid to his widow.

We had almost another sleighing snow Saturday night and the coal dealers are smiling, but warmer weather is promised tonight.

Some of our people complain of the dearth of amusements here this winter, compared with other seasons.

Woodbury Daily Times Courtesy Milton Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday March 10, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 3 March 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

For our next meeting the featured speaker will be Richard M. Burr, a Certified Genealogist. Richard is a Past President of the Gloucester County Historical Society. He is a member of 18 Hereditary Societies. He is also Past President of both the Sons of the American Revolution and the South Jersey Chapter of the Sons of The American Revolution. Richard has traced his ancestry back to Charlemagne and to the Crusades

He has taught genealogy classes, in the evenings at Moorestown High School, Gateway Regional School, Gloucester County College and the Gloucester County historical Society.

If you have not been interested in your "family tree" before our meeting I am sure you will be after hearing Richard's presentation.

In the next Wenonah Town Letter there will be an article about our Historical Society. I have spoken to Beth Hoffman, who writes the newsletter and have asked that the list of movies to be shown in the Municipal Building, be listed and displayed in prominent places locally.

The latest about our friend Bradley Caraker. Brad received a bone marrow transplant from his 12-year-old sister Kristen. He appears to be in a good spirits. Remember the "Ladies Night" fund-raiser March 25, 2006, 8 to 12 pm at the Incarnation hall, Mantua.

Helen Manners, a fellow member of the Historical Society fell and broke her hip and is currently recovering at Manor Care. She should be coming home shortly.

At the February meeting librarian Anne Zuber gave an excellent lecture on the history of the Wenonah Library. Jack Sheppard and Julie Ream are working on computerizing our museum materials. When up and operating it will connect with the Library computer already tied into the Wenonah Public School computer. This will make it easy to research Wenonah's history.

Our Trustees hold an executive meeting on the Monday prior to our monthly meeting. In this manner we can discuss in detail each committee's functions and other business.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Secretary	**Jo Dominy**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Corr. Sec.	**Betty MacLeod**
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Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

This allows more time at the regular meeting for our speaker's presentation. Members are invited to attend these meetings at the Community Center.

At our last meeting it was announced we would again have an "Open House" on Fourth of July 2006. Members are invited to bring pictures, articles of historic interest and any artifacts they may have relating to Wenonah for display.

Our April meeting will feature Charles Wingate who grew up in Paulsboro where his father operated the lighthouses. This should be an interesting talk.

Historical Tidbits

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council. (and Commission)

12/3/86 Complaint to Commission by Mr. Dawson about "the continual grievance inflicted upon him by the trespass of chickens belonging to Mr. E. Stokes" in violation of the Borough Ordinance prohibiting same. Much discussion concerning State laws governing Boroughs and the powers to enforce the laws. After "full discussion M. Hayes Perry was nominated and duly elected as Policeman for the Borough". Mr. Perry was the first policeman in the Borough of Wenonah followed by Thomas Savage who was paid a salary of $12.00 for the year 1891.

3/20/88 At a meeting of citizens a resolution was drawn seeking to separate Wenonah from Deptford Township in the matter of taxation and elections by securing special legislation for that purpose. The increase in population was given as the reason, there being 100 voters. (Less than 50 when the Wenonah Commission was first organized).

Stephen Greene opened Marion Ave. at his own expense, to the intersection with Bark Bridge Road. He built a bridge over the stream and the approaches thereto. "Therefore, Clinton Ave. and Bark Bridge Rd. are hereby vacated and closed from point of intersection of Clinton with the South line of Pine St., to a point in Bark Bridge Rd. where it intersects with the West line of Marion Ave."

Jack Sheppard Sr.

July 24 1903

Norman Schock will spend some time at Pitman Grove.

Miss Georgiana Coward has gone to Monroeville for a few days.

The stork visited the home of Geo. H. Greenig, Wednesday and left a fine daughter of which Mr. and Mrs. Greenig are very proud.

The Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church disposed of thirty quarts of ice cream in two hours last evening, at the home of Mrs. Hamilton Turner.

Miss Etna Andrews of Tuckerton, N. J., who has been lying at the point of death with peritonitis is reported by Dr. Harvey who is attending her in conjunction with their local physician to be slightly improved and hopes of her recovery are entertained.

Tramps as a rule stay clear of Wenonah but yesterday an ugly fellow so far forgot the unwritten rule, as to intrude in the vicinity of the Camels Back woods. Mrs. Joe Truncer and Mrs. Wm. Stewart who were walking along admiring the scenery there, were terribly frightened at seeing the tramp emerge from the woods and without any provocation hurl a stone at them, which luckily did not hit either of them. The ladies called lustily for their husbands, which had the desired effect and the tramp skulked back into the woods The same tramp was also seen there by some young ladies who left the scene badly scared by his actions.

January 10 1911

Mr. and Mrs. Mulvey will have a corned beef and cabbage dinner Wednesday evening.

Dr. Lorence and Charlie Frederick had a very interesting game of pool Saturday evening.

Railroad Committee of the Improvement Association, do not forget to try and get a covering put over our west platform.

We see that Council has been requested to pass an ordinance to license the pool table in the barber shop. Amen to that as it is right, and proper. Every town has this regulation; but its not right to circulate reports that gambling and boys under age are sold cigarettes and allowed to play all night as that is not so.

Some men whose names were mentioned the night Council was requested to pass the ordinance have played late at night, but whose business is that? They are of age and their own masters. Pool is not a bad game at all. Several citizens of Wenonah have their own tables, but everyone cannot afford this so have to play in public. We know of several church organizations that have them. Is it not better to have our young men play pool in our own town at night than have them to Woodbury, Camden and Philadelphia and fall in with all sorts of bad people? It is far better for parents to make their boys hours so attractive they would not want to go out at night. Now, these people who think the barber ship is such a terrible place why not investigate for themselves and not pay so much attention to what the other fellow says, because repeating names and tales, both that come second handed is liable to get some one in trouble. Wenonah needs a good barber shop. We have one. Let us keep it. Signed, someone who gets shaved there.

March 28, 1912 - Magical Beautifier (Advertisement)

A Delightful Toilet Article Used by Leading Society Women. Half Price Offer

The leading society women in New York have now a new fad that was brought from Paris recently – the use of Beauty Blush, a dainty liquid for the complexion.

This protects the skin from the wind, sun and dust, and is marvelously effective in giving clear, rosy complexion, curing freckles, pimples, blackheads and other blemishes.

Beauty Blush is used instead of the dry powders which clog the pores and change the skin to a muddy, sallow appearance. It is non-greasy and has no tendency whatever to cause a hairy growth.

This week you can get a 50 cent bottle of Beauty Blush from W. H. Sutton for half price, 25 cents, and every woman who desires a good complexion should have it on her toilet table. Money refunded if not satisfactory.

Editors note: W. H. Suttons Pharmacy in Woodbury was owned and operated by the father and grandfather of our member Betty Sutton MacLeod.

Above from the Gloucester County Democrat and Times newspapers

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 14, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 4 April 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

We are all glad that spring has finally arrived. The forsythia, flowering crepe, and daffodils are all blooming. The trees will soon be clothed in green leaves. Wenonah is especially pretty at this time of the year.

In the December 2005 newsletter we enumerated our accomplishments for the year 2005.

In the January and February newsletters it we outlined our objectives for the year 2006. They were to see the renovation to start on the Community Center and the completion of computerizing artifacts, photos and news articles on the history of Wenonah.

A meeting was recently held to explain what was decided by the historical architect and the borough engineer to renovate the Community Center. In attendance were Borough Business Manager Dawn Human, Mayor Tom Capaldi, Council member. Bill Schnarr, Borough Engineer Dave Kreck and Environmental Commission member William Schram. Blueprints were laid out and explained what renovations deemed necessary. A diagram was also shown concerning curbing and correction of a drainage problem to the building. The Historical Society will be given access to these plans so that we can show them at our meeting.

Speaker for the April meeting, Friday 14, 2006, will be our member Charles Wingate. Charles' father was the operator of the lighthouses at Paulsboro and Billingsport. He lived in one of them for 19 years.

An update on our sick list. Carmela Lipari, is rehabbing at Kennedy Hospital, Helen Manners is now home and Jo Dominy is recouping at home but is expected at our April meeting.

We obtained a copy of the Wenonah Community Bus Schedule;
April 12, Wednesday .Smithvllle.
April 24, Monday, .Camden Aquarium, $13.95 per person
May 10 Wednesday, Morven Museum and Gardens, Princeton, $4.00 for Seniors

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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

May 22, Monday, .Ocean City.
June 7, Wednesday, Winterthur, DuPont Mansion, Brandywine Valley. Admission $13 to $18.00 depending on the tour chosen.

A very successful "Calendar Party" was held March 25th, for the benefit of young Bradley Caraker who is being treated for Leukemia at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

The Wenonah Home and School Association is holding its Annual Ice Cream Social May 15th at the Wenonah School. They have offered to allow the Historical Society a table there for display purposes.

Once again, our dues are $15.00 per family. If by chance or oversight you have not yet paid, please do so.

Historical Tidbits

Woodbury Daily Times June 1900

Last night's dance at the (Wenonah) Inn was a very enjoyable affair, from the accounts of it heard, and a large number took part. A jolly crowd from Woodbury came down in Budd's hack, but one young man we understand, had the misfortune to lose his overcoat. We should presume he might have had one hand free to take care of it, but apparently both had gone to "waist."

A very fortunate runaway accident happened early last evening. Ran Stevenson was out driving with his sister and in going east on Mantua Avenue, the traces broke and the spirited animal started to run. Young Stevenson clung to lines, even though the animal's heels were flying close to his nose almost at every leap, and as his sister remained quietly in the wagon the frightened animal was stopped going up the steep hill. Both young people were complimented upon their steady nerves by the large crowd which were attracted by the brief excitement.

This is not to get in the Times, so you had best not read it. Marshal Drummer, the custodian of our peace, always watchful of suspicious characters, found two tramps prowling about the other night, and for the want of a better place, locked them in an empty freight car, on a siding, intending to release them just before going off duty in the morning. Business cares preoccupied his mind until half the morning had gone, when he bethought himself of his prisoners. When he reached the depot, the car, the suspects and all were gone — perhaps just what both parties desired—Drummer as well as the tramps.

"In 1888 the land company deeded to the Borough Commission the square in front of the hotel between Clinton and West Jersey Avenues with the provision that the same should always be maintained as a public park for the inhabitants of Wenonah."

This is a quotation from "Wenonah's Background" written by Constance Cowell. The hotel was the Wenonah Inn, which later became the Wenonah Military Academy.

The square has been faithfully maintained as a public park by the people of Wenonah and various improvements have been made over the years. In 1946 a project was started to renovate the park. A plan was drawn up which describes a large parade ground to be continued at the southern end of the park and a smaller open area at the northern end; a broad north south avenue to be lined with trees and ornamentals, terminated at the northern end by a stepped entrance to the park and at the southern end by tall evergreens and a semicircle of benches; an east-west corridor entirely enclosed by trees which will be suitable for outdoor meetings; curved walks along the south and east sides of the park to be suitably landscaped with flowering trees and shrubs; the gradual replacement of the old and deteriorating silver maples and sycamore maples with more permanent trees; and finally to create a beautiful display of flowers and foliage.

Progress has been made each year toward accomplishing the objectives of the plan. Open areas have been preserved, progress has been made toward lining the avenue and corridor with suitable plant material. The curved walk at the southern end has been placed. Considerable progress has been made toward removing the old silver and sycamore maples. The oaks in the park have been increased from two to twenty-four representing ten different species. The new planting also include sugar maple, red maple, honey locust, beech, yellow wood, oxydendron, red bud, Hawthorne, hemlock, Douglas fir and holly.

Much progress has been made in providing flowering trees and other ornamentals. These include four varieties of dogwoods, flowering cherries, flowering apples, rhododendrons, azaleas, laurel, taxus, lilac, crepe myrtle, rose, evergreen barberry and Japanese holly.

Much of the improvement in the park has been accomplished thru the assistance of organizations and individuals of the Borough. With money raised by the Wenonah Woman's Club fifty dogwoods and many other ornamentals were purchased. The Wenonah Garden Club donated a group of rhododendrons and azaleas. The Wenonah Junior Garden Club contributed five American hollies and three Japanese hollies. The Explorer Scouts held four work parties at various times at which they planted twelve oak trees and painted the park benches. The Wenonah Fire Company has on several occasions saved the young trees by watering the park during droughts. The curved flagstone walk at the southern end was placed by work parties involving twenty-eight citizens. The park benches were made by volunteer labor. Many individual citizens of Wenonah have made very valuable contributions of trees and shrubs.

With the maturing of the plant material already placed, and with additional improvements in the future, the park will become more attractive each year and will contribute more and more to the beauty and peaceful atmosphere of our town which, to quote from the last sentence of Constance Cowell's paper, is surely ". . . a refuge from the industrialism which has sprung up in the area around it."

George Eldridge, Jan. 23, I960

From the *Woodbury Times* Nov. 1910

Mr. Editor; Of all "Tom Fool" propositions that have come before our Council, the one to spend $350 to practically parallel the present cement walk from the depot across the Park is the worst. It is time the tax payers should take notice and protest against such a waste of money. We need this money on our streets, and this amount will gravel ten blocks and be a benefit to the town, while the walk would be an injury to the Park and benefit a few men who would sacrifice the beauty of the park and put a load on the taxpayers to save themselves a half minute of their valuable time each day. We are better off without them. signed,

"Pro Bono Publico"

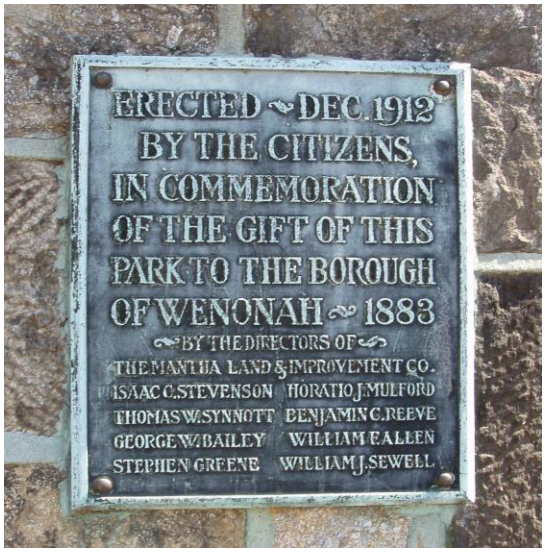
Editor comment: The walk referred to is the cross-walk through the Park shown below.



Photo March, 2006

From the *Woodbury Times* Nov. 1912

Work on the approach to the Park is well under way and already you can form an idea of what the finished job will look like. The two outside taller columns are to be topped by lanterns of bronze. The pipe, which shows in the building of the columns, will accommodate gas and electric conduits. A bronze tablet in the column next the railroad will hold a tablet commemorating the gift of the Park to Wenonah by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company in 1883. The eight directors of the company at that time will be named in the tablet.



The Constitution June 1919

Sometime this week W. B. Snelbaker, the marble dealer of Woodbury will commence to place the big boulder (which was recently moved from Mr. Comey's corner to the Borough Park) on its foundation where a bronze tablet containing the names of our soldier boys will be placed on it in preparation for the celebration on July 4th.



Researching the history of our Park one notices there was controversy from time to time as to the condition of the Park and the improvements that were sometimes needed, and sometimes made.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday May 12, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 5 May 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

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

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

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

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

As to the proposed rehabilitation of the Community Center, revised specifications were sent to the historical architect and from there to Trenton. The time period is about 6 weeks, then requests for bids can be solicited. Then another 6 weeks for review of the bids and their acceptance.

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

The Wenonah Historical Society banner is now on display at the ball field located at South East Avenue and East Cedar Street. Jack Sheppard did the design. If you have not yet seen it please do so.

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

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

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

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

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Historical Tidbits

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

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

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

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

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

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

WORLD WAR I

Woodbury Daily Times April, 1917

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next, six months later, is a letter from Mayor C. Fowler Cline to the citizens. It appears the patriotism exhibited during the April rally had fizzled out and he felt the need to send a personal letter to stir renewed enthusiasm. He apparently felt if you could drill properly it would enable you to fight well. Notice his accusation at the end, that the women were doing more than the men.

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully yours,

C. Fowler Cline, Mayor

Woodbury Daily Times May, 1917

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

Woodbury Daily Times May, 1917

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

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

Woodbury Daily Times June 1919

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

WORLD WAR II

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

Woodbury Daily Times Feb, 1942

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

Woodbury Daily Times Apr. 1942

All auxiliary trainees of Wenonah, including are raid wardens, auxiliary firemen, auxiliary police, first aid groups, demolition squads, home nursing classes, gas and decontamination units, members of the Wenonah defense council and the citizens of Wenonah are requested to attend a meeting to be held at the American Legion Hall Thursday April 30th. Experts will attend and explain the proper procedure to follow in event of gas attack on our community.

Another on the same date;

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

Woodbury Daily Times May. 1942

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

Woodbury Daily Times Sept. 1942

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

Woodbury Daily Times Oct. 1942

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

Woodbury Daily Times Nov. 1942

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

Woodbury Daily Times Jan. 1943

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

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday September 8, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 6 July 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

This past winter and spring we had very pleasant meetings. I hope you all enjoyed them. We can now look forward to our summer of individual activities.

I wish to note some news about our members and their families. Pat and Andy Sole's son Dr. David P. Sole was named to the Personal Achievement Hall of Fame of the Gateway Regional High School. David is a 1985 graduate. He is enshrined with two other Wenonah graduates, Stephen Squyres, head of the NASA Mars Probe and his brother Tim named to the Academy Awards for Film Editing. Our congratulations to all three of these fine Wenonah youngsters.

Four Junior High School students at Gateway Regional have been selected to attend the American Legion Boys State. It is held at Rider College from June 18 to June 23. The boys are Louis McCall, son of Vicki and Lou McCall, Chris Mayer-Bacon, Christian Morency and Jonathan Stranahan. Jersey Boys State is a fictitious 51st state organization under the direction of the American Legion. Its objectives are to educate and familiarize our young people with the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.

I want to thank those members, who were responsible for setting up and handling the June picnic. They were Helen and Jack Sheppard, Betty MacLeod and Pat Sole and others who contributed. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and sociability. .

For Kathryn and myself I want to thank Jack Sheppard for the very fine tribute paid to my father, Wayne M. Ralston and to the Ralston family.

On a sad note we extend our condolences to Bill and Eileen Caraker and Bill and Eileen Honabach for the loss of Bradley, their son and grandson.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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

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

Plans are progressing for the Fourth of July open house. Betty Rose is heading up the committee.

She has contacted and made arrangements for twelve local organizations to display the historic artifacts of each organization. They are the Fire Company, Free Library, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lions Club, Women's Club, Lutheran Church, Episcopal Church, Methodist church, Presbyterian Church, the American Legion and of course, our Wenonah Historical Society.

We encourage members to visit the Community Center on the Fourth of July. We will need volunteers to help set up on July 3rd.

We will also need members to watch the displays and exhibits. The Open House will be from 11: a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If the crowd is large we may extend the amount of open time.

Our fund raising for the year will be sale of merchandise. A price list is attached. Help support our organization by purchasing one or more items for sale. They make wonderful gifts.

In addition to our usual goods Chuck Foreman has revised and updated his booklet "Map Overview of Wenonah". It covers other topics of interest to our citizens. There is a limit of 50 copies and we will sell them for $3.00 per copy.

Last year's open house was well received and we believe this year's will be equally as well attended.

Our next meeting will in September and once again Vicki and Lou McCall will host it at their home "Little Grange" on Mantua Ave.

I wish all a happy and healthy summer. Don Ralston President.

Historical Tidbits

On March 16, 1928 a Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Wenonah Borough Council petitioning the New Jersey Legislature to allow the annexation of Deptford Township land east of the railroad tracks and south of Linden Ave.

Parts of this land are currently occupied by the Lizzie property along Glassboro Road and the Wenonah Swim Club. Residents in the area requested the action and Deptford Township had no objection.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Aug 1907 Wayne Ralston, one of the "gold dust twins" caught a bass weighing 3-½ pounds in the Mantua Creek on Tuesday.

Oct 1912 Young Arthur Holton is on his way to California where he will attend the Seventh Day Adventist School at Towa Linda. His purpose is to prepare himself for medical missionary work in some foreign country. (Arthur J. Holton died in France at the end of WWI. "Nearly 2,000 persons attended his funeral in Wenonah in November, 1920. Wenonah's Legion post is named for him).

Oct 1912 Munico Crograliа noticed a wire dangling on Mantua Ave. on Thursday morning and seeing that children could easily reach it, decided to see if it was alive. He picked it up and wrapped it around a utility pole. The pole was wet and when the wire came in contact with the damp wood 2,400 volts passed through his body. Wayne Ralston (Sr.) who was going gunning noticed him lying against the pole. He went over and seeing the predicament, in which he was in, placed his gun to the wire and shot it off. Munico was then carried to Dr. Stout's office unconscious and after much difficulty was brought around all right.

July 1917 Wayne (Sr.) Ralston's name was among those drafted into the army although he didn't wait to be drafted as he was among the first volunteers for service on the Mexican border where he served seven months in the Engineer Corps of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He is now at Fort Myer qualifying for an officer's position.

Sept 1918 It is interesting to look back to notice the career of your former Daily Times carriers. Ten years ago they were Fred Kray, Hugh Mehorter and Wayne Ralston (Sr.). All three are at present in the military somewhere in France.

Oct 1919 Captain Wayne Ralston (Sr.) is receiving a hearty welcome home from his many friends who are glad to see him after his 18-months absence overseas.

June 1925 On June 16th the voters of Wenonah will select their candidates for the various borough offices. Among the candidates will be Mr. Wayne M. Ralston Sr. who seeks the nomination on the Republican ballot for the office of Borough tax collector.

June 1925 Alexander Hamilton Ralston died at his home on North Marion Avenue early Tuesday morning from pneumonia. Mr. Ralston was born near Aberdeen, Scotland seventy years ago and was brought to Philadelphia at the age of 10 where he resided until 20-years ago, at which time he and his family took up their residence in Wenonah. He leaves a widow Mary McKowen Ralston, two daughters Mrs. Frank Black of Wenonah and Mrs. Eugene Brownsworth of Mt. Vernon NY, and a son Wayne MacVeigh Ralston of Wenonah.

Sept 1927 Dr. H. Lake Gilmour, Wayne MacVeigh Ralston, J. A. Carey, Raymond Clark, George Hendrickson and Oscar Toomey sailed on the S/S Leviathan for Europe on Saturday morning where they will attend the American Legion Convention. *

May 1931 Wayne Ralston Sr., chief of the Wenonah fire department addressed members of the Friendship Fire Company in Woodbury speaking on "The Organization and Training of a Volunteer Fire Company".

May 1934 County Fire Marshal Nelson Furman, who is not a candidate to succeed himself, nominated Wayne Ralston of Wenonah for fire marshal. Ralston is unopposed.

Dec 1936 Mrs. Mary Ralston Laird, mother of Wayne Ralston Sr. of Wenonah, died yesterday in Philadelphia. While a resident of Wenonah Mrs. Laird was active in the Wenonah Presbyterian Church.

Aug 1942 Prominent Wenonah resident Wayne M. Ralston Sr. has been called into active army service and is now stationed at Fort Dix. He was a captain during World War I and since promoted to the rank of major. His son Wayne Jr. is now a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. A younger son, Donald is a student at the University of North Carolina. (editor's note: I didn't know Don when I was growing up in Woodbury but Wayne Ralston Jr. was my camp counselor at the YMCA Camp Ockanickin in Medford)

Feb 1943 Lieutenant Wayne M. Ralston Jr. married Beatrice Dobbs at the Presbyterian Church in Brady Texas. Major and Mrs. Ralston on their return trip from Texas visited their son Donald at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill NC.

July 1943 Major Wayne M. Ralston Sr. of Wenonah has been ordered to overseas duty and left for his new assignment on July 19th. He was stationed for seven months at the Army Air Forces training center at Atlantic City. Major Ralston, former county fire marshal and clerk of the Wenonah Board of education has two sons in service.

Jan 1945 Lieut. Wayne M. Ralston Jr. was killed Tuesday at an army air base in Texas. Lieut. Ralston was the husband of the former Beatrice Dobbs of Mt. Royal, who has been in Texas with him. His father Major Ralston is in China and a brother Lieut. Don Ralston is with the Army Air Force in Italy.

June 1945 First Lieutenant Donald N. Ralston of Wenonah, a 22-year-old combat veteran received the Distinguished Flying Cross at a formal presentation ceremony held at Ellington Field, Texas. Recently returned from seven months of combat duty as a navigator with the Fifteenth Air Force in the Mediterranean theater, Lt. Ralston also has been awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Don's father also served on Wenonah Borough Council in the early 1920's as did Don from 1967 through 1969. Don also served Wenonah as Zoning Administrative Officer during the 1980's.

And many of you are aware of Don's long-term activity with our American Legion Post as a Past Commander and long-time Post Service Officer and of course the current WHS President.

We must also recognize and praise Don's companion of 55-years, Kathryn, who excelled as one of Wenonah School's finest teachers for 25 years retiring in 1987. In fact on June 11, 1987 I had the privilege and honor of introducing a Borough Council Resolution at the time of her retirement honoring Kathryn for her teaching accomplishments. Congratulations to Don and Kathy who recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

But the point of reviewing this history of the Ralston family, both current and past, is to honor Don, Kathy and the entire Ralston family for their involvement in America and Wenonah.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to have known and worked with father Wayne Ralston Sr., son Wayne Jr., son Don and wife Kathy. The Ralston's have provided our country and our town with an outstanding example of patriotism, dedication to duty and honorable service that is sadly lacking in our country today.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr., Editor

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Friday September 8, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 7 September 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

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

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

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

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

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

WHS OFFICERS 2006

President	**Don Ralston**
Vice Pres.	**Jack Sheppard Sr.**
Secretary	**Jo Dominy**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Historical Tidbits

Gloucester County Democrat 4/22/87.

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

***Gloucester County Democrat* April 20, 1893**

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

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

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

Real estate has had a boom here the past week, and this is only a forerunner of what is to follow. Mr. R. J. Clark has bought back from Jesse English the store property for $8,000. The price of the stock is to be fixed by an appraisement. Blair Smith, bought four houses of the Horatio Mulford estate, and has already sold one of them. Commissioner Ed. E. Grosscup has bought four lots on William Street from the Cohen estate. Rumor says he will do some building soon.

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

***Gloucester County Democrat* December 7, 1893**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gloucester County Democrat **December, 1894**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gloucester County Constitution

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday October 13, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 8 October 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

On behalf of the members of the Wenonah Historical Society I wish to thank Louis and Vicki McCall for the lovely evening we enjoyed at their home "The Grange" for our September meeting. It provided for a relaxed atmosphere, the fellowship and refreshments were great, and the weather was ideal. The world is so full of turmoil, hustle and bustle it was such a peaceful time we were able to spend there.

Our Historical Society had a table reserved at the Harvest Fair held Saturday, September 30th. Our display of merchandise for sale was set up by a committee headed by Betty MacLeod. The committee consisted of Helen and Jack Sheppard, Betty Rose and Pat Sole.. The sale netted a profit of over $400.00 in spite of being cut short by some early afternoon rain. Our materials consist of large and small banners, handbags, historical scene placemats, baseball style caps, Chuck Foreman's book on the Map of Wenonah, and packets of historical picture postcards Many of these items continue to be for sale and can be purchased at our meetings, or by contacting Betty MacLeod or myself. They will make wonderful gifts for the upcoming holidays. Help support your organization.

Our next meeting is will be Friday, October 12, 2006. The program will feature vignettes on the past History of Wenonah. Rachel Knisell, a charter member of the Historical Society and its first secretary has collected news articles, letters, photos and numerous writings about our town. Rachel saves and catalogues them in bound folders. She has donated several to the Historical Society and they are now part of our archives. Rachel is the local historian of Wenonah and is so listed in the Historical Office in Trenton.

At our November meeting we will, according to our bylaws, choose a nominating committee to select officers for the next two years.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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

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

To keep the Wenonah Historical Society strong, vibrant and growing we must elect officers who have the desire and enthusiasm to perform the duties of the position for which they are selected.

During the business portion of the meeting we will have our committee chairpersons give their reports.

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

WHS Museum Project

Many have asked, "how is the creation of the museum coming along and when will it be finished?"

A very good question, in fact two questions in one.

The answer to the first part is that progress is being made. The lead volunteer Julie Ream has put in a great many hours preparing a procedure to expedite entering information into the computer, and training volunteers how to use it. Julie does a lot of the computer entry herself and as a result most of the Wenonah Military Academy artifacts have been added to the computer program along with photographs. Once entered, Julie carefully prepares the items for long-term storage, properly boxed or wrapped, in numbered locations.

As to the second part of the question, when will it be finished, it is much harder to answer. We have been learning that apart from the military academy objects we don't have a great deal of truly identifiable, meaningful Wenonah related items. We are sorting what we have into two sections. Those that have historic value and the others that have dubious connection to the town's history.

What we do have however that we have to decide how to handle are the notebooks and folders holding photocopies of news articles from local newspapers. The quality is poor and many are fading fast.

More reports will be provided as we progress.

Mantua Creek and the Industry of Boat Building

Compiled by H. A. .Long

The question how much has Mantua Creek filled up at Mantua during the last fifty years is frequently discussed among some of our citizens. Some say two feet while others assert that in the channel the fill up is not more than six inches.

Having given the subject some thought has enabled me to gather some history of the boats that have been built at the headwaters of Mantua Creek, together with other items of history as far back as we can gather reliable information. In collecting the items we have' no other means to obtain them than the memory and statements of our oldest citizens, and If not true in the whole are true in the main.

In my schoolboy days I recollect the appearance of an old road passing in front of "Old Chase's," a colored family, now owned by Myers. Mrs. Mary White and the Hazlet property, now S. Lewallen's passing back of William Hendrickson's house, across the creek a little way below Eldridge's bridge on the Dilksboro Road, running an easterly direction and crossing the east branch near Wenonah, tbence running a more northerly coarse passing West Jessup;s farm, coming out to the turnpike near the Madara property, afterward Garrigues, now L. M, Green's, in the southern part of Woodbury. The South branch of Mantua Creek was called Chestnut Branch, and the crossing was known as the Old Ford. The east was called Cedar Branch and the crossing Spark's Ford. There is no history of vessels being built any further up the creek.

Nathaniel Chew built one vessel near the forks of the creek on Chestnut Branch and named her the "*Eight Brothers*" in honor of his eight sons, Andrew, Nathaniel, Wesley, Elijah and Elisha, (twins), Sylvester, Jesse and Nathan.

He also built two at the Ford on the same branch one of which was named *Industry* and the other *Traveler*. I am not informed what became of the *Traveler*, but the *Industry* went down on the middle ground below David Whitall's house, (now C. N. Shuster's) and was removed at the time the steamer Daniel Drew was running between Berkley and Philadelphia. Seth Jones was her last captain. Benjamin Allen, grandfather of the late Josiah C. Allen, of Wenonah, built several sloops one of which was built near the forks of the creek. His carpenter was John Christian.

Thomas Sparks built a sloop of 45 to 50 tons burden near Sparks' Ford on Cedar Branch. Elisha Chew was the carpenter. The ground where she was built was much higher than the water in the creek and being more than her length from the water, to use the language of my informant, "she went like wild fire," stuck in the mud, and they were several tides getting her away.

Jacob Swope and Joseph Heritage built a vessel about where Duell & Perry's canning factory now stands, near the road leading from Mantua to Wenonah (this was a site on Mantua Creek just north of the Mantua Avenue bridge, known as Hennisey's Landing). Her name was *Temperance* and John Stotes was her first captain. Others were built on Hennisey's Landing and near the forks of the creek by Leonard Clark, Benjamin Parks; Thomas Sparks, Nathaniel and Elisha Chew and perhaps others of which we have no correct history. Continuing down the creek we next come to Abram Park's wharf, afterward Norris' now Dilkes' where several vessels have been built, some which must have been built near a century ago while others are within the memory of some now living. One, Isaac Durmot, who lived on the hill near the wharf,(the house now gone) was noted as a ship carpenter and builder, and seemed to have a fancy for naming his boats after the common water fowl such as the *Duck*, *Drake*, *Grey Goose*, *Gander*, etc.

In conversation with Mrs. Mary White nee Alfred, who was well along in the 80's we learned that when she was a small girl in the company of other girls went, in the fall of the year, down the creek with Captain William

Hazlett, who was about to lay his boat up for the winter, the children going for the ride. The name of the boat was *Drake*. The captain took her up the creek, laid her at High Hill landing near the forks of the creek where she would lay afloat and be near his home during the winter.

Sometime during the decade of 1840 John C. Eastlack, a ship carpenter and builder, moved to the house on the hill where Louis Carre now lives and followed his trade. Of those that he built one was called the *Rio Grand* for James Jessup. She was owned by Capt. Albert Lodge of Paulsboro a the time of his death, and we believe is still in a condition for use although she was built more than forty years ago.

Another was built for Alexander R. Long, named Mantua and launched during the summer of 1849. Isaac Cowgill Esq. and Joseph R. Paul of Paulsboro were the first to run her. Mr. Long afterward sold her to Spencer McIlvain of Ridley Creek for the stone business. There is scarcely a distance of a hundred feet of the shore between the Tonkin line, now Morgan's and the Bee line, now T.C. Dilkes', but what a vessel has been built upon. On the north side of the creek and about two hundred yards east of the turnpike near a small bridge, a sloop was built by Frances A. Campbell on land owned by T.C. Dilks. Your writer, though a small boy at the time, recollects being on her when she was launched. Among those on the sloop was Jonas Chew who asked the question of those with whom he was in conversation, whether the true name of the dock then growing on the sides of the creek should be "water dock, splather dock, splatter dock or simply dock, or if it might not be classed as some kind of a lily" when voices were heard saying "there she goes" and the vessel slid into the water. The same F.A. Campbell built another vessel nearer the bridge on the same side of the creek; a canal was dug behind her so as to get her into the water.

On the south side but a few feet from the bridge, and now under the trolley road, a keel and timbers were laid by John and William Tonkin, but was not launched for twenty-one years, when the decayed parts were taken out and the boat finished sufficient to be placed in the water. She was never completed and went down a short distance below the bridge and was torn to pieces and taken out by a German named Frederic Schrader. At the lower end of the wharf vessels have been built by Charles Clark, Samuel Locke and others. A little below on the opposite side of the creek Stille Chew built the *Nathan* and the *Two Brothers*.

Historical Tidbits

Gloucester County Democrat

November 24, 1898

An electric motor wagon ran through Woodbury on Tuesday. It was a four wheel, one seated affair with bicycle tires. A man and lady occupied it with several large sample cases such as are carried buy notion drummers. It was going at about a six miles an hour pace and a jet of steam came out about the centre of the hind axle. The man guided it from one side of the trolley tracks to the other and seemed to be as entirely at home as the rest of us would be behind a pair of thoroughly broken high steppers. The natives stared as the queer contrivance passed. *Gloucester County Democrat*

March 15, 1900

On Thursday evening a meeting was held [in Wenonah] for the organization of a Fire Company. A number of representative citizens met and elected Councilman William B. Oat, President; Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T.J. Savage, Chief; Joseph Truncer, Foreman.

Now in case of necessity everyone will lend their assistance as before, but there will be a head to the concern, and so save valuable time.

March 30, 1900

The added improvements at the station are rapidly nearing completion. What with the new shed, gates and fence between the tracks, the residents will feel safe as to accidents at the crossing.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday November 10, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 9 November 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

The holiday season is approaching with Thanksgiving Day Thursday November 23rd and of course Christmas December 25th. This will be a very busy time for all of our members.

Prior to those dates an important event will take place on Election Day, Tuesday November 7, 2006. We should all exercise our special right of franchise, voting, granted to us by our founding fathers.

A little bit of history about Wenonah. I have been told this is the first tine we have had a contest for the office of mayor. Of course in the past there have been many contests for council seats. This is a great thing for democracy.

Besides the general and local elections our own Historical Society will be nominating a slate of officers for the next two years starting January 2007. All members are urged to attend this November meeting as nominations can be made from the floor.

If you have driven about our town you have seen the beautiful change of color in our trees, especially the view at Warner's Lake.

There will not be a specific planned program for this meeting. If any member would like to present a remembrance of Wenonah of some historical fact we will like to hear it.

The Arthur J. Holeton Post #192 is sponsoring a Veterans Day Dinner at Oak Valley Caterers November 11th Veteran's Day, once known as Armistice Day, the date when the first World War ended. If any person wishes to attend contact Doug Gehring 468-2255 or Joe Schultes at 468-5241. This year we will be honoring the U.S. Coast Guard.

Dues for 2007 will be due January 1, 2007. Jean Cowles is membership chairperson. She can be reached at 468-6031. Our post office box is # 32 should you wish to mail your dues.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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

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

We invite non-members and new people in town to join our organization.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. Pat Sole is once again chairing the committee. Her telephone # is 468-6661. Further notice of details will be forthcoming.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you for your support of the Wenonah Historical Society.

WHS Museum Project

As mentioned in the last issue of our newsletter progress on our museum is being made, although slower than I had originally anticipated. Right now we continue the cataloguing, photographing and entering the materials in the computer. This is being done by Julie Ream and her volunteers.

The project I have undertaken is to determine how many of the paper plans and other documents have historical value and how to identify and store them for future retrieval. One of thee problems with this process is that most of the objects are tightly coiled and resist being flattened. Many of them are old and brittle, very difficult to work with.

One item of interest is the original plan for the layout of the northeast section of Wenonah that unfortunately was not implemented.

J.C. Sheppard Sr.

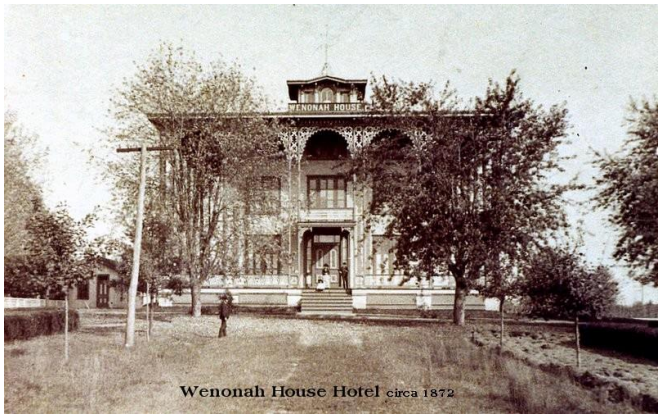
Historical Tidbits

The Wenonah House was opened for guests in the spring of 1872. The forty-room hotel rose three stories and was crowned by a square cupola. Iron Doric columns reaching all the way to the roof surrounded three sides of the hotel and a veranda twelve feet wide provided space for promenades. From the veranda guests could stroll across South Clinton Avenue to an open space being developed into parks divided by a lane. Running water and gas were installed in every room and, according to a newspaper article; it was "furnished in elegant style."

Wenonah House Hotel and Inn 1872 - 1903

Compiled by J. Sheppard Sr.

Constitution Newspaper Nov 29, 1871 Under the management of the skilful engineer of the West Jersey Railroad, Mr. W.F. Alien, this beautifully laid but village begins to assume shapes and proportions highly flattering to the West Jersey Railroad Company. Avenues have been opened, shade trees planted and the grading of the streets placed in the hands of competent workmen. Although a newly started village, some ten or fifteen beautiful cottages and mansions have already gone up. The hotel is a beautiful structure, and shows at once the spirit of the men having the place in charge. It was built by Harden & Brother of Camden. The beauty of the site, healthiness of the location and nearness to the city make Wenonah certain of receiving many who seek retirement for the Summer and a home in the country and at the same time a place in daily contiguity with the city. Another year will place Wenonah on a footing, from the cheapness of the land or advantages offered, with the oldest villages in the state. Factories are being talked of and soon we may expect to sue a population of 500 to 1,000 people.



Wenonah House Hotel circa 1872

Constitution January 6, 1886 "A Sad Ending of life". On Tuesday afternoon of last week the dead body of Isaac Newton was found in a room at the Avenue Hotel on Delaware Ave., Philadelphia. In a cup on the washstand were the dregs of a dose of poison. His outer clothing was removed and carefully folded and laid on another bed in the room, while an unsealed letter addressed to his brother was found on the windowsill. In the letter he said: "For God's sake, bury me in the same grave with my wife. I have done this because life has been full of trouble since her death. I commit the children to your care." He went to the hotel on Monday, and after eating a meal picked out a room which suited him and retired early. As he gave no instructions about being called he was not disturbed until noon following when the door was forced open. He had evidently been dead several hours. Isaac Newton was well known in this county having been proprietor of the Wenonah House and Mantua Hotel for years. He was of genial disposition and made many friends. Since the death of his wife, which occurred about three months ago, he had been very despondent.

Editorial Comment: For many years following the opening of the Wenonah House the proprietors were Isaac and Mahlon Newton. Of course the name Newton was connected to the Newton Hotel in Woodbury. In Wenonah the Isaac Newton's, husband and wife were responsible for arranging many of the affairs and revelry that took place during the summer seasons. Reference to them occurs frequently in the Wenonah news sections of the local newspapers. I have no way of knowing how Isaac and Mahlon were related. Perhaps a reader might have that knowledge.

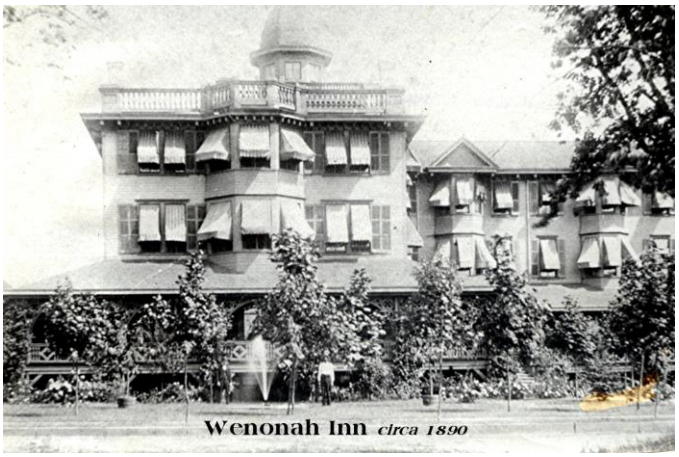
Constitution August 10, 1887 On Thursday last a private car was attached to the excursion train on the West Jersey Railroad and forty seven guests of the Wenonah House went to Atlantic City and passed a pleasant day in bathing, sailing and fishing. On their return to Wenonah they found the hotel illuminated with Chinese lanterns and a choice supper awaiting them. Mr. Newton, the proprietor, understands how to make things pleasant for his guests and his efforts are thoroughly appreciated. The fact that the excursionists were all acquainted with one another added to the enjoyment of the trip to Atlantic City.

Glouco Democrat March 20, 1893 This beautiful residence borough is now taking Its longest stride forward. New buildings are being erected of a character that give the town an air of stability and thrift, possessed by new suburban places, and the borough authorities are evincing a public spirit in keeping with period, by the introduction of a complete system of sewerage, insuring to the people surroundings that shall be as healthful an the borough is beautiful.

The Wenonah Inn Company, of which Stephen Greene, Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, Dr. Wm. Greene, Chas.

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

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


Wenonah Inn *circa 1890*

Real estate has had a boon here the past week and this is only a forerunner of what is to follow. Mr. R. J. Clark has bought back from Jesse English the store property for $8,000, the price of the stock is to be fixed by an appraisment. Blair Smith bought four houses of the Horatio Mulford estate, and has already sold one of them..

Glouco Democrat July 6, 1891 It is reported on good authority that the "Wenonah House" formerly owned by Charles Middleton is now owned by a syndicate of three, viz: Stephen Green, T.W. Synnott and Dr. Geo. Bailey. Some think it will be converted into a home for invalids, but we can't tell, you know.

Glouco Democrat September 28, 1892 The project for a large new hotel is now fairly started, a large part of the excavation for the cellar having been made, and the stone masons are at work on the foundations walls.

Constitution August 16, 1893 There is nothing being left undone to make the "Wenonah Inn" the finest country hostelry in the State. The appointments, conveniences and accommodations will be the best. A splendidly sufficient supply of water has been secured; the electrical apparatus is of the latest design; the plumbing, always one of the most important in a public house, has been put into the most competent hands, while the drainage and sewerage system is according to the best regulations of sanitarians; 8 inch drain pipes are now being laid from the house to a lot on the creek banks, a distance of near half a mile. The cost of the improvements and the furnishings will exceed $70,000.

Constitution April 12, 1894 The building being erected for the servants quarters of the Wenonah Inn is rapidly nearing completion.

Constitution May 30, 1894 The bowling alley at the Inn is nearly completed; the billiard room in the basement was opened on Saturday night.

Constitution June 19, 1872 A windmill is being erected on the Wenonah House to pump water into the large tank upon its roof.

Constitution December 16, 1903 In line with other extensive improvements going on at the Inn, Stephen Greene has had architects down drawing plans for remodeling the first floor, and making other interior changes. A feature of the improvements will be a swimming pool on the spacious grounds. One of the best seasons for this well-known house is anticipated next year.

A great many people were surprised when on September 20, 1904 the Inn building opened under a new name - The Wenonah Military Academy.

Wenonah Historical Society

Christmas Meeting
Friday December 8, 2006

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 10 December 2006

Message From President Don Ralston

Dear Members;

It is WHS officer election time again. Our Constitution and Bylaws specify election of officers at the Annual meeting in January. The pertinent rules are as follows;

ARTICLE IV -Officers and Trustees

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and a Treasurer Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall consist of these four officers plus two trustees, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Society.

ARTICLE V -Election of Officers and Trustees

Section 1. The Officers and Trustees shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by a majority of those present at the Annual meeting

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

Section 1. The Annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of January or as close as possible at a proper place and time determined by the officers of the Society.

At that time we are to present a slate of officers for the organization to consider and vote on. At our November meeting a new slate of officers was nominated to serve during the next two years They are; President: Louis McCall Vice President; Barbara Capelli Recording Secretary; Jo Dominy Finance Officer: Carol Wiltsee Trustee; Vicki McCall Trustee: Betty MacLeod, Honorary Trustee Lucy Schultz. Nominations may also be made from the floor at that time.

Our annual Christmas party will be held Friday, December 8, 2006 at the Community Center. Pat Sole is in charge of this event. Pat and her committee of Helen Sheppard, Betty Rose, Jo Dominy and Betty MacLeod have worked diligently to make this party an outstanding event.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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

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

Social hour will be 5: PM to 6 PM.

At 6 PM we will take our places at the dining tables. At that time we will open with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance and a few opening remarks. At 6:15 PM dinner will be started. The Telford Inn is once again catering the buffet style dinner. They will serve dessert at the tables. Pat has arranged for the Munier Mandolin and Guiter Quartet for music. The leader of this group is member Bob Bevilaqua's brother.

Following the meal we will have the drawing for the exchange of gifts.

Betty Rose has again arranged with the Gloucester County Historical Society for a Christmas display in our display case at Wenonah Public School. It is wonderful!!

A very nice program was held recently at the Wenonah Public School Butterfly Garden. A Red Maple Tree was planted in memory of Bradley Caraker. Verses were read and songs were sung at the event.

If you are looking for "Christmas stocking stuffers" the Society has various items such as caps, t-shirts, place mats, banners and booklets for sale. Betty MacLeod handles the sale of such items. Her telephone # is 468-6981.

Please take a moment to remember our military people and their families during this holiday season.

As a final thought, have yourselves a safe and happy holiday season and God Bless America.

Station Restoration

In the October newsletter Borough Engineer Dave Kreck's timetable for the station rehabilitation project was provided. It noted that by the end of 2006 all preparatory steps would be completed and that bids for the work could be solicited. It further noted construction could commence by April 2007. If this timetable is accurate our Museum Committee is going to be very busy making arrangements to protect the artifacts.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

We Who Were Born Before 1945 . .

We are survivors. Consider the changes we have witnessed:

We were born before television, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL.

We were born before credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioned homes, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Paramount Theater.

We were before househusbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before daycare centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums: A "chip" meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, "McDonald's" and instant coffee, who knew?

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores where you actually bought things for five and ten cents. Breyers' or Hershey ice cream cones sold for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a bus, make a phone call, buy Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for $600.00, but who could afford one; a pity too because gas was 11 cents a gallon

In our day smoking was fashionable. GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not before the differences between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think that you needed a husband to have a baby

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today. BUT WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason to celebrate?

Contributed by President Don

Wenonah 100 Years Ago 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)

Mrs. Gilmour led the service in the Presbyterian Church this Sunday.

Mr. William Dawson has bought an oil lamp like the town used for street lighting and has put it up. (He lived in the house that presently is the Wenonah Medical Centre)

Wenonah is the banner town for card playing. Five hundred seems to be the most popular game.

Mr. Dawson is doing his duty trying to light up his property. If every citizen did the same it would not be necessary for the town to light up the streets. Wenonah has been the darkest place the last night or two. We understand the Electric Light Company has refused to fulfill the balance of their contract, therefore the darkness. Is our town to be in darkness all winter? Possibly our council can throw some light on the subject. City fathers let us hear from you.

Mr. Locke sold a handsome piano to a party in Pitman this week. Mr. Locke is doing a fine business in musical instruments.

Miss Bacon is very sick with the flu. Ex-Mayor Harlan has been sick in bed for about a month. Mrs. George Dilkes is able to be out after an attack of the grip.

The King's Daughters met at the home of Miss Dorothy Paris. (Miss Paris married and became Dorothy Mulvey. She and her husband and family were some of the grand, wonderful people of our community)

The Wenonah orchestra met at the home of George Greenig last Friday.

The W.C.T.U. will meet at the home of Mrs. Gilmour tomorrow afternoon at one o'clock. (The

local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was a powerful moral force within the community.)

Two dogs were on the third rail yesterday but not hurt much. One was killed during the week. FOR SALE A one horse bolster wagon. Milton Chew Mantua Mr. And Mrs. C.Fowler Cline spent Wednesday at Blackwood.

Thirty-eight more gas lamps have arrived which will be enough to cover the town. (Previous to this street illumination was by electric and was very undependable)

The best game of basketball of the season will be played tomorrow night at Woodbury when they meet with Camden.

There was a big time at the Grange here last night when about eighty members were present. Mr. Whitehead's lecture was greatly enjoyed. (They meet on North Marion Avenue at Noblit's Hall, a former school house which later became the Y.M.C.A. Hall then the Legion Hall, now a private residence.)

The Ladies Aid Society of the Wenonah Memorial Presbyterian Church will hold a bread and cake sale on Friday from three till five o'clock. There will be on sale bread, cake and salad. Tea and coffee will be served at five o'clock at 5 cents per cup.

FOR SALE Eight fine pigs, six weeks old. Howard Henrickson Wenonah (He built the house on the north east corner of North Jefferson and Mantua Avenue.)

Plumber Viereck has received a carload of stone. He will build an addition to his house.

Miss Lucy Carson has the misfortune to have to wear glasses

Dr. Stout is taking advantage of the cold weather and is filling his ice house (5 East Mantua Avenue)

Chalky Lyon's horse was frightened here yesterday and ran away. The wagon struck a tree and turned over with Mr. Lyons underneath but he escaped with a few bruises. (He lived on Bank Bridge Road which also was called Saw Mill Road or Lyon's Avenue)

The Annual Minstrel Show will be given by the cadets February 1st. This show promises to eclipse all former efforts in that line. The cadets will have a hop on ground hog day. Two new cadets from Pennsylvania will enter the Academy February 1

The Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey January 1907

BRADLEY PAUL CARAKER

He plays baseball, third base
the most valuable player
he loves to fish, play football
video games and boogie board too
he plays the piano and guitar
I bet one day he's gonna be a star

Bradley has got a great smile
a great sense of humor
he's a wonderful guy
Bradley's an amazing boy
we're singing this song to you
I hope you enjoy it, Bradley
yes I do, Bradley
this song is for you

Going to the beach with mom and dad
and brother Billy and sister Kristen
running around with
Bailey Baxter Jr. your dog
the color red or baking with mom-mom
or eating crab, shrimp or steak

Bradley has got a great smile
A great sense of humor
He's a wonderful guy
Bradley's an amazing boy
We're singing this song to you
I hope you enjoy it, Bradley

Bradley has got a great smile
a great sense of humor
he's a wonderful guy
Bradley's an amazing boy
we're singing this song to you
I hope you enjoy it, Bradley
yes I do, Bradley
this song is for you

Words, music and vocals by Carl Allocco
This song generously sponsored by the Karma Foundation

@2006 by Songs of Love Foundation
With permission of Eileen Caraker

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday January 12, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1 January 2007

Message From President Louis McCall

Dear Members;

I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to be the Wenonah Historical Society President for the 2007 year. I am truly humbled by Past President Don Ralston's achievements and all the rich personal history which he often shares. On behalf of the membership I want to thank Don for his untiring efforts and devotion to the Society and hope he continues to actively share with us many of his interesting tales for many years to come!

I am often amazed about the richness of our town's history and am sure it will be an even bigger asset to Wenonah in year's to come. We must not lose focus that we are the sole organization in town specifically designated to search out, preserve and share Wenonah's history. Thus our mission continues to be to enrich the lives of current and future generations by preserving the historical record of Wenonah and advancing interest and awareness in it's past. …and of course to have a good neighborly time doing so! Our Historical Society, like any society by definition, is a collection of people with common interest, so I am asking each of you to do two things in the upcoming year: first- Please sign up and actively participate in one of our committees which we will discuss in our next meeting and secondly- I would like each member to try to bring at least one new member in by the end of 2007.

After all, we are also one of the best social groups that Wenonah has to offer!

For the 2007 year, I would like to continue the many achievements and projects already in motion or are ready to be started. These include the continuing pursuit of the restoration of our Community Center, a significant gem to our town, and the historical archiving project, a must for the preservation and documentation of the Society's assets.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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

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

As for newer business, I intend to pursue with the membership some yet-to-be discussed new projects, including a to be proposed new Wenonah Historical Society publication, a "Wenonah Family Album," to be comprised of pictures and quotes obtained from members and our archives. I would also like to pursue additional grant monies from the New Jersey Historical Commission. These efforts should not only be good sources of financial strength, but can also be excellent vehicles to further our mission of promoting the historical understanding and awareness of Wenonah.

Lastly, I want to make a personal plea to all of you, our members, to take the time and write-down a personal Wenonah family history and story and gather some pictures we can copy, as we need to save today what may not be available to us tomorrow. It is you, your memories and your pictures and artifacts that we need to preserve and share. I would like to ask each member to write a Wenonah historical interest type story of your memories and stories that we need to preserve. We would like to not just preserve them but share them in future newsletters and other publications such as in the proposed "Wenonah Family Album" and of course, own archives.

Lastly, I want to hear if you would like to entertain adding another annual social event to our calendar and what the ideas. Maybe it could be a wine and cheese before the Fourth of July's open house or bus trips to the casinos to see shows, or even a joint wine and cheese with some other organizations in town.

I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting on Friday the 12th and to another fun and productive year. Please bring your ideas!

Lou McCall

Station Restoration

In view of the resignation by Dawn Human as town manager we can only wait and see the effect on the state grant and rehabilitation plans.

Wenonah 98 Years Ago - March 1909

The Mantua Grange No.39, P of H, held an interesting meeting in their hall in Wenonah, when they initiated in the first and second degrees the Marshall of the borough, Mr. John Drummer and wife.

Quite a discussion took place on the platform this morning among the commuters while waiting for the 7:40 train. The subject was license and no license. Some contended that there was as much liquor used in Wenonah as there was in a licensed town of its size. Others doubted this statement. Our columns are open if there is anyone that desires to refute this statement.

The fine weather of today brought out the automobiles in force.

You who are lovers of good sour kraut go to Daniels (Mantua). 8 cents a qt.

FOR SALE 95 cords of wood. Also six tons of hot bed hay. Thomas Dilkes

Mr. Buzby is enlarging his barn for his new four cylinder Jackson. He won't have to get out and push when he gets that.

Mr. Nathan Shadock declares that he is the crack checker player instead of Walter Wentzell and says he will challenge him to play Saturday in the flag house.

The members of the Wenonah Women's Christian Temperance Union are endeavoring to replenish their treasury by each one making a dollar in some way. Mrs. Johnson is selling those useful canvas gloves to be worn while performing that necessary but rather disagreeable task of taking up ashes from the furnace and other rough chores about the place.

Mrs. Sweeten is keeping harmony with her name and is selling sweets in the shape of ginger snaps.

Four new houses are underway. The outlook for spring is excellent. At least fifty new houses are contemplated in the next few months.

The explosion at Wilmington was plainly heard here this morning.

A change in the trolley schedule will go into effect this Friday, but this will not change the time on the Mantua line.

Pan Dandy found half of a dollar note in Wenonah this morning which had been cut in two pieces by a wagon wheel. He is looking for the party who found the other half and he will either buy or sell.

The Automobile Club are getting their machines in order for an early spring run. Daniel Brown will make some of them look to their laurels.

CUSPIDORS both in tin and chysolite painted red or blue 12 cents Leppee, Opera House Block, Woodbury

Adam Knight was in Trenton yesterday at the state boulevard hearing. He said it was amusing to hear some of the New Yorkers telling Jerseymen what they need in the way of roads. It would be a fine thing for the millionaire New York auto owners to have a fine boulevard along the shore at the expense of the taxpayers of New Jersey. South Jersey was well represented at the hearing, the Grangers taking a determined stand against the project.

Officers Drummer and Parks arrested a Negro in Pitman Sunday evening. The man had been acting in a suspicious manner and tried to get away from the officers. He was brought to Wenonah and the Mayor questioned him as to where he was going and his purpose. He told many different stories and contradicted himself too often. He gave his name as Arthur Boldin. He was sentenced to thirty days in jail.

A large and enthusiastic crowd witnessed one of the most intensely and exciting basketball games ever played in Wenonah. The Central High School boys came to Wenonah, Saturday, confident in their ability to make our boys feel and look like thirty cents. Husky boys, that strutted around in their egotism, for they are independent champions, of Philadelphia. They almost doubly out weighed Wenonah Military Academy, but like the diamond, the Wenonah team was small, brilliant and intrinsic value and by cyclonic plays out-pointed the Central High by a score of 32 to 28. The game was rough and fast. Despite the weight and size of the visitors our boys were amply able to cover themselves with glory.

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mhw

Wenonah 98 Years Ago –April 1909

Our grange is purchasing more goods each year. The main thing which is being purchased now is fertilizer. (North Marion Avenue must have smelled very fragrant.) The grange held its session last night and the "Planting of corn to derive the best results was openly discussed."

The Academy relay team won second place at the University of Pennsylvania relay races at Franklin Field. Girard College with 1200 students beat the cadets by a few yards.

May evangelistic meetings will be held in the M.E. Church. Able speakers will be present. The ladies will serve free luncheons at 12 o'clock and at 6 p.m.

Remember the minstrel entertainment tomorrow night. The Lulu Band Orchestra and the Lulu Saxophone Quartette will assist the Wenonah Minstrel Club.

Cards are out for a dance to be given by Miss Henrietta Comey at the Woodbury Country Club.

James Carey is making much needed improvements in the drain of his cesspool. Mr. Carey is a citizen that believes in doing to others, as he would have them do unto him.

Mr. John Colbert has been made president of the farmer's Club and would like all members present to attend church in a body Sunday evening.

Dr. Harry Stout is having his icehouse repaired and painted so as to have it in shape for the next winter (5 East Mantua Avenue)

Nine new houses are in the course of erection. All the improvements seem to be on the West Side and if it continues to grow as at present it will soon eclipse the East Side by numbers and fine homes.

There was a noticeable sprinkling of lovers around Lake Cornelia Sunday afternoon. (This lake was on the East Side of what is now the Marion Avenue Bridge.)

The minstrel entertainment for the benefit of the library will be given in the armory of the Academy Saturday evening. (The armory was located on the northwest corner of Marion Ave. and Cherry St.)

With the advent of spring, strangers will visit us and the appearance in general of the borough will determine whether they will settle with us or not. Every citizen should take personal pride in our town. Homes and yards should be at their best in the next months. The Park Committee should do something with the park.

There are still two beer arks which visit Wenonah every Wednesday. You can bet it is not the men who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow who patronize them. It is useless to argue whom drinks the "stuff' commonly called beer and whiskey.

Considerable kick is going on because the Park Committee threatens to close the walks across the park.

No town in jersey is as free from tramps as our borough. Marshall Drummer nabs them as they arrive and if the excuse is not very good the mayor sends them up the road. Our families are well protected and it seems generally known.

The Sewing Circle met at the home of Miss Margaret Farr yesterday.

George B. says everything is lovely when the goose hangs high (?)

All those who take part in the crucifixion are urged to be present at the rehearsal in the Presbyterian Church Friday night. (?)

For the month of March 122 books have been circulated. The three most read books have been First, Revolt of Ann Royal, Martin; Second, The Trail of the Lonesome Pine, Fox; Third, Lavender and Old lace, Myrtle Reed. -Mortie L.Stokes, librarian (she was librarian from 1902 until 1944.)

The ladies of the Sunbeam Club, of Wenonah will hold their sixth annual concert and reception in Green Street, North Woodbury. String music and dancing will add to the evening's enjoyment. Tickets can be had of any member for 15 cents.

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mhw

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday February 9, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 2007

Yet Another Wenonah History

Wenonah was a housing development created by the Mantua land and Improvement Company. This organization was a mix of men associated with local businesses, the West Jersey Rail Road and Philadelphia investors. The West Jersey tracks in Deptford Township below Woodbury had been realigned and a new station built called the new Mantua Station at Wenonah. This was sited in the middle of what was previously Isaac Stevenson's sweet potato field. This was the area proposed for the new town on the West Jersey Railroad. In December of 1870 the decision was made to form this land company and to buy 572 acres of land in this area for $69,575. The members present at the meeting subscribed to half of this amount.

One of the men attending this preliminary meeting was William Fredrick Allen, Resident Engineer of the West Jersey Rail Road. He was the son in law of Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the railroad and director of the Land Company. Allen's role in the creation of Wenonah was vital as it was his plat plan that would be the guideline for the future evolution of this new town.

In this plan the focal point was to be a "boarding house" facing a two-block park area. Adjacent to this was the new railroad depot. The streets were laid out in a grid pattern, roughly north and south, east and west. Wenonah was an early example of a railroad suburb that was established around a transportation node both to derive profit from the sale of land and to provide ridership for the railroad itself.

The proposed Wenonah House hotel was to be 45 by 52 feet, three stories high with a back building 26 by 40 feet surrounded by a veranda 12 feet in width. It was described as being Doric in style but the cupola on top gave it a distinctive Italianate style, very Victorian. Each room was to have water and gas, a luxury for this period. An interesting feature was a windmill to provide power to pump water into a tank on the roof.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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

Bids came in from as far away as Cape May City. One bid of interest for the "Boarding House at Mantua Station" was for a sum of $15,800 and was signed by Sterling Clayton, guaranteed by E. Stokes Co. of Woodbury, dated April 3, 1871. The lowest bidder was Harden and Brother of Camden in the amount of $15,000 for which they were awarded the contract.

In 1872, the new Wenonah House opened for its first summer season with Benjamin Packer, a local resident in charge. Although the town was sparsely populated with only ten houses the hotel was fully booked up for the season. Newspaper accounts give a glimpse into the activities of the boarding house. Mentioned were plays, cakewalks, pigeon matches, a turtle supper for fifty people and concerts. One such event is described in the local newspaper.

"*The guests of the Wenonah House prior to closing enjoyed a reedbird supper, and the last hop of the season, impromptu. At the supper the reed-birds were invitingly imbedded in the only toast offered as if they were anxiously expecting appreciation, which they fully met with, in connection with the hot waffles and dressing of "sugar and spice and all that is nice." Every luxury was included in the amply spread table, and all did full justice to the repast, and were reluctant to leave the supper room radiant with brightness and good cheer. Dancing on the 'light fantastic toe" was heartily enjoyed until the participants were well tired. This was followed by a tableaux and stair dance, so vivid, so real that all could participate in the mirth. The respected proprietor and his lovely wife have our warmest thanks for their cordial hearty efforts for the comfort and pleasure of their guests, and as we parted it was with the earnest wish and prayer that they might be encouraged for many years with the same well filled house of cultured and pleasant people*".

Wenonah was never a "boom town" and has had its periods of depression. One such period was in the early 1880's. Bookings at the hotel became meager; houses built on speculation by the Land Company remained unsold. It was decided to hire a resident agent to create momentum to the land development. The man hired was Ephram J. Lloyd of Salem. He pursued his job with vigor, his first action was to persuade the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to get out of the hotel business and sell the Wenonah House. The sale was to an Ann Linen of Philadelphia and then to a Samuel Shreeve of Mt Laurel in the same year and finally to Mahlon Newton of Woodbury in 1884.

Newton was an experienced, young hotel manager. He entered the hardware business at the young age of eighteen and four years later opened and managed the Newton Hotel at Broad and Delaware Streets in Woodbury. The first new approach at the suggestion of Lloyd was that the hotel would be opened all year. Flyers were distributed which read "*GO TO WENONAH the new town on the West Jersey Rail Road 11 miles from Philadelphia before making arrangements for the summer or for the year No healthier location in the vicinity of Philadelphia fine rolling country and the best of water, boating and fishing.”*.

In 1884 Newton opened the Wenonah House with a reception with one hundred invited quests. There was a stringed orchestra from Philadelphia, Chinese lanterns, flags and flowers. This set the stage for the coming season. There were elaborate dinners, tableaux, lectures, yachting parties and hops. General William Sewell, a frequent guest of the hotel, who was the supervisor of the West Jersey Railroad, on several occasions provided private cars to be added to the excursion trains for trips to the shore. This period of 1884 to 1887 was very successful.

Unfortunately the ownership by Newton ended in 1887 when the building and grounds were sold to Senator George Pfieffer, Jr. of Camden for $12,000. He was a successful businessman owning a coal and lumber business, also the water supply business for the city of Camden. His hotel experience was the ownership of a hotel at Brown's Mill In-The-Pines. Business at the Wenonah House diminished rapidly, possibly because of absentee ownership and lack of interest. In 1890 the building remained empty and reflected poorly on the financial condition of the community. The newspaper wrote "*There is no probability that the hotel will open this season. As things go at present the Wenonah House is of no advantage either to the owner or to the borough*."

Finally in May of 1891, there was a public sale of the House and its furnishings by M. Thomas and Son of Philadelphia. The sale was a disaster, only the furniture was sold. Charles Middleton of Philadelphia held a $7,000 mortgage on the building and foreclosure soon followed. The building was put on the market and sold for $5,000 to Stephen Greene of Philadelphia.

Stephen Greene was one of the early pioneers of Wenonah. He was the owner of Helfenstein, Lewis and Greene, one of the largest printing firms on the East Coast. Mr. Greene vacationed for several years in Wenonah with his family as a guest at the Wenonah House. In 1880 he purchased a large tract of land and built a large home with many outbuildings including a large barn, stables and a greenhouse suitable for him to go into the florist business. His love was Wenonah and he became very supportive of the growth and betterment of the new village. One large philanthropic gesture was the financing of the construction of the new Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1892, Stephen Greene created a syndicate incorporated as the “Wenonah Inn Company" made up of himself, Thomas Whitney Synnott, Dr. George Washington Bailey, J. Frank Shull, and Charles M. Wilkins. Mr. Synnott was the president of the Whitney Glass Works, Glassboro and had retired the year of the formation of the syndicate. Dr. Bailey, a Civil War veteran had been a medical doctor but because of overwork had health problems. He then went very successfully into the coal business and amassed a considerable amount of money. J. Frank Shull was the owner of the wholesale grocery firm of Shull, Wireback and Company, Philadelphia. Charles M. Wilkins was the owner of Patrick, Carter and Wilkins, manufacturer of electrical supplies.

Plans were formulated to build a new hotel on the site of the old Wenonah House, which was to be demolished. It was designed to accommodate one hundred fifty guests, three times as many as the old hotel. The total cost would exceed $70,000, a considerable amount of money in that period. The paper reported "*a sufficient supply of water has been secured and the electrical apparatus is of the latest design, the plumbing, always one of the most important in a public house, has been put into the most competent hands*." There was a bowling alley, billiard room, barbershop, a 32 by 60 foot amusement room, and laundry and an engine-dynamo room."

The West Jersey Railroad started construction of a new "handsome" station as part of the agreement with the syndicate in their guarantee to build a new larger hotel. This station that opened in 1893 still stands today as the Wenonah Community Center.

Other improvements followed the 1892 construction of the Wenonah Inn. In 1894 servants' quarters were built on South Marion Avenue. Additional "shedding" for carriages and horses of the guests were erected on East Cherry Street. A large athletic field with a grandstand was laid out on East Cedar Street. An extensive sewage system was built not only for the hotel but also for the houses of the community. Remains of the system still exist today. A park area called "Camel Back" was created for the hotel patrons and the citizens of the town. This is now known as Comey's Lake, a Frank H. Stewart Estate acquisition. A wooded area on West Cedar Street called the "Glen" was cleared and "put into good order" for the visitors of the Inn. A new lake was formed at the foot of South Clinton Avenue with a large boathouse. This created accessibility to the Great Mantua Creek for canoeing which was quite popular during this period. This pond was called Greene's and later Parker's Lake. A small golf course was built extending from the recreational field to "Camel Back". Sidewalks were "flagged" replacing the old wooden walkways.

The hotel was an instant success and business was described as "booming". This brought back memories, to the townspeople, of the Wenonah House under the management of Mahlon Newton in the 1880's. The staff consisted of a manager, chief clerk, room clerk, night clerk, chef, headwaiter, head cook, head engineer, head porter, master of ceremonies, waiters and bellboys.

On several occasions special trains were put on the railroad siding for large dances and special affairs for the convenience of the patrons. One such affair was the performance of an opera advertised in July of 1890. *"WENONAH INN, N.J. extraordinary event grand opera "FAUST" by Gounad sung in concert by the Wolffunger Grand Opera Company of Philadelphia chorus of 40 people*".

Another interesting account was in 1895: "*A novel parade took place last Saturday afternoon by the guests of the Inn who have their teams here. There were about 35 turnouts and these were gaily decorated. The occupants carried flags and flowers while handsome horses held their heads high and seemed to feel as though they were engaged in the novelty as much as their owners. After parading through the borough they drove to Mantua and Woodbury".*

In 1899 the Wenonah Inn Company sold their real estate holdings back to Stephan and Martha Greene for an unknown reason. It could have been that there was a growing apprehension that trains previously carrying guest to the Inn were now transporting them to seashore points. The railroads during this period had created spurs to most of the off shore islands giving access to the growing popularity of salt water bathing. The advent of the automobile after the turn of the century gave freedom to explore new vacation spots. Wenonah was no longer considered a summer resort.

In 1903, Stephen Greene started extensive restoration of the first floor of the building and the grounds. Rumors circulated that he was even going to build a large swimming pool. These changes seemed strange considering the dim outlook for the future of the building. These doubts were answered on September 20, 1904 when the Inn building opened under a new name – "The Wenonah Military Academy".

from the Milton H. Webb archives

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday March 8, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 3 March 2007

Message From President Louis McCall

Dear Members;

The program for our next meeting will take us on a trip back in time to the high seas 150 years ago!!!

We are extremely pleased and honored to have member Pat Hart make a presentation to us during this months' meeting March 9, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Wenonah Community Center.

All of those fortunate enough to be in attendance will experience the extremely unique opportunity of being taken back in time to a sea voyage that took place in 1857, exactly 150 years ago. Our voyage will be second-handed of course through a narration by Pat of the life and times of husband Jack's great-grandmother, Elenora Green. She was the wife of a clipper ship captain whose home port was Baltimore, who often sailed around the world. Remember at that time in history a trip around the world was a quite substantial voyage on the high seas. Especially as there was no Panama Canal to use as a short cut, the trip required going "around the Horn", a very dangerous and exacting passage.

Although the Hart's have a few general diaries of Jack's great-grandmother Elenora, Pat will read excerpts from the diary of a special voyage where she accompanied her husband on his ship's voyage around Cape Horn, and they were accompanied by one of their baby children.

Those in attendance will also be privileged to see many related artifacts that the Hart's are in possession of including a shawl the Captain gave his wife as a gift from a voyage to China along with period dishware, a silver mug from that era and pictures from the Captain's and Elenora's Homestead in Virginia.

On another topic mentioned at our last meeting, please gather up those photos, memories and stories for inclusion in the upcoming Wenonah Family Album. Many thanks to Don Davis for the excellent photos and stories already submitted.

I look forward to seeing you Friday March 9th at 7:30 pm.

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Historic Wenonah

The Wenonah Inn on South Clinton Avenue had a bowling alley.

In 1900 Stephen Greene, owner of the Wenonah Inn had a golf course laid out extending from the present Cedar avenue ball field to the Comey's Lake area.

The first improvement to the streets of Wenonah was laying down cinders from the West Jersey railroad and oyster shells brought in from Port Norris.

Originally the Wenonah Park was divided in half with Park Avenue running though its middle.

In 1911 there were 35 different clubs and societies in Wenonah.

A woman, Hannah Bossler, owned the first automobile in Wenonah. In 1900 she was the winner of a Locomobile in a picture puzzle contest offered by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

William Fredrick Allen, Chief Engineer of the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, created the original street layout for Wenonah.

The grist mill at Wenonah Lake was started by Abraham Dilks before the Revolutionary War.

Jonathan Chew, owner of the "Stone House Farm" (South West Ave & Cherry St.) was a Tory Captain in the British Army during the Revolutionary War. He was captured and sentenced to death but was pardoned upon his exile to Canada.

There were 14 veterans of the Civil War living in Wenonah at the turn of the century.

Mantua Avenue was a gravel road until 1925.

The streetlights in Wenonah were gas until the 1920's.

There were three livery (horse) stables in Wenonah in the 1880's.

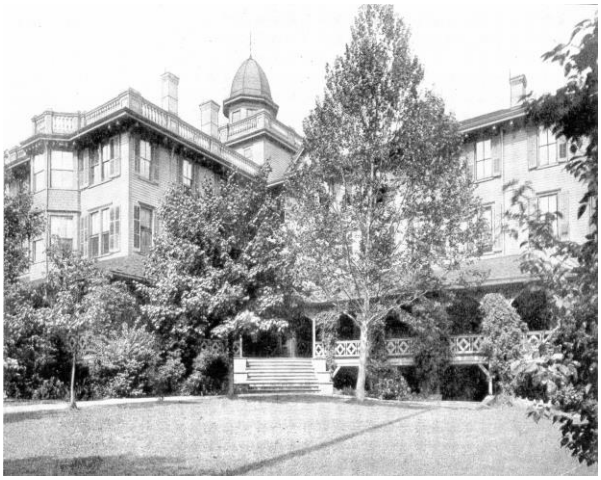
Jack Sheppard Sr.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY by Elm Mccormick 1/7/77

To the youngster of this day the name means nothing. But to those who attended the institution in Wenonah, 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 part of the 1900's 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 the 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 Army 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 Pennsgrove Red Devil footballers. Under an assumed name, of course as 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 that concerns Holton now. He's interested in keeping track of the many living grads that 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 school 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. Cettei (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 Ray Coble's (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-arounder (any sport you wanted to name) Maurice P. Shuman (they called him Kid) went to Peddie 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 y ears.

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.

Moze Segal, who was playing for Paulsboro High at the time, recalls a Wenonah visit. He was both a baseball player and a track teamer. The diamond match was halted for a couple of minutes while Segal went over to the track area where the Oilers and Academy teams were in conflict. Moze got his jumps in, went back to the ball field and the tilt was resumed. It was several years ago, you know, he said, and the scores, or who won have escaped him.

Salem County Sunbeam– January 7, 1977

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 13, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2007

Message From Vice President Barbara Capelli

Dear Members;

Spring has finally arrived here in our sunny Wenonah. Spring brings new life, re-growth and reminds us that warm weather is almost here to stay. This first Historical Society meeting of spring will bring us a fun and educational presentation by Judy Thompson and Charla Newland, members of the Quilter's Group of Wenonah. They will share with us information on the Wenonah Commemorative Quilt that marked the 100 year anniversary of the train station (1993). Judy and Charla will also share with us a photo scrapbook showing the progression of the quilt. I hope to see you all Friday and don't forget to bring a friend!

Now, back to thoughts of spring. Spring and summer can also be a great time for spring cleaning! So, perhaps somewhere in your attic or basement you'll come across some great family heirloom or something that is historically relative to our great Wenonah. Possibly, this prized possession will elicit some great memories of family and friends you have adored. I think it is very important to our future to reflect and remember times past and where we came from.

Maybe a favorite story, photograph, or item from long ago can be shared with your children and if we are lucky enough maybe you will share it with all of us at our June picnic. From now until June, hopefully you can find time to clean out those closets in search of some special piece in time that will recall special memories dear to your heart.

I can remember many evenings as a child that my dad would entertain us with old slide shows of family, friends, and special events. Those slide shows were filled with great family stories and memories of lives past.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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I was always particularly interested in our family's origin and what life was like when my grandparents and great grandparents grew up. I think more families need to bring back these memories and stories of family history for their children. After all, without those stories being told, they will soon be lost forever.

So, whether it is something you can share with our group or not, make sure to have a fun family night of history. If you should come across something particular to the preservation of Wenonah's history or even some great memories of times past in Wenonah, please make sure to come to June's picnic and share your treasures. Eventually, we'd like to document these stories and items in a book about Wenonah.

Therefore, let's welcome spring, its renewal of all those things living and let's not forget all the people, friends, and family that have shaped us and made us who we are today.

Historical Tidbits

Wm. C. Cattell has bought the land recently sold by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to J.C. Stevenson on the west side of Mantua Creek. A party of capitalists will organize and at once lay out a beautiful cemetery, which is very much needed in our midst.

Gloucester County Democrat
December, 6, 1900

Editor's Note:

What was to become known as the Wenonah Cemetery did organize the following year. The article said "thirty acres of land were purchased between here and Mantua and will at once be put in shape. This will be one of the prettiest cemeteries in this section. The trustees were Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia; Dr. H.A. Stout, H.G. Peddle and Wm. C. Cattell of Wenonah; Miss S.R. Chew of Mantua, and D.O. Watkins of Woodbury. .

There were nearly a hundred people assembled in the M.E. Church last night to welcome their new pastor, Rev. Mr. Cobb and family. The evening was exceedingly pleasant with music, and the sociability of the people made the new pastor feel as if he were among friends. After partaking of ice cream and cake the people left, all wishing the new "Dominie" and his family a pleasant happy year.

Both our stores have fine stocks of garden seeds etc on hand for early spring planting.

Our people who have been residing out of town during the winter months are returning to their residences here. (Wenonah was still considered a summer resort, by many, at this late period. They resided in Camden and Philadelphia in the winter.)

It is said there was a lively time at the annual school meeting held at Noblitt's Hall last night. There were five candidates. The appropriation of $2,300, which has been asked for the past few years, was endorsed.

R. H. Clark has erected a new grape arbor at his home in "Browntown" and expects to erect a new shed when the weather settles. (Browntown was the first block on West Willow Street.)

The grounds of the Inn are being put in shape for the coming season. (The Inn was the Wenonah Inn, east of the Borough Park.)

Turner and McCormick's store was a pleasing sight on Saturday filled with a fine line of fresh southern fruit.

Constable Drummer captured two suspicious characters loitering about town about 12:30 last night, and locked them up until morning. They made the excuse that they were looking for a friend.

After months of agitation enough interest in the Fire Company has been aroused to form such an organization, which was effected last night. A number of representative citizens meet and after weighing the matter well, elected councilman W.B. Oat, President: Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T. W. Savage, Chief, and Joseph Truncer, foreman.

What is everybody's business is nobodies business and for years all have been fireman and though we have been very free from disastrous fires, the lack of organization, so that each one would know his place and fill it in the least possible time, would have been seriously felt had a conflagration broken out. Now all will lend their assistance as before but there will be someone in authority to direct and use the brain and muscle of our stalwarts to the best advantage.

The decision of the Democrats to put a ticket in the field this spring has put the Republicans on the anxious bench as to who the nominees will be. No one seems to know until Saturday night, when the citizen's caucus will be held.

That our borough is a healthy place is proven by the fact that nearly all our doctors are dentists. The death rate is hardly mentionable and there is very little sickness. The population is increasing all the time.

Officer Drummer was not so successful in capturing the last man he went after. In company with officer Dopson and Deputy Savage, he started after John Tilden at Jericho wanted for resisting an officer in Woodbury about a year ago. The two officers entered the house but Tilden's father denied that his son was in the house. One started up the stairs and the other, it is said, looked in the room where the son was hiding but did not see him, when Savage called out "there he goes" and heard some one drop from the window. A hot chase ensued in which the officers shot at the fleeing darky nine times but he waded through a large pond, nearly to his waist, and escaped while they were groping around.

Bachelors and old maids, those very necessary adjuncts to all properly managed towns, as they always know the theory of bringing up children and other duties are remarkable for their scarcity in our borough. We have, though, some comely widows and the prettiest young girls in the State - this is a fact strongly attested by the young men thereabouts.

The best on earth Wenonah corn and tomatoes Turner and McCormick Wenonah, NJ.

The borough's nomination election will be held Saturday at the land office, tomorrow evening to name a Mayor for two years, two members of council for three years, one commissioner of appeal for three years, a pound keeper and Justice of the Peace.

The plumbers are about the busiest people in the town this time of year.

L. F. Feitner, a clerk for Job Scott, is nursing a gathering on his finger from running a large splinter in it.

The most unique form of entertainment provided for our people for some time was a "Stocking Social" held at the residence of Mrs. Cookson last evening. It was in charge of one of the Missionary Committees of the Presbyterian Church and was most successful. The Orchestra and Mandolin Club furnished entertainment for a while and refreshments took up the remainder of the evening. Each person who

attended was supplied with a small silk hose into, which was placed two pennies for each size of stockings worn. The receipts amounted to about $22.50. The inference is very small hosiery -worn.

The need of a baseball team here this summer is already being felt, and some steps are being taken toward the formation of such a club. We have the material and it would take very little money to put up a good team in the field and we could have some amusement on Saturday afternoons. Push the good work along.

A carload of trees arrived yesterday to beautify the already pretty property of Stephan Green. (These trees, white pine, still exist particularly on South Princeton Avenue and significantly Pine Street.)

Daniel W. Brown is laying a new stone pavement in front of his property on West Mantua Avenue. (Victor Anderson's property)

Always on the watch for anything crooked or suspicious, Officer Drummer tells that he was almost sure he was about able to swoop in on a daring burglar early yesterday morning. As a rule thieves and thugs give him a wide berth knowing well his reputation for fearlessness in capturing them, and so when he saw lights in the home of Dr. Harvey he suspected at once that some daring desperado had foolishly entered his preempted domain to do violence. Accordingly plans were arranged for a surprise of the wrong doers, and just as the swoop was about to take place the timely discovery was made that the doctor and family had arrived home late last night from Newport News, Va. where they had been spending the winter.

The annual reception of the Monday Club was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. H. Lake Gilmour last evening and was a brilliant affair. Vocal and instrumental music and a social hour occupied the attention of the guests for a while when a beautiful collation was served by Caterer Claphan of Woodbury. (The Monday Club still exists today.)

Fred Middleton and Miss Margaret Farr are the graduates of our school, being the only ones passing the county examination just concluded.

Schools of herring are reported in the creek and the boys are having delightful fishing. (This was an annual event in Wenonah for many years) The butchers say they will be glad when the shad season is over.

The automobile, which went through here yesterday, scared several horses and had many craning their necks to see what was causing all the excitement.

Ice dealer Joe Warner has put his wagon on for the summer to serve the people.

A lady demonstrator is at Richard Clark's store in the interest of Walker's Gasoline Borax soap that is said to avoid so much hard work in the wash.

The new bicycle ordinance has been posted forbidding riding on the sidewalks.

New trestlework has arrived for Dr. Bailey's coal yards. (Across from the firehouse.)

The rehearsal for the musicale and cantata last evening was all that can be desired. The young misses that are in charge of the affair are much pleased. The admission is only three cents, the proceeds to be turned over to the church.

Hiram Leap has received another bag of seed from the grange, which he is kindly distributing among his friends and neighbors, who have gardens (The Grange Hall was on North Marion Avenue, originally Joseph Noblitt's Hall, later the American Legion Hall.)

Quite a number of our people witnessed the solar eclipse here this morning. The weather was clear and a good view of the phenomenon could be had.

J.L.Drummer has just completed a nice boardwalk in front of postmaster Wilson's property. (It was quite common at this period to have wooden sidewalks called boardwalks.)

Rev. R.H. Gage will give an illustrated lecture of the tour of the continent made by he and Edward Farr in the Presbyterian Church tonight. (They spent half a year in Europe.)

A number of G.A.R. men from this section are to attend services in the M.E. Church on Sunday afternoon. (The Grand Army of the Republic was a Civil War veteran's organization.)

Mr. Lewis, the lessee of the Wenonah Inn, is making arrangements to open it sometime this month.

The electric light wires seem to be burning the tops of the trees in several places about town.

It seems your correspondent was wrongly informed regarding the dog of Dr. Stout having symptoms of rabies. Dr. Stout accounts for the bloody and disheveled appearance of his dog from the fact that the animal received a laceration of one ear while chasing through the swamp, which bleed freely and covered its jaws with blood and dust

Woodbury Daily Times - Milton Webb archives

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday May 11, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 5 May 2007

Message From President Lou McCall

Dear Members;

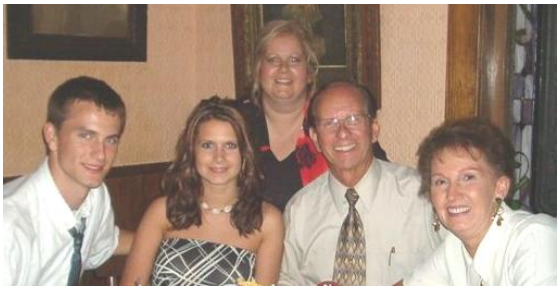
Please Pray for Sean McQuade's Full Recovery

I believe few of us would argue that Wenonah is one of the "richest" places to live based on history, family and volunteerism. Many of us know the families in town that have become part of the town's fabric. Many are our fellow Historical Society members, who like yourself, exemplify the family values that have built our community and differentiate it so. Unquestionably the Forsman family is included in that fabric.

It was a tremendously disturbing and sad day when we learned of the April 16th horrific shooting and senseless death and violence that incurred that day on the Virginia Tech campus. We were all overcome when we heard about it and speechless when many of us quickly found out that one of our member's families and closest of friends was so tragically affected by the Virginia Tech massacre.

Chuck and Lorrie Forsman's grandson Sean, a senior at VT and just two weeks away from graduation, son of Jody who grew up here in Wenonah, was shot in the face on campus by the gunman. I believe Jody and Grandmom and Grandpa would easily and proudly say Sean has always been a model son, grandson, student and athlete. It seems like only yesterday that I remember Sean being that sweet little kid in diapers. Horrifically, Sean, like the others shot that day clearly did not deserve what happened to them that tragic day.

Sean, now 22 and a senior majoring in mathematics, was in that German language class when the gunman entered and started shooting, killing or injuring 20 of the 24 students in the class.



Grandpa, Grandmom and Mom rushed off to Sean's bedside as soon as it happened and have kept a constant vigil.

We all hoped and prayed as Sean went from making it through the first hours, then days and now weeks. Today Sean remains the last person hospitalized with injuries from the Virginia Tech shootings and just recently was upgraded to good condition.

I would like to ask all of you to continue to keep Sean, Jody, Chuck and Lorrie and all of the Forsman family in your prayers asking God for a full and complete recovery as soon as possible.

You can learn more of Sean's tremendous struggle and updated details, including information for fundraisers to help Sean on a web site set up to help disseminate such information at: www.seanmcquade.faithweb.com

Currently in the works are plans for putting together a dinner/dance "VT Hokie Night" to raise funds for Jody and Sean. Please keep June 28th open. More information will follow as Vicki is just getting it off the ground.

The recent family photo to the left shows (left to right) Sean, sister Morgan, Mom Jody, and Grandpa Chuck and Grandma Lorrie.

Program for May 2007

Patricia (Clunn) Wellingham-Jones grew up in Wenonah during the '40s and '50s. Her father was Norman Clunn, a regional bank president. The book she wrote and donated to us about her youthful experiences has been used as a Historical Society fund-raiser for quite some time. For our program this month Pat will relate some of her collection of poetic stories. Most are reflections of childhood memories while living in Wenonah..

In her poems she refers to her Wenonah experience "at a time of more woods, only the lake to swim in, and fewer cars". Pat's poems should bring back happy memories to those native to Wenonah and be of great interest to our members who have adopted Wenonah as their own. .

3 EAST MANTUA AVENUE

Levander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he operated a general grocery store on the premises. This was a short-lived enterprise as the store and property were deeded to Richard J. Clark in September of 1888.

The store was expanded with honest goods and honest prices. The stock consisted of dry and fancy goods, notions, furnishings, boots, hats, caps etc. During this period he was in competition with Turner and McCormick who had similar goods. He outlasted them and eight other competitors until 1912. He was quite active in the community serving on the town council and various church boards. His sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert would operate the coal yard business at Maple Street and the railroad where the borough public works garage is today. Jim Clark became a semiprofessional baseball player



The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central office" in his store serving the thirty telephones within the town. Five years later when the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone Company wanted to house their exchange in his building Clark refused them permission because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark eventually sold the business and the building to John Madara. He was a glass blower at Whitney Glass Works in Clayton. He continued the dry goods and grocery business successfully until 1920 when he sold it to a Norman Brown.

The business continued under Brown's leadership until 1925 when it went up for public sale. The advertisement for the sale gives insight into the business. Listed was the store stock of shoes, hosiery, hardware, notions, dry goods, groceries, a meat cutter, refrigerator display, and everything to be found in a general store. The ad said "This is one of the best residential and business properties in town located at the Wenonah station and across from the Military Academy Park".

Bill Seiders at this time had a hardware store in the northern part of the Grosscup building, being formerly owned by John Viereck. He was seeking a new location. Milton Webb, a salesman for Winchester-Simmons Hardware Company, was persuaded by him to go into partnership in the 3 East Mantua Avenue building and to create a new hardware store. Mr. Webb, with the consent of his wife, also was talked into moving to town. They moved into the apartment next to what would become the hardware store. Soon after moving they were assessed $500 for the concrete paving on Mantua Avenue which was their welcome to the town.

They called the store "THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER".

The Winchester Simmons Company was the forerunner of our present True Value, Ace and other hardware chains. The stock was quite varied: sporting goods, tools, hardware cutlery, paints and building materials. The barn in back was made a warehouse. The enterprise was quite successful despite the depression. However in 1935 the academy closed and this was a disaster to all the businesses in town and the area. The store closed in 1937.

The store was then leased to Mr. A.H. Williams who opened up a Fairlawn grocery store which was unsuccessful and closed in two years. After this Charlie Hill opened a hobby shop, which went out of business in 1940. The store was then turned into an apartment unit. During this period Mary Bilderback, formerly a piano teacher at the academy, taught music in the second floor. Many children from Wenonah started their musical careers with her.

In 1949 Mr. Webb sold the building to Jim and Eleanor Ross. Eleanor's father was Charlie Hohlweg who owned Charlie's, later renamed the Tall Pines Inn. Jim and Eleanor successfully created the Jim-El Sweet Shoppe, which was in business for fifteen years. This was basically a luncheonette and coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch. Many years later Eleanor after returning from Florida opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Marjorie and Bill Fox. At one time Bill Fox had a riding academy in Wenonah. Marge's became an institution in Wenonah. In the morning for breakfast there was an influx of workers from Atlantic City Electric, Bell Telephone and other locals. For lunch were those from Marmac and Newton Tool Works and the schoolteachers. It was a gathering place for the community, So many fond memories. Sadly Marjorie died of cancer but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys' husband was Herb Clark who was born in the building and whose father was Richard Clark the early owner.

The next owners were George and Jane Bowker who ran the business under the name of The Carriage Shoppe. They ran it for several years but Jane's ill health caused it to have to close. Several attempts were made to reopen but unsuccessfully. Realtor Roy Duffield then bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who have conducted an outstanding business there since that time.

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed it's message is that it would be good to have a coffee shop again as we did years ago. This is something that is lacking in our community. For those who remember, we know.

Archives of Milton H. Webb

Recollections by Milton Webb

The railroad held a great fascination for the kids of town. There was nothing more awesome than the third rail that carried the electricity to propel the trains. On several occasion a dog would get too close and that was the end of the ball game or it would be severely burned. Each year a representative of the railroad would come to school and lecture the students on the danger of this potential killer. We were told there was more electricity in the third rail than the electric chair at Trenton. Lois Fink, who was noted for his intelligence, doubted this and spread the word that the agent was lying to us. Unfortunately there was no way to disprove this theory and it was a mystery for years.

Many a penny was put on the tracks to be flattened out becoming quite a collector's item. The well-equipped boy, along with his marbles, carried a flattened coin. The meaning was not as great with the girls of the class.

The railroad station was a haven in the wintertime, a great place to get warm. In the middle of the waiting room there was a big steam radiator that heated many a pair of cold gloves, Mrs. Phallis, the station mistress was always very nice to the kids and never objected to us coming in the station. Probably she was lonely and liked to have company. This must have been a tradition as Mr. Tuft, a stationmaster for many years, also was a kind person. I didn't know him as he was before my time.

The Phallis family lived in the apartment in the station. They were very big, tall people and it is a wonder that they all fit in to so small a space.

It was with great sadness that the steam trains were replaced with diesel locomotives. It just wasn't the same. Steam engines blew off big clouds of vapor and emitted black sulfur smelling clouds of smoke. Even the whistle seemed more commanding. Soon after the diesels arrived passenger service ended.

So many times we went to Philadelphia on the train. We liked to go to the foot of Market Street in Camden and get on the ferry to Philadelphia. You would walk up the hill to Front Street and take the trolley. The alternative was to get off in Camden and take the bridge train and subway.

We went to Woodbury High School on the train, walked up Cooper Street every morning. Passed by Ace Motors, Snelbakers, The Woodbury Times building.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Friday September 14, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 6 September 2007

Message From President Lou McCall

Dear Members;

Welcome Back!

PORCH PARTY
FRIDAY SEPT 14TH 7:00PM

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

SUMMER 2007 ROUND UP

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

WENONAH FAMILY ALBUM

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

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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

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

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

FUTURE
MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

OCTOBER 12th: Paul Stankard ~ glass arts

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

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

Wenonah School Fall Display

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

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

Historical Facts

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

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

Wenonah Historical Society Activity – Summer of 2007

by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

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

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

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

The summer of 2007 also saw continuing gains in the creation of the WHS Museum in the Community Center building. Julie Ream and her volunteers continued the cataloguing of Military Academy artifacts and photos. For those who may have forgotten what Julie is doing, the work consists of identifying the various historic objects and photographs, mostly but not entirely Military Academy, entering the information in the computer, and then suitably storing the materials in the various boxes, files, closets and shelves available to us.

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

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

<u>Comments by Chairperson Betty Rose</u>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vicki Mccall's Comments on the Fourth

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday October 12, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 7 October 2007

Message From President Lou McCall

Dear Members;

It was great to see everyone on September 14 at our now traditional opening meeting of the year at our Porch Party. We had a great evening in spite of the threat of rain. Everyone enjoyed the slide presentation by Karl Anderson. Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments. People stayed into the wee hours of the morning, so I take that as a sign folks enjoyed themselves.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the October 12th meeting at the Community Center. World-renowned artist Paul Stankard, whose family has roots in Wenonah, will share his talents with us as he speaks about Glass art. For anyone who has not experienced hearing Mr. Stankard, you are in for a very uplifting evening. His works are a reflection of his true eye for the beauty and miracles in nature. His paperweights are displayed in many museums including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Arts, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, just to name a few. His poetry is thought invoking and gives insight into his artistic designs. Vicki and I have had the honor of meeting him and greatly look forward to seeing him on Friday.

Be sure to visit his website at www.paulstankard.com

We hope to see all of you there. Please bring a friend~ they will be glad you did!

We want to thank all of our hard workers who generously gave their time at the Harvest Fair. They did well selling our items; our hats, bags, and books are becoming quite popular! We will have some items on hand at the meeting if you missed out! Remember…Christmas is coming!

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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Secretary	**Jo Dominy**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
Trustee	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Vicki McCall**
Hon. Trustee	**Lucy Schulz**

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

Please remember to find time for writing and compiling your pictures for the Wenonah Album! See you on Friday!

UPCOMING
MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

Wenonah 101 Years Ago October 1906

Mrs. W.G. Peddle is visiting in Bridgeton.

Mr. Edward Knight was in town last night.

There is much complaint about the night telephone service here.

The Academy football team went to Glen Mills today to play a game.

For Sale – An Oldsmobile, very cheap. Apply to Dr. Lean. Reason for selling, does not have time to use it.

Mrs. Eisenburg of Baltimore, who has been visiting at the home of her sister Mrs. Wm. VanMeter, returned home today.

The third rail club have moved their headquarters to the second story back room in Noblit's Hall. Donations of coal would be very acceptable.

The Glassboro, Pitman and Clayton Gas Co awarded the contract Wednesday evening for the extension of their gas mains to Mantua and Wenonah. Work on the operation will be started in about 60 days.

The Academy 2nd team overwhelmed the Pitman team yesterday by the score of 21 to 0 in 15 and 10 minute halves. Fox and Housel did the best work for the Academy while Lefebvre of the Pitman first team did the best work for Pitman.

FOR SALE – 2 organs, also 2 organ boxes, just the thing for sweet potatoes. Geo. W. Locke.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS

South Jersey had role in development

By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(First in a three-part series.)

It's an old question that was first raised by a group of ambitious businessmen.

"Why would people want to drive from Gloucester County to Philadelphia if they could ride the rails?" they asked themselves. After all, they reasoned, train travel is quicker and safer, plus there's the added benefit of avoiding all those traffic jams.

So they set about building a bridge linking the area's existing passenger rail lines to provide a solid steel ribbon leading from Center City to Woodbury, Glassboro, Newfield and beyond, and ran out of money.

That was some 80 years ago. In the years since, turnpikes and superhighways have risen to provide what passenger rail promised. But as choked roads have become more commonplace, the plan attempted by those entrepreneurs back in the days of the Model T has received new attention.

"What goes around, comes around," says Don Wentzel. "Eventually, we're going to have to go back to some light rail form of transportation once again."

Wentzel, railroad editor for South Jersey Magazine in Millville, has written much about the dreams of would-be South Jersey railroad barons and their efforts at empire building. In the process, he has traced the area's rail history that began with a number of small lines and evolved into a network connecting Camden to Cape May.

Although the elusive passenger route to Philadelphia remained only a dream in those days, electric trains eventually would transport county residents to virtually any other commercial center on the Jersey side of the river. The trains were touted as quicker, more efficient and safe.

"I'm not aware of any serious accidents once electrification was in place," Wentzel says. "A few people stepped on the third rail, a few cars got in front of the train, but those were the exceptions."

According to Wentzel, Gloucester County's passenger rail history starts around 1836 with the chartering of the Camden and Woodbury Railroad. The first steam-powered trains arrived on the line two years later, but not long afterward were replaced by horse-drawn trains in an apparent cost-cutting move.

In 1850, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad's tracks were torn up — the state's first railroad abandonment. It was an ignominious start to the county's passenger rail legacy.

But other lines soon moved in to fill the void. In its heyday, which Wentzel places from the turn of the century until just after World War I, the area's passenger rail system connected most of the major towns in South Jersey, and the steel links stubbornly held together for several years after the train was dethroned by the automobile as the chief source of local travel.

"Until '31, you could get on an electric train and go to Atlantic City from Glassboro, Wenonah or Woodbury," Wentzel says.

Before it disappeared, passenger rail left its mark on Gloucester County, bringing about the early 1900s version of a development boom. Wentzel notes that the site of Glassboro Normal School, now Rowan College of New Jersey, was chosen in part because the town was a rail junction. Passenger lines also contributed to the birth of communities such as Woodbury Heights and Newfield, and sprouting neighborhoods like Glassboro's Chestnut Ridge Estates relied heavily on their proximity to passenger rail as a major selling point.

Meanwhile, the rumble of railway cars was echoing loudly through Woodbury as train tracks combined with roads to reshape the county seat into a transit core. "You have an awful lot of transportation in Woodbury in the early 1900s," Wentzel says. "It was definitely quite a transportation hub ... an early transportation center. All this was largely due to the efforts of local businessmen who started banding together around the mid-1800s to see that the iron horses that were spreading the Industrial Age made it to their neck of the woods. Across South Jersey, small railroad companies started popping up, though these tiny enterprises hardly looked like the makings of another Union & Pacific.

Take, for example, the Swedesboro Railroad Company. Incorporated in 1866, the firm boasted 11-9 miles of track running from Swedesboro to Woodbury. Under its equipment inventory, however it listed a big zero — no engines, no cars, nothing. The company simply leased its rail line to another railroad company.

The Swedesboro Railroad Company was typical of the area, says Wentzel. Businessmen from a town chipped in to build a rail line to that town, connected it with an operating railroad's already existing lines, then either leased it to the railroad or sold it outright. The procedure was more cost-effective than having the railroad build the lines itself and the businessmen were assured of an outlet for their goods and a new source of customers.

"In some cases here in South Jersey, they turned (the track) over the day the line was completely built. In some cases they held on to them for a few years," Wentzel says.

In the case of one railroad, Wentzel notes, the impetus was provided by one family, the Woods, who operated everything from an iron works to a cotton mill and bleachery in Millville. In 1860 when the family completed the Millville& Glassboro Railroad, it resulted in one of the earliest examples of a connector flight: Families traveling from Camden to Millville rode the train to Woodbury, hopped aboard the stagecoach to Glassboro and switched to a train again for the rest of the trip.

The following year, the West Jersey Railroad linked its Camden and Woodbury tracks to the Millville & Glassboro line completing a vital leg in a network that would eventually extend to Cape May.

UPDATE ON MUSEUM CATALOGUING PROJECT BY CHAIRPERSON JULIE REAM

Since the original survey of the WHS Museum holdings and storage needs in December 2005, I have worked on and off with several volunteers to catalog and store the collections of the Wenonah Historical Society. We are currently up to about 200 objects at last count. This number does not include the 114 architectural maps and drawings that Jack Sheppard took flattened and housed in the flat files storage facility.

We have completed work on the most cumbersome objects (ex: uniforms, 3-D glass and metal objects) that require more complicated storage plans and catalog descriptions. We have more recently begun to tackle the vast number of photographs, which will go faster (each item is similar to the last entry and storage is simply a choice based on size of folder). While in numbers we are probably just over halfway through, we have completed the most time-consuming items and with more regular volunteers we'll be able to finish cataloguing the current holdings within the next several months.

In addition to myself and of course support by Jack Sheppard, volunteers over the past (almost two) years have included: Jo Dominy and Bud Rose, Brenda Birkland, Anne Zuber, Sue McNally and Melissa Eckstein.

All of the volunteers have been very adept, but few have been able to work often enough to become proficient. Since my schedule is limited (by my full time job and kids' activities), I would say the greatest need remains to find a few volunteers who can reliably offer a weekly presence to the project.

In writing this, I looked back over the report I made upon completion of the initial survey. Several of the recommendations I made have been followed and it reminded me how much progress has been made. There is one step that remains, and it is a crucial one before we can begin to ask Wenonah residents to donate items to our museum:

- The Executive Board needs to write a concise mission statement that allows for objective evaluation of present holdings and future acquisitions. We must have guidance and decisions about what to keep before spending time/money for accession and storage.

A committee would ideally be formed to write the mission statement and be responsible to consider items offered for donation to determine their appropriateness for the collection. We do not have the space or resources to store objects that bear no direct link with Wenonah's history and there should be a plan in place to accept or decline donations on that basis. Most of the items so far have been Military Academy, but we already have a sizeable group of items separated out that require a decision by the Society officers as to whether or not they should be catalogued, since they do not apparently meet this criteria.

I share your concern for the condition of the train station and its ability to provide a stable environment for the museum holdings. I would be happy to offer any support on that topic as repairs proceed. I continue to enjoy working on this project and plan to stick with it, ever hopeful that more people will see the value in it and decide to join the cause!

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday November 9, 2007

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 8 November 2007

Message From President Lou McCall

Dear Members;

The Return of South Jersey Ghost Research to the Community Center on November 9th!

Well after an outstanding presentation by Paul Stankard last month that included insight to his book "No Green Berries or Leaves, The Creative Journey of an Artist in Glass" (copies still available- please see any officer), we now look forward to next Friday's 7:30 pm meeting in the Community Center where we again welcome Dave Juliano, Director of South Jersey Ghost Research and his team for what is always a very interesting and unique presentation.

Dave and his team's main goal is to assist anyone who is in fear of spirit activity in their everyday surroundings. Dave is also director of "The Shadowlands: Ghost and Hauntings" and author of "Positive Energy for Haunted Homes, Ghost Research 101: Investigating Haunted Homes" and "Armor of God" and "Ghost Hunting 101."

Dave has been researching paranormal activities for over 20 years and has consulted on thousands of cases. He lived in a haunted house himself for over 29 years and his current residence also keeps him practicing. Dave majored in History and World religions in College and is a police academy graduate.

The appearance by SJGR of the 9th will include video and audio presentations, photos and electronic voice recordings ("EVPs") from actual cases, photo displays, equipment displays, demos and the often-surprising Q&A session with the audience. Please bring your questions and stories.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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

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

If you have a chance, please also check out SJGR's website at: www.southjerseyghostresearch.org, click on "cases" and the scroll down to "Wenonah Train Station" to see the picture results of their last investigation of the Community Center on December 13, 2002.

Christmas and the Wenonah Family Album

Folks please keep in mind our responsibility to help preserve Wenonah memories when you are up in the attic looking for holiday decorations and you come across those treasured pictures from days gone by in Wenonah. Please remember to compile your family pictures and little quips to help us forever memorialize those Wenonah Memories and submit them to Barb Capelli or myself. Thanks!

Notice!! Executive Meeting of officers, trustees and anyone interested 6.00 pm prior to general meeting at Community Center.

Please remember to find time for writing and compiling your pictures for the Wenonah Album! See you on Friday!

UPCOMING
MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

Reminiscences of Wenonah History by J.C. Sheppard Sr

Andrew W. Carey was one of a handful of men instrumental in the founding of Wenonah.

Mr. Carey served on the original group of Commissioners when Wenonah was first organized commencing in 1883 and was Mayor of Wenonah during the years 1897 and 1898. He died in 1905.

Andy's son James W. Carey served on Borough Council from 1900 through 1908. James was the father of Josiah Allen Carey who was our Borough Clerk when I joined Borough Council in 1962. He conducted the Clerks activities from his home.

The Carey homestead was the handsome dwelling on the S.W. corner of South Clinton and Cherry Streets opposite the Wenonah Park.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS

South Jersey had role in development

By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(Second in a three-part series.)

Over the years, the West Jersey Railroad bought and incorporated several smaller area rail lines It consolidated the Swedesboro Railroad in the 1880s, and soon added the Salem Railroad, the Salem Branch Railroad Company the Woodstown and Swedesboro Railroad Company, the West Jersey Terminal Railroad Company and the Maurice River Rail Road Company. When it acquired the Delaware River Railroad in 1900, the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, as it was then known, had a virtual maze of tracks reaching into all corners of Gloucester County.

But finding a way across the Delaware to securely link the county with Philadelphia remained an elusive goal. The plan to build a passenger rail bridge to South Philadelphia ran out of cash between 1910 and 1920. Wentzel notes that a railroad bridge was already in place – in the Delair section of Pennsauken — but he points out that reaching the bridge would add another 30 minutes to the average train trip and thus remove one of the big selling points of passenger rail.

Meanwhile, another project to benefit passenger rail was hitting snags. Around 1905, West Jersey & Seashore embarked on a project to build a cutoff between Westville and Haddon Township to link two lines and ease freight traffic on the system. The link was about 70 percent complete when tight finances caused work to be halted, and the cutoff was never finished.

Then, in 1926, the area's passenger train service was dealt a more serious blow. "When the Ben Franklin Bridge was built, that was the death knell," says Wentzel.

From there, it was mostly downhill. The West Jersey & Seashore Railroad became the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines in 1933, but by then passenger service was already on the decline. Two years earlier, the electric line from Newfield to Atlantic City was torn out, limiting passenger service to only as far as Millville. The South Jersey passenger rail network was starting to shrink.

An incident in 1949 effectively put an end to the rest of the network. In Vineland, a fuel oil truck was hit by a passenger train of wooden cars carrying school children from Newfield. There were no fatalities, but, as Wentzel puts it, the state said that's it," and cracked down on the use of wooden passenger cars. Lacking enough metal cars, Pennsylvania-Reading couldn't keep the service alive.

But Wentzel still sees reason for hope in the future. He notes that there seems to be renewed interest in freight rail as a cheaper way to move products, and adds that there appears to be a similar spark in reviving passenger service. Wentzel says he personally would like to see the PATCO High-Speed Line eventually expand south to Glassboro. "We seem to be turning around

Many great ideas don't work at first. Such was the case with the first railroad in Gloucester County.

Incorporated in 1836, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad was the first to be built south of Camden, but its rails were torn up just 14 years later.

The railroad was a victim of too much vision, doomed to failure because it was ahead of its time, says Paul Schopp, a historical consultant who specializes in rail history.

The idea was sound, Schopp says. In a time of terrible road conditions, create a reliable means of travel to link two budding towns. In a time when stagecoaches and wagons were the chief modes of transit, create a network suitable for passenger as well as freight travel.

This was the thinking when a group of businessmen, merchants, builders and attorneys gathered in the Woodbury courthouse in January 1836 with the goal of establishing the railroad.

The railroad would serve many purposes, the planners reasoned. It was a means of transporting citizens from Camden to the county seat of Woodbury where court business was conducted.

It would also-provide a way to get goods from the farms and markets of Swedesboro and other rural locations to Camden where they could be sold or shipped across the river via ferry to Philadelphia for sale.

The Camden and Woodbury line became official on March 1, 1836 after it was incorporated by an act of the state Legislature, according to court papers.

After two years of surveys, purchasing and track construction, the railroad was ready for service. Private stockholders picked up the total cost of $87,301.28.

The line's maiden journey was conducted Saturday, Jan. 20, 1838. The steam locomotive "Fire Fly," pulling a 40-foot passenger car filled with dignitaries covered the nine miles of track between Camden and Woodbury in about 20 minutes with a short stop in Westville. Fifteen-year-old Camden resident Isaac Mickle was on hand as the Fire Fly rumbled back after its trip that day.

"We gave her (the locomotive) nine cheers when she returned." wrote Mickle, who eventually became a lawyer and later chronicled Gloucester County history in "Reminiscences of Old Gloucester." published in 1845.

Initial interest in the fledgling line was great.

To many, railroads were "a new age, a new way to communicate with the outside world," Schopp said from his home in Riverton.

The Industrial Revolution arrived pulled by locomotives," he says.

Some were frightened by the new experience.

"People thought riding the train caused epilepsy. Others thought it was demonic to travel at those speeds of 10 to 12 mph. It was the fear of the unknown." says Schopp, who is an active member of the West Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Others may have been too fearless. Several pedestrians were killed during the first years of the Camden and Woodbury line, according to published reports.

The speed a train could travel was subsequently reduced to the pace of a walker. But that wasn't enough. Railroads were ordered to have a man walk 50 to 100 yards ahead of the train waving a flag by daylight. and a lantern by night to warn unsuspecting pedestrians.

Nonetheless, the impact of this new mode of travel was great.

WENONAH MUSEUM CREATION INFORMATION BY JACK SHEPPARD

As I have pointed out many times recently the creation of the WHS museum is slow, but reasonably steady. The volunteers who have assisted since the effort started have been great. Unfortunately we have not had enough of them.

But forgetting that for the moment, I want to take this opportunity to tell the membership about where this project appears to be heading.

It is doubtful we can have a museum such as is usually envisioned, spaces with shelves, showcases, filing cabinets accessible by the members and/or the general public, open for any and all contributions.

This cannot happen for several reasons.

First and foremost, we do not have the necessary amount or right kind of space for the purpose. The three small rooms on the second floor of the former train station are accessible by only one means, a narrow, steep and winding stairway. In the event of fire an exodus from the upstairs would be difficult and maybe even impossible depending on the location of the conflagration.

Secondly, in order to preserve the artifacts for the long-term, especially the military uniforms and other items of clothing it is necessary to store them in special containers and packing materials making access difficult and requiring similar efforts to place them back in storage each time they are exposed.

For these reasons I have proposed to the Executive Board that the best practical approach is create a “virtual museum” in the following manner.

All historic materials will be photographed, photos and paper materials scanned, and stored electronically on digital hard-drives and other suitable storage media before being packed away in conventional storage facilities. Utilizing a computer program named “Microsoft Power Point” the digital images can be scripted into presentations suitable for different audiences. One program might be just about the Military Academy, another on historical buildings, etc. I have been advised that each program can be saved in a unique separate file and then shown repeatedly if it is desired to do so.

The equipment components necessary for a virtual museum are relatively few, a laptop computer with a large-capacity hard drive for photograph storage and a digital projector. Although not cheap, probably ner $2,500.00, this is still a lot less costly than glass-enclosed display cabinets and quite likely a lot more practical.

If any member is conversant with Microsoft Power Point I would like to talk to him or her.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday January 11, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1 January 2008

Message From Vice President Barbara Capelli

Dear Members;

Happy New Year! We celebrate another great year gone by and look forward to an even happier and more prosperous 2008! So, while you're putting away all your Christmas decorations and recalling all those wonderful holiday memories maybe take time to jot them down or even save a Christmas card that might mean something special to you or your family in the future. Keeping those memories remind us where we have been and help us look forward to creating new and fun filled adventures that your family and friends will certainly look back upon with fondness.

I must say that this past holiday season for me personally was very special. A wonderful Historical Society Christmas Dinner Party with many special friends and neighbors was one of the first highlights. Spending time with so many good people and family is what makes the holidays something truly special. We, here in Wenonah are so very lucky that our neighbors are our friends and for some our friends are our family. From events at the schools, the parks, the playgrounds, the meeting places and our homes it is clear that we in Wenonah know how to celebrate those special occasions with our friends and family.

I wish all of you a wonderful new year and look forward to new programs/speakers and to new members that will certainly enjoy all that the Wenonah Historical Society has to offer.

I want to share a phrase/quote I found in the newspaper a while back, by Mattie Stepanek.

"Even though the future seems far away, it is actually beginning right now. And while we are living in the present, we must celebrate life everyday knowing that we are becoming history with every word, every action, every moment because we, today, are the history of tomorrow."

I am very pleased to inform you that our speaker/presenter for the January meeting is Paul Ladder.

Paul and his wife Sandy are fairly new to Wenonah and we are very happy that they are becoming involved with the Wenonah Historical Society. Paul will give us an overview on New Jersey and South Jersey before and during the Civil War.

He will speak about South Jersey and in particular the Gloucester County region during the Civil war. He will discuss local personalities and figures and spotlight those from Wenonah who served in the civil war. Also, of interest he will show us how to trace our own ancestors who may have served in the war. He has a small slide show prepared and will certainly provide an evening of great intellect. Make sure to join us! Bring your friends and neighbors!!

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall

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

Reminiscences of Wenonah History by J.C. Sheppard Sr

The first formal government in Wenonah was not the Borough form but a Commission. The Commission form of government was adopted in April, 1883 and changed to the Borough form in 1896.

The first "President" of the newly created Commission was Dr. George W. Bailey, a physician who served during the Civil War, who built and occupied the handsome dwelling on the southeast corner of East Mantua and South Clinton Avenues.

The first "Mayor" of Wenonah, Charles M. Wilkins, assumed his seat as Borough mayor January 1, 1896, was replaced as mayor by William J. Dawson and then by Andrew Carey within the same year. Carey then became Mayor January 1, 1898.

Interestingly, prior to becoming a Borough, while still a Commission, residents continued to pay real estate taxes to Deptford Township.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS
South Jersey had role in development
By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(Last in a three-part series.)

Railroads and railroad companies started popping up all over Gloucester County. The Williamstown Railroad. The Williamstown and Delaware River Railroad. The Glassboro Railroad. The Swedesboro Railroad.

The abundance of railroads prompted stations to be built in just about every large town in the county.

Early railroad stations served many purposes. Stations sold tickets and stored goods which were to be shipped via rail. They served as a gathering place for the community — a center of activity where all townsfolk could assemble to hear news and gaze in awe at the huge, steam-driven monsters that crawled along the tracks. Some stations even served as post offices as well.

'The biggest gift of the railroad; early on was to give the common man the ability to travel beyond his own town's borders," Schopp says (Paul Schopp, a historical consultant who specializes in rail history).

It was an uncommon man who helped bestow the gift of rail travel to Gloucester County.

Henry Roe Campbell, a Woodbury native, was called upon by railroad organizers to head the Camden and Woodbury Railroad's planning committee. He was later retained as its chief civil engineer and oversaw the technical aspects of the railroad.

Railroading was in Campbell's blood. His father, Amos, was famous as a builder of railroad bridges. He built five bridges for the Camden and Woodbury Railroad and many other bridges in the area.

Henry Campbell's most notable achievement was his design of the 4-4-0 "American" Type locomotive, which was patented in 1836. Campbell's locomotive was driven by eight wheels — standard engines had six — and had a heavier freight hauling capability than the locomotives of its day. Campbell's engine was reportedly capable of pulling 40 cars up an inclined plane.

Campbell prided himself in doing things cheaply but efficiently, Schopp says.

"He was very sure of himself," he said. "If he said something would work, then he was sure it would."

As the Camden and Woodbury line was nearing completion Campbell gambled and purchased two locomotives from the state-run Columbia-Philadelphia Railroad. At the time, locomotives were difficult to maintain and were in need of constant repair. The two Campbell purchased — the Fire Fly and the Red Rover — were deemed especially bad by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In fact, upon receipt of their sale, it was recorded in the Pennsylvania State Canal Report of 1836 that "it would have been a savings to the Commonwealth had they been given away for nothing the first day they were placed on the track."

Despite Pennsylvania's snickering, Campbell managed to get four years' use out of the engines, but they required frequent repairs.

"I think he honestly thought he could do something with them," says Schopp, who intends to write a book about Campbell.

On the job, Campbell was a stern boss. In fact, his firm demeanor almost cost him his life.

According to court documents, Campbell was attacked on Aug. 15, 1838 by a mob of six to 10 men "wielding fists and brickbats."

Although the motive of the attack is unclear, Schopp thinks the men may have worked for Campbell at one time. Campbell had a strict policy prohibiting use of "spirituous liquors" by anyone working for the railroad. Schopp thinks the malcontents may have violated that rule.

"He might have fired them," he said. "But that's just my opinion."

The day after the assault he was "attacked again by two men wielding Bowie knives with an intent to kill," according to court documents.

Campbell survived both attacks and continued to work on the railroad.

But all was not well with the Camden and Woodbury line. Rider-ship was never as strong as the organizers had hoped, due in part to a reluctance to change practiced routines.

The locomotives proved unreliable and horse-drawn cars were introduced. Heavy rains routinely washed away rails and ties. In April of 1839, sparks from a locomotive caused a brush fire. Saboteurs

routinely placed ties and other debris on the tracks and jammed switches in an effort to thwart the train's progress.

Bad business practices implemented by a scandal-plagued stockholder board led to more problems. A revision of the railroad's original charter allowed for the line to continue to Cape May. That project dried up the railroad's funds and plunged it further into debt.

Eventually ridership declined to a point where the tracks lay barren. Schopp said stagecoach drivers — the railroads direct competitors – used to take passengers along the empty tracks and laugh at the railroad's misfortune.

"The ridership was never as strong as the proposers anticipated," Schopp said.

It was dealt a deathblow in November 1842 when a fire at the Woodbury stable destroyed several pairs of horses used to drive the railroad cars. The line ceased operations in April 1846 and the rails and ties were taken up in 1850. Campbell, who had acquired a bad reputation, left the area and took up operations in New England where he was held in such high regard that a song was written about him.

Despite its failure, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad did usher the age of rail travel into Gloucester County.

The old railroad's right of way was later used by the West Jersey Railroad, which was chartered in 1853.

At the time, "Gloucester County was just not ready for a railroad," Schopp said.

RESTORATION OF PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE THROUGH WENONAH – A BAD IDEA?

By 1860 the tracks from Woodbury to Glassboro had been straightened and improved and a sizable amount of both freight and passenger service was being generated. Just imagine how the passenger service benefited the communities along the line.

Prior to the coming of the trains, freight and people moved very slowly and arduously. Horses and wagons on dirt roads, barges on the rivers and creeks, walking, movement was difficult and slow at best. Then, almost miraculously, a person could board a train and get from Camden to Cape May, or from Glassboro to Camden or Philadelphia quickly and comfortably. What a quantum leap in technology.

Then along came the automobile, bus, truck, paved roads and everything changed again. People and jobs moved away from city centers and the rails no longer took them where they wanted to go and or to live. According to a Philadelphia Inquirer study conducted in 1996, “While 13,500 Gloucester County residents work in Philadelphia, nearly four times that number work in Gloucester County”. “Only about one in ten workers who live in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties works in Philadelphia according to a special compilation of statistics from the 1990 Census”.

In spite of statistics such as these the DRPA and other agencies are proposing putting trains back on the tracks, the very same tracks where they took them from in the 1960’s due to lack of customers.

Well in my opinion it will not work. The alternative is no longer the horse and wagon, it is the motor vehicle that wants to go east and west (cross-county), not north to Camden.

Residents, especially those of Wenonah and Pitman should know that a two-rail system is no longer easily accomplished. The railroad companies sold off a lot of their lands and the right-of-way is no longer the width it needs to be. Reacquisition of the necessary land would do away with Wenonah’s new municipal building and severely impact Pitman’s business district. With the rails at grade (ground level) the disruption to cross-county auto traffic would be substantial and unacceptable. When this problem was raised during the 2005 study, we were told the rails would either be raised on towers or buried in an open trench. Besides the tremendous cost of such a design, the resulting disruption to town centers would severely damage many towns along the route and cause significant reduction of property values at and near the tracks.

Add in the very real possibility of a nearly $1 billion cost and you may be forced to agree that putting trains back on the old track is definitely an idea whose time has passed.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday February 8, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 2 February 2008

Message from President Lou McCall

Dear Members;

Many thanks to new Wenonah resident Paul Lader for his outstanding presentation about the Civil War along with the local impacts and contributions thereto. We look forward to seeing (and hearing) a lot more of Paul and his family in the future!

This month's meeting will include a wonderful program by Linda Boyd who is going to do a presentation on all the etiquette of serving tea. She is a science teacher that has always had a love for tea but has furthered her love for tea into the whole idea of how tea is served, the china, the food, the type of tables used and of course the types of teas. Please be sure to attend!

Those of you attending our January business meeting will recall Betty Rose's comments for acknowledgement of support and our related discussion of the many ways the Gloucester County Historical Society has always assisted the Wenonah Historical Society, including loaning us many interesting artifacts which help keep our display case full, ever changing and always interesting. Accordingly, I just wanted to share some information with you about the Gloucester County Historical Society and encourage you to lend them your support. Please be sure to stop by in at 17 Hunter Street in Woodbury to either visit their Library, the Museum, just make a contribution to, or attend one of their upcoming activities!

The Library of Gloucester County Historical Society (where Wenonah's own Barbara Price helps out) specializes in genealogy. They have scheduled the following upcoming genealogy workshops for you genealogy buffs!

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Friday, April 11, 2008, 7 pm-8 pm "Pursuing Your Ancestral Trail: Starting on the Right Path".

Learn the basic standards of good genealogical research. Do it right the first time!

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 am-10:00 am - Preponderance of Evidence vs. Genealogical Proof Standard - What is the Difference?

Reservations are required. Seating is limited. Please call 856-845-4771 to reserve:

Good researchers examine primary and secondary sources, direct and indirect evidence, original records and documents, including published and unpublished sources as well as records contradicting them. Then and only then have they met the Genealogical Proof Standard- or have they?

Saturday, April 12, 2008. 10:20 am-11:20 am - Ten Research Shortcuts Used by Professional Genealogists

You may be amazed that their Library holdings include:

- Vertical files for hundreds of Delaware Valley families
- Over 2,200 microfilm reels of census, wills, deeds, newspapers, church and cemetery records
- Approximately 900 family genealogy volumes
- Over 300,000 vital statistics records

GCHS Library Hours:

Monday thru Friday, 1 - 4 pm

Tuesday evening 6 - 9:30 pm

First Saturday of each month October thru June, 10 am - 4 pm

The last Sunday of each month, 2 - 5 pm

The Museum of the Gloucester County Historical Society is in the 18th century house that was the home of the Reverend Andrew Hunter, a tea burner and educator of the Revolutionary War era, James Lawrence of "Don't give up the ship!" fame in the War of 1812 and John S. Jessup, a judge and prominent citizen of the 19th century.

A gift shop is maintained in the Museum. Fine reproductions of South Jersey glass and unique items that reflect the collections are available.

Museum Hours:

Monday Wednesday and Friday, 1-4 pm

Last Sunday of each month, 2-5 pm

Admission Fees: Members free

Non-members and adults - $4.00

Children ages 6-18 - $1.00

Children under age 6 free

Please visit the Gloucester County Historical Society's website http://www.rootsweb.com/njgchs/-index.htm for more information about their history, programs, contributions and how to join. Many thanks again to the Society for all its support!

The following are some excerpts from their listed history on their website:

In the December 10, 1902 issue of the Woodbury Constitution, it was reported that plans were discussed to form an historical society in order to protect the Revolutionary War battlefield and Whitall mansion at Red Bank from impending sale. The Federal government intended to sell the tract at public auction. Those at the meeting announced that "the dues will be $1 per year and it is requested that every person interested in the commendable work, which the Society proposes to take under its care, will not hesitate to come forward and give what assistance they can."

One month later, on January 12, 1903, the Gloucester County Historical Society took life at its first annual meeting. Officers were elected, the Constitution and By-Laws were unanimously approved and thirty-five members were proposed and elected to membership. The object of the newly formed Society was to "discover, procure, preserve and exhibit whatever may relate to the natural, civil, military, literary, educational and ecclesiastical history of Gloucester County, the State of New Jersey or the country, and to protect and preserve the historical landmarks and points of interest within the county."

From its very inception, the Society has been the recipient of many interesting and important gifts. In the early years, these gifts were often recorded in the local newspapers. One of the first so recorded was a "handsome picture of Big Cattle" donated by Mrs. Mary Bradway. The cattle were owned by Edward Tonkin and were carried around in specially made wagons to be viewed by curious crowds. Named The Earl of Jersey and the Duke of Gloucester, one weighed 3,750 pounds and the other 3,800 pounds. In a society that was primarily agricultural, they were a source of pride. On February 9, 1838, Mr. Tonkin sold the cattle to a buyer from Washington, DC for $3,500, an enormous sum of money for that time. The Society purchased and installed a cabinet in the corridor of the Court House to display such artifacts.

John Gill Whitall, our first president, held that office until he resigned in 1918. For Mr. Whitall, the Society's fight to retain the mansion and battlefield had special meaning. He had been born in the mansion on the grounds of the Red Bank Battlefield. James and Ann Whitall, who lived there during the Revolutionary War, had been his grandparents. Both are historically important in our county's early history. Following the Battle of Red Bank on October 21, 1777, the house was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers. Many of the Hessian casualties were buried on the grounds. The Battle was one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War and an important American victory. The famous Jonas Cattell ran from Haddonfield to Red Bank to warn the Americans of the approach of the Redcoats.

On July 11, 1904, the Society held a meeting in the old Whitall mansion with a celebration following on the battlefield grounds. Every citizen of Gloucester County was invited.

Trolley cars carried the guests directly to the battlefield. Music was provided by Jennings' Third Regiment Band. Luncheon was served by the Ladies' Committee. Tours of the rifle pits, battle monument and house were given.

In a speech later that year when the Society held a meeting at the battlefield, Judge John Boyd Avis said, "All honor to the Gloucester County Historical Society which has made these things possible; which by its example has inspired all those who have so gladly and willingly taken upon themselves the work of making this historic field a public park, where all may come and enjoy the prospect, the scenery and God's free air and be filled with the spirit of those who fought on this ground, guaranteeing the perpetuation of those ideals for which the Colonists fought as declared in the Declaration of Independence.

June 21, 1906 promised to be "the biggest day ever seen in South Jersey" according to the Woodbury Constitution of June 6. The new monument at Red Bank was to be unveiled to the public. Harry Lewis, the official decorator for the White House, was engaged to decorate the battlefield. Eighty trolley cars on the Camden, Gloucester and Woodbury trolley road and twenty motor cars on the branch line from Washington Park to National Park were in service. The Committee arranged for William J. Thompson to provide a fleet of eight steamers from the South and Arch Street wharves in Philadelphia to the Sanitarium at Red Bank, about an eight minute walk to the battlefield. The grounds of the National Park Amusement Company were leased and numerous caterers were secured to feed the crowds. Water barrels containing several tons of ice were placed about the battlefield. Hitching grounds and feed for horses was arranged along the Hessian Road leading to the battlefield. In Woodbury and along the parade route on the Hessian Road, businesses and residents were asked to decorate. Businesses were closed. A re-enactment of the battle was performed. Miss Matilda Whitall unfurled the United States flag donated by the Society, with hundreds of smaller flags dropping from its folds as it was raised. Mr. William Snowden of Alexandria, Virginia, presented the Society with a portrait of Ann Cooper Whitall, the heroine of Red Bank.

Before the year was over, the officers and members of the Society embarked on another preservation effort. The Wood Burying Ground, on the south side of Woodbury Creek in Thorofare, was in deplorable condition due to a combination of neglect and vandalism. The cemetery was thought to be the first and earliest burial plot in Gloucester County. Names of our earliest and most prominent families were inscribed on the stones: Thackeray, Cooper, Ladd, Hugg, Matlock, Whitall, Howell, Packer, Hillman, Shivers and of course, Wood.

In those early years, there was much interest in the British frigate Augusta that sank during the Battle of Red Bank. Trustee Dr. Wallace McGeorge wrote a paper concerning the Augusta in 1905. In 1907, the Society proposed to the Board of Freeholders that they could mount the cannon found during the excavation of the battlefield in a carriage made from timbers from the Augusta and display it on the Court House Lawn. (In 1911, this cannon was placed near the monument at Red Bank.) In 1907, there was again discussion among the members of the Board of Trustees concerning preservation of the remnants of the Augusta. It was decided not to pursue the matter. In July 1909, it was reported in the Woodbury Constitution that Society Librarian Miss Ellen L. Matlock had managed to have the New Jersey in the DAR building at Washington furnished with "beautifully wrought wood" from the Augusta. This was one way of preserving the history of the Battle of Red Bank and Gloucester County. The Society did not yet have a permanent home and met in a variety of places. Some of those early meeting places were the Gloucester County Court House, the Woodbury Real Estate Mutual Loan Association, the Whitall House, the Indian King Tavern at Haddonfield, Woodbury Country Club and the Friends Meeting House at Mickleton, to name a few. Pilgrimages were made to historical landmarks such as Princeton, Brandywine Gettysburg and Valley Forge, often attracting two hundred or more guests. Carriages or special railroad cars

were sometimes engaged to accommodate the large number of guests. Other historical societies or patriotic organizations such as the DAR or SAR would sometimes host or join the Society for a meeting. Members were invited to read papers of historical interest. Sometimes several, each covering a different topic, would be read during one meeting. By 1907, these early speeches were being preserved for the Society's archives.

At the annual meeting of 1911, President Whitall announced that $100 has been subscribed to care for the old burial ground. Later that year, Dr. J. G. Halsey of Swedesboro, collected donations for the purpose of placing a monument made of Barre granite on a solid concrete base inscribed, "Wood Burying Ground, Henry Wood who first settled Woodbury was buried here in 1806. It was used as a burial place by the Indians before that time. Gloucester County Historical Society." On Saturday, June 27, 1912, over one hundred members of the Society met at the old burying ground to participate in the unveiling of the monument. President Whitall urged those present to consider further donations to install a wall to keep the tide from washing away the ground and for some type of protection from squatters.

At the annual meeting in January 1916, Frank H. Stewart was elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. This was the beginning of a new era for the Gloucester County Historical Society. During that year, Stewart had three pamphlets he had written, printed at his own expense, and then sold for fifty cents each with the proceeds going to the Society. He advocated the inauguration of a publications fund. A Publications Committee was formed.

In January 1918, John G. Whitall stepped down as president after serving in that capacity for fifteen years. Frank H. Stewart was elected to that office. Mr. Stewart immediately announced a plan to liquidate the mortgage on the Society building and formed a committee to proceed with his plan. President Stewart explained that the plan was to sell ten memorial memberships at $100 each and life memberships at $25 each. The membership drive was a huge success. In the Gloucester County Democrat of March 14, 1918, it was reported, "The two thousand dollars for the Gloucester County Historical Society has been raised and on Monday evening, March 25 at 8: pm at the Courthouse, an open meeting of the Society will be held to which all are invited with their friends to see the mortgage burned."

In early 1919, following the end of the First World War, the Society formed a Scrapbook Committee. This committee solicited information from veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American War and First World War

By 1920, the Society was bursting at the seams. Two rooms of its home were used for its own purposes. The remainder of the house was let to a resident caretaker. At the January 1921 annual meeting, it was decided, "… that the Society was in need of larger and fireproof quarters for the proper care of its valuable collections." At that same meeting, President Stewart made the challenge that "anyone who will spend $10,000 on a fireproof building for the Society will be met by him with a like amount either in cash or in valuable historical documents now in his possession to the value of $10,000."

In the Woodbury Constitution of November 12, 1924, it was reported that the Society had purchased the John S. Jessup property. The article read in part, "when the houses across the street are removed from in front of the new Central school and the new post office completed, the outlook from the new Historical Society home will be greatly improved." Rooms in the new home were dedicated to the contributors and a tablet was placed on the outside of the building with the names of those who donated $13,000 towards the purchase of the new building.

Finally, on August 6, 1925, after renovations were completed, the Society moved into its new headquarters. The first book to go into the house was the Holy Bible. One of the acquisitions received that year was a desk from the old courthouse. (This desk holds the guest book in our library today.) There were two curators, the

Misses Nellie Thackeray and Sibyl Tatum Jones. There was also a live-in caretaker.

The building was closed in the colder months during the World War II years due to heating oil rationing. Resident Curator Sibyl T. Jones was relocated to the Newton Hotel with the Society paying the weekly rent of $8 plus the cost of two meals daily. From June to October during the war years, weather permitting, the Society's home was open on Wednesdays and Fridays with Miss Jones in attendance. The Society lacked publicity during this time since the newspapers had both a shortage of linotype operators and paper. The Society's yearly publications were also suspended during these years. Room 202 in the county building was closed to visitors. In 1944, the Society's income was reduced when savings interest rates dropped as low as ½ of 1%.

With the hard times of war over, the Jessup house reopened on June 1, 1945. Interest in the Society had waned and a $1 membership drive was begun. Mrs. Henry H. Clark was appointed as Resident Curator in April 1946.

The first exhibit ever held in the Jessup house concentrating on just one aspect of the Society's collections (in this case hats and bonnets) was held for one week during March 1948 with a turnout of 269 guests. At the annual meeting in May 1948, it was announced that the Board of Chosen Freeholders had restored the Society's sole use of Room 202 and the vault in the county building.

At the same meeting, it was also recorded that the Society had finally acquired the deed to the Moravian Church property in Woolwich Township. The Society had met and attended services since its beginning in the church, the oldest Moravian building in New Jersey.

Our next president was long-time Bulletin editor, Mrs. Hazel Simpson, who served a one year term from 1953 to 1954. In 1954, Daniel W. Beckley assumed the office, a position he held until his death in 1965. During his tenure, the Society acquired the doorsill from the first Philadelphia mint. (This doorsill today is at the entrance of our library.) In 1960, the Board, in cooperation with the County, participated in designing the first flag of Gloucester County.

In 1969, L. Kepner Gottshalk was elected President. The library rooms of the Society were filled to overflowing. It was decided by the Board to make their dream of a library a reality. A library building fund was started. During the years that followed, the Society hosted many book fairs, bazaars, house tours and sales of commemorative bottles.

After four years of hard work, on October 13, 1973, the new library building was dedicated with Rev. Parker F. Auten officiating as the Society's new president at the library dedication ceremony.

Once again, the library needed additional space and in 1983, an addition to the reading room was added. In 1986, the early 18th century Schorn (or Mortonson) log cabin was donated by the Schorn family to the Society and was moved to the grounds of Trinity Episcopal Church in Swedesboro. This cabin was probably used by early Swedes as a granary. After moving the cabin piece by piece to the grounds of Trinity Episcopal Church in Swedesboro and much restoration work, the cabin was dedicated on September 30, 1989.

In 1996, due to continuing growth, the Society was facing a storage problem. In that same year, our Annex building on the corner of Hunter and Broad Streets was purchased to be used for much needed storage and office space.

In 2001, through the generous support of our membership, the Museum was equipped with a climate control system to ensure proper preservation of our irreplaceable artifacts. For the first time, the building was open to the public year round.

Today, the Society has a membership of over 1,300 members. We are proud of the ever-growing collections of the Hunter-Lawrence-Jessup House Museum. Our library is nationally known for its wealth of genealogical and historical materials.

As we begin our second century, the Gloucester County Historical Society is still committed to its original purpose: to preserve, promote and protect the history of Gloucester County.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday March 14, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 3 March 2008

Message From Vice President Barbara Capelli

Dear Members;

This Friday's meeting is sure to be a crowd pleaser and we are expecting a super crowd at that! So, come early and make sure to get your seat! Also be sure to tell your friends and neighbors…bring the kids!

Another matter of importance, the Historical Society is taking a significant role in the creation of a Founder's Day in Wenonah Park on June 5th. We are looking for volunteers and anyone interested in speaking about the history of Wenonah!

Jennie McQuaide and Jack Sheppard are assisting Marjorie Lentz on an updated version of Marjorie's history book "Wenonah". The original edition was published in 1976 and has long since been out of print. When available it is sure to be a fun and informative reading experience.

We have so much to be thankful for here in Wenonah and so many people that work very hard to preserve what Wenonah's founders started.

Wenonah is full of great volunteers, and many of those volunteers are part of our Wenonah Historical Society. How wonderful it is to know that so many of you have been instrumental in keeping our town the reason why people want to live here and we continue to flourish by your examples.

Founder's Day should be a great family experience that the whole town can enjoy and it will certainly provide a great opportunity to work with the Wenonah Elementary School and additional volunteers to see that this day will be another great reflection on the pride we all share about our town!

Historical Fact

Our neighbor to the south, Sewell, NJ was named after William Sewell, a General in the Civil War and President of the West Jersey Railroad. He was substantially involved in the creation of Wenonah.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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

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

March Meeting Program

Wenonah resident Larry Ledrich will display his Native American Indian artifacts collection. The collection originated in a site in Harrison Township. He will be joined by professional archaeologist Jack Cresson. Jack has spent a lifetime studying native habitats and will share his knowledge and expertise on the subject. If you have found something unique or unusual while digging in your garden or yard bring it for Jack's interpretation and analysis. This will be the "Show and Tell" part of the meeting.

The History of Wenonah by Marjorie K. Lentz

During the mid-1970's the Wenonah Historical Society, wanting to do something for the Bicentennial decided a book about the origins of Wenonah would be an excellent way of both participating in the event, and creating a fund-raiser for the Society. Marjorie Lentz volunteered to author such a book. It was completed and published in 1976. She did a fantastic job, the project was a success, the entire printing sold out and there are few, if any copies available for the public.

Marjorie has graciously agreed to allow parts of her book to be used in subsequent WHS newsletters.

Accordingly, this and future issues will contain parts, or even chapters of her book. Save them up and you will eventually have your own copy of the original "*Wenonah*" by Marjorie K. Lentz.

For those who want a "whole" book, an updated version is currently being written, available late 2008.

Historical Fact

4/17/1883 Dr. George Bailey, on behalf of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company presented to the Borough two "squares" of land for our Park. It was accepted by the Borough and the Deed received and acknowledged September 11, 1883.

“JUST A RAILROAD STATION” December 1870

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

The new railroad station along the west side of the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad stood incongruous among the fields that surrounded it. Farmers had eyed the station with interest because they anticipated it would be a convenience in transporting their sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets. However, as the newspaper, *The Constitution* stated, the station looked far "too elegant for sweet potatoes because it boasted of "two compartments, one for the sale of tickets and joined by a comfortable passenger saloon."

Heading toward the station on December 19, 1870 was a special train which left Camden, New Jersey, just before noon. The train followed the West Jersey Railroad tracks past Gloucester, past Westville and at Woodbury took the Y that made a beeline to the station known as the New Mantua Station. The passengers who detrained that day were not in the least interested in transporting sweet potatoes, but they were interested in converting the sweet potato patches into building lots and in transporting commuters to a "new suburban town."

From the rise of the land at the New Mantua Station the visitors had a sweeping view of the fields now sliced by the railroad tracks. They saw Henisey's Landing Road which led to the busy wharves a-long the Mantua Creek. Within sight of the station they looked across to the dwelling of the Stone Farm House already 97 years old. A short distance away were meandering lanes that led to a few other farmhouses and to the west was the abandoned road bed of the railroad tracks that previously surmounted a thirty-two foot high trestle over the Mantua Creek leading to the old Mantua Station.

The stop at the station was brief, but while the passengers were there they envisioned how the land could be leveled, the country lanes erased and the existing farm houses squared and placed properly on straight streets. After "a site visitation the Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" at 1:15 p. m. when Samuel A. Whitney read a proposal for forming a "Real Estate and Improvement Company to operate at the New Mantua Station of the West Jersey Railroad." Whitney augmented the report by noting that the land, consisting of 572 acres, could be purchased for $69,575. The group unanimously agreed and in a few minutes, $29,500 was subscribed.

It was just a railroad station but it witnessed the beginnings of a town and the town, still unnamed, already had a history.

Early maps reveal small campsites of the Unalachtigo Indians of the Lenni Lenape Tribe spotted along the banks of the Mantua Creek and the Chestnut Branch that flows into it. In the 1600's cartographers named the streams for the Indians who lived by them, and it is assumed that the Mantua Creek was named for the Manteses, a small band of Indians who had campsites along these waterways. The trails that border Mantua Creek and Break Back Run are considered to be Indian trails and it is along these waterways that arrowheads, net sinkers, stone hammers and axes have been found. Potsherds of the Woodland Period have been discovered and sufficient fragments at one site have made possible the reconstruction of pottery revealing a skillful design of inverted Vs.

Some of the land bordering the Indian trails was owned by Nathaniel Chew who in 1712 recorded in Gloucester County's earmark book the marks of his pigs, "a slitt in each ear and half penny on each side." One of his sons, Jeffrey Chew, inherited a part of the acreage and to his holdings purchased 125 acres from Samuel Moffett. Moffett either retained or later secured a five-acre plot from the farm on which in 1773 he built a dwelling which traditionally was a stage line stop on the route from Camden to Cape May. The house was strategically located on the Old Ford Road which led to the edge of Chew's farm to the only place below Berkeley, now Mount Royal, that stage lines could cross the Mantua Creek. During the ownership of Robert Sparks it is recorded that "the militia met in a field in 1777 to practice, hold meetings and elect officers at the stone-house." Deeds note that the five-acre plot was later joined to the farm and it was known as the Stone House Farm.

Traditional accounts relate that a Revolutionary War skirmish occurred at the intersection of Old Ford Road and Bark Bridge Road.

On both sides of Glassboro Road was the "plantation" of Benjamin Clark. The story has been told that while the British camped along the Monongahela Trail in 1777 they seized Clark's team of horses and a load of wheat he was driving to Valley Forge for General Washington's Army. However, that night Clark crept into the British camp and retrieved his horses hiding them on an island in the Mantua Creek. Also that same winter General Anthony Wayne foraged for supplies for Washington's army and records note that he secured hay along the Mantua Creek in this area and probably some of the hay was secured from the Stone House Farm.

By the 1850's the Mantua Creek was bustling with shipyards where shallops and flatboats were built. To the Philadelphia markets were shipped sweet potatoes, buckwheat, turnips and shad and from Philadelphia were received staples. Another commodity received from Philadelphia was manure which was sold to the farmers in this area. In 1855 shipped out of Philadelphia to the Mantua Creek were 120 loads priced of manure at seventy-five cents a load.

When the West Jersey Railroad was extended from Woodbury to Glassboro in 1861, a newspaper account notes that there was "difficulty in bridging the Mantua Creek." When a Danforth locomotive was added to the line it was reported that it had a three hundred ton traction and that "the power of this massive iron horse was seen recently when it took 24 loaded cars up the steep grade at Mantua." With the merger of the West Jersey Railroad with the Millville and Glassboro Railroad, plans were made to relocate the tracks to alleviate a dangerous curve and to reduce the height of the tracks.

New railroad tracks, a new station, easy commutation to and from Philadelphia, "healthy breezes" that promised a malaria free area, high elevation above the Mantua Creek that assured adequate drainage were all prerequisites for a "new suburban town."

William F. Allen, resident engineer of the West Jersey Railroad and son-in-law of the president of the railroad, made contact with the seven landowners whose land was adjacent to the tracks. Each one agreed to sell his land. The largest landowner was Isaac C. Stevenson who owned about 244 acres extending from the New Mantua Station northward to Glassboro Road and south to Bark Bridge Road. Charles Starn owned 163 acres in the area of the railroad station reaching westward toward the Mantua Creek. The Peter Kier Stone House Farm extended southward to the Mantua Creek. Other landowners were David Kay who owned the land including Dilk's Little Mill and the mill pond, Edwin Stokes whose land bordered the northern stretch of the new railroad tracks, Nathaniel Chew, a tanner, whose land bordered the northern section of Glassboro Road and Samuel W. Chew who owned a small slice of land on the road leading to the mill.

On December 14, 1870 Allen invited a group of twenty-one businessmen to the Camden office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider a plan to organize a land development company. Horatio J. Mulford of Bridgeton was appointed presiding officer and he named a committee to prepare a proposal.

Five days later on December 19,1870 the businessmen reassembled in the Camden office and heard the first reading of the proposal which had been submitted by Samuel A. Whitney, former president of the Millville and Glassboro Railroad and leader in the glass industry, General William J. Sewell, vice-president of the West Jersey Railroad who secured the special train for the site visitation, George Wood, a director of the West Jersey Railroad and president of the Millville Manufacturing Company, and William F. Allen. The entire group then boarded the special train that took them to the New Mantua Station.

Although the visitors may have seen dormant sweet potato patches that winter day, they visualized the possibilities of a "new suburban town." The Constitution reported that "from the known energy of the gentlemen at the head of the enterprise, there is no doubt of its success."

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 11, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 3 April 2008

Message From Trustee Vicki McCall

Dear Members;

March was designated as National Women's History Month. This recognition of Women in History was established nationally to ensure that the history of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces, and communities throughout the country. The stories of women's historic achievements present an expanded view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life. American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation.

In honor of Women's History Month, I want to share memories of moments with some very special Women of Wenonah, who are no longer here with us. My membership in the Historical Society is a result if the influence of these women.

First, I wish to remember Jane Ramsay. Jane took me into this special fold of people when I came back to Wenonah. I wish I could say I remember when I first joined the Historical society, but I do not. What I DO remember are the people, the members. Jane Ramsay took me under her wing and shared with me not only her love for life, but her love for Wenonah and its people. She opened a door to the past that opened my eyes to this town in another dimension.

Her group of friends soon became people I truly admired. Her own family is a prime example of what happens when you are a true "Wenonahian". Not only do you grow up here, but you come back to raise your own families! Jane raised five children and several still live here in Wenonah or close by.

Jane and I served for four years together as officers. Under her leadership, we brought the Display cabinet that is now located in the Wenonah School. This program was implemented to educate and inspire our youth to take a closer look at their history. Many helping hands have served to procure and set up the rotating displays.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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

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

Betty Rose has done a magnificent job over the last several years and has stepped up the program to bring not only local displays, but many unique items the Gloucester County Historical Society.

Another woman having a profound impact on many if us was Lucy Schulz. A life long Wenonah resident, Lucy's' knowledge of this town and her contributions to this town are unrivaled. She also served some mean "after Meeting" refreshments! I so enjoyed her stories from her youth and her escapades regarding the Military Academy Cadets! She was one of the few who remember Cedar Field as a horse racetrack.

Lucy and Jane truly exemplified what our town is about. They volunteered for so many organizations and serve as role models for all to follow! We could all take a lesson from them and their commitment. We thank them and miss them!

Historical Fact

Wenonah Women in the News circa 1900 Woodbury Daily Times

"There was much interest manifest in school matters in our borough Tuesday evening. It was rumored no women were to be placed on the board and this aroused the women of our town to action and the result was the highest vote ever cast at a school election. 70 were cast for Mrs. Annie Johnson, 65 for Eldora Hurff and 62 for Ed Farr. 23 of the ballots had written on them "no taxation without representation".

April Meeting Program
Patti Hrynenko
Glouco Historical Society

Patti will speak generally about the operations of the very successful County Historical Society, and specifically about an 18th century desk and fireplace, an 1806 sampler, and how the objects are related.

"WENONAH"

On pages 2 and 3 more of the Marjorie Lentz 1976 book "*Wenonah*"

For those who want a "whole" book, an updated version is currently being written, available late 2008.

"A HOTEL, SANDBURRS AND THE 4TH OF JULY" 1871 - 1872

Excerpts from the book "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz

The new railroad station along the west side of the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad stood incongruous among the fields that surrounded it. Farmers had eyed the station with interest because they anticipated it would be a convenience in transporting their sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets. However, as the newspaper, *The Constitution* stated, the station looked far "too elegant for sweet potatoes because it boasted of "two compartments, one for the sale of tickets and joined by a comfortable passenger saloon."

By 1872 the Company had spent $25,417.94 in the building and furnishing of Wenonah House, $200.44 on parks, $62.37 on roads, $3,000.60 on grading and $1,751.53 on advertising. The farmhouses and the mill property were rented for $744.68. Some of the land not allotted for building lots was farmed for the Company. Although the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was making a profit on it's lots, it knew less about agric By a special act of the State of New Jersey, the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was incorporated on February 21, 1871. The Company was authorized to lay out building lots as well as boulevards, alleys and parks. It could erect buildings for residences as well as sell and mortgage them and it could make regulations "to prevent the manufacturing or sale of intoxicating liquors" or "the carrying on of offensive trades."

The capital stock of the Company was $150,000 with permission to increase the stock to $300,000 if needed and it was to be divided into shares of fifty dollars each.

On March 15, 1871 the first eleven directors were elected. They were Samuel A. Whitney, General William J. Sewell, George Wood and Horatio J. Mulford who had helped formulate the resolution to organize the Company. Also elected were George S. Harris, John F. Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas P. Carpenter, Stephen Greene and Thomas Jones Yorke, President of the West Jersey Railroad.

In addition to the farm land in the 572-acre tract purchased by the Company, they secured a grist mill with its miller's house, the Stone House Farm dwelling as well as several other farm houses The entire tract stretched from the Mantua Creek to Glassboro Road and from Dilk's Pond to Bark Bridge Road. From this tract the company selected one hundred acres to be divided into building lots.

The railroad station was the core of the rectangle, one-half mile in length and one-third mile in width which comprised the original town. West Jersey Avenue bisected the town plot north and south with a seventy-five foot avenue on each side of the railroad tracks "for carriage and driving." Bisecting the plot east and west was Mantua Avenue, one hundred feet wide. All other streets, Jefferson, Monroe, Clinton and Marion extending north and south and Elm, Poplar, Cherry, Willow and Cedar extending east and west were sixty-six feet wide. Traces of Henisey's Landing Road were erased.

The Mantua land and Improvement Company marked out the town plot into fourteen squares of twelve building lots each measuring seventy-five feet in front and one hundred and fifty feet deep. It was agreed that "only the even numbers of lots should be sold" first and only lots within the one hundred acre boundary. However Joseph D. Bates of Mantua requested a lot outside the town limits and his request was granted. The original sketch of his housewith a "French roof, wooden ornamentation and 4 light windows" still exists.

A scrap of paper with jagged edges has been carefully preserved among the earliest Minutes of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. The scrap is covered with the scribbles of names proposed by members, no doubt as they sat around a table pondering for the right word to name this "new suburban town" The names scrawled on the scrap of paper are Rosedale, Winona and Wenonah. In the Minutes of April 3, 1871 it is recorded that it was "resolved that the name of the town and lake be Winona Wenonah."

Sixteen years before 1871, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem The Song of Hiawatha, was published. In the poem Nokomis, swinging on a grapevine on the moon fell to earth when a jealous woman severed the vine.

There among the ferns and mosses,
There among the prairie lilies
on the Muskoday, the meadow,
In the moonlight and the starlight
Fair Nokomis bore a daughter.

And she called her name Wenonah
As the first-born of her daughters.

The name Wenonah or Winona is derived from a Santee dialect word meaning a first-born daughter. The Santee Indians lived along the shores of Lake Superior where the part legendary, part historic Hiawatha lived. In 1823 Keating in his work, The Narrative of Long's Expedition to St. Peter's River, which is in the Lake Superior region, relates the story of a Sioux named Wenonah who committed suicide because her family insisted she marry some one she did not love. Henry Schoolcraft, a geologist and ethnologist who was a prolific writer on Indian lore, wrote The Myth of Hiawatha and Other Oral Legends in 1839. In the work he named Wenonah as Hiawatha's mother. Longfellow openly acknowledged he based his Song of Hiawatha on Schoolcraft's writings and he too named Wenonah as Hiawatha's mother. In all the stories of Wenonah or Winona her life ended tragically in early womanhood. However the words that are remembered most about Wenonah are the words of Longfellow's poem when he wrote that she;

Grew up like the prairie lilies
Grew a tall and tender maiden
With the beauty of the moonlight
With the beauty of the starlight.

In its first Annual Report in 1871 the Mantua Land and Improvement Company stated that Wenonah's lots had been measured, six hundred shade trees, mostly maples, had been planted along the avenues, streets had been graded, and a hotel was being constructed. There were already a "handsome passenger depot and freight-house and convenient turnout and wagon-sheds" at the railroad station. Also during the same year the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders was contacted concerning building a bridge across the Mantua Creek "on line of the road lately laid out leading from Wenonah to Mantua." William F. Allen, now treasurer of the Company, ordered a special train to transport the Freeholders to inspect the location. Consequently the Board of Freeholders agreed to construct the bridge and plans were developed to build "an elegant roadway" between Mantua and the railroad station. No longer was the station known as the New Mantua Station. It was now the Wenonah Station.

The Wenonah House was opened for guests in the spring of 1872. The forty-room hotel rose three stories and was crowned by a square cupola. Iron Doric columns reaching all the way to the roof surrounded three sides of the hotel and a veranda twelve feet wide provided space for promenades. From the veranda guests could stroll across South Clinton avenue to an open space being developed into parks divided by a lane. Running water and gas were installed in every room and, according to a newspaper article; it was "furnished in elegant style."

A board walk reached Clinton avenue to the railroad station where six trains a day brought guests from Philadelphia to the hotel as well as prospective buyers for Wenonah's building lots. Prospective buyers were offered free round-trip transportation on the railroad and they were personally greeted by DR. J.E. Garrison, the resident agent of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. His annual salary was $200 plus three percent commission on every lot he sold. Lots facing West Jersey Avenue, Mantua Avenue and the parks were priced at $400. All the other lots were $200. To encourage building on the lots the company loaned "one thousand dollars and the price of the lot upon mortgage for one year without interest."

An advertising brochure issued by the Company noted that Wenonah is a "favorite place for all those who are seeking country fresh air and cheap living combined with the advantage of close proximity to the city. The claims of New Jersey over Pennsylvania in respect to taxes are too well known to need more than passing mention and the notable strictness and impartiality with which the laws are administered cannot fail to recommend it to all peace-loving and law-abiding citizens." Another brochure advises that "before making your arrangements for the summer or for the year" to consider Wenonah, and that there is "no healthier location in the vicinity of Philadelphia, fine rolling country and the best of water." Also there are "boating and fishing." A statement issued by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company foretold that the towns which "hug the railroad" invariably succeed and the towns a mile away from the railroad are doomed to failure.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday May 9, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 5 May 2008

Message From President Lou McCall

Dear Members;

The weather is finally getting warmer and Mother Nature is coming back to life. Nature has been closely aligned with Wenonah's history since the very beginning. After all, the original prospectus given to potential homeowners living in the city areas of Philadelphia and its surroundings touted the healthful qualities of Wenonah's natural resources. Since then much has obviously changed. Wally Farr (born 1905 to Edward and Edith Farr in the house I currently try to maintain) spoke to my wife and I of all the wonderful things the youth of Wenonah did in the woods, lakes and streams of Wenonah and beyond. Wally spoke of the annual canoe trips that would start at the lake that was next to my garage and they would canoe out to the Delaware and back again. He said they always chose mid June to do the trip because of the length of daylight then but could only make it back to Woodbury, where upon George Parks would take the Farr's horses and wagon and pick up all the kids and canoes. Wally also spoke of how in Wenonah School many a boy would lean their guns next to their coats in the back of the room so when school was over, they would all go muskrat hunting.

If you have seen the old photographs of Wenonah, especially aerial ones (every member should own the unbelievable aerial photo turned placemat complements of Jack Sheppard Sr.) it is dramatically clear that much of nature has gone asphalt or at least private. Thus we can not appreciate or thank enough the foreword thinking by previous Council and Environmental Commission members for the resurgence of our natural resources via unique Wenonah trails and the teahouse. Additionally they have gone beyond their usual Herculean efforts by seizing an opportunity to educate many in the region of the benefits of converting the ex-golf course which adjoins Wenonah to a nature park.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall

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Program for May

Richard Dilks will speak on the current effort to dedicate the former Maple Ridge Golf Course as a nature preserve and/or recreational area for the county.

Rich, a lifelong Wenonah resident, is chairman of the Wenonah Environmental Commission. He is active in the Gloucester County Nature Club and member of the Maple Ridge Preservation Committee

One of the loveliest places in Gloucester County is nestled away on a 112 acre tract just south of Wenonah in Deptford and Mantua Townships. Once site of Tall Pines Golf Course, later known as Ron Jaworski's Eagles' Nest (of Philadelphia Eagles fame) and finally as Maple Ridge Golf Club. It is a place of gently rolling country-side, meadows, wetlands, and forest patches. The Mantua Creek flows gently through the center of the tract and wildlife abounds there. Many birds make a home there including warblers, a Bald Eagle and a rare albino Red-tailed Hawk. Beautiful trees, both native and exotic, give one the feeling of being in an arboretum. Those walking the paths are struck by the tranquility and natural beauty of this special place.

When Maple Ridge Golf Club closed in December 2006, the land was sold to a developer who had plans approved for 123 homes on the site. A beautiful place was on the verge of being lost forever to commercial development and sprawl. Many were sad to hear that yet another housing development was about to claim a beautiful property, but some good people were motivated to action. A preservation committee, spearheaded by the members of the Wenonah Environmental Commission was formed in January 2008 and an effort to preserve the entire Maple Ridge tract as a county owned nature park was born. In our presentation we will tell why Maple Ridge is special and deserves preservation. Things have begun to happen and we will provide the latest information on the preservation effort.

We will also talk about the mission and projects of the Wenonah Environmental Commission and about the history and natural beauty of our town's special places in our 135 acre conservation area.

Richard Dilks, President

"A HOTEL, SANDBURRS AND THE 4TH OF JULY" 1871 - 1872

Excerpts from the book "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the April 2008 newsletter)

By 1872 the Company had spent $25,417.94 in the building and furnishing of Wenonah House, $200.44 on parks, $62.37 on roads, $3,000.60 on grading and $1,751.53 on advertising. The farmhouses and the mill property were rented for $744.68. Some of the land not allotted for building lots was farmed for the Company. Although the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was making a profit on it's lots, it knew less about agriculture. It lost nine dollars the first year of its farming operations. Also it was noted that "a portion of the land valued at $260 per acre has been sold for $650 per acre."

Dr. George W. Bailey, associated with the Philadelphia real estate brokerage, William T. Bailey Company, built a "cottage" next to the Wenonah House where he was residing during the summer. Across the street from Dr. Bailey's house, Thomas W. Synnott, nephew of Samuel A. Whitney and prominent in the glass making industry in South Jersey, built a "cottage". A block up the street on North Clinton Avenue a "cottage" was built by Andrew W. Carey, general manager of the White Dental Manufacturing Company in Philadelphia. These were the first three houses built on the original town plot.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in Wenonah in 1872. A printed program announced that the celebration began at five o'clock in the morning with a thirteen-gun salute. This salute was repeated at noon and at sunset. At five-thirty in the morning there were reveille and roll call. Resuming at eight o'clock after breakfast the flag was raised followed by the Wenonah Silver Cornet Band. The program notes that the flag was a gift of Samuel A. Whitney and the flagpole the gift of George Wood. The remainder of the day was devoted to "general amusement for all, such as croquet, bowling, quoits and the balloon ascensions." Following fireworks in the evening, refreshments were served in the Wenonah House. The day ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and playing of taps. Although modified in format, the celebration has continued to the present.

On September 15, 1872 "the citizens of Wenonah and the guests on the Wenonah House met in Dr. Garrison's office" for a Sunday School. Twenty adults and twenty-one children arrived the first day with Dr. George W. Bailey as superintendent, Andrew W. Carey as secretary-treasurer and Thomas W. Synnott as librarian. The Minutes of the Presbyterian Sunday School note that "Dr. Bailey was not slow in gathering scholars and arranging classes and in pushing into the work of any and all who had any capacity to act as teachers." For more adequate facilities the Sunday School soon after moved to the railroad station. Preaching was held at irregular intervals, sometimes in the afternoon following Sunday School. Although the Presbyteries organized the Sunday School, the first sermon preached in Wenonah was by William S. Cattell, a Methodist.

With the influx of guests at the Wenonah House and the Philadelphia commuters who were building "cottages" within the town plot, it cannot be ignored that Wenonah was still a farming community. Surrounding the town plot was land which the Mantua Land and Improvement Company rented for farming. Charles Buckman rented the former Dilks Mill which was now known as the Wenonah Mill and an advertisement notes that he could do "customer work of all kinds with care and despatch at short notice" including "fresh ground wheat and rye flour, corn meal, etc., of all grades." Benjamin Packard opened a general store.

Newcomers to Wenonah fought sandburrs. Andrew W. Carey wrote that one needs "a good knife blade to shave off the sandburrs before entering a neighbor's house. The first year on my residence here we had no sidewalks and the sandburrs were so profuse that one was compelled to take the middle of the road to elude the common enemy."

However, Dr. Bailey reported that "as a community we were of one mind, no friction, each willing to work, no one seeking preferment. We were indeed a happy family".

"A CHAPEL, A SCHOOL AND TOMATO CATSUP" 1873 - 1883

Excerpts from the book "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz

According to the annual report of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company fifteen residential lots and four business lots had been sold and $75,000 worth of buildings had been erected by May 8, 1873. During the next ten years fifty "cottages" were built. The new houses bordered the parks, faced the railroad tracks and lined up and down Clinton Avenue and Mantua Avenue. They can be identified by the Mansard roofs, some retaining the original slate, Mansard double doors, campaniles, fish scale shingles at the top of the towers and iron cresting along the rooftops.

Not only were houses built but also a chapel. On September 22, 1873 the Presbyterian Chapel was dedicated and on the same day the First Presbyterian Church of Wenonah was organized. For ten years the Methodists and the Presbyterians worshipped together with the agreement that when there were sufficient Methodists in Wenonah they could form their own congregation. In 1882 the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and the following year the cornerstone of their church was laid. The silver trowel used for the ceremony is housed in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Children of some of the new residents in Wenonah attended boarding schools in Philadelphia. Other children walked to the Mantua School even though it was not in Deptford Township. However in 1875 parents hired Charles Buckman to drive the school-aged children to the one-room Monongahela School where Sallie Bailey was the teacher. This school was three miles east of Glassboro Road down a lane that passed the former Benjamin Clark brick farm house. The following year Dr. George W. Bailey, district clerk and brother of Sallie Bailey, proposed a school for Wenonah. In a letter to William Milligan, Gloucester County Superintendent of Public Instruction, he outlined a plan. "The school during the months of September and October will meet in a room in a private dwelling. On October 31st we expect to occupy a part of the Wenonah House. Please send the books and blanks which as I understand the matter are furnished by the state." Subsequently classes were held in the Howard Building, commonly called Daddy Howard's Hall and in the winter classes met in the dining room of the hotel. The school budget for the first year was $605 which included Sallie Bailey's salary of $360 and also an allowance for the purchase of a stove to hear the dining room in the Wenonah House.

Two years later Wenonah built a two-storied school on the edge of the town plot just behind the Presbyterian Chapel. By the end of the first year 55 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.

In 1877 a Young Men's Christian Association was organized by George L. McGill which met in a "cozy room in Daddy Howard's Hall." A newspaper commented that the YMCA provided a "comfortable room for the improvement and innocent amusement of the young men of Wenonah." Books, magazines and games were available for the youth who met four evenings a week.

The Wenonah House dominated the social scene. At first it was opened all year with activities such as a pigeon match followed by a "turtle dinner" which was attended by fifty persons in January 1873. Essentially, however, the Wenonah House was a summer resort hotel. Under various managers including Benjamin Packer, Thomas Clark, Joseph C. Yerkes and Isaac Newton, the hotel season began with a hop in early May followed by a continuous round of activities which kept the town humming until the closing hop in late September. When the resort season ended in Cape May on Labor Day some Philadelphians finished the season at the Wenonah House. A newspaper account stated that those with "weak lungs who cannot stand the heavy salt water air" often preferred the Wenonah House to shore hotels.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday September 12, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 6 September 2008

UPDATED WENONAH HISTORY BY MARJORIE LENTZ

I am pleased to announce that our esteemed member/author Marjorie Lentz has spent most of the summer working on the long awaited history update of her book "Wenonah". The original version that was published in 1975 has long been out of print.

Her work consists of additions to the original text as well as new material that was not included in the original version. Should be very interesting and an excellent addition to our fund-raising capability.

COMMUNITY CENTER GRANT

According to Borough Engineer and grant coordinator David Kreck he has submitted updated plans to the NJ Department of Transportation and hopes to receive approval of that agency yet this month. Once that approval is received funding is assured and bids for the work can be sought, hopefully yet this Fall/Winter. Contracts can then be awarded for work commencing in the Spring of 2009.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Progress is being made, albeit more slowly than I would like, however we are somewhat closer to the goal of the "digital museum" completion.

Computer whiz Scott Barnes has been assisting with setting up a new computer program that affords a great deal of flexibility for using digital images. The program permits sorting images into presentations for different interests such as Wenonah's Origins, Wenonah's Historic Homes, the Wenonah Military Academy, etc.

Julie Ream continues with her necessary and much-valued activity of categorizing and storing the items having Wenonah historical meaning.

Jack Sheppard Sr

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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SEPTEMBER 1908 WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO

Mayor Lorence gave four boys, who were caught playing crap by Constable Park, a good lecture and told them if he ever caught them again he would fine them $25.

The Academy opened Tuesday. All the boys have not reported yet, but there will be more than last year. The boys seem very much pleased to get back. That's because demerits haven't commenced.

Notice: I beg to announce to my friends and patients I have opened a branch office for the practice of my profession and am thoroughly equipped for advanced dentistry in all its branches. I have personally administered narcotized air, thirty two thousand times and extracted thousands of diseased teeth without pain. Chas. H. Lorence DOS (Among his many other talents, he was Mayor of Wenonah)

We hear that Mr. Jorden and Mr. Swartz are going to run for council on the Prohibition ticket.

Our railroad station is well lighted now since the electric company has been cut out and the railroad company is using its own electricity. (This was a problem in the community and gas was still the source of illumination.)

James Carey has just returned from Maine where he has been touring in his 60 horsepower Pierce Arrow car. He had as his guests on the trip Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farr.

Part of the Canoe Club will take their annual Labor Day cruise up the Timber Creek. Mantua Avenue is a fine place to train horses and our people are availing themselves of the opportunity.

The Misses Comey, daughters of Robert H. Comey entertained about twenty five of their young friends at their handsome boat house. Guests were present from Philadelphia, Woodbury and other places and all report a delightful time. The boat house was beautifully decorated and a string orchestra from Philadelphia provided the music for dancing. (The boat house was at the foot of East Willow Street.)

We have no congratulations only regrets for the indifference or willful ignorance of the people of this county of a subject that is vital to them-Temperance.

An Episcopal Church and a bridge across the railroad at Elm Avenue seem to be the next things necessary for a perfect town.

Woodbury Daily Times

"A CHAPEL, A SCHOOL AND TOMATO CATSUP" 1873 - 1883

Excerpts from the book "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the May 2008 newsletter)

Previously the topic was the Wenonah House that purportedly dominated the social scene. By now the hotel was kept open all year with many interesting activities. However it was still considered to be a summer resort.

Dinners included such local specialties as reedbirds served on toast and lunches included waffles served with a "dressing of sugar and spices." Dances included quadrilles, glides and mazurkas. There were maze dances and stair dances. At some dances the women were requested to wear only pink gowns and at a phantom dance they wore white gowns. Orchestras arrived from Philadelphia by train. One account notes that the "company enjoyed themselves without restraint in dancing, promenading, music and conversation until an early morning hour. During intermission terpsichorean exercises were held. Afterwards the company was invited to the dining room where tables were spread with fruit collation, both native and imported."

However the most talked about entertainments were the amateur theatricals planned sometimes by the hotel staff and sometimes by the guests. Original songs, tableaux, farces with pungent stabs at those in the audience were weekly performances. In one instance the "Philadelphia hotel visitors devised costumes to represent potato bugs which were grotesquely made to promenade and indulge in a comic flirtation. The lampoons evoked peals of laughter especially on one gentleman farmer in the audience who recently purchased a hundred young turnip sprouts for celery sprouts. He gathered his agricultural knowledge in Pennsylvania and only recently has been transplanted into Jersey long enough to represent his district in the Legislature and to serve as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture." Few guests escaped being caught into a farce.

Other entertainment planned for the hotel guests included a Dime Museum Burlesque complete with barkers, lining skeletons and snake charmers. Often the waiters and bellhops participated in concerts and cakewalks. A Carnival of Venice was staged by the lake with a juju band and pantomimes and at this event the applause was so tremendous that some of the performers overplayed their roles and fell into the lake.

Private railroad cars for the hotel guests were attached to excursion trains to Atlantic City and upon their return the guests would find the hotel veranda illuminated with Japanese lanterns and a special supper prepared. Guests who traveled the summer resort circuit reported that the festivities at the Wenonah House compared favorably with the best hotels in Cape May and Long Branch.

Some hotel guests brought their teams for the summer season. On one occasion thirty-five turnouts[1] decorated with flags and flowers paraded through Wenonah, Mantua and Woodbury.

Morning card parties, progressive euchre parties, strolls around Wenonah's lakes, bowling and shuffle board kept the guests busy during the day. In the evenings the men who commuted to their businesses in Philadelphia joined their families at the hotel or at their summer homes. In September when the hotel closed for the season and the commuters closed their summer homes, Wenonah settled down to a slower tempo. However this lasted only a short time because excellent commuter service on the railroad encouraged summer visitors to purchase lots and to become permanent residents. Commutation tickets to Philadelphia were fifty dollars a year.

Much pride centered around the railroad station. Flower beds were groomed and permanent plantings established. The People's Stage Line brought passengers from Woodstown, Mullica Hill and Mantua. In 1873 passenger receipts from the West Jersey Railroad were $9,232.34 and freight receipts were $1,469.94.

By 1875 the Pennsylvania Railroad owned 80% of the West Jersey Railroad stock and plans were developed for a double track to extend from Wenonah to Glassboro. With increased railroad service, troubles grew. Accidents were frequent. South of Wenonah a train collided with a Cape May freight and six cars were demolished. As one observer described the scene, "a more complete train wreck cannot be imagined." A Bridgeton freight lost a wheel forcing three cars down an embankment.

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[1] An outfit of a carriage with its horse or horses

Locomotive SPARKS started frequent brush fires, track walkers were killed by on-coming trains and passengers were discouraged from standing on the platform as the trains approached. With the railroad came a deluge of tramps who were blamed for stealing everything from watermelons to trousers from nearby clotheslines.

The railroad controlled the town. No special church service, no musical program, no out-of-town dinner guest was scheduled without first consulting the time table. Advertisements to Presbyterian musicals noted that "Woodbury people can take the 7:07 for Wenonah and return on the 10 o'clock train." Even funeral announcements included the time when trains arrived in Wenonah and one as far away as Mullica Hill noted that "carriages will meet the 8: o'clock train from Phila. at Wenonah station." Special cars were attached to regular trains. Special cars brought visitors to the dedication of the Presbyterian Chapel, to weddings, and, of course, to the annual meetings of the Board of Directors of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company.

Although Philadelphians filled the forty rooms in the Wenonah House, built big houses around the square, spent their evenings driving their teams along the avenues and promenading on the hotel verandas and the parks in front of the hotel, Wenonah was still bordered by farm land. Farmers exhibited prize vegetables at the stores and delivered fresh farm products to the door. Because of the abundant supply of farm products a cannery was established. Located along the Mantua Creek on the northern side of West Mantua Avenue, the cannery occupied a building formerly used by Daniel Brown for a sash factory. Hayes Perry, Chalkley Duell and John Colbert began operations in 1880. However Colbert shortly withdrew to begin his own cannery across the creek. In the first year of operation 50,000 cans of tomatoes were processed and two years later they increased their production to 200,000 cans hiring about one hundred workers. The cannery processed not only tomatoes and catsup, but when the tomato season ended it canned pumpkins and during later years asparagus which was sealed in glass jars.

Other businesses followed. William W. Clark opened the Wenonah Coal Yard[2], Carre's gardens sold flowers and plants[3], B.F. Coles opened a general store[4] and Mrs. Lashley had a boarding house[5].

The new residents from Philadelphia and the farmers who rented land from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company were congenial neighbors. The dances and the amateur entertainments at the Wenonah House were opened to all. A newspaper account notes that "to the Wenonah House guests, the neighboring farmers' dairies are never bolted or melon patches or orchards barred, while the novelty of these summer excursions among the farmers in the height of their work are reciprocally enjoyed."

On the Fourth of July the entire community joined together to celebrate. A new event introduced during this period was the tub race. Contestants paddled tubs with their hands to a stake in the lake and then raced back to shore. The event was boisterous, upsets were expected and the races became so vigorous that complicated rules were enforced by the judges. No ballast was permitted, no water splashed into the tub could be removed until the tub capsized and no assistance could be given "unless the contestant is in dire danger." One account notes that "the staid professionals, thriving merchants and brawny business men engaged in the sport."

During the decade of 1873 to 1883 as the town grew, Thomas W. Synnott continued to receive patents on his inventions in the manufacturing of glass bottles. The Wenonah Advance, a newspaper was published by Milton Pierce and a ferry boat named Wenonah plied across the Delaware River.

Also the Mantua Land and Improvement Company made detailed plans to dam the Mantua Creek along the southern border of Wenonah to create a lake. Drawings, cost of securing necessary land bordering the creek and all details are preserved. However the lake was not created because of the limited height of the railroad bridge.

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[2]In area of South West Ave. And Cherry St.

[3]In area of 205 South Princeton Ave.

[4]3 East Mantua Ave.

[5]1 East Mantua Ave.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday October 10, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 7 October 2008

October 1908
Wenonah 100 years Ago

Halloween parties will be numerous in this town.

According to the evidence already obtained in the poker gang, there seems to be a baker's dozen and when His Honor brings down the whip of justice there will be Some squirming.

Application soon will be made to have gas lamps placed in the new section of Wenonah.

Charles Hopson will move into his new house about November 1st. (100 North West Avenue)

Contractor Brown expects to complete the new firehouse this week. It is quite a building and will be a credit to the borough.

Thomas Wentz has picked over 1700 baskets of pears this fall. He has over a thousand baskets on hand yet, which he will market soon as they yellow up. (His farm was north of Linden Avenue, west of Jericho.)

A girl wishes a position in Wenonah as a child's nurse or as a chambermaid or waitress. Call Bell phone 112-L

The Military Academy has sent invitations out for a big military hop to be given Halloween.

The hinges on the door of our "jug" have not had time to rust the past week. There was much comment over the gent that was arrested at 3:00 o'clock yesterday morning and kept in the jug until one o'clock that some of the citizens furnished him with victuals and cigars and are thinking of asking borough council to put a couch and carpet in the jug.

Rev. R. H. Gage preached one of the best temperance sermons ever heard in the new church.

When some little life is sacrificed probably means will be found to stop the fearful rate at which autos speed along the streets of this borough.

Mayor Lorence is making an effort to have the 8:05 morning north bound express stop here, as since the 8:19 has been taken off there is no other train until 8:34, which makes it late when the passengers arrive in Philadelphia.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Community Center except June, July & August

One of Dan Mumford's mules became tangled up in the harness here yesterday and in trying to free itself was severely cut.

The citizens meeting for the arrangement of the election night entertainment will be quite successful and a pleasing entertainment will be given. For men only. The ladies will have to prepare an entertainment for themselves that evening. (They were lucky National Organization for Women didn't exist at that time.)

We received the following this morning, and evidently from one of the scholars of the public school, who rejoices in the fact that his or her teacher failed to get out of the school house before the janitor locked up the building. "One of the school teachers was locked in the building last night and had to jump out the window. It was a good jump, don't you think. It was more than I would like to do. I bet she will go out sooner the next time, don't you."

Going to Woodbury tomorrow night to see the Boston Bloomers Girls' basketball team play the Woodbury team? Better go; as it is an opportunity which you will never, get again to see the only girls' team in the United States that plays against men. The girls also give fencing exhibitions.

Officer Drummer found two men loitering around town early yesterday morning and as they could not give a good account of themselves he took them to Woodbury and locked them up. They were afterward discharged.

Rev. R. H. Gage and wife had a large reception Monday evening for the congregation of the Presbyterian Church. It was a very large affair. Some of the ladies gowns were imported from Paris for the affair.

Some of the Wenonah Athletic Club who profess themselves to be the best players of Wenonah forget they had to use two pitchers in order to defeat the Methodist team last Saturday. Their first pitcher lasted only six innings for he was knocked all over the field.

Woodbury Daily Times
October 1908

"A BOROUGH COMMISSION, A FIRE HOSE CARRIAGE AND A FISH FARM" 1873 - 1883

Excerpts from the book "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the September 2008 newsletter)

Previously the topic was Wenonah's churches, the start of its schools, and the fact that much of the activity in the town centered around the hotel and the railroad. The next chapter is entitled "A Borough Commission, a Fire Hose Carriage and a Fish Farm.

When Wenonah had grown to fifty "cottages" and a population of three hundred, the voters chose to be incorporated as a Borough Commission on March 8, 1883. The seven elected commissioners were Dr. George W. Bailey, President who served as secretary-treasurer of the Mantua Land & Improvement Company, Isaac C. Stevenson, treasurer and a director of the Company, and Thomas W. Synnott, a director of the Company. Also elected were Andrew W. Carey, M.H. Perry, J. Frank Shull and Cunningham B. Johnston.

The first item of business as a Borough Commission was the receiving from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company the deed to two squares of parks which faced the Wenonah House. The first purchase was two fire ladders which were stored in the School basement along with twenty-two fire buckets, the trustees of the Wenonah School having granted permission to use one cellar window and one side of the cellar for storage. The first resolution passed by the Borough Commission was one urging property owners to repair their sidewalks. The original wooden sidewalks were being replaced by flagstone walks.

Although the Mantua Land and Improvement Company had laid out streets, planted shade trees, built a hotel, sold lots and houses, a newspaper noted that since the Borough had been incorporated "the spirit of improvement has taken on a strong grip upon the residents and gratifying proofs of it will soon be witnessed."

Immediately the Borough Commission installed twelve lamps on the streets and William Vogt was hired as a lamplighter at a salary of six dollars a month. As an economy move the lamplighter was cautioned not to permit the lamps to burn too late in the mornings. Poles were erected to connect the Wenonah House to Glassboro Road for telephone service and a post office was placed in the railroad station with Sallie Ballinger as postmistress.

H. Haynes Perry was appointed Wenonah's first policeman in 1886. After serving four years with no salary, the Borough Commission granted him an annual salary of twelve dollars. In 1893 a pair of handcuffs was secured for the policeman and his salary was increased to twenty-four dollars a year.

In order that the town be "built up with a creditable class of dwellings," a resolution was passed by the Borough Commission that "no dwelling should be erected east of the railroad at a less cost than two thousand dollars and that no dwelling should be erected west of the railroad at a less cost than one thousand dollars." In later years in good humor the eastern section of town was referred to as the silk stocking side and the western section as the cotton stocking side.

The Borough Commission was faced with a myriad of problems. Should dogs be muzzled? What should be done with the farmer's chickens roving the streets? Should hogs be slaughtered in town? What should be done with the resident who buried his horse in his backyard? How can burglaries be prevented? Should stores be closed early in the evening to discourage loafing? What should be done with the boys who remove the burrs from the wheels of the carriages hitched in front of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday evenings? Should housewives give handouts to gypsies and tramps? And should the farmers unload manure in the middle of Wenonah?

The manure problem created heated arguments. With the mixing of Philadelphia commuters and Wenonah House guests who used the passenger service of the railroad, and farmers who used the freight service there was bound to be a conflict. The unloading of manure in the center of town was declared a nuisance by the commuters and the railroad was requested to build a siding near the pumping station to unload the manure. However some farmers were not satisfied with he new location and wrote letters claiming they would never use the railroad again. The siding was installed and the farmers did use it. Also the commuters did attempt to prevent freight trains from stopping more than five minutes and they complained of excessive locomotive whistling at night.

Freight service accelerated. Joseph Cattell shipped his baskets of sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets and T.P. Darlington, a local poultry shipper, sent four tons of poultry a week out of the Wenonah Station. Sweet potatoes, watermelons and tomatoes were leading farm crops. Charles Buckman continued to operate his Wenonah Mills at the mill pond, John Steward operated a steam corn sheller, and on a sad note, John Kromer's cow died from eating potato vines sprinkled with Paris Green. One farmer boasted of a hog that weighed 775 pounds and another farmer displayed a watermelon in Thomas Savage's tobacco ship that weighed 63 pounds. The story was reported in the newspaper that "two young ladies were told they could have the watermelon for nothing if they could carry it away without letting it down to rest on the way. The ladies put the watermelon in a clothes basket and carted it home." The Duell and Perry canning house was purchasing the farmers' tomatoes and one progressive farmer succeeded in raising very large potatoes by using chemical fertilizer.

With the increased passenger service on the West Jersey Railroad, a new station was built in 1893 of Pompeian bricks to "harmonize with general improvements and surroundings of the Borough." Also the freight house was enlarged and James Darlington was appointed the gatekeeper.

The Wenonah Water Company was organized in 1885 with Stephen Greene as President, Thomas W. Synnott as Vice-President, Dr. George W. Bailey as secretary-treasurer, Blair Smith, Daniel Brown and J. Frank Shull. Galvanized pipes were laid, a Dover well bored and the first experimental fire hydrant placed at the corner of East Mantua Avenue and North Clinton Avenue, commonly known as Shull's Corner. Two years later twenty-three acres, including the mill property and the two adjoining lakes were purchased, a fourteen-foot wheel as well as a steam pump were installed. As need for water increased, the Wenonah Water Company erected a one hundred foot standpipe, bored five artesian wells and built a steam engine house on the south side of the dam. While digging the foundation for the engine house a vein of marl was uncovered and circular oyster shells measuring a foot across were unearthed.

Concerned with the "decorating and otherwise improving the parks," the Wenonah Park Association was formed in 1886 under the leadership of Stephen Greene, Thomas W. Synnott, Dr. George W. Bailey, Edward L. Farr, Andrew J. Carey and others. The Association's first act was the closing of Park Avenue as a driveway from South Clinton Avenue to the railroad tracks which had created two parks in front of the Wenonah House. There was now one park. Three hundred shade trees were placed along newly surveyed streets and land was cleared on Camel's Back[1] bordering Camel's Back Run, a popular picnic area in the woods on the eastern edge of Wenonah. Picnics were organized "to bring all the people together" in Wenonah and also wagon loads of picnickers came as far as Richwood and Clarksboro for church outings.

Several years prior when the barn at the Wenonah House burned and consideration was given to calling for assistance from as far away as Camden, the community realized the need for fire equipment. The Wenonah Hose Company, NO. 1 was organized in 1888 with E.R. Winship as President and chief engineer. Other officers included Charles Wilkins, Lewis Buzby and Blair Smith. To test their new fire hose carriage, called Mareshanks, a fire was ignited in a pile of barrels on the outskirts of Wenonah and within nine minutes after the alarm was sounded the new hose carriage was at the scene and the fire extinguished. The equipment was housed in the new barn of the Wenonah House and later transferred to Synnott's ice house. For several years the firemen possessed keys to the Methodist Episcopal Church in order to use the church bell for a fire alarm.

A lawn tennis club and baseball team were organized. One baseball game was played against a Philadelphia deaf mute team. In the Mantua Creek boys caught pike weighing three and a half pounds, terrapins, herring and at night they fished for eels. Rail birds were shot in the marshes and in the spring young people hunted for trailing arbutus in the woods.

[1]In woods bordering South Stockton Ave.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday November 14, 2008

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 8 November 2008

November 1908
Wenonah 100 years Ago

Mr. Oscar Ogden, Thomas Ritson and Clement Mattson have purchased handsome Waltham-Orient touring cars from H.D.Leap who represents the Waltham Manufacturing Company in this area.

All Saints Episcopal Mission. Service in Noblitt's Hall tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. All welcome.

The town was very lively yesterday. Every train bringing a load of visitors and the beautiful weather kept them on the streets enjoying the air.

The woods were full of gunners here yesterday, but the bags were rather small. Whether due to unskillful marksmanship or lack of rabbits is hard to tell.

Captain Persey is no longer a member of the Campers Union at the Wenonah Military Academy. The union was organized for the special benefit of the bachelors of the academy and lost a very active member when he quietly married Miss Ratcliffe of Camden.

A family passing through town on the way to their Thanksgiving dinner met with an accident on Marion Avenue. The horse they were driving fell and broke a leg and had to be shot.

The epidemic of colds, which almost put a number of cadets in bed, has almost subsided and all were able to eat turkey today.

The Ladies Aid of the M.E. Church particularly requests that you defer buying your Christmas gifts till you come to their supper and bazaar next Tuesday. Beautiful articles, useful and ornamental will be on sale. A table of dressed dolls, at very reasonable prices, presided over by Miss Jessie Baylies' class of little girls will be one of the features. Mrs. Cline's class of young ladies will have a Christmas tree covered with gifts. Ice cream will be on sale, also cakes, bread and pie.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall

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A travelling Uncle Tom's Cabin Company will entertain our people tonight at Noblitt's Hall.

The public school building has been connected to the sewerage system and sanitary conditions will be much improved.

John L Drummer was elected constable over Thomas J. Savage, who was on both tickets by a 61 vote majority.

There is considerable discussion as to what use the room over the new fire house should be put other than regular meetings of the Fire Company. There seems to be a desire on the part of some to use it as a smoking room and a place to play cards. Of course there will be no gambling under the new administration.

A ballot was taken this morning at the Academy on the Presidential candidates and the results are as follows. Taft 38, Chafin 3, Bryan 6.

Fine Black Sateen Petticoats $1.00 Outing Flannel 25 and 50 cents Gingham 25, 50 and 75 cents try a pair of our ladies 25 cent stockings. H. E. Wood 185 So. Broad Street Woodbury.

The painting of the Methodist Church is about to be done and it will be a decided improvement.

A Republican landslide. Taft sweeps the country in the great contest for the nation's next executive. Gloucester County gives Taft 1610 plurality and elects entire county ticket. (Wenonah's vote Taft 138 Bryan 18)

The young ladies of the Embroidery Club which meet at the home of Miss Clara Turner Saturday afternoon proposes to fill a bride's chest for the first member married.

With the streets well scattered with masqueraders and the Academy dance in full swing Saturday evening, Wenonah was quite lively for once.

Woodbury Daily Times
November 1908

"A BOROUGH COMMISSION, A FIRE HOSE CARRIAGE AND A FISH FARM" 1883 - 1896

Excerpts from the book "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the October 2008 newsletter)

Continuing with the chapter entitled "A Borough Commission, a Fire Hose Carriage and a Fish Farm describing the growth and activities in Wenonah during the waning years of the nineteenth century.

"To furnish pleasure in the community in the line of outdoor sports" the Wenonah Field Club was started in 1890. The Club used Stephen Greene's athletic park1 which was completely enclosed by a high board fence and included a grandstand where he held his private horse shows. A bicycle track, baseball diamond and tennis courts were built and under the grandstand a "commodious room" was built for "storing the wheels of those who ride to the grounds to witness the baseball games." Sixty-five persons signed for membership at the organizational meeting. Opened to everyone the membership had a sliding scale, an active member holding voting power and paying five dollars annually, an associate member entitled to a voice but no vote and paying $2.50 a year and an honorary member paying $1.50.

Wenonah had an organization for everyone. The Wenonah Assembly scheduled hops in the hotel. The Wenonah Singing Class met for regular weekly rehearsals. The Progressive Euchre Club met in the hotel, the Wenonah Outing Club had straw rides and the Wenonah Cycle club ran bicycle trips to Vineland. The Wenonah Branch of the Needlework Guild sewed three hundred garments a year and the Wenonah branch of the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Wenonah Women's Christian Temperance Union all had activities. A Republican Club was organized as well as a Masonic "club," the Citizen's League protested against the evils of the race track and the Lodge of Junior Order of United American Mechanics had a fife and drum corps. The Chautauqua Circle planned free lectures and entertainments ranging from ventriloquists to elocutions, from scioptic views to lectures on physical education.

The Wenonah House was sold in 1883 by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company for $12,000. During the first years of private ownership, a newspaper account noted that "comparatively few boarders at the Wenonah House this summer, though why, it is difficult to explain as the town never looked prettier and the Wenonah House never so well conducted." In 1884 it was sold again this time at auction to General William Sewell for $6,500 including all the furniture. The following week the newspaper reported that "now that the sale has been made" the people "are cracking their heads because they weren't on hand to bid. It is said to be the best furnished hotel in South Jersey."

Immediately Gen. Sewell made improvements. The hotel received a new roof, interior decoration, steam boiler and pump. Again the hotel was opened and filled to capacity. However the Wenonah House soon closed and an account states that the "Wenonah House is of no advantage either to its owner or to the Borough. Every friend of Wenonah has had a feeling of regret that the Borough should be obliged to look at this closed house."

In 1892 Stephen Greene, Dr. George W. Bailey and Thomas Synnott formed the Wenonah Hotel Company. The hotel was purchased and a tremendous remodeling program was commenced. An annex of 75 rooms was added, the exterior remodeled and a separate building was erected for billiard and pool tables, shuffle board and ten pin alleys. Servants quarters2 were built in back of the hotel, an ice house was built for summer storage and a sewage system was installed. In May 1894 the hotel was reopened but it was no longer the Wenonah House. It was now the Wenonah In and it again resumed its whirl of concerts, hops, nightly entertainments and daily parade of turnouts.

With the increased population in Wenonah the school had outgrown its capacity and in 1894 a stone school was opened in the section of Wenonah popularly called Sand Town. The original school building was purchased by Joseph Noblitz and it was known as Noblitz Hall where the Wenonah Hall Association produced entertainments, elections were held and any one could present a musical program, an oyster supper, a dance or a lecture for a rental fee.

[1]Jessica Wood Langston athletic field, East Cedar Street

[2]Site of 106 E. Mantua Ave.

Mrs. Andrew Carey and Mrs. Edward Farr were the first women in Wenonah to be elected as school trustees and Wenonah was the second school district in Gloucester County to elect women to this post.

The Mantua Land and Improvement Company continued to sell its lots and at one public dale held in the park, 116 lots were sold in one day. Also the Company sold houses it constructed, graded the streets and covered them with gravel and made extensive improvements on the Old Stone Farm house which it subsequently sold to W.J. Ladell. Among the builders who purchased lots and built houses for resale were Daniel Brown, Horatio J. Mulford, Stephen Greene, a. McFarland and Thomas W. Synnott. Double cottages were built facing the railroad tracks and a row of housed on West Willow Street was named Brown Town for the builder. Some builders used the identical plans on various lots and they an be identified throughout Wenonah.

On the eastern edge of town Thomas W. Synnott built a stone house3. His barn, greenhouses and caretaker's house covered a large acreage extending to Glassboro Road. Bordering East Mantua Avenue was Synnott's Pond. On the southeastern edge of Wenonah Stephen Greene built his home. His dwelling4, the dwelling of John Truncer5, his caretaker, the coachman's dwelling6, the laundry and living quarters for the cook and laundress7, occupied a block long complex. Remaining also are a gazebo from his Dutch garden, a peacock house and a brick wall8 mortared with flecks of oyster shells which bordered his peacock run. Also Greene developed Marion avenue at his own expense, lined the neighboring streets with pine trees, built a dam at the foot of Marion Avenue and developed a lake named lake Cornelia9 for Cornelia Truncer. A two-storied boathouse and a Japanese-designed bridge were built along the lake front. Arbored walks from his rose gardens10 led to a glen known as the Hermitage. A Japanese gardener cared for the gardens which included a greenhouse for the growing of carnations11.

Residents had pride in their well-cared lawns. Iron fences surrounded property lines, stone walks were laid and nearly all the houses were illuminated.

In the 1890's a monthly newspaper, the Wenonah News, was published by E. Richmond of Philadelphia and William C. Cattell, real estate agents. Articles noted that swings were needed by the Wenonah Park Association for Camel's Back where the Fourth of July was being celebrated, a bridge was needed across the railroad tracks at Elm Street, and an observance was needed for Memorial Day. And, of course, there were advertisements for the sale of lots and houses in Wenonah which was described as the "Germantown of West Jersey, the model home town" with "pure spring water, conveniences, hot and cold water, best schools, established churches and seventeen trains for the city and sixteen trains from the city, and no saloons." The advertisement added that it is "just the place for you and better still for your children."

Businesses increased in Wenonah. Joseph Warner who had a milk, ice and ice cream route, moved into the former Miller's house and the lake became known as Warner's Lake. Sylvester H. Chew and James Chew had a livery stable and coal yard12, R.J. Clark and later S.D. Fisler had a general store13, James Baylies also sold groceries as well as hay14 and Jesse English had a general store as well as serving as postmaster15. George Poor built an aviary16 and raised carrier pigeons.

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[3]202 East Mantua Ave.
[4]201 and 203 South Clinton Ave. And also a wing destroyed by fire
[5]204 South Marion Ave.
[6]106 East Willow Street
[7]Rear of 201 South Clinton Ave.
[8]207 South Clinton Ave.
[9]Site of west side of dam on South Marion Ave.
[10]208 South Marion Ave.
[11]100 East Cedar Street
[12]Site of 6 West Mantua Ave.
[13]3 East Mantua Ave.
[14]Site of 2 West Mantua Ave.
[15]1 East Mantua Ave.
[16]On site at rear of 205 South Marion Ave.

Wenonah Historical Society

Holiday Party Meeting Friday
December 12, 2008 , 5:00 pm

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 9 December 2008

U.S. PRESIDENTS AND WENONAH

With Presidential politics dominating the headlines in recent months, I thought it would be interesting to review the history of U.S. Presidents in Wenonah. In 1910 then Governor of New Jersey, Dr. Woodrow Wilson, attended chapel services at the Wenonah Military Academy and delivered an address to cadets. In 1912 he was elected President. In May 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt was running for President and made several campaign stops in the area, including Wenonah. He delivered an address in the park. According to deceased local historians Milton Webb and Victor Anderson, Roosevelt slept at the Scargel residence at 109 S. Clinton Avenue. I am not aware of any documentation to substantiate these reports. But if any of you are or if any of you have additional information about these visits, we would love to hear about it.

BACKGROUND ON 1912 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

For you to appreciate the articles that follow, I thought it would be helpful to present a brief background on the 1912 election. According to PBS, the 1912 Presidential election was one of the most extraordinary stories in our country's political history. The choices facing voters was more diverse than at any other time in the 20th century. Four major candidates were running for President each with their own specific plan for tackling the nation's problems. Incumbent President William Howard Taft was re-nominated by the Republican party with the support of the conservative wing of the party. After former President Theodore Roosevelt failed to get the Republican nomination, he called his own convention and created a new Progressive Party (nicknamed the "Bull Moose Party"). Woodrow Wilson was the Democratic nominee and Eugene Debbs was the Socialist Party candidate.

Brenda Birkland

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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WOODBURY DAILY TIMES MAY 24, 1912

Col. Roosevelt will be here tomorrow evening about 6 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the park if the weather is fair; should it be stormy it will be held in the drill hall of the Academy. Let everybody turn out and greet the Colonel.

COL. ROOSEVELT'S BIG RECEPTION

WOODBURY DAILY TIMES
MAY 25, 1912

Ex-President Warmly Greeted All Along the Line

Col. Roosevelt arrived in Woodbury last evening at 6:30, about fifteen minutes late. He found a crowd of people estimated from 2500 to 5000, who hailed him with a mighty cheer. After the Moose Band had finished playing "Gee But It's Great to Meet a Friend From Your Old Town," the Colonel stood up in his automobile which had stopped in front of the monument and talked for ten minutes. Then he stepped from his automobile into Dr. H. H. Clark's, accompanied by Adon W. Cattell, and they whisked up Broad to Newton avenue, to Euclid, to Cooper, to Broad, down Broad to Glassboro avenue, and down Glassboro avenue to his private car, which immediately pulled out for Camden. It was then 6:45 and the Col. Said that he had to take a bath, eat his supper and be shaved, all by 7:30, when he spoke at the Camden Armory.

The Col. met with a great reception all along the line. He was twenty minutes late in arriving at Glassboro, and his time was so closely scheduled that he could not make it up.

A large crowd greeted him at Glassboro, Pitman, Barnsboro, Wenonah. Flags were displayed at all these places, and at farm houses

along the road. At one farm house a woman was seen holding two small children in her arms and at the same time waving a small flag. The Colonel noticed the woman with her babies and doffed his hat.

The Colonel was accompanied by Hon. John Boyd Avis, Custodian Adon W. Cattell, Dr. H. H. Clark, Former Governors Stokes and Forr, Frank B. Jess, L. L. Hurley, Dr. Hires, Dr. Black and others. During the part of the trip from Glassboro there were seventy automobiles in line. He rode in C A. Hilyard's new six cylinder Everett car from Glassboro to Woodbury.

The Colonel was more than pleased with his reception here. Our people decorated their houses with flags and bunting.

SPEECH BY GOVERNOR WILSON TO THE CADETS OF THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY OCTOBER 6, 1910

His speech in front of the Court House follows:

"My friends, it is indeed a pleasure to be here be here and see you. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself in New Jersey these two days. I appreciate your feeling and the interest you have given me, and now friends, I feel that I have a peculiar right to appeal to you in this contest if we are to stand by our rights. We are asking only that you yourselves shall see that you have the power and the will to rule yourself: to control you own government. (Indicating) you, you, you and I. There has never been such a springing up of the plain people against the bosses. (The Colonel's attention is called by ladies on the upper floors of the Merritt Block asking him to face toward them. He turned and waving to them said, "You will hear me in a moment. You shall have a square deal." I ask you I am only asking for only the right, and claim for ourselves, that we wish to rule ourselves. Each of us wishes to rule himself. You do, I do. I know that I make mistakes, but I want to make them myself. I do not want others to make them for me. So, we have a right to appeal our cause. History shows us that all of the American people have in some time made mistakes in its government. We still make them. The only way we can get real justice is to have the rule of the people and not the rule of the bosses." (Stepping into the other auto the Colonel continued) Now friends, I ask in this contest that the people of New Jersey show themselves awake to the issues of the fight as they have in every state where there has been direct primaries and there the people have shown themselves, from Maine to California, wherever we could get a chance against our foes there the people have and can win. I would not be in New Jersey if they did not have the primaries. I did not go into Connecticut because the plain people did not have a chance. I cannot do anything with the politician but I have made my plea straight to the people of New

WENONAH NEWS
WOODBURY DAILY TIMES
May 25, 1912

Jersey for you to get in this line-up between the people and the bosses; between the Abraham Lincoln plain people and the powers that be. I ask that you, on Tuesday next put New Jersey beside Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania and Ohio.

About three hundred people greeted Col. Roosevelt here last evening. He was given a rousing reception. One man did not seem to enjoy it as he was seen going home with his family.

"I wish it were possible" said Mr. Wilson "to impress upon fellows at your age the great importance of what you are doing here. I suppose, as most boys do, that school is a necessary evil and few realize it is to equip them for a better battle of life. The men who loaf don't get anywhere, don't amount to any thing; it is only the men who achieve who get anywhere.

"It is a question for you to answer whether you are going to be mere tools in the hands of someone else or are going to be masters and take hold of things. Don't be foolish enough to ask what the sense of this is. You go to the gymnasium and wonder what the use of it all is. You will never perform on the parallel-bars with your business partner. You are expending good muscular strength and wonder what the use of it all is. You are just getting your muscles in shape to answer the call when the time comes for you to use them.

It is just like the piece of structural steel fitted in all its fibers to meet the strain in the steamship when the stress of storm of the Atlantic comes. It is just so with

your books. They are getting you men fully fit when the contingency arises and you are called upon to wrestle with the problems of life; you are mentally fit to meet the stress. Don't lose sight of the fact that you want to play a creditable part in the world to do something in its great work.

"A school like this is a breeding place for men. Some one said, "If you would consider me witty, I must ask you to make a joke. If you would be considered educated, I must ask you to know something. The witty man who preceded me as head of the university (Princeton) once told an anxious mother whose son was about to begin the course: "Madam, we guarantee satisfaction or return the boy". Most men I know, after their years of experience, would like to go back and be schoolboys again and gain the greater profit from the advantages then obtained. Take the advice of one who knows, who has been through it, and lay hold of all that you can here obtain for the building of your bodies and minds, that you may be useful citizens in this great land.

Woodbury Daily Times
Letter to the Editor
May 24, 1912

Dear Sir – There are times in the life of every man, whether he be rich or poor, that he should take time and thought enough to thoroughly resolve in his own mind, to cast the ballot for what he thinks the best candidate who will represent the people regardless of politicians who enter into politics so often for their own benefit.

At the present time, we are confronted with our President and Ex-President, touring the country, telling the people of each others short-comings, in which we, the people, are not interested, but what we are interested in is having a God fearing man s President our United Country – one that gives his very best talents and who is guided by the Supreme Power above in all of his official actions.

In my opinion, we have such a man in the Presidential chair, in our President, Wm. H. Taft, who unfortunately has been driven to make answer to the attacks of the Ex-President in his speeches throughout the states.

I shall just say this much as to Theodore Roosevelt. In my humble opinion, Roosevelt of today is not the Roosevelt who succeeded our beloved Ex-President, Wm. B. McKinley. From his present actions and expressions, he seems to want to make it appear that he is the only man in the United States fit to become President, and that "I am the Saviour of the Country." From his actions and remarks one might think that he feels like the remark credited to the present Emperor of German – "Me and God."

Now just the reverse of this is what we, the people want, and as one of the people, and a Republican, because I believe in the principles, I feel it my duty to vote for Wm. Taft, as President of the United States for four years more, so that the experience that he has had in the past may be a help to him to correct any mistakes in the future, if any have been made.

He like ourselves is mortal and cannot please all.

I hear so much of our President conferring with such men as Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania. Do they forget the same Senators are not there to represent the people, but the Legislators, a chosen few selected and sent to the Legislative bodies by political leaders or bosses, who control these men for their own gain and influence.

The time is ripe for the people to use their own good judgment, and have the U.S. Senators elected by the people who would be guided by the majority of the citizens of the sections of the country which he represents.

This would bring the President of the United States in closer touch with the people, through the Senator, whom they elect to represent them.

Look at the Grand Old Man, Major of Philadelphia, Rudolph Blankenburg, standing like a rock, doing what is right for the best interests of the whole people, regardless of politicians.

The people arose in their might and threw off the yoke with which they had been girdles so long and elected the right man in the right place.

Go thou and do likewise.

RICHARD C. BALLINGER,

Wenonah, NJ

Wenonah Historical Society

Newsletter

Next Meeting 7:30 pm Friday January 9, 2009 Volume 7 Issue 1 January 2009

A Message from the President

As we ring in the New Year I'd like to thank past President Lou McCall for all his hard work and dedication. Also, I would like to thank Jo Dominy for her tireless work as Secretary and her "all around knowledge" of our membership. I've counted on her many times and I hope she will continue to allow us to utilize her knowledge going forward.

Newly named for two-year terms are me, Treasurer Carol Wiltsee, Vicki McCall as Secretary and Brenda Birkland, Vice President.

This year I am looking forward to many new and special presentations. For instance, in February we celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday with a much anticipated presentation from Reverend Frank Colburn. In March Katherine MacGregor will speak on her Historic Wenonah and WMA recollections. Those are just two of many great speakers we look forward to hearing from. This month's presentation will be by local resident and past speaker Paul Lader.

This New Year we will hope to finally see progress on our most beloved Train Station and also hopefully the completion of Marge Lentz's book on Wenonah. We have some other goals for the new year within our membership but most important let's not forget those things most important. Our friends and family that we hold so dear to us are what is truly important. In this time of bad economics and warring countries, we should make sure to enjoy the things that don't cost us money. This year, make sure to reach out and connect with your loved ones and maybe bring them to one of our meetings, we would love to have new guests and see old ones. Wenonah was built on fellowship and working hard together. Let's do that this year and hope to enjoy peace and prosperity in 2009.

Have a Great Year!

Barb Capelli

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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Vice Pres.	Brenda Birkland
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Betty Rose

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Train Station Rehabilitation

We have been informed the funding for the station restoration has been confirmed and that work could start as early as the coming spring.

Outside improvements will consist of brickwork repair, gable end stucco-timber replacement. Also exterior woodwork repairs and replacement of the storm sash.

On the inside the plaster will be repaired and painted while termite damage in the basement will be attended to.

Marjorie Lentz's Book "Wenonah"

Marjorie Lentz's second edition book *Wenonah*, finished at last. It was first written and published in 1976, in time for both the nation's Bicentennial and the dedication of our railroad station/Community Center. Marjorie permitted me to help her with typing and technical assistance and it was a lot of fun. Because of the arthritis in her hands she can no longer type efficiently. Instead she resorted to a "cut and paste" system to give me information for inclusion in the book. Her system resembled a method used by kidnappers for creating untraceable ransom demands. The book does contain some new material and photographs along with explanatory footnotes and an index. All that remains to be done is to find a book binder to reproduce the book at a reasonable price so it can be used by the Society for fund-raising purposes. Hopefully the book will be available in time for our February meeting.

Jack Sheppard

Wenonah 100 Years Ago

Clifford Armbruster, assistant foreman of the section gang on the railroad came in contact with the third rail below here yesterday and was hurled quite a distance.

Remember the oyster dinner to be given by the fireman at Noblitt's Hall Saturday evening. A good supper for a good cause. Price 35 cents.

The Mysoytis Sewing Circle will meet tomorrow afternoon at the home of Mrs. Sam Mehorter on Clinton Avenue.

The Wenonah Fire Company housed their apparatus in the new fire house this afternoon. The members of borough council were present to witness the event. (The apparatus at that time was a horse drawn ladder wagon and three hose carts.)

While going home last night Dean Williams was startled by hearing a strange noise in back of him at Synnott's woods. He turned around and saw a very strange animal. It stood about four feet high and had a head like a horse. When he saw it he struck a bee line for his house on the other side of the woods and did not come out any more that night. (There had been several sightings of the "Jersey Devil" in Wenonah during this period.)

There was a skating carnival on Green's Lake last night. It was largely attended by the Academy boys. They declared they saw the devil. They said it spit fire and had a head on it like the Gorgon Medusa.

The explosion at Gibbstown this morning shook the houses here like leaves. Several thought an earthquake had come.

M. F. Lummus. M. D. of Pitman has opened up an office on the northwest corner of Monroe and Mantua Avenues.

The revival services will continue all week at the Methodist Church and the pastor, Rev. O. S. Duffield would like to see a large congregation out every night.

A company of the cadet battalion, Wenonah Military Academy, under command of Major John R. Jones, will give the exhibition drill Wednesday evening at the military reception and ball to be given by Company I, Third Regiment, N.G.P., at Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia.

Nuncio is the undefeated checker player of Wenonah. (He was the local barber.)

The Boy's Brigade held a camp fire at the church last night.

Miss Jean Duke held a donkey party at her home last night.

Wayne Ralston, of Philadelphia, was the guest of Lewis Holt yesterday.

Andrew Savage has returned home after working in Woodbury on Locke's express wagon. Andy said it was too cold for him.

A freight car door fell from the morning express yesterday on the track below here and it came near wrecking the Atlantic City Flyer, which was flagged just in time to avert a disaster.

The pictures of the fox hunt are now on sale at Buckhart's barber shop. It is a very good picture, especially of Lawyer Horace F. Nixon mounted on his steed. (This was in tradition of over a hundred years in Mantua and Carpenter's Landing. Many Wenonah people participated.)

An illustrated temperance lecture will be given in the Methodist Church on Thursday evening. This will be quite a treat for the people of this town and everybody should turn out if they want to see some fine pictures and hear some good singing.

Harold Buzby has returned to George School after spending the holidays with his parents.

The Wenonah Military cadets have started practicing for their minstrel show which will be held some time in February.

A good many people wonder why the brakemen on the freight train which arrives here at 7 o'clock wave their lanterns after they leave the station. Why do they?

Woodbury Daily Times January 1909 mhw

From: "*Sinnett genealogy : Michael Sinnett of Harpswell, Maine, his ancestry and descendants : also records of other Sinnetts, Sinnotts, etc. in Ireland and America*," by Charles N. Sinnett
Concord, N. H: Rumford Press, 1910, 142 pgs. page 122

Mr. Thomas W. Synnott, Wenonah NJ gives the following sketch of his family line:

(1) Martin Synnott, b. Wexford, Ireland 1775; d. in New Jersey, 1812; studied in Wexford (Ireland) College; merchant; came to America about 1793; lived at Mary's Landing, N.J. and in Philadelphia PA; m. 1804, Hannah Scull, b. 1780; d. 1840. His brother, John Synnott, lived near Wexford, Ireland in 1832, his mother with him.

(2) Dr. Miles Synnott, b. 1806; d. 1867; lived Glassboro, N. J 1833-1867; graduated 1831 from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia PA; m. 1842 Harriet Heston Whitney, b. 1814; d. 1854; the daughter of Eben Whitney, who was descended from Eben Whitney who came to New England in 1640, and of Bathsheba Heston, the daughter of Col. Thomas Heston, an officer in the Revolutionary War, and who in 1784 began the manufacture of glass at what is now known as Glassboro, N.J.

(3) Abigail Whitney Synnott, b. 1843; m. Isaac Moffett.

(4) Herbert N. Moffett, b. 1877

(3) **Thomas Whitney Synnott**, b. 1845; resides Wenonah NJ; a very efficient elder in the Presbyterian Church; trustee of Princeton Theological Seminar and of Lincoln University; member of Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School work; member of the General Assembly's Committee on Evangelization; president of the First National Bank, Glassboro NJ; retired from active business some years since; m. July 1872 Mary D. Eldridge, b. Philadelphia PA 1848, the daughter of Septimus T. Eldridge and Mary Pierce; these parents lived at Wilmington DE and at Philadelphia PA

(4) Clayton E. Synnott, b. 1876; m. 1897 Faith Botsford

(5) Marion B. Synnott, b. 1898

(5) Thomas W. Synnott, b. 1906

(3) Fannie W. Synnott, b. 1847; unmarried

(2) Margaret Synnott, b. 1808; deceased; m. Rev. John Crouch

(2) Catherine Synnott, b. 1810; deceased; m. John Porch

(2) Dr. Martin Synnott, b. 1812; d. 1871; graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia PA, 1839; no male heirs

Note: The Synnott Mansion is located at the northeast corner of Mantua Ave at Clinton

Wenonah Historical Society

Newsletter

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday February 13, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 2 February 2009

A Message From President Barb Capelli

Dear Members;

We are looking forward to seeing all of you this next meeting to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. This Friday's meeting is sure to be a HUGE crowd pleaser with our guest speaker Frank Colburn.

So much has been written on our 44th president and in his honor, this recent Inauguration of President Obama, the President used Abraham Lincoln's bible as he was sworn into office…twice!!

Even during this current time of economic woes and foreign wars, in a message to Congress in December of 1862, President Lincoln was quoted, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the storm present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

How similar are the times?? We celebrate this 200th Birthday with our local Lincoln Historian, Frank Colburn and welcome all of you and your guests this week. Frank is the former curator and director of the museum at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrowgate, TN. He was most inspired by the great man's writing on the promise of the Declaration of Independence, which Lincoln felt granted all men the "right to rise" to their full potential, regardless of their origins.

Please join us this Valentines weekend, bring your friends --Vicki and I are in charge of the snacks and beverages so no dieting this weekend!!

Membership Dues Reminder and Email Option

As many of you may know, our membership dues run from January to January. Please either mail your dues using the attached form or bring the form and payment to the next meeting. In an effort to save money, we are providing the option of receiving the newsletter by email. If only half of you participate, we can save nearly $500 a year! Circle either yes or no on the form about receiving the newsletter by email. You may also email me at sbbirkland@verizon.net to let me know your preference. We realize some of you may not have email or do not wish to participate. We will still send the newsletter to you by U.S. mail. We are also interested in knowing your email for special announcements and reminders.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

President	Barbara Capelli
Vice Pres.	Brenda Birkland
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall

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

Founders' Day Celebration Saturday April 18, 2009

Building upon the success of the first Founders' Day, a borough wide committee has chosen the theme "Celebrating the Train Station." The date was moved to April this year to coincide with the original Founders' Day in April as noted on your borough calendar. You may contact either Stephanie Berenato at 464-8686 or Brenda Birkland at 609-504-6917 if you are interested in helping. Rain date is Sunday, April 19.

Train Station Rehabilitation

According to Borough Engineer Dave Kreck, an informational meeting for prospective bidders will be held on February 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. Bids will be received February 20. An award could be made as early as February 26 and work could start in April.

Recalling Childhood Days in Wenonah

Have you ever found a treasure while yard selling in town? Several years ago, I was at a yard sale and purchased a book. I later found inside the book an old newspaper article entitled "Former Resident of Wenonah Recalls Childhood Days of 1890s." Although I have shared some of the article with you before, I wanted to reprint it here in its entirety. I also recently obtained a document written by the late Milton Webb that describes his childhood memories of Wenonah from 1938-1944. I thought it would fun to read theses two articles together. Milton's piece will be continued next month.

Brenda Birkland

To the Editor:

It was a nice little village, bearing an Indian name "Wenonah"; a quiet, safe country town, ideal for bringing up children.

I was born in Philadelphia in 1885, but my first recollection of being alive would be 1890 in Wenonah where both my sisters were born. There was ravine called "The Glen" in that part of the town then known as Frogtown. The glen was a shady, cool place, containing a spring with good pure, clear water. The outflow from the spring had been dammed up to form a very small pond in which I remember seeing catfish, probably placed there by some neighborhood men for future use in a frying pan. Many a drink we boys enjoyed from that spring, returning home from swimming in the railroad culvert, the outlet from upper lakes.

The house nearest the glen was occupied by a crippled Civil War veteran named Jennings and our generous government at that time probably gave him $8-$10 per month pension. I remember hearing some of his war experiences as he told them to my father.

Over Mantua Creek was an old wooden bridge, a spot that appealed to smaller boys as we climbed over the framework or maybe fished in the creek, which at that time was a fairly good sized stream. On the Wenonah side of the creek there stood a canning factory for a few years, which eventually went out of business and to ruin. A short walk down from the factory was a sandy spot in the creek, this being the place where younger boys learned to swim, as the water was never over our shoulders and as we learned, we graduated to Warner's Pond. Didn't need school taxes for pools to teach boys how to keep their heads above water in those days. Of course, we went in skinny – not exactly Atlantic City style of that period.

During the early nineties, from Mantua Pike, then a toll road to the W.J.R.R., the creek was bordered with woods, making a pleasant place to roam during summer school vacations. There are two lakes, upper and lower. The lower lake was called "Warner's Pond. The upper lake served the borough for its water supply, pumped by a small engine used in a kind of shanty. The water was pumped to a wooden tank which stood on stilts, situated where the present standpipe is now located, I guess, as I haven't been there for 70 years. The old tank leaked and ferns and grasses grew under it.

The lower lake, as I first remember it, had an icehouse, which was filled each winter with ice, packed in sawdust, for summer months. Also there was an old broken down grist mill and I really believe if someone would dig down in the sand they would find the old grinding stones covered at the time the lake's outlet was moved to its present site, at the time the new pumping station was installed rising artesian water. Of course, we boys had to supervise both the building of the standpipe and the pumping station, which was quite an event.

I first went to school in what was Noblitt's Hall. The next year our new school was ready for occupancy. Teachers were Miss Bugbee, Miss Taylor and Mrs. Talman, all wonderful teachers and strict disciplinarians – and you present kids need not think they were not.

Let's not overlook Clark's store. Mr. Clark was there in 1890 and I don't know how many years before that time. He carried groceries, hardware, horse feed, pots, brooms, buckets, apparently all the necessities of life. He had a clerk who went around in the morning collecting orders, making delivery in the afternoon by horse and wagon. In the store was a pot belly stove and a couple of chairs for a few old-timers to pass the time, gossip and at the same time, sample the big round cheese – free. Wish I had some of the things from the old store – they would now be valuable, especially the wooden Indian which stood on the porch of the store.

We had an Italian shoe repair man who lived in the old railroad station and in the fall made his

own wine, pressing the fruit in his bare feet. Also a barber shop with its row of shaving mugs, and a livery stable (Chews). When President McKinley was elected in 1896, Sumner Dawson and I made a nickel a run from Noblitt's Hall, the voting booth, to the telegraph office located in the R.R. Station run by Mr. Tuft, for interested Republicans.

I could go on reminiscing back to our Christmases', Fourth of Julys, church entertainments, etc., and I just wonder if the present generation of youngsters will be able to look back to such a happy period in their childhoods.

John C. Holinger

Milton Webb's childhood memories, Time period around 1938 to 1944

The town was much smaller in number of houses and population. There were many lots in which to play football, baseball etc. On our side of the tracks there were the Academy lots where there was the Academy tennis court maintained for a while and the kids put up a basketball standard. This was after the drill hall was torn down. Up where Eddie Fredricks lives there was a good tennis court but this was pretty well closed to us kids as there was a tennis club made up of adults. I believe Evan Woodward ran this. Of course there was the ball field now called the Cedar Avenue field.

More organized sports were run there. Lots of time the big kids would throw us out. At that time there was a full cinder track going around the field. A lot of people used this for track and also bicycles. There was a big grandstand which I witnessed burning down. The kids built a lot of model airplanes and that was the launching spot. Bob Nicholls built the best models unfortunately he died in the polio epidemic in 1949 or 50. Behind the ball field there was a persimmon grove and at times people used the old academy rifle range there (Harry Simmerman might remember this). A lot of the kids had 22 rifles. Below that was Greens boat house which we used until Joe Truncer, the guardian of the Greene estate would throw us out. That also burned dow'n. Greens lake was full of turtles which we would shot with our 22's. Martin Dipper was the ace on this. This was a good fishing lake particularly for calico bass.. This was a great place until Elliot built the house that Dewey Parker lives in today -he threw us out but we had our revenge when he ended up bankrupt, lived in a trailer where the Jonas Barrel Co was located and Knapp took over and opened up the lake again. Unfortunately, on our side of the tracks a large area was closed to us-This was Hassricks or Royals. They erected a cyclone fence around the lake which partially closed this off to us. However, we fished by concealing ourselves in the bushes. On the west side of the lake was a boat house. It was filled with phonograph records which we skimmed across the lake. If the lake is dredged there will be a wealth of Victor Talking Machine discs uncovered. Diana Hassrick had beautiful horses and they were stabled in the huge barn where Bob and Jane Kitz live. There were also cows which were Jerseys imported from Europe. Mr. Hess ran the farm and we started working for him in the summer. We had quite a team- Earl Cox. Lewis Fink, Jimmy Gill, Joan Hill and Ruby May Dewitt. This gave us fishing privileges as a fringe benefit. Where the Lutheran Church is sited there was an orchard but the big farming was done out across from the Tall Pines Inn in what is now the Woods at Wenonah. This was planted with rye, oats and barley for the horses. But greater opportunities arose when Tommy Synnott opened up the chicken farm the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Mr. Hendrickson built the chicken house which later became the site of many police and fireman's banquets There were many fond memories there. In the barn there was large carriage which was a beauty, a sleigh and a little sulky. Also there were two horses, one of which Tom shot when he was trying to eliminate rats in .the barn. Also he had a 1904 Chalmers automobile which I believe was bought from George Fredrick.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday March 13, 2009

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 3 March 2009

A Message From President Barb Capelli

Dear Members;

This coming spring reminds me that I have some housekeeping to do. With that being said, I have some reminders and some thoughts to share with you about our Historical Society.

Please, don't forget the Membership dues are past due now…so please, be sure to fill out your membership forms for us. We are updating our current dues list and hope that we all are up to date!

Our February meeting was a HUGE success and we thank Frank Colburn for his wonderful presentation. Although the food was totally yummy for this special – Valentine-Lincoln's Birthday celebration, I want to remind everyone that our refreshments need only to be a few snacks or sweet treats and a beverage of choice. With the difficult economic times we want to keep things simple as we enjoy the social time after a presentation.

We are also very, very excited about the buzz surrounding our Train Station Restoration, bids for the work to be done is being reviewed and I am confident things will be progressing quickly. Since we have been advised that restoration could start soon, I want to let you all know that our April and May meetings will be held in the Municipal building to ensure all of our safety. Our June picnic location will be decided and that information passed onto you soon.

Founders Day is going to be another super celebration of our Train Station and it is moving along very well with so many great ideas and volunteer involvement. Don't forget to save April 18th on your calendar.

Something else we might want to consider, Clean Communities Day is May 2nd We need to have at least ten volunteers in order to qualify for the $500 that is donated to our Society. If anyone is interested, please let me know. We can decide if we want to join in the effort if we have enough volunteers.

The speaker for our next meeting is Katherine MacGregor, she promises a great surprise for us…so many surprises that she wouldn't even tell me what she is bringing! Her father, Dave Knight, was an instructor at the Wenonah Military Academy. She is going to present an interview with the oldest living cadet of the Academy. I am sure she will be bringing a variety of show and tell items from that interview. Barbara Capelli

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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Trustee	Louis McCall

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Book signing by Marjorie Lentz and Jack Sheppard history of Wenonah

As many of you know who were at our last meeting, we had a surprise unveiling of the History of Wenonah book by Marjorie Lentz. Both Marjorie and Jack Sheppard, Sr., who provided consultation and technical assistance on the book, have agreed to a book signing at our next meeting on Friday, March 13. The books are $10 for members and $15 for non-members. The book was first written and published in 1976, in time for both the nation's Bicentennial and the dedication of our railroad station/Community Center. What a timely release of this new second edition with all the upcoming restoration at the train station.!

Train Station Rehabilitation

Bids were received February 25th and there was a successful bidder, Aliano Brothers from Vineland, and the bid was well within the amount of the grant. This should mean all of the hoped for repair work can be done and there may be money left over for some extras. This was an excellent outcome for the future of the building and we are hoping for a Grand Opening on the Fourth of July.

Founders' day

Do you have any photos, fun stories, and wonderful memories of the train station restoration from 1975? We would love to use them for Founders' Day. Please contact Stephanie Berenato at 464-8686.

MILTON WEBB'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES IN WENONAH

1938 TO 1944

(continued from the February 2009 newsletter)

Previously the topic was the farming done in what is now the Woods of Wenonah. Tommy Synnott opened up a chicken farm here. Mr. Hendrickson built a chicken house which later became the site of many police and fireman's banquets. There were many fond memories here. In the barn there was a large carriage which was a beauty, a sleigh and a little sulky. Tom had a 1904 Chalmers automobile which I believe was bought from George Fredrick.

Tommy also had a twelve cylinder Lincoln car. Anyway the business was not profitable as we developed our own egg route. Another dividend to the town was the harvesting of the runaway chickens. Mrs. Synnott spent a fortune buying food for us. Once a month we had open house in the basement where we could dance, play pool and watch movies thanks to her. It seems to me that on VE day (Victory in Europe) Tom sold the chickens to either Rode or Demme. I remember the sadness we felt when we loaded them on the truck. On the subject of chickens, quite a few people in Wenonah had them, also pigeon lofts, and a house was not well appointed if it didn't have a grape arbor.

If you got what they called a contagious disease you would get a sign put on the house so informing the public. This was quite a prestigious addition to your house. It seems almost appalling the number of diseases that went around town including head lice (Mrs. Lapp, the school nurse would check you periodically), ring worm which the whole gang got supposedly from playing with Hop sons' dog Ziggy, the nastiest dog in town. Also mixed in with this were impetigo, pin worms, chicken pox, measles, mumps, pink eye, flu, and a variety of ailments which are unknown today.

The Legion hall was a big center of activity for the kids. Friday night we would have movies which were of an earlier vintage with Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd. On Saturday you would go to Woodbury to the Rialto Theater. Our friendship with Joan Hill whose dad was the owner paid off with free passes, otherwise it would have cost 11 cents, however the train fare was ten cents. Sky King was our hero at the movies. A big occasion was when Earl threw up over the railing in the balcony. Also there were dances, strawberry festivals, Legion covered dish suppers, plays and a super drum and bugle corps run by Les Webb. They were all World War I veterans and they were looked at as the kids today view the Vietnam veterans. Doctor Black was in the Spanish-American War.

The train played a big part in the life of the community, the big thrill being the first trip to Philadelphia without your parents. The electric trains had a third rail which was a fascination to the kids. Every year in school a representative of the railroad would give a talk to the kids about the power in the rail, stating there was more electric in this than in the electric chair in Trenton. Smart little kid Earl Cox called him a liar which sent him to Miss Tonkin for dismissal from school. Practically every boy carried a penny in his pocket which was squashed by the wheels of the steam locomotive.

Included in the treasures you carried was tar to chew on out of the street and the white paste that was in cloak room in each class. (I often wondered why they called it a cloak room) and marbles. The marble matches were held in front of the American Store. Mrs. Wentzell wouldn't allow us in front of their store. She was awesome to say the least. If you were really good you went to Wildwood to the marble tournament. I think Donny Rowland went one year. Mrs. Wentzell had a goldfish pond out front of the grocery store which was a fascination to us. We would throw stones at the fish. One day she hit Earl Cox so hard with the broom that he went in the pond head first. Louis Fink, the brains of the outfit informed her that we were going to sue her so he also went in the pond. Next door Miss Wilan had penny candy in big glass jars. She would always check your hands for cleanliness before you would reach in but would be very kind and say Earl let me get the candy for you. She also sold spools of thread. But the greatest of all stores was Foster Mullins drug store on the corner where Duffield Realty is today. Before him was Doc. Sheisser who I remember had a goatee. Foster's store had an old fashioned fountain made out of marble and ice cream chairs with matching tables. A coke was a nickel, a soda a quarter and he dished out ice cream. Foster had a Ford Phaeton automobile. A thrill to us was when he would race through town and clear all four tires off the road at the railroad crossing. Bill Scank, the colored man from parts unknown, worked for him. The last time Foster saw him was when he was entrusted to make a deposit at the bank in Woodbury.

We spent a lot of time in the park. One section up in the front we called bums paradise where we sat. Walter Zigwolf was the state policeman from the Mantua Barracks; he worked along with a man named Montgomery. Zickwolf was like a god to us, he wore-leather boots and gloves and rode on a motorcycle. When he would drive through town we would watch with awe. He would always gun the motor when he passed us.

On Sunday there was a regular list of taboos, one being mowing your lawn, playing baseball and even fishing. Sunday was truly the Sabbath. The churches had morning and evening services, also one on Wednesday night. This could have been because of the beginning of the war. Sunday was the

day for visiting. I don't remember Rev. Gage unfortunately but through the scouts Rev. Taylor and Rev Mervin Campbell became good friends. Our scout meetings were Friday night in the Presbyterian Church basement, this was troop 31. This was an active organization. Then the explorer scout unit formed and the architect Dick Erskine gave us the building behind his house to use. I wasn't a charter member by two years but Frank Eggert was, also Bob Sundt who later in life moved the London Bridge to Arizona. On Saturdays once a month during the war we would go around on the borough truck picking up what was called salvage. One item was cans of cooking grease. I never could figure what this was used for.

A big event in Wenonah was the washout of the culvert in the south end of town. Labor Day weekend we had a record breaking storm. All railroad travel stopped at Wenonah because of the washout. They had a shuttle bus at Wenonah station which took the commuters to Sewell to get back on the train. Equipment arrived to erect the trestle including a crew of laborers. The work train was on the railroad siding across from the present post office. We spent hours watching the construction and out of this there was an outbreak of swearing among the kids at the school. Miss Tonkin took harsh action by expelling several of the students. I can remember all day and night you could hear the steam pile driver.

Radio programs had great importance to us. The highlight of the day was Jack Armstrong, the all American boy. We all sent in a box top and twenty five cents to get the secret decoding ring. At the end of each program they had a secret message to be decoded.

Earl Cox punched Brud Sundt in the face and to the day when Brud operated on the President of the United States, Ronald Regan, he wore the scar on his forehead of the imprint of Earl's decoding ring. Another favorite program was the Shadow on Sunday night at seven. We were listening to the Shadow when we heard that Pearl Harbor was bombed.

A favorite place to sled was at Farr's house. We would start at the steps of the house and go down the drive and past the little pond into the woods. Also we would sled on the hill at the cemetery. Unfortunately the Lewis boy got run over by a bus there while sledding. Most people remember ice skating at Warners' and Little Lake which was a big community affair. However on our side of the tracks we used Synnott's pond. It was really two ponds and the upper one ended up in a stream which went up around the area of Jack Sheppard's house. We would take hot dogs and marshmallows to cook over the bonfire. Each night at eight o'clock the fire whistle would blow. This was sort of an unofficial curfew and at our house you had it if you weren't home.

May Veach was the postmistress and also an ardent democrat. It was a terrible affront to the good republicans in the town to walk in and face the huge picture of FDR on the wall. She even smoked cigarettes in a holder like President Roosevelt. Meade Glading was before her but he took a trip to the Federal penitentiary for absconding with funds. May Veach helped us kids with our stamp collections and she was a good friend. Mr. Carr had a mule and he would go around town and plow the sidewalks. A big thrill was to ride on the triangular wooden plow. We would take turns.

Mr. Napper ran the water works down at the lake. When he filled up the standpipe he would watch the top of the standpipe to see it overflow and then he would stop pumping. Sometimes he would get preoccupied with something else and the standpipe would overflow and if there was a wind it would be like a rain storm in the school play ground - this was one of our small thrills.

We all went to school on a bike. It would be a demeaning experience to have your parents take you to school unless it was to get you back after being suspended. Discipline was no problem in school; teachers were highly respected and were put on the same plane as your parents. Punishment was to be put in the cloak room where we would eat the paste or worse be sent to Miss Tonkin. My teachers were first grade Miss Jorden and Miss Engler, second, Ann Woolman (Sellen), third Mrs. Tucker who had to go to the hospital and we had a class trip to visit her, fourth Miss Ella Jorden, fifth was tough Mrs. Reeves. Sixth, Mrs. Long, seventh Elsie Stratton, eighth Miss Shishoff, we worked on her farm planting onions. She was probably the strongest teacher ever to be at Wenonah Grammar School. She had muscles like a weight lifter which made her a good principle.

Dr. Peters was the head of the school board. Many dogs followed the kids to school so it was the site of many famous dog fights. Everybody went home for lunch. Arbor Day was a big occasion and May Day. We had a May pole in the park, you would be dressed up either like a robin or a blue bird and we would put on a play. In second grade we had a rhythm band, I played the triangle. We made a lot of things out of paper mache. Dave Knight was our manual training teacher and we all made pump lamps. At the beginning of the war we made plane models for the Air Force for plane identification. The girls had a sewing room. Class trips included going to Glassboro Normal School to the production of Peter Pan and visiting the windmill in Pitman. These are but a few memories of growing up in a beautiful town by an appreciative person, Milton Webb.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 10, 2009

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 4 April 2009

April Meeting tentatively scheduled at the Train Station

Dear Members,

Due to the renovation of the train station, we are tentatively planning to have our April 10 meeting there. It does not appear the contractor's work will prevent our use of the building for April. However, if there are any last minute changes, a note will be posted on the door of the train station and we will have our meeting at the Municipal Building.

Our May meeting will definitely be at the Municipal Building. And we will be having our year end picnic on June 12 at the Wenonah Lake.

Clean Communities Day will be May 2nd. If ten volunteers participate, we will qualify for the $500 that is donated to our Society. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

The speaker for our April meeting is Stephanie Berenato. She will be discussing the program for the Founders' Day event on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, April 19. The theme of the event is "A Step Back in Time: A Celebration of Wenonah's Train Station." There will be a story time about trains for children, a presentation by Jack Sheppard, Sr., on the Trains and Origins of Wenonah, crafts for the children, model train displays of the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Line, which ran through Wenonah, train memorabilia, and live music. At our meeting, we will play the trivia contest that the children at Wenonah Elementary are currently doing. Prizes will be given for the most correct answers at our meeting. HINT: Read the new book about Wenonah's history by Marjorie Lentz. All answers are found in her book which can be purchased at the Wenonah Library.

Brenda Birkland

WHS OFFICERS 2009	
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Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Community Center (Train Station) except June, July and August

Wenonah Advance, the first Newspaper of Wenonah

Are any of you acquainted with Lester Shoemaker of Mullica Hill? He has several fragments of the Wenonah Advance newspaper, the first newspaper of Wenonah. They contain beautiful illustrations of Wenonah and points of interest in our area. I have contacted him and he is searching among his collections for the newspapers. If any of you know him, perhaps you could encourage him in his search. Please contact me if you can help 415-0985 or sbbirkland@verizon.net.

Do you have the History of Wenonah by William Cattell?

William C. Cattell was a prominent citizen of Wenonah and a surveyor-engineer. His home was built in 1902 at 200 West Mantua Avenue. His map of Wenonah is our earliest complete map. He also wrote a history of Wenonah with an account of lifestyles of that period. We are nut sure what form the history is in, perhaps it is only a handwritten account, perhaps it is in book or pamphlet form. Jean Ehlers referred to his written history in the Historic House Register book. Howard Hendrickson also quoted from Mr. Cattell's written history in his article entitled "History of Wenonah." Sadly, we are unable to locate his written history and are wondering if you may possess it in your collection? We would love to have a copy for our museum and membership use. It may be useful for you to know that Jean Ehlers' maternal grandmother was a Cattell.

Do you have a historic Plaque and an old Photo of your house?

Frank Eggert is making a display for homes with historic plaques. The display will include the plaque, an old, original photo of the home and a current photo. If you have an old photo, please contact Frank at 468-6465. He will make a copy and return it to you.

INTERVIEW WITH MARJORIE LENTZ ABOUT HER NEW BOOK "WENONAH"
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE WENONAH PUBLIC LIBRARY AND WHS MEETINGS

Why did you originally decide to write a book on Wenonah's history in 1976?

In planning for the Centennial celebration of our town, a committee realized there was no written history of Wenonah. I was part of that committee and I volunteered to write the book.

How did you write the first book?

I took two months off from work and totally dedicated myself to the task. Everyday, I would go to the Woodbury Courthouse and I read 100 years of the Constitution, the oldest newspaper available for our area. I brought my typewriter along everyday and I catalogued on index cards every article that had anything to do with Wenonah. I also used interviews with residents who had lived in Wenonah for many years, letters, diaries, minutes from innumerable organizations, and private conversations as source material for my book.

How did you write the second book?

First, I reread all the index cards in one lump sitting to get an overall picture of Wenonah's history. It would have been much easier to write a book with chapters labeled "The History of the Wenonah Fire Company" or the "History of the Wenonah Military Academy." But I wanted to write a book that described the history of Wenonah as it evolved so you could feel what it would be like to live in a particular period.

Second, I used new source materials such as letters, diaries etc. so the second book contains new information that was not in the first book. Also, I went back and corrected any errors that were found in the first book.

As for both the first and second book, I made sure I included little details, ones that are not necessarily of historic importance but ones that give you a feel for what it was like to live in a period of time. For instance, Jennie Fox told me a story that when she was growing up in town, the children would follow the ice wagon around town so they could catch slivers of ice when the ice man was cutting it. There's another funny story about the boys removing the burs from the wagons in front of the Methodist church. These stories tell you what the children were doing at different periods of time.

I understand Jack Sheppard, Sr. helped you with the second book. How did you work together?

Really, the second book would not have been possible without Jack's help. He gave advice, used his computer skills and provided written material for the book, photos, and emphasized the importance of accuracy. He also wrote the afterword of the book which documents more recent history of our town.

What was one of your greatest challenges in writing the book?

Because it is a history book, it was difficult to sometimes determine the accuracy of stories, even those found in newspaper articles. Sifting through stories and written material to determine their accuracy led me down some interesting investigative paths. For instance, an oral history existed that claimed the mansion torn down by Mr. Farr where he built the Wenonah Public Library was a replica of the Hollybush mansion in Glassboro. But upon further investigation, including using the only known photograph of the mansion, which is an aerial shot, revealed they were not exact replicas, not even close. I also visited the Hollybush mansion and had lunch with the President's wife to familiarize myself with its layout.

When you were conducting research for your books, did you discover anything that surprised you?

All the prominent men of Wenonah, Synnott, Farr, Comey, Greene, and Bailey were very religious and integral to the churches here in Wenonah. I read once that Mr. Comey had a Bible class of 70 people in his boat house. George Bailey was internationally known for his Sunday School Association work. Their dedication to their faith was inspiring to me.

I also thought it was interesting how even though many of these men were from Philadelphia and quite wealthy, they seemed to happily comingle with the farmers and locals who also lived in this area. George Bailey stated "we are all one happy family." I find that remarkable.

If you could go back in time, what period of Wenonah's history would you like to live in?

I would like to live during the period of the Wenonah Military Academy. There was so much activity in town during this time period. There were drills and parades, athletic events and dances, concerts and lectures.

What one message from your book would you like to convey to the people of Wenonah, both young and old?

The message I would like to convey is contained in my foreword. There are so many people in this town and we all have talents and skills to share for the good of our community. The original purpose of the written history, found among almost discarded papers, states it clearly "The purpose would be to share some of the enthusiasm, the love of the natural resources, the wisdom and the cultural background of the early fathers (and mothers) who dreamed of the kind of town they would want to live in themselves."

This concludes my interview with Marjorie Lentz. If you have ideas for future newsletters, any old newspaper clippings or photos that you believe would be of interest to our membership, I would welcome your ideas. Please contact me at sbbirkland@verizon.net or 415-0985. You may also contact us at WHS, PO Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090. *Brenda Birkland*

DID YOU KNOW:

The grist mill at Wenonah Lake was started by Abraham Dilks before the Revolutionary War.

Stephen Greene, owner of the Wenonah Inn, had a golf course laid out extending from the present Cedar Avenue ball field to the Comey Lake area in 1900.

The first improvements to the streets of Wenonah were laying down cinders from the West Jersey Railroad and oyster shells brought in from Port Norris.

The original street plan for Wenonah was created by William Fredrick Allen, Chief Engineer of the West Jersey Railroad, and father of Standard Time.

Mantua Avenue was a gravel street until 1925.

The street lights in Wenonah were gas until the 1920s.

There were 14 veterans of the Civil War living in Wenonah at the turn of the century.

Compiled by Milton Webb, October 30, 1997

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday May 8, 2009

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 5 May 2009

A message from president Barbara Capelli

Dear Members,

Spring is here and our town is beautiful with new flowers and plantings and "How about that Train Station!" Yes, our beloved Wenonah Train Station is getting the much needed restoration and big thanks to everyone involved in that project, and there are many! I especially want to mention a recent donation for the Train Station from Eugene Cowell III in honor of his late aunt (former WHS member) Connie Cowell. This very generous donation will certainly be of great help to us in making special additions to our Train Station.

Founders Day was a huge success this year and also included many hard working volunteers. The Train Station was celebrated and everyone enjoyed a beautiful day of learning and great community socialization. Thanks again to all who participated.

We are continuing to make great progress with some new ideas for our Society. This summer we hope to have ideas for new sale items, a beginning of a website that will be included as a link to the Borough's website, new programs, and perhaps a new committee or two, so let's continue to encourage new members to join us. Also of note, we want to encourage anyone who has memorabilia. We would graciously accept anything of historic value regarding Wenonah. Just recently, I received a 1920's Wenonah Military Academy yearbook from Richard Paulus whose father attended the academy! It's in pretty rough condition but it is a super donation for our museum.

This Friday, we will have the pleasure of having Jeanne Brody as our guest speaker. She is an adjunct professor at Villanova and St. Joseph's University where she teaches Art History. She is going to speak about History through Prints, and how printmaking has been used historically to spread ideas, propaganda, and counter-government ideas.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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If anyone has old prints or even old cartoons or political imagery she would be glad to reference them. Please feel free to bring your old prints for sharing!

Also of note, don't forget our June Picnic is at the Wenonah Lake…no bathing suits yet please!! See Pat Sole to sign up to make your favorite dish!

I hope to see you all Friday! And don't forget we are meeting at the Municipal Building!

Barb Capelli

Gloucester Democrat April 20, 1893

The erection of the Wenonah Inn was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad are erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

Gloucester Democrat December 7 1893

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

Station Rehab Progress

As many of you have no doubt noted while driving by, the station is a mess. Don't despair, it will get better, just wait a little while. The interior is stripped down to the bare plaster and painting is about to commence. Outside the old overgrown trees and shrubs have been removed and a brick plaza with plantings is about to be created. We are now trying to determine a color scheme for the exterior and the architect Margaret Westfield is trying to identify the original colors from when new in 1893. When finished our much used building should be useful for another generation or two.

INTERVIEW WITH JACK SHEPPARD, SR., ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE PUBLICATION OF MARJORIE LENTZ'S NEW BOOK "WENONAH"

Marjorie stated her new book would not have been possible without you. What type of assistance did you provide?

Marjorie is too modest. I mainly provided technical assistance with word processing and photos and an index for the new book which was lacking in the original. I encouraged her to write the second book since she had additional material that wasn't included in her first book. It was enjoyable working with Marjorie and comparing notes on Wenonah history.

How did you become so interested in Wenonah's history?

In 1982, Jane Ramsey, Marjorie Lentz, Jack and Jean Ehlers and others came to council and asked permission to create an archives committee. Out of this committee, the Wenonah Historical Society was formed. While planning for the 1976 bicentennial celebration Marjorie was asked to write a book about the town's origins. Her book made me realize how little I knew about the early days of Wenonah. I was amazed how interesting our history is.

If you could go back in time, what period of Wenonah's history would you like to live in?

I would like to visit any period of time prior to 2001. I would love to sit on the porch of the Wenonah House in 1872 and watch the guests arriving from Philadelphia. I would like to be at Noblitts Hall and watch the beginnings of the first Wenonah School. I would love to attend the opening day of our train station built in 1893 and certainly all the activity surrounding the Wenonah Military Academy would be thrilling to watch.

Some people new to town may not realize you served as Mayor of Wenonah for 24 years, which is the longest time any single Mayor has served. In your lifetime as a Wenonah resident, what have been your fondest memories?

My fondest memories are related to my children and their activities, and to the many benefits of living in a small town and having involvement and friendships with people. We are a close knit community and there are many clubs and organizations for one to be involved in such as the Lions Club, Athletic Association, the Home and School, Wenonah Swim Club and Warner's Lake, the Fire Company. Volunteerism really shines in a small town. The push by Governor Corzine to merge services among municipalities is concerning to me as I believe our quality of services will decline and we could lose our small town identity.

You also wrote a book with highlights from Borough Council minutes. What was the genesis of that book?

Thomas Synnott III, grandson of one of Wenonah's original residents, found in the Synnott mansion old borough records dating to 1871, the time of Wenonah's creation. He invited me to visit his home to view those records. I spent many Sunday afternoons reviewing the material, ultimately using much of the information in a book as a fundraiser for the Historical Society.

While reading the old minutes, did you discover anything about the town that surprised you?

I was surprised that the Borough government had little contact with the Wenonah Military Academy. There was virtually nothing in the records about the relationship of the borough to the Academy. After 1935 when the Academy was closed, the minutes did mention that our building inspector Tom Carlson determined the building to be a fire hazard and recommended it be demolished. At the time, the Academy was still owned by the Estate of Stephen Greene, the entity that owned it. There is no information about the Borough contacting the Greene Estate before it was town down.

I was also surprised about the huge part the West Jersey Railroad Company (WJRC) played in founding the town. In 1861 the narrow-gauge tracks that ended in Mantua were straightened, replaced with the more universal standard gauge

tracks and extended to Glassboro. WJRC Vice President William Sewell and his Chief Engineer William Allen apparently seeing the beauty of the area decided a town at this location would increase ridership for the rail company. They convinced investors of the benefits, created the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to do the selling, built a hotel and a town was born.

While you were reviewing the minutes, I understand you found the deed for the train station land that allowed you and council to stop the sale of the train station to a private party in 1973. Tell me about the timing of this.

In 1973 I learned the Pennsylvania-Reading railroad company had sold our train station to a private party. I don't know whether it was pure coincidence or just plain good luck but at almost the same time while viewing the old Synnott records I found a deed noting the land given to the railroad by the Borough Commissioners was granted with a condition: the land was to be used "for passenger station purposes only." Borough Council contested the sale in Superior Court and the land reverted to Borough ownership. Council then purchased the building for $3,000.

Volunteers refurbished the train station for use as a Community Center for Wenonah citizens. What was the refurbishment project like?

The project was so much fun. Kids, parents and grandparents all worked together on this project. Dave Miller headed a committee of volunteers and we had people in town donate their skills, time and money. Local professionals also volunteered. We repaired plaster, put on a new roof, planted and painted. We even had T- shirts with the slogan "I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD." This project was another great example of small town living and volunteerism.

As we sit here looking at the current renovation of the train station, how does that make you feel?

Wenonah is one of the few towns along the track that has successfully maintained its historic train station for community use. It is truly an accomplishment and I am so pleased to see its current renovation underway. I am extremely grateful to former Borough Administrator Dawn Human for her success in acquiring this grant and to Dave Kreck for all his expert efforts as Borough Engineer to ensure satisfactory completion.

What do you feel was your most significant achievement while Mayor?

Because Wenonah is such a small town I felt it was important to be connected to the region outside the town to ensure our voice was heard. When the county wanted to create a county-wide sewer system I volunteered to spearhead the project mainly to assure Wenonah wasn't damaged by the process. The project took four years and involved the 13 most populated communities in the county. As a result we were able to close our sewage treatment plant that existed at what is now Lisle Field, and the previously frequent Oak Valley sewage plant overflows no longer affect Wenonah Lake.

What one message would you like to convey to the people of Wenonah, both young and old?

Wenonah is a wonderful place to live and in which to raise a family but its future well-being could be in jeopardy if plans to place passenger service back on the tracks through Wenonah are carried forward. Such a project would be devastating from a construction standpoint. Whether placed below grade in a pit or raised high in the air the increased width of the right-of-way would severely impact our new borough hall or the train station or both. The resulting barrier of pit or elevated structure would be an eyesore that would devalue a significant amount of our beautiful housing stock. With no room for parking space we would not even have access to the train but would have to drive to a "park & ride" facility somewhere else in the region. Suffice it to say the most recent professional study of the proposal resulted in a recommendation against putting trains back on these ill-suited old tracks.

Wenonah Historical Society

Picnic at Wenonah Lake 5:00 p.m.
Friday June 12, 2009

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 6 June 2009

A message from the president and Vice President

Dear Members,

As our program for the year comes to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their work throughout this past year. Our organization relies on you and we could not operate without your many contributions. For fear of forgetting someone, we will not try to name everyone but know we appreciate what you do! As we think back over the year, there are two accomplishments we are especially proud of and want to highlight: we are so excited to have the new Wenonah book published and we are so pleased to see the train station being rehabilitated!

We wish you a very special summer filled with relaxation and fun activities but also good times with family and friends. If over the summer you have ideas for new programs or activities, we would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact one of the officers.

We hope you can join us for the picnic at Wenonah Lake on Friday, June 12, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact us if you'd like to come. We are asking everyone to bring an item to share for eight.

Again, have a great summer!

Brenda Birkland and Barb Capelli

Station Rehab Progress

For various reasons, it does not appear the train station will be complete by July 4th. Many of the steel columns that hold the roof of the platform were almost completely rusted through at the base. It is amazing the roof had not collapsed. The plan is to weld new steel patches in these areas rather than replacing the entire column, which is cost prohibitive.

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The exterior color selection was made and it was decided to go with the original color scheme in 1893 as found by architect Margaret Westfield. The colors will be a dark green on the trim and doors and a light grey/green on the stucco.

The brick pavers for the plaza will be installed soon and this should soften the appearance of the concrete area recently poured. There are also shrubbery beds planned in several rectangular areas and this will soften the appearance of the hardscaping. You may ask why so much hardscaping? The Borough plans to relocate the annual Christmas tree lighting from the park to the station plaza and to use the plaza for future community events as well.

Gloucester Democrat April 20, 1893

The erection of the Wenonah Inn was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad are erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

Gloucester Democrat December 7, 1893

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

generation or two.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting at Train Station, 7:30 p.m.
Friday November 13, 2009

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 8 November 2009

Train Station Update

The train station/Community Center restoration project is finished at last and we a have a green light from engineer Dave Kreck and architect Margaret Westfield to start using the building for meetings. We have received nothing yet from Borough Council. I have to say it looks great both inside and out (except for the kitchen) and should continue to benefit Wenonah far into the future. However there is a lot of work needing to be performed before that can happen. Most of the furniture that stayed in the building such as the meeting tables, solid leg chairs, the long fold-up tables, etc. are dusty and dirty requiring a wash and wipe before they can be used. All of the folding chairs used for meetings are in the storage pod in the parking lot. Unfortunately they are behind everything else. That is also where the clocks, the huge wall hanging with the eagle and the rest of the plaques and photographs are stored. The only restoration performed in the kitchen is new linoleum floor covering. The kitchen is extremely dirty needing a scrubbing before it can be used. The counter-top is badly beat up and needs to be replaced. What we need quickly is a survey and list of tasks needing to be done. We will then seek volunteers for a few hours of work. I will check with Borough officials to see if there is any possibility of assistance with moving heavy material and with kitchen improvement. Jack Sheppard Sr.

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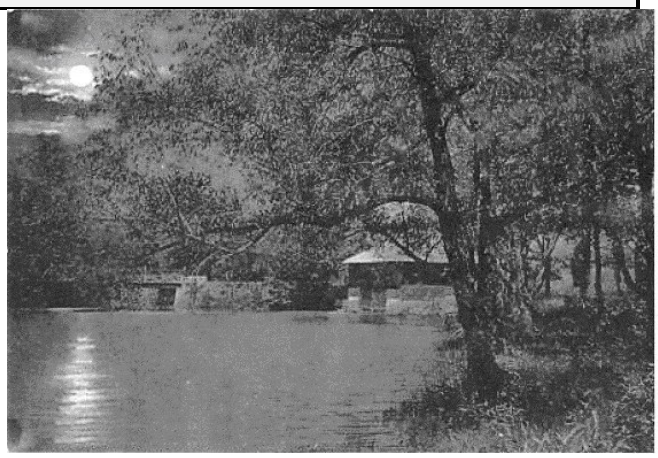
Christmas Party registration due at November meeting

Our annual Christmas party is December 11 at the train station. and will be catered by Telford Inn. The menu is turkey, dressing and all the accompaniments. The cost is $20 a person and needs to be paid at the November meeting to reserve your spot. If you can't make it to the meeting, please give Pat Sole a call and drop your check off to her no later no Monday, November 16. We will also have our usual polly anna exchange. If you'd like to participate, please bring your unwrapped gift costing around $10. The time for the party is 5:00 p.m. for greeting and 6:00 p.m. for dinner. Thank you to Pat Sole for arranging.

Train Presentation at our next meeting

At our November meeting, Lou McCall will present information about the Wenonah Train Station and recap his presentation from this past Founders' Day. There may be a few other surprises related to the train station so we hope to see you at our newly restored train station. Brenda Birkland

"Things that aren't here anymore" What lake was it? Where was it?



This photograph is a postcard entitled "Moonlight on Lake Cornelia, Wenonah, NJ." The lake was also known as Greene's Lake and it was located at the end of South Clinton Avenue. It was part of the Stephen Greene estate and included a carriage road over the dam with a Japanese designed bridge and a two story boat house, both visible in the postcard above. Why was it called "Lake Cornelia?" Stephen Greene's caretaker, John Truncer, had a wife named Cornelia and this is the origin of the name. Stephen Greene's estate included his residence and multiple dwellings for his caretakers, as well as a barn and stables occupying a block long complex on S. Clinton Avenue. He also built a gazebo for his Dutch garden and a peacock house with a brick wall mortared with flecks of oyster shells bordering his peacock run (portions of the brick wall still exist). A Japanese gardener cared for the gardens and his greenhouses. Arbored walks from his rose gardens led to a glen known as the Hermitage. Stephen Greene was a wealthy Philadelphian who made his fortune in the printing industry. He played a great part in the development of Wenonah. His involvement in the purchase of the Wenonah Hotel in 1892, which became the Wenonah Military Academy, probably assisted the town in surviving the great depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Wenonah 100 years ago May 1909 (cont.)

At the rate our City Fathers are spending money, our tax rate will be $2.50 next year. O, never mind it is not their money. (There was a feeling that a dozen axes and two hose carts afforded adequate fire protection for the community.)

While swimming yesterday in Synnott's Pond, Arthur Holeton dove and struck his arm on the bottom and broke it. Dr. Stout was called and his arm was set. (He was killed in World War 1 and our local Legion Post 192 is named after him.)

Architect Charles Peddle of Woodbury awarded the contract for the stable and garage for Edward Grosscup to John L. Drummer. It will cost $3,500. (This is the former Oscar Redrow-Harris Cotton property. Hopefully the new owner will restore this historically significant structure.)

Miss Henrietta Comey and Miss Fanonda Lorence entertained at cards yesterday followed by a luncheon at Comey's boat house.

The boat "Wenonah" was launched here yesterday morning by Porch Brothers, who built it. The craft was christened by Mrs. E. Porch of Mantua. (The "Wenonah" was a canoe.)

Housel and Bird, the Academy's star runners, covered themselves with glory, winning their races at Rutgers College meet at New Brunswick on Saturday and winning at the Boy's Club A.A.U. meet yesterday.

Woodbury Daily Times

Wenonah 100 years ago November 1909

Fair in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, November 4th Fancywork, groceries, candy, homemade bread and cake. Supper 35 cents.

Wonder whom the two young ladies were who got bewildered on the road between Cooper's Hill and Wenonah.

The River and Harbor Committee met at Hohlweg's Hotel (now Telford Inn) yesterday to determine whether to have the Mantua Creek dug out. Several appeared before the committee urging the creek be opened up to the Wenonah Bridge.

A workman in the employ of the gas company was knocked unconscious here yesterday by the bursting of a gas pipe. He was taken home in serious condition. No one would have thought there was so much force in the pipes.

In order to make an equitable charge for water to all customers, the Wenonah Water Company will place water meters on the premises of all water takers. The installing of the meters will be done during the present month and the meter rates will commence January 1st, 1910.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union held their business meeting and finding out that they had money immediately proceeded to spend it. It was voted to offer a prize of $5.00 to the Wenonah Military Academy and $5.00 to our public school for the best scientific temperance essay.

Bryn Athyn and Wenonah Military Academy played a tie game on Bryn Athyn grounds Saturday, neither team being able to score. The game was fast and clean throughout.

Call at the public library and look over the latest books. (The library was in the former Presbyterian Church Chapel which was moved from North Clinton Avenue to West Mantua Avenue in the first block.)

The Wenonah Mutual Improvement Association will place three carloads of manure on the lawn of the park. (This is one way to get people's attention to the park.)

There was a fire last night at the M.E. parsonage on Willow Street, and but for its timely discovery the parsonage would have been burned down. Miss Cornelia Truncer saw a light in the third story of the building and concluded at once that there was something wrong. She went to the parsonage and asked if there was anyone in the third floor with a lamp. She was told there was not, and upon investigation it was found that a box of papers was on fire. A bucket brigade was formed and the blaze was soon subdued. The Fire Company did not go into service. Just how the fire started is a mystery, but it might be the old story of mice and matches. Pastor Senser worked like a beaver in carrying buckets of water up the stairs and he thinks that his heart is all right or he could never have stood it.

Mr. Thomas W. Synnott will lead the prayer meeting this evening at the Memorial Presbyterian Church. (Mr. Synnott was one of the founders of the town and at this period had land holdings of almost one fourth of the total area of the town.)

Lost, strayed or stolen - one black and white hound dog, black face. Answers to the name "Doc" John T. Moore

The question, which is puzzling our gunners, is where to gun on Monday, when the rabbit season opens. In almost every direction one looks in the country his eyes behold a notice, which forbids gunning on the premises.

An exciting runaway occurred here last evening. A farmer drove into town to meet the train, and his horse was frightened and ran up the street east of the depot and down the embankment north of the station where it meet an express train and turned off the track at the flag house completely circling the depot. No damage was done, but how the horse missed the third rail is a mystery. It also had a narrow escape from the express train.

The machine pipeline digger of the Pitman Gas Company is digging a trench from the Wenonah Bridge to Woodbury Heights. This will give gas to all the farmers along the line.

Quite a number of our young matrons have enrolled themselves as students in the "Domestic Science Class" recently organized.

Mrs. McGill's house looks well with its new coat of paint. (N.E. corner of Clinton and Cherry Streets –The Thompson's house, formerly the Magarelli's home.)

Our Improvement Association has two classes of members, those who contribute money and those who contribute advice as to how it should be spent. These latter are mostly knockers and are a hindrance to the growth of the town.

Woodbury Heights is improving rapidly notwithstanding its lack of electric lights, sewer, artesian water, library, fire company, and church and school facilities such as Wenonah has.

A little girl visiting barber Fisher's was badly cut about the head Saturday by a flowerpot. The flowerpot was in the second story window and fell on the little girls head.

We see the hurdles have disappeared in the park and hope they will not come back. (People had been making their own paths through the park.)

Woodbury Daily Times

Wenonah Historical Society

Newsletter

Christmas Dinner Party, Train Station,
5:00 p.m. greeting, 6:00 p.m. dinner
Friday December 11, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 9 December 2009

Happy Holidays from the WHS Officers

The WHS officers would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. As we look forward to 2010, our thoughts and prayers go out to our troops who so bravely serve our great country.

We also want to thank everyone for the time and effort they dedicated this past year in helping the Wenonah Historical Society. At this time, we would be remiss if we did not specifically mention the dedication and persistence of Jack Sheppard Sr. in overseeing the train station restoration project. His insights and hard work are a great asset to our organization and we deeply appreciate the many hours he dedicated to the project. Please be sure to walk by the newly restored train station. The kiosk will be undergoing some improvements as a Lions Club project. It is wonderful to have this historic landmark available for all of us to enjoy.

Barbara, Brenda, Vicki and Carol

Train Station Complete – request for Historical items about Wenonah

The train station restoration is complete and we can resume the creation of the "Wenonah Museum." For those who haven't visited the building, there are visible changes inside including new paint and restoration of the interior woodwork, and best of all, a new carpet. There were many beneficial repairs both inside and out. One thing we learned was that the passenger platform roof was in danger of collapse due to the supporting wrought iron columns being almost completely eaten away by corrosion. Also of great benefit, the gable-end stucco and "half-timbering" woodwork has been fully repaired and restored to weather-tight condition. The badly deteriorated storm sashes have been replaced and many of the doors adjusted to work properly. The brickwork has been cleaned and repointed. All in all the building is now in sound condition and can be expected to serve Wenonah for many more years. In the not too distant future we will commence requesting contributions of historic artifacts, photos, writings, and news articles, anything having to do with Wenonah history. So search your attics, basements and garages, and if you have anything of interest concerning Wenonah please let us know so we can provide a place for it.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

President	Barbara Capelli
Vice Pres.	Brenda Birkland
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

Friends of Wenonah Train Station

At our last meeting, we voted to approve Charlie Horan and Barbara Conway as chairpersons for a committee called the "Friends of Wenonah Train Station." Charlie and Barbara will spearhead continued improvements to the building as well as ensure its upkeep by the organizations using the train station. Any suggestions may be forwarded to them or any of the WHS officers. We welcome your comments.

Welcome to our New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members since September: Marcy Ireland, John and Laura Murphy, Nicole Odenbrett, Anna Marie Goldy, Hugh Luck, and Marie and Chris Lanzalotti.

Wenonah 100 years ago December 1909

The progress and enterprise of this place demand greater conveniences and facilities in the news line, and the management of the Times has decided to meet this demand, and will begin today serving the readers by carriers, instead of through the mail. Arrangements have been made to have all the latest news of the place published and our people will appreciate the effort. (Previous to this there was no Wenonah column, therefore our publication was "Wenonah 90 years ago.")

F. J. Savage is taking orders for Christmas trees, greens, etc.

Our people are very much pleased with the extra noon mail lately put on. (The mail was sorted and delivered on the railroad.)

The thermometer registered 23 degrees this morning. This kind of weather will soon make skating good. Twelve more days and we will have to write 1910.

The "Something New Under the Sun" laundry runs a wagon through here now.

Lowell Ridgeway with Turner and McCormick had the misfortune to burst a finger on his right hand this morning while handling a barrel of apples. It pains him very much.

The question of safety gates or a watchman all year round at the railroad crossing on Mantua Avenue is being agitated again. It is believed the company will grant the request of the citizens. (There was a watchman during the summer months when the Cape May Flier would go through town at sixty miles per hour.) James B. Robenson, of this place, has been granted an original pension of $6 a month.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE BUT YOU HAD BETTER HURRY AND LEAVE YOUR ORDER FOR A TURKEY WITH Turner & McCormick, Wenonah (Many years later a similar sign read "now is the time to talk turkey with Tony")

James Moore, near this place, had a homing pigeon to come home yesterday that had been away for a year.

It seems that the scarcity of barbers compels some of our young men to raise moustaches-they think.

H. S. Leap has a sale of his farming implements etc, today, previous to retiring from farming and taking up his residence in Mantua.

Numbers of Christmas shoppers are traveling city ward yet.

Operator Bossier has a very peculiar break in one of the depot windows to remind him how close a shave he had from a pebble picked up by an express some time ago and thrown violently against the window. A perfectly round hole was broken in the window. For a long time many thought it had been cut with a diamond by burglars. (He was the telegraph operator at the train depot.)

Our town is filling up with Christmas visitors.

Here we are. We now have our stock of Christmas goods in apples, oranges, dates, white grapes, bananas, fine layer raisins, citron, lemon and orange peel, finest Jersey celery, lettuce, spinach, and a variety of fresh confectionery-Richard J. Clark (This building is now Mary Kaye-3 East Mantua Avenue.)

A. DeSanno has made his son George a Christmas present of a handsome bicycle.

While the team of Ellison Turner was standing hitched in front of R. J. Clark's this morning, the horse became frightened, and in its struggle to free itself, broke both shafts from the wagon, Mr. Clark loaned Mr. Turner another wagon to get home.

The Christmas festival by the Presbyterian Sunday school, in Noblitt's Hall last night, was a decided success, and much credit is due the superintendent who furnished the entire entertainment. Prof. Hoy with his marionettes

greatly entertained the little folks and Mr. Herbert Lloyd with his solos and character sketches came in for a goodly share of the applause. The hall was densely packed and there was scarcely standing room. A feature of the program was the presentation of a handsome cane to the Superintendent Wilkins from his class by Ex-mayor Andrew W. Carey.

Woodbury Daily Times Issued daily, except Sunday, Hawn and Wilson, Proprietors, Single Copy $.01 Weekly-six copies $.05

Groucho Marx in Wenonah in 1934

Remember the list of famous people who have visited Wenonah over the years in Marjorie Lentz's History of Wenonah book? I recently ran across an original source document describing Groucho Marx's visit to Wenonah. You will note his sister-in-law lived in town at 4 East Willow Street, now the home of Ann and Nick Godsey. I hope you'll enjoy this article from the Evening News, April 12, 1934. There are interesting historic parallels to our current economic recovery in the article.

Groucho Marx declares Cranky Bankers a Sure Sign of U.S. Recovery

Patient Always Cranky When Recovering, Famed Comedian Says; Spends Few Days with Sister-In-Law At Wenonah Home; Wife and Children With Him in Rest Period Before New Show; Admits Dislike for Work

Wenonah, April 12 –This small, quiet residential town entertained royalty yesterday afternoon and last night and it seemed that fully half the population turned out to see him sign his name and to settle the age-old question: "Is that moustache real?"

The Person of royal lineage was none other than the President of Fredonia. In the event you're not a move fan, this personage is Groucho Marx, of the famed Marx Brothers of stage, screen and radio fame.

Marx, with his wife Ruth, and two children, Miriam, 6, and Arthur, 12, are visiting Mrs. Marx's sister Mrs. Lester Russell, of 4 East Willow Street. Or rather, they're there with practically everybody else in town - or at least so it seemed last night when interviewers arrived upon the scene.

The comedian talked of the stage, the screen and radio; discussed the depression, the recovery movement, the prospects of unknowns in the theatrical venture and revealed why the famed moustache was painted and not real.

Something To Laugh At

In discussing the depression, Marx said: "Without something to laugh at during the past two or three years, people would have committed suicide. It seems to me that comedy has a very definite place in the world today, as it always has, and that place is the stop-gap, or safety valve between a complete collapse of the nervous system and enjoyment of life."

"Tell me," pleaded an interviewer, "how do you try out your gags? On your wife?"

"Not any more," was the reply, as Groucho looked sidewise at Mrs. Marx, seated on a nearby davenport. "I once did, but I found out a paying audience was more responsive. Even a wife gets tired of a comedian's jokes.

"The best place and, to me, the only place to try out gags is on the stage. There you get instantaneous response."

Much In Luck

A youthful interviewer asked what the chances were for an unknown to break into the theatrical set-up. "How good is your luck?" Groucho asked.

"Getting anywhere in this business is about 25 percent ability and 75 percent luck. If you don't get the breaks, you'll stay in Uncle Tom's Cabin road shows for the rest of your life." He cited the instance of one film comedian of middle age who for many years played minor roles on the stage until finally given the role of a comic undertaker. The play was later filmed and he again got his

same role. It made him and today he is to be seen in many pictures. (to be continued next month)

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday February 12, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 2 February, 2010

Greetings from the WHS Officers

I am happy to report that Carol Wiltsee continues as Treasurer and Vicki McCall as Secretary.

Brenda Birkland has resigned as Vice President and we will seek someone to replace her at the February meeting. Also, much thanks to everyone who helps us throughout the year with membership and hosting our meetings and making our special events "Special" and assisting with fund-raising materials. Working together is what always has made the WHS successful and I look forward to continuing that tradition. The "Friends of Wenonah Train Station Committee" with Charlie Horan and Barb Conway as Chairs has been active. They will give us an update at the meeting.

I also want to remind our membership that while although the Borough of Wenonah is the actual Train Station owner; it is our great pleasure to continue the work to keep this historical building and its contents of valuable artifacts in the best condition and preservation that we can achieve. I look forward to working with our Council and Mayor to continue this objective.

The Objectives of the Wenonah Historical Society Constitution and bylaws, according to Article II.

Section 1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.

Section 2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.

Section 3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.

Section 4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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Vice Pres.	Pending Election
Secretary	Vicki McCall
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Section 5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.

Section 6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

The executive committee with coordination of the WHS membership and the borough will work together to encourage as always, more of these objectives this year. As always we appreciate your support.

Barb, Vicki and Carol

History of the Wenonah Free Public Library

Anne Zuber

The program for the February meeting will be the history of the Wenonah Public Library from its origin as the Wenonah Library Association in 1900, including some information on the building we use now, the evolution of our shared borrowing arrangement, LOGIN, and how technological advances have played such a strong part in that.

Speaker Anne Zuber grew up in West Deptford, attended Gloucester Catholic High School, and graduated from Glassboro State College (Rowan University) with a degree in English Language and Literature and a Secondary Education Teaching Certificate.

When her parents purchased a set of World Book Encyclopedias in 1969, Anne's mother answered all questions with, "Look it up!"

After moving to California in 1985 with her husband Ron and 3 stepchildren, Anne spent more than 7 years "looking up" information at the library on parenting teenagers, while learning customer service and bookkeeping skills at various office jobs. A few years after returning to the area with Ron, daughter Chelsea, and son Brian, the position of school librarian became available at Wenonah Elementary School. The work there is three days per week and allowed for Anne to take on the part time director position at Wenonah Public Library as well.

The Stone House Farm circa 1773

In the early days of the New Jersey colony the Mantua Creek valley was quickly found to be one of the most fertile and attractive localities in Gloucester County. The creek itself was the main avenue of transportation and communication with other settlements along the river and creeks.

The western portion of the attractive village of Wenonah stands on a farm of 180 acres, which for a century and more was known as the "stone-house farm". It remained a farm until Wenonah was plotted and successfully promoted in 1871.

Mantua Creek forms the southwestern boundary of the farm, and before the coming of the railroad there were numerous wharves or landing places along its banks, each identified by the name of its owner. On the north side were Hennessey's Landing, on the stone house farm, with extensive warehouses, and Chews Landing where the Woodbury – Mullica Hill road now crosses the bridge. On the south side were Smith's Landing, near the foot of the present Norris Street; Carpenter's Landing and others, also several thriving shipyards including Eastlack's and Norris's where small sailing vessels called flats and shallops were built to carry to Philadelphia cordwood, produce and glass ware from the Stanger glassworks at Glassboro, and from its successors Heston and Carpenter, and the Whitney Glass Works.

Prior to the closing of the eighteenth century there was no bridge across the creek in the vicinity of the present villages Mantua and Wenonah. The nearest bridge was that of the King's Highway, near the present village of Mount Royal. Beyond that point, the creek could be crossed only by a ford located on the stone-house farm, about a half mile southeast of the present bridge from Wenonah to Mantua.

Nathaniel Chew was one of the earliest settlers in Gloucester County. He died 1731 and lies buried in the old Chew Burying Ground near the late famous Mantua Oak. In his will he left land to his sons Richard, Jeffery, Joseph and Nathaniel.

His son Jeffery Chew (1714 – 1774) became a large owner of additional land along Mantua Creek, which he distributed among his sons. To his son Jonathon he gave 100 acres, "being part of the land I bought of Hannah Robinson, along the line of Abraham Dilks and that of James Cooper." This tract of 180 acres, later to becomes the stone house farm, was purchased by Robert Sparks for $2,000.

Robert Sparks died, his sole heirs being the two children of his deceased son Robert Sparks, Jr. Thomas Taber Sparks and Robert Ure Sparks who became the owners of the farm. Thomas Taber Sparks purchased the interest of his brother and became sole owner.

On January 1, 1855, Joseph Saunders, executor of Joseph Dilks, conveyed the "Stone-House farm" of 180 acres; 75 ½ acres to Isaac C. Stevenson for $3,510.75 and 100 ½ acres to Hiram Morgan for $5,700.

The deed mentions "the contemplated West Jersey Railroad." There are doubtless many who may not know that the course of the railroad through Wenonah was originally much nearer to Mantua Creek than it is now. It crossed the creek at a point much nearer to the present Mantua Creek bridge, and a station called Mantua Station was located on the south side of the creek. Remains of the original embankments (Clay Hill) may be seen both north and south of Wenonah.

The railroad may have benefited some residents of Mantua, but it caused the immediate decay of the shipping and the shipbuilding business on Mantua Creek. One of the leading ship builders, John C. Eastlack, closed his plant soon thereafter, and engaged in the manufacture of pumps.

The late Mr. Howard C. Hendrickson, who lived in Wenonah, then at the ripe age of eighty-eight, told that five acres of ground is mentioned as being in the occupation of his grandfather Jonathan Hendrickson (1784 – 1875) and that his father was born in the old stone-house in 1825. He stated that the house was built as a tavern in 1773 by Samuel Maffett, and that it was long known as the Samuel Maffett house. It was then on the main road leading to the ford across Mantua Creek, near its junction with the road leading down to Hennessey's Landing and provided accommodations for travelers north and south.

It is possible that this five acre tract may have been separated from the rest of the farm at the time of its traditional occupancy by Samuel Maffett, and subsequently, reincorporated in the farm. Henry Roe in his pension papers stated that the militia met in a field here in 1777 to practice, hold meeting and elect officers at the 'stone-house" which he also stated was kept by a Mr. Sparks.

In later years the house was the home of Mr. Richard C. Ballinger, from 1891 until his death in 1934, when it passed to his son Edwin. The latter sold it in 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. William E. Manners, who have restored it to its original condition and who are very proud of it. It is now known as 100 South West Avenue.

Source; Glouco Hist. Soc. Bulletin March 1954

Eight and nine inch ice is reported about here.

Mrs. John Holton held an "at home" at her Clinton Avenue residence yesterday afternoon, which was attended by a number of ladies of the place, and all enjoyed the pleasant occasion.

It is reported that Paul deSanto is to embark in the poultry business on the Burris Turner farm recently purchased. (This is now the site of the Gloucester County College.)

Joseph Truncer is filling Stephan Green's 30-ton icehouse. (This was at the southwest corner of Marion Avenue and Willow Street.)

It is said that George Green so enjoys the company of his teacher that he is known to remain for one or two hours after school.

The matter of an organized fire company was before the council on Thursday night and steps are being taken towards its formation. We have the water pressure, the fireplugs, and two sections of hose, but no one in authority to order it into use.

The ladies of the "Monday Club" gave a social at the residence of Rev. M. C. Stokes last night. The entertainment consisted of a piano duet by Mrs. Mc Cowen and Miss M. P. Gilmour and solos by Mrs. Mrs. J. K. Schultz and Miss Gilmour after which some very interesting games were played. The party was then invited to the dining room and all did justice to the ice cream and other good things with which the table was well supplied.

Euchre parties are quite the fad here now one or two being held each evening. We think we have some crack players, too. The checker mania does not seem to have yet struck the place.

Had not John Lyons team been a gentle one this morning, he might have had some damage done as he put the halter around one horses neck, through the bridle ring and left the halter loose, and went off believing the team was tied. They were-tied loose.

Since Harold McKey was struck over the eye with a shinny ball that game has been forbidden at the school grounds and the boys complain that they have nothing to do but sit and suck their thumbs. McKey was rendered unconscious and had to be removed to his home.

The electric lights are burning much brighter since council paid the bill of the company. Money talks in more ways than one.

Edward Glenn attended the battalion drill with Company I, of Woodbury, in Camden Third Regiment Armory last night.

Fire Chief Savage will have a bicycle presented to him shortly by council. Look out Tom for punctures.

Our townsman H. Lake Gilmour has been elected Second Vice President of American Carbide Lamp Company of Philadelphia. (This became a large company with the advent of the "Prestolite" headlamp on the automobile.)

Grocer Clark was quite much excited a night or so ago, when he discovered a light burning in the room of his clerk, William Park, as he knew Park hardly ever kept a light burning. Going to the door of Park's room, he noticed something lying in his mouth, and with the idea that his clerk had committed suicide, he is said to have leaped over the foot of the bed and began shaking Park like a rat. Park finally woke up, and explanations followed, which showed that he had fallen into the arms of Morpheus while amusing himself with the sweet strains of a harmonica.

Dr. H.Lake Gilmour had a narrow escape from being crushed under the wheels of the locomotive of the 8:50 northbound train this morning. He was late and came running on the platform which was covered with ice, and as he struck the ice, both feet slipped from under him, and it was with difficulty that he kept from going under the engine. The depot lights were used last night for the first time and the appearance of it was helped 50 per cent. The lights burned all right except on the west side, and when the wind was blowing the hardest Agent Tuft had to light his oil lamps on that side. He hopes they will all burn tonight.

Two churches and not a saloon is the proud record of our lovely community.

It is reported that the borough council are contemplating the purchase of a flying machine or a balloon for George Voigt so he can see whether the street lights are burning or not.

Dr. Sickler, who recently returned from the Klondike regions, presented Dr. Lorence with the upper jaw of a moose he killed while up north last winter. The Doctor is an engaging conversationalist and says he has about 400 good views of that part of the country which give a good idea of the character of the location and the hardships to be endured in the thousands of miles to be walked to reach the gold fields. He denies the trip can be made from Philadelphia in 12 days, as is reported. The doctor has several bottles of gold dust, the form of currency in used in that part of the country. The miners there take their diggings to bank and can get coined money in exchange. (The gift of a moose jaw was appropriate as Dr. Lorence was a dentist.)

Source: Woodbury Daily Times – via Milt Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday March 12, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 3 March, 2010

Greetings from President Barbara Capelli

Hello All,

We have a super presentation this next meeting at the Train Station thanks to Vicki McCall with "The Victorian Lady".

And just to keep it in the "family" Lou McCall is sponsoring the presentation for April about the Farr Family in relation to his home and the town of Wenonah. Both March and April presentations are a real treat! Bring your friends!!

Let's hope spring is close to arriving and don't forget to also support the Women's Club and the Women's Fire Auxiliary by attending the Wine and Cheese Event on Saturday March 13th.

WHS Museum Musings

This would seem to be a good time to explain to the membership just exactly what our Museum is, what it is not, and ask for some help.

Volunteer "archivist" Julia Ream and I have spent a great many Saturday mornings in the museum space on the second floor of our former train station identifying, photographing, cataloging and storing the historic objects we have received thus far.

By far the largest part of the collection are the Wenonah Military Academy artifacts received from the Gloucester County Historical Society when they decided they no longer could spare the space for the material.

Due to the severe limitations of access to the upstairs space and the obvious fire safety concerns we cannot permit unlimited public access to the stored materials. At this time our thinking is to create a "virtual" museum whereby materials can be accessed via computerized means.

I photograph the materials prior to Julia entering the pictures and other pertinent information into the museum software program called "PastPerfect". Once in the computer the information can be distributed and shown by means of CD's and emails or projected as Power Point programs.

At this time most of the larger items of the Military Academy collection have been entered and stored. The smaller items such as school activity and sports photographs and brochures used to attract students remain to be stored after the names; pictures, etc. are entered in some fashion making retrieval possible. It is a tricky and time consuming process that is just a lot more than Julia and I want to handle alone. Can you sense the word "volunteers" coming?

If you did, you were right. We do need help if the museum is to be completed within an acceptable time frame (my lifetime for example).

The work is not very difficult, just tedious and time consuming. Some computer skills are needed but you don't have to be an expert. What is necessary is commitment of a small amount of time on a fairly frequent basis. Say 2 or 3 hours a week. We could also use the loan of a flatbed scanner that can handle a little larger than letter and legal size.

Should you have the time and the inclination please let us know.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

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March Meeting Program

"Unlacing the Victorian Woman"

Join the Wenonah Historical Society on March 12, 2010 at 8:00 pm at the Train Station Community Center for a delightful living history program. Presenter Barbara Meyer Darlin combines her talents as a historian, seamstress, designer, and performer to bring us "Unlacing the Victorian Woman". Her live performance delights audiences revealing a day in the life of a Victorian lady, complete with on stage costume changes. Audience participation is welcome! Daily routines, customs, and social etiquette are also discussed. This program is perfect for National Women's History month. We hope to see you there! The program is complimentary but seating is limited so please RSVP to Vicki McCall at vmccallpc@comcast.net or phone at (856)-304-8823.

100 Years ago in Wenonah
March 1910

There were nearly a hundred people assembled in the M.E. Church last night to welcome their new pastor, Rev. Mr. Cobb and family. The evening was exceedingly pleasant with music, and the sociability of the people made the new pastor feel as if he were among friends. After partaking of ice cream and cake the people left, all wishing the new "Dominie" and his family a pleasant happy year.

Both our stores have fine stocks of garden seeds etc on hand for early spring planting.

Our people who have been residing out of town during the winter months are returning to their residences here. (Wenonah was still considered a summer resort, by many, at this late period. They resided in Camden and Philadelphia in the winter.)

It is said there was a lively time at the annual school meeting held at Noblitt's Hall last night. There were five candidates. The appropriation of $2,300 to operate the school for a the year, which has been asked for the past few years, was endorsed.

R. H. Clark has erected a new grape arbor at his home in "Browntown" and expects to erect a new shed when the weather settles. (Browntown was the first block on West Willow Street.)

The grounds of the Inn are being put in shape for the coming season. (The Inn was the Wenonah Inn, east of the Borough Park.)

Turner and McCormick's store was a pleasing sight on Saturday filled with a fine line of fresh southern fruit.

Constable Drummer captured two suspicious characters loitering about town about 12:30 last night, and locked them up until morning. They made the excuse that they were looking for a friend.

After months of agitation enough interest in the Fire Company has been aroused to form such an organization, which was effected last night. A number of representative citizens meet and after weighing the matter well, elected councilman W. B. Oat, President: Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T. W. Savage, Chief, and Joseph Truncer, foreman.

What is everybody's business is nobodies business and for years all have been fireman and though we have been very free from disastrous fires, the lack of organization, so that each one would know his place and fill it in the least possible time, would have been seriously felt had a conflagration broken out. Now all will lend their assistance as before but there will be someone in authority to direct and use the brain and muscle of our stalwarts to the best advantage.

The decision of the Democrats to put a ticket in the field this spring has put the Republicans on the anxious bench as to who the nominees will be. No one seems to know until Saturday night, when the citizen's caucus will be held.

That our borough is a healthy place is proven by the fact that nearly all our doctors are dentists. The death rate is hardly mentionable and there is very little sickness. The population is increasing all the time.

Officer Drummer was not so successful in capturing the last man he went after. In company with officer Dopson and Deputy Savage, he started after John Tilden at Jericho wanted for resisting an officer in Woodbury about a year ago. The two officers entered the house but Tilden's father denied that his son was in the house. One started up the stairs and the other, it is said, looked in the room where the son was hiding but did not see him, when Savage called out "there he goes" and heard some one drop from the window. A hot chase ensued in which the officers shot at the fleeing darky nine times but he waded through a large pond, nearly to his waist, and escaped while they were groping around.

Bachelors and old maids, those very necessary adjuncts to all properly managed towns, as they always know the theory of bringing up children and other duties are remarkable for their scarcity in our borough. We have, though, some comely widows and the prettiest young girls in the State - this is a fact strongly attested by the young men thereabouts.

The borough's nomination election will be held Saturday at the land office, tomorrow evening to name a Mayor for two years, two members of council for three years, one commissioner of appeal for three years, a pound keeper and Justice of the Peace.

L. F. Feitner, a clerk for Job Scott, is nursing a gathering on his finger from a large splinter in it.

The most unique form of entertainment provided for our people for some time was a "Stocking Social" held at the residence of Mrs. Cookson last evening. It was in charge of one of the Missionary Committees of the Presbyterian Church and was most successful. The Orchestra and Mandolin Club furnished entertainment for a while and refreshments took up the remainder of the evening. Each person who attended was supplied with a small silk hose into, which was placed two pennies for each size of stockings worn. The receipts amounted to about $22.50. The inference is very small hosiery worn.

Source: Woodbury Daily Times – via Milt Webb

OBITUARY
J. FRANK SHULL
1843 - 1910

August 8, 1910

Passed away at Rangeley Lake, Maine wither he had gone for his health, at 6: p.m. last Monday the 8th inst. Mr. Shull had not been in good health for some months, being afflicted with a dropsical affection. He was accompanied by his wife and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McCahan and arrived at Rangeley at noon on the 7th. He stood the journey well and seemed to improve. Monday a.m. a change took place and his daughter, Mrs. H. G. Peddle, at home, was summoned by wire. At Jersey City a telegram announcing his death met them. The body reached Wenonah Wednesday morning and the funeral will be held from his late home on Friday, the 12th inst., at 2:30 p.m. Interment in Wenonah cemetery.


7 East Mantua Avenue

Mr. Shull was born in Deerfield, Cumberland County July 25, 1843. His elementary education was acquired in the district schools. Later he was a student at Eastman's Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York, after which he became a traveling salesman for a tobacco firm. Later he was employed as a salesman for Jacoby Wirebock & Co. He traveled for twelve years more for this enterprise finally being admitted to the firm.

Soon after the death of Mr. Jacoby the new firm of Shull, Wirebock & Co. was organized. In 1892 Mr. Shull became the sole owner of the business which he conducted on a much broader plan than heretofore.

In 1875 he built the beautiful modern house at Wenonah in which he has resided with his family ever since.

Mr. Shull has been vice-president of the First National Bank, Glassboro ever since its organization. He was a member of the Baptist Church and for many years an influential Deacon in the First Baptist Church of this city, and a trustee of the South Jersey Institute at Bridgeton, a Baptist institution.

Fraternally he was a member of the Ionic Lodge, Siloam Chapter and Cyrene Commandary, all of Camden, N.J. and Guarantee Lodge, A.O.U.W of this city.

On Nov. 8, 1867 Mr. Shull married Miss Amelia Burdsall of Kentucky, who with two daughters, Mrs. H. G. Peddle of Wenonah, and Mrs. W. J. McCahan, Jr., of Philadelphia survive him.

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 9, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 4 April, 2010

Greetings from President Barbara Capelli

Hello All,

This coming spring reminds me that I have some housekeeping to do. With that being said, I have some reminders and some thoughts to share with you about our Historical Society.

Please, don't forget the Membership dues are past due now…so please, be sure to fill out your membership forms for us. We are updating our current dues list and hope that we all are up to date!

Our March meeting was a HUGE success with The Victorian Lady, what a great program and big thanks again to Vicki for bringing her to Wenonah. This month we have a very much anticipated presentation by Lou McCall who will speak about the history of the Farr family in Wenonah, Vicki's childhood home and currently the McCall's residence. Lou has researched and found many interesting stories and lots of amazing historical facts he will discuss at our April 9th meeting. In May, we will have Heritage Station Winery of Mullica Hill give a presentation on the history of wine and provide a few sips of their best sellers for us.

We continue to have new friends join our membership and look forward to meeting new guests at each meeting. Bring a friend or neighbor to our next meeting and learn about one of the most historical homes in Wenonah.

APRIL Meeting Program

At our next meeting you will hear about the life and times of a local Wenonah man, a Quaker like many then in our town, but also a father who raised ELEVEN children in Wenonah. You will hear about his then secret financial generosity to others, how he developed one of the largest hospitals in Delaware Valley and as president ran the largest and oldest financial institution in New Jersey south of Trenton. Come and hear about Edward Lincoln Farr and I assure you that you will come away being truly amazed how a local relatively unassuming man has had such an impact on Wenonah, New Jersey and even on people in other parts of the of the world.

WHS OFFICERS 2010

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You will also hear about Edward Farr from his son Wally, who my wife Vicki and I visited and videoed during the early 1990's who will also speak about growing up in Wenonah in the early part of the last century. For example, you should come to hear about at what age the children of Wenonah were allowed to bring to Wenonah Schools something that would cause no less than an international news story today… but do also come to also hear what hasn't changed since way back then.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Lou McCall

Littlegrange 1897 - 2010

Edward L. Farr's eighth child was Edith Farr by his second wife Bertha Wallace Farr.

The story in this issue relates Edith's childhood memories of growing up during the early 1900's in Littlegrange, the Farr home in Wenonah built in 1897.

Littlegrange was sold by the Braun family in 1986. In November, 1989 while under the new ownership it was badly damaged by fire of "suspicious origin".

It was subsequently acquired by Lou and Vicki (Braun) McCall. Vicki Braun grew up in the house with brothers George Jr. and Todd so her childhood memories are of Littlegrange.

Now history has repeated for a third time and Littlegrange has once again become a place of childhood memories, this time for the McCall children.

Edward L. Farr was good for Wenonah in a great many ways and his legacy continues on.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

WHS Museum Musings

For all intents and purposes we have sorted, categorized and stored most, if not all of the historical materials that are related to the history of Wenonah.

We are now interested in acquiring "stuff" you may have such as photographs, objects, stories, or anything else that helps explain and/or memorialize Wenonah. You may donate it if you wish, or simply loan it so we can copy, scan or photograph it, your choice.

Growing up in "Littlegrange" Recollections of Edith Ursula Farr

First, a little background; Edward Lincoln Farr, the son of Lincoln D. and Hannah Bailey Farr, was born in the year 1861 in the town of Manchester, Maine and died in Wenonah in 1924. The father, Lincoln D. Farr, was engaged in the manufacture of floor covering oil-cloth in the state of Maine and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in 1889 created the Fair & Bailey Manufacturing Company in Camden.

Edward L. Farr was educated at the Friends' School in Providence, Rhode Island, and for many years was a member of the Society of Friends before moving into Wenonah and joining the First Presbyterian church there. He was a trustee of that organization. He also served as clerk of the Wenonah board of education for many years.

Responsible for many philanthropic activities Mr. Farr constructed Wenonah's' public library which he then donated to the town. He also donated a pipe organ to the Presbyterian Church. In 1883, along with Dr. George W. Bailey and Mayor Wilkins, Mr. Farr assisted in gaining "Borough" status for the town thereby separating it from Deptford Township.



In 1885 Edward L. Farr married Miss Mabel R. Greene, who died in 1899. He and Mabel Greene had five children together. He then married Bertha Wallace in 1901 and had six more children.

In 1897 Mr. Farr completed construction and moved into a mansion that he named "Littlegrange". It was in this beautiful structure that many of his eleven children grew up.

One of the children, Edith Ursula Farr (1861 – 1924). related to her daughter Candace Elizabeth Ridington (married to Dr. William Ridington June 20, 1936), her memories of what it was like growing up in Littlegrange, in the small town of Wenonah, in the early 1900's. Edith was the daughter of Bertha Wallace (1878 – 1952), the second wife of Edward L. Farr. The time period covered by the story is not noted but probably the 1950s. This is her story.

"For me, Littlegrange, my mother's home in Wenonah, New Jersey, was the prototype, the pattern, the source, for nearly all future dreams of lost paradises, and of yearnings to regain them. It's difficult to express adequately what the Littlegrange milieu meant to me then and now. I can only try to evoke the place in scenes, little bites of the golden apple, and to let you try to taste its remaining flavors second hand.

Littlegrange, named after William Morris's home in the Cotswolds, was an enormous house, but especially so to a child. I used to count the bathrooms, alone there were five plus two lavatories, to impress my friends. Built in 1897 it had indeed to be a large house for the eleven children who would live there, though not all at the same time. There were magic places all over the house, places like no others I'd seen, except in books, where houses could take on mythical glows.

All of Littlegrange was special, sacred; but some spots were much, more so than others. Still others were scary, yet never in a really unpleasant way.

One special spot, different from the others because it was so excitingly spooky, was the attic. Or rather, the boarded shallow barrier to the attic at the top of the nursery stairs, for you could not enter the attic there. The door had been boarded up to save heat during the war, but we children liked to imagine some other sinister reason.

We'd tiptoe up the dark stairs and tap on the hollow wall, listen, "' and then run squealing down. Robin may have been the leader in this game, for he used to enjoy being afraid of attics and basements. Often at Westminster, he would insist on having one

of us accompany him to the cellar, though he never told us exactly what he was afraid of.

I had, however, entered the servants' quarters at Littlegrange on the third floor via another stairway. There I saw fascinating rooms, starkly neat under the eaves, outfitted with brass beds. I thought of these rooms when on Masterpiece Theater's "Upstairs, Downstairs", a few scenes revealed the downstairs peoples' bedrooms. Though their quarters were smaller than those at Littlegrange, there was a similarity. Also similar to an "Upstairs, Downstairs" episode was the birth of a servant's baby in the Littlegrange premises. In this case though, the father of the baby was most certainly no one in the Farr family, and no king dined upstairs as King Edward did in the television series , Mumph had not even known the girl was pregnant, so the event surprised her, even though she didn't have to deal with a king at table while the mother-to-be was in labor.

Another magical place, but scary in an entirely different way, was Mumph's, (my grandmother) bath. Mumph herself I remember as somewhat reserved, so undoubtedly her rooms held the same associations for me. The bedroom itself, outside the bath, wasn't scary. I remember the set of silver-backed combs, mirrors, and brushes on her bureau, the photographs, the lovely Chinese rugs, the many windows, and the air of repose.

But for some reason, Mumph's bath made me uneasy and crawly because of its shower. In a poem, years later, I called it a "sarcophagus' shower" Its walls were not porcelain, but rather some kind of metal, perhaps zinc, and once the door was closed, it seemed like a dank prison.

I liked very much indeed the "children's bathroom" at Littlegrange, the one we kids took long sloppy baths in, with boats and rubber animals; and I liked Aunt Dol's (Elizabeth Farr) bath too, quiet and private at the end of a long hallway.

In the cellar at Littlegrange was the "Pumpkin Patch", a marvelous musty smelling room like a club house, I think there may even have been flags there, like in a Rotary Club room, and an old piano stood in one corner. Remembering the musty smell of the room alone makes me excited. I always felt a sense of drama down there, as though we children would dream up plays or act out dramatic situations the minute we crossed the threshold.

The good piano was in the living room, and how I'd love to play it now! It was a lovely Chickering grand set in a wondrous room where I loved to sit alone, daydreaming. I remember vividly sitting in one of the soft armchairs and dreaming about Alan Palmer, the boy all the girls in school loved from afar. I had recently become familiar with a song from South Pacific which I heard on the radio, and so I sat there, singing along to "I'm in love with a wonderful guy," and feeling quite fine about everything» the comfortable scene around me, the privacy I had made for myself in this splendid room, and my love for Alan Palmer which seemed more fun and safe here, far away from the real situation, the grubby scene of cloak rooms, school bells, stale chewing gum, and the smell of cafeteria food.

Opposite the downstairs hallway were two other rooms a library and another sitting room of entirely different flavor from the living room. They contained rough horsehair furniture, or at least felt like horsehair, all prickly as it was. These rooms were darker, more cloistered than the living room.

The sitting room boasted the famous "jitney bus", an enormous plush rocking chair that quite engulfed a child. Sometimes two of us sat in it, first straining so its rockers lurched us so far backwards we expected to turn upside down, then waited to be flung recklessly forward. A few years ago, I realized with some shock that the large armchair I'd sat in at my sister Jeanie's house in Maine was one and the same with the "bus". It is a big chair, but nowhere near as big as I'd remembered. Its proverbial wings are clipped now, for it no longer rocks. But in its heyday, it could take a child on some ride! A visit to Wenonah was never complete without a ride on the "jitney bus".

Paneled walls lined the grand dining room, and the table was long, nearly the length of the long narrow room. I suspect we children didn't eat there regularly, for my memories of that room are hazy. But not hazy is my memory of the fine crèche, the largest I'd ever seen, which rested among pine boughs on the sideboard at Christmas time. I'd guess the clay figures were a foot high, but as in the case of the "jitney bus", my measurements could be off. The crèche arrangement gave the whole dining room a special grace, as far as I was concerned, and I loved to gaze at each figure."

PLEASE NOTE: These "Recollections" require too much space for one newsletter. The remainder will be provided in future issues. J. Sheppard Sr

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday May 14, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 5 May, 2010

Greetings from President Barbara Capelli

Hello All,

Please join us for our next meeting Friday, May 14th at 7:30. Our guest presentation will be given by Penni Heritage of Heritage Vineyards in Richwood. She is a fifth generation farmer with a passion for making great wine. She will be speaking about the history of wine in our region and how Heritage Vineyard started. They have about 100 acres of farmland in Mullica Hill and it is devoted to the vineyards, apples, peaches, and pears. There will be samples and lots of great conversation. Please be sure to join us.

Don't forget if you should come across something particular to the preservation of Wenonah's history or even some great memories of times past in Wenonah, please make sure to come to June's picnic and share your treasures. Eventually, we'd like to document these stories and items in a book about Wenonah. We are hoping Alex Pozza will be with us that evening as he has agreed to record some of our Wenonah Stories.

Therefore, let's welcome Spring, its renewal of all those things living and let's not forget all the people, friends, and family that have shaped us and made us who we are today.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Barbara Capelli

100 Years Ago in Wenonah, May 1910

The need of a baseball team here this summer is already being felt, and some steps are being taken toward the formation of such a club. We have the material and it would take very little money to put up a good team in the field and we could have some amusement on Saturday afternoons. Push the good work along.

A carload of trees arrived yesterday to beautify the already pretty property of Stephan Green. (These trees, white pine, still exist particularly on South Princeton Avenue and significantly Pine Street.)

Daniel W. Brown is laying a new stone pavement in front of his property on West Mantua Avenue. (former Victor Anderson's property)

Always on the watch for anything crooked or suspicious, Officer Drummer tells that he was almost sure he was about able to swoop in on a daring burglar early yesterday morning. As a rule thieves and thugs give him a wide berth knowing well his reputation for fearlessness in capturing them, and so when he saw lights in the home of Dr. Harvey he suspected at once that some daring desperado had foolishly entered his preempted domain to do violence. Accordingly plans were arranged for a surprise of the wrong doers, and just as the swoop was about to take place the timely discovery was made that the doctor and family had arrived home late last night from Newport News, Va. where they had been spending the winter.

The annual reception of the Monday Club was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. H. Lake Gilmour last evening and was a brilliant affair. Vocal and instrumental music and a social hour occupied the attention of the guests for a while when a beautiful collation was served by Caterer

WHS OFFICERS 2010

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Claphan of Woodbury. (The Monday Club still exists today.)

Fred Middleton and Miss Margaret Farr are the graduates of our school, being the only ones passing the county examination just concluded.

Schools of herring are reported in the creek and the boys are having delightful fishing. (This was an annual event in Wenonah for many years) The butchers say they will be glad when the shad season is over.

The automobile, which went through here yesterday, scared several horses and had many craning their necks to see what was causing all the excitement.

Ice dealer Joe Warner has put his wagon on for the summer to serve the people.

The depot grounds will be greatly improved by the addition of flowerbeds.

A lady demonstrator is at Richard Clark's store in the interest of Walker's Gasoline Borax soap that is said to avoid so much hard work in the wash.

The new bicycle ordinance has been posted forbidding riding on the sidewalks.

New trestlework has arrived for Dr. Bailey's coal yards. (A rail siding across from the firehouse.)

The rehearsal for the musicale and cantata last evening was all that can be desired. The young misses that are in charge of the affair are much pleased. The admission is only three cents, the proceeds to be turned over to the church.

Hiram Leap has received another bag of seed from the grange, which he is kindly distributing among his friends and neighbors, who have gardens (The Grange Hall was on North Marion Avenue, originally Joseph Noblitt's Hall, later the American Legion Hall.)

Quite a number of our people witnessed the solar eclipse here this morning. The weather was clear and a good view of the phenomenon could be had.

J.L.Drummer has just completed a nice boardwalk in front of postmaster Wilson's property. (It was quite common at this period to have wooden sidewalks called boardwalks.)

Rev. R.H.Gage will give an illustrated lecture of the tour of the continent made by he and Edward Farr in the Presbyterian Church tonight. (They spent half a year in Europe.) A number of G.A.R. men from this section are to attend services in the M.E.Church on Sunday afternoon. (The Grand Army of the Republic was a Civil War veteran's organization.)

Mr. Lewis, the lessee of the Wenonah Inn, is making arrangements to open it sometime this month.

The electric light wires seem to be burning the tops of the trees in several places about town.

It seems your correspondent was wrongly informed regarding the dog of Dr. Stout having symptoms of rabies. Dr. Stout accounts for the bloody and disheveled appearance of his dog from the fact that the animal received a laceration of one ear while chasing through the swamp, which bleed freely and covered its jaws with blood and dust

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mwebb

WENONAH MUSEUM MUSINGS

Our Museum is somewhat of a disappointment to me but maybe it is simply because I may have expected too much.

Curator Julie Ream has spent a great many Saturdays at the WHS computer entering, categorizing, sorting, and then packing the artifacts the Historical Society inherited. Fortunately we do have the Wenonah Military Academy materials received from the Gloucester County Historical Society. Unfortunately we don't have too much else from the period 1871 to 1904 when the Academy opened its doors.

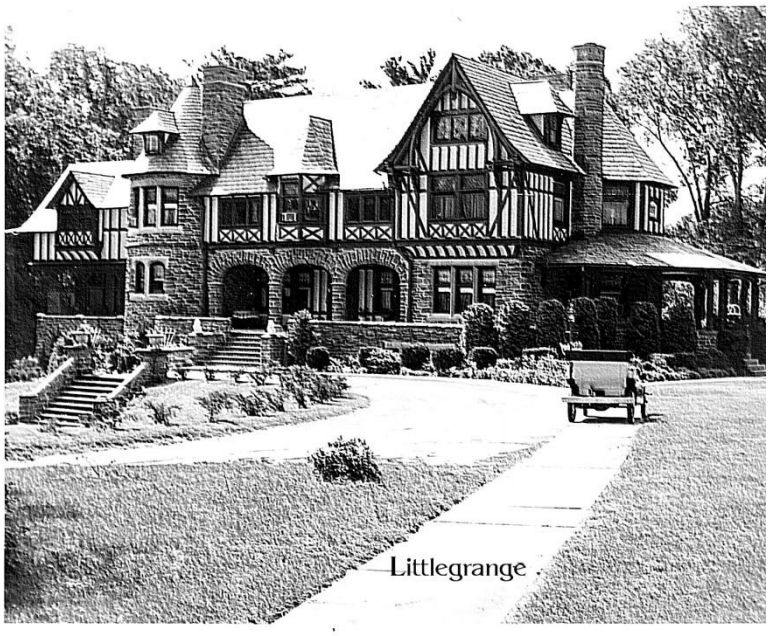
For obvious reasons I find it necessary to once again reach out to the membership with a request for donations of any material even remotely connected to that period of our history. The materials can be donated, or loaned so we can take photographs and save them in that manner. Jack Sheppard Sr.

Growing up in "Littlegrange"
Recollections of Edith Ursula Farr

This is the second part of a three part series describing what it was like being a child of Edward Lincoln Farr and living in the family mansion while growing up in Wenonah. These are remembrances of Farr daughter Edith (1861 – 1924) which she related to her daughter Candace Elizabeth who married Dr. William Ridington in 1936.

The first episode of the series in the April newsletter described the layout of Littlegrange and what some of the rooms, especially the cellar were like.

In this episode she describes what life was like around the holidays, especially Christmas.



Christmas at Wenonah was a regular event for us until Mumph (the grandmother) died. The air seemed alive with special plans and special sights. Sometime before Christmas, Aunt Dol (Elizabeth Farr) loaded up the car with gifts and let us accompany her while she delivered them to Wenonah friends. These gifts were beautifully wrapped, and I'd watch as Aunt Dol carried them to various decorated doorways until they were delivered and out of sight.

The air was cold and bright on those jaunts, in my memory, and the Wenonah houses represented what I now romantically imagine the best of middle class Americana—clean framed homes with modest wreaths and neat lawns. Whenever I remember those trips I picture specifically a white frame house as I viewed it from the car. The door opens and Aunt Dol laughs and chats with the person who obviously likes and respects her a great deal. There was a Norman Rockwell flavor about those scenes, and the deliveries perfectly summed up the Christmas spirit. Sometimes we went by the drugstore on the way home and bought pretzel sticks, the thick long kind. I always think of Wenonah when I see those pretzels today.

The big event at Christmas was unveiling the tree. Unlike later, for the Ridington Christmases, the tree was decorated mysteriously Christmas Eve behind the closed nursery doors, and then unveiled with much fanfare Christmas day. Although I'd not recommend this method for families with children, yet there was something special and exotic about it, for the long wait between Christmas Eve and the next morning was exquisitely excruciating.

How we wanted to see beyond those nursery doors! But rushing in the next .morning was wonderful, although at first, the gifts took on more importance than the tree. We examined it in detail later. One of those Christmases I received a "Sparkle Plenty" doll whose name I never thought much about until recently, when my friend, Gerald Clements, told me the "Plentys" were cartoon characters and Sparkle was one member of the family, along with B. O. Plenty.

I remember well her blonde hair, which my cousin Van seized to drag her along the hallway, to my rage. I still remember my anger and disgust with him over such unbelievable callousness with my "child".

I don't know how often my Aunt Jeanie, her husband Nick, and their children, Jud and Van (their third child, Mark, was born later) came for Christmas, but one year, they were certainly there. Aunt Edie and Aunt Clara, actually great aunts, were always there, as was Great Granddaddy Cooper, and of course, Aunt Mike and her children, Maurie and John, who lived close by. The great aunts and great grandfather deserve special attention later in these

pages; they were marvelous figures whose beauty, age, and dignity lent a special atmosphere to the gatherings they, attended.

And so, the nursery was the scene of special holidays, as well as the place where relaxation, conversation, and play were carried on by children and adults alike. It was there the adults sat comfortably in the evening, Aunt Dol smoking, Mumph .sipping some sort of nightcap which I later learned was beer, us playing with the building brick set, or just sitting listening.

Aunt Dol had virtually a wing of the house to herself, where in addition to her bedroom and bath, she used a comfortable little studio for arts and crafts. There, she painted simple oil landscapes, which ranked her as a full fledged professional artist in my eyes, until Mother told me Aunt Dol wasn't an artist in the way I thought. Tables in this little room were spread with wooden angel figures, about seven inches high, she painted the angels in various pastels and stacked them up for Christmas. I loved these angels, and couldn't understand why my aunt was not a real artist because of them. I still have two of these angel figures, who smile from their half moons in my guest bedroom.

Aunt Dol was the source of-games at Littlegrange. Some of the most memorable romps were the bedtime "elevator" rides, when Tante linked her hands to form a stirrup, let us step into them with one foot, and then lifted and dumped us into bed. The lifting and dumping gave our stomachs the sensation of being in an elevator; thus the name. It was a simple game and a simple gesture- the tossing of giggling children in the air. And yet, I remember it with enormous fondness and special affection.

Another activity Aunt Dol directed was the drawing of our silhouettes from wall shadows. We'd sit hushed while she traced the outlines of our profiles directly into black construction paper, or onto plain paper to be transferred later. Recently, I discovered one of those silhouettes, Joy's, in a trunk in the attic at Westminster. I don't know if any other survived.

Sometimes, Aunt Dol launched with little warning into the role of Katishaw from The Mikado, the part she sang at camp in New Hampshire, and shrieked out, "Assist me! All of you!"

But more routinely for a while, she carried off an even more dazzling tour de force. This was her magical ability to "swallow" a prune pit and cause it to emerge directly and painlessly from one of her ears. I was quite transfixed by this art, which I demanded to see over and over in an effort to catch the pit on its journey, or to figure out the mystery in some other way. I must have been small, because I never could detect any flaws in the process, mostly because my method of detecting flaws was to inspect her ears after the pit had emerged. I was forced to conclude that somehow, she probably did ingest the pit and allow it to travel within her body, though I wasn't a hundred percent convinced. Mercifully, I never tried the trick myself. As an adult, I'm delighted to imagine my wonderful gullibility at that stage of 'childhood, whatever age it was.

Another intermittent game involved the fascinating wall intercoms connecting the first and second floors. One was in the kitchen and connected with the nursery; another was outside Mumph's room. We'd relay strategic messages back and forth on those amusing gadgets, probably annoying the adults at times, and I imagine if I were offered the chance to play with them today, I'd be just as annoying.

Then there were the carved bears on the posts of each main staircase landing. Kissing the bears was really Jeanie's original game. Sometimes I'd follow suit, but only in pale imitation of her resounding and serious smacks for each bear, as she struggled up each stair, to be lifted at strategic points.

Rolling down the steep front bowl of a terrace outside the house, "the Hollow Hill", was a game the home movie camera captured. Today, at least three of the Ridington children plus Maurie, our cousin, and a neighbor boy, can still be viewed, seriously eyeing the long tumble down, then putting the project into grinning, and finally chuckling practice. Robin was the leader of the bunch, his spinning on target, his aim sure. The camera captures me, however, taking my sights and aim, and then rolling quite crookedly a short distance down the terrace, but smiling nevertheless.

PLEASE NOTE: These “Recollections” require too much space for one newsletter. The final segment will be in the next issue. J. Sheppard Sr

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday September 10, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 6 September, 2010

Greetings from President Barbara Capelli

Hello All,

This month's meeting is our "Meet and Greet Return from Summer Soiree". Friday, September 10th at 7:30 pm. Please be sure to bring a friend who may be interested in a membership.

For many years members brought appetizers and/or beverages to the McCall's porch. This year we will meet at the Train Station Community Center where we can enjoy the outside train platform, weather permitting and still have the comforts of the indoors. Huge thanks go to Vicki and Lou McCall for so graciously hosting our September porch party for those many years.

We are asking members to bring a favorite side dish, snack, appetizer or beverage for all to share. We also are hoping to have photos of past displays from Betty Rose, Frank Eggert's House Plaque book, and Jacks' photos and postcards. And as usual, Historical Society merchandise for sale.

Our goals for this season include as always increasing our membership, and providing thoughtful, informative, and historically relevant Wenonah programs. For instance, in our October meeting we will have a presentation from the Harts, Dominys, and Cowles about the Fire Company.

October is Fire Prevention month and we are sure to enjoy a historically interesting program by former and current Fire Company members.

We continue to work on archiving our memorabilia, photos, maps, and writings. If you would like to volunteer please contact Barb Capelli (856 364 1306) or Vicki McCall (856 468 9555).

Thank you.

WHS OFFICERS 2010

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Trustee	Louis McCall

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Wenonah Museum

Progress on the Museum during the summer of 2010 can best be described as slow, to stopped. However this is to be expected as the Military Academy artifacts are relatively easy to catalog and stow, while photos, written materials, historic documents and such are much more difficult.

Member and author Marjorie Lentz has contributed much time and talent assisting with the narrative for the "Origins of Wenonah" slide show. When this is completed a slide presentation of Wenonah history can be made with substantial information for each slide, some of which has come from Marjorie's files and hasn't been seen or heard before.

Hopefully now that fall is here there will be more time for this worthwhile project.

Wenonah Historical musings

Shown below is the actual cover design for Wenonah's Fourth of July program for the year 1910.



An enigma encountered while researching and cataloging our program collection is that although we have the program for the first celebration in 1872, we have none going forward until 1897 and then another gap until 1909. Should anyone have any of those please let us add them to the collection or at least make a copy.

. Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

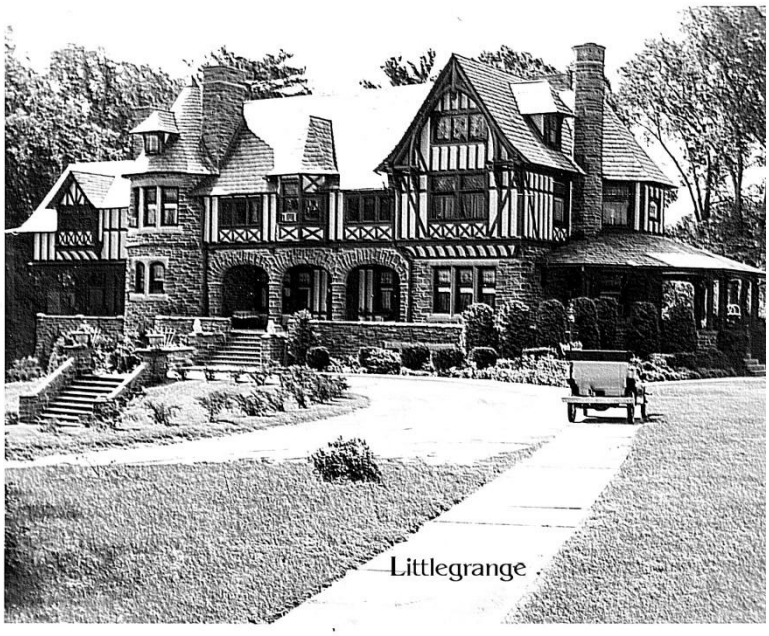
Growing up in "Littlegrange" Recollections of Edith Ursula Farr

This is the last part of a three part series describing what it was like being a child of Edward Lincoln Farr and living in the family mansion while growing up in Wenonah. These are remembrances of Farr daughter Edith (1861 – 1924) which she related to her daughter Candace Elizabeth who married Dr. William Ridington in 1936.

The first episode of the series in the April news-letter described the layout of Littlegrange and what some of the rooms, especially the cellar were like.

In the second part she described what life around the holidays, especially Christmas.

In this final part of her recollections she describes the physical amenities of Littlegrange, both inside and outside in exquisite detail.



Robin and Maurie, close in age, played many games together. But I was quite awed, as a child, by my cousin Maurie, five years older than I, who seemed so terribly grown up and self-assured and who cut quite a figure with her blonde hair.

I coveted everything she owned. I remember coloring happily in my own book, one with large pictures of balls and toys and animals, until I saw her book, one with fairies and elves and stars. I lost all interest in my own book and instead, dreamed of one like hers.

Maurie has always been a great story teller, and even when she was a child, she used to spin out endless engaging tales for Robin and me, illustrating them by drawing on a magic slate, the kind you can instantly erase with a flick of the plastic page. Characters appeared before our eyes while Maurie created adventure after adventure for them. Today, Maurie continues to write, and has succeeded in publishing stories while also maintaining a journal hundreds of pages long by now.

Later, Maurie visited Littlegrange with a- "grownup" pocketbook which dominated all my thinking. I was probably not yet ten, but I felt grownup enough to have such a pocketbook. My wishes were fulfilled when my parents let me choose such a pocketbook, a red shoulder bag which I prized and can still picture perfectly today.

Other outdoor games at Littlegrange included croquet and badminton. I'm glad I can lay claim to having participated in such an old fashioned and wonderfully Jamesian game as croquet. Remembering the faded colors of the worn balls and mallets, and the feel of the wickets, I half confuse myself with Isabel Archer or some other turn of the century figure. But play croquet we did, on ground tunneled by moles, so that I could imagine the cute furry creatures beneath me as I played. I don't remember the adults playing much with us, though they probably played sometimes. Badminton was even more fun, and in later years, I continued to play badminton with my friend Anna Miller in Westminster.

The equipment for all these games and more I never played, like tennis, waited for us in the hall closet which held its own special musty sporty

odor. This closet was situated near one of the side porches, "by which one could reach the back garden where we held Easter egg hunts. All the porches were magnificent deep stone structures from which one could hole up in a wicker chair or, more frequently, perch on the stone sides, miniature walls, really, and survey the world. We used to walk around the house as far as we could on those stone walls, inching carefully around the pillars. Often, the family sat on the front porch, and there are pictures of us there: Mother, in a striped seersucker skirt, flanked "by Jeanie and me, sucking our thumbs; Mumph with John, Maurie's brother; Aunt Jeanie, grinning; me, with a corsage pinned to my dress for my tenth birthday later on. Those were casual, pleasant moments.

Toward the front of the house was a stone gazebo, the "summer house", where I especially loved to sit. It was surrounded by enormous evergreen trees, which particularly attracted me. It was there I think I began to be consciously aware of trees' beauty, though I'm not sure from this vantage point how strong that consciousness was. I used to climb part way up one or two, but was content mostly to touch them and gaze upward into them as I stood below and within, sheltered in their circle of branches which reached the ground and formed a cozy room around me. Sometimes I fantasized about what it would be like to live there under the branches. That lawn, and the lawn at Bryn Mawr, were my favorites in all the world, and I have yet to find another lawn which measures up.

The Littlegrange lawn and facade were majestic and prominent. I wonder now, with all the valuable items Inside the house, did the Farrs worry much about robbery? They were, indeed, robbed once when my mother was six, on the night before her sister Jeanie was born. In the morning, it was discovered that all the flat silverware had been stolen, along, with some large cut glass bowls which were found later, discarded. My mother and Aunt Dol were most astonished, however, to learn the thieves had dumped all the sugar from the silver sugar bowls. The two girls reasoned that if they were thieves, they would have stolen the sugar, a more valuable item in their minds, and in point of fact, a rationed .item too in 1918.

Littlegrange days are far from my daily milieu, and have been for years and years—since I was ten, in fact. It amazes me how deeply the place touched me, in a mythical way. I guess the house and my associations with it are mythical to me, a symbol of golden rich days and of imagination, because everything there was so spacious, so unbounded. I knew it all was, even at the time, and so< didn't take it entirely for granted, although I was only a child. Possibly, too, because my access to the place was cut off so abruptly, I was left with a sense of mystery and irreparable loss. It was as though Littlegrange had disappeared. Thus, I began to dream that I'd miraculously found it again, and with rejoicing and wonder, wandered its halls and rooms again. Sometimes, I dreamed of other large houses, in which I discovered more and more rooms, reminiscent of Littlegrange, or I'd dream that our Westminster house, or the one I was currently living in, was physically connected to Littlegrange or to rooms like its rooms. As recently as last year, 1983, I dreamed that Jack and I moved to Princeton, where he had, in reality, applied for a job, and settled into our house. In the dream, I awoke next morning to look out the back window and discover that Littlegrange lay right next door, quiet, majestic, and unchanged, to keep us company. I was overjoyed and felt I'd come home again. In truth, Littlegrange and all it represents will remain forever unchanged for me, a little like figures on Keats' Grecian urn, unconsummated but intact in the precious care of my memory.

PLEASE NOTE: Many thanks to Vicki and Lou McCall who have spent a great deal of time and effort seeking out and recording the history of their home known as Littlegrange. By doing so they have preserved a grand part of Wenonah history.

J. Sheppard Sr

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday October 8, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 7 October, 2010

October Meeting Program

The Cowles, Dominys and Harts will be discussing their lives in the fire company from 1960 through 1988. They will briefly discuss fire company history, life as a member and the friendships made, major fires during the time frame, innovations, and humorous stories of fire fighting and non-fire fighting activities. The final part of the presentation will be one of many movies made by the fire company during those years, entitled "The Red Hot Mamas" depicting life in the Wenonah Fire Company if it were run by women.

Early Days in Wenonah

Street lighting

The first lights along our streets were oil lamps, provided by citizens, that needed to be lit each evening and extinguished some time later. According to the Minutes of the Borough Commission May 8th, 1883 a Resolution was adopted to ". . assume the care of filling, cleaning, lighting and extinguishing all street lamps that are located by private individuals". However the cost of the oil and other materials for the lamps was at the expense of the residents. At the July 1883 meeting Mr. George Vogt was hired to light, extinguish and maintain the lights for the sum of Fifty dollars a year. Shortly after this period the Borough started purchasing and installing street lamps at public expense. By the end of 1883 many more lamps had been purchased and installed requiring George Vogt's contract to be adjusted. Going forward he was to be paid 30 cents per lamp per month.

WHS OFFICERS 2010

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Trustee	Betty MacLeod
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(Editor's Note; In view of the many electrical outages in Wenonah recently we may have to go back to installing and maintaining our own street lights and possibly building an electricity generating plant.)

Just kidding of course but we do have problems with interruption of electricity to Wenonah needing immediate attention. I have expressed my concerns to Mayor Capaldi and Chief Scheetz as these outages are not only a nuisance, but dangerous as well. Electronic devices are rendered useless along with hard-wired telephones. Many senior citizens don't have cell phones so emergencies cannot be reported if phone lines are disabled.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Wenonah Historical musings

In last month's newsletter I mentioned the problem of gaps in our July 4th program collection. We have the program for the first celebration in 1872 but none going forward until 1897 and then another gap through 1909.

This then raises the question of continuity of July 4th celebrations in Wenonah since its founding.

I recently spent time reviewing Milt Webb's collection of news clippings and found a significant number of articles in local papers reporting celebrations in Wenonah. These reports indicated there were parades, speeches, athletic contests, and for many years fireworks.

In view of these findings I feel safe in suggesting there have been Independence Day observances in Wenonah continuously since its founding in 1871. There are very few communities in the state, or in the country for that matter, that can make that claim.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

The following is the first of two parts of an article written by Wenonah historian Milton Webb. Milt was born in Wenonah and loved the town more than anyone I have known. He retired from employment early for health reasons and spent a great amount of the rest of his life at the Gloucester County Historical Society museum studying Wenonah history.

There were two hotels, the first being the Wenonah House Hotel which was also among if not the first building in Wenonah. .

The Hotels of Wenonah by Milton H. Webb

Wenonah was a housing development created by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. This organization was a mix of men associated with local businesses, the West Jersey Railroad and Philadelphia investors. The West Jersey Railroad in Deptford Township below Woodbury had been realigned and a new station built called the "New Mantua Station at Wenonah." This was sited in the middle of what had previously been Isaac Stevenson's sweet potato field. This was the area proposed for the new town on the West Jersey Railroad. In December 1870, the decision was made to form this land company and to buy 572 acres of land in this area for $69,575.

One of the men attending this preliminary meeting was William Frederick Alien, Resident Engineer of the West Jersey Railroad. He was the son-in-law of Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the railroad and director of the Land Company. Alien's role in the creation of Wenonah was vital, as it was his plat, which would be the guideline for the future evolution of this new town.

In Alien's plan, the focal point was to be a "boarding house" facing a two block park area. Adjacent to this was the new railroad depot and a two block business section. The streets were laid out in a grid pattern, roughly north and south, east and west. "Wenonah was an early example of a railroad suburb that was established around a transportation node both to derive profit from the sale of land and to provide ridership for the railroad itself."

The proposed Wenonah House, the "Boarding House," was specified to be 45 by 52 feet, three stories high with a back building 26 by 40 feet surrounded by a veranda 12 feet in width. It was described as being Doric in style but the cupola on top gave it a distinctive Italianate style, very Victorian. Each room was to have water and gas, a luxury for this period. An interesting detail was a windmill to provide power to pump water into a tank on the roof.

Bids came in from as far away as Cape May City. One typical bid of interest was for "the Boarding House at Mantua Station in the sum of $15,800 signed by Sterling Clayton, guaranteed by E. Stokes Co. of Woodbury, dated April 3,1871." The low bidder was Harden and Brother of Camden in the amount of $15,000, for which they were awarded a contract.

In 1872, the new Wenonah House opened for its first summer season with Benjamin Packer, a local resident, in charge. Although the town was sparsely populated with only ten houses, the hotel was fully booked up for the season. Newspaper accounts give a glimpse into the activities of the boarding house. Mentioned were plays, cakewalks, pigeon matches, yachting parties, concerts and turtle suppers. One such event is related in the local newspaper:

“The guests of the Wenonah House prior to closing enjoyed a reed bird supper, and the last hop of the season, impromptu”. At the supper the reed birds were invitingly imbedded in the only toast offered as if they were anxiously expecting appreciation, which they fully met with, in connection with the hot waffles and dressing of "sugar and spice and all that is nice." Every luxury was included in the amply spread table, and all did full justice to the repast, and were reluctant to leave the supper room radiant with brightness and good cheer. Dancing on the 'light fantastic toe" was heartily enjoyed until the participants were well tired. This was followed by a tableaux and stair dance, so vivid, so real that all could participate in the mirth. The respected proprietor and his lovely wife have our warmest thanks for their cordial hearty efforts for the comfort and pleasure of their guests, and as we parted it was with the earnest wish and prayer that they might be encouraged for many years with the same well filled house of cultured and pleasant people."(1) Wenonah was never a "boom town" and has had its periods of depression. One such period was in the early 1880's. Bookings at the hotel became meager; houses built on speculation by the Land Company remained unsold. It was decided to hire a resident agent to create momentum for the land development. The man

hired was Ephraim J. Lloyd of Salem. He pursued his job with vigor and his first action was to persuade the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to get out of the hotel business and sell the Wenonah House. The sale was to an Ann Linch of Philadelphia and then to a Samuel Shreeve of Mt Laurel in the same year and finally to Mahlon Newton of Woodbury in 1884.

Newton was an experienced hotel manager. He entered the hardware business at the young age of eighteen and four years later opened and managed the Newton Hotel at Broad and Delaware Streets in Woodbury. The first new approach, at the suggestion of Lloyd, was that the hotel would be opened all year. Flyers were distributed which read: "Go To Wenonah the new town on the West Jersey Rail Road 11 miles from Philadelphia before making arrangements for the summer or for the year. No healthier location in the vicinity of Philadelphia fine rolling country and the best of water, boating and fishing."

In 1884, he opened the Wenonah House hosting a reception for one-hundred invited guests. There was a string orchestra from Philadelphia, Chinese lanterns, flags and flowers. This-set the stage for the coming season. There were elaborate dinners, tableaux, lectures, yachting parties and hops. General William Sewell, the supervisor of the West Jersey Railroad and a frequent guest of the hotel, on several occasions provided private cars to be added to the excursion trains for trips to the shore. The period of 1884 to 1887 was very successful.

Unfortunately the ownership of Newton ended in 1887 when the building and grounds were sold to Senator George Pfieffer, Jr. of Camden for $12,000. He was a successful businessman owning a coal and lumber business, and also the water supply business for the city of Camden. His hotel experience involved the ownership of a hotel at Brown's Mills In-The-Pines. Business at the Wenonah House diminished rapidly, possibly because of absentee, ownership and lack of interest. In 1890, the building remained empty and reflected poorly on the financial condition of the community. The newspaper wrote "There is no probability that the hotel will open this season. As things go at present the Wenonah House is of no advantage either to the owner or to the borough."(2)

1. Constitution, 1 September 1874

2. Ibid, 11 March 1891

Next month's concluding installment, the second hotel in Wenonah, *The Wenonah Inn*.

Wenonah 101 Years Ago October 6, 1910

Speech by President Woodrow Wilson to the Cadets of the Wenonah Military Academy

"I wish it were possible" said Mr. Wilson "to impress upon fellows at your age the great importance of what you are doing here. I suppose, as most boys do, that school is a necessary evil and few realize it is to equip them for a better battle of life. The men who loaf don't get anywhere, don't amount to any thing; it is only the men who achieve who get anywhere.

"It is a question for you to answer whether you are going to be mere tools in the hands of someone else or are going to be masters and take hold of things. Don't be foolish enough to ask what the sense of this is. You go to the gymnasium and wonder what the use of it all is. You will never perform on the parallel-bars with your business partner. You are expending good muscular strength and wonder what the use of it all is. You are just getting your muscles in shape to answer the call when the time comes for you to use them.

It is just like the piece of structural steel fitted in all its fibers to meet the strain in the steamship when the stress of storm of the Atlantic comes. It is just so with your books. They are getting you men fully fit when the contingency arises and you are called upon to wrestle with the problems of life; you are mentally fit to meet the stress. Don't lose sight of the fact that you want to play a creditable part in the world to do something in its great work.

A school like this is a breeding place for men. Some one said, "If you would consider me witty, I must ask you to make a joke. If you would be considered educated, I must ask you to know something. The witty man who preceded me as head of the university (Princeton) once told an anxious mother whose son was about to begin the course: "Madam, we guarantee satisfaction or return the boy" Most men I know, after their years of experience, would like to go back and be schoolboys again and gain the greater profit from the advantages then obtained. Take the advice of one who knows, who has been through it, and lay hold of all that you can here obtain for the building of your bodies and minds, that you may be useful citizens in this great land."

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday November 12, 2010

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 8 November, 2010

October Meeting Program

Barbara Conway and Charles Horan will present a program about the NJ Lenni Lenape Indians and will include information about her father James Conway, and how he began his life-long hobby of searching for and collecting Indian relics. They will display samples of artifacts from her father's extensive collection, many of which were found in and near Wenonah.

Barbara will also relate some history about the Conway family in Wenonah starting when her grandfather, a Pennsylvania Railroad accounting employee, was transferred from the "Pennsy" offices in Pittsburgh to its offices in Philadelphia.

William Conway served on Borough Council from 1931 to 1944 and as the 12th mayor of Wenonah from 1945 through 1959.

Barbara Conway continues the long-tradition of involvement in the affairs of Wenonah that started with her grandfather and continued through her father.

Ruth Inez Shuster Former WHS Member

Ruth Inez Shuster and Irma Shuster Coates, Reunited in Death

Former WHS member and long time Wenonah resident Ruth Shuster and sister-in-law Irma Shuster Coates are now interred in the same location, Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro. They both died within six months of each other, Ruth most recently on October 7, 2010, Irma on April 25th of this year.

Ruth's husband Oram was the son of James Shuster who at one time was both Wenonah Tax Collector and a barber with his shop and office in the former ticket office for the West Jersey Railroad Co., known to many as the Wild Iris flower shop.

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The father, James, in addition to being a barber, was also an avid photographer, merchant and postcard creator, and many of his postcards appear from time to time on the EBay computer auction and at flea markets in New Jersey.

We are thankful to the Coates family for the many contributions of historic materials to the Society, and to Ruth Shuster for being a devoted member of the WHS until her illness took her away from Wenonah.

The Hotels of Wenonah by Milton H. Webb

Last month's newsletter provided the first of two installments describing the first structure in Wenonah, the "Wenonah House", a hotel intended to attract people to this new town along the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad. The first article described the early days of the hotel starting in 1872 and the period through the early 1890's when the advent of the automobile caused doubt about the future of the hotel. We continue with the concluding installment.

In May 1891, there was a public sale of the House and its furnishings by M. Thomas and Son of Philadelphia. The sale was a disaster; only the furniture was sold. Charles Middleton of Philadelphia held a $7,000 mortgage on the building and foreclosure soon followed. The building was put on the market and sold for $5,000 to Stephen Greene of Philadelphia and Wenonah.

Stephen Greene was one of the early pioneers of Wenonah. He was the owner of Helfenstein, Lewis and Greene, one of the largest printing firms on the East Coast. Mr. Greene and his family vacationed for several years in Wenonah as guests at the Wenonah House. In 1880, he purchased a tract of land and built a large home with many outbuildings including a barn, stables and a greenhouse suitable for him to go into the florist business. His love was Wenonah and he became very supportive of the growth and

betterment of the new village. One large philanthropic gesture was the financing of the construction of the new Methodist Episcopal Church (E. Willow St. at S. Marion Ave.).

In 1892, Stephen Greene created a syndicate incorporated as the "Wenonah Inn Company" made up of himself, Thomas Whitney Synnott, Dr. George Washington Bailey, J. Frank Shull, and Charles M. Wilkins. Mr. Synnott was the president of the Whitney Glass Works of Glassboro and had retired that year. Dr. Bailey, a Civil War veteran, had been a medical doctor, but because of overwork had health problems; he then went very successfully into the coal business and amassed a considerable fortune. J. Frank Shull was the owner of the wholesale grocery firm of Shull, Wireback and Company, Philadelphia. Charles M. Wilkins was the owner of Partrick, Carter and Wilkins, manufacturers of electrical supplies.

Plans were formulated to build a new hotel on the site of the old Wenonah House, which was to be demolished. It was designed to accommodate one hundred and fifty guests, three times as many as the old hotel. The total cost would exceed $70,000, a considerable amount of money in that period. The paper reported "a sufficient supply of water has been secured and the electrical apparatus is of the latest design, the plumbing, always one of the most important in a public house, has been put into the most competent hands." There was a bowling alley, billiard room, barber shop, a 32 by 60 foot amusement room, laundry and engine-dynamo room.

The West Jersey Railroad started construction of a new "handsome" station as part of the agreement with the syndicate in their guarantee to build a new larger hotel. This still stands today as the Wenonah Community Center.

Other improvements followed the 1892 construction of the Wenonah Inn. In 1894, servants' quarters were built on South Marion Avenue. Additional "shedding" for carriages and horses of the guests was erected on East Cherry Street. A large athletic field with a grandstand was laid out on East Cedar Street. An extensive sewage system, remnants of which still exists today, was built not only for the hotel, but also for the houses of the community. A park area called "Camel Back" was



Wenonah Inn *circa 1890*

The Wenonah Inn was originally opened in 1872 as the Wenonah House Hotel. It was one of the first buildings in the town. Eventually expanded becoming the pictured Wenonah Inn, it was converted into the Wenonah Military Academy opening in 1904

created for the hotel patrons and the citizens of the town. This is now known as the Frank Stewart Estate acquisition, Comey's Lake. A wooded area on West Cedar Street called the "Glen" was cleared and "put into good order" for the visitors of the Inn. A new lake was formed at the foot of South Clinton Avenue with a large boathouse. This created accessibility to the Great Mantua Creek for canoeing which was quite popular during this period. This pond was called Greene's, then Lake Cornelia, and later Parker's Lake. A small golf course was built extending from the recreational field to "Camel Back." Flagstone sidewalks replaced the old wooden walkways.

The hotel was an instant success and business was described as "booming." This brought back memories to the townspeople, of the Wenonah House under the management of Mahlon Newton in the 1880's. The staff consisted of a manager, chief clerk, room clerk, night clerk, chef, headwaiter, head cook, head engineer, head porter, master of ceremonies, waiters and bellboys.

On several occasions special trains were put on the railroad siding for large dances and special affairs for the convenience of the patrons. One such affair was the performance of an opera advertised in July 1890: "Wenonah Inn. Extraordinary event grand opera "FAUST" by Gounod sung in concert by the Wolffunger Grand Opera Company of Philadelphia [with a] chorus of 40 people"

Another interesting account was in 1895: "A novel parade took place last Saturday afternoon by the guests of the Inn who have their teams here. There were about 35 turnouts and these were gaily decorated. The occupants carried flags and flowers while handsome horses held their heads high and seemed-to feel they were engaged in the novelty as much as their owners. After parading through Wenonah they drove to Mantua and Woodbury." In 1899 the Wenonah Inn Company sold their real estate holdings back to Stephen and Martha Greene for an unknown reason. It could have been that there was a growing apprehension that trains previously carrying guests to the Inn were now transporting them to seashore points. The railroads during this period had created spurs to most of the off-shore islands, giving access to the growing

popularity of salt-water bathing. The advent of the automobile after the turn of the century gave freedom to explore new vacation spots. Wenonah was no longer considered a summer resort destination

In 1903, Stephen Greene started extensive restoration of the first floor of the building and the grounds. Rumors circulated that he was going to build a large swimming pool. These changes seemed strange considering the dim outlook for the future of the building. These doubts were answered on September 20, 1904 when the Inn building opened under a new name - the Wenonah Military Academy.

Milton H. Webb

Wenonah 110 Years Ago August, 1900

Plover gunning is much enjoyed by many of our sportsmen.

The quoits fever has struck the town, and it is said some of our enthusiasts don't have time for their meals even.

One of the Western Union telegraph-wires was found burned out at the depot yesterday, from the storm the night before.

E. Ward Wilkins, wife/and daughters, and son, are on an extended trip to Niagara. Falls, New York State, and other summer points of interest.

The building of the lockup must have had a very salutary effect here as it has not yet had an occupant. But our evil doers — of which we have very few — will have to keep a sharp look out for Constable Drummer for he is a determined sleuth.

During the heavy storm Tuesday night the water pipes in Dr. Gilmour's residence seemed all aflame. At nearly every flash, of lightning, the current would snap and crack from the faucet and sparks would shoot out several feet.

Watches, clocks and jewelry repaired. Called for and delivered on receipt of postal. A.F. Jenkins, Wenonah, N.J.

Woodbury Daily Times

Wenonah 110 Years Ago November, 1900

A masquerade ball was held in Noblitt's Hall last night. There were about thirty present from Mantua, Westville, Woodbury and Wenonah.

Butter prices are going up but Turner and McCormick are keeping their prices as low as possible.

The Junior Athletic Club will open their football season tomorrow with a game with Sterling Junior of West Philadelphia. Admission to the ball grounds will be free.

The democrats of the borough think they will poll something like fifty votes next Tuesday. Time will tell just how many are of that persuasion however.

Stephan Greene has moved some of the furniture of the Inn to his boathouses in Atlantic City.

All the arrangements have been made for the vaudeville entertainment and food by the Republican Club in Noblitt's Hall. The club members are looking forward to the best time in the history of the organization. Cards of admission have been issued. The program will be interspersed with returns by telegraph when they come in.

Headline*: McKinley and Roosevelt Chosen by the People to Conduct Affairs of State -- A Republican Land Slide*, Wenonah results, McKinley 89 Bryan 21.

REWARD The subscriber will pay $5.00 reward for information which will lead to the conviction of a party or parties who alleged to burn Noblitt's Hall on Saturday evening-Joseph Noblitt, Wenonah

A new telephone is being put in the depot to connect to the marl pits.

Regular services in the churches tomorrow with prospects of large congregations. Our pastors are quite popular with their people and the houses are always nearly full.

The cottage prayer meeting of the ME congregation was held at the house of W.J. McGowan last evening. Tonight it will be held at the home of Mrs. Cline.

An extension of South Marion Avenue is to be laid out across the meadows (Mantua Creek) making a more direct course and shorter drive.

The entire number of lots of land of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company –268 lots- were sold at their recent sale. Dr. Bailey, Stephen Greene, and Thomas Synnott were the principal buyers. This practically puts the land company out of business as they have nothing more to be in business for and it will probably be disbanded.

George Dilkes lost a valuable cow Saturday. (He would graze it in the park.)

Who would bother with a horse? No one after a ride in Blair Smith's Locomobile. Mr. Smith almost froze a Times representative on a trip from here to Woodbury this morning. Most of the time the speed was fully 20 miles per hour.

Woodbury Daily Times
Milton H. Webb archives

Wenonah Historical Society

Next Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday January 14, 2011

Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 1 January, 2011

Wenonah 1871 - 2011

About 140 years ago in February of 1871 a town was created along the right-of-way of the West Jersey Railroad Co. and named Wenonah.

A settlement located in and part of Deptford Township; Wenonah was lovingly and carefully nurtured by several of its creators until 1883 when the first formal government was established, a Commission.

By this time there were about 50 dwellings in existence and a permanent population of about 300 people living here.

The first members of the Commission were Dr. George W. Bailey (elected President), C.B. Johnson, Isaac Stevenson, Andrew Carey (WHS members the Laders live in his house across from the park), M.H. Perry, Thomas W. Synnott and J. Frank Shull.

The Commission government continued until April of 1896 when through the efforts of Dr. George W. Bailey a bill was approved by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey awarding "Borough" status to Wenonah. Charles M. Wilkins was the first elected Mayor of Wenonah.

Coming forward in time Wenonah has had 16 individuals elected to the position of mayor, recently sworn-in Mayor Tom Lombardo becoming the 17th.

Given the major financial problems facing our towns today, our continuing existence as a separate, community will be tested.

About Former WHS President Don Ralston

For anyone who hasn't already heard, Don and Catherine Ralston were involved in a serious auto accident Christmas Eve afternoon on Route 45 near Woodbury Heights. Both suffered significant injuries but Catherine's were the worst. As of this writing she is in Cooper Hospital awaiting release to a rehabilitation facility. Meanwhile Don is at home.

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January Meeting Program

Member Paul Lader will present a slide presentation on the Civil War.

Wenonah 137 Years Ago February, 1874

The Rev. James Burns, of the M. E Church, has been assisting Pastor C. B. Ogden in the revival service* now in progress in the neighboring village of Mantua, Rev. James Burns is a very forceful speaker and his labors here have resulted in great good to the church.

"You never miss the water till the spring runs dry" and you never know the importance of a barber shop until the establishment is closed. The tonsorial establishment at the Inn was a perfect boon to us all, the closing of the Inn deprived us of the tonsorial artist and now there is a premium offered for a good barber.

Mrs. Eliza Packer has recovered from her late illness.

Grocer Eldore Richmond was complimented with a visit from his brother George, who is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Richmond holds quite a responsible position with the United States Biscuit Company.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being the common cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a goodly sprinkling of the older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt's Hall and indulged in the favorite winter pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

Miss Wilson will spend the month of February at the capital of the nation, where she has quite a large circle of friends,

We regret to learn that good natured Blair Smith Is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold.

The recently organized choir in the M E church, composed of the young people of the congregation, is meeting with gratifying success. Good singing and good preaching go hand in hand.

The Rev. A. P. Botsford of the Presbyterian Church gave two very interesting discourses on Sabbath last. In the morning he spoke of "The Gospel's production of holiness" and in the evening the subject was "The antidote to fear and sorrow, or Jesus and the ruler of the synagogue."

There are quite a number of Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over near Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

The anniversary service* of the society of the Y. P. S. C. E of the M. E. Church took place last Sunday and drew quite a large gathering of friends from the surrounding country. Mr. Hamilton Turner took charge of the services.

Boys and girls keep your eyes on next week's papers; there will be something in the Wenonah items that will interest you.

Woodbury Times

From the Internet
Actual Church Bulletins

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced during church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: will be 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love.
- Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..
- The church will host an evening of dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

WHS Newsletter News

Except for one regrettably short period when Brenda Birkland took over as editor I have been producing the WHS Newsletter for eight years.

The time has come for a new person with new ideas. Therefore I have submitted my resignation and this is my last issue as editor.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Frank Eggert Historic House Identification and Memorialization Project

Historical Society member Frank Eggert has nearly completed his long-term project to memorialize the historic older structures of Wenonah.



Andrew W. Carey 11 North Clinton Ave

Frank has spent many hours over a period of several years identifying, the oldest, most historic houses in Wenonah.

Once a residence is selected, Frank makes one or more trips to the Gloucester County Court House where he laboriously researches the birth and history of each property. Armed with this information he can recite the name of the original owner and/or builder, and the names of subsequent owners.



Henry Gilmour 7 E. Poplar

After the research and identification Frank contacts the homeowner(s) to determine if they are willing to sponsor a plaque with the builder name and date for mounting on the front wall of the structure. If so, he gives the information to Don Davis who makes the actual plaque, then to Chick Cowles who paints it.

Frank photographs the homes to illustrate the final record. He then contacts the current owner of the home and offers the information in exchange for purchase of an identifying plaque which is mounted in a prominent location on the front of the property.

Three of the selected homes are shown on this page to show what the houses with the plaques actually look like. All are prime examples of Victorian era styles.



E. A. Arnesbroug, 101 E. Poplar St

Our next objective is to create a digital slide show featuring Frank's collection that can be shown at our school, the library, or at group meetings. It may also be possible to access the collection on home computers by way of a computer "web site" we hope to create soon.

The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to Frank Eggert for the dedication and hard work he has provided to make this project a reality. Frank, a native of Wenonah, in addition to this project has been substantially responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Wenonah "nature trail" system.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, February 11. 2011

Volume 9, Issue 2, February 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Charles Horan

Dear Members,

As we begin our Spring season and look forward with great anticipation to warmer and more arid weather, I wish to acknowledge and thank Barbara Capelli for her dedicated service to the WHS. As you know, Barbara recently completed a 2-year term as President. Of course…many, many thanks to Jack Sheppard who has ended his long tenure as Editor-in-Chief of our newsletter. This heavy torch has been passed to Larry Smith. Also, kudos to our team of current officers as we move forward into a successful 2011.

Before I mention a few upcoming programs, I want to say that I am always open to any ideas for future WHS presentations. For example, I thought the talk given by Rich Heritage of Heritage Winery in Richwood, NJ was an excellent example of "thinking outside the box" for new ideas. Let us put our thinking caps on and come up with some innovative and interesting programs for future meetings!!

Our February meeting on February 11th will feature a recently updated PowerPoint presentation from the Gloucester County Historical Society on its collection of a variety of military artifacts from Gloucester County. It will focus primarily on the Revolutionary War era and Red Bank Battlefield. Also, there will be a limited number of artifacts on display.

For the March meeting on March 11th, Professor Robert A. Emmons, Jr. from Rutgers University-Camden will be our guest speaker. He is a documentary maker who will show parts of and speak about "Deluxe: The Tale of the Blue Comet." It tells the captivating story of a passenger train that, from 1929 to 1941, transported New Jersey residents from Jersey City to Atlantic City. Mr. Emmons teaches film and media studies at Rutgers. His first feature length documentary is titled "Goodwill: The Flight of Emilio Carranza." It is the story of the Mexican pilot who crashed in the Pine Barrens in 1928 on the return leg of a goodwill mission to New York. Robert is very interested in New Jersey history and we look forward to his visit. DVDs of both documentaries will be available for purchase.

Both the February and March meetings look to be interesting and "close to home." Think about inviting a friend or neighbor as a prospective member of the Wenonah Historical Society.

See you there!

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Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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GLOUCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Don't forget to stop by the Wenonah School on a weekday and view the Gloucester County Historical Society exhibit.

SUNSHINE NEWS
Vicki McCall

Dorothy Diament continues her recovery. Please send cards to her home.

Kathryn Ralston is still recovering from injuries sustained in an accident. She can have visitors at Manor Care in Washington Township. Cards can be sent to her home.

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor.

FEATURE HOUSE
The Stone House Tavern

The "Old Stone House" was built before 1763 as a tavern by Samuel Moffett. It originally faced west on Bark Bridge Road (Monroe Avenue today). It was an important location as it was the only crossing available before the bridge on Kings Highway in Mount Royal, and important to commerce and stage coach travel. Taverns were nerve centers in those days and people gathered here at the Stone House Tavern to hear the news of the day. In war time, it was also a recruiting center for the militia, who met here to practice, hold meetings and elect officers.

Originally this building was part of a 1,300-acre plantation comprising most all of Wenonah, large sections of Sewell and Woodbury Heights, and four tenant farms. The main house and out-buildings are not standing today. The property was constructed by Samuel Moffett some time between 1742 and 1763, when it was deeded to Jeffery Chew, who transferred the title to his son Jonathan Chew. He continued to procure the whole 1,300-acre plantation. Jonathan Chew was the grandson of Nathaniel Chew, one of the oldest pioneers in Gloucester County, having his homestead in Mantua Township.

The front entrance of the house now faces east and the original front door has been moved to the south end to provide a family room.

*****

In the early days of the New Jersey colony, the Mantua Creek valley was quickly found to be one of the most fertile and attractive localities in Gloucester County, and was speedily settled. The creek itself was the main avenue of transportation and communication with other settlements along the river and creeks.

The western portion of the attractive village of Wenonah stands on a farm of 180 acres, which, for a century or more, was known as the "Stone



House Farm." It remained a farm until Wenonah was plotted and successfully promoted in 1871.

Mantua Creek forms the southwestern boundary of the farm, and before the coming of the railroad, there were numerous wharves or landing places along its banks, each identified by the name of its owner. On the north side were Hennissey's Landing on the Stone House Farm, with extensive warehouses, and Chew's Landing (where the Woodbury-Mullica Hill road now crosses the bridge). On the south side were Smith's Landing near the foot of the present Norris Street, Carpenter's Landing and others, and also thriving shipyards, including Eastlack's and Norris's, where small sailing vessels called flats and shallops were built to carry to Philadelphia cordwood, produce, and glassware from the Stanger Glass Works at Glassboro, and from its successors, Heston and Carpenter, and the Whitney Glass Works.

Prior to the closing of the eighteenth century there was no bridge across the creek in the vicinity of the present Mantua and Wenonah. The nearest bridge was that of the King's Highway, near the present village of Mount Royal. Beyond that point, the creek could be crossed only by a ford located on the Stone House Farm., about a half mile southeast of the present bridge from Wenonah to Mantua.

Nathaniel Chew was one of the earliest settlers in Gloucester County. He died in 1731, and lies buried in the old Chew Burying Ground, near the late famous Mantua Oak. In his will, Nathaniel Chew left land to his sons, Richard, Jeffery and Nathaniel.

His son Jeffery Chew (1714-1774) became a large owner of additional land along Mantua Creek, which he distributed among his sons. To his son Jonathan he gave 100 acres, "being part of the land I bought of Hannah Rowlinson, along the line of Abraham Dilks, son of James Cooper." Jonathan Chew added 80 acres to this tract. This tract of 180 acres, later known as the Stone House Farm, was purchased by Robert Sparks, for $2,000.

On January 1, 1855, Joseph Saunders, executor of Joseph Dilks, conveyed the Stone House Farm of 180 acres in two parts: 75.5 acres to Isaac Stevenson for $3,510.75, and the other 100.5 acres to Hiram Morgan for $5,700.

The deed mentions "the contemplated West Jersey Railroad." There are doubtless many who may not know that the course of the railroad through Wenonah was originally much nearer to Mantua Creek than it is now. It crossed the creek at a point much closer to the present Mantua Creek Bridge, and a station, called Mantua Station was located on the south side of the creek for the convenience of that village. Extensive remains of the original embankments may be seen both north and south of Wenonah.

The railroad may have benefited some residents from Mantua, but it caused the immediate deline of the shipping and the shipbuilding business on Mantua Creek. One of the leading shipbuilders, John C. Eastlack, closed his plant soon after, and engaged in the manufacture of pumps.

The late Mr. Howard C. Hendrickson, who lived in Wenonah, and then at the ripe age of eighty-eight, told that 5 acres of ground is mentioned as being the occupation of his grandfather Jonathan Hendrickson (1784-1875) and that his father was born in the old stone house in 1825. He stated that the house was built as a tavern in 1773 by Samuel Moffett, and that it was long known as Samuel Moffett house. It was then on the main road leading to the ford, near its junction with the road leading down to Hennissey's Landing and provided

accommodations for travelers north and south.

It is possible that this 5-acre tract may have been separate from the rest of the farm at the time of its traditional occupancy by Samuel Moffett, and subsequently, reincorporated in the farm.

Henry Roe in his pension papers stated that the militia met in a field here in 1777 to practice, hold meetings and elect officers at the Stone House. The papers also stated the house was kept by a Mr. Sparks.

In later years, the house was the home of Mr. Richard C. Ballinger, from 1891 until his death in 1934, when it passed to his son Edwin. The latter sold it in 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. William E. Manners, who restored it to its original condition. It is now known as 100 South West Avenue.

*****

The following summarizes the succession of ownership of the Stone House Tavern property from 1681 to 1967:

- Samuel Groom purchased from Edward Bylling, Proprietor: November 16, 1681.
- Thomas Budd by deed: February 10, 1689.
- William Chester by deed: December 3, 1695.
- Samuel Moffett by deed: 1742.
- Jeffrey Chew by deed: 1763.
- Jonathan Chew by grant or will.
- Robert Sparks by Sheriff sale: May 2, 1779.
- Robert Sparks, Jr. and Thomas Ure Sparks by will.
- Robert Sparks, Jr. by deed: 1813.
- Joseph C. Dilks acquired 5.5 acres by deed separately: 1814.
- James Matlack acquired 5.5 acres separately by deed: 1825.
- James Matlack by Sheriff sale: 1822.
- Joseph Dilks by deed: 1827 (180 acres bought from Sheriff sale on November 20, 1822 sold as property of Thomas S. Sparks).
- Hiram Morgan by will: 1855.
- George See by deed: 1864.
- George Manger by deed: August 4, 1864.
- Charles P. Ramsden by deed: November 26, 1864.
- Mary Cockran by deed: July 26, 1865.
- James Ramsden by deed: August 22, 1865.
- Samuel See by deed: August 28, 1866.
- Tobias A. Durney by deed: May 1, 1866.
- Mehitable Ann Ramsden by Sheriff sale: March 2, 1867.
- Daniel A. Young by deed, March 25, 1867.
- Peter Kier by deed: March 30, 1867.
- Mantua Land and Improvement Company by deed: March 24, 1871.
- Mahlon Hutchinson by deed: December 5, 1877.
- Mantua Land and Improvement Company by deed: April 17, 1888.
- Ida Leddell by deed: April 27, 1888.
- Harriet M. Ballinger by deed: August 20, 1892.
- Richard C. Ballinger and Edwin H. Ballinger by will: August 24, 1913.
- Woodbury Trust Company, Trustee, by deed: May 26, 1939.
- William E. and Rosa T. Manners by deed: December 15, 1939.
- Webster S. and Audrey Shinn by deed: July 17, 1964.
- Churchill L. and Gretchen W. Blakey by deed: November 28, 1967.

Researched and prepared by Jean C. Ehlers, past President Wenonah Historical Society, March 1994. Provided by Frank Eggert.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, March 11. 2011

Volume 9, Issue 3, March 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Once again, I want to thank Larry Smith for stepping up and taking the reins as Editor of this newsletter. Jack Sheppard got a bit “religious" in his expression of gratitude to Larry for assuming this task at the February meeting.

The topic of last month's newsletter was fabulous in its detailing of the history of the Stone House Farm and Tavern. When I first moved to Wenonah, I was surprised and confused by the juxtaposition of this structure and its date of construction (1763). Since then, I have become better versed in its background as well as the history of Wenonah and the surrounding area. The history of the Stone House is reflective of the dynamics of transportation over the years. Stage coaches and shallops for shipping goods and people were giving way to railroads just as Wenonah was being "born.”

Thanks go out to Vicki McCall and Lynne Carey for the special Valentines Day themed refreshments last month especially the cascading chocolate "tower.” WOW!!!

Also, kudos to Eileen Shanahan and Patty Hrynenko of the Gloucester Historical Society for their most interesting presentation at our February meeting.

The upcoming March meeting will feature the parts of and discussion on a documentary on the Blue Comet passenger train that ran from Jersey City to Atlantic City during a bygone era. The presenter will be Rutgers professor Roberts A. Emmons, Jr. This should be especially interest to "train enthusiasts" (Lou McCall) of all ages so think about inviting a friend.

Reminder: try to keep the morning of Saturday, May 7, 2011 clear. This is Clean Communities Day and the WHS can receive a grant in the neighborhood of $300 if we can field of team of 10 volunteers. Last year, we mulched the flower beds around the Community Center/ Train Station. Registration for all groups takes place at 8:30 AM at the Train Station.

See everyone Friday, March 11th at 7:30 PM.

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Secretary	Vicki McCall
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SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor.

2011 WHS DUES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that the 2011 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at $15 per family. The dues can be given to any of the WHS officers.

FEATURE HOUSE
Samuel M. Jordan House
by Larry Smith

Many of you know that Sue and I renovated the house at 110 South Clinton Avenue, across the street from the Wenonah Methodist Church. What you may not know …

- On January 28, 1878, Thomas W. Synnott purchased the lot where the house now stands at the northwest corner of South Clinton Avenue and East Willow Street from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company.
- Twenty-five years later on June 19, 1903, Synnott sold the lot to Samuel Monroe Jordan, my great-grandfather, for $700.
- Within a year, Samuel Jordan hired Isaac Pursell, a Philadelphia architect, to design a home for the Jordan family and entered into an agreement with Charles H. Nicholson of Pitman to construct his new house in Wenonah.
- In December 1904, construction of the Samuel M. Jordan house was completed, and 17 craftsmen, suppliers, and tradesmen documented its completion by signing a final release of liens. The cost of the new house was $3,542.
- Samuel Jordan then moved his family from Alloway Township to 110 South Clinton Avenue. The family and the first five to call the house "home" were Samuel, his wife Anna, and their three teenage daughters—Ada, Olive and Ellen. Shortly thereafter, Samuel's sister Bessie Jordan joined the five, moving from Philadelphia into a room on



the third floor.

- Ada Jordan later married a recently widowed Fred Smith. Fred and his two daughters—Anna and Irene—joined the five members of the Jordan family in Wenonah, increasing the number of occupants of the house to eight. (Samuel Jordan's wife Anna had died prior to the marriage of Ada Jordan and Fred Smith.)

- The two sons of Ada and Fred Smith—Frederick Laurenson (my father, Larry) and Orville Duffield Smith—were born in the house and named after pastors of the Wenonah Methodist Church.

- Olive and Ellen Jordan later taught at Wenonah Elementary School and continued to live in the house until their deaths in 1951 and 1960, respectively.

- Orville Smith called the house "home" for more than 80 years. All toll, members of my family have spent more than 400 years (and counting) of their lives in the house.

- My father, Larry Smith married Helen Wilkins (my mother) of Woodbury and lived on the third floor of the South Clinton house from 1940 to after World War II.

- Three families eventually returned to Wenonah and lived in the South Clinton house:

    - Helen Smith and her children—Larry (me), Linda and Ronald—from California after my father Larry died In 1961.
    - Linda (Smith) and her husband Kevin Todd and their children Jacquelyn, Sarah and Cassie from West Virginia in 1982.
    - Sue and I from Texas in 2004.

- Nine family members died while living in the house.

- The renovation of the house by Sue and I took approximately 5 years to design, demolish, construct and refurbish, compared to the single year it took Samuel Jordan to design and construct the house originally.

- In addition to the work that Sue and I did, 11 artists, craftsmen, and suppliers in Wenonah contributed to finishing the renovated house.

- The house has been in the Jordan/Smith family since it was built by Samuel M. Jordan in 1903-1904. Sue is the 20th family member to live in the house. In addition to Sue and myself, its occupants have been:

    - My great-grandfather and great-grandmother (Samuel and Anna Jordan)
    - My grandfather and grandmother (Fred and Ada Jordan Smith)
    - Two grandaunts (Olive and Ellen Jordan)
    - A great-grandaunt (Bessie Jordan)
    - Two step-aunts (Anna and Irene Smith)
    - My father and mother (Larry and Helen Smith)
    - An uncle (Orville Smith)
    - My brother (Ronald Smith), and sister and brother-in-law (Linda Smith Todd and Kevin Todd)
    - Three nieces (Jacquelyn, Sarah and Cassie Todd)

I wonder how many of the other wonderful houses in Wenonah have remained in the same family for over 100 years.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, April 8, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 4, April 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I hope those members attending our March meeting enjoyed the excellent presentation by Robert Emmons of Rutgers University. He highlighted two of his documentaries about the Blue Comet and Emilio Carranza. I have both DVDs if anyone is interested. In thanks, I sent Robert a copy of Marjorie Lentz's book on the history of Wenonah and hinted that it could possibly be the subject of a future documentary. Time will tell.

This month our program features Karl Anderson, a local botanist, who will speak about the natural places of Gloucester County. He is well known in New Jersey as a field naturalist, writer and speaker with special expertise in botany. In the past 30 years, Karl has addressed hundreds of audiences, taught field botany on a college level, worked as a wetland delineator, and has led hundreds of field trips for general nature and botanical study in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Remember to keep the morning of Saturday, May 7, 2011 clear. It is Wenonah's Clean Communities Day and the Wenonah Historical Society will receive a grant in the neighborhood of $300 if we can field of team of 10 volunteers. Last year we mulched and planted flowers in the beds around the Train Station Community Center and our Borough Hall. Registration for all groups takes place at 8:30 AM at the Train Station.

Also, I became aware of an organization that may be of interest to the Wenonah Historical Society. It is the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. Their web site is: www.lhsnj.org. I will be asking if we might benefit by membership in this organization at this month's meeting.

See everyone Friday, April 8th at 7:30 PM!

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KATHRYN RALSTON
A WENONAH LEGEND
by Vicki McCall

Our condolences go out to the Ralston Family. Kathryn was called home to the Lord on March 14, 2011.



We are deeply saddened by the loss of such a wonderful woman. She has been an inspiration to so many of us. She was active in the Historical Society and the American Legion.

Mrs. Ralston taught 4th grade at Wenonah Elementary School for 25 years and was recognized as Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1975—the first ever from Wenonah School. She was instrumental in turning many children into upstanding citizens. She led not only by word, but by example. In 2009, she and her husband Don were recognized as "Wenonah Legends."

Kathryn Ralston will be missed...

SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor.

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* * * * *

The following house photos and information have been provided by Frank Eggert.

FEATURE HOUSE
7 West Mantua Avenue—Howard-Wentzell Building



The construction of "Howard's Hall" started in December of 1872 and was completed in 1873. The third floor was laid out for a public hall. This was the site of the first public school in Wenonah. In 1877, the YMCA organized and met there. On several occasions, the Deptford Township Republican party had meetings in the public hall. One of the most significant uses of the building was the general store of Walter and Elizabeth Wentzell. The merchandise of the store included feed for horses, ice and newspapers. Abutting the building to the east, the Wentzell's had an ice cream pavilion.

FEATURE HOUSE
406 West Mantua Avenue—Tenant House on Stone House Farm

Oral history indicates and suggests that this house was a tenant building on the Stone House Farm, before it was moved from the north side of Mantua Avenue and the creek to its present location. If this is the case, the house predates 1800. It was recorded that the house was used by Daniel Brown as a carpenter and sash shop, and as an office building for the Duell and Perry Canning Factory.



FEATURE HOUSE
111 North Lincoln Avenue—Stone House Tenant Farm



Colonel Stephen Greene of Philadelphia purchased this "Old Farmhouse" from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company in 1891. Although its actual age is unknown, the house is known to be one of the oldest farm houses here before the formation of Wenonah and a tenant farm house on the Stone House Farm "Plantation." The house was moved to its present location when the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad was built in 1871. The deed from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company states "No malt vinous, spiritous or intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured or sold on said premises; that no soap bone boiling, lamp black, varnish, slaughter house, piggery or other offensive trade or business be carried out on said premises."

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, May 13, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 5, May 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Welcome Spring. Finally !!! What a joy to see all varieties of dogwoods, azaleas, iris and many other trees and plants all around town in their Spring plumage. Our program for this Friday's meeting features our very own Dean Polk. Dean and his wife Christine and their two children, Jeremy and Carly (24 and 21), have been living in Wenonah for many years. Dean is an entomologist with Rutgers Cooperative Extension. His topic will be: Blueberries and the history of their cultivation in southern New Jersey. This fruit has advanced from growing in the wild to become a major component of New Jersey agricultural production. Also, as an added attraction, the topic of our new friends the "brown marmorated stink bug" will be addressed in detail if there exists sufficient interest.

Next month is our annual June Picnic. We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting for volunteers to bring various culinary items for all to enjoy. Please remember to keep the time and date open: 5:00 PM (not 7:30 PM) Friday, June 10th.

Unfortunately neither our May meeting nor our June picnic will conflict with a Flyers playoff game.

See everyone Friday, May 13th at 7:30 PM!

SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

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The following house photos and information have been provided by Frank Eggert.

FEATURE HOUSE
201 South Clinton Avenue—Stephen Greene House

I know many of you will recognize this house, but some of you will not. Perhaps, coverage from the local newspapers on October 17, 1923 will help.



FIRE AT WENONAH

Fire broke out in the handsome home of the Stephen Green estate last evening about 10 o'clock. Flames were seen inside of the building from the front door, and the firemen were summoned. Good work was done and the men were about ready to leave, when the flames weer again seen coming from the third story. After pumping again for a short time, the engine refused to work properly, and help from Mantua, Barnsboro and Woodbury was summoned.

The companies made a rush and soon had the fire under control, but there is a heavy damage in the way of badly soaked furniture. The house has not been occupied for two years, but there was a large quantity of valuable furniture stored, most of which is damaged beyond repair . The fire started in the living room, and is believed to be the work of an incendiary.

WENONAH HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

Property of Stephen Greene Estate Suffers From Fire and Water—Though to be of Incendiary Origin

"*Fire, thought to be of incendiary origin, was discovered last night in the the house of the Stephen Greene Estate, corner of Clinton and Marion avenues, Wenonah, and before it was*

extinguished considerable damage had been done to the house and contents by fire and water.
It is said to have been one of the worst that the borough has experienced.

The fire was discovered by Joseph Truncer before 10 o'clock, who was on his way home, and seeing a light in the house and knowing that the place had not been occupied as a dwelling for past eight years, he began an investigation and found it to be a fire at the foot of the stairway on the first floor. An alarm was sounded and the Wenonah Fire Department quickly responded and did excellent service although they were greatly handicapped by bursting hose. Students from the military academy rendered service and assisted in carrying some of the furniture from the first floor to a place of safety.

The flames were confined to the building and swept up the winding stairway to to the third floor cupola and roof. Fearing that the fire would get beyond control of the local department and spread to nearby buildings a call went to Woodbury and Good Will's three in one and a number of firemen from our (Woodbury's) department went down and they with the Mantua fire company assisted Wenonah …"

****



This is the house (or at least half of the house) as it stands today. The other half is right next door at 203 South Clinton Avenue.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on
Friday, September 9, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 6, September 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Greetings fellow members. I trust you have enjoyed this wet and wonderful summer and have survived recent calamities (earthquake and hurricane) in fine fashion. We now look forward to the 2011 - 2012 Wenonah Historical Society season. The October and November meeting programs are planned (details in the next newsletter). But first things first.

Our September "Meet and Greet Kickoff Classic" is scheduled for Friday, September 9 at 6:00 PM. Sue and Larry Smith have generously offered to open their home at 110 S. Clinton Ave. for this annual event. 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.

This event is an excellent opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who may be a prospective new member of the WHS.

I look forward to meeting again and reuniting after our "Summer Break."

See everyone on Friday, September 9th at 6.00 PM at the Smiths!!!



Thank you.

WENONAH MEMORIES ON FACEBOOK

There are lots of nostalgic memories being shared on Facebook by the group "You know you are from Wenonah if . . ." There are more than 390 members in the group. Some nice photos have been posted, including one of Margie's, as well as interesting recollections of G. Wayne Post, The Wenonah Swim Club, Wenonah School. The Military Academy, and of course, the July 4th parade. Dave Brangan even came up with this idea for July 4, 2012:

> *"OK all of you Wenonah folks still living in Wenonah, here is a project for you. At the next Fourth of July, set up a couple of tables in the park, or better yet, in front of the Fire Station, with a big sign: 'Facebook Reunion.' We can all gather there and exchange stories in person!"*

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SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor, Larry Smith.

HISTORY OF POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN WENONAH
by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

During the formative years following Wenonah's creation in 1871 there was little need or funds available for a formal police department. From old newspaper reports it is apparent most residents had guns for hunting and for personal protection and did not hesitate to use them whenever a threat, perceived or real, manifested itself.

At most there was one person who acted as a law officer or constable. For many years our lawman was John Drummer who later, in 1914, was elected to serve on Borough Council. During the early years before the turn of the century there was very little crime reported in Wenonah. Gloucester County towns were fewer then, separated by considerable open space, and travel was by train, horse or on foot. What crime there was seemed to be caused by hobos arriving and departing on the numerous freight trains passing through town or just walking the rails (proposed DRPA High-Speed Line extension to Glassboro?).

Strangers were viewed with suspicion, usually being called upon to furnish an acceptable reason for being in Wenonah. One report had it that Constable Drummer didn't accept the reason provided by a stranger so he locked him in a boxcar on the rail siding in the center of town with the intent to question him further when he had time. He apparently forgot about the man until the next day when he returned to the siding and the freight car was gone, along with his lock and the stranger.

One or two people on call seemed to provide all of the police protection necessary until sometime in the 1930's when E. J. Truncer was hired by Council with the title "Borough Marshall." About 1934/35 he was replaced by George Bowker Sr. To assist him, Council took on George Eggert (member Frank Eggert's father) as a patrolman. Patrolman Eggert was eventually replaced by Donald Fiske in that position. Then in 1954 Marshall Bowker retired and was replaced by Walter Hain with the title "Chief" thereby becoming Wenonah's first "Chief of Police". Chief Hain continued to handle Wenonah's formal policing needs utilizing assistance from volunteers when necessary.

On May 14, 1954, Borough Council approved the creation of a volunteer group with the name "Wenonah Police Reserves." State laws at the time permitted such groups to carry weapons and perform public safety functions. The Reserves were trained in the legal aspects and handling of firearms by Jim Conway (father of WHS member Barbara Conway), firearms instructor for the Gloucester County Sheriff's

office. The Police Reserves assisted the chief and his volunteers when called upon to do so, especially during special occasions such as the 4th of July and Memorial Day.

This arrangement seemingly satisfied the policing needs of the town until after WWII when the part-time patrolman James Miller was hired full-time to assist Chief Hain. When I moved into Wenonah in the early 1950's all of the policing was provided by the Chief, patrolman Jim Miller and the Reserves. The photograph below shows Chief Hain and the members of the Police Reserve organization at a meeting in Tom Synnott's barn where annual meetings of the Reserve were held.

Over the years the state Legislature imposed more rules, regulations and training requirements on the police volunteers rendering such volunteer police activity nearly impossible. More trained and licensed policemen (and ultimately women) had to be hired. By the time I stepped down as mayor after 1990 the force consisted of Chief Miller, four patrolmen and two police cars. This amount of staffing and equipment was entirely adequate for our police needs satisfying shift-staffing, illness, holidays and vacations as long as the policing was confined to Wenonah. Chief Miller issued standing orders that patrolmen were not to leave town, even disciplining one who did. It was the Chief's belief that



Wenonah Police Reserve ca 1954. Front row left to right: Bill Queale, Walt Hain, Charles Frederick, George Bowker Sr., Tom Synnott; back row left to right: Paul Sargent, Barney Lorence, Jerry Hammond, Donald Fiske, Porter Fay, Jim Conway, Tom Shearer, Joseph Toce, George Bowker Jr.

Wenonah's tax base was insufficient to afford the additional costs that would result from "regional" policing. I concurred. Apparently that thinking has now changed as Wenonah's force is considerably larger, routinely responding to calls for assistance from police in adjoining towns. Obviously such outside activity imposes significant additional manpower and equipment costs plus added danger to our officers and increased insurance liability exposure.

Research into past newspaper reports on Wenonah law enforcement activities provide the following items of interest and historic curiosity;

February 1889 – "A meeting of citizens was held on Thursday night to devise means of protecting against burglars."

June 1900 – "The question of a lockup is now agitating the public mind. Offenders when arrested at night should not be chained to a post until taken to Woodbury in the morning."

July 1900 – "Council has taken steps toward establishing a lockup and Mrs. Lashley's barn is to be leased and refitted to that use."

August 9, 1900 – A report in the *Woodbury Daily Times* advised the construction of a "lockup" in Wenonah saying " . . it has had a very salutary effect as it has not yet had an occupant. But our evil doers – of which we have very few – will have to keep a sharp lookout for Drummer as he is a determined sleuth."

June 1901 – "Officer Drummer still keeps his eye on tramps and locks them up overnight if they have any suspicious looks."

December 1901 – *Woodbury Times* report – Watchman J. J. Drummer "was kindly remembered by the townspeople in the gift of a handsome Smith & Wesson revolver to show that his work is appreciated."

December 1903 – "Four boys ranging in age from 10 to 14 years were discovered in town by officers Drummer and Chew begging for their supper. They were charged with vagrancy and Mayor Lorence committed them to the county jail for ten days. (Talk about tough love). They claim to have homes in New York."

March 17, 1904 – *Woodbury Times* – "Officers Drummer and Chew received word to arrest two men who had stolen a gun near Glassboro and were walking up the railroad tracks. Drummer fired several revolver shots at two men who started to run as soon as the officers made known their business. They were arrested and taken before Mayor Lorence who bound one over for the Grand Jury and gave the other ninety days in the county jail."

March 1904 – "Constable Drummer found a couple suspicious characters loitering around McCormick's grocery about 2 o'clock this morning. They said they were looking for work. Mr. Drummer put them in the lockup until daylight knowing they could not find much work in the dark."

September 1904 – *Woodbury Times* – " . . . four men were seen attempting to force entrance into the R. C. Ballinger residence. Word was sent to Watchman Drummer. They saw him coming and the only thing he could do was to shoot at them as the rogues fled."

March 1938 – A delegation of women from the local Woman's Club and the Parent-Teacher Association attended Borough Council with a plea that a daytime traffic officer be assigned to the borough to halt speeding and reckless driving.

February 1954 – Wenonah Council took steps to provide more adequate police protection with the appointment of a second regular officer.

November 1954 – Wenonah officials, police and police reserves joined in ceremonies Saturday when the borough's new police car was placed in service. Attending were Thomas Synnott, president of the Police Reserves, Police Chief George Bowker, Councilman Charles Fredrick, Mayor William Conway, Roland Fay, Assistant Chief Walter Hain, Jerry Hammond, Paul Sargent, George Bowker Jr., Tom Shearer and James Conway.

February 1958 – Councilman Charles Fredrick announced the Wenonah police headquarters has been set up in the original West Jersey RR ticket office on N. West Avenue. It was used previously as our tax office, Shuster's Barber Shop and more recently as the Wild Iris flower shop.

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LETTER OF THANKS TO THE WENONAH POLICE FORCE

Take a close look around you…at your own home and those surrounding it…. at the beautiful woods and nature trails that surround this town. Wenonah truly represents one of the few towns that can still boast a sense of community, a spirit of camaraderie, and a commitment to the town and its people. Let us NEVER lose sight of that and let us renew our own promises to enrich this town.

It is in this spirit that I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Wenonah Police Force. Their presence in this wonderful place we call home is as integral to its essence as the surrounding woods, trails, and homes.

In the 35 plus years we have called this place home, the police have played an integral role in shaping our town, and our children. As a child, I remember the police being not just authority figures, but our neighbors and friends. There was a sense of safety that we have taken for granted.

As parents raising our children here, we are thankful for their presence at the Easter egg hunts, the Fourth of July, at Halloween, as part of the DARE program, as educators for our scouts, and as behind the scene officers who patrol and make sure we sleep safely at night.

For anyone who is not familiar with the Haunted House fundraisers the police department did, they were truly events to be seen! These events raised over $30,000 for programs to benefit our children.

They are the unsung heroes of our town and we thank them for all they do and trust that they will be able to continue to be an integral part not just of Wenonah's history, but of its future.

Lou and Vicki McCall and Family

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, October 14, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 7, October 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

The hot, humid, and very wet summer season has given way to the cool, crisp autumn weather that makes living in Southern New Jersey such a joy. I would like to again thank our members Sue and Larry Smith for opening their beautiful home for our September Meet and Greet. Although I was unable to attend in person, I was certainly there in spirit.

Our program this month features local botanist Karl Anderson, who presented "Natural Places of Gloucester County" at our April 2011 meeting. Karl has prepared a new program on the history of iron mining in New Jersey will debut it at our October meeting. A glimpse of Karl Anderson's "Iron" follows:

Iron was the Great Equalizer of the ancient world, and it formed the basis of our civilization today. Traces of the New Jersey iron industry are well known to historians and industrial archaeologists. But what led up to that? This program will present a little of the history, a little about the chemistry, and something about the production of this metal, from its earliest uses in the Near East about three thousand years ago, to the two hundred years or so when its mining and manufacture played a prominent part in the economy of New Jersey.

There also will be a surprise donation made to the WHS of an artifact that dates back to the old Wenonah Inn. The donors, who are related to original proprietor of the Inn, will be present at our October meeting so that we may recognize and thank them.

I look forward to seeing you Friday, October 14th at 7:30 P.M.

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RECORDING THE HISTORY OF WENONAH

Wenonah is called home by current and many former residents. Two of those former residents Cara DeHart Lewis and Gerard McGarrity have been discussing plans to create a video on Wenonah's rich history as well as the people that have made it into a wonderful town. Cara owns a video production company in Florida and Gerard is a producer in Washington, D.C. for C-SPAN. This past July they interviewed Majorie Lentz about her book and her recollections of the town. On October 14th, they plan on talking with former mayor and local historian Jack Sheppard Sr. about the town.

The long-term project is in the beginning research and planning stages. They are looking for old film or video footage and plan on continuing to talk with present as well as past citizens. If you have old film/video of the town or parade or questions, please contact them at: gerard_mcgarrity@yahoo.com or cardehlew@yahoo.com.

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SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

Marjorie Lentz will soon be moving from Manor Care to Pitman Manor. Her main complaints? She does not like getting old and claims she has a lot of work yet to do at home.

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor, Larry Smith.

WENONAH
Provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

This [Wenonah] is the name adopted for the new village at Mantua Station, about two and a half miles below Woodbury. The directors have gone to work and in a very short time a surprising change will be seen by those who remember the "truck patches" of that locality. We hear that about 100 acres have been laid out into building lots, 75 x 150 feet each.

The two central avenues, West Jersey and Mantua, are each 100 feet wide. On West Jersey Avenue the railroad company reserves 100 feet in the center and on each side of their reservation will be avenues for carriages and driving of 75 feet width, with sidewalks of 15 feet.

An imposing hotel is now in process of erection. It is to be 45 x 52 feet in dimensions, three stories high with back buildings 26 by 40 feet, and the whole surrounded by a verandah 12 feet wide. Each room is to contain water and gas and be furnished in elegant style.

The hotel is to be on the Doric style of architecture, and surmounted with a splendid cupola. This hotel is contracted to be finished In June next, at a cost of $15,000. During the summer about twelve other elegant cottages are to be completed. All the streets, except the two main avenues, are to be 66 feet wide.

The location of this piece of ground is peculiarly adapted for the building up of a suburban village, being high and healthful with pure and cool wells of water for all domestic purposes. It is 65 feet above Mantua Creek and from its summit can be seen the steeples of Swedesboro and many prominent points in the surrounding country.

The name selected for this young village is Wenonah, (Daughter of the West Wind) from Longfellow's "Hiawatha".

The prices of lots have been fixed from $200 to $400 and the extensive improvements contemplated by the company have already given to the place an impetus which cannot fail to make it one of the most desirable points along the West Jersey railroad.

Over 600 trees, mostly maples, have already been set out along the avenues. The creek in the vicinity affords grand water power for manufacturing purposes, which will be at once taken advantage of and converted into use.

From *"The Constitution"* April 19, 1871.

THE STONE POND GARDEN
Information and photos provided by Frank Eggert and Richard Dilks

The Stone Pond was built in 1912, as part of an extensive garden in an apple orchard owned by Dr. William H. Greene, son of Stephen Greene. The elder Greene was a prominent resident of early Wenonah and an original director of the Mantua Land and Improvement Co. The Greene estate included the land between S. Clinton Ave. and S. Marion Ave., extending south from Willow St. to then Greene's Lake along the Monongahela branch. Also included on the estate were the Greene's residence on the southeast corner of S. Clinton Ave. and E. Willow St., a caretaker's house (106 E. Willow St.), gardens, a greenhouse, a peacock walk, a pleasure lake, and a two-story boathouse.

The Stone Pond was "discovered" by the Wenonah Environmental Commission in about 2000, obscured and covered with debris. Supported by a donation from the Women's Club of Wenonah, the Environmental Commission created the first Stone Pond Garden (below) that same year. In 2010-11, the Environmental Commission, again supported by the Women's Club, further improved the pond and garden (below) by adding a low stone wall, steps, a bench, and numerous plantings of bushes, ferns and perennial wildflowers.









Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, November 11, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 8, November 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I hope our members found last months presentation by Karl Anderson on the history of metals and mining interesting and informative. Our program for this month stems from an article by Bob Shryock in the Gloucester County Times on October 24, 2011 (http://www.nj.com/gloucester/voices/index.ssf/2011/10/bob_shryock_glass_book_a_hefty.html). He wrote about Tom C. Haunton, a Pitman native who has written a 438-page book (800+ photos) on the Clevenger Brothers of Clayton and their unique glass products produced from 1930 to 1999. Mr. Haunton will feature a 30-minute slide show and a "show and tell" of some unique glass artifacts. His book—*Last Links to the Past: 20th Century South Jersey Glass*—will be available for purchase ($110 for hardbound; $80 for softbound; plus NJ sales tax). Tom lives in Massachusetts. As luck would have it, he will be in the area next weekend for a presentation at the Heritage Glass Museum in Glassboro and has agreed to visit our group this coming Friday evening.

I look forward to seeing you Friday, November 11th at 7:30 PM. We should have a good turnout and an interesting presentation.

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MARJORIE LENTZ AND RACHEL KNISSEL

Marjorie Lentz has joined Rachel Knissel at Pitman Manor. Their address is:

Pitman Manor
535 N. Oak Ave.
Pitman, NJ 08071

Marjorie is in Room #314-C. Rachel is in Room #HC-304-B.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 9, 2011

Pat Sole is again organizing the WHS Christmas Party. This popular event will be held the evening of Friday, December 9th. Social hour will be from 5 to 6 PM, and dinner will start at 6 PM. As in previous years, the Telford Inn will cater and we will have an optional gift exchange. The cost remains at $20 per person. Pat needs to know who will be attending by the middle of November. Please let her know this Friday at our November meeting or call her at 856-468-6661.

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WENONAH AND THE MILITARY ACADEMY

By Marjorie Lentz

It all started with a meeting of businessmen at the "New Mantua Station" of the West Jersey Railroad Company.

This station was built about 1866 when the railroad company straightened the tracks which at that time were on a track bed running past Wenonah Lake, south on what is now Jefferson Avenue, crossing the Mantua Creek on a bridge at a point now known by most kids in town as "Clay Hill".

At a meeting during 1869 in the New Mantua Station the men agreed to pool their money and buy 5 farms surrounding the station. These are the lands on which they intended to build a town. The Historical Society has a scrap of paper dated 1869 on which it is noted "we will name the town "Winona". That name is crossed out and the word "Wenonah" substituted for it. For those who may not know, Wenonah is a Santee Indian name meaning a first-born daughter.

The men formed a company named the "Mantua Land and Improvement Company" which was authorized to lay out streets and roads, build a hotel and start selling building lots.

The first building constructed was the Wenonah Inn hotel, built in 1870-71 and opened in the spring of 1872. From that time forward many people from Camden and Philadelphia came to the hotel by train and Wenonah was considered to be a summer resort.

In the interests of time I will skip ahead about 30 years to the year 1903. By this time Wenonah was able to exist on its own with a fairly sizable population, a permanent government, stores, a school, and the hotel. But the hotel was having financial trouble and was forced to close. Some said it was the automobile that allowed people to go where they wanted to, much more conveniently than on the train.

Though the automobile forced the closing of the Wenonah Inn, a new era opened in Wenonah. Major J. R. Jones, former head of the drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, riding past the vacant Wenonah Inn, conceived an idea for the use of the facility. He quickly relayed his plan to owner Stephen Greene.

On September 20, 1904 the Wenonah Military Academy opened.

In the rooms that formerly accommodated hotel guests who were mainly interested in dances and fine food, the rooms now accommodated cadets interested in horsemanship and higher education. Hotel rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitories, a library, a chapel and an infirmary, although a communication to parents hinted the infirmary would rarely be used.

The first officers of the Wenonah Military Academy were Stephen Greene, President and owner, Dr. William H. Greene, Vice-President, son of Stephen Greene and known internationally as a scientist, Dr. H.A. Stout, treasurer and Major J.R. Jones, secretary. On the Board of Counsel were the Rev. Raymond H. Gage and Thomas W. Synnott. Captain Percy C. Jones was commander of the cadets.

Although Wenonah was accustomed to the social activities of the Wenonah Inn during the summer, the Wenonah Military Academy kept the town hopping during the school term. The first month the Academy was opened, there were a reception and dance for two hundred people, a skating carnival on Warner's Lake with hundreds of lighted lanterns, a minstrel show, a house party and numerous football games. This was the beginning of a social whirl that kept Wenonah spinning for the next thirty years. Wenonah residents were invited to band concerts, glee club performances, drama productions, and horsemanship exhibitions. Local girls vied for invitations to dances and on Sunday the whole town turned out for full-dress parades and cadet drill demonstrations.

During the presidency of Dr. Charles H. Lorence, the Wenonah Military Academy reached its peak with an enrollment of 200 cadets who came from as far away as California and Cuba. Upon the death of Dr. Lorence, Major Clayton A. Snyder assumed the presidency. For 23 years Major Lloyd L. Lammert was headmaster and athletic director. Other key members of the faculty included Captain Thomas A. Clingan, instructor in mathematics and Mary Bilderback, instructor in instrumental music. Dr. Thomas J. Mulvey was director of advertising. Cadets enrolled in the classical, Latin-scientific, or English-commercial courses. Military science included instruction in rifle practice, infantry drills,

horsemanship and military discipline. Horsemanship instruction was $100 extra, but it included the rental of the horse.

In an advertising brochure, the Wenonah Military Academy emphasized that it had ". . . . established as its guiding principle the formation of moral character, the teaching of respect for authority and the strict adherence to the fundamentals of a sound academic and business education." The brochure emphasized also that Wenonah has a "quiet seclusion" and is "sufficiently removed from the dangerous enticements of the city" and yet is "within easy reach of Camden and Philadelphia on the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad."

Also "Wenonah is an entirely residential town with no factories. It has its own entirely independent sanitary drainage system."

And especially directed to parents the Academy advised that "the sale of intoxicants within a mile of the Academy is absolutely prohibited by law" and "the town has a marked freedom from sickness and disease."

In 1913 the annual charges of $600 included "tuition, board, heat light, twelve pieces of laundry and mending of underclothing." Tuition doubled during the years but included "table linen, pressing and use of firearms." However this charge did not include the $250 cost for a uniform. During the 30 years of Academy existence the uniforms changed from time to time but typically the cadet wore a uniform of grey with various kinds of adornments. The dress uniform worn by cadet Le Grand Reeves was the first style as he was in the first graduating class in 1906. Another style was worn by the school teaching staff and they were similar to U.S. Army uniforms. The cadet officers' full dress uniform included a sword, sash and shako. By 1916 there was a waiting list as every available space is filled."



Although military discipline soon earned the Academy the name of "The West Point of South Jersey," athletics brought fame to the school. On Stephen Greene's athletic field where the grandstand held 500 spectators, cadets ran a quarter-mile cinder track, played football with prep schools like Malvern, Seton Hall and Pennington, played baseball and practiced horsemanship and military tactics. A twelve-acre field along Glassboro Road was used for polo and lacrosse. Golf was played at the Oak Valley Country Club, sometimes referred to as the Wenonah Country Club or, originally Altwald Golf Links, which was situated in a wooded area off Ogden Road. The word "ogden" is derived from the Swedish word meaning "valley of oaks."

On the Wenonah polo field along Woodbury-Glassboro Road one polo team defeated a team from the West Point Military Academy. Many graduating cadets gained recognition on college teams and Herbert J. Pennock, who became a major league pitcher, is named in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In addition to the former Wenonah Inn, the Wenonah Military Academy occupied the Charles H. Lorence Cottage which housed senior cadets and the Clayton A. Snyder Cottage which housed junior cadets. A drill hall was built behind the Academy and it was claimed to have the largest floor space of any gymnasium in South Jersey. It was large enough to drill an entire battalion, and of course, to accommodate the dances. At one mid-term reception six hundred people attended and danced. A stone wall was added fronting the academy (still there) and in 1916 the building formerly housing the Wenonah Inn's bowling alley was converted to a science laboratory.

After the games and dances the cadets escorted their guests to the Wenonah Drug Store and to Walter Wentzell's store for sandwiches and ice cream.

In September 1935 Dr. Charles H. Lorence announced that the Wenonah Military Academy would not be open "because of economic reasons."

And now all we have are written records, photographs, some uniforms and swords, and many fond memories.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next *Regular* Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, January 13, 2012

Volume 9, Issue 9, December 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Happy Holidays to all! To those who have reserved a seat at our Christmas dinner and gift exchange, I look forward to seeing you on Friday, December 9th (5:00 P.M. social hour; 6:00 P.M. dinner). To those who are not attending the dinner, I hope to see you at our first meeting of 2012, which will be on Friday, January 13th at the Train Station Community Center. Our presentation will be "Wenonah before it was Wenonah."

If you need that special holiday gift, consider one from the Wenonah Historical Society. Selections include Wenonah canvas carry-all bags, Wenonah Christmas tree ornaments, and beautiful framed photos of local landmarks such as the Train Station. Please call Pat Sole (468-6661) to purchase or inquire about an item from the WHS store.

And, if you need a New Year's resolution, why not resolve to bring a neighbor to one of our meetings in 2012. That should be a easy resolution to achieve.

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Charlie Horan rings the bell from the Wenonah Inn.

Wenonah's Water (1885–1945)
by Larry Smith

The following chronology provide's a glimpse of the history of Wenonah's water, which began with the organization of the Wenonah Water Company in 1885. The initial water system included galvanized pipes, a single well, and an experimental fire hydrant at the corner of East Mantua Avenue and North Clinton Avenue (Marjorie K. Lentz, Wenonah, 2009). Water conservation was documented as early as 1891, with restrictions on lawn watering. Wenonah's first water tower---a 100-foot standpipe--- was constructed in 1894. Meters were installed in 1909, and the "rent" on water was raised from $15 to $21 per year in 1913. By 1936, the water system reached all but 22 of the 368 potential customers in the Borough.

For the most part, the chronology has been compiled verbatim from newspaper articles contained in the archives of the Wenonah Historical Society and the official records of the Borough's government (Jack C. Sheppard, Sr., Information about Wenonah, 1991).

April 15, 1885 – "The movement to secure a water supply for the Borough has been revived."

July 1, 1885 – "In the opinion of the best informed our town will before long enjoy the luxury and advantage of water works. A preliminary meeting has been held at which the matter was fully discussed. It is proposed, if sufficient 'water takers' can be got, to go on with the organization, buy the land and water supply, procure estimates as to cost of reservoir construction and machinery, and make the basis of business a capital stock of $25,000."

July 15, 1885 – "Water works are among the early probabiliries. Last Thursday the 'Wenonah Water Company' bought 21 acres of land included in which are the ponds from which will be drawn the water for supplying the Borough. One of the conditions of the sale was that the purchaser should carry out the project of water works."



Wenonah's 100-foot high standpipe.

August 19, 1885 – "The Wenonah Water Supply Company has organized by electing Stephen Greene, President and Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, Secretary and Treasurer. Plans and specifications have been prepared and the work will at once be proceeded with. December 1st is the time to which the Wenonah people look forward for an unlimited supply of pure and wholesome water, which they will take plain. And yes, if Woodbury gets its water supply, as it is confident it will, our Wenonah neighbors would not be doing a bad thing to draw from a common supply."

June 4, 1891 – "The water company has issued a circular to our many citizens containing new rules and regulations governing the use of water. The circulars read---no lawns to be watered either with sprinklers or by hand except between the hours of 4 to 8 in the morning and from 4 to 8 in the evening."

March 21, 1894 – "The Wenonah Water Company intend on increasing their water supply and are erecting a stand pipe to be 100 feet and to be situated at the north end of the borough."

June 5, 1894 – "The first carload of iron (plates) for the new stand pipe in Wenonah arrived last Saturday."

June 27, 1894 – "Nine sections of the new Wenonah Water Company stand pipe have been put up, the men not stopping even in the very hot weather of last week."

July 25, 1894 – "The new stand pipe of the Wenonah Water Co. has been completed and has been filled with water. We anticipate a test on Wenonah plumbing when the water shall be turned on with the added force over the old service."

November 14, 1894 – "The West Jersey Railroad Co. have purchased of the Wenonah Water Co. their old tanks and are moving them to Elmer."

December 6, 1894 – "The Wenonah Water Company are boring several artesian wells, and erecting a large pumping and engine house in the glen near the lake."

June 6, 1903 – "The Water Company is drawing off the lake at the pumping station, as a precaution, that in case the drouth keeps up, and the seven 8-inch artesian wells should become insufficient to supply the demand, fresh water could be gotten from the lake. It seems that this is very unlikely, as they never have as yet, but the precaution is a wise one."

January 10, 1906 – "Water superintendant Price reports that 16,000.000 gallons of water have been used here the past year, making over 200 gallons to each of the 600 inhabitants. There are now being pumped about 1500 gallons each 24 hours."

May 16, 1906 – "The Bond Committee, composed of the following gentlemen, T.W. Synnott, E.A. Smith, H.A. Stout, W.P. Cox, R.C. Ballinger, H.S. Leap and J.M. Colbert, appointed by Borough Council to investigate and report as to the advisability of bonding the Borough to purchase the water works and establish an electric light plant in connection therewith, met in council chamber last evening, and, the sentiment of the committee was

strongly against such action. Dr. Stout was made chairman, and stated that the matter should be thoroughly investigated as it had been brought up at different times for several years past and that he had heard several taxpayers express themselves as favoring it and several who did not, and presented figures to show the present income from the water plant.

"T.W. Synnott stated that the plant today stood the water company in $44,000.00 but that they would sell for $30,000.00 and as a stock holder he would be glad to dispose of his stock at those figures, but as a member of the committee, he was not in favor of the town buying.

"The probable expenses of operating the plant were found to exceed the income from it.

"R.C. Ballinger stated that he thought the purchase inadvisable unless the principal could be reduced at least five per cent, per annum, and offered the following resolution, which was carried without a dissenting vote.

"'That the committee deem it inadvisable to bond the Borough for the purchase of the water plant and establishing an electric light plant in connection, at the present time.'"

July 13, 1906 – "The pure artesian water which has always been an attractive feature to home seekers and residents here has been so bad for the last two weeks that it is unfit for any use, and pumps around town are having runs upon them like a bank in time of panic. Just what the trouble is seems to be a mystery to those in charge and the stand pipe is being emptied today to see if the new coat of paint recently applied to the inside is responsible. One of the most plausible theories yet advanced is, that one of the iron well pipes has a crack in it large enough to admit the sulphur water from the marl beds through which the wells are driven, as the odor of the water is identical to that of the marl taken out of the wells at the time they were dug. It is reasonable to presume that the Water Company will make every effort to speedily locate and remedy the cause, whatever it may be, as their service has always been of the best in the past, and as management has had a practical demonstration that virtue, patience, has about became exhausted on the part of several residents, an improvement may soon be expected."

November 5, 1909 – "In order to make an equitable charge for water, the Wenonah Water Company will place water meters on the premises of all water takers, charging according to amount used upon a minimum basis. The installing of the meters will be done during the present month and the meter rates will commence January 1st, 1910."

July 3, 1910 – "No one need go dry now as our public fountain is in order and has received a new coat of paint and looked fine on the '4th.' We also see that there is a cup placed there for all persons wishing to drink of Wenonah's cool artesian well water."

March 31, 1911 – "The Wenonah Water Company offers to rent its plant to the Borough of Wenonah for the sum of two thousand dollars ($2,000) per annum, payable semi-annually for the period of ninety-nine years, the Borough to operate the plant and pay all expenses, including taxes, extensions, etc."

April 20, 1912 – "A sample of the Wenonah artesian water, can be seen in the Times window. It was drawn from a faucet in the kitchen of Postmaster English's house and has not been filtered.

"Wenonah has six wells about 128 feet deep, and the machinery is as good today as it was 17 years ago. All the wells have a splendid flow. Wenonah water has brought many people to that place as residents."

September 3, 1912 – "Now that we own our own water plant it's right that we have an efficient one, and to get this it takes money, but it will pay in the long run. It will take at least $10,000. We should take up all the mains less than four inches, take out all dead ends, put in a new eight inch well and change our plant so it can be run cheaper by installing an oil burning engine. This is a matter for the citizens to take up; not Council, as the citizens bought the plant. But no doubt Council will help, as they are up-to-date and will be ready and willing to have an up-to-date water plant. We regret Council is hampered by the lack of money, in making these extensions. It is also wrong for Council in making extensions by following after the old water company. If they continue to do this in later years it will take thousands of dollars to put things in shape."

May 15, 1913 – "It is reported that an ordinance regulating the operation of the Borough's water plant has been introduced in Council and was passed first and second reading at the meeting of May 8th. It is understood that if this ordinance becomes effective the water rent will be raised from the present rate of $15 per year minimum to $20 per year minimum and that the allowance of 50,000 gallons per year will remain the same. In addition to this it is said that $1 per year will be charged each year for the use of the meter, making the total rental per year $21 in place of the old rate of $15.

"If this ordinance is passed at the next meeting of Council it will undoubtedly become effective at once, in which case it is presumed that bills for an additional quarter will be received by the consumers this year.

"It is not thought that this increase will be extremely popular as one of the chief arguments advanced in favor of the Borough purchasing the plant was that the citizens should secure the plant themselves and thereby protect from any increase in the yearly rentals. It seems to be the general impression however that this increase cannot become effective until sanctioned by the State Board of Public Utilities Commissioners."

August 4, 1913 – "The stand pipe, after being painted, looks much better and increases in a way the beauty of the town. The color, as it is now a dark green within five feet of the top, and the other five feet being white, harmonizes with the surroundings."

January 6, 1916 – "The new pumping station was opened for inspection on January 1st, from 2 to 4 p.m."

January 7, 1916 – "According to the Engineer's reports there was 20,601,440 gallons of water pumped during the year (1915), an average of 1,716,786 gallons per month and 56,442 gallons a day. Based on our census of 1915 which gives our population as 840, this would mean that the average consumption of water per capita would be 67 gallons per day or 24,455 gallons per year."

August 13, 1916 – "The inspector from the State Department of Health was down Friday morning to inspect the new artesian well, which has a depth of two hundred and sixteen feet. He filled a bottle with water from the well, sealed it, and shipped it to Trenton."

February 16, 1920 – "Sealed proposals for painting the stand pipe 15 feet diameter by 100 feet high at Wenonah, N.J., will be received by the Water Committee of the Council of the Borough of Wenonah, in the Council Chamber at the Fire House in said Borough on Tuesday, March 2, 1920, at 7:30 p.m.

The outside and inside of the stand pipe to be scraped and wire brushed, removing all scale and rust therefrom, after which there shall be applied one coat of paint or iron coating on the inside of the stand pipe and two coats of paint on the outside of the stand pipe."

May 26, 1923 – "A special session of the Wenonah Borough Council was held last evening and action was taken whereby the borough will supply Mantua with water for domestic purposes. The matter will be referred to the Public Utility Commission for approval but the borough under the circumstances has anticipated their approval, and a pipe has been laid, above ground, connecting the Wenonah water service with Mantua service pipe."

May 31, 1923 – "Until further notice water for household purpose may be used without restriction.

"Water for sprinkling and other use may be used from 7 A.M. to 12 noon daylight saving time. You are urged to use water for real need only."

August 15, 1925 – "George S. Miller & Co., of Pitman, were awarded the contract for laying of water mains for the Borough of Wenonah by the Borough Council of that place and the solicitor was authorized to draw up the contract.

"The work to be done on Mantua avenue consists of laying 6-inch water mains from Clinton avenue to a point 75 feet west of West Jersey avenue, and from Princeton avenue to Woodbury avenue. A 4-inch main will be laid from Garfield avenue to Hayes avenue."

May 15, 1926 – "Steps to relieve the present condition of the Wenonah water plant and the low pumpage of the artesian wells were taken at the regular meeting of the borough council last night. Council was told of the present needs of the plant by Mr. Kauffman, an expert engineer in that line.

"Mr. Kaufmann, who has made a preliminary survey of the water system in the borough, said that the most important thing to be done was to have the wells blown as they were exceedingly dirty, this being the cause of the shortage of pumping. He said that some of the wells were twenty-five years old and that they had not been cleaned, according to records for seventeen years.

"Another cause of the hard pumpage encountered is the fact that the water strata throughout the state has lowered because of the demand for artesian well water. Mr. Kaufmann said that he felt if they were properly cleaned it would solve the problem. In relation to the fact that the water is of a rather milky nature, Mr. Kaufmann said that this also was probably due to the dirty wells.

" He also recommended placing of a water meter at the water plant to measure the water pumped, as well as suggesting several minor remedies that would result in the lowering of the cost of pumping.

"Councilman Morrell reported that he had received a price from Reidpath and Potter for the blowing of the wells. The price quoted was $3.50 an hour for two men and equipment, borough to furnish fuel and water. Minor details will raise this cost somewhat.

"A motion was then carried that the Water Committee let the contract for the blowing of the wells and to employ engineer Kaufmann to supervise the work and to make further changes."

August 10, 1928 – "Water Committee advised Council of the serious condition of the water pumping facilities, one

steam boiler is broken down and useless, and advise in their opinion Council should replace the old steam boiler with a diesel motor and new pump."

Council authorized an emergency purchase of a 40 horsepower diesel engine and 500 gallon per minute pump.

May 9, 1931 – "An offer of $500 for the purchase of a privately owned water main on Maple avenue was authorized in a resolution adopted last night by Wenonah council. It was adopted on the recommendation of Councilman Knollin Cox, chairman of the committee that has been investigating the purchase.

"The four inch main is approximately 1400 feet in length and serves nine properties at the present time. It is owned by T.W. Synnott and T.W. Townsend.

"The borough desires its purchase in order to provide fire protection to residents in that section of the borough. The installation of 110 feet of main to connect with the section it is proposed to purchase was also authorized by council."

June 10, 1933 – "The borough of Wenonah will fight against compliance with an order issued by the State Board of Health for the installation of a chlorinator at their water pumping station.

"This decision was reached last night by council, after Councilman Knollin Cox, water committee chairman, reported receipt of the state order, which requires installation of the apparatus by July 15 in order to improve the water supply.

"The order, together with all previous correspondence between the borough and the state department, was referred to Borough Solicitor Oscar B. Redrow.

"'I don't know what to make of it,' Cox said. 'Their laboratory reports on samples of water taken from our system show the water to be free of contamination, and then they send us this resolution ordering a treatment for purification of the supply, declaring the water not fit for consumption. It's all d _ _ _ poppycock.'

Tests of water made recently by chemists hired by the borough water department have shown the water to be free of contamination agreeing with last state analysis received by the borough.

"According to Cox, he was told last January by representatives of the state department that 85 per cent of the water supply in the state was chlorinated and that it was the department's aim to have all water given such treatment.

"Test taken at that time showed no contamination and the regular April quarterly report was also satisfactory."

July 11, 1936 – "Only 22 water services in the entire borough are not connected and Wenonah has reached a new high in water customers with a total of 346, Councilman Knollin B. Cox, chairman of the water committee, reported at the regular meeting of council last night."

March 5, 1945 – "Wenonah dedicated its new 12-inch well Saturday with appropriate ceremonies.

"Councilman Knollin B. Cox, chairman of the water committee, called on Rev. Carlton N. Nelson, pastor of the Wenonah Methodist Church, for the invocation. Mr. Cox then introduced A.C. Schultes, the contractor, and Charles Mickle, who did the electrical work, and called on Mr. Mickle to unlock the pumping house and turn the key over to the borough clerk, Charles M. Hobson.

"Mr. Cox then addressed the councilmen and citizens present, explaining the many steps taken from the time of the well's inception, first securing the permission of the State Water Policy Commission for the right to drill the well; then the numerous details necessary to be submitted to the State Board of Health as to plans and specifications drawn up by Borough Engineer Wm C. Cattell and County Engineer Wm H. Baum.

"Then the final approval of the State Board of Health as to equipment and careful analysis of the water supply. All of which passed the test and on February 13, 1945 the State Board of Health notified the borough of their full approval as to plans and specifications and that the water was free from contamination of any kind.

"Mr. Cox then called on Joseph E. Truncer, who started the wheels in motion of the original steam pump of the old Wenonah Water Co. on July 5, 1896, to throw the electric switch of the new electric pump controlling the 12-inch well, 320 feet deep and capable of pumping 600 gallons per minute.

"Mayor William I. Conway and ex-mayor H. Lake Gilmour then threw the electric motor controls and the citizens of Wenonah began to receive the first water from the new well.

"The borough is now in a safe position as to quality and volume of water for years to come. And the well is completely paid for from accumulated funds of the water department without any additional expense to our taxpayers."

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, January 13, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 1, January 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I wish a Happy and Healthy 2012 to all of our members. Try to remember that resolution to invite a neighbor to one our meetings in 2012.

The program for January 13, 2012 (described below) promises to be informative, entertaining and the topic is very close to home.

I want to thank Larry Smith for producing this newsletter over the past year. He does a very nice job with a difficult task. His December article on "Wenonah Water (1885 - 1945)" may have seemed a bit "dry" to some but municipal water and sewer services are the unglamorous infrastructure vital to the existence of any town.

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Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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Before There Was Wenonah …

The community of Wenonah was founded 141 years ago and the history of this charming town is a rich and fascinating one. But, occasionally all of us have all wondered about what was here before there was a Wenonah—before the lovely Victorian homes and grid of peaceful tree-lined streets, and before the directors of the Mantua Land & Improvement Co. came and chose this place as the site for the planned community that has endured and become our home.

For our January program, Richard Dilks—a life-long Wenonah resident—will present Before There Was Wenonah:

The past is a vast territory to explore. In Wenonah's most distant past, its land was part of a supercontinent, then the floor of a shallow sea at the end of the age of dinosaurs. When men and women first came here 12,000 years ago, our town was part of a subarctic tundra where the now extinct mega fauna grazed. For thousands of years the Lenni Lannapi people lived peacefully in our region and have left behind their trails and artifacts to remind us that they too were here. In the 17th century, European powers—Holland, Sweden and Great Britain—sought, won and eventually lost colonial empires here. The American Revolution swept through this one square mile that would become Wenonah and the men who lived here played their parts in that struggle. We will explore not only what was here in Pre-Wenonah's ancient past and colorful history, but what was here in the final decades before 1871, and what remnants of that time still survive in our town today. Join us on this journey through time and discover what was here before there was Wenonah.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER?

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Thoughts about Leaving Wenonah
by Marjorie Lentz

December 30, 2011

Over fifty years ago my husband Bob and I moved to Wenonah and immediately we were earmarked as an odd couple. We did not own a car. Everybody in Wenonah had one. As Bob often said that it was not that we could not afford a car, but that it was not needed in Wenonah.

It was only a hop and a skip and jump to walk up the street where squeezed together were a meat market (Tony Sacca's), a grocery store (George and Jane Bowker), a post office, a barber shop (Oram Shuster), a haberdasher (Wayne Post) and a notions store (Southard's). Every town should have a notions store and Wenonah had one. The best part of walking uptown was that you met other people walking and you were able to socialize. That was the way you met people in Wenonah.



Eventually we had two boys who attended the grammar school where they walked home for lunch. Because we probably lived the farthest distance from the school, they often had to run back before the second bell rang. The teachers were stern and that was all right. Because of the solid foundation in learning they received many students including our sons went on to secure advanced degrees.

The best part in living in Wenonah was the opportunity to share your talents. Volunteerism was a way of life. Every one had an opportunity whether it was coaching baseball, hacking trails along the Mantua Creek, reading stories to children in the library. With all the many clubs in town there were lots of ways to volunteer.

Another of the rewarding aspects of living in Wenonah was the diverse population. People came from all parts of our country and shared their stories which enriched out knowledge.

Now at 96 years and with limited mobility I have had to adjust to a new way of living in Pitman Manor. I miss my home and the woods and the frequent deer that visited our property. Frequently there were three deer but one morning there were eight.

Living here has been a big step for me. However with your frequent visitations and communications you have helped me with the transition. Thank you

Jennie McQuaide gave me a book containing about three hundred pages. The book is currently empty. Jennie suggested that every day I write something for which I am grateful. So on the first day of 2012 I will begin. First I am grateful that I spent my mature years in Wenonah where I took time out to volunteer, where I could enrich my life by contact with diverse people. With your assistance and helpful thoughts I will learn to adjust to a new way of living.

Oh, yes, we did eventually purchase a car. I forgot to mention that.

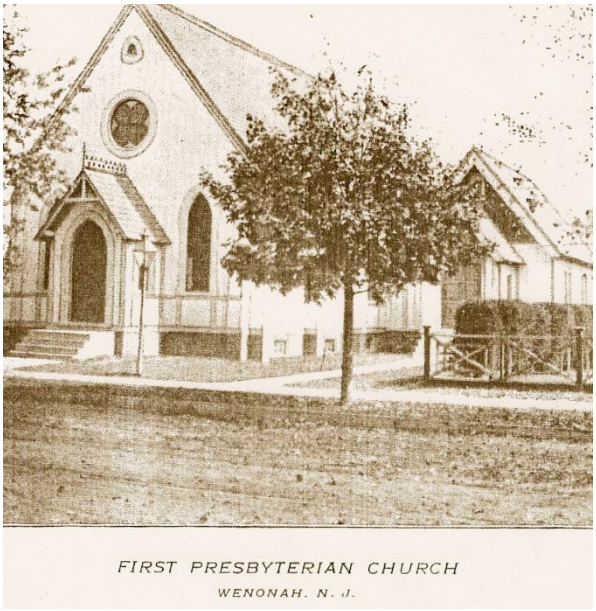
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The following house photos and information have been provided by Frank Eggert.

FEATURE HOUSES
5 North Clinton Avenue and 8 West Mantua Avenue

The house at 5 North Clinton Avenue was built in 1873 by the First Presbyterian Church (now Memorial Presbyterian Church). The building at the rear of the original church, as shown in the photograph below, was moved to 8 West Mantua Avenue in 1883. It has housed various enterprises over the years, including the Lutheran Church, and is now September Rose Studio.




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WENONAH. N. J.



Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, February 10, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 2, February 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer than usual weather we have been blessed with, and hope that I am not jinxing things by making such a comment.

Many thanks to Richard Dilks for his comprehensive presentation about "Wenonah Before There Was Wenonah" in January.

For this month's program, Vice President Paul Lader will be presenting the History Channel documentary on the Andersonville Prison and Trial of Captain Henry Wirz. Henry Wirz was the commandant of Andersonville prison during the War between the States and the only Civil War officer to be tried and executed for war crimes.

Please come out this Friday, February 10th at 7:30 P.M. and shake off a little of that "cabin fever."

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UPDATE ON THE WENONAH VIDEO PROJECT

With the holidays over, work has resumed on the Wenonah Video Project. Jack Sheppard Sr. gave a wonderful presentation that was captured on video chronicaling Wenonah's history. This segment is being edited and has a tentative completion date of March 31, 2012. Cara DeHart-Lewis and Gerard McGarrity, who are coordinating the video project, had the opportunity to attend the WHS meeting in October and gathered more potential names to interview this summer. A big thank you to Lisa Flowers who sent them a videotape containing footage of the Wenonah Parade. If you have old film/video of the town or parade or questions, please contact them at: gerard_mcgarrity@yahoo.com or cardehlew@yahoo.com.

REFRESHMENTS

Instead of soliciting volunteers for the entire year at one time, Jo Dominy will ask for volunteers to provide refreshments at the next meeting. If you would like to volunteer for the March meeting, please advise Jo at the meeting on Friday or give her a call. You will be reimbursed for the refreshments.

2012 WHS DUES ARE DUE

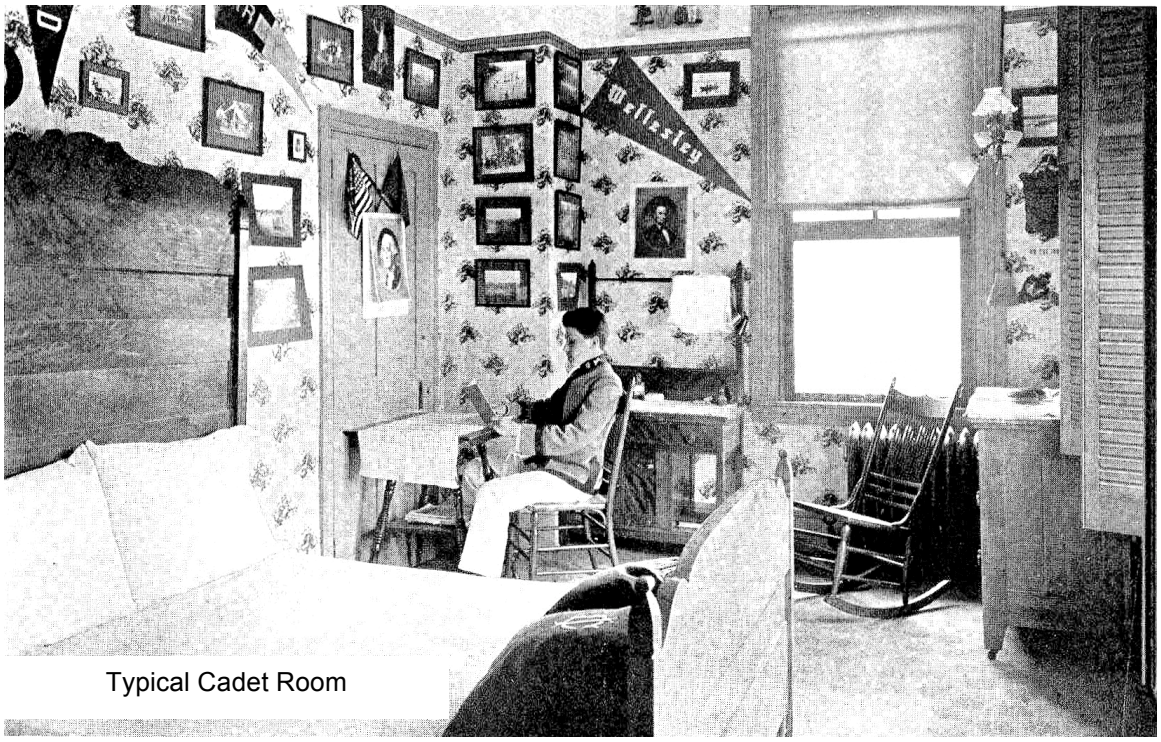
Just a reminder that the 2012 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at $15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer.

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. The source of the article was the 1909-1910 Catalogue of the Academy, published by Stephen Greene just five years after the Academy opened. Greene was the founder of the Wenonah Military Academy and a successful printer in Philadelphia. His publications contained a great deal of information about the functioning of the Academy, individual cadets, and benefits to parents considering sending their sons to the Academy.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

The Kind of Boy We Want

We are desirous of welcoming boys who are imbued with manly hopes and ambitions. Wenonah Military Academy is essentially a school for gentlemen's sons. We want only boys and young men who will work during study time; who will play, and play heartily, during play time; boys who will at all times be high-toned, courteous gentlemen. With such material it is a teacher's greatest happiness to get at the boys and instill ideals and principles that may guide them through life. The teachers enter into all the interests of the boys, and seek to develop their best potentialities on every side.



Typical Cadet Room

Self-government is, we are sure, the best of all governments in the junior republics as well as the great ones. So far as possible, then, we try to foster this expression of the principles that we inculcate. We believe that American boys need a stronger and more defined system of self-government than other boys. Often they are more indulged at home, and as a whole are rather less tractable. Hence we have adopted the military system, with its steady regularity and

impartiality, its wide room for gradation of responsibilities, its traditions of fidelity to honor, and its forcible appeal to imagination. We trace its permanent influence in the after-careers of our graduates, which proves that an *esprit de corps* in school life is of priceless value. In maintaining the hold over boys, we place the greatest dependence upon the close touch and cordial relations between teacher and pupil; the master insisting on a firm, dignified and systematic classroom discipline, the pupils showing proper obedience and deference without familiarity.

Moral Culture

As the moral development of a Christian character is a matter of first importance, care is taken that the boys committed to the charge of the institution shall become Christian gentlemen and shall be trained to lead a godly and Christian life.

Devotional exercises, at which all must be present, are conducted daily. On Sunday, the students in a body, accompanied by the Superintendent and his associates, attend public worship once at least in some church, and as nearly as may be in accordance with the denominational preferences of the parents. Other exercises suitable for the Sabbath are held in the Academy itself, the intention being to make the home a Christian one, but free from all sectarian bias.

The moral training of the establishment is practical and corrective, and will positively arrest all practices and habits that are of an immoral character and tendency. Especially will it deal with profanity, obscenity, and the use of intoxicants and tobacco in all their forms; also any form of *hazing is positively prohibited.*

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, March 9, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 3, March 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Many thanks to our VP Paul Lader for his most interesting and moving presentation at last month's meeting of the WHS. Having the main character of the documentary as a member and present that evening added to the appeal of the presentation. Terrific acting job Jeff Rodriguez!! Kudos also to Vicki (and Lou) McCall for the wonderful Valentine's Day themed refreshments / "wedding reception" for Barbara and me. It was very much appreciated.

The presenter this month will also feature a WHS member, Karen Heller. Her topic will focus on the life and times of Ann Whitall who resided in the James and Ann Whitall House located at Red Bank Battleground Park. We look forward to Karen's program as we are always interested in local history.

Also, please remember that your 2012 WHS dues are due and are stiil a bargain at $15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer.

Hope to see you this Friday March 9th at 7:30 P.M.

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Photos courtesy of the McCalls. As Vicki and Lou say "miss one meeting and you miss a lot."

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THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

Location

The location of Wenonah Military Academy is in the choicest section of south and west New Jersey, possessing pre-eminently the advantages of healthfulness, beauty, accessibility and quiet seclusion—sufficiently removed from the dangerous enticements of the city, and yet within easy reach of city patrons.

The conditions desirable for an institution of this character have been fully realized in the selection of its site. The sale of intoxicants within a mile of the Academy is absolutely prohibited by law.

It is about twelve miles distant from Philadelphia, with which it is in communication by frequent trains over the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad.

Wenonah being situated on high grounds, the natural drainage is as perfect as possible, and the Academy has an entirely independent sanitary drainage system, designed and constructed under the personal supervision of one of the most accomplished and experienced engineers of the country; it is believed to be as nearly perfect as expert skill can make it.

Wenonah is an entirely residential town; there are no factories, and the charter of the town absolutely prohibits saloons, a clause to this effect being incorporated in every original land title deed.

The Academy building is a handsome structure of attractive modern architecture. It stands on an apex of the highlands in the midst of spacious grounds that are ornamented with stately oaks, balsams and maples, attractive evergreens, well-trimmed hedges of acacia and ornamental shrubs in abundance. Indeed, so complete and admirable are these premises for the purposes to which they are now devoted, that, with the supplemental improvements, made with special reference to that use, they constitute a model establishment not excelled in the particulars named by any similar educational institution in the country.

Buildings

The Academy building is only a few minutes' walk from the railroad station, telegraph office and churches; it has three stories, and has comfortable rooms for all students under one roof. The rooms are heated by steam, and 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 organic matter from surface drainage.

The Academy main building is the home of the cadets. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, this building is 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 80 feet over the central angle; consequently the building has abundance of light all day long. The lower floor is occupied by the store-rooms, boiler-room, laboratory, lavatories and laundry. On the main floor are rooms for the superintendent and masters. The general assembly room is in the south wing, the lower school in the east wing. In the central angle are the reception-rooms, the library and reading-room. From this diverge the assembly, class and dining rooms. The second and third floors each contain 30 sleeping-roorns, besides 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 nor heating apparatus other than the steam heat are allowed in the building. Two exits for each hallway, one by a short stairway of only twelve feet, the other by an enclosed stairway, furnish immediate access to the main entrance. Extreme caution has been taken in providing for the general care and safety of the students. The students' rooms are large, heated by steam and nicely furnished with first-class furniture, the beds having re-enforced woven-wire springs and hair mattresses. These rooms are all outside rooms and are so situated as to receive light all day long; they are 12 x 16 feet, and all open into halls that have light and ventilation at both ends. Each room is furnished with one bed for each occupant, a five-drawer chiffonier with a mirror, a wardrobe 7 x 3 feet, and two chairs. They are arranged for cadets wishing to room alone, or for two cadets. The furnishings have been selected carefully, and with a view not only to convenience and comfort, but also to attractive appearance. Bath and toilet rooms are on each floor, supplied with hot and cold water, the plumbing being constructed in the most modern and improved manner.

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

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 park and Academy campus. 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 Cosmopolitan, McClure's, Munsey's, Review of Reviews, World's Work, Outing, St. Nicholas, The American Boy, Harper's Weekly, Collier's Weekly, Country Life, The Churchman, The Church Standard, The Outlook, The Army and Navy Register and Army and Navy Journal.

From WMA archives. Research by Jack Sheppard Sr 2/12

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, April 13, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 4, April 2012

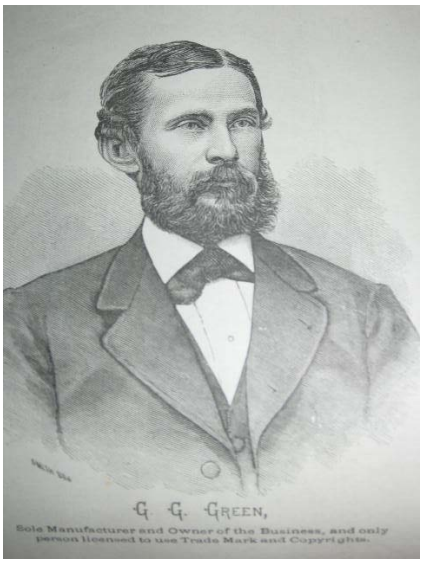
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Greetings to all. I hope everyone is enjoying that Spring Has Sprung (as has the pollen count!!). April 28 th, the last Saturday of April, is the annual Borough-wide yard sale. If you are on the prowl for bargains, keep your eyes open for any Wenonah historic artifacts (4th of July mugs excluded).

We are happy to partner with the Gloucester County Historical Society at our April meeting in mutual efforts and interest in local history. The presentation is titled "Colonel G. G. Green Laboratory Buildings."

One name of a prominent Gloucester County resident that has been in the news quite often lately is that of George Gill Green, Gloucester County's first multi-millionaire. The city of Woodbury is indeed indebted to the industry and vision of Colonel G. G. Green, who was known primarily as Woodbury's and the country's patent medicine king from 1872 until his death in 1925. The city's name of Woodbury and the products *August Flower*, *Dr. Boschee's German Syrup* and *Ague Conqueror* were world-renowned.



Phenomenal sales and unprecedented profits realized during Green's first seven years running the company forced him to build a second structure to replace his 1873 factory. *Green's Laboratories and Offices*, located on Green Street, was completed in 1879 at a cost of $35,000-$40,000. In 2001, much of what remained of the factory and laboratory was used in the renovation and additional construction of the Woodbury Mews complex.

The presentation features biographical information about G. G. Green and his family, early pictures and drawings that were used in his sales promotions, the Green family connection to Pasadena, CA, and an inside look at the factory and laboratory before and after renovations of what is now the Woodbury Mews.

Hope to see you this Friday, April 13th (uh-oh, Friday the 13th) at 7:30 P.M.

2011 WHS OFFICERS

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Trustee	Betty MacLeod
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UPDATE ON MARJORIE LENTZ

Marjorie is recovering in the nursing care section of Pitman Manor, Room 308. She is conversing with visitors, eating, taking brief walks in the hallway and receiving limited physical therapy. It appears she is back near the level of health she enjoyed before her recent illness and time in the hospital.

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. The source of the article was the 1909-1910 Catalogue of the Academy, published by Stephen Greene just five years after the Academy opened. Greene was the founder of the Wenonah Military Academy and a successful printer in Philadelphia. His publications contained a great deal of information about the functioning of the Academy, individual cadets, and benefits to parents considering sending their sons to the Academy.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

Facilities for Physical Training

On the south campus is the new drill hall and gymnasium, well equipped with modern apparatus. Adjoining the main buildings is the "Annex," equipped with a pair of excellent bowling alleys, shuffleboards, billiard and pool tables furnishing abundant facilities for recreation and healthful exercises in winter and summer.

Physical culture is of so much importance that in addition to the methodical exercise of the military drill, a generous provision is made for indoor athletic sports and gymnastic training.

A large new gymnasium and drill-hall has been constructed and in addition to the fine campus, a new and spacious enclosed athletic field has been provided, including a quarter-mile cinder-track; with all the facilities for foot-ball, base-ball, track athletics and all the usual field sports.

On the north end is situated the covered pavilion with seating capacity for five hundred spectators.

New Drill Hall and Gymnasium

The new Drill Hall and Gymnasium completed recently is situated on the south campus.

The main room is seventy feet wide, one hundred and twenty feet long and thirty-three feet high, containing eight thousand four hundred square feet of floor space, with a large stage on the west end. It is constructed of concrete blocks with gothic roof.

It is lighted by electricity and gas, heated by steam, perfectly ventilated and fully equipped with gymnastic apparatus.

Few military schools or even colleges can boast of a more spacious, attractive or better equipped drill hall and gymnasium.

It not only serves its legitimate purpose as a place for indoor military work, for daily gymnastic exercises, as a basketball and tennis court, and an indoor baseball diamond, but also is especially serviceable as a lecture room and social hall. Here will be held frequent official functions and informal dances.

Adjoining the Drill Hall is a well-rolled and equipped tennis court.

A competent instructor will supervise and direct all physical exercises.

Military Department

For centuries, the military organization has been recognized as the most effective in controlling men in the enforcement of obedience to lawful authority. The military department of this Academy is one of its most prominent and effective features. The feeling of loyalty to the school is one of the conspicuous traits of our graduates. There is a feeling in the air not only of devotion to the flag but also of devotion to the welfare of the particular group to which one belongs and esprit de corps.

A young man who has made little progress in his studies, who dislikes school and his classmates and teachers, will often come to take an entirely different view of life after he has lived in the atmosphere of a military school. It has been found by experience that to be beneficial and enjoyable, the military system must be enforced with thoroughness in execution of detail. To this end, the Superintendent, a military officer of wide experience and great enthusiasm, who has had special training in his work, assumes command of this department. Under his direction the orders are issued, and the cheerful compliance therewith is evidence that the performance of military duty is a fascinating pleasure rather than an irksome punishment.

From WMA archives. Research by Jack Sheppard Sr 2/12

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Frank Eggert's long-term project to memorialize the historic structures of Wenonah was discussed in the January 2011 issue of the Wenonah Historical Society newsletter. Several of the houses have been featured in other newsletter issues. And, many of you have perused through the binders that Frank has compiled of all the structures. Frank has now prepared a listing of the structures, categorized by year, and with the original owner (as shown on the WHS plaque) and the current owner. A sampling of Frank's latest effort to preserve the history of Wenonah follows.

THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES OF WENONAH

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1763		
100 S. West Ave.	Moffett, Samuel	Comella, Terrance C.
1800		
111 N. Lincoln Ave.	Stone House Tenant Farm	Howard, John F. & Kathleen C.
406 W. Mantua Ave.	Tenant House for Stone House	Henry Jr, Kenneth S. & Marilyn S.
1850		
109 S. Clinton Ave.	Tatum, William R.	Honabach, Mark F. & Wisely, William J.
1854		
1473 Glassboro Rd.	Chew, Nathaniel	Buongiovanni Jr., Angelo
509 E. Elm St.	Newshafer, George	Constantino, Jay & Stacey

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, May 11, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 5, May 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Hello to all. May 11th will be our last formal meeting of the season. Our program will feature the abbreviated finale of Richard Dilks' "Wenonah Before it Was Wenonah" (described below). Richard, a life-long resident of Wenonah, talked at our January meeting about the land that would become Wenonah before there were inhabitants and then of the land when the first inhabitants arrived some 12,000 years ago, taking us to the 19th century. This Friday, Richard concludes his presentation with a tour through the place that was here in those mid-19th century decades that immediately preceded the founding of Wenonah in 1871. He will explore those buildings still standing and other elements still visible that continue to link us to the time and place before there was Wenonah.

Mark June 8th on your calendar as it is the date of our annual picnic. The picnic will start at 5:00 P.M. and the main course will be catered. On Friday, Jean Cowles will be asking for volunteers to provide appetizers and desserts.

I want to thank Jo Dominy for taking on the lion's share of the wonderful post meeting refreshment duties at our meetings this year, as well as all others who generously contributed. I hope you will agree with me that this has been another good year for the WHS with insightful and interesting programs. Please feel free to put on your thinking cap and give me ideas for next year's programs. Our Kick-off Classic will be on September 14th. Details will follow.

I hope to see you this Friday, May 11th at 7:30 P.M. Don't forget our New Year's resolution to bring a neighbor to a WHS meeting. This Friday would be a great opportunity to do so.

Before There Was Wenonah: Gentle Fields and Country Lanes…

Imagine it is 150 years ago, maybe a little bit more. You find yourself in the rural fields and farmlands of Southern New Jersey, a prime agricultural area close to the markets of bustling, urban Philadelphia. The first thing you notice is how open the place is. The land is high and well drained and surprisingly rolling and hilly in places. There are almost no trees, just fields filled with a variety of vegetables. Sweet potatoes are a common crop but there are other things too, and they are destined for the dinner tables of Philadelphia and surrounding communities. The fields had been cleared in the early 18th century and farmed for generations. There are a few trees, perhaps a hedgerow here or there and small clusters of shade trees near the scattered farmhouses. The most imposing farmhouse has thick stone walls and is the oldest building in the area. Built in the mid-18th

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century, it was a tavern in colonial and revolutionary times. There are a few other farm houses, barns and out buildings. One dates from the 1770's and others from a bit later. A couple are the sturdy homes of tenant farmers and one is the home of a tanner. All these structures are connected by a lacework of unpaved country lanes, usually intersecting at odd angles. One lane leads to a grist mill with the mill pond and miller's home nearby. Another leads to the banks of a navigable creek, the busiest place around with wharves, warehouses and barges shipping goods to and from Philadelphia.

This could have been one of innumerable places in our region in 1850. But it was here. Before the railroads came and changed everything, before a group of businessmen and investors (mostly railroad men) formed themselves into the Mantua Land & Improvement Co., proposing a venture to turn these fields into a most remarkable community, this was the place that became Wenonah.

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THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY
by Herbert R. Rambo of the *Times* Staff
July 12, 1967

WENONAH—All that remains of the Wenonah Military Academy is a few yellowed catalogues, portions of a brick wall and memories. But to the men who called WMA their alma mater, it will always exist.

Officially the academy closed its doors for the last time in 1935 at the height of the Great Depression. The main building was razed as a fire hazard in 1937, not because it was unsafe, but simply because it was unoccupied.

At one time the campus included two athletic fields and the educational complex. The huge, main building, five stories in one place, dominated the community of Wenonah.

Originally the Academy had been the Wenonah Inn, a fashionable place for Philadelphia society to retreat in the 1880s and 1890s. In the days of horses and carriages, city people would drive out to savor the pleasures of country life.

But as trains and automobiles made their appearance, the shore resorts began to siphon off the vacationers. The big inn was closed in 1900.

One Captain Jones—whose first name has been lost to history—got the idea for a military school while riding past the old inn on his way to Philadelphia, where he headed the now-defunct Wanamaker Cadets. The cadets were a drill team sponsored by the department store.

He approached the Stephen Greene family, Philadelphians who owned the inn, who agreed and the academy was opened in 1904. Financial backing was provided by the Greenes.

In 1912, Doctor Charles H. Lorence, of Wenonah, assumed the presidency and the academy experience its greatest growth. At its peak, WMA enrolled over 200 young men.

The Depression, the opening of Valley Forge Military Academy and other private schools and other factors contributed to the closing of the once-renowned school. The institution went bankrupt.

David Knight, the last living member of the WMA faculty, lives at the site of the old academy. He taught there from 1920-25 as a mechanical drawing teacher. In 1925 he joined the county public school system as a teacher, but still taught at Wenonah as a relief officer, or substitute.

He purchased part of the academy property at a tax sale a number of years ago. He built a home there where he and his wife, Kathryn, live, often playing hosts to visiting alumni and answering the few letters that WMA still receives.

"Every once in awhile, I get a letter from somebody asking the rates for sending a boy to the school. I answer every letter that comes here," Knight said, "telling them the school is no longer operating."

A few years ago the alumni association was going to start a new military academy. It was their hope to carry on the "Wenonah tradition." Among the graduates are State Sen. Frank S. Farley, of Atlantic County, and former NY Yankee pitcher Herb Pennock (now a Cooperstown NY Baseball Hall of Fame member). But alumni were unable to obtain the rights to the name Wenonah Military Academy and gave up the plan.

The association still meets each year in Atlantic City and every year the aging grads talk about starting a new academy. But Knight feels it is just talk.

"We're getting too old now to start all over again, it just wouldn't work. But we can always hope," he said with a smile.

Getting the money wouldn't be too much trouble. Many of the WMA grads have fared well in their respective professions. They're all willing to put money into it.

Back in the days When WMA was one of the leading schools in the East, it was noted for its athletic prowess and academic excellence. The school was frequently called "The West Point of New Jersey."

The school offered four courses of instruction: science, English, commercial and Latin scientific. Instead of honor rolls, the academy used four classifications: distinguished, honor, proficient and unclassified.

On the playing fields, WMA was known for its polo and football teams. Once the cadets beat a championship polo squad from West Point.

The only reminder of where the Academy once stood is a rampart-like stone wall that once was reinforced by two brass cannon maintained in their pristine glory by countless number of cadets whose errant ways earned them demerits, each representing two hours of extra duty.

"Gone are the barracks, the gym and drill halls where in pre-World War days the corps entertained as its guests at the mid-year dances with a drill of the "Butts Manual of Arms" done in cadence to some of the best bugling this side of taps."

Perhaps someday there may be a new WMA, but until that time, the alumni must content themselves with the only thing left to commemorate: a plaque imbedded in the old stone will that once surrounded the academy.

It reads "Lest We Forget—on this site was located the Wenonah Military Academy — 1902-1935. Fond memories, the Alumni Association."

Gloucester County Times
Research by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on
Friday, September 14, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 6, September 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Greetings fellow Wenonah Historical Society members. It has been a long, brutally hot Summer. Hopefully we can look forward to relief with a beautiful Autumn season and our usual WHS camaraderie. It seems as though our annual picnic (June 8, 2012) was just a few weeks ago. We now look forward to the 2012-2013 Wenonah Historical Society season.

Our September "Meet and Greet / Kickoff Classic" is scheduled for Friday, September 14th at 6:00 PM. Sue and Larry Smith have once again generously offered to open their home at 110 S. Clinton Ave. for this annual event. I ask that attendees bring appetizers and desserts based on the first letter of your last name:

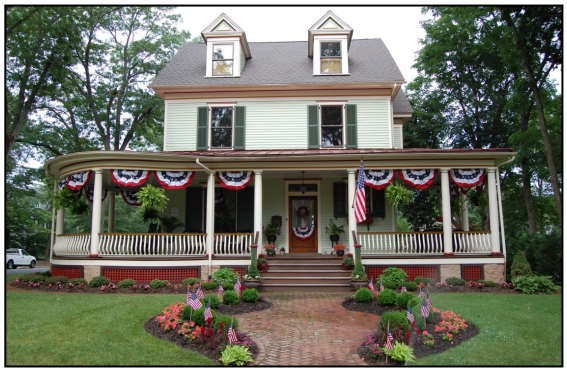
- A through M - please bring a dessert.
- N through Z - please bring an appetizer.

Please note that we are reversing the usual order (Larry's idea) to mix things up a bit.

Beverages will be provided.

This event is always an excellent opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who may be a prospective new member of the WHS.

I look forward to meeting again and reuniting after our "Long Hot Summer."



WENONAH MEMORIES ON FACEBOOK

Dave Brangan's idea of a "Facebook Reunion" came to fruition on July 4, 2012. A card table and sign marked the spot, just outside the Firehouse festivities, and folks stopped by to share memories of growing up in Wenonah. Marjorie Lentz's "Wenonah" was in demand and Marjorie spent time reminiscing with the crowd. Cara DeHart Lewis and Gerard McGarrity also returned to their hometown and said that their video of Wenonah is slowly progressing. They reminded us that any old film or video of Wenonah or the parade would be a welcome addition to the production. Please contact Cara at cardehlew@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

2012 WHS OFFICERS

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Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are normally held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center. Our September "meet & greet" will be held at 110 S. Clinton Ave.

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Frank Eggert's project to memorialize the historic structures of Wenonah was discussed in the January 2011 issue of the Wenonah Historical Society newsletter. Several of the houses have been featured in other newsletter issues. And, many of you have perused through the binders that Frank has compiled of all the structures. Frank has now prepared a listing of the structures, categorized by year, and with the original owner (as shown on the WHS plaque) and current owner. Frank's listing of the circa 18th- and 19th- century Wenonah structures follows. Twentieth-century structures will be included in the next newsletter.

THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES OF WENONAH

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1763		
100 S. West Ave.	Moffett, Samuel	Comella, Terrance C.
1800		
111 N. Lincoln Ave.	Stone House Tenant Farm	Howard, John F. & Kathleen C.
406 W. Mantua Ave.	Tenant House for Stone House	Henry, Kenneth S. Jr. & Marilyn S.
1850		
109 S. Clinton Ave.	Tatum, William R.	Honabach, Mark F. & Wisely, William J.
1854		
1473 Glassboro Rd.	Chew, Nathaniel	Buongiovanni Jr., Angelo
509 E. Elm St.	Newshafer, George	Constantino, Jay & Stacey
1870		
201 S. Clinton Ave.	Greene, Stephen	Sporer, David & Katherine
203 S. Clinton Ave.	Greene, Stephen	Meil, Adam & Chodorow, Piera
106 E. Willow St.	Greene, Stephen	Cleveland, Janet
8 S. West Ave.	West Jersey & Seashore Railroad	Dohanish, Susan A.
1871		
1 E. Mantua Ave.	Morgan, William	Pelican Rental Properties, LLC
1872		
1 S. Clinton Ave.	Bailey, Dr. George W.	Sindoni, James E.
11 W. Mantua Ave.	Brown, Daniel W.	Kapus, Curtis W. & Karen L.
11 N. Clinton Ave.	Carey, Andrew W.	Doto, Rocco F. & Coleen M.
7 W. Mantua Ave.	Howard, Ransom	Doto, Rocco F. & Coleen M.
209 W. Mantua Ave.	Melvil, James H.	Grayson, Dorothy S.
12 Lenape Trail	Pierce, Milton P.	Grigri, Bernard & Jeanne
8 N. West Ave.	West Jersey & Seashore Railroad	Sloan Family Properties, LLC

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1873		
6 E. Cherry St.	Buzby, Rebecca	Levens, Scott & Kuhn, Victoria
5 N. Clinton Ave.	First Presbyterian Church	Farrell, J. Michael & Sharon
101 S. Clinton Ave.	Hughes, Elia	Bretherick, Donald P. & Nancy L.
11 S. Clinton Ave.	McGill, George L.	Thompson, Richard & Judith J.
1874		
13 W. Mantua Ave.	Brown, Daniel W.	Burke, Edward & Patricia
3 E. Poplar St.	Brown, Daniel W.	Wiltsee, Harry G. & Carol N.
4 E. Willow St.	Melvil, James	Corbett, John & Jennifer
105 S. Clinton Ave.	Scott, Isaac	Dominy, John R. & Deborah C.
1875		
8 E. Cherry St.	Carey, James W.	Lader, Paul & Scheurenbrand, Sandra
7 E. Poplar St.	Gilmour, Henry	Christinzio, Angelo P. & Laurie A.
7 E. Mantua Ave.	Shull, Frank J.	Lamborne, David & Donna
1876		
100 S. Marion Ave.	Stevenson, Isaac C.	Lerner, John W. & Beth
12 N. Clinton Ave.	Thackara, Daniel	Baer, John M. & Sylvia
100 W. Mantua Ave.	Viereck, John A.	Knisell, Ralph M. & Emily Rachel B.
1877		
11 N. East Ave.	Leigh, Mary	Vandine, John E. & Renee A.
1878		
6 N. Marion Ave.	Trustees of School District 54	Gentile, Joseph C. Jr. & Garris, KimberleeAnn
1879		
201 S. Monroe Ave.	Brown, Daniel W.	Ruszin, John F.
1880		
101 E. Poplar St.	Arnesbroug, E.A.	Lefakis, John & Stephanie
201 E. Willow St.	Harris, George S.	Lanzalotti, Christopher & Marie
105 N. East Ave.	Mulford, Horatio J.	Gilfoy, Michael
1882		
12 N. West Ave.	Brown, D.W.	Campbell, Gregory S. & Katherine
14 N. West Ave.	Brown, D.W.	Campbell, Gregory S. & Katherine
100 E Cedar St.	Fay, Roland	Galczinski, Joseph
203 W. Mantua Ave.	Purdy, James C.	Lepley, Shawn & Keebler, Lynda

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1883		
8 W. Mantua Ave.	First Presbyterian Church	Christensen, Emmie Rose
108 E. Elm St.	Mulford, Horatio J.	Andrews, Robert W.
1884		
200 E. Mantua Ave.	Farr, Hannah	200 E. Mantua Ave. LLC, Nester DDS
107 E. Willow St.	Greene, Stephen	Rizzuto, John C. & Linda T.
7 N. East Ave.	Holloway, William	Heimer, Daniel I. & Karen
2 E. Cherry St.	Middleton, Samuel	Cook, James & Linda
205 E. Buttonwood St.	Synnott, Thomas W.	Murphy, John & Laura
201 E. Mantua Ave.	Synnott, Thomas W.	DeAscentis, William O. & Rosean M.
1885		
202 E. Willow St.	Greene, Stephen	Barbone, Frank & June
105 S. Marion Ave.	Marrick, Woodward	Magin, Franklin Jr. & Claire D.
107 S. Marion Ave.	Marrick, Woodward	Romeo, George C. & Vitto, Cindy L.
106 W. Mantua Ave.	Randolph, Thomas	Guest, Michael H.
200 S. Monroe Ave.	Scott, Job	Pozza, Alexander & Susan
1886		
200 E. Willow St.	Greene, Stephen	Hummel, Kenneth R. & Ellen K.
104 E. Mantua Ave.	Smith, Tacy Duell	Eiden, Francis D. & Virginia T.
1887		
12 W. Willow St.	Brown, Daniel W.	Zagone, John M. & Jacquelyn R.
1888		
4 E. Cherry St.	Buzby, George	Pellegrino, Michael & Theresa
107 E. Mantua Ave.	Dawson, William J.	Wenonah Medical Associates
101 W. Mantua Ave.	Johnson, J.	Capelli, Barbara A.
206 E. Willow St.	Wilkens, Charles	Mitchell, Richard & Marna Plourde
1889		
201 S. Princeton Ave.	Cookson, Rachel	Lock, John P. & Melissa R.

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1890		
6 W. Mantua Ave.	Bailey, Dr. George W.	DiBona, David M.
7 W. Park Ave.	Bailey, Dr. George W.	Watson, Jana D. & Joan C.
4 W. Park Ave.	Bailey, Dr. George W.	Dominy, John F. & Jo A.
12 S. Monroe Ave.	Bee, Anna H.	Bender, Wayne A.
11 S. Lincoln Ave.	Greening, Sara Jane	Messaros, Steven E. & Sherron E.
12 S. Princeton Ave.	Langston, Jessica	Tzitzifas, Konstantinos & Effie
207 E. Willow St.	Stokes, Merdia	Ramsay, David & Linda
1891		
103 N. Lincoln Ave.	Beucler, R.	Helmbrecht, William D. & Linda S.
1892		
12 N. Marion Ave.	Carey, Andrew W.	Zimmer, Joseph F.
10 N. Marion Ave.	Kipper, Fredericka	Cimino, Mark & Laurie F.
1893		
205 E. Willow St.	English, Jessie	Farina, Ronald J. & Deborah R.
102 W. Mantua Ave.	Leap, Henry M.	Seville, Joan B.
14 S. Monroe Ave.	Savage, Catherine	Sparks, Steven W. & Florentina H.
8 N. Monroe Ave.	Scott. Job	Snock, Ronald E. & Linda L.
105 E. Mantua Ave.	Smith, Blair	Dugan, Janice S.
204 W. Mantua Ave.	Smith, Blair	DiLisciandro, Pietro & Kimberly
1 E. Poplar St.	Trask, Harry M.	Kelly, Ian E. & Christa R.
Mantua Ave. & N. East Ave.	West Jersey & Seashore Railroad	Borough of Wenonah
1896		
300 E. Mantua Ave.	Farr, Edward L.	McCall, Louis C.J. & Vicki Braun
202 W. Mantua Ave.	Smith, Blair	Innes, Neil & Catherine
6 N. Clinton Ave.	Stout-Vogt	Malfitano, Vincent C. & Jennifer
1897		
401 E. Cherry St.	Farr, Edward L.	Murtha, Thomas M. & Kristina G.
8 N. Clinton Ave.	Sooy, Samuel T.	Lewis, Gregory & Melisa
1898		
203 E. Willow St.	VanMeter, Wiliam	Streck, Leonard E. & Maureen H.
1899		
300 W. Mantua Ave.	Colbert, Clarence	Finch, Edmund
107 S. Clinton Ave.	Holeton, John	Birkland, Scott G. & Brenda A.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, October 12, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 7, October 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I hope that all those who attended the September 2012 Meet and Greet had an enjoyable evening. It certainly seemed like that was the case. Again, many thanks to our hosts, Sue and Larry Smith. Now we move into our "regular" meetings that feature programs of a historical nature. As always, I am open to any ideas or suggestions for future program topics.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Barbara Solem-Stull, author of *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.* Barbara will speak about the towns that rose up around the iron furnaces, glass factories, paper mills, cranberry farms and brick making establishments of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Her book provides directions and walking tours of many of the Pine Barrens historic sites and ruins. Copies of her book will be available for sale and signing. Barbara was once a resident of Wenonah.

I have recently read this book and it is a fascinating history as well as a practical modern guide for those intrepid souls who wish to drive to the "Pines" and visit some of the sights detailed in Barbara's most interesting book.

2012 WHS OFFICERS	
President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

Hope to see you Friday evening, October 12th at 7:30 at the Train Station Community Center. Bring a guest or two along.

SUGGESTION BOX

Please send me an email (smithlr@att.net) or a letter (110 S Clinton Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090), or give me a call (856-468-3480) should you have any thoughts on future programs for our meetings or ideas for feature stories or enhancements to the newsletter. President Horan and I would greatly appreciate your suggestions.

A Little More about our Guest Speaker -- Barbara Solem-Stull

Barbara Solem-Stull has an undergraduate degree in psychology from The College of New Jersey (formerly known as Trenton State College). She has completed graduate work in education administration and has been a special education teacher, a trainer, a principal, and an administrator. Barbara retired from the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, Office of Education, in 2002, having worked as an education administrator for 15 years. Barbara is the author of *The Forks: A Brief History of the Area* (2002) and *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens* (2005), both published by Plexus Publishing Inc. of Medford, New Jersey. Barbara may be contacted at BarbSolem@aol.com .

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The circa 18th- and 19th-century structures as compiled by Frank Eggert in his project to memorialize the historic structures of Wenonah were included in the September newsletter. Twentieth-century structures are listed below.

THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES OF WENONAH

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1901		
104 S. West Ave.	Smith, Blair	Pallies, Jeffrey A.
1902		
200 W. Mantua Ave.	Cattell, Wiliam	Johnson, Wayne R. & George H.
8 S. Princeton Ave.	Eberly, Harlin	Taitano, Jason T. & Stephanie
1903		
110 S. Clinton Ave.	Jordan, Samuel M.	Smith, Larry R. & Susan S.
6 S. Princeton Ave.	Memorial Presbyterian Church	Memorial Presbyterian Church
201 W. Mantua Ave.	Stephenson, Aaron	Koenig, Ryan D. & Lara Z.
1904		
205 S. Princeton Ave.	Baylies, James	McCormick, James H. & Rosalie P.
5 E. Poplar St.	Cline, C. Fowler	Stranahan, Michael J. & Tracy M.
109 W. Mantua Ave.	Hendrickson, Howard	Papanier, Stephan
109 N. East Ave.	Shiesser, John	Eimer, Edward C.
1905		
8 N. Marion Ave.	Javins, William	Clementi, Francis V. & Traum, Mary C.
1906		
311 S. Princeton Ave.	Caparn, William S.	Viviani, Christopher & Angela
500 E. Mantua Ave.	Corney, Robert H. & Theresa P.	Salomone, Diana J.
103 E. Mantua Ave.	Heritage, G. Ward	Donnely, Arthur & Sarah A.
101 S. Marion Ave.	McKeighan, Robert	Redrow, Lawrence A. & Michele E.
1907		
8 S. Monroe Ave.	Viereck, John A.	Garcia, Arthur N.
1908		
207 W. Mantua Ave.	Davis, A.A.	Snyder-Stocklin, Sharon
108 N. Monroe Ave.	Frederick, George	Coates, David J. & Raquel
9 W. Buttonwood St.	Grosscup, Edward G.	Breslin, William C. & Judith
100 N. West Ave.	Hobson, Charles	Astorga, Doreteo J. & Barbara H.
101 N. Jefferson Ave.	Holloway, E.O.	Roth, Margaret

Address	Original Owner	Current Owner
1909		
204 N. West Ave.	Grosscup, George	Muller, William P. & Laura E.
107 W. Mantua Ave.	Vogt, John H.	Raccabaldo, Philip S. & Diane L.
1910		
104 N. West Ave.	Burt, Alexander	Jennings, Sean & Kristi
110 N. West Ave.	Davis, James	Sheridan III, Edward F. & Helen M.
5 S. Jefferson Ave.	Davis, Alvin A.	Headman IV, Thomas V.
1 W. Mantua Ave.	Grosscup, Edward G.	Sloan Family Properties, LLC
200 S. Jefferson Ave.	Papania, Guiseppe	Debreseni, Bela F. & Robin P.
104 N. Jefferson Ave.	Savidge, Joseph P.	Fox, Virginia M.
10 N. Marion Ave.	Shuster, James	Mazzone, Dominick N. & Constance J.
302 W. Cherry St.	Tuff, Harry V.	Carter, Peggy D.
1911		
100 N. Jefferson Ave.	Borg, Helen F.	Vogelsong, Eric & Dawn M.
102 N. Jefferson Ave.	Greene, Stephen	Hernandez, Daniel E.
105 N. Jefferson Ave.	Grosscup, George	Davis, Donald D. & Marion
1912		
6 W. Willow St.	Bown, Daniel W.	Godsey, Nicholas C.
210 S. Jefferson Ave.	Cann, Lidie V.	Becker, Eugene J. & Dutton, Kathleen
106 N. Jefferson Ave.	Cassel, John G.	Conway, Barbara Anne
203 W. Willow St	Viereck, John A.	Mix, Michael & Deborah
1913		
106 N. Monroe Ave.	Bergen, George	Miserendino, Stephen J. & Renee
12 S. Jefferson Ave.	Greene, Stephen	Martin, John P. & Daly, Jaclyn T.
5 W. Elm St.	Kimble, Bailey W.	Jenkins Jr., Robert T.
101 E. Elm St.	Mulvey, Paris	.
107 N. Jefferson Ave.	Ogden, J. Foster	Parkinson, Paul D. & Lara J.
204 W. Willow St.	Viereck, John A.	Lentz, Marjorie K.
1914		
13 S. Monroe Ave.	Greene, William H.	Cop Jr., Gary & Alyssa
1916		
206 N. West Ave.	Leap, B.H.	Sabetta, Thomas J.
107 N. Monroe Ave.	Reinard, Frank	Ceravolo, William S. & Sharon M.
1921		
8 N. Jefferson Ave.	Nelson, Peter O.	Angelucci, Joseph & Holder Jeffrey

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7.30 P.M. on
Friday, November 9, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 8, November 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

It seems as though our Borough has endured Hurricane Sandy and emerged relatively unscathed save for a few fallen trees and a relatively short power outage. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this coming Friday for our November 9th meeting. Let our hearts and prayers go out to those who were impacted much more severely by the hurricane than we were here in Wenonah and Gloucester County.

Our November program will feature Dr. Kenneth J. Lacovara who is an Associate Professor at Drexel University in the Department of Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science. Dr. Lacovara holds a PhD in Geology from the University of Delaware and is an elected fellow of the prestigious Explorers Club. He has traveled the world in pursuit of dinosaur fossils, appeared on several national news outlets, authored books on related topics, and guided viewers through a tour of the earth's history on a two-hour documentary on the Discovery Channel.

Dr. Lacovara has been excavating at the Inversand site located behind the Lowes store on Woodbury-Glassboro Road in Mantua. There will be a pre-lecture site visit available on Friday from 2-4 PM. (Access is via a left turn into the driveway past the Lowes entrance). Our regular evening program will feature a summary of the progress and discoveries that Dr. Lacovara and his paleontology students have made at the site "in our backyard." I hope to see a good turn out for what promises to be a very interesting presentation as evidenced from the following headlines from our local papers:

Mantua Township's Inversand site may be of national importance to paleontologists
Gloucester County Times, June 28, 2012

Fossils from the Cretaceous Period unearthed at Inversand in Mantua, June 26, 2012
Gloucester County Times, June 27, 2012

Heavy lifting in N.J.: A 65 million-year-old sea turtle
Philadelphia Inquirer, June 9, 2011

2011 WHS OFFICERS	
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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.

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be on Friday, December 14th. The cost is $20 per person. Please bring your check (payable to Wenonah Historical Society) to our meeting on Friday or mail it to Jean Cowles at 304 N Stockton Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090. This is always a great affair so please make plans to kick off the holiday season close to home.

JOSEPH NOBLIT'S HALL, 6 NORTH MARION AVENUE
by Milton Webb (research by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.)

On March 19, 1878, in three public places in Wenonah, the newly formed School District 54 posted the following notice: "*The annual Wenonah school meeting will be held in the school room in the Wenonah House Hotel on the Tuesday of the week following the town meeting at which meeting will be submitted the question of voting a tax to maintain a free public school, the amount thought to be three hundred dollars. The question of building a schoolhouse will also be considered with the matters related thereto. The amount thought to be necessary for this purpose is twenty five hundred dollars. George Bailey District Clerk*." The meeting was a public forum where the question of building a schoolhouse was thoroughly talked over and a free expression of opinion given. It was agreed that the Board of Trustees be authorized to build a school



not to cost over $2,500 exclusive of well, out buildings and fences. There was one vote in the negative. The Mantua Land and Improvement Company donated the land and Dr Fithian purchased the entire bond issue. The contract for the erection of the building was let out to Daniel Brown, a local builder and developer, for $2,245.95. Other contracted items were to Sam Chew, digging a well $15; Henry Frederick, well pump $13.50; William Allen, bell and lightning rods $9.00; Sam Dilks, carting $3.00; Isaac Stevenson, grading and digging cellar hole $38.00; and Ed Ward, plans and specifications $30.50. The building was completed in the early months of 1879 and classes were immediately started in the new schoolhouse. This building, as a schoolhouse, was to serve the community until 1894 when it was replaced by the Stone School House on North Clinton Avenue.

Several expenditures were significant during this period: Ella English to be employed as teacher at a salary not to exceed $35 dollars a month; Sam Chew coal for the year $31; and May Clark to assist Tracy Waddington at a salary of $l a day.

During the period of use as a schoolhouse, the trustees rented out the building for other purposes. The most significant was the Mantua Grange #39, Patrons of Husbandry. It might be noted that the Grange movement was a powerful political force and this chapter was large, numbering over two hundred

members. Lectures were held and auctions of produce and grain held in the building. Also the tradition of this building as a polling place started and continued for over one hundred years.

In June of 1894, the Trustees of the school district sold the building at auction to Joseph Noblit for $1,500. He was a well-known citizen of the community and farmer by trade. He also was the Deptford Township clerk. Wenonah was still a part of Deptford Township at this time. Known as “The Old War Horse," he was a veteran of the Civil War having served with the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War veteran's organization.

Every up-and-coming community during this period had what was known as an “Opera House" and this building would fall into the category. On several occasions an advertisement would mention that an event would be held at Noblit’s Opera House. He leased out the building for a number of varied social affairs. The Mantua Grange continued to use the hall as well as several political organizations. In 1989, the Wenonah Field Club, which was the forerunner of our modern Wenonah Athletic Association, was formed and the club used the building for a number of years.

In 1913, the YMCA reconstituted their organization and rented the hall with a long-term lease. They had the backing of several wealthy citizens who provided funds for extensive renovations to the building. It then became known in Wenonah as the YMCA Hall. Unfortunately during this period Joe Noblit's sight failed and he moved to Oregon with his grandson where he died in 1915. The YMCA took title to the building and started a large undertaking of activities. Shuffleboard tournaments were held and there were dances and socials for the teenagers. This was the beginning of the ongoing concern for the youth of the town through providing recreation. Outstanding were the Saturday night movies when it was advertised there was seating capacity for 250 people. Stars at the time were Charles Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Pearl White, Buster Keaton and others of the silent screen.

Interest in the local chapter of the YMCA waned and the building went into disuse. Probably the greatest reason for this was the growing interest in the scouting movement under the leadership of Dr. Gage. In 1922, the newly organized Arthur J. Holeton Post 192, American Legion purchased the Hall from the YMCA. Previous to this, the Legion was meeting at what is now the Wild Iris Floral Shop, formerly the offices of the Wenonah Realty Company. Now the building became known as the “Legion Hall,” the name lasting for over half a century. It became the center of social activity in the town. Saturday movies were started again for the children as well as teen-age dances, travel lectures, potluck dinners, strawberry festivals, band concerts and public forums. Voting was still held there. The American Legion Rifle and Pistol Club, the oldest NRA sponsored club in New Jersey built an indoor pistol range in the basement. On the second floor were recreational facilities including a fine old slate pool table.

In 1984, the Legion sold the building to a private owner after they began using the newly renovated train depot for their meetings … a new era emerged in the history of the hall.

Regardless of what you call it, Public School House, Grange Hall, YMCA Building, Legion Hall or my house, it is still a grand building. Basically it still retains its exterior architectural integrity and if treated kindly should exist another one hundred and thirty years.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 5:00 P.M. on Friday, December 14, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 9, December 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

Happy Holidays everyone! Our Holiday Dinner is this Friday, December 14th at 5 PM. It will be catered by the Telford Inn as usual and promises to be an enjoyable and festive occasion. To those who are unable to attend, I look forward to seeing you on Friday January 11th at 7:30 P.M. at our first regular meeting of 2013. Our presenter will be an interesting local author from Pitman who has co-authored a book about "New Jersey Firsts" (details to follow). Please save the date.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season and a I wish you good health and prosperity in the new year.

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WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO – 1912
Woodbury Daily Times (research by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.)

Section 1

A report received from Mr. Joseph Truncer, chief of the Wenonah Fire Company, showed that in the last year the company had been called to four different fires: boat house of R.H. Comey stables of the Telford Inn, stables of Mr. Kircher, Mantua, and stables of H.B. Coles. The chief also reported that the apparatus was in first-class condition and ready for instant use. *January 7 1912*

8-inch ice is being harvested here, the best for years. *January 16 19*12

John F. Madera of Clayton, who purchased R.J. Clark's grocery store, will take charge March 1. Mr. Clark has been in business here for the past 17 years and during that time has had ninr different competitors in that line. Mr. Clark will leave the business with the good wishes of all, as yet he has not determined what business he will engage in. *January 17 1912*

On Friday afternoon, Frank Peddle broke through the ice on Synnott's pond where the water was over his head and was rescued by Hugh Mehorter and Richard Stockton. *January 29 1912*

The school here was closed last Thursday on account of scarlet fever and was opened yesterday morning, but the trustees decided not to reopen the school and the scholars were sent home for the week. *January 30 1912*

Mr. Edward Pyle, chairman of the fire and lighting committee, addressed council stating that the committee had heard nothing but

good concerning the sample lights placed in the park and moved that council enter into a contract with the Welsbach Company for 57 street lights at $30.00 each per year for a term of five years. *February 2 1912*

Scoutmaster Benjamin Cloud took ten of our boy scouts to Philadelphia last evening to meet General Baden-Powell. *February 14 1912*

No doubt all of our citizens are more or less interested in the building of the proposed tunnel under the Delaware River and it is certainly the duty of every citizen residing in South Jersey to give to this movement his or her hearty support. We may not all be financiers but the moral and physical support that each and every one of us can give to those who can finance such an undertaking is a powerful adjunct to further this much needed improvement. *February 16 1912*

John Williams who lives near the pumping station has had as high as 35 chickens a day killed by electric trains. *February 22 1912*

Daniel W. Brown of Wenonah died at Palm Springs, Florida this morning. Mr. Brown went to Palm Springs last year for his health. He was about 68 years old. Mr. Brown leaves a widow, son George, and four daughters, Nellie, Melvina, Bertha and Olive. Mr. Brown was a well known contractor and builder. He was president of the Wenonah Fire Company. *February 26 1912*

Earle Wentzell, son of A. W. Wentzell who has been seriously ill for several days and who was at the point of death for 6 days, is getting along very nicely and has been down stairs. *February 29 1912*

There is a scarcity of milk occasioned by Mr. Berg discontinuing his route. For some years past Mr. Berg has rented R.H. Comey's stock farm and carried on the dairy business. Mr. Comey has been interested in maintaining a high class herd with fancy Jersey stock and high grades. Mr. Berg's lease expired February 29th and as many of his customers have been unable to arrange for a supply of milk. Mr. Comey intends to supply Mr. Berg's old customers as far as possible for a few days until his cow sale without regard to cost. Mr. Comey has always kept his herd free from tuberculosis by annual inspector's tests and he declares that the present herd is entirely free from it. *March 2 1912*

The borough council reports the taking out of a building permit for Mr. J.A. Viereck for a dwelling on the lot adjoining the N.W. corner of Jefferson Avenue and Willow Street. *March 8 1912*

The fire company has kindly given permission to the Poultry Association the use of the fire house for their future meetings which is greatly appreciated by the association.
March 20 1912

A sad drowning. On Saturday afternoon Robert Rebar aged 3 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rebar, was accidently drowned in the first culvert just below the academy field. The little fellow had wandered away from home with his sister and another little playmate. They took a long walk and finally wound up just where the bridge built by Battery B crosses the stream. While his companions amused themselves by throwing chips in the water little Robert lay on the bridge watching the make believe boats flout in the water. In endeavoring to note their progress, he leaned too far forward, lost his balance and fell in the stream. He came up two or three times but his companions were too little to render him any aid. Frightened beyond means they hastened home meeting several people on the way but too scared to say anything. The mother of the little fellow saw them coming and questioned where Robert was. She finally got from them that Robert had fallen in the water. When help was finally secured in the person of Mr. Wm. Cattell, he secured other volunteers and hurried to the spot where the lad had gone under. With the help of a ten foot boat hook, the little body was brought to the surface by Mr. Charles Fisher. The father of the boy carried him in his arms to the office of Dr. Harry Stout but life was extinct. His parents could not give up hope and for hours everything they knew was tried to bring the boy back. Robert was

a beautiful bright boy and loved by everyone who knew him. His parents have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

A 40 hp Apperson touring car in splendid condition, just overhauled was repainted last spring. A great change to purchase a really good car at a reasonable price For further details apply to F.W. Benson, Wenonah, New Jersey. *March 26 1912*

Thomas J. Mulvey PhD will deliver the first of his series of lectures at the academy gymnasium Saturday March 30 at 8 P.M. His subject will be "Paris the beautiful" admission free. *March 28 1912*

Section 2

Chairman Ogden of the street and sidewalk committee recommended that council purchase gravel for resurfacing of Mantua Avenue from Clinton to Princeton Avenues. *April 12 1912*

The mayor, clerk and collector signed Wenonah's first municipal bond last evening $35,000. This was a water bond. *April 13 1912*

A sample of the Wenonah artesian well water can be seen in the Times window. It was drawn from a faucet in the kitchen of postmaster English's house and has not been filtered. Wenonah has six wells about 128 feet deep and the machinery is as good today as it was 17 years ago. All the wells have a splendid flow. Wenonah water has brought many people to that place as residents. *April 20 1912*

The minstrel show by the Wenonah Athletic Club Saturday night was a grand success. The boys looked great in their make-up and everything was done with vigor and vim.
April 30 1912

There is someone rumoring among my customers that I am going out of the milk business in about two months. This rumor is untrue and I will continue to serve my customers as heretofore with the best grade of milk and hope for a continuance of business and your favors. C.P. Lyons.

Mr. Pyle moved that council instruct the clerk to write Welsbach Co. requesting that they give their lamp posts another coat of aluminum paint. *May 5 1912*

J. Williams has a gobbler that weighs 38 lbs and expects it to weigh 50 by Thanksgiving. *May 7 1912*

Captain Abraham B. Miller died Monday May 13 at his home in Wenonah. Captain Miller was born at Cooper's Point Camden in 1822. Left at the age of 14 to care for his widowed mother he worked on the ship "Marlette Tilten" for four years and was put in as captain at the age of 18. He followed the water for 15 years. During the civil war he was taken from his ship by President Lincoln and placed on the Minnesota as fleet pilot at the time of the sinking of the Merrimac. After the war he went into the service of the Philadelphia and Reading Company where he remained for 20 years. *May 15 1912*

Colonel Roosevelt will be here tomorrow evening about 6 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the park if the weather is fair. Should it be stormy it will be held in the drill hall of the academy. Let everybody turn out and greet the colonel. *May 24 1912*

For good three ply rubber garden hose (not 3-ply canvas hose) inquire of John A. Viereck before going elsewhere. *June 7 1912*

David Thomas contactor is now building the concrete curbs and gutters around the park. *June 7 1912*

Borough council: The borough clerk reported the issuance of a building permit to the Chase Lumber Company for the erection of office buildings sheds etc.

Mr. Charles requested permission to place 10 or 12 benches in the park for the convenience of the public at no expense to the borough by voluntary contribution.

Resolved that bathing or swimming in the lower lake or pond situated on the property of the borough water works also the throwing of stones sticks brush paper or other rubbish in said pond or lake is hereby prohibited by law.

That bathing or swimming in the upper lake known as Warner's pond situated on the property of the borough water works in the nude state is prohibited under the penalty of law Those desiring to avail themselves of the bathing privilege must be provided with suitable clothing and avoid indecent or unseemly exposure of person.

Elwood Price, the borough engineer at the water works was sworn in as a special officer.

Moved that the clerk be instructed to communicate with the fish and game commission of the state with reference to having Warner's Lake stocked with fish. *June 8 1912*

Council has given consent for benches to be placed in the park and the Improvement Association with the aid of the citizens are undertaking to supply them standard five foot park benches with iron frames and oak slats seats and backs with the promise they will be in place before the 4th of July. Some of our people oppose this move on the grounds they will be abused, that they will harbor "loafers," that the grass will suffer, that the boys will move them about and break them up. They say that all these things have happened before and they expect them to happen again. *June 21 1912*

Chase Lumber Company Lumber and Millwork of every description and hardware. Mantua Avenue at the bridge *July 1 1912*

The 4th of July Committee on the parade route requests those living along the line of march to water the streets as well as may be so as to lay the dust. The men who are going to do the marching will appreciate it not to speak of the auto owners and the children who will ride in the machines. *July 4 1912*

Borough Council: The borough Clerk reported issuing a pool license as per instructions of borough council to Albert Fisher for the operation of two pool tables at the barber shop.

Council authorized the borough engineer to run grades on North Clinton Avenue Elm to Maple Street so that proper calculations could be made for the extension of water mains into this section. *July 8, 1912*

There was never a much prettier sight than that presented at the lawn fete on the grounds of Mrs. Ira Burdsall Tuesday evening. The occasion was an ice cream sale for the benefit of the building fund of the Episcopal Church. Chinese lanterns were hung from one end of the lawn to the other and little tables with white covers and bouquets dotted the greens. A fine Graphophone loaned by Mr. Edward Knight did its part in attracting and entertaining the people.
July 25 1912

The Boy Scouts of Wenonah and Woodbury Heights under Mr. Gage and Mr. Davenport visited League Island yesterday taking in all the points of interest on the Battleship Idaho. *July 28 1912*

Harold Urian, a boy scout saved a colored boy from drowning in Warner's pond. The boy in attempting to swim across the pond had become exhausted and had gone down twice when Harold reached his side and took him safely to shore. *July 31 19*12

If you want to see the beauty and elite of Wenonah come out tonight to the ice cream sale for the benefit of the Wenonah Athletic Association. There will be good music all evening. *August 2 1912*

Section 3

Mr. Pyle moved that fire and lighting committee be authorized to lay about 90 feet of 3 inch pipe to reach the property now being constructed on Princeton Avenue by Mr. Charles Keeler. *August 3 1912*

Miss Myrtle Blackwood will not return to her position as principal of the Wenonah Public School but will be head of the Latin department of Kent's Hill Seminary in Maine the coming year. *August 7 1912*

Tom Murray is thinking of purchasing a White Steamer to chase burglars with. *August 9 1912*

Miss Alice Farr gave an automobile party to a number of her friends Friday afternoon. They had

a delightful ride to Salem and after partaking of supper returned in the early evening. *August 12 1912*

Mr. R. H. Comey is having alterations made to the store property adjoining the post office which he bought of Mrs. Lashly and a cement sidewalk laid. *August 25 1912*

An academy horse attached to a wagon ran away throwing the wagon into the middle of the creek.

C. Fowler Cline will give us a good business administration if elected mayor; a voter *September 25 1912*

Young Arthur Holeton is on his way to California where he will attend the 7th day Adventist school at Loma Linda. His purpose is to prepare himself for medical missionary work in some foreign country. The chestnuts are falling fast. *September 30 1912*

The moving of the realty office is rapidly forging ahead. *October 16 1912*

Mr. Charles Keeler's house which is made of fire proof brick is rapidly nearing completion. *October 17 1912*

Mrs. Lloyd's grocery store is now opened and everything is of the very best.

The digging of the cellar of the former realty office site is nearing completion.

"Battleship" Toomey is open to meet anyone for the pool championship of the town. *October 27 1912*

Someone tried to burn an opossum out of a tree in Warner's wood and as a consequence the woods were set afire. *November 8 1912*

Vague reports are floating around concerning a bank which will be built.

The newly opened drug store on Mantua Avenue next to the Post Office owned by Mr. Cozens has a complete and thorough equipment. *November 10 1912*

Mr. Pyle and the borough council gave a dinner last night at Mr. Pyles bungalow in honor of Mr. Charles Lorence, the retiring mayor. There were fifteen guests present including C. Fowler Cline, the mayor elect. *December 6 1912*

The family store, Wenonah where quality counts and prices are right a full line of shoes and rubbers always in stock. All kinds of repairing done at short notice Charles Broes Wenonah. *December 16 1912*

It is reported there are 20 cases of chicken pox in town.

One of the prettiest sights in Wenonah is George Baylies' greenhouses.
November 1 1912

After the publication in this paper of Mayor Lorence's declination to accept the nomination for mayor, Mr. Charles Fowler Cline was selected by a number of taxpayers who are acquainted with Mr. Cline's ability as a businessman fully qualified to fill any public office in this state. Mr. Cline after due consideration signed his nomination papers which were signed by twenty-five legal voters mostly heavy taxpayers of our borough. *November 4 1912*

The following is the way the election in Wenonah turned out President Taft and Sherman 36 Roosevelt and Johnson 101 Chafin and Watkins 3 Debs and Seidel 1 Wilson and Marshall 57. *November 6 1912*

Died suddenly in Rome, Italy November 4th Mrs. Hannah B. Farr of Philadelphia widow of Lincoln D. Farr aged 71 years. Services at the home of her son Edward L.Farr Wenonah, New Jersey Thursday evening November 7th at 8:15. Conveyances will meet train leaving Market Street Ferry Philadelphia at 6:30. *November 6, 1912*

The Wenonah Public Library will be closed tonight in respect to the memory of Mrs. Hannah Farr. *November 7 1912*

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.

2011 WHS OFFICERS	
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Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
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2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

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ODDS AND ENDS

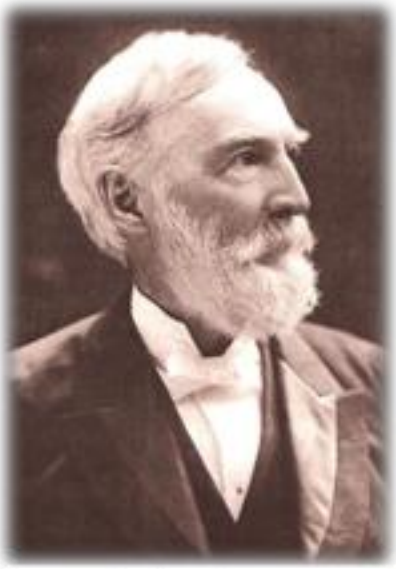
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Cara DeHart Lewis and Gerard McGarrity are currently working out the schedule for completing their video on Wenonah's rich history as well as the people that have made it into a wonderful town.

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.[1]

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?

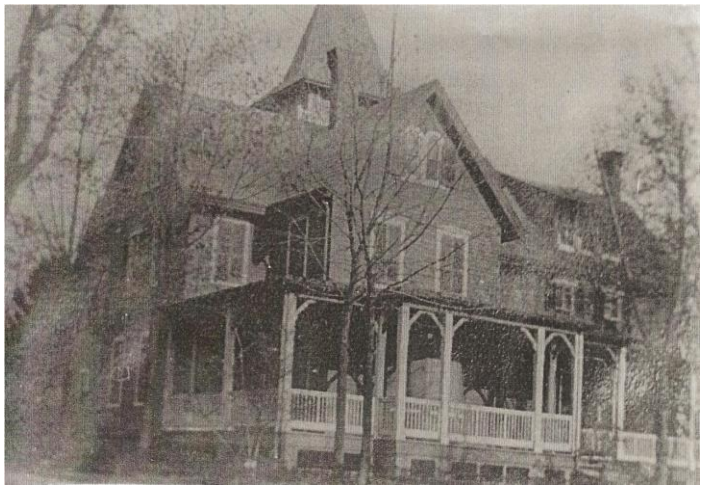
Stephen Greene: Mainly because I had a vision of what Wenonah could become and I wanted to play a part in it. Once it was decided to build the Wenonah House Hotel in the southeast quadrant of town, I could foresee that this section would grow the fastest, and not only provide the most housing sales opportunities,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

[1] 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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➢ 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).

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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.”

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
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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 11th 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 8th.

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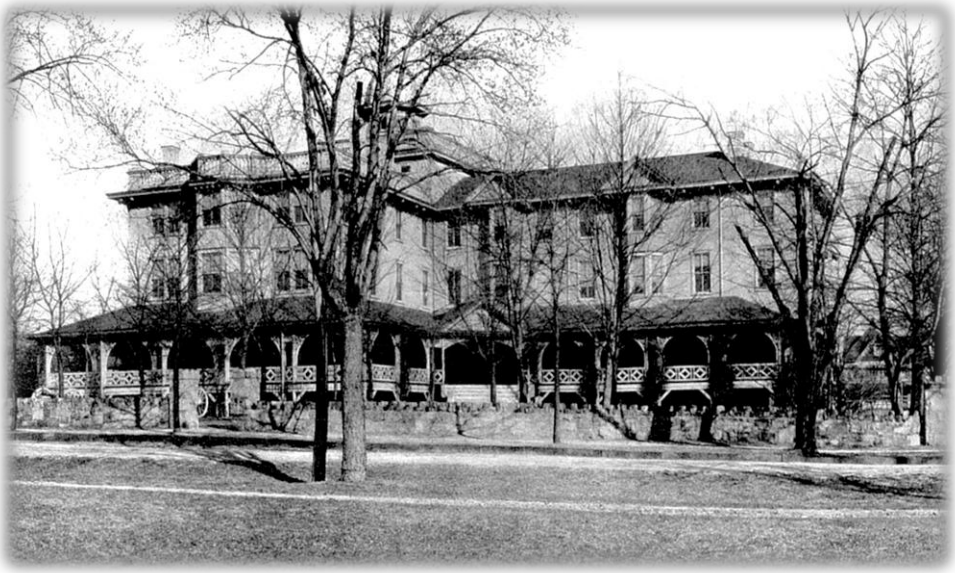
The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.

WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY
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.

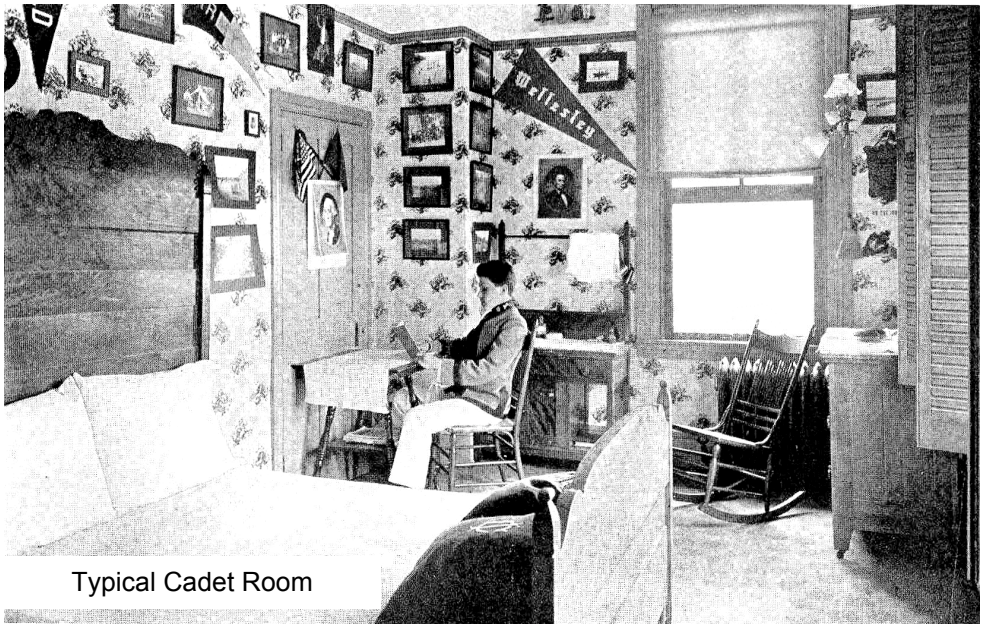


Wenonah Military Academy
1904 - 1935

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.



Typical Cadet Room

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

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.

2011 WHS OFFICERS	
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Secretary	Vicki McCall
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Trustee	Betty MacLeod
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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. 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
  - Feature stories or enhancements to the newsletter
  - Ways to attract new members

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.

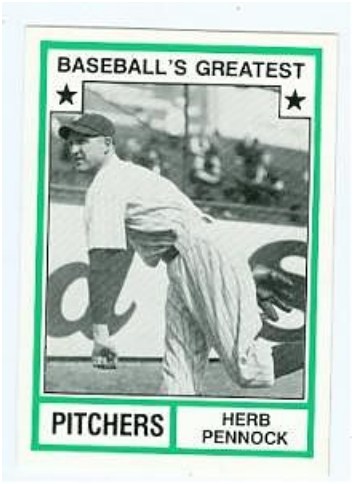
The period: in the early fall of 1904 to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

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. Cettei (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-arounder (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.

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.



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

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

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. Zelley 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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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 Eglington 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.

2011 WHS OFFICERS

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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.

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

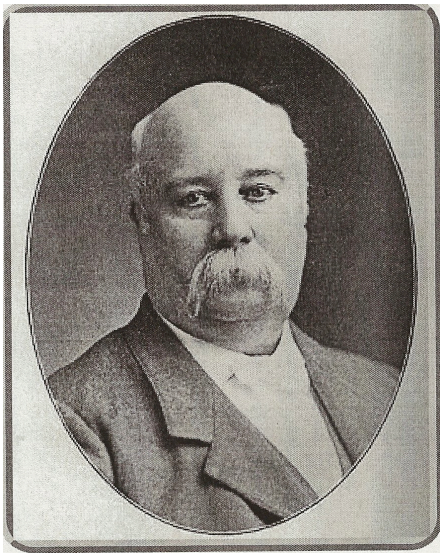
The following article was researched and written by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Information for the article was provided by Marjorie K. Lentz.

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 11th. 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 Superintendant 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 bicycler, 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 tbsp. 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.

2013 WHS OFFICERS

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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.

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.

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

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 premising 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.

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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.

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 Wenonah Christmas Tree Lighting
Photo by John Dominy

****

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 moming. (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.

Woodbury Daily Times
March 1907

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, February 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 1, January 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Our January 2014 meeting was an enjoyable and successful gathering. Fellow members recounted some memories of days gone by in Wenonah as well as "back stories" relating to the circumstances that brought them to this beautiful borough. We will continue with this format for the February and March meetings. Any contribution of a reasonable length to these topics is most welcome.

A reminder: 2014 WHS Annual Dues are due ($15.00) "A Bargain at Twice the Price." Please bring a check to the February meeting.

See you there.

2014 WHS OFFICERS

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Vice President	**Paul Lader**
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Historic House Plaques



Is your Wenonah home at least 90 years old?

If so and you would like a deed search and a plaque for the exterior of your home, please contact Frank Eggert at baldeagle0910@yahoo.com or (856) 468-6465. Cost is $75.



If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, please let us know at b.price111@comcast.net .

The newsletter will arrive sooner, reduce our printing and postage costs, and if there is something in color, you will be able to see the colors.

The Wide Awake Campaign in Gloucester County

by Charlesanna Fallstick

Originally published in the *Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society,* September 2004

Every presidential election has its own campaign slogans and origins. Some campaigns have more effect on the history of the United States than others. The Wide Awake Campaign of 1860 was such a campaign.

At this time, the country was facing a difficult time with the Civil War looming on the horizon. The Wide Awake clubs were formed in 1859 by a group of young, energetic men from Hartford, CT. They were upset with the political situation and reactions of the general government under President James Buchanan and the Democratic Party. The group adopted the slogan, "Union, Liberty, Honor."

News of the Wide Awakes quickly spread among the northern states. In Gloucester County, voters in several communities such as the townships of Deptford, Greenwich, Clayton, Glassboro and Harrison and the city of Woodbury were interested in the organization's ideas. Young male leaders would first form a committee to set up an organizational meeting. In June 1860, they posted notices in local newspapers announcing the meeting date and place. The various clubs selected the name of Lincoln-Hamlin Clubs with the exception of Deptford Township [this would include Wenonah at the time] which remained as the Wide Awake Club. To keep the attention of voters, meetings of the clubs were held bi-weekly with prominent men speaking out in support of the Opposition Party's candidates, Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. These meetings were well-attended and local newspapers carried both criticism and supportive comments.

In the summer of 1860, these clubs selected various delegates to attend conventions held in Woodbury, Camden and Trenton. The selected slate of candidates were John T. Nixon of Cumberland County for the First Congressional District, and the following men from Gloucester County: John Pierson for Senator, John Starr and Joseph H. Duffield for State Assembly, Joseph Carter for Sheriff and William Bowers, Richard F. Springer and William H. Hannold for Coroners.

As the Fall of 1860 approached, the campaigning became stronger with pig roasts, torchlight processions in various towns, distribution of hand bills and for the last demonstration of the campaign, the Grand Wide Awake Procession.

The banner of Woodbury's weekly newspaper, *The Constitution,* carried the names of Lincoln and Hamlin from May until Election Day, November 6, 1860. Election results were printed in the paper on November 13. In its support of the Opposition Party, the newspaper did not ignore the conventions and platforms of the Conventional Union (Whig) Party and the split Democratic Party. However due to its endorsement of the Opposition Party, the paper devoted much of its limited space to that party.

When the election was over and votes were counted in Gloucester County, the majority of voters had not supported Lincoln in his quest for the presidency. However the Wide Awake clubs continued and eventually became allied with the Republican Party.

Political campaigning has changed drastically since 1860. During that year, the *Woodbury Constitution* reported campaign news for a period of six months. Today, campaigning lasts much longer. Yet, voter turnout in 1860 was approximately 80%.

The Gloucester County Historical Library has the complete run of the *Woodbury Constitution* and many other local newspapers. Researchers are always welcome to visit and learn more about our local history!

WENONAH

FEBRUARY 1908

- It is said here that Dr. Stout was a busy man as the result of the pie eat at the Grange last night. That pie eat was a great affair with pies of all kinds and sizes. Some people will not want any more pie until next winter.

- Mr. Urian had four loads of goods brought down from Philadelphia to his home on West Jersey Avenue. The road was very bad and one of the teams got stuck on Farr's Hill [East Mantua Ave.] and had to remain there all night.

- Farmers are unloading a carload of fertilizer here.

- There is considerable talk of taking the old hedge out of the park. This would be a great improvement.

- Farmer Stevenson is suffering from a sore ankle. He got mixed up with his horse and both fell on the ice. Mr. Stevenson underneath and got the worst of it. [Isaac Stevenson lived on the farm which is now being developed as the Woods of Wenonah. He cut ice at Wenonah and Pelkington Lakes.]

- The dance and reception at the Wenonah Military Academy last evening was largely attended and everybody reports a happy time.

- The water pipes at the depot froze and broke yesterday and all the oil stoves available were secured to heat the place.

- Milk for sale 6 cents a quart delivered to your door-Geo. Kean Mantua.

- There was another pleasant quilting party at the home of Mrs. Custer, given by the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the occasion being another quilt pieced together by Mrs. Margaret Ramsey who is in her ninetieth year, and they have sold it already for $3.

- A bell phone has been placed in the ticket office.

- FOR RENT 6 room house, garden attached, near Wenonah, 5 $ per month apply to Howard Hendrickson, Wenonah.

- The Five Hundred meet at the home of Mrs. James Carey Saturday evening.

- The fireman fed close to four hundred people Tuesday night. They desire to thank all who kindly assisted. If you have lost any dishes call at the home of Chief Andrew Savage.

- Houses are still in a great demand here. They are rented again as soon as vacated and there is hardly a day goes by but there are new parties in town looking for houses.

- Among those who have measles are Cornelia Truncer, Miss Olive Brown and Edith Hurff.

Woodbury Daily Times February 1908

From the files of Milton H. Webb

Howe's Gloucester & Salem Directory

1890-91

WENONA

Is a handsome residence village of 400 inhabitants, located in Deptford Township, on the West Jersey R. R., 2½ miles south of Woodbury, the county seat and location of nearest bank. The place is 11 miles from Philadelphia, and offers most excellent advantages for summer residences. One Presbyterian church is sustained. Produce is the principal shipment. Daily stage to Mantua, fare, 10 cents; Mullica Hill, fare, 35 cents, and Harrisonville, fare, 50 cents. J. W. English, postmaster.

CATTELL WILLIAM C., real estate, insurance and surveyor
Chew Sylvester H., livery stable and coal
ENGLISH JESSE W., postmaster and general store
Fisler Samuel D., general store
Gilmour & Son, dentists
MERRITT JOSEPH W., druggist, Broad cor Cooper, Woodbury, N. J.
Richmond Eldoras, washing machines
Savage Thomas J., cigars
Sickler William B., dentist
STEVENSON I. C. & Co., canned goods
Stout Harry A., physician
Vogt William, florist

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, March 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 2, February 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

As more lovely Winter weather unveils itself to us in episodic fashion, seemingly every six or seven days, we all look forward longingly for relief in the "can't arrive soon enough" season of Spring. Hopefully this Friday, February 14 will be clear and safe for our Valentine's Day soiree.

Many thanks to Debbie Mix for volunteering her time and artistic talents to assist Frank Eggert in the painting and lettering of our Historic House Plaques.

A reminder: please bring your checkbook for annual dues and also your story of how you came to live in the Borough of Wenonah. Presentations, however brief, will be welcome.

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Valentine Cards
Courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Miscellaneous.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—This is the anniversary of the patron saint of all young people who are affected with that "immortal mystic feeling," 'yclepted Love. It is as natural for some parties affected in the region of the heart to give utterance to the same on this day, on highly-embossed note paper, as it is for others to make presents on Christmas day. Many a young damsel's happiness or despair will be measured to-day by the number and character of fancy envelopes received, containing the best poetry and finest penmanship of her admirers. Many a loving swain's thoughts will be more on his *inamorata* than on his business duties, waiting, in nervous expectation, for the coveted, highly-scented, gilt-edged message, that proves to him his passion is not a hopeless one.

Many a crusty old bachelor will receive a hint from indignant fair ones, of his selfish, solitary state, in the shape of broad and frequently insulting caricatures. Many a fop, coquette, flirt and old maid will be disagreeably reminded of their weaknesses or misfortunes by the same (too frequently disreputable) means. Anger, merriment, scorn or indifference will be produced according to the nature and disposition of the recipient of those questionable missives, which, we are pleased to record, are fast going out of date, the Comic Valentine.

Philadelphia Inquirer, February 14, 1863



Ice Cutting on Wenonah Lake, circa 1900
Photograph courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

Before the advent of refrigeration, this was the time of year when ice houses were filled. Ice cutting was both a time-sensitive and high-pressure endeavor. Sudden increases in temperature or a blizzard could hinder the cutting and ice was necessary to preserve food throughout the year. Ice was retrieved from lakes, ponds or streams in the winter and stored in ice houses or pits for later use. On farms, streams were dammed to flood a meadow in the early part of the winter. Filling ice houses was hard work whether one used a saw, an axe or a mule-drawn wagon.

It would several days of sub-freezing temperatures to form ice thick enough for either skating or storing. Ice was ready to be cut when it was 10 to 18 inches thick. Usually there would be a community ice skating party on the evening before the planned ice cutting.

Some ice houses were for personal use while others were operated at various lakes in Gloucester County. Moore's Lake in Clayton boasted three or four large ice houses. There ice was marked out in blocks by horse-drawn markers then sawed and shoved into the houses.

At Warrington's Pond in Woolwich Township, a long sled with very sharp steel runners was used to cut the ice. The cutter would be run both ways to cut out blocks sized for easy handling. The cut was not made down to water level but just far enough in order for the blocks to be broken off with long-handled bars made by a local blacksmith. A channel would be cut out in the pond to float the blocks to the bottom of a wooden ramp running up to a platform. Several blocks of ice could be hauled up the ramp by a horse. A heavy iron clamp was placed on the back of the bottom block and a rope, attached to the clamp, was run through pulleys and attached to the horse's swingle-tree. As the ice landed on the platform, it was easily slid into the wagon for its trip home to the ice house.

Besides ice houses, pits were also utilized to store ice. Sawdust was placed in the pit first and then the ice was put in. Some pits were lined with Jersey sandstone.

After the ice house was filled, a big dinner was served as reward to everyone who participated in the work.

With a sufficient supply of sawdust, ice could keep until late August, depending upon summer temperatures. When ice ran out, commercial ice plants such as the Woodbury Ice Plant on Russell Street could provide ice for home ice boxes. Ice at the plant was stored in a walk-in, insulated ice box that was attached to the Plant.

Before the modern convenience of the refrigerator and freezer, people depended upon Mother Nature to provide ice. Much hard work went into cutting and retrieving the ice. Today we are fortunate and take for granted the ease with which we preserve our food.

WENONAH

FEBRUARY 1914

◊ Wenonah will be well represented with exhibits at the Gloucester Co. Poultry show on Friday and Saturday in the Woodbury Armory.

◊ Two letters came to the post office from south Africa for Mrs. Josephine Miller this week. They have been started back, and it will be interesting to know which will reach Kambone first, as Mrs. M. herself left for Kambone about three weeks ago.

◊ The moving pictures given in the Y.M.C.A. building on Saturday evening for the benefit of the Missionary Society was a success and a similar entertainment will be given this Saturday evening.

◊ Wenonah Military Academy trimmed the Salem lads by the score of 33 to 20 in basketball on Saturday evening.

◊ It was reported in last week's items that Munico Orognalle, who left for Italy to visit his mother on December 1st, had not been heard from and it was feared he had met with foul play, but on Monday word was received that he arrived safe and well and would soon be back in the good old U.S.A. again.

◊ Miss Winifred Langston gave a Washington birthday party on Saturday afternoon at her home on South Princeton Avenue to a number of her little friends. The after noon was spent in games, music and dancing, after which delicious refreshments were served, the ice cream being served in paper flower pots with a small cherry tree in the center. Each child present was given a soldier hat and a hatchet filled with cherries.

◊ Our goose bone farmer weather prognosticator has hit the weather all right so far. He says that we are to have another cold snap later on.

◊ Mr. George Hendrickson, carpenter for William Borg, contractor, has purchased an automobile roadster.

◊ Mr. and Mrs. Harry Green of Monroe Avenue have returned to their home here after spending the winter with her parents in Philadelphia.

◊ Mr. William Murry, one of our policemen, has handed in his resignation to Mr. Fowler Cline, the Mayor.

◊ A new dancing class was formed on Friday evening at the Wenonah Military Academy, under the supervision of Miss Marian Hendrickson.

◊ The new and large telephone exchange is now ready for occupancy.

◊ The new government commandant of the Military Academy is on the grounds.

◊ The work on the boulevard between Woodbury Heights and Wenonah is going ahead despite the cold and inclement weather.

◊ Mrs. John Holeton's Sanitary Bakery is running exceedingly well now. Mrs. Holeton has quite a route, taking in Woodbury Heights, Sewell, Mantua and Wenonah.

◊ The dancing class composed of a number of young married people from our borough met Wednesday in Carey's boat house.

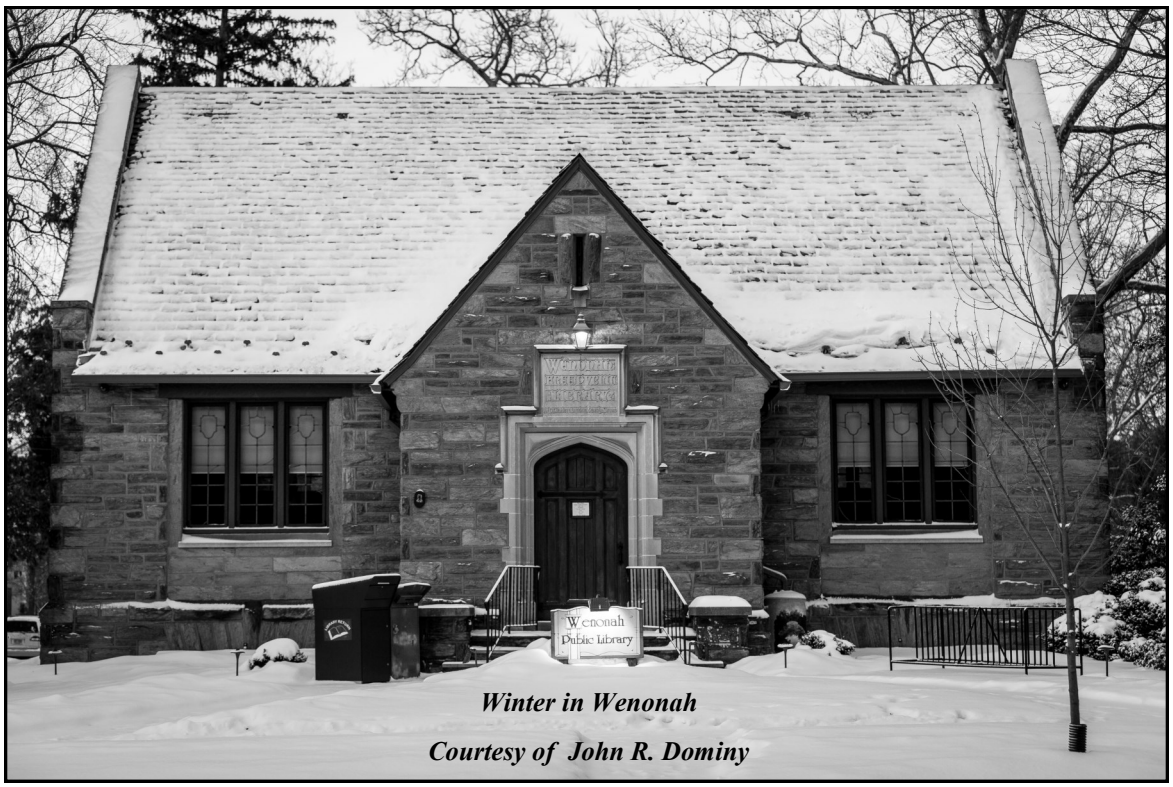
◊ The Wenonah Junior Boy Scouts were defeated by the Woodbury team of Boy Scouts by the score of 22 to 14.

◊ The Camp Fire Girls will give a ceremonial meeting in the recreation room of the Presbyterian Church on Friday evening at 8 o'clock. This meeting will show you something that is taking hold of great numbers of the girls of our nation.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* February 1914

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, March 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 3, March 2014



Winter in Wenonah

Courtesy of John R. Dominy

The Blizzard of '88

With all of the snow we've experienced this winter, the famous "Blizzard of '88" comes to mind. March 11, 1888, started out as a balmy spring-like day with a steady rain in Gloucester County. Long before computer-model weather forecasting, unsuspecting residents went to bed on that evening, less than two weeks from the official start of Spring, only to wake up to what was to become a three-day blizzard. Only ten inches of snow fell, but high winds piled drifts up to second-floor windows.

Trains were the mode of transportation at that time. Train as well as trolley tracks were completely covered. Telegraph poles and wires were blown across the tracks in some places. Trains on the Bridgeton branch of the West Jersey Railroad were blockaded for days. At Monroeville on Monday, passengers trapped on the train were kept in the car and provided food by the station agent. By Tuesday, the train had worked its way up as far as Unionville (Aura), where the residents there furnished more supplies for the stranded passengers. By Wednesday, the train's engine was no longer working. The sixteen passengers had eaten all of the provisions and burned all of the coal available. They then began burning the soft coal from the locomotive tenders. This proved to be suffocating and had to be put out. Passengers dug down through snow to remove fence rails in order to use them for firewood. With their fuel and food gone, two passengers trekked six miles to Vineland, sometimes encountering snow drifts ten feet deep. Help was summoned from Camden and late on Wednesday morning, the passengers were finally taken out of the train and brought to Camden. Wednesday afternoon, three engines were linked together to clear the snow from the Bridgeton branch.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Our March meeting will wrap-up our "How I Came to Live in Wenonah" series of presentations. In my opinion, it has been an informative and entertaining few months. This month will feature a presentation by Larry Smith entitled "The Smiths in Wenonah" which dates back to 1903. Following Larry's dissertation we will be open to additional Wenonah back stories from anyone who has yet to present and feels the desire to share their story with our group.

On the agenda this Friday evening will be the status and future of the WHS web site. We have a good start with some very knowledgeable people involved. I feel that a successful web site will be an important facet of the Wenonah Historical Society going forward. Bring your ideas and opinions.

Please make an effort to come out this Friday at 7:30. Dare I say it? Hopefully that ugly white stuff is finished for the season.

The Salem Railroad was also totally blocked for three days. On the Swedesboro branch, one of Monday's trains became stuck in a snow bank at Harrisonville and another at Rulon's Road above Swedesboro. A number of the passengers were kept at area hotels at company expense. After being detained in the train for a day and night, other passengers walked home. By Friday morning, the tracks had been cleared enough to allow the first train through, but another day or two was needed to totally clear the track.

In his diary, Charles H. Pancoast, Station Agent at Harrisonville Station, writes that he was almost blinded by the fierce snowstorm during his 2-1/2 mile walk to the station on Monday, March 12. On Tuesday, he reported that, "...the train on the Elmer and Salem road got fast with 7 feet of snow about her." The southbound track of the West Jersey Railroad was closed. The only alternative was to run the south bound trains on the north bound track.

Meanwhile, there were other problems. Tuesday, March 13, was Election Day. Very few voters were able to travel to the polls in their respective districts. Some townships and boroughs were not able to hold elections at all.

Some enterprising residents saw the blizzard as an economic opportunity. A farmer near Florence in Burlington County sold bread and butter for 50 cents per slice to stranded commuters, making a $50 profit.

Trains were not the only mode of transportation that was affected. The ferry running between Cooper's Point in Camden and Philadelphia was disabled when the shifting winds formed sandbars causing the ferry to become stranded. Horses on the ferry had to be put into cabins to spare them from freezing. Tug boats carried stranded passengers back to shore.

Horse-drawn plows were used to clear the roads. In Westville, a twelve-foot drift prevented trains from passing through. Businesses were shut down. Lack of supplies at glass and iron factories forced workers to remain idle. Up and down the coast from Maine to New Jersey, wires were down and dispatchers were unable to ascertain where trains were halted. Almost all communication between Philadelphia and New York was cut.

Even after 126 years, the Blizzard of '88 has not been forgotten in South Jersey.

WENONAH

MARCH 1914

◊ Mr. George Grosscup has sold his house, formerly occupied by William Spedden, to William Bell, a P.R.R. man, and has purchased the Adamson house on West Jersey Avenue, formerly occupied by Jesse Pinder and after repairs are made will move his family there.

◊ Through the kindness of Mr. Edw. Sapp, the Boy Scouts of our borough witnessed the launching of the Oklahoma at the New York Shipyard on Monday morning.

◊ Mr. Edward Grosscup, State Treasurer, and whose engagement was recently announced to Miss Florence Steel, his private secretary, spent the week end with his fiancée at Mr. Grosscup's home in our borough.

◊ Mr. Aaron Knisell is building an addition to his bungalow on Monroe Avenue and Mr. Harris is building a new milk house at his house on the same street.

◊ Dr. Harry Schelcer will break ground for a new house on Jefferson Avenue in the near future, Wm. Borg being the contractor.

◊ Our milk business has again exchanged hands. F.H. Harris of Pitman will take charge on Monday.

◊ Our new milk man, Mr. Harris, of Pitman, will occupy Mrs. Sara Scott's property at Monroe and Willow St. in the near future.

◊ "Safety First" pleas are being used by Wenonah parents to try to persuade Council to make provision for the construction of a safe bathing beach in contracting for repairs to the dam at Wenonah Lake.

◊ Engineer William C. Cattell has estimated that will cost $350 to make improvements to the dam at the water works including the work of sloping of the sides to make a safe place for bathing.

◊ Walter A. Wentzell, who opened a news bureau this week, reports business rushing.

◊ Borough Marshall Murry, who tendered his resignation some weeks ago, has reconsidered and will continue his duties.

◊ Contractor William Borg is purring a new roof on the residence of Jos. Chew.

◊ The Green residence, corner Mantua and Marion avenues, is in the hands of John L. Drunier, and will be thoroughly overhauled prior to the occupancy of Dr. Green and his family this summer.

◊ Wenonah, like other South Jersey towns, was snowbound on Monday morning, drifts in some places being eight or ten feet high. All trains were an hour or more late.

◊ The Equal Rights League here has made substantial cash contributions to the National Woman Suffrage Association and the Women's Journal of New Jersey. A canvass of the county will be made to ascertain the number of suffragists and a report forwarded to the Legislature at Trenton.

◊ Captain Hamilton, the new commandant at the Military Academy, is expected to arrive within a few days. He will occupy the residence at the corner of Mantua and Marion Aves., formerly occupied by William Ekey and family.

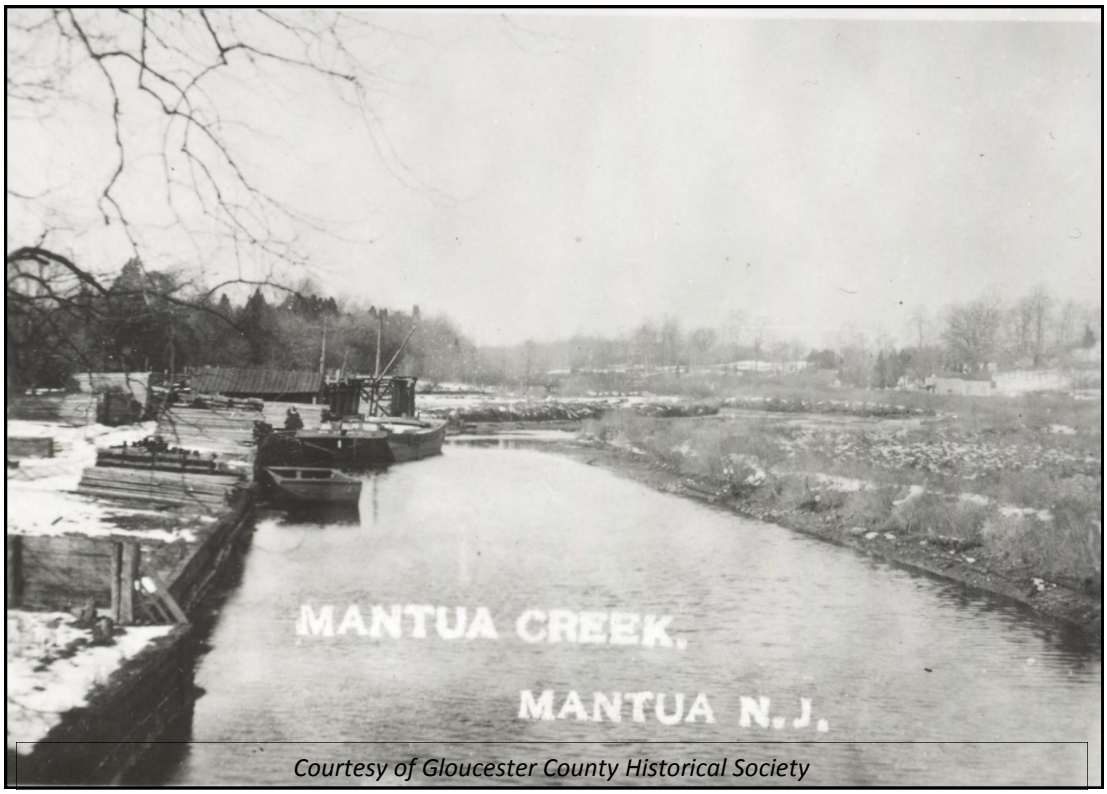
◊ Mr. F.H. Preble and family have moved into their new home which Mr. Preble recently bought from Mr. Harry Heal, who moved to California.

◊ John Moore has rented his house on Monroe Avenue, formerly occupied by Captain Miller and wife, to parties from Philadelphia. He will have charge of Bayley's green houses.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* March 1914

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, April 11, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 4, April 2014



Courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

Reminiscences of Mantua Creek

In the early days of Gloucester County, the waterways were used for navigation. Boats carried lumber and produce up and down the creeks, out to the Delaware River and into the port of Philadelphia. The South Jersey glass industry relied on boats to deliver glass and return with supplies. Farmers also used the creek to ship their produce to market.

In Thomas R. Gordon's *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* (1834), Mantua Creek is described as follows "rises on and forms the line between Deptford and Greenwich townships and flows N.W. by a course of 15 miles to the Delaware River, above Maiden Island. It is navigable for sloops 7 or 8 miles to Carpenter's Landing, above which it gives motion to several mills." At that time, Wenonah was part of Deptford Township and Mantua was part of Greenwich Township. As it does today, the creek formed the border between Mantua and Wenonah.

Gordon described Carpenter's Landing (present-day Mantua) as "the post-town of Greenwich township upon Mantua Creek at the head of sloop navigation...a place of considerable trade of lumber, cord wood &c and contains 1 tavern, 2 stores, 30 dwellings and 1 Methodist church." Carpenter's Landing was named for boat builder, Thomas Carpenter. The south branch of the Mantua Creek was called Chestnut Branch and the crossing over it was known as the Old Ford. The east branch was called Cedar Branch and the crossing called Spark's Ford.

In the *Gloucester County Democrat* of May 31, 1900, the reminiscences of the late Hugh A. Long were published. Mr. Long recalled many of the early boat and sloop builders.

Nathaniel Chew built one vessel near the forks of the creek on Chestnut Branch and named her "Eight

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Jno. Pierson, Esq. of Swedesboro has been awarded the contract for furnishing the lumber and building the bridge over Mantua Creek, on the road from Mantua to Wenonah. The bridge is to be completed about the first of October next. The contract was for $1,850

Woodbury Constitution, Aug. 16, 1871

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

GREETINGS TO ALL!

Spring has sprung and the winter of our discontent appears to be over. Many thanks to all who contributed over the past three months to our home grown "How I Came to Live in Wenonah" series. This month's program continues with the "home grown" theme in that our very talented fellow member Karen Heller will be the presenter. Her topic will be: Life and Death at the Whitall House--midwifery and yellow fever.

Karen is very involved with the Whitall House at Red Bank Battlefield where she is a docent and conducts tours of the house and battlefield. They have an excellent web site at: http://www.whitall.org. Please make an effort to attend this Friday evening for some interesting local history, camaraderie and light refreshments. Our season finale will be our annual picnic on May 9th at 5 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet for appetizers/ sides and desserts.

Brothers" in honor of his eight sons. Thomas Sparks built a 45 to 50 ton sloop on Spark's Ford on Cedar Branch. The ground where she was built was much higher than the water in the creek and when trying to launch her, she became stuck in mud and it took several tides before she could float.

Frances A. Campbell built a vessel on the north side of the creek close to a small bridge. In order to get her into the water, a canal had to be dug behind her.

Between 1820 and 1825, Isaac Durmot, a sawyer at Ellis Mill on the stream about two miles south of Richwood, built a sloop, the "Woodranger," to carry 20 to 25 cords of wood and when loaded would draw four feet of water. After she was built, Durmot encountered difficulty in moving her. He paid James Jessup $350 to convey her to the Mantua Creek. Mr. Jessup used four wagons two abreast with teams of up to sixty horses. She was hauled as far as the Emlen School in Barnsboro when an axle broke. The axle was repaired and the journey continued. After three or four days for a trip of seven miles, the sloop arrived at Mantua where she was calked, finished and put in the water.

At the foot of present-day Turner Street in Mantua, there was a quarter-mile wharf where scows and sloops were set in the water. These vessels carried cordwood and tanned hides down to the Delaware River.

In its heyday, Mantua was a trade and shipping destination. With the advent of automobiles and improved roads, the era of commerce on the Mantua Creek ended.

WENONAH

APRIL 1914

◊ George Randall, former resident of our borough, moved from Philadelphia on Thursday to Harry C. Vierick's house, corner of Jefferson Avenue and Cherry Street.

◊ Cadet LeRoy Hodges, from Woodbury, has received his appointment to West Point.

◊ The cellar door of George Dilks' was forced open and the rooms entered by a seemingly hungry individual, who left the house with all the edibles in the cellar.

◊ The work on the boulevard is progressing in a satisfactory manner.

◊ The Wenonah Country Club is having the tennis courts entirely renovated.

◊ Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ogden have moved from Mt. Ephraim to Mrs. Ogden's home on Monroe Avenue.

◊ The dance given by the Tall Cedars of Lebanon in the W.M.A. gymnasium on Saturday evening was attended by a large number of Masons from far and near. The exhibition drill given by the Rangers was fine. An orchestra of sixteen pieces furnished the music.

◊ Mr. Robert Reeban has opened a first-class harness and shoe maker shop in Mrs. D.W. Brown's double house on Mantua Avenue.

◊ The Wenonah Improvement Association held a special meeting on Wednesday evening and settled on Saturday, April 25, as Wenonah's cleaning up day.

◊

◊ Harry S. Downs has opened a barber shop in the house formerly occupied by Joseph Souder.

◊ Chalkley Lyons, our former milkman, has again started up a route.

◊ Mr. John Nelson is very low at this writing with pneumonia and is not expected to recover. He and his wife expected to move into their new home the first of the month.

◊ Mrs. Edward Knight entertained at an At Home on Tuesday afternoon.

◊ Miss Cecelia Sargent who has been home from Bryn Mawr College for the holidays, and her mother Mrs. H.A. Sargent, attended the dinner of the Margaretta M. Haig Teacher Training Class at Philadelphia on Monday. Miss Sargent made the address of the evening.

◊ Nathan Straddock, who lives just outside of Wenonah, was found guilty by Justice Mankin of North Woodbury last week of not giving proper care and feed to his stock. The charges were preferred by agents of the S.P.C.A. and the evidence showed that even when Shaddock had feed for his animals, he did not feed them enough. The justice imposed a fine of $10 and costs.

◊ Invitations have been issued for the wedding of Miss Rena Ogden and Mr. Frank Burdsall both of our borough.

◊ The minstrel show to be given on Saturday evening next, May 2, by the Senior Group of the Y.M.C.A. promises to be one of the best ever given here.

From the "Wenonah" section of the *Gloucester County Democrat*

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, May 9, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 5, May 2014



Several years ago the Gloucester County Historical Society (GCHS) notified our organization that to regain space they wished to offer our Society the Wenonah Military Academy (WMA) artifacts donated to them by the WMA Alumni Organization. We agreed to accept it.

It was then decided by WHS leaders to use the materials as the basis to construct a museum on the second floor of the Wenonah Station/Community Center if members would volunteer to do the work necessary. Member Rocco Doto accepted the challenge and started on the project but soon, due to his demanding work activities, was forced to step away and leave the activity to others, should anyone step forward for the purpose. Being asked, I volunteered to give the museum a try.

The first thing I did was conduct an informal inventory of the materials received from the GCHS and learned that the WMA materials consisted of uniform parts and decorations, yearbooks and student publications, sales promotion brochures, sports paraphernalia, and sports and educational activity photographs.

Other than WMA materials, we have many photographs of town activities, government records, records and photographs of service and women's club activity, Fourth of July programs and other holiday activities and church photos and writings.

There are also many plans and details of borough water, sewer and public works information donated by the estate of former Borough Engineer Bill Baum, along with the excellent Wenonah history written by the late Marjorie Lentz, and a history of Wenonah government activity from official Borough Minutes that I wrote following my terms in Wenonah government.

Once I had an idea of the type and quantity of historic materials we had to work with, I was fortunate to acquire the volunteered services of resident Julie Ream, who single-handedly identified, tagged and stored the materials while entering their identification information into our Past Perfect Museum Software computer program.

Julie spent countless hours, especially on week-ends, entering the material with the result that it can be located and accessed on a moment's notice. Without her assistance what we now have could not have been completed.

And what do we have at this time? The good news is that we have a significant amount of Wenonah's past put away in a retrievable manner that can be accessed relatively easily. The uniforms and other WMA memorabilia have been photographed, recorded, and then stored in museum-quality containers and acid-free wrappings. The written materials and photographs are stored in file cabinets and a flat-file and also tagged and numbered for

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Secretary	**Vicki McCall**
Treasurer	**Carol Wiltsee**
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Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

This Friday evening we will mark the end of another successful season for the Wenonah Historical Society with our annual picnic beginning at 5:00 at the Community Center/Train Station. Hawks Corner Deli is providing two variety hoagie trays as well as potato and macaroni salads. Many thanks to those who signed up to bring appetizers, side dishes or desserts.

I want to thank the WHS executives VP Paul Lader, Secretary Vicki McCall, and Treasurer Carol Wiltsee for their dedicated service. Also, thanks to Jack "of all trades" Sheppard for his leadership of our museum. Barbara Price and Larry Smith also need to be commended for their contributions to our fine organization.

easy retrieval.

Most of the individual Wenonah artifacts such as locally made medicine bottles and the original Wenonah House Hotel desk bell (c 1872), etc. have been photographed. Many photographs chronicling the creation of the town from the Wenonah House Hotel through the Military Academy era have been assembled as a Power Point presentation and with the capable assistance of member Karen Heller are shown to the Wenonah Elementary fifth grade classes each year as a program entitled *Origins of Wenonah.* The WHS Mission Statement lists making history available to Wenonah school students as a major objective. And for good reason, for if we don't make it available to them, who will?

Having said all of the above, what is the "bad-news?" The "bad news" is that we have no space on the ground floor of the Community Center for display cabinets. Due to the narrow, steep stairs to the second floor, we have the same lack of display space there. With the potential for fire in this 120 -year old structure, we cannot afford access to the collection as is done in most other museums. It is just not worth the risk.

So what is the answer? What can be done to overcome this access problem? It is this: For a long period of time I have been seeking the assistance of a person or persons capable of creating an Internet website that could be used to display the Wenonah Museum materials without need for personal access to our building. I envision either a stand-alone website or preferably a site that could be attached to the official Wenonah borough website. Anyone, whether it be school personnel, students, our library or an Internet visitor, could enter the site and see photographs and text records of our entire collection. The Power Point programs, *Wenonah Origins* and *Wenonah Military Academy,* could also be accessed to provide both entertainment and education and thus provide the history of Wenonah to our children and other interested parties.

Can this and will this happen? I certainly hope so and our new "tech-savvy" museum curator, volunteer Larry Smith, is investigating the possibility. Relatively few have any idea of how wonderfully unique our little town is. The more that is known, the better chance of Wenonah's survival for future generations.

Anyone reading this who has energy and ideas and wishes to volunteer time and talent, please contact me at shepardsr@ comcast.net or Larry Smith at 468-3480 or smithlr@att.net, at your convenience.

Jack Sheppard

WENONAH

MAY 1914

◊ Mr. William Hallman has sold his home on South Monroe Avenue and will move his family to South Monroe Avenue in the house formerly occupied by Benjamin Robotham.

◊ Our four graduates of the Class of '14 of the Woodbury High School attended the reception given by the Juniors to the Class of '14 on Friday evening at the Woodbury Country Club.

◊ The special election held on Tuesday for the purpose of voting for or against a free public library for the Borough of Wenonah resulted in favor of having a free library. Only about four were not in favor of it.

◊ The salary of Rev. Relyea has been increased $200 per year making a salary of $1200.

◊ Parties from Franklinville have purchased Mrs. Cooper's large house on the east side of West Jersey Avenue and will renovate it. This property has stood idle for a number of years.

◊ The members of the Chippewa Canoe Club will hold their annual dance at the gymnasium on Saturday evening to raise funds for the improvement of their boat house on Mantua Creek.

◊ Mr. Ogden of Philadelphia will erect a house on Jefferson Avenue in the near future.

◊ Mr. W.K. Patton has purchased a new five passenger touring car.

◊ The sixth and seventh grades of the public school are having their examinations this week.

◊ Mr. William Updegrove of Mantua has started an ice route in Wenonah and Mantua, and will run his wagon every day in the year except Sundays.

◊ Mr. Norman Schock, who is stationed at Pocomoke City, MD, sent his mother a huge shad by parcel post the other day. The fish weighed nearly eight pounds.

◊ Thomas Townsend moved his family into their new home on N. Clinton Avenue on Saturday.

◊ Dr. C.H. Lorence, president of the Academy, has made arrangements to have the boys of the school encamp at Cape May after the close of the Academy in June. They will camp there ten days.

◊ Dr. Harry Stout is contemplating building a house next to Mrs. Mehorter's which will be occupied by one of our recent bride and grooms.

◊ Mr. S. Forsman, the watchman at the gate crossing on Mantua Avenue, has filled his idle minutes by making a pretty flower bed on the railroad property, improving the surroundings very much.

◊ Mr. Geo. Grosscup moved his family into their new home which he recently purchased and which he has had thoroughly renovated.

◊ Mrs. Swartz marched in the Suffrage parade in Philadelphia Saturday.

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, September 12, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 6, September 2014



Sue & Larry Smith's home, 110 S. Clinton Avenue

September Meet and Greet

Our September "Meet and Greet" is scheduled for Friday, September 12th starting at 6:00 PM. We will be returning to Sue & Larry Smith's home at 110 S. Clinton Ave. for this annual event. We ask that attendees bring appetizers and desserts, based on the first letter of your last name:

A though M – please bring an appetizer
N though Z – please bring a dessert.
Beverages will be provided.

This get-together would be an excellent opportunity to introduce our friends and neighbors to the Wenonah Historical Society. Please invite (better yet, bring) at least one prospective member to the Smith's on September 12th.

A group site for the Wenonah Historical Society has been created on Facebook. If you are Facebook-inclined, please stop by the site and join at

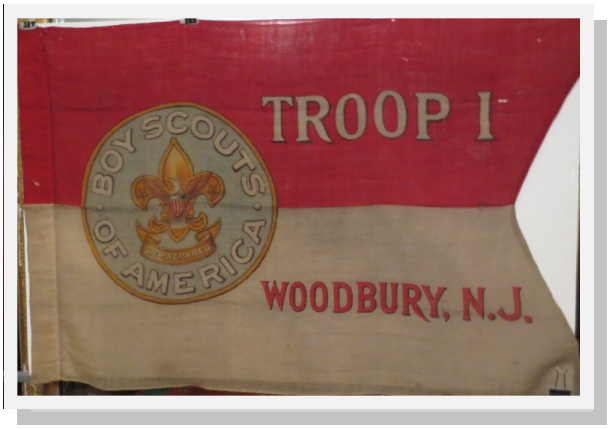
https://www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/

Ask your friends to do the same. The Facebook group will be a companion site to a website that is being developed to make the contents of the Society's museum available to all, as well as presentations such as the one Jack Sheppard, Sr. and Karen Heller have been making to Wenonah Elementary School on the origin of Wenonah. We'll keep you posted on the progress of the website via the WHS Newsletter.

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The Gloucester County Historical Society

Presents

Be Prepared!

Scouts of Yesteryear

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have been a tradition in America for over a century.

Visit this remarkable exhibit of scouting artifacts from over the decades. Numerous uniforms, merit badges, equipment, manuals, flags, and accessories from the 1920's forward are on display.

Special evening tours for Scout troops and dens may also be arranged by calling (856) 848-8531.

Now through December 29, 2014

Wenonah Borough Council a Century Ago

Excerpts from Wenonah Council Minutes

July 7, 1910—Construction application requested by Rector G. Livingston Bishop for the building of the All Saints Episcopal Church.

May 4, 1911—Application to Council by Mr. Albert Fischer of Wenonah for a Pool and Billiard license for one pool table at his barber shop on West Jersey Avenue. Permission granted.

July 5, 1912—Resolution: Permission granted to the Wenonah Mutual Improvement Association to erect either two or four stone or brick columns at the North West corner of the park. And that a tablet suitably inscribed with the names of the donors of said Park land be placed on one of the columns.

April 3, 1913—Motion that the Gas Lamp Lighter be granted the privilege of riding his bicycle on the sidewalk when on duty. (According to Mrs. Shuman, the Lamp Lighter was usually an "older" local boy. He would ride his bike carrying a long stick with a match on the end. Had to make the same trip again each morning to turn them off.)

April 3, 1913—Motion that the authorities of the Military Academy be granted the privilege of using the Park as a drill ground.

June 4, 1914—Report of the result of a special election held May 26, 1914 to determine if our Library should become a "Free Public Library." Total votes cast 80. In favor 73, against 4, 3 ballots rejected.

From *Information about Wenonah County of Gloucester State of New Jersey from the Minute Books of the Wenonah Borough Commission and the Wenonah Borough Council from 1893 through 1990 compiled by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr., August 1991.*

WENONAH

September 1914

Mrs, John Allen, who recently purchased the Wenonah Ice Cream Parlor, has sold out and will move back to Millville.

The YMCA will give moving pictures hereafter in the YMCA hall every Saturday evening.

A number of our citizens are attending the Chautauqua in Woodbury.

In addition to the YMCA hall being freshly painted and renovated, a large exit door has been cut on the south side both for safety and convenience. This will prove helpful for the people who have to crowd their way out of the other door. This exit will be of great benefit. The ante room on the north side has been filled up by the picture machine with asbestos encasements, making an absolutely fireproof compartment.

Mrs. Mary Mehorter opened her kindergarten on Monday last.

Our tax rate this year is one cent higher than last year—$2.02.

Mr. James Baylies, one of our grocery men, is erecting two houses on S. Monroe Avenue, which will greatly improve that part of the Avenue. John L. Drummer is the contractor.

Mrs. Mary Hendrickson has sold her farm just outside of our borough and will move into the house now occupied by Jay Charles and family.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened on Tuesday with an attendance of eighty-five, the largest since the Academy started.

The citizens of our borough are showing their interest in the library since it has been made a free public institution, as the number of books distributed show an increase of 90 last month. The building is now being renovated.

Dr. Harry Schisser and wife moved into their new home on Jefferson Avenue on Wednesday.

A large number of our citizens attended the Mantua firemen's carnival at Mantua on Saturday evening.

Contractor and builder Wm. Borg has broken ground for a new house for Harry C. Viereck on S. Lincoln Avenue.

The following members of the Wenonah Board of Registry and Elections have been appointed: William P. Hallman, Howard C. Hendrickson, Joseph S. Eldridge, George L. Dilks.

Mr. Thomas Nelson is rapidly completing a beautiful home for Dr. H. A. Stout, on Clinton Ave., which will be occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burdsall, Jr., one of our recent bride and grooms.

There will be close to twenty-five students who will attend Woodbury High School from here this year.

A large white light has been installed on the south side of Mantua Avenue railroad crossing which gives people a clear view either direction on a dark night and also prevents tripping over the rails.

Mr. Harry House, the congenial butcher in Child's store, is taking his vacation.

From the "Wenonah" section of the *Gloucester County Democrat*

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, October 10, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 7, October 2014

THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER
3 East Mantua Avenue

Lavander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he conducted a general grocery store on the premises. This was a short-lived enterprise as the store and property were deeded to Richard J. Clark in September of 1888.

The store was expanded with *honest goods and honest prices.* The stock consisted of dry and fancy goods, notions, furnishings, boots, hats, caps etc. During this period, Clark was in competition with Turner and McCormick who had similar goods. He outlasted them and eight other competitors until 1912. He was quite active in the community serving on the town commission and various church boards. His sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert Clark would operate the coal yard business where the borough public works is today. Jim became a semi-professional baseball player

The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central" in his store serving the thirty telephones within the town. Five years later when the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone Company wanted to house their exchange there, Clark refused because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark sold the business and the building to John Madara. He was a glass blower at Whitney Glass Works in Clayton. He continued the dry goods and grocery business successfully until 1920 when he sold it to a Norman Brown.

The business continued under Brown's leadership until 1925 when it went up for public sale. The advertisement for the sale gives insight into the business. Listed was *the store stock of shoes, hosiery, hardware, notions, dry goods, groceries, a meat cutter, refrigerator display, and everything to be found in a general store. This is one of the best residential and business properties in town located at the Wenonah station and across from the Military Academy Park.*

Bill Seiders at this time had a hardware store in the northern part of the Grosscup building, being formerly owned by John Viereck. He was seeking a new location. Milton Webb, a salesman for Winchester-Simmons Hardware Company, was persuaded by him to go into partnership in the 3 East Mantua Avenue building and to create a new hardware store. Mr. Webb, with the consent of his wife, also was talked into moving to town. They moved into the apartment next to what would become the hardware store. Soon after moving they were assessed $500 for the concrete paving on Mantua Avenue which was their welcome to the town.

They called the store "*THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER."* The Winchester Simmons Company was the forerunner of our present True Value, Ace and other hardware chains. The stock was quite varied: sporting goods, tools, hardware, cutlery, paints and building materials. The barn in back was turned into a warehouse. The enterprise was quite successful despite the depression. However in 1935 the academy closed and this was a disaster to all the businesses in town and the area. The store closed in 1937.

The store was then leased to Mr. A.H. Williams who opened up a Fairlawn grocery store which was unsuccessful and closed in two years. After this Charlie Hill opened a hobby shop, which went out of business in 1940. The store was then turned into an apartment unit. During this period, Mary Bilderback, formerly a piano teacher at the academy, taught music on the second floor. Many a child from Wenonah started their musical careers with her.

In 1949, Mr. Webb sold the building to Jim and Eleanor Ross. Eleanor's father was Charlie Hohlweg who owned Charlie's later called the Tall Pines. Jim and Eleanor successfully created the Jim-El Sweet Shoppe, which was in business for fifteen years. This was basically a luncheonette and coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch. Many years later, Eleanor opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

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After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Margery and Bill Fox. This was an institution in Wenonah. In the morning for breakfast there was an influx of workers from Atlantic City Electric, Bell Telephone and other locals. For lunch were those from Marmac and Newton Tool Works and the schoolteachers. It was a gathering place for the community, leaving so many fond memories. Sadly Margery died but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys's husband was Herb Clark who was born in the building and whose father was Richard Clark the early owner.

The next owners were George and Jane Bowker who ran the business under the name of The Carriage Shoppe. They ran it for several years but Jane's ill health caused it to close. Several attempts were made to reopen but unsuccessfully. Roy Duffield bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who conducted an outstanding business there until a few years ago. [Today, Shear Bliss Hair Studio occupies the building.]

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed its message is that it would be good to have a coffee shop again as we did years ago. This is something that is lacking in our community. For those who remember, we know.

This story was compiled by the late Milton Webb, Jr. of Wenonah.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

I want to begin by thanking, on behalf of the Wenonah Historical Society, those who were instrumental in accomplishing the improvements to the entryway at the Train Station. Councilman Phil Kaeferle, Borough Clerk Karen Sweeney and Public Works Supervisor Ken Trovarelli worked together as a team to expedite the safety upgrade to the entry steps that so many groups utilize week after week. Nice job!!

Our 2014 Meet and Greet on September 12th was a huge success. We estimate attendance in the range of seventy people. Many thanks to our gracious hosts Sue and Larry Smith for sharing their lovely home for this annual WHS event. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Also in attendance were some new residents who we are happy to welcome as members.

But there is more good news. The WHS Facebook page is up and running and the WHS website is at an advanced stage of construction. These are vital accomplishments as the Wenonah Historical Society moves forward. Many thanks to Larry Smith and Bob Thomas for their efforts.

This Friday October 10th at 7:30 we will conduct our first regular meeting of the 2014-15 season followed by an excellent presentation. Nick Frankunas is a retired railroad instructor from a career with Penn Central and Conrail. Nick is a former member of the Washington Township Historical Society and helped restore the old Glassboro RR Station among a multitude of other RR related endeavors.

Nick's presentation is entitled "**Early South Jersey Railroads.**" I had the pleasure of attending his presentation last May. Nick's topic is not aimed specifically for railroad "buffs/enthusiasts" (like Lou McCall) but for those interested in the history of southern New Jersey and the impact this new mode of transport had (and continues to have) on the people and places in our region. There will be a Q & A following the program and some artifacts displayed. Also, light refreshments will be offered.

Hope to see you there.

A PEEK INTO GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S PAST

Thursday, October 16 @ 7:00 pm

Gloucester County Historical Society Library

17 Hunter St., Woodbury, NJ

Light Refreshments

Seating is Limited.

Call (856) 845-4771 for reservations.

Free Admission

WENONAH

October 1914

◊ The Wenonah Military Academy has instituted a department of voice culture under direction of Mr. Carlton McHenry, pupil of Herbert Wilbur Greene.

◊ While one of the electric express trains was crossing over Mantua avenue recently, the hot box came off the wheel and was hurled through the air for about fifty yards, ripping things up in general.

◊ The water committee of Council has decided to install a duplicate emergency pumping plant at the water works.

◊ The collector and solicitor have been instructed to proceed with immediate collection of all outstanding debts on sidewalks and curbs.

◊ Little Albert Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Green of Mantua avenue, had a nasal operation performed at his home on Monday morning.

◊ Dr. H.L. Gilmour is improving his home by building a fine portico.

◊ The Lyceum Festival will visit our borough again this year on Oct. 29, 30 and 31. There will be three joyous days of entertainment, lectures and concerts, afternoons and evenings—fifteen events for $1.00.

◊ Rev. Mordecai Stokes, who has been sick for several weeks, passed away at his home on Willow street on Thursday evening, aged 93 years. Mr. Stokes was a veteran Methodist preacher and was loved by all who knew him. The funeral was held in the Methodist Church on Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. About forty preachers attended the funeral (which was very large) in a body. Interment was made in the Wenonah Cemetery.

◊ Mr. Holt is erecting a shop where the old lumber yard formerly was.

◊ After a pleasant vacation, Harry House is back at his position as butcher in Child's store.

◊ The barber, Harold Davis, will move from his present house in Mrs. Anna Johnson's house, corner of Monroe and Mantua avenue, on Monday.

◊ The band which has been organized hopes to be under way at an early date.

◊ The young people of the town are much dismayed to find that the last night of the Chautauqua comes on Halloween. However, all of the guaranteed 300 tickets are sold. Therefore, there will be no more season tickets to be had and lte comers will have to pay straight admission at the door.

◊ William Green and family have moved to their winter home in Germantown.

◊ Nelson Berg has nearly completed a beautiful house for Dr. Harry A. Stout, who will rent it to Frank Burdsall, one of our recent grooms.

◊ Robert Comey is erecting a large garage. Mr. Coney will purchase two more automobiles.

◊ A public meeting of Equal Rights League of Wenonah (the only Women's Suffrage League in Gloucester County) was held at the home of Mrs. G.W. Betts in Woodbury Friday afternoon. Mrs. Mariam Holmes, County organizer, was the speaker and a general discussion of the women's cause took place.

◊ James Baylies is building another house on Cherry street.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* October 1914

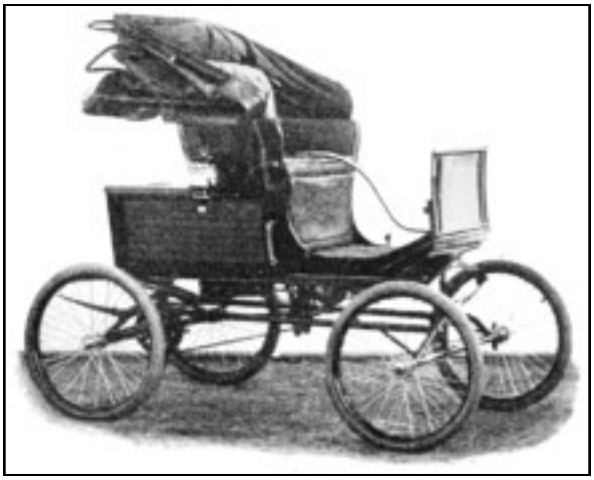
Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, November 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 8, November 2014

Wenonah's First Automobile

by Bob Thomas

What did people do with their spare time in 1900? Imagine, no computers, no internet, no radio, no television. You could read a book or a newspaper, but if you wanted something more interactive, what was available?



From *Popular Science Monthly,* Vol. 57
December 31, 1899

Some newspapers offered puzzles in a serial format over a number of editions with prizes for those who were able to solve the puzzles. On May 27, 1900, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper announced a new contest, the Captain Kidd Hidden Picture Series with some fantastic prizes. Captain Kidd was convicted of piracy and hung in 1701. You had to pore over a drawing and find six hidden objects. One of the objects could possibly have once been in the pirate's chest. The other five that you had identified could be listed in any order.

The contest was announced on the front page with a photograph of the grand prize, a 1900 Locomobile worth $750. The name of the vehicle was derived from combining the words locomotive and automobile. An acceptable minimum wage at that time was about $8 per week. If you could somehow manage to put $1 a week away to buy the car you could expect to be driving in 15 years! Another way to consider the value of the prize was that houses built on the west side of the railroad tracks in Wenonah were supposed to be worth a minimum of $1,000 and houses on the east side $2,000. The top 20 contestants would get an expense paid trip to Atlantic City.

Mrs. Frances Bossler, a 23-year old Wenonah woman, who at that time had no children, and her 26-year old husband, Frank, put some effort into solving the puzzles. He worked as a telegraph operator at the Pennsylvania Railroad's Wenonah station. Frances was tied with six other people for coming up with the correct solution on all nine installments of the puzzle. All seven were summoned to the *Inquirer's* office for a drawing to decide the winner. But cell phones not being invented, only five could be located in time to appear for the drawing; the missing two were represented by proxy.

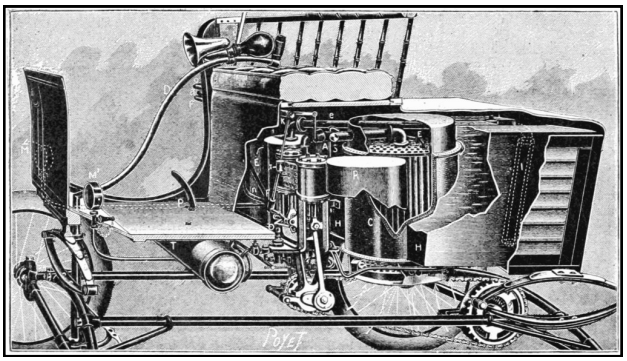
The drawing followed an interesting double blind drawing format and at first Mrs. F. J. Bossler had no idea that she had won. Soon, however, it was reported that she was the happiest woman within 300 miles of the newspaper office. The other contestants graciously congratulated her. Mrs. Bossler had never ridden in any automobile prior to the contest. She was taken out for a test drive in the vehicle and thoroughly enjoyed her ride. She was even allowed to take the controls, I would say "the wheel," but the vehicle had no steering wheel.

She won the drawing on Sunday and on Monday she went to bring it back to Wenonah. She met her instructor at the *Inquirer* office and drove with him to the ferry which took them to Camden. Ignoring

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Sectional view showing part details
From *Popular Science Monthly,* Vol. 57
December 31, 1899

the summer rain, Mrs.. Bossler drove the locomobile home to Wenonah where she was met with an ovation. The steam powered two cylinder vehicle was the first automobile to be owned by a Wenonah resident.

By the time of the 1910 census, the couple had relocated to the New Haven, CT area. In 1918, when Frank registed for the World War I draft, he was working as a wire chief for the New York and Connecticut News Bureau. They had one son, Franklin. Frances passed away in 1960, followed by Frank in 1961. Both were buried in Montowese Cemetery in North Haven, CT.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Dear Members:

We had a great turnout for the October 2014 meeting. Nick Frankunas gave a detailed history of the development of railroads in southern New Jersey. As if on cue, a northbound train whistled past in the middle of his presentation. How appropriate!

This month our presenter will be Eileen Shanahan and Pat Hensinger from the Gloucester County Historical Society. Their topic will be: A PEEK INTO GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S PAST. Our meeting is Friday, November 14th at 7:30 PM. Please try to attend and, as always, think about bringing along a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. The Gloucester County Historical Society always provides excellent Power Point presentations.

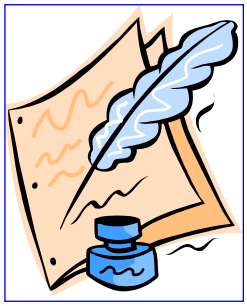
WHS Holiday Party: as announced at last month's meeting, our Holiday Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM (not 5:00) on Friday December 12th at the Community Center/Train Station. Once again, the Telford Inn will be catering this festive annual WHS event. The cost is $22.00 per person. We need to have a number to give the Telford in advance so please send your payment ASAP to Pat Sole, 9 Lenape Trail. Her phone number is (856) 468-6661. Social hour is 6:00 - 7:00 with dinner to follow. Guests are welcome

Also you can bring your payment to our meeting this Friday.

I hope to see you this Friday evening at the train station.

Newsletter Contributions

If you are interested in contributing an article for this newsletter, please contact newsletter editor, Barbara Price, at b.price111@comcast.net.



WENONAH

November 1914

- State Treasurer Edward Grosscup and Mrs. Grosscup entertained Governor Fielder at dinner on Wednesday evening.
- The Methodist parsonage was visited by the stork on Saturday who left Rev. and Mrs. Harry Relyea an eleven pound baby girl.
- Mrs. Potter entertained the Camp Fire Girls and their friends at a Halloween party on Friday evening at her home on So. Mantua Avenue.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ward Heritage entertained a number of their friends at their beautiful tea house at a good old fashioned Halloween party on Wednesday evening. The decorations were perfect, even to the witch with her hat and broom complete. After learning the identity of the various those and that's, the fun started in earnest and after refreshments were served which consisted of all Halloween dainties such as cakes, cider, nuts and candy, the party sojourned much pleasant with the evening and their hostesses.
- Owing to the Lyceum Festival and the big parade in Woodbury coming on Halloween, the mysterious visitors as a whole appeared Monday evening instead. It is learned that they received a hearty reception at each house entered and that several gates, chairs, etc. were missing the next morning.
- Wenonah was well represented at the parade in Woodbury on Saturday evening. Five of our citizens were with the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, who received a silver cup.
- Mr. Edwin H. Ballinger and Miss Anna Bishop of Tioga were married on Wednesday, November 11th. They are now living in an apartment at Overbrook, PA.
- Mr. Edward Holt has secured a position on the passenger trains between Philadelphia and points in Florida.
- The instruments for the YMCA band are now here and practice will be gotten under way in a short time.
- The Boy Scouts defeated the Pitman Boy Scouts on Saturday at football by the score of 42 to 0.
- State Treasurer, Edward E. Grosscup and Mrs. Grosscup, are at Atlantic City for two weeks recreation, after the strenuous campaign season.
- The stork left a baby girl at the home of Grocer Walter Wentzell on Friday last.
- Robert H. Comey is having extensive interior decorations made in his home.
- It is rumored that two new houses will be built shortly in our borough, one by John Nelson and the other by A.H. Everhard of Philadelphia.
- Mr. Chew of Camden has moved into one of Mrs. D.W. Brown's houses on Willow Street, formerly occupied by Edward Brownholts.
- The Wenonah Military cadets will give a dance on Nov. 14 for the benefit of the athletic association. Subscription $1.00 per couple.
- The Wenonah Public School will give their Thanksgiving play and entertainment in the YMCA hall on Wednesday evening, November 25.
- Mrs. Charles Fredericks has returned home from a month's sojourn in Danville, PA.
- The YMCA purchased a new motion picture machine, which was put in operation for the first time on Saturday evening. The pictures were excellent.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* November 1914

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, December 11, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 9, December 2014

Christmas Circa 1913

As told to Edith Hoelle by Joseph Williams of Westville, NJ in 1995

Reprinted courtesy of the Gloucester County Historical Society



Christmas Suggestions

GIFTS FOR HIM

Silk Shirts in separate boxes, $1.50 to $2.50
Ties Galore at.....25c, 50c and 75c
Initial Handkerchiefs 2 for 25c and 25c
Hosiery in Boxes, 4 pair in box, 50c and $1
Gloves.....25c to $3.50
Sweaters .....$1.00 to $6.00
Boys' Sweaters, Gloves, Trousers, Ties
Men's Jewelry in Fancy Boxes, 50c to $1, combination
Keen Kutter Kutlery, the finest made 25c to $1.25
Suspenders, Belts, Garters, and Arm Bands, all kinds, combinations.
Special offer of Designer, 30c a year.

GIFTS FOR HER

Ivory Picture Frames.....50c
Ivory Pin Cushions.....25c and 50c
Ivory Shoe Horns, Nail Files, Button Hooks, Buffers at.....25c
Brooches .....25c and 50c
Rhinestone and Silver Slipper Buckles 50c
Le Vallieres 50c
Cuff Pins .....10c to 50c
Fancy Barretts & Hair Pins 25c to $1
Handkerchiefs in fancy boxes 5c to 25c each
Coin Purses .....25c to $1.50
Toilet Sets in ivory.....$4 and $4.50
Manicure Sets $2.50
Neckwear, all descriptions; Babies' Goods; Art Needlework.

195 S. Broad St. WICK'S Bell Phone 318 W Woodbury

Advertisement found in the *Gloucester County Democrat* December 1913

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of talking to Joseph W. Anderson of Woodbury about his early Christmas memories. He was the son of Walter Anderson and Elizabeth (Dobbs) Anderson, born in Woodbury in 1908.

On Christmas Eve, Joe and his four older sisters, Bessie, Anna, Bertha and Helen, plus five assorted cousins, gathered in his aunt's large brick farmhouse in West Deptford. The Dobbs farm (Albert and Essie Dobbs Ellis) was located off Salem Road, where the Sherwood-on-the-Green housing development is located today. The children, slept two and three to a bed, and because he was the youngest, Joe slept crosswise.

On Christmas morning the children had to wait in their rooms until they heard the bells of Santa Claus. At the first tinkle, they flew down two flights of stairs to stand awestruck and timid before the sight of that great man, the huge tree and pile of gifts. There never was any doubt in their minds that this Santa Claus was really and truly *the* Santa Claus. (In later years, they did come to notice the absence of Uncle Logan Dobbs.)

Each child received two gifts and the stockings hung over the fireplace the night before, contained an apple, an orange and an unheard of one dollar bill! This was big money indeed!

Later in the day, a long table seating twenty adults featured a suckling pig, standing on clothespins, with cranberry eyes and an apple in its mouth. There was also goose and turkey, all kinds of vegetables and breads, mincemeat and turkey pies.

Christmas Day ended with everyone stuffed, tired and happy, clutching treasures of toys and "leftovers."

2014 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 2nd Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PHILADELPHIA

NEW YEARS DAY

Anticipating a record breaking throng of visitors to Philadelphia to view the New Year's Mummers' Pageant—the Mardi Gras of the North—the Pennsylvania Railroad has completed the arrangements for furnishing additional train service to the city on that day. The 1917 parade promises to be the most elaborate and interesting ever held. About 40 clubs of New Year's "shooters" will be in line and great rivalry will be displayed in novel and beautiful costuming effects, caricatures and the presentation of up-to-date features in the floats.

Ten special trains will be operated to Philadelphia, over the Pennsylvania Railroad, from points in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. They will reach Broad Street Station on the morning of January 1st in time to permit viewing the entire pageant, which pass the City Hall about 10 o'clock a.m.

From *The Woodbury Daily Times,* December 20, 1916.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Greetings members!

The start of the Christmas Season marks the annual and much anticipated WHS Holiday Dinner. Response was good and we are "sold out" for this event which begins at 6 PM this coming Friday at the Community Center/Train Station.

Please bring your good cheer and a healthy appetite as we share community and celebrate an excellent year for the Wenonah Historical Society.

We have attracted new members and unveiled our Facebook page and WHS website. I am looking forward to seeing you Friday evening at 6.

Newsletter Contributions

If you are interested in contributing an article for this newsletter, please contact newsletter editor, Barbara Price, at b.price111@comcast.net.



WENONAH

December 1914

- Miss Helen Gaither is a taking a course of domestic science at a Philadelphia college.
- It is rumored that Mr. Richard Kincaid of Mantua has purchased Mr. James Baylies' new house.
- The stork left another boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Fredericks on Thanksgiving Day.
- The west platform of the station has been finished and is composed entirely of stone.
- The Wenonah Military Academy will give "The Pastoral Frolic," an evening of song by the celebrated Apollo Quartette of Philadelphia, on Saturday evening in the academy auditorium.
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Vierick expect to move into their new home on S. Lincoln Avenue this week.
- The Wenonah Realty Company have rented the house formerly occupied by Mr. George.
- Considerable excitement was caused on Friday morning by the ringing of the fire bell. It proved to be a field and would have caused considerable damage if it had not been discovered. The hose was not used as the volunteer firemen beat the flames out.
- The Boys Scouts attended the Episcopal church on Sunday morning.
- The Woodbury High School second team trimmed the Wenonah Military Academy junior team by the score of 34 to 14 in basketball, Friday, at Woodbury.
- The cadets of the Wenonah Military Academy left for their homes on Friday for the Christmas holidays.
- Our boys and girls are enjoying the very fine skating on Warner's pond, it being so sheltered the ice is very smooth.
- Old Santa is being assisted to a very great extent this year by the daddies who explore the woods for a fine tree.
- The motion pictures at the YMCA hall on Saturday night were exceptionally good. The four reel picture of Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens' well known story, was excellent.
- Mr. Morgan McKeen is confined to his home with an injured ankle sustained while on duty on his train.
- The Wenonah Masonic Club gave an entertainment on Friday evening to members and their friends.
- Mr. Joseph Noblit, an old resident of our borough, was renewing acquaintances here last week.
- Miss Sargent is home from Bryn Mawr College for the holidays.
- Mr. and Mrs. James Avis and family attended a family reunion on Thanksgiving Day at the home of Hon. J. Boyd Avis at Woodbury.
- Our community was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Robert, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George McCormick, aged four years, on Thursday. He was operated on at a Philadelphia hospital on Wednesday for adenoids and his blood being in a poor condition caused his death. The funeral services were held on Sunday at 2:30 o'clock. Interment at Wenonah Cemetery.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* December 1914

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, January 9, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 1, January 2015

Gloucester County Place Names

Gloucester County is home to 24 municipalities. The place names within these boroughs and townships have changed over time. Some evolved from the names of early residents and businesses. Below is an abbreviated list of the former names of existing places in our county:

Aura: Unionville, Union Crossroads

Almonesson: Jenningsville, Lambtown

Barnsboro: Lousetown, Lodgetown, Mt. Zion

Clayton: Fislerville, Fislertown

Deptford Township places: Mann Town, Wescottville, Baskettown, Cattell Town, Lavender Hill, Salina, Bee's Corner, Beetown, Electric Heights, Bethlehem

Bridgeport: Raccoon Lower Bridge, New Stockholm, Brammell Point

Elk Township places: Fairview, Black Horse, Pickletown

Franklin Township places: Plainville, Trimmell Town, Hopeville, Lake

Franklinville: Little Ease

Glassboro: Hestonville, Glasstown, Temperanceville

Greenwich Township places: Clonmell

Harrisonville: Colestown

Jefferson: Allenboro, Cox's Hill, Lawrenceville, Richard's Hill

Logan Township places: Nortonville, Prospect

Mantua: Carpenter's Landing, Smith's Landing, Easley's Landing

Mantua Township places: Marlboro (railroad stop north of Pitman), West's Landing

Mickleton: Solomon's, Upper Greenwich, Wolfert (below Mickleton)

Monroe Township places: White Hall, New Brooklyn, Downer, Whitneyville, Robanna, Coles Mill, Berryland

Mt. Royal: Berkley, Sandtown

Mullica Hill: Spicerville, Blue Bell

Paulsboro: Crown Point

Repaupo: Asbury

Richwood: Helltown, Five Points, Mount Pleasant, Campbell's Corner, White Horse

Sewell (in Mantua Township): Chewville

South Harrison Township places: Cedar Grove, Clearview

Swedesboro: Laddstown, Raccoon Creek, Wrangletown

Washington Township places: Green Tree, Bethel, Creesville, Mt. Pleasant, Dilksboro, Bagtown (Turnersville), Kinzeytown, Fairview, Chestnut Ridge, Chapel Heights

West Deptford places: Wilkinsville, Jobsville, Jobstown, Thoroughfare, Mantua Grove, Paradise, Leonard's, Fancy Hill, Ogden Heights, Red Bank, Parkville, Teatown, Ogden's Station

Williamstown: Squankum, Free Will

Woolwich Township places: Madison, Cootown, Small Gloucester, Cloverdale, Battentown

From *Gloucester County Place Names* researched by William R. Farr and compiled by Milton H. Webb, 1995.



Postcard of the Wenonah Presbyterian Church, circa 1910
Courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

2014 WHS OFFICERS

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Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month
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Gloucester County Historical Society Presents

Philadelphia Quakers

and

the Anti-Slavery Movement

Thursday, February 12 @ 7:00pm

GCHS Library, 17 Hunter St., Woodbury

Free Admissions—Light Refreshments

Call (856) 845-4771 for reservations.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

The Sheppard family, the Borough of Wenonah and the Wenonah Historical Society have suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. He was, to say the least, an integral part of our organization. At times he seemed to be single-handedly carrying the torch of the WHS, especially in the care and management of our museum. In an email to me in early December, he wrote to inform me that he had turned the keys and the leadership of the museum over to Larry Smith. He also expressed great happiness as to the current status of the WHS. Jack felt that we were in a good place and heading in the right direction in the fulfillment of our Mission Statement. He shall be greatly missed.

To that end we move forward into 2015 with our January presentation which will **NOT** be held at the Train Station/Community Center. It will take place at the Memorial Presbyterian Church this Friday at 7:30. There will be no business meeting as we are not in our normal venue. Please enter through the Sanctuary entrance at the corner of E. Mantua and S. Princeton Avenues. Nora Taylor, Church Historian, will discuss the history and architecture of the building. Nora prepared the nomination for the Memorial Presbyterian Church to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. She was successful in that effort.

Please try to attend this presentation as we share community and history during this difficult time.

WENONAH

January 1915

The stork recently left a baby girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chalkley Lyons, former residents of our borough.

Mr. Stephen Warren, who has been suffering with the quinsy, has had a relapse and is now seriously ill with double quinsy.

George Rosser, the congenial driver for Strawbridge & Clothier, has been transferred to Glassboro since an automobile route has been established here. His customers surely miss his pleasant smile and courteous attention.

The bulletin board is laid up for repairs as the result of being run into by an automobile during our recent storm.

Miss Della McKeen has accepted a position as school teacher in the Jefferson school. She will take charge of her duties on Monday, February 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Comey are spending some time in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Viereck took dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ballinger, formerly of our borough at Overbrook, on Friday evening.

We hear that Mr. Alex Middleton of California, a former resident of our borough, has taken unto himself a wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Felsberg are now housekeeping in Mantua.

Mrs. Josephine Miller, with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Springer expect to leave Africa about February 1st, where they have been doing missionary work, and hope to be in Wenonah about April 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ogden, nee Hattie Savage, have moved from here to Gloucester.

Rev. R.H. Gage is on the Grand Jury from our borough for this term and Messrs. William Dietz and George Baylies are the Petit Jurors.

The Misses Will and Mortie Stokes are entertaining Captain and Mrs. Ellsworth of Long Island.

Master Walter Poff, Jr. entertained the Sunday School class of which he is a member on Wednesday evening at his house on Willow Street.

Among those who graduated from Peirce Business College on Thursday evening at the Academy of Music was Miss Helen Leap of our borough.

The Board of Health met at the home of William C. Cattell on Friday evening and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, William C. Cattell; vice president, George L. Dilks; secretary, Rusling Bartlett; medical inspector, Dr. H.G. Stout; health inspector, L.J. Chew.

Mayor Cline recommended the following salaries: Borough Clerk, $100 per year; Borough Solicitor, $25 per year; Borough Marshall, $50 per month; Superintendent of Water Works, $200 per year; Engineer of Water Works, $65 per month; Overseer of Poor, $10 per year. Mr. Reyno moved that the Engineer's salary at the water works be fixed at $65 per month and that an additional voucher for $15 be drawn each month for extra help at the plant. On motion, the regular monthly meeting night of Council was fixed as the first Thursday evening of each month at eight o'clock in the office of the Wenonah Realty Company.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* January 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, February 13, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 2, February 2015

Recollections of

Wenonah Real Estate Company

by Edward Grosscup as told to Milton Webb, 1991

You have asked when did the Wenonah Real Estate Company first start and when did it cease to exist. Edward E. Grosscup, who was the president of the Wenonah Real Estate Company, was a salesman for a Philadelphia lace manufacturer, living in Camden and Philadelphia up until about 1891 when he moved to Wenonah. I believe this was the beginning of the Wenonah Real Estate Company. In 1893, his father, who was not well, asked him to come to Bridgeton and take over the operation of his men's furnishings store until his health improved. His father died in 1898 and his mother in 1900. After his mother's death, Edward E. closed the men's furnishings store and moved back to Wenonah. I believe during the time he was in Bridgeton that his younger brother, Allen H. Grosscup, who was a partner in the real estate business, conducted the business of the Wenonah Real Estate Company.

Starting in about 1906-07, Edward E. became more and more involved in New Jersey politics and the running of the Wenonah Real Estate Company was left up to his son, George, my father. The Wenonah Real Estate Company ceased to exist about 1918. The country was then involved in World War I. Edward E. had been appointed the New Jersey State Purchasing Agent and his son, George, finding little activity in the real estate business during wartime, had accepted a position in Trenton as sales manager of the New Jersey School, Church and Theatre Furniture Company.

It is my belief that Edward E. Grosscup became involved in the Wenonah real estate business through his father, Charles C. Grosscup. Charles was for many years in the 1870s and 1880s the treasurer of the Cumberland County National Bank in Bridgeton. The president of the bank at that time was Horatio Mulford. He was also president of the Mantua Land Company who along with the West Jersey Railroad were primarily responsible for the founding of Wenonah. Charles C. Grosscup's name appears in many of the minutes of the Mantua Land Company meetings. Much of this is supposition. My father died young at age 48 and I never had an opportunity to question him about the history of Wenonah and the Wenonah Real Estate Company's involvement in it.

Altwold Golf Club

Gloucester County Democrat, 25 February 1915

The filing of articles of incorporation of the Altwold Golf Club has aroused the interest of golfers of this section of the world, and much interest is manifest in what is doing. We have ascertained that the officers are John Mayhew, president; Wm. M. Carter, secretary and treasurer; directors, Rob't. H. Comey, Wm. J. Cooper, Wm. M. Carter, John S.R. Cassaday and John Mayhew.

The Club has acquired 160 acres of land on the west side of the railroad between Woodbury Heights and Wenonah, and at this time, Mr. A.H. Finley, the greatest golf expert in America, as stated by Fred Pickering, constructor of the famous Seaview course at Absecon, and both courses at Marion, and Warren Webb, golf instructor at Wanamaker's, are superintending the work of laying out the course.

They assert that the natural advantages of the ground are superior, as the drainage is perfect, and all holes will be dry, no matter what the weather may be. Work has so far progressed that nine of the proposed eighteen holes are now completed.

Membership in the club is limited to 500. Life membership is $1000; you can become a member for $50 and yearly dues are $50.

Woodbury Daily Times, 13 June 1959

Farmers and Mechanics National Bank announced the opening of the Wenonah branch on Northwest Avenue. Officers were John W. Plant, executive vice-president; Alfred E. Hill, vice-president; John J. Kitchen, chairman of the executive committee; and James C. Henry, president.

Woodbury Daily Times, 9 July 1959

Dedication for the new Wenonah Post Office was scheduled for Saturday, July 11. Congressman William T. Cahill would be among the prominent guests attending, The new facility has 2,800 square feet of interior space, in addition to 400 square feet of platform space and 1500 square feet of parking and maneuvering area. The building is leased to the federal government by Albert Hepner of Cedarville.

WHS OFFICERS

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Trustee	**Betty MacLeod**
Trustee	**Louis McCall**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month
(except June, July and August)
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WENONAH

Red Cross

The mass meeting held last evening in the Academy Hall for the purpose of forming a Red Cross Branch of the Gloucester County Chapter, in Wenonah, proved to be very enthusiastic.

The Hon. David O. Watkins presided as temporary chairman and after a preliminary talk on the whys and wherefors, proceeded with the business details. Mr. H. A. Terell acted as temporary secretary.

The following officers were unanimously elected:

Mr. E. L. Farr, chairman.
Mr. E. C. Geehr, vice chairman.
Mrs. Wm. Newcomb, secretary.
Mr. Chas. Hobson, treasurer.
Mrs. Edw. Sapp, chairman membership committee.
Mr. T. W. Synnott,,chairman finance.
Dr. H. A. Stout, chairman instruction.
Mrs. H. A. Potter, chairman hospital supplies.

Membership is now in order. Anyone wishng to join the Wenonah Red Cross Branch will give their name and dues to any of the named officers.

L. A. NEWCOMB, Secretary.

Woodbury Daily Times, 30 June 1917

Introduction to the Philadelphia City Archives

Presented by Jill Rawnsley

Archives & Preservation Consultant

Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7:00 pm

Gloucester County Historical Society Library

Free Admission/Light Refreshments

Please call (856) 845-4771 for reservations.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Our meeting agenda this Friday (the 13th !!) will primarily be to address some belated housekeeping business. The terms of our executive officers expired at the end of 2014. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers for the 2015 - 16 term. This slate will be voted upon at our March meeting (also Friday the 13th !!??.) As per normal parliamentary procedure, nominations can be made from the floor in March.

We also need to discuss the revitalization of the "Plaque Committee" as, in addition to Jack Sheppard Sr. and Betty Rose, we have lost yet another beloved and active member Frank Eggert. These are devastating losses on many levels. The WHS will require others to step up and fill the void left by these significant losses as we move forward in accomplishing our Mission Statement.

In continuing with our "home grown" programs during the winter months the topic of our presentation will be the map entitled Wenonah 1770 - 1870. You may have seen this map over the past ten years. Bob Thomas recently posted it on our Facebook page. This map depicts the old roads that existed prior to the modern day N-S-E-W grid that we see today.

Also on our website, wenonahhistoricalsociety.org, Bob posted an interactive map of Wenonah homes from the years 1763 - 1899. This technology (facebook & WHS website) is amazing and an integral part of the vitality of our organization going forward.

We will be displaying and discussing the 1770 - 1880 map at our meeting. I invite any and all to share interesting input on these maps as they provide an excellent peek into the history and metamorphosis of our fine borough. I don't think many towns have such a resource available. Also, Larry Smith will update us on the current status of our website which is still a work in progress.

See you this Friday at 7:30.

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Miss Dorothy Holt and Mr. William Leeds, of Leeds Point, NJ, were quietly married on Tuesday evening at the Methodist parsonage in Atlantic City. The young couple will reside at the home of Mr. Leeds' parents at Leeds Point.

William Thatcher has purchased a new Buick touring car.

Contractor and builder, William Borg and gang, are working at Ocean City, coming home at the week-end.

Edward Brownholts has purchased a Ford roadster.

William C. Cattell attended the meeting of the State Association of County Engineers at Trenton on Tuesday.

A ladies auxiliary of the Wenonah Fire Company was organized at the fire house on Monday afternoon.

Little Meredith Lewis is doing nicely in Dr. Price's Hospital, Philadelphia, after his very serious operation.

Richard Ballinger and brother left for Florida on Tuesday where Mr. Ballinger hopes to regain his health. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ballinger of Overbrook are occupying the house while Mr. Ballinger is away.

It has been rumored for some time that Wenonah is to have a national bank. On Tuesday, Edward Grosscup went to Washington to get things settled up.

The stork left a twelve pound boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Voght on Friday morning.

The public school has received its Victrola which was secured through the efforts of the school children by giving an entertainment.

Thirty of our Boy Scouts will attend the moving picture show given by the Woodbury Scout Band on Thursday evening of this week.

George Parks has purchased the Harry Tuft bungalow on South Monroe Avenue, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Phelps. William Parks and family will occupy it.

Our streets are in very bad condition on account of the stormy weather.

The mid-year reception and dance given by the Wenonah Military Academy on Friday evening was a decided success.

The Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church will hold a cake, pie and candy sale on Friday afternoon in the Grosscup building.

Mrs. George McCormick is confined to the house with tonsillitis and her son Laurence with the measles.

George McVaughn has returned home from Miami, Fla., where he has been working for the past two months.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Warren is suffering with the mumps.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brownholts entertained the Tennis Club of Woodbury at their home on Thursday evening.

On Easter Monday, the Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church will give an Easter supper. Please remember the date.

Mrs. Charles Vickery, a missionary to India, addressed the ladies of the Missionary Society in the Methodist Church on Thursday evening.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* February 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, March 13, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 3, March 2015

One of the early newspapers in Woodbury was the weekly *Gloucester County Democrat.* The paper, initially known as the *Mantua News,* was started in Mantua in August 1878 by William T. Gibbs. In October of that year, the Democratic County Committee prevailed on Mr. Gibbs to move the paper to the county seat in Woodbury and change its name to the *Gloucester County Democrat.* The original equipment consisted of a small job press, two stands, four cases of body type (two each of brevier and burgeois) and about six small fonts of display or job type.

By the following February, Mr. Gibbs, deeply in debt, left Woodbury. His largest creditor, Belmont Perry, Gloucester County Prosecutor, took possession of the paper. By the third issue in March, James Carpenter was proprietor, editor and publisher, a position which he held for the next 36 years..

The original annual subscription price of the paper, a had been fifty cents for a six column folio. The subscription price was raised by the new publisher to $1.50 for a seven column folio.

The publication office was located in the small hostler's room at the east end of the Newton Hotel stables at the southwest corner of Broad and Delaware Streets. At that time, Mahlon W. Newton, the hotel proprietor, was in the process of building an addition to the hotel on Delaware Street. When the addition was finished in May 1879, the newspaper office was moved to the second floor.

The first newspaper press, known as a Washington hand press, was purchased. Previously the inside pages of the paper had been printed by a short-lived rival newspaper, the *Liberal Press*. Within two years, circulation had increased to 1,000 and a faster press was needed. A used Taylor drum cylinder press was purchased from a consolidating North Jersey newspaper.

After purchasing the new press, the newspaper moved to new quarters in the northeast room of the new Green's Block (the recently renovated building which later housed the old Charming Shoppe), at Broad and Centre Streets. An upright Baxter steam engine was installed and the paper was enlarged to an eight column folio printed by steam power.

In 1887, the newspaper was again looking to expand. The property of Judge Benjamin F. Carter at present-day 22 South Broad Street was purchased. The house was occupied by a tenant while a two-story frame building was built on the side for the newspaper. With the additional space, another enlargement of the paper to a nine column folio, known as a blanket sheet, was accomplished.

In 1903, the blanket sheet was replaced by a much larger sheet and another new press was necessary. A front delivery, two-revolution Campbell press supplanted the old Taylor drum cylinder and a five horse power Otto gas engine took the place of a much smaller gas engine. A folding machine, the first in use in the county, completed the new equipment. In January 1908, the first type setting machine, a Mergenthaler Linotype No. 5, was installed.

In 1915, a new owner took possession of the *Gloucester County Democrat.* At that time, the paper had few rivals in mechanical equipment among weekly newspapers in the state of New Jersey. Circulation had increased to 2,500.

Within the next decade, there would be many other weekly newspapers being published in Gloucester County including the *Woodbury Constitution, Pitman Grove Review, Paulsboro Record, Swedesboro News* and *Glassboro Enterprise.* While the *Woodbury Daily Times* (later the *Daily Times, Gloucester County Times* and today the *South Jersey Times*) began in 1897, it was a different news format from the local weekly papers. The *Times* prioritized national news on the front page with local news on subsequent pages. The weeklies reported mostly local news with "gossip" columns for each community written.

In 1938, the *Gloucester County Democrat* published its last issue. The building still stands today, currently the home of King of Steaks. The newspaper banner can be seen inscribed above the second floor. This newspaper, along with the other papers mentioned above and many more, are available to researchers in the collections of the Gloucester County Historical Society.

WHS OFFICERS

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Trustee	**Louis McCall**

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Gloucester County Historical Society

Annual Meeting

April 8: Gloucester Militia, 3rd Battalion at the Battles of Trenton & Princeton

Presented by Rev. Norman Goos

GCHS Library @7pm
17 Hunter St., Woodbury
Free Admission; light refreshments

April 16: Introduction to the Philadelphia City Archives

GCHS Library, @7pm
17 Hunter St., Woodbury
Free admission; light refreshments

April 21: NJ State Archives Research Trip
$32 members/$37 non-members

Limited Seating
Call (856) 845-4771 for reservations.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

We have turned the clocks ahead and today Barbara and I took a walk around town with temperatures in the balmy 50 degree range. All signs are pointing to an end to this weather madness. I think I speak for many when I exclaim "I'VE HAD IT !!!." Last week I submitted a WHS article in the Borough Spring Newsletter. Please take a moment to read it. There are submissions by several other volunteer groups in town. Many are planning warm weather events. During this month's meeting (Friday 7:30) we will hold elections. A slate of candidates was presented at the February meeting.

Our program this month will feature a **Downton Abbey** theme since the season finale aired last Sunday evening. The period drama depicts the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants in the post-Edwardian era in England. Great events in history have an impact on their lives and the British social hierarchy in general.

The presenters will dress in period attire and talk about life during that era. There will be a Downton Abbey Trivia game as well as related items on display. Hope to see you Friday evening.

Harrison Township Historical Society

Taking a cue from the old saying, "if these walls could talk," the artifacts included in our new Spring exhibit will get a chance to do just that. Through an on-line audio soundtrack, sixteen objects from the museum's collection will lead visitors through an entertaining exploration of the past.

Saturdays & Sundays, March 14 – May 17, 1-4 pm

Free admission
Old Town Hall Museum.

South Main St. & Woodstown Rd., Mullica Hill, NJ

"Like" Us on Facebook!

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Musician Howard Adams of the Academy takes great pleasure in helping our YMCA boys at all times and his services are much appreciated by the boys.

Miss Ruth Avis, nurse at Dr. Price's Hospital, was home for the weekend.

The stork visited the home of Prof. and Mrs. Charles Harrington last week and left a little son.

Mr. and Mrs. William Thatcher gave a party on Friday evening in honor of their daughter, Mary Elizabeth's sixth birthday. The children were entertained with a magic lantern exhibition and games after which they were invited to the dining room. Mary Elizabeth received many pretty and useful gifts.

A double birthday surprise party was given by their children and grandchildren to Mrs. Susannah Voght, who was 84 years old on Monday and to her sister, Mrs. Mary Hope, who was 85 years old on Tuesday, on Tuesday evening at their home on Mantua Avenue.

Alonzo Beckett has purchased a Ford touring car and Joseph Schernick is building the foundation for the garage.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son.

Mr. Ferrell and family of Camden have moved into the Green property formerly occupied by the Westwoods.

A large number were present at the prayer meeting last Wednesday evening at the Methodist Church as it was a farewell meeting before Rev. H.A. Relyea's departure for Cape May City.

Rev. John Allen, the new pastor of the ME Church, preached two good sermons on Sunday in large congregations. Opera music was rendered and the Brotherhood attended in a body in the evening.

Little Meredith Lewis has returned from Dr. Price's Hospital entirely recovered from the operation performed after the coasting accident 6 weeks ago.

About fifteen boys and girls attended the Loyal Temperance Legion on Monday afternoon which has been reorganized under the direction of Mrs. Samuel Mehorter.

Jack Roden has been elected by the YMCA baseball team as their manager for the coming season.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burdsall, nee Rena Ogden, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son.

The Waldebeum Gun Club has just completed their new club house and will hold their first shoot Saturday, March 13th.

Miss Cecilia Sargent was home from Bryn Mawr College for the weekend.

At the Presbyterian Church next Sunday morning there will be an ordination and installation of elders.

The Academy basketball team won from the "Biddles" of Philadelphia by the score of 56 to 17 on Saturday evening.

Arthur Benson has been home sick from Lehigh University.

Miss Eleanor Stout is home from Bucknell College for the Easter holidays.

Miss Ethel Grosscup is home from the college in Baltimore where she is an instructor for the Easter holidays.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* March 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, April 10, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 3, April 2015



Woodbury High School, circa 1916-17 after the second fire
Courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

As the school year was winding down on Sunday evening, April 25, 1915, boys standing on the corner of Newton Ave. and Broad Street saw flames coming from the southern corner of the five-year old Woodbury High School building. One ran to the firehouse on Delaware Street to sound the alarm. Meanwhile two passers-by began fighting the flames with a stream of water using a line of hose in the school building.

Firemen responded promptly but it was several minutes before steam could be gotten from the steamer. Streams of water were directed to the third story corner of the school. Not much progress was being made due to a sudden change in the wind and it was feared that the entire building would soon be engulfed. Flames were being fed by an easterly wind blowing through the loft under the building's roof. A decision was made to cut through the Assembly Room wall and into the west end of the loft to fight the advancing flames. The fire was contained after assistance was given by Gloucester City firefighters who climbed up a ladder to the front dormer windows and pushed a powerful stream of water from their auto engine into the very heart of the fire.

Meanwhile, school officials, high school students and others went through the building removing school records and furniture. Two fireproof doors on either side of the burning rooms prevented flames from spreading into hallways and stairwells.

The fire damage was confined to the chemistry room and freshman rooms on the third floor. One classroom on the second floor was damaged when the ceiling collapsed allowing wreckage from the floor above to enter the classroom below The front part of the school sustained heavy water damage.

Early on Monday morning, the Board of Education held a meeting. They appointed a force of men to clean out the water and debris and selected the school principal and secretary to appraise the lost furniture. Insurance on the building was $75,000 which was sufficient so that the city would not sustain a monetary loss. Boilers were started to blow warm air through the building to aid in drying. A temporary roof was installed over the slate shingles. The expensive electric clock system which ran to all parts of the building was no longer functioning. The ventilation system would need to be renewed and the

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electrical wiring had short circuited. The maple flooring throughout the damaged section would have to be replaced.

There were several theories about the cause of the fire which was believed to have originated in the chemistry room. The warm temperature of the day combined with chemicals in the room exposed to direct sunlight from a skylight could have started the blaze. Other theories included faulty electrical wiring and spontaneous combustion. Arson was mentioned but there was no evidence to support it.

After inspection by the Board of Education, it was decided that school would resume on Wednesday in the undamaged section of the building. Those students who had occupied the damaged freshman classrooms were sent to the existing Centre Street school on the northeast corner of E. Centre and S. Broad Streets. Students were assigned to "split sessions" with the first session meeting 8:30am to 12:30pm and the second session from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

This fire was the second one that had occurred at the high school. The William Milligan High School, the first high school on the site, was built in 1909 and totally destroyed by fire on December 19, 1910. Previous to 1909, high school students attended classes at the Centre Street school and graduating classes were very small.

Over the next fifty years, high school graduation become more commonplace. The well-regarded Woodbury High School consisted of a large student body from the communities of Woodbury, Woodbury Heights, Wenonah, National Park, Westville West Deptford and Deptford. In the mid-1960s, Gateway Regional, Deptford and West Deptford High Schools were built and Woodbury High became a hometown school.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Although Spring has sprung the nice weather is reluctant and behaving in a pessimistic fashion. I, on the other hand, am being optimistic. So much so that I've dragged the patio furniture from the basement to our soon to be temperate back yard.

Our new slate of WHS officers is listed in this newsletter. Many thanks to Scott Barnes for coming on board as a WHS Trustee. Thanks also to Betty MacLeod for her many years serving in the Trustee position. Recognition is also in order for all executive officers who take time from their busy schedules to serve our fine organization. I would be remiss if I didn't also give kudos to Larry Smith who heads up the WHS Museum as well as (along with Bob Thomas) our Facebook and website. Thanks to all.

Vice President (and Wenonah Councilman) Paul Lader will not only conduct the business meeting this Friday, April 10th, but give the presentation as well!! Most of us know he is a dedicated Civil War historian and re-enactor. The title of his program is:

The Civil War: Oddities, the Strange, the Unusual and the Useless.

NOTE: The April meeting will be the last business meeting and presentation of the 2014-15 season. In May we will have our annual WHS Picnic.



"Like" Us on Facebook!

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Schoch of Wilmington, Delaware, formerly of our Borough, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter.

Miss Elinor Stout has left the Bucknell College and will enter Swarthmore.

The Pitman Glee Club delighted the audience at the YMCA Hall on Saturday evening with their singing, which was interspersed with moving pictures.

Harry B. Darlington and family have moved moved from Mantua to the house on So. Lincoln Ave. formerly occupied by Mr. Albert Porter.

The Boy Scouts will give their annual entertainment. Don't forget the date and help the boys out.

The community chorus will render Dudley Buck's "Story of the Cross" in the Presbyterian Church this evening.

The Camp Fire Girls are preparing for "the Old Maids Convention" which they will give soon.

Mr. and Mrs. William Leeds of Leeds Point spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Holt.

Don't forget the Easter supper to be given by the Ladies Aid of the ME Church on Monday, April 5th from 5 to 8 in the recreation room of the church. Tickets 25 cents.

Earl E. Edlihger, a sophomore in the Wharton School, and George N. Miller, Class of 1917 Medical, both students of the U of P, spoke in the YMCA Hall on Sunday afternoon and at the community service in the ME Church in the evening.

Mr. Ellison Coles quietly celebrated his 82nd birthday Friday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harris Coles, who together with his other children and grandchildren, gave a dinner in honor of the event.

The Communion service in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning was largely attended. Fourteen new members were received, which is the largest number that has ever been received at any one service.

The stork left a daughter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Ogden (nee Stella Prickett) at Pitman last week. Mr. and Mrs. Ogden are both former residents of our borough.

Mrs. Josephene Miller has returned from her year's delightful and wonderful trip to the Congo States, Africa, where she had been visiting her daughter and husband, Rev. and Mrs. Springer, who are missionaries there.

Mr. Abram McVaugh and family have moved from Willow Street to Mantua Ave. with Mr. Wm. Flemming.

Mr. Ogden has moved into his newly furnished home on N. Jefferson Avenue.

Mrs. George O. Swartz is entertaining Miss Florence Leech of Montana who is working as Field Organizer for the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association. Miss Leech is a voter in the Equal Suffrage state of Montana and is spending this week in Gloucester County where she will speak in various towns.

The Wenonah Military Academy nine lost the first game of the season on Wednesday when the Penn Freshmen won out in a close game by the score of 3 to 2.

It is rumored that a Dr. Shaffer has moved into Mr. Howard Urian's new house on the Glassboro Road and will open an office.

Mr. Oliver T. Justice and family of Woodbury have moved into Mr. Harry Paris' house.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* April 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, May 8, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 4, May 2015

Notes on Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol

Reprinted with permission from the *Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society*



Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol

Mark Lambert Bristol, son of Mark L. and Rachel Elizabeth Bristol, was born on April 17, 1868 in Glassboro, NJ. He was one of four children: brothers Charles and John (John died at age three) and a sister, Julia Ann. The family was buried in the Glassboro Methodist Episcopal Cemetery. Bristol was educated in both private and public schools. On May 19, 1883, at age 15, he received an appointment to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD from Hon. T.M. Ferrell. He graduated from the Academy in the class of 1887 and began a long and distinguished naval career.

He served on the battleship Texas where he saw action during the Spanish American War at Guatanamo Bay and Santiago, Cuba. Following the war, he served as aide to the Commander-in-Chief of the North Atlantic Fleet from 1901 to 1903. He commanded the Naval Torpedo Station in Newport, RI, from 1908 until 1911, where he was considered a top ordnance specialist. He later commanded vessels in the Navy's Asiatic fleet. After his promotion to the rank of Captain, Bristol, as Director of Naval Aeronautics, established the Aviation Station in Pensacola, FL, where he attempted to integrate the field of aviation into the battleship. He was also responsible for the installation of a catapult to launch airplanes from the deck of the USS North Carolina.

In 1917, Bristol attended the Naval War College. He was credited for developing most of the modern gunnery used during World War I. At the beginning of World War I, he again was in charge of the USS North Carolina followed by command of the battleship Oklahoma, based in Ireland. At that time, he was promoted to Rear Admiral. Shortly before the Armistice in November 1918, he began his command of the US Naval base at Plymouth, England. Following the war, he took charge of a small naval detachment in the eastern Mediterranean area, particularly Turkey. The purpose of the detachment was to protect American interests in the area. He was a trusted ally of the Turks and eventually was appointed US High Commissioner to Turkey, a post in which he served for eight years. He helped to found the American Hospital in Istanbul and a nursing school, "Admiral Bristol Nursing School."

In 1927, Bristol received his final promotion to the rank of Admiral. He was placed in charge of the Asiatic Fleet. His final assignment was as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the General Board in Washington, DC from 1930 until 1932. At the time of his retirement, he had served 49 years in the US Navy. His decorations included the Spanish campaign medal, distinguished service metal and the Order of St. Stanislaus, a decoration bestowed by the former Russian government.

He married Helen Beverly Moore, an Alabama debutante, later in life at about age 40. In 1930, their residence was 1631 Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, DC.

Mark Lambert Bristol died May 13, 1939. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, who died and was laid to rest with him, on December 15, 1945. His namesake ship, the USS Bristol, was commissioned on March 17, 1945, saw duty during World War II and was decommissioned August 23, 1969.

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Holdings of the Gloucester County Historical Society Library

Interested in genealogy or history for the South Jersey and Philadelphia areas? The GCHS library is the official repository of the original Gloucester County Document Collection which includes the early court records, property records and many other documents. In addition, the following collections are available to researchers:

US and New Jersey State Census

Cemetery and Undertaker Records

Maps and Surveys

Photographs of People, Places and Events

Family Files and Genealogies

Vital Statistics

Wills

Colonial and Gloucester County Deeds

Local Daily & Weekly Newspapers

Town and County Histories

The Library is open Tuesday evenings, 6-9:30pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-4pm; last Sunday of each month, 2 -5pm; and the first Saturday of each month (Oct. thru May only), 10am-4pm. The Library staff will be glad to orient new patrons and recommend library resources. Annual memberships are available. The daily fee for non-members is $5.00. For additional information, please call (856) 845-4771.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

As our 2014 - 2015 season draws to a close, I want to thank Barbara Price for single-handedly producing this insightful newsletter each month. Her generosity allowed past editor Larry Smith to take on, along with Bob Thomas, the task of creating and maintaining the WHS Facebook page and web site. These, along with our monthly presentations, are both big factors in the great success the WHS has enjoyed this past year.

We will celebrate this success at our annual WHS Picnic to be held this coming Friday at **6:00 PM** (note time) at our beautiful Train Station / Community Center. Many thanks to those members who will be bringing appetizers, side dishes and desserts. Also, kudos to those who provided light refreshments at our monthly meetings throughout the season. We will have hoagie trays and salads from our recently expanded neighbors, Hawk's Corner Deli.

Finally, I thank the WHS executive officers for their service and dedication. Vice President: Paul Lader, Secretary: Vicki McCall, Treasurer: Carol Witsee, Trustees: Lou McCall and Scott Barnes

Looking forward to seeing everyone this Friday evening at 6.

Charlie Horan, President WHS



Visit our website to view a portion of our photograph and document collection!

http://www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org/

"Like" Us on Facebook!

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Mr. William Cattell has purchased a 1915 Ford touring car.

State Treasurer Edward Grosscup and wife are sight seeing in California.

Saturday, May 8th, has been proclaimed by the Mayor, C. Fowler Cline, as "Wenonah's Annual Clean-Up Day."

Charles Keebler has opened a drug store at Atlantic City.

Rev. William Fisher and wife of Ocean City spent the weekend at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Walter Wright. He occupied the Methodist pulpit on Sunday evening when he delivered a stirring temperance sermon.

The Wenonah YMCA team accompanied by a big delegation of local rooters, paid a visit to Sewell on Saturday afternoon to participate in the formal opening of the series of games for the championship of the Gloucester YMCA. Score 6 to 1 in favor of Wenonah.

The Bordentown Military Institute baseball team was defeated by Wenonah Military Academy by the score of 9 to 1 Saturday.

Mr. Louis Van Meter, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Van Meter, graduated recently from the Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia with the highest honors that can be conferred on one of its students. At the commencement he delivered a beautiful oration worthy of the highest commendation.

Mrs. William Spurger, a returned missionary from Africa, who has been staying at the home of Mrs. Anna Schock, has gone to Dakota where she will spend the summer.

New residents of the borough this week are Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Doak and Mr. and Mrs. H. Weiserth formerly of West Philadelphia. Each week brings new residents from the city who are anxious to locate in our beautiful borough.

Mrs. Bernice Bernard was one of the youngest participants in the Women's Rights parade in Philadelphia Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Little have returned from their honeymoon through the New England states and are residing with Mrs. Little's mother, Mrs. Kipper.

Mr. and Mrs. George Frederick and children have taken a bungalow at Seaside Park for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Hatch (nee Bertha Leddam) are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter on Friday.

Alarm bells have been installed by the railroad at Willow St. grade crossing.

Prof. Peter Bender and mother moved from here to Germantown on Wednesday.

Mr. Herman Batty recently purchased a farm near Sewell Station and moved there on Monday.

Mr. Dallas Cann and family have moved from Philadelphia to their summer home on S. Jefferson Ave.

Quite a little excitement was caused by the ringing of the fire bell on Friday evening. The apparatus was soon gotten out only to find that some person rang the bell for a prank. The only persons seen around the bell were three women whose identity is not known. The fine for sending in a false alarm is $50.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farr entertained the Wenonah Community Chorus at their home on Thursday evening. A very pleasant evening was spent in musical selections.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* May 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, September 18, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 5, September 2015

Wenonah Happenings

Wenonah Post Office

On September 8, 1913, a lease for post office quarters in Wenonah was made between Robert H. Comey and Theresa P. Comey, his wife, of Wenonah and Albert S. Burleson, Postmaster General of the United States.

The room to be used as a post office was 12'8"x15'10" on the first floor of the three-story wooden building known as the Comey building at the northeast corner of Mantua and West Jersey Avenues. Mr. Comey agreed to supply the following: "complete equipment of boxes, fixtures, and furniture (including city and rural delivery furniture when necessary), together with satisfactory heat and light, heating and lighting fixtures, the requite water closets, urinals, water, a fire-proof safe with burglar-proof chest, parcel post and postal savings bank equipment, etc." [The Postal Savings System was established in 1910 to encourage people to deposit their money safely and earn 2% interest. Accounts could be opened with as little as $1 and the maximum balance allowed was $500. The system was in place until 1967.] The owner also was responsible for taxes, assessments, utilities and providing building security in the form of iron bars and locks. The term of the lease was five years and would run from September 1, 1913 until September 1, 1918 at a cost of $175 annually payable quarterly.

This document was recorded on December 30, 1913 in Volume 4 of the Book of Miscellaneous Records in the office of the Gloucester County Clerk and may be found today in the Gloucester County Historical Society Library.

Woodbury High School—September 1915

In the weekly edition of the *Gloucester County Democrat* newspaper, a column entitled "Woodbury H.S. Notes" was published with the latest news about the academic, sports and social life of the school. As Wenonah students (among others from different sending districts) arrived back at the high school after summer vacation, these were the changes they encountered:

The Peirce Bookkeepiing Manual will be used in the Senior bookkeeping class this year. Students successfully completing this work will be given credit for the same at Peirce's.

Brazil, formerly of Wenonah Military Academy, will assist Head Coach Conklin with the football squad. If the fellows turn out, WHS should have one of the best teams in her history.

In a number of nearby high schools, the girls have formed hockey teams. How is it that WHS does not have a hockey team? The matter was presented to the Girls' A.A. last year and they decided to begin this fall but as yet we have heard nothing about the hockey squad.

George Eldridge Jr., '15, will enter the Towne Scientific School at the University of Penna.

The builders are rushing the work on the new chemical laboratory and hope to have it ready by the first of October. The room is to be fire proof and is in the basement.

Manager Page announced to the Varsity basketball players that he would not be able to rent the armory this season. This looks like no basketball at High but as yet the fellows have not given up all hope.

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MUSEUM UPDATE

by Larry Smith

One mission of the Wenonah Historical Society is to make all information and acquisitions of the society available to the public. We are doing this through our website at www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org and our Facebook group site at https://www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/758851540860949/?notif_t=like.

We've had more than 3,000 visits to the website and visits from every state except North Dakota! As one would expect, New Jersey leads the way, followed by New York, Pennsylvania, California and Texas. The most popular stops on the site have been the photo galleries, newsletters and Bob Thomas' interactive map of Wenonah's historic structures, which allows one to watch Wenonah grow from 1763 to 1921.

Recent additions to the website include Independence Day memorabilia and newsletters. The museum's collection of July 4 programs and related newspaper articles from 1872 to 1907 are posted. Much more will be added, as there are three large binders of programs and a file folder of articles that remain to be scanned. All of the archived Wenonah Historical Society's newsletters from November 2000 to May 2015 have now been posted. A compilation of the newsletters in a single pdf file allows easy searches of any topic of interest.

Our Facebook group site serves as a staging point for much of the material from the museum, before it is posted on the website. It also allows group members to share their photos and memories of Wenonah. The group now has 391 members! If you are not a member, I encourage you to join the group and to invite your friends, who have an interest in Wenonah history, to join as well.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Wenonah Historical Society September 2015 Meet and Greet

Our Meet and Greet is scheduled for Friday September 18th starting at 6 PM. We will be gathering at the home of members Jenn and Tony Pizi located at 500 E Mantua Avenue.

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

A-M Appetizers

N-Z Desserts

Beverages will be provided.

This get-together is an excellent opportunity for our members to "kick-off" the 2015-2016 WHS season.

It was May 8th when we last were together for our picnic. I look forward to seeing everyone and a great new season.

Many thanks (again) to Larry Smith for his postings of historic July 4th programs as a prelude to the Wenonah 2015 July 4th celebration. His efforts were thwarted somewhat by the macro-burst storm of June 23rd that so drastically affected Wenonah Borough. It did not, however, stop this town from rallying and celebrating this time-honored tradition.

Gloucester County Historical Society

Upcoming Events

Museum Exhibit: Gloucester Abbey: Downton Style Fashions inspired by the popular PBS Series, *Downton Abbey;* free to members/$5 for non-members; Monday, Wednesday, Friday—1-4pm, Last Sunday of Each Month—2-5pm; Call (856) 848-8531 to arrange for a group tour; runs through January 6, 2016.

New Jersey State Archives Bus Trip: Wednesday, October 14, 2015; bus leaves GCHS 7:15am, returns 4:00pm; $32 members/$37 non-members. Call 856-845-4771 for reservations.

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Comey entertained the office force of Comey & Co. at their Ocean City cottage for the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farr and family have returned from their annual vacation at Cape May.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fredericks have returned from a delightful summer at Seaside Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Squires and children have returned home from a month's stay at Ocean City.

Miss Helen Mehorter, daughter of Mrs. Samuel Mehorter, became the bride of Mr. E. Stuart Warde of Philadelphia on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock by the Rev. John F. Allen of the Methodist Church. There were no attendants and only the immediate families of the young couple were present. After the ceremony the bride and groom left for a trip through the New England States.

Mr. James Baylies is erecting another house on South Monroe Avenue.

Miss Mortie Stokes has returned from a delightful month's cruise around Long Island.

The Chase family have returned home from Cape May where they have been spending the summer.

The stork left a baby boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Somers at Mullica Hill on Thursday. Mrs. Somers will be remembered as Miss Bertha Steward formerly of our borough.

A carnival for the benefit of the North American Polly Evans fund will be held on Mrs. Thomas Ritson's lawn Friday from 4 to 9pm.

The Gloucester County Firemen's Association held their annual meeting at the Wenonah fire house on Thursday evening. There was a splendid attendance and after the meeting a grand collation was served which was greatly enjoyed by the visiting firemen.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened on Tuesday. The enrollment far exceeds that of any previous year.

Raymond Gage, son of Rev. R.H. Gage, left on Monday for New Haven, Conn. Where he goes to Yale University.

James Avis Jr. is now a student in the law office of his uncle, John Boyd Avis, at Woodbury.

Frank S. Peddle returned home Saturday after camping for the summer in Maine.

The report is that there are two cases of typhoid fever in our borough.

Miss Ethel Martin will assist George Grosscup in the Wenonah real estate office.

Miss Eve English is substituting in the library while Mrs. Mortie Stokes is away on a vacation.

Arthur Holeton's visit home was shortened by three weeks as he was recalled to fill an appointment in the hospital at San Bernardino, California. He has been a student in the medical school at Lama Linda for two years.

Mrs. John Holeton gave a dinner to some of her friends last week which was unique and greatly enjoyed by her guests in that it was strictly vegetable and was so satisfying and skillfully prepared.

Managers Roden and Mills of the Wenonah and Sewell teams have agreed on a series of games. The first game will be played this Saturday at the Academy field.

The crack Perkiomen team, which has appeared here twice this season, will be the attraction for Labor Day.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* September 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, November 13, 2015
Volume 13, Issue 6, November 2015

Genealogy Holdings of the Gloucester County Historical Society



Have you ever wondered how to go about discovering your family history? Our area was home to many early and more recent immigrants who left records of their lives behind. Since the advent of the Internet, genealogy has been at our fingertips. However, there are many unique resources filed away in libraries and historical societies that are not available online. Area residents are fortunate that the Library of the Gloucester County Historical Society has these resources!

Visit our Library and check out these resources:

Vital Statistics: If your ancestor's marriage or death occurred in the Gloucester County area, there is a good chance it is included in our comprehensive index to deaths and marriages taken from local newspapers.

Census: The Federal Census was taken every ten years. New Jersey was also one of the states that compiled their own enumerations in between the federal census. Census records list the members of a household, ages, occupations and place of birth.

City Directories: Before there were telephone directories, there were city directories. Information you are likely to find are name, occupation, name of spouse, business and home address. In addition to Gloucester County, our directory collection includes Camden, Cape May and Cumberland Counties as well as Philadelphia.

Newspapers: Local newspapers often reported much more than the expected obituaries and marriages. Did your relative relocate? Buy or sell a home? Become involved in a scandal? Newspapers of years gone by often "told it like it was," making for very interesting reading. The Society's microfilm collection includes all local daily and weekly papers for the 19th and 20th centuries.

Church and Cemetery Records: Some of the major events in a person's life are recorded in church. Most religious denominations record membership, baptisms, marriages, funerals and disciplinary actions. Tombstone records can sometimes provide additional information such as birthplace, family relationships or military service. Most of the local churches and all of the local cemeteries are included in our collection.

Immigration and Naturalization Records: Everyone's family (with the exception of Native Americans) originated outside of the U.S.. Locating an immigration record will reveal when and where your ancestor arrived as well as their point of departure. Requests for citizenship specify the country of origin and may contain other information such as place of birth, names of spouse and children, a physical description of the applicant and sometimes even a photograph.

Property Records: Finding a deed for real estate owned by your ancestor can contain a gold mine of information. Besides the usual data you would expect to find in a deed, other useful facts such as the exact location of property, house and outbuildings, roads and names of neighbors may be included.

Maps and Surveys: Several 19th century maps in our Library show the exact location of properties with owners' names. Our collections may also house a survey of your home showing a footprint of the property.

Photograph Collection: Our library has thousands of photographs of people, houses and events.

Genealogies and Files: The Library is home to 10,000+ published and unpublished genealogies as well as files containing vital statistics, letters and other documents pertaining to area families..

Visitors are always welcome at GCHS. Our staff and volunteers will be glad to assist you. Library hours are Tuesday evening, 6-9:30pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-4pm; the last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm; and the first Saturday (Oct. thru May) of each month, 10am-4pm. For more information, please call (856) 845-4771. Daily research fee is $5 per person with members free. There is no time like the present to learn about your past!

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Greetings to all. This Friday November 13th at 7:30 the Wenonah Historical Society will meet at the train station which has been officially named the *Jack C. Sheppard, Sr Community Center*. We will begin as usual with a brief business meeting as we have a few items to discuss.

Our presenter this month is Brian Temple. Brian is married to the late, great Frank Eggert's niece, Martha.

His topic and background are noted below. Brian will have books available for sale following his presentation.

Hope to see you there!

Philadelphia Quakers and the Antislavery Movement

The Quakers came to America in the 17th century to seek religious freedom. After years of struggle, they achieved success in various endeavors and like many wealthy colonists of the time, bought and sold slaves. But a movement to remove slavery from their midst, sparked by their religious beliefs, grew until they renounced the slave trade and freed their slaves. Once they rejected slavery, the Quakers then began to petition the state and federal governments to do the same. When those in power turned a blind eye to the suffering of those enslaved, the Quakers used both legal and, in the eyes of the government, illegal means to fight slavery. This determination to stand against slavery led some Quakers to join with others to be a part of the Underground Railroad. The transition from friend to foe of slavery was not a quick one but one that nevertheless was ahead of the rest of America.

Brian Temple has had book reviews and articles published in *America's Civil War, Command* and *Fencers Quarterly Magazine*. He is also the author of *The Union Prison at Fort Delaware*, a nonfiction account of one of the largest prisoner of war camps in the Civil War. He lives in New Jersey.



Due to popular demand, the Gloucester County Historical Society has extended the exhibit, *Gloucester Abbey: Downton Style Fashions,* based on the popular PBS television series, *Downton Abbey,* thru June 2016.

Visit the Museum at 58 N. Broad St., Woodbury, NJ. Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 1-4pm and the last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm. Please call (856)848-8531 for holidays closings or in case of inclement weather. Admission is $5 and members are free. Group tours are welcome by appointment.

WENONAH

A Century Ago

◊ Mr. and Mrs. Richard Evans have returned from a ten days' sightseeing trip to Baltimore and Washington. The trip was taken to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their marriage.

◊ A party from Philadelphia will soon build a fourteen room bungalow on S. Lincoln Avenue.

◊ At the closing session of the State Sunday School Association at Millville on Thursday, Thomas W. Synnott of our borough was elected vice president for the district comprising Gloucester, Camden and Burlington Counties.

◊ Mrs. John Holeton started for Southern California to visit her son, Dr. Arthur Holeton.

◊ Mrs. William Leeham, formerly of our borough, and mother of Mrs. Charles Laney and Mrs. J. Hatch, died in New York of pneumonia on Sunday evening. The funeral service will be held from her son's home in Philadelphia today.

◊ Mr. John F. Ward of S. Jefferson Ave. died on Thursday after a lingering illness. Deceased leaves a wife and one son. The funeral was held in Gloucester on Monday.

◊ Mr. Paul Comey entertained a number of friends on Saturday evening at a ghost party which was held in the boat house on the lake.

◊ Mr. and Mrs. James Davis entertained Capt. and Mrs. Percy Jones for the weekend.

◊ Mr. Edward Pyle is entertaining a stag party for the week at the bungalow on the lake.

◊ Mr. U.S. Toms and family left on Tuesday for Korea, going by way of the Pacific Ocean. He is a foreign missionary of the Presbyterian Church.

◊ Forty-eight members and families of the Wenonah Masonic Club attended the picnic at the Elks Home at Bridgeton on Saturday, leaving Wenonah via automobiles at 9 o'clock. Upon their arrival there, baseball was indulged in. After the game, a bountiful dinner was enjoyed, then canoeing was the order of the day. The happy crowd arrived home about 6 o'clock after a most successful day.

◊ The suffragettes paid us a visit on Wednesday. They came in automobiles and established headquarters in the open at the park entrance. Mrs. Avery made an address.

◊ The Board of Education of our public schools has consented to close our public schools at 3:15 o'clock during the Lyceum Festival days of Thursday and Friday so that the children may have the advantage of the afternoon program.

◊ The Academy enrollment at the present is eighty-seven. The first dancing class of the year was held on Friday evening with a good attendance.

◊ The Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church have set the date of December 2nd for their annual bazaar and New England supper.

◊ Mrs. Robert H. Comey conveyed the ladies of the Monday Club in her auto on Monday to the home of Mrs. Edward Sapp of Sewell where they were delightfully entertained.

◊ Mr. and Mrs. William Martin announce the marriage of their daughter, Edna Ward, to Benjamin Harris Leap on Saturday, Oct. 2nd at 3:30 o'clock at the Presbyterian Manse by the Rev. H.H. Gage. After the ceremony, the bride and groom left for an extended trip to Roanoke, VA. On their return, they will reside in their already furnished home on Cherry Street.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* October & November 1915

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, January 8, 2016
Volume 14, Issue 1, January 2016

Protective Associations in Gloucester County

Prior to the age of the automobile, horses were a valuable commodity. They were not only used for transportation but for farming as well. Many local communities formed Protective Associations as residents banded together to protect themselves against horse thieves. Mullica Hill, Mantua, Swedesboro, Woolwich Township, Deptford Township and Woodbury were among those communities.

In August 1896, the Mullica Hill Grange appointed a committee to organize an Association. In September, the Mullica Hill Protective Association was formed and ready for business. Besides officers and directors, there were 33 charter members.

In June 1867, the Mantua Protective Association was formed at a meeting held in the Barnsboro Hotel. Its purpose was to protect its members from the prevalent stealing of horses, carriages and harnesses, recovery of stolen property and apprehension of the thieves. There were 58 charter members (all men). One advantage of membership was that thieves, realizing they would be pursued by a posse, would usually bypass the property of known Association members. Over the years, cash dividends were sometimes paid to members or used toward the annual banquet.

During the summer of 1922, shortly before disbanding, the Association participated in one final act of apprehending a horse thief. After the horse of Jacob Tomlin of Jefferson was stolen, the horse was quickly recovered and the thief committed to jail thanks to the quick action of the Association officers and Deputy Sheriff W.D. Bundens. This completed a clean record for the Association. On February 12, 1923, the final meeting was held at Smith's Hall in Mantua. A liberal reward was given to Deputy Sheriff Bundens and the officers and members received $20 each as his share.

Mickleton formed "The Mickleton Pursuing and Detective Association" to aid in the capture of those stealing horses, poultry and farm produce. In 1915, the Association boasted 198 members and claimed that thievery had decreased since its organization.

Once use of the automobile became commonplace, there was no longer a need for the Protective Associations and they were eventually all disbanded.

How Times Have Changed!

The news items below were taken from the pages of the *Woodbury Daily Times* of January 1916.

Letters being held at the post office were advertised in the newspaper.

A poultry show at the Woodbury Armory was held annually.

A corner property in Mantua with gas range, garden and stable rented for $7 per month.

Jeddo brand coal was advertised as the "very acme of heat production."

The Waldheim Gun Club of Wenonah held their annual turkey shoot.

Fredrick of Wenonah and Chew of Mantua were agents selling the fully equipped Allen Motorcar for $795.

Hotel Paul in Woodbury rented rooms for $2 per day while the Newton Hotel was $2.50.

Urban's Candy Store in Woodbury made and sold their own menthol cough drops.

Local grocers sold pork and scrapple from the Haines Pork Shop of Mickleton.

The weekly subscription rate for the *Woodbury Daily Times* was five cents.

Hickory garters were sold for children as an undergarment worn to support stockings.

A seven-room house on one acre with outbuildings and poultry house adjacent to the Woodbury Country Club rented for $15 per month.

Twenty-five Cozens Cold Pills could be purchased at Cozens Drug Store in Wenonah for 25 cents.

A visit to Howard H. Thoman could result in a new wristwatch and a pair of eyeglasses. He advertised as both jeweler and optician.

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You're Invited...



To an Encore Presentation of

If These Walls Could Talk

(a brief history of the GCHS Museum and its prominent residents)

Sunday, January 31, 2016 @ 1:00pm
Snow/Sleet Date February 28, 2016

Gloucester County Historical Society Library
17 Hunter Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096
Free Admission to the Museum and Library!

Unlocking the Past...

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. We last met at the Telford Inn on Friday, December 11th for our annual Holiday Dinner. It seems to have been a successful event at a new venue. Our January meeting comes early this month (this coming Friday, January 8th at 7:30) due to New Years Day falling on the first Friday of the month. Below is a summary of our program. In keeping with the past few years, we are using local members as presenters in case inclement weather affects us.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2016. **The WHS Plaque Program has been revived and is moving forward.** I will have some comments on this topic this coming Friday.

Charlie Horan, Pres. WHS

I exist because my Grandad liked to play piano and my Grandma had a sensitive tooshie:

The Second World War affected people on every continent. The history of what happened on the battlefield is well documented as is the direct attack on Great Britain known as the Battle of Britain and the 'Blitz'. What is less well known is how everyday life carried on in the shadow of the war and the legacy it has left today. This will be a short presentation about the life of my family in North London during the war, the highs, the lows and the quirks of fate without which I would not be here to give this month's presentation.

Dan Cooper, Member WHS

WENONAH

A Century Ago

* The Intermediate Group of the YMCA had an unusual meeting on Thursday night when the members had a workman's social at which time they repaired everything which was broken in their room, built new shelves after which they sat down to a lunch each boy brought with him topped off by ice cream provided by the group leader, Charles Hobson.

* The midwinter drill and dance of the WAY will be held at the Academy Gym on Friday evening

* Master Edward Grosscup entertained a few of his kindergarten friends at a magic lantern show recently at his home.

* The Camp Fire Girls are planning for a play called "The Belles of Blackville."

* A regular meeting of the fire company was held on Friday evening. The ladies' auxiliary presented the company with two rims for alarms to be placed in different parts of the town. They were received by the president, Mr. George Greenig, Sr., with thanks.

* J. Edward Charles has been appointed Postmaster here and will take charge on February 1st. Mr. Jesse English, the present postmaster, has held that office for the past ten years.

* Miss Helen Neely, principal of our school, is quite ill with the grip at her home in Gettysburg. Miss Edna English is substituting in her place.

* This Sunday, January 23rd, is to be observed as go-to-church Sunday in our borough. Everybody is urged to attend the church they are accustomed to attend.

* In a very close and exciting game, our Boy Scouts basketball team defeated the strong Junior team of the Academy by the score of 19 to 16.

* Skating is once more becoming popular and al though the ice is rather rough, a number of young people are enjoying it very much.

* The stork left a girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Thatcher.

* Mr. Rambo of Pitman has purchased the milk route of Mr. Lafferty and has moved into Harris' home at the corner of Willow Street and Monroe Avenue and will open a milk depot there.

* The new pumping station was opened for inspection on January 1st from 2 to 4 pm.

* The Misses Mary Ogden, Eleanor Stout and Elizabeth Mehorter attended the Twelfth Night Party given by the class of '14 of the WHS in Woodbury on Thursday night. Miss Mehorter was queen of the party.

* Mrs. Josephine Miller and daughter, Mrs. Springer, have been visiting friends in Washington, DC. Mrs. Springer recently returned from missionary work in Africa and addressed the prayer meeting in the ME Church on Wednesday evening.

* The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Felsburg at Sewell on Friday and left a son. Mrs. Felsburg will be remembered as Miss Rose Holt of our borough.

* Miss Helen Neely, principal of our school, has returned to her duties of teacher. Miss Neely has just recovered from a severe attack of the grip.

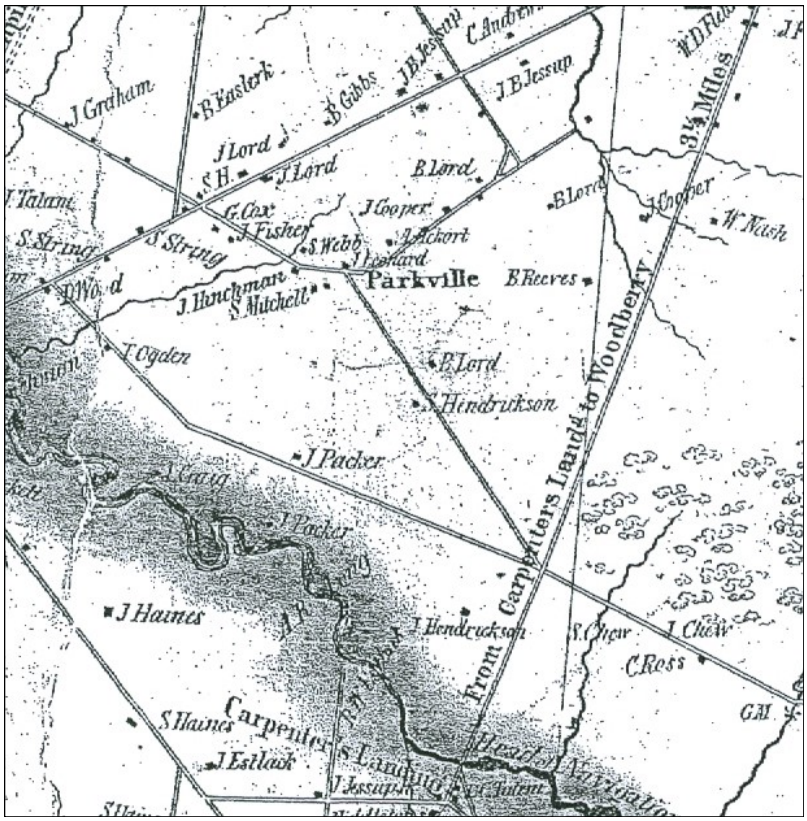
* The Intermediate Group of our YMCA took their regular yearly educational trip on Friday. In the morning, they visited Independence Hall, Scout Headquarters, Curtis Publishing Co. and other points of interest nearby. Then they went to the Central Branch of Philadelphia YMCA for a swim in the pool and a good lunch at the Cafeteria YMCA building. After a little recreation in the gym, they went to the Academy of Natural Sciences for the afternoon. Every boy voted the day a great success.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* January 1916

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, February 12, 2016
Volume 14, Issue 2, February 2016

The Hydropathic Institute at Parkville



1849 map showing the location of Parkville with the Mantua Creek to the south and the road from Carpenter's Landing (today's Mantua) to Woodbury (present-day Rt. 45) Copied courtesy of Gloucester County

Woodbury's *Constitution and Farmers' and Mechanics' Advertiser* of April 11, 1848, announced that "the proprietors of the new village of Parkville near this place are preparing to open a Hydropathic Institute, or Water-Cure establishment...The preparatory building for the Institute, now in progress of erection, will be ready for patients on or about the first of July next." At that time, Parkville was in the part of Deptford Township that is today the Mantua Grove section of West Deptford Township. The Institute was located near the railroad tracks on today's Parkville Station Road, not far from its intersection with Kings Highway. The Institute was built strictly for use as a hydropathic establishment. At that time, many water cures were given in large converted homes or hotels. The location was easily accessible daily from Philadelphia by steamboat to Red Bank and then the Clarksboro stage, arriving in time for supper.

The first physician in charge was Dr. Sanford Bell who was appointed as Resident Physician. It was said that Dr. Bell had previously been the head of one of the largest Hydropathic Institutes in the United States. Persons wishing to reserve a place at the Institute were referred to Samuel Webb, Esq., 59 South Street, Philadelphia. Investors purchasing more than $3,000 in capital stock were entitled to treatment until cured in place of dividends and after that twelve percent per year would be paid. The Institute was incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly on February 15, 1850. Eight of the corporators were from Philadelphia, one from New York and one from Parkville.

Soon the Institute had been expanded to accommodate fifty patients. Hydropathy, also known as the "water cure," was touted as a remedy for cholera, gout, rheumatism, bronchitis, consumption, paralysis and other diseases. It claimed to cure what medicine could not. Separate buildings were available for those suffering from insanity, drunkenness or an inclination toward stimulants, opiates or narcotics. These patients were guaranteed all the benefits of an asylum with the comforts of home. Terms were $8.00 to $10.00 per week including board, treatment and everything else except laundry. In the January 30, 1850 issue of *The West Jerseyman,* readers were asked, "If they cannot (cure), nobody will employ them, for who will pay eight or ten dollars per week if they experience no relief?" Patients were to bring "two linen sheets, two large woolen blankets, four comfortables and half a dozen crash towels." Horses could also be boarded. A steward, matron, servants and bath attendants were ready to make a patient's visit more comfortable. A series of pure water springs ran all year round at an average temperature of fifty degrees Fahrenheit.

The main building of the Institute was three stories high and consisted of thirty to forty rooms. There were two separate cottages used for bathing by male and female patients. At the rear of the property stood three additional cottages: one for laundry and the other two occupied by servants. Hydrants were used to bring the spring water to the cottages and underground drains carried away the waste water. A round stone building contained the water works with a large cedar reservoir with five hundred barrels ready to receive the pure, cold water. Three cast-iron hydraulic rams were kept busy by the constant descent of spring water into the reservoir. On the first floor of the water works

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were a bath and dressing room with marble tables. Excess water from the reservoir was carried to a fountain in the yard surrounded by weeping willow trees. Below the water works was a swimming pool with a stream of water constantly flowing through it. The bathing department was a two-story building containing large packing rooms, plunge baths, half baths, sitz baths and foot baths. Some patients received treatments of being plunged into hot water and then cold water.

In 1851, the Institute was advertising in several newspapers in South Jersey, Philadelphia and New York City. In *Cummings Evening Bulletin* of Philadelphia, this three-line advertisement appeared, "The Physician of Parkeville Water Cure may be consulted at No. 13 Filbert Street, tomorrow afternoon, at 3 o'clock." Free transportation was offered from Philadelphia for patients.

Despite all of the water cure claims and advertisements, the Parkville Hydropathic Institute was closed by mid-1852. In the July 1852 issue of the *Water Cure Journal,* it was advertised for sale "with or without the furniture, erected expressly for a water-cure establishment." The property was later used as a private home and farm by the Clement family. Many years later, Rebecca Clement recalled living in the house in the early 1920s when there was a narrow water source flowing through the basement. On November 5, 1967, the property, then used for storage, was destroyed by fire.

This article was compiled from the notes of Howard R. Kemble and newspaper clippings in the Hydropathic Institute vertical file in the library of the Gloucester County Historical Society. It was originally published in June 2005 issue of the Society's *Bulletin.*

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

This Friday Feb. 12th at 7:30, at the Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center, we continue with our "home grown" presentations featuring a program on the Wenonah Cemetery.

As you may recall, we had a successful walking tour back in October. Bill Caraker, along with Bob Bevilacqua and others, have been working diligently to manage and reinvigorate this somewhat neglected cemetery with the goal of restoring its former splendor. Bill's presentation will cover the past, present and future plans for Wenonah Cemetery. Topics such as the original founders and burial techniques of the past will be discussed.

Please come out for some local history, community and light refreshments this coming Friday evening. Hope to see you at the train station.

Charles Horan, Pres. WHS

Visit the Wenonah Historical Society on the Internet

If you would like to keep in touch with the Wenonah Historical Society more frequently, you can find us on the Internet. We have both a Facebook group site and a website. The Facebook site can be found by searching for "Wenonah Historical Society" on Facebook or going directly to **www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/.** We now have 430 group members! You'll be able to view items from the WHS Museum and items posted by group members, and participate in some interesting on-line conversations about Wenonah's history.

Our very informative website can be found at **www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org.** Here you will be able to view photo galleries, maps (including an interactive one), and our newsletters. The website is a work in progress that changes frequently. The site has been visited more than 6,000 times, with visitors from 49 of the 50 states.

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Walter Wagner has sold out his restaurant business in Philadelphia and has returned to his home here with his family.

The mid-winter dance and drill held at the WMA was a large affair and was well attended, a large number being from out of town. The gym was beautifully decorated with flags and bunting and the Academy Orchestra rendered excellent music. The drill was much enjoyed as it was especially good after which was held the dance.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Little have moved into their handsome new home on Glassboro Road at the entrance of Mantua Ave.

Mr. Albert Green of Mantua Avenue will move to the house formerly occupied by Mr. McClure on West Jersey Avenue.

Mr. G.E. Platt has moved from here to Haddonfield where he has built a new home for his family.

About noon on Saturday a fire broke out in the home of Mr. Edward Knight on North Clinton Avenue caused by a defective flue. The alarm was soon given and the Wenonah volunteers soon responded but by the time they arrived the roof was a mass of flames. Men, women and children also hastened to the call of fire and succeeded in getting most all of the furniture out of the home. The volunteers worked bravely but on account of the high wind the fire seemed to spread rapidly, so Mantua and Woodbury companies were sent for, Woodbury bringing their steamer. The sparks threatened several houses around but by careful watching no harm was done. On account of the cold weather the water froze on the men's clothes but the ladies made huge pots of coffee and served it to the firemen. After three hours of Hard work the fire was extinguished but Mr. Knight will rebuild it com-

-pletely over again. The loss will reach about $3000 covered by insurance.

Our Borough Clerk, Geo. C. Grosscup, through the Civil Service Commission, has been appointed a member of the State Prison Labor Commission.

Miss Irvin of Ohio spoke to the school children on Monday on temperance. She is going to every school in Gloucester County.

The coasting is fine around here, especially on Comey's hill, where they have rolled it and it is in fine condition. There are coasting parties there every evening.

Edwin H. Ballinger and wife have moved into their new bungalow on So. West Jersey Avenue which has just been completed. Their bungalow is certainly a credit to the Borough.

Mr. J.E. Charles, our new postmaster, took charge Tuesday and we wish him success in his new undertaking.

The Wenonah Military Academy five defeated the Villanova Preparatory school five by the score of 34 to 18 Saturday night. Though the score indicated a one-sided game it was by far the most exciting game of the season. Huddock, the Academy's elusive forward, led with seven field goals in the scoring. Wells and Wadlinger put up a cracker-jack game.

The Current Events Club met last week at the library. There were about twenty members present. Mrs. William Carey of Philadelphia was the leader and had for her topic, "The Present War." Rev. H.R. Gage spoke on preparedness.

Don't forget the fried oyster and chicken salad supper to be held in the M.E. Church parlors on February 7th.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* February 1916

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, April 8, 2016
Volume 14, Issue 3, April 2016



Wagon of W.H. Sithens, Cash Grocer, Wenonah Branch, at 206 E. Willow Street
From Sue McNally, courtesy of Rick Mitchell

William H. Sithens operated a grocery store in Woodbury and delivered to nearby towns including Wenonah. The store was located on the west side of South Broad Street where the Pep Boys Automotive Store is today.

He was raised on a farm between Mickleton and Swedesboro, the son of Daniel P. Sithens and Hannah A. Shimp. On February 15, 1877, he and Miss Phoebe L. Green, daughter of Senex and Jane Green, were married by Rev. G.K. Morris of Camden at the Woodbury home of the Greens. From that time on, W.H. Sithens was a resident of Woodbury.

Shortly after moving to Woodbury, William and his brother-in-law, Theodore P. Green, began a grocery business known as Sithens and Green. This was a short-lived partnership with Sithens continuing in the business on his own.

The store advertised heavily in the Gloucester County daily and weekly newspapers as well as in the Philadelphia papers. Besides groceries and seasonal produce, Sithens offered five-cent cigars and the "Sithens Gem," a broom made in New Jersey especially for the store. His shop was a designated stop for Locke's Express which ran from Woodbury to Philadelphia. He employed young men to drive his grocery wagons and collect money from customers. In addition to the grocery business, in later years he also farmed a ten acre plot of asparagus near Woodbury.

(Continued On Page 2)

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(Continued From Page 1)

In the early to mid-1890s, Sithens was advertising as a real estate and insurance agent for residential and business properties. Around this time, he built a row of bricks houses, used for rental income, on Woodbury's Harrison Street. Those houses are still standing today.

Around the turn of the century, W.H. Sithens began to manufacturer and distribute "Sithens Speedy Rheumatic Cure." In 1899, the medicine was selling so well throughout South Jersey that he had a new wagon built just to sell it. In 1901, it was advertised in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as being available for 75 cents per bottle at all druggists and general stores.

In addition to his many business enterprises, Sithens was also active in civic life in the city of Woodbury. In 1899, he was elected on the Republican ticket to serve on the City Council. When it was time for re-election in 1902, he declined the nomination. In 1905, Sithens Grocery sponsored a men's baseball team. He belonged to the congregation of Kemble Methodist Episcopal Church where he served as a steward for many years. He was a member of the Woodbury Lodge No. 54 of the International Order of Odd Fellows and the Gloucester County Pomona Grange. Mr. Sithens was described in 1911 as an automobile enthusiast.

By 1919, he was advertising his store for rent. He and his wife were spending summers at their cottage in Ocean City, NJ. By 1930, he was officially retired. In 1934, he passed away following a long illness. He and his wife are buried in the family plot in Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

Our April 2016 meeting will take place this coming Friday evening at 7:30 at which time elections of officers for 2016-17 will take place.

Long time Wenonah resident Bob Thomas will be our presenter. He has described his topic as stated below. Bob Thomas has been instrumental in bringing the Wenonah Historical Society into the 21st Century with the creation of our web site (www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org). This, along with our Facebook page, (Larry Smith) are two items that will serve us well as our organization progresses into the future. We look forward to Bob's visit from New York State.

Topic: A 1906 postcard from a child in Atlantic City to a child in Wenonah leads to the story of an event that changed the life a Wenonah man and hundreds of others forever. Presenter will be Bob Thomas, whose family lived on N. Monroe Ave. from 1958 until 2004.

We had a wonderful time and turnout (34!) visiting the historic Bodo Otto home on Saturday March 12th. Many thanks to our gracious hosts Robert & Corrin Sellen who reside in that most storied dwelling on Kings Highway in Mickleton, NJ.

Hope to see you this Friday evening.

Gloucester County Historical Society

Is Sponsoring

A Bus Trip to Gettysburg

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

$70 per person

Includes transportation, narrated bus tour of the Battlefield and a buffet lunch.

Please call (856) 845-4771 for information/reservations.

WENONAH

A Century Ago

The Academy baseball team easily defeated Bordentown Academy on Saturday by the score of ten to three.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bradway and daughter will move to Tioga on May 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Hatch and family have moved into Mr. James Baylies' new bungalow on South Monroe Avenue.

The stork left a son at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Thomas Mulvey on Tuesday.

Mrs. William Platt is suffering from an attack of typhoid fever.

Mr. J.K. Patton and family have returned from the city and taken up their former residence.

Some of our citizens coming down on the last train at 12:30 o'clock Monday evening discovered a fire at the home of Charles Broes on West Jersey Avenue. The alarm was given and volunteers responded at once. The flames were confined to the basement and kitchen and undoubtedly the entire house would have gone but for the quick work of the firemen. No one was at home and the fire is of unknown origin.

Mrs. Mary Hendrickson and two sons will move to North Woodbury.

As a token of appreciation of the services rendered by our fire department on Saturday, February 19th, when the home of Mr. Edward Knight was destroyed by fire, Mr. Knight has presented to the fire laddies ten long oil-skin coats.

An Epworth League has been organized in the ME Church with the following officers: president, Lewis Hendrick; vice-president, William Scroggy; president social department, Pauline Gil-
-mour; treasurer, Elizabeth Ekey; secretary, Niles Poff. The devotional meetings will be held on Sunday evenings at 6:45 o'clock. All young people are urged to be present.

The Wenonah Military Academy has closed the most successful season of basketball the Academy has ever known by walloping the crack George School by the score of 48 to 21 here on Saturday. Previous to the game, the George School had not lost a contest and claimed the Eastern Academic title.

Mr. Edward Benson has gone to Wyoming.

The stork flew over our Borough and left a son at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter George last week and a son at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wright on Monday.

The pupils of our school had quite a scare on Wednesday morning. A mad dog ran in the fifth and sixth grade rooms and frightened the children so that they were compelled to stand on their desks. Finally two of the boys put it out, one of the boys narrowly escaping being bitten.

Since Mr. J. Edward Charles has been made postmaster, extensive improvements have been made to the post office. The partition between the old exchange and the post office has been removed, which gives us an office equal to any secondary post office in the State. In the old post office, persons experienced great difficulty reaching their boxes, especially around train time, due to the small space. Now there is plenty of room in front and also in back of the boxes, enabling everyone to work with greater ease and comfort.

Quite a number of people took advantage of the opening of trout season on Saturday and Warner's Lake presented quite a busy scene.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* March and April 1916

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, September 9, 2016
Volume 14, Issue 4, September 2016

Wenonah Cemetery History

By Nora Taylor



Chew Mausoleum, Wenonah Cemetery

By 1900, Wenonah was a thriving town with about 500 residents. Philadelphians built "cottages" to enjoy the beautiful lakes and to escape the city heat. Wenonah was considered an ideal community with telephone and electric service and streets laid out at right angles. It was populated by many Philadelphia businessmen.

The Woodbury Daily Times reported on December 3, 1900, that Isaac Stevenson had sold a plot of land on the west side of Mantua Creek to real estate agent William C. Cattell. Stevenson had only recently bought the land from the Mantua Improvement Company. Cattell represented a party of capitalists with plans to start a new cemetery.

On January 3, 1901, the Times reported that the Wenonah Cemetery Association had been formed, with Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia, Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Stout, Harry G. Peddle, and William C. Cattell, all of Wenonah, Miss Sara R. Chew of Mantua and David O. Watkins of Woodbury as elected trustees.

The association had purchased thirty acres of land, and they were immediately planning to lay out the grounds with the help of experienced landscape gardeners.

On January 18, 1901, it was announced that "the Wenonah Cemetery Company are having plans drawn for laying out their new plot, and work on grading and marking will be commenced early this spring. This is one of the prettiest natural plots for this purpose in the state."

November, 1901 saw the cemetery open for business, inviting people to come and see this pretty space. By January, advertisements were in the *Woodbury Daily Times* each day.

April, 1902 was a busy month for the cemetery. Grading and sodding was completed down to Mantua Avenue, the driveway was graveled and the area was being prepared for the summer months' visitors. Construction of a handsome granite mausoleum by Miss Sara Chew was taking place. Parts of the mausoleum, believed to weigh over ten tons, were delivered to the Wenonah Depot.

"Mantua Mentionings" in the *Woodbury Daily Times* on April 14, 1904 noted that "Miss Sarah Chew, of The Oaks, had her father and mother re-

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Secretary	**Vicki McCall**
Treasurer	**Scott Barnes**
Trustee	**Paul Lader**
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Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center

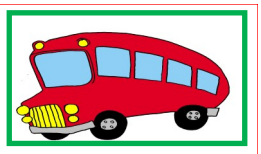
moved from the Mantua Cemetery, yesterday, to her mausoleum in Wenonah Cemetery. They had been dead about seven years. Their caskets were in excellent condition."

In May, 1901, a carload of granite arrived at the depot for use at the cemetery. June saw workmen at the cemetery. It was said that Miss Sarah Chew would spend $12,000 to beautify the cemetery. In July, grading was completed.

In February and March of 1902, snow blanketed the cemetery, and trees and hedging were added. Shade trees were added along Mantua Avenue.

Just over 100 years later, residents still enjoy the natural beauty of the Wenonah Cemetery. The new board of trustees hopes to maintain the standard set by the original trustees as they move forward in this century.

Bus Trip to Lancaster County
Saturday, November 5



$95 per person includes:

- Admission to National Christmas Center
- Dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord
- Shopping at several locations
- Transportation and gratuities

Call Gloucester County Historical Society
@ 856-845-4771 for reservations

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan

You are cordially invited to welcome the 2016-2017 season of the Wenonah Historical Society at the home of Larry and Sue Smith on **Friday, September 9th** at 6pm. This beautifully restored home is the work of noted Philadelphia architect Isaac Pursell who also designed Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wenonah. The church is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Please bring an appetizer to share for this always enjoyable event!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 15**, when the society, in coordination with the Wenonah Cemetery Association, will host our second annual cemetery tour. Every plot has a story to tell and you will have the opportunity to meet spirits of the past as local actors re-enact the dear departed!

Self-guided tours begin at 4pm and end at 5:30pm. Dinner will follow for Wenonah Historical Society members at the Jack C. Sheppard Community Center.

The new cemetery board is making a terrific effort to bring the cemetery back to pristine condition. This includes plans to restore the stone wall on Mantua Avenue.

On **Friday, November 11**, John Dominy, our mayor and Wenonah Fire Company member, will present a history of the fire company. Come out and celebrate the past and present volunteers who make Wenonah a wonderful place to live.

Thursday, December 8 is the Annual Christmas Party at the Telford Inn. This is our second year at the Telford and was well attended last year. Details for reservations will be available at the November meeting and in the newsletter.

For 2017, we will host local speakers for the winter months, a spring field trip, and the annual picnic. Stay tuned for details. We also hope to offer a special family friendly event this spring.

Charles Horan
President

WENONAH

A Century Ago

Mrs. R.A. Sargent is recovering from her recent attack of typhoid fever and was able to be out of doors on Monday.

Mrs. Charles Fredericks, recently of our borough, is seriously ill with typhoid fever at St. Luke's Hospital, Phila.

Mr. Ira Burdsall and family will move to Philadelphia and Mr. Albert Porter and family will move to Audubon.

Our public school opened on Monday with good attendance. Miss Ethel Grosscup has accepted the position of physical director of Hopkins College, Virginia, and left for her new post of duty on Monday.

Paul, the 8-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rieban, died of infantile paralysis at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning. The house will be quarantined for two weeks. Interment was made in Wenonah Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. A meeting of the Board of Health was called Saturday evening and precaution taken to prevent a spread of infantile paralysis here.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Warren and daughter have returned home after spending the summer in Pennsgrove.

Mr. Robert Comey and son Paul sailed for Europe on Saturday and expect to be gone six weeks.

Mrs. Edward Snow, who has been quite sick with a nervous breakdown, is recuperating at the home of her parents at Atlantic City.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckman and sons have moved from here to their former home at Boston, Mass.

Householders of our borough are notified to place their garbage in proper receptacles in convenient places, as arrangements have been made for the collection of same on evenings of Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

It is thought at this writing that our public school will begin on Monday as the quarantine will be lifted from the house where the Rieban child died of infantile paralysis on Saturday.

Mr. Edward Knight's beautiful new home on N. Clinton Avenue is rapidly nearing completion.

Captain Samuel Barnard has moved his household goods to be stored in Camden. His daughter, Bernice, will make her home with relatives in Philadelphia.

Wenonah's tax rate is $2.12, an increase of 15 cents.

Mr. Walter Wentzell and family have moved into the house formerly occupied by Mr. Harry Glading and family, corner Willow St. and Monroe Ave.

The Sunday School of the M.E. Church will be held after the morning service until the quarantine is lifted.

Miss Clara Turner has returned from the mountains much improved in health.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dye and son have returned from a month's visit with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dye at State College.

Miss Rebecca Flagg, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Mass., is visiting her uncle, Rev. R.H. Gage.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement Mattson, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Sargent and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hendrickson motored to Avalon on Sunday.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Gloucester County Democrat,* September 1916

Wenonah Historical Society
Newsletter

Next Meeting at 4:00 P.M.
Saturday, October 15, 2016
Volume 14, Issue 5, October 2016

Photographic Postcard to a Wenonah Boy Opens a Window on History

by Bob Thomas



Easter in 1906 was on April 15. The next Thursday on April 19th Claire sent a postcard from Atlantic to Master Steuart DeKlyne in Wenonah saying that she would see him on Sunday April 22. Steuart was the adopted son of William H. Steuart and Sarah Alice Steuart.

Perhaps they met in Atlantic City or perhaps in Wenonah. Claire and Steuart probably had little choice in their meeting. Steuart turned six years old in October of 1906. Claire's age is not known to me.

The West Jersey and Seashore Railroad had advanced to the point of installing electric powered passenger rail service during 1906. Going to electric would make for a quick clean ride from Camden to Atlantic City. On the express train you could get to Atlantic City in about one hour which is nearly as good as you can do today by car.

Mr. Steuart can be found in the US Census records for Wenonah as living on Princeton Avenue in 1910 and 1920 and working as a clerk for the Pennsylvania Railroad. From cemetery monuments in Wenonah Cemetery, it can be seen that William and Alice tried hard but unsuccessfully to have a family. Sarah gave birth to Mary Elizabeth in 1879. In 1881 while Mary Elizabeth was just a toddler, Robert Steuart was born. Both children died in August of 1883. I can't determine what carried the two children off. It could have been measles, smallpox, cholera, or diphtheria. The bacterium that causes diphtheria was not described until 1883.

On October 28, 1906, nearly 110 years ago, the Steuart family made an afternoon trip to Atlantic City, perhaps to visit Claire's family. They could spend most of the afternoon on the boardwalk if the weather was decent and get back to Wenonah in time to get a good night's sleep before Monday morning. Perhaps William could take his family free using some sort of rail pass offered to railroad employees. William and Alice took along Steuart and found seats in the middle car of three cars. The train had about 94 people on board.

Among those on board there was Tosca's Royal Artillery Band from Philadelphia headed down to Atlantic City for a week's engagement. William Edward of Woodbury and his girlfriend, were also on board.

As they approached the last stop before Atlantic City at Pleasantville, they passed another electric train headed up to Camden. That train had been delayed for a few minutes as a newly constructed swing bridge had been opened to allow the schooner Sinbad to pass along a creek call "The Thoroughfare." Once the bridge was closed the eastbound train proceeded normally.

In Atlantic City a number of people waited for the arrival of the express train from Camden.

In Pleasantville thirteen lucky people got off the train, some without a good explanation of why they got off as they originally intended to go all the way to Atlantic City.

At least 51 of the people who remained on the train never made it to the Atlantic City station alive.

As the train was crossing the bridge the first car derailed and went off the south side of the bridge pulling the rest of the train with it. The second car went under water as did the first, but the third and last car hung on the bridge for a moment and the brakeman in that car opened the rear door and held it open for people to escape. The cars fell into the water and the people trapped in the first two cars had very little chance for escape. Some did get out, and

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some who got out even dove down to try to rescue others.

Among those who had been reported missing was William H. Steuart of Wenonah, NJ, whose wife and adopted son are included in the list of dead. Steuart was located last night in the city hospital. He was suffering from shock and bruises. He told a remarkable story of his experience. With his wife and their adopted son, Steuart occupied seats in the second coach. When the train plunged into the stream, he saw his wife and son hurled to the floor of the car. Steuart, who had been sitting near a window, was thrown into the water.

When he came to the surface, he floated through an open window back into the coach, and his hand came in contact with the bell rope. Hanging on to this rope, Steuart dragged himself to the door of the car and was soon on the roof. The coach had been completely engulfed, and from his perilous position he was rescued and hurried to the hospital in an unconscious condition. Not until later did he learn that his wife and son had been killed.

The first modern press releases were created by Ivy Lee to cover this story. Lee's agency was working with the Pennsylvania Railroad at the time of the 1906 Atlantic City train wreck. Ivy Lee and the company collaborated to issue the first press release directly to journalists, before other versions of the story, or suppositions, could be spread among them and reported. He used a press release, in addition to inviting journalists and photographers to the scene as a means of fostering open communication with the media.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Charles Horan



Hello to all,

I want to begin by thanking Sue and Larry Smith for once again opening their lovely home to the WHS for our well-attended annual Meet and Greet last month. It was a very nice evening of food, beverage and socializing.

Vice President Nora Taylor has been busy planning the Second Wenonah Cemetery walking tour. This event, despite the Borough Calendar and Newsletter, takes place on **Saturday October 15th** from 4:00 - 5:30. We will meet at the cemetery. This year promises to be even better than last year. Light food and refreshments will follow at the Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center/Train Station. Feel free to bring an appetizer if you are so inclined. The rain date is October 22, 2016; same times.

Speaking of October 22, the Wenonah Historical Society will have an information table at the Wenonah Fall Festival to be held on October 22, 2016 in the park from 11 - 3. This will be our third year participating in this event.

We now have 451 members on our Facebook group site and a steady stream of visitors to our website at www.wenonahhistoricalsociety.org/.

. If you haven't visited them in a while, please take a look.

TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY

Casino Bus Trip

Monday, December 5

$50 ticket includes transportation, lunch & $25 for gambling! Call Gloucester County Historical Society for reservations @ (856) 845-4771

WENONAH

A Century Ago

A communication was received from Mr. Knight tendering his resignation to take effect immediately, stating as his reason for resigning, unusual business conditions that would prevent the attention to the duties of Councilman which the residents have a right to expect. The resignation was not accepted by Council.

Luther Chew & Son have installed a Bell phone in their place of business on Wenonah Avenue, Mantua.

For Rent—10 room house on Mantua avenue, Wenonah. Pleasantly located. All modern improvements, Dr. Stout, Wenonah, NJ.

Our members of Battery B returned home from the Mexican border and were warmly welcomed by the townsfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Shellenberger of Germantown have rented the house formerly occupied by Mr. Porter on Mantua Avenue.

Prof. Curtice Lewis of Philadelphia was in town last week renewing old acquaintance with his former scholars, among them Mrs. Wm. Cattell and Mrs. H. Coles.

The Academy football team will open the season Saturday with the Perkiomen Seminary team on the home grounds.

Mrs. Wm. Hallman and Mrs. W.B. Poff went to Asbury Park this morning to spend three days at the W.C.T.U. State Convention.

The first dance class of the season was opened on Friday night at the Academy. A large number of cadets have joined and many outsiders also attended.

Messrs. Cattell, Beckett and Benj. Leap went reed bird shooting at Port Elizabeth last Thursday.

Commandant McFeely has rented the home of Mr. Ira Burdsall on Mantua Avenue and will move in shortly. Mr. Burdsall and his family will move to the city.

A very pretty wedding took place in the Borough last Saturday when Miss Evelyn G. Urian and Mr. Stirrett H. Allen of Woodbury were married at the home of the bride.

Don't forget that the masqueraders will be around on Tuesday night, so have lots of "eats" ready.

Dr. and Mrs. William Greene and son Stephen have closed their home and returned to their winter home in the city after spending the summer here.

Thomas McKean and Herbert Titus, desiring to enlist in the US Navy, went to League Island for their examination yesterday.

Ice served to all who wish it in Mantua and Wenonah. Your patronage is earnestly desired with the best of service assured. Mail orders given prompt attention. Ralph Adams, Mantua, NJ.

For Sale—A milk bottler and washer. Walter Kugler, Wenonah. Bell 48-M.

The Street and Sidewalk Committee reported that one car of the cinders authorized to be purchased at the last meeting of Council had arrived and been placed on the street.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farr and family have returned to their home after spending the summer in Cape May.

The third annual carnival of the Wenonah YMCA was a grand success.

From the "Wenonah" column of the *Woodbury Daily Times,* October 1916

Wenonah Historical Society

Newsletter

November 2016

Next Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
Friday, November 11, 2016

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY DINNER THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016 TELFORD INN, MANTUA, NJ

Cocktails 6:00 PM
Antipasto, Vegetable Platter, Pepperoni and Cheese Tray

Dinner 7:00 PM

Menu
Waldorf Salad

Choice of Entrees
Turkey and Stuffing
or
Baked Ham

Both entrees served with Mashed Potatoes, Succotash and Cranberry Sauce
Sour Cream Apple Walnut Pie

- - - -

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Stamp

Here

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all,

Many thanks to those that made our October Wenonah Cemetery Tour a resounding success. First to Nora Taylor who had this idea over a year ago. She had a lot of help bringing it to fruition through the efforts of the following: Bob Bevilacqua, Bill Caraker, Barbara Conway, Dan Cooper, Barbara Karp and Diane MacWilliams. Then there are the reenactors who all did such a fine job of bringing some of Wenonah's residents of a bygone era back to life. Kudos to Jennie McQuaide, Grace Flynn, Richard Dilks, Paul Lader, Mark Houldsworth and Carl Hausman. This event made the front page of the *South Jersey Times* the following Monday! Such coverage greatly enhances the profile of the WHS within Wenonah and throughout Gloucester County.

I am very much looking forward to this month's program which will feature the history of the Wenonah Fire Company. I am proud to be a Life Member of the WFC serving Wenonah for 15 years. I hope to see you this coming Friday, November 11th at 7:30.

Charlie Horan

Friday, November 11 , 2016 @ 7:00pm

Wenonah Train Station

History of the Wenonah Fire Company

Presented by John Dominy and Rich Black

Including history, photos and artifacts!



NEW JERSEY WOMEN UNDERSTAND PUBLICITY. Mrs. John L. Drummer, president, and Mrs. J. G. Marshall, chairman, of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Wenonah Fire Co., don fire hats to advertise a fair Ledger Photo Service.