

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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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 platted 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 become 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

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

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"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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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

Growing up in Wenonah

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

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

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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

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

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|---------------------------|
| 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

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 Jack's 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.

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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

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.

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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 Pfeiffer, 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."

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 8 November, 2010

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

Barbara Conway and Charles Horan will present a program about the NJ Leni 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, Eglinton 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.

WHS OFFICERS 2010

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
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| Vice President. | Charles Horan |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
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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



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 1901

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

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.

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.

WHS OFFICERS 2010

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
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| Vice President. | Charles Horan |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Louis McCall |

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

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

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!

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.

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 decline 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 shallows 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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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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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

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 a 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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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

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

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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.

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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.

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*

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
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 were 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

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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.

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.

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.

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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 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.

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE
YOUR NEWSLETTER
ELECTRONICALLY?

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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 month's 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.

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.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER?

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second Friday of each
month
(except June, July and
August)



*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 probabilities. 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.”

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



Wenonah's 100-foot high standpipe.

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 become 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.

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 our 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.

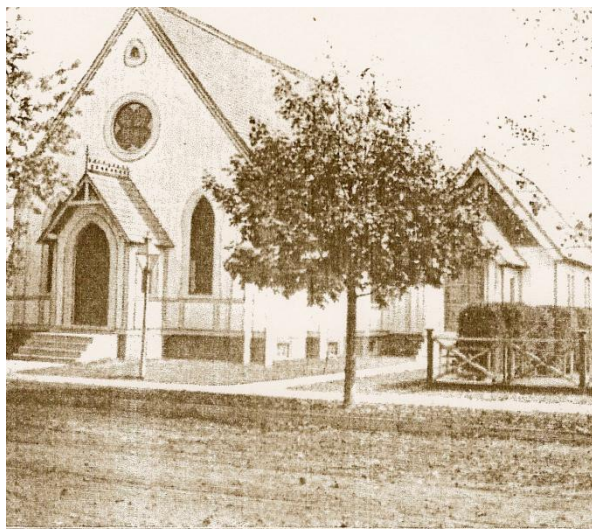
Oh, yes, we did eventually purchase a car. I forgot to mention that.

* * * * *

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."

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER?

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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 chronicling 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.

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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.

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

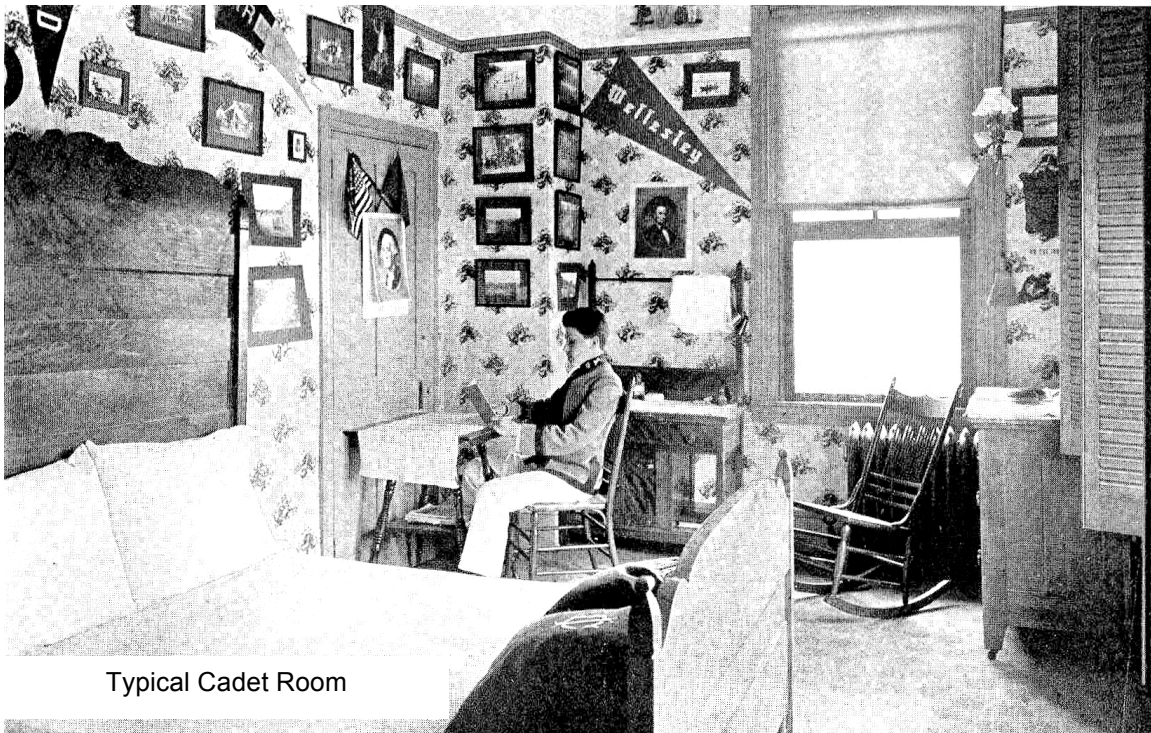
Just a reminder that the 2012 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer.

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 still 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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REFRESHMENTS

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Photos courtesy of the McCalls. As Vicki and Lou say "miss one meeting and you miss a lot."

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

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-rooms, 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

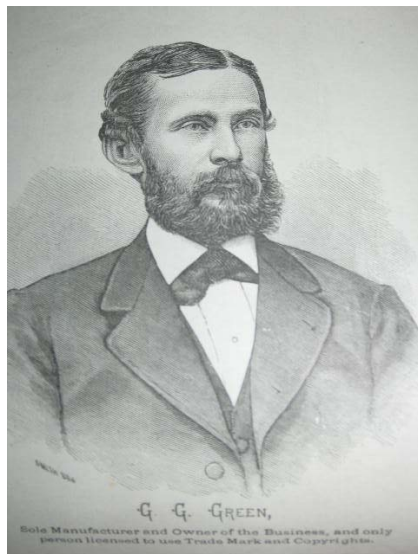
Dear Members,

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.

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

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

2011 WHS OFFICERS

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

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

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.

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 Greens.

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 wall 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

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 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. Our September "meet & greet" will be held at 110 S. Clinton Ave.

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. 406 W. Mantua Ave. | Stone House Tenant Farm Tenant House for Stone House | Howard, John F. & Kathleen C. Henry, Kenneth S. Jr. & Marilyn S. |
| 1850 109 S. Clinton Ave. | Tatum, William R. | Honabach, Mark F. & Wisely, William J. |
| 1854 1473 Glassboro Rd. 509 E. Elm St. | Chew, Nathaniel Newshafer, George | Buongiovanni Jr., Angelo Constantino, Jay & Stacey |
| 1870 201 S. Clinton Ave. 203 S. Clinton Ave. 106 E. Willow St. 8 S. West Ave. | Greene, Stephen Greene, Stephen Greene, Stephen West Jersey & Seashore Railroad | Sporer, David & Katherine Meil, Adam & Chodorow, Piera Cleveland, Janet Dohanish, Susan A. |
| 1871 1 E. Mantua Ave. | Morgan, William | Pelican Rental Properties, LLC |
| 1872 1 S. Clinton Ave. 11 W. Mantua Ave. 11 N. Clinton Ave. 7 W. Mantua Ave. 209 W. Mantua Ave. 12 Lenape Trail 8 N. West Ave. | Bailey, Dr. George W. Brown, Daniel W. Carey, Andrew W. Howard, Ransom Melvil, James H. Pierce, Milton P. West Jersey & Seashore Railroad | Sindoni, James E. Kapus, Curtis W. & Karen L. Doto, Rocco F. & Coleen M. Doto, Rocco F. & Coleen M. Grayson, Dorothy S. Grigri, Bernard & Jeanne Sloan Family Properties, LLC |

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|--|--|---|
| 1873 6 E. Cherry St. 5 N. Clinton Ave. 101 S. Clinton Ave. 11 S. Clinton Ave. | Buzby, Rebecca First Presbyterian Church Hughes, Elia McGill, George L. | Levens, Scott & Kuhn, Victoria Farrell, J. Michael & Sharon Bretherick, Donald P. & Nancy L. Thompson, Richard & Judith J. |
| 1874 13 W. Mantua Ave. 3 E. Poplar St. 4 E. Willow St. 105 S. Clinton Ave. | Brown, Daniel W. Brown, Daniel W. Melvil, James Scott, Isaac | Burke, Edward & Patricia Wiltsee, Harry G. & Carol N. Corbett, John & Jennifer Dominy, John R. & Deborah C. |
| 1875 8 E. Cherry St. 7 E. Poplar St. 7 E. Mantua Ave. | Carey, James W. Gilmour, Henry Shull, Frank J. | Lader, Paul & Scheurenbrand, Sandra Christinzio, Angelo P. & Laurie A. Lamborne, David & Donna |
| 1876 100 S. Marion Ave. 12 N. Clinton Ave. 100 W. Mantua Ave. | Stevenson, Isaac C. Thackara, Daniel Viereck, John A. | Lerner, John W. & Beth Baer, John M. & Sylvia 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. 201 E. Willow St. 105 N. East Ave. | Arnesbroug, E.A. Harris, George S. Mulford, Horatio J. | Lefakis, John & Stephanie Lanzalotti, Christopher & Marie Gilfoy, Michael |
| 1882 12 N. West Ave. 14 N. West Ave. 100 E Cedar St. 203 W. Mantua Ave. | Brown, D.W. Brown, D.W. Fay, Roland Purdy, James C. | Campbell, Gregory S. & Katherine Campbell, Gregory S. & Katherine Galczinski, Joseph Lepley, Shawn & Keebler, Lynda |

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|--|---|---|
| 1883 8 W. Mantua Ave. 108 E. Elm St. | First Presbyterian Church Mulford, Horatio J. | Christensen, Emmie Rose Andrews, Robert W. |
| 1884 200 E. Mantua Ave. 107 E. Willow St. 7 N. East Ave. 2 E. Cherry St. 205 E. Buttonwood St. 201 E. Mantua Ave. | Farr, Hannah Greene, Stephen Holloway, William Middleton, Samuel Synnott, Thomas W. Synnott, Thomas W. | 200 E. Mantua Ave. LLC, Nester DDS Rizzuto, John C. & Linda T. Heimer, Daniel I. & Karen Cook, James & Linda Murphy, John & Laura DeAscentis, William O. & Rosean M. |
| 1885 202 E. Willow St. 105 S. Marion Ave. 107 S. Marion Ave. 106 W. Mantua Ave. 200 S. Monroe Ave. | Greene, Stephen Marrick, Woodward Marrick, Woodward Randolph, Thomas Scott, Job | Barbone, Frank & June Magin, Franklin Jr. & Claire D. Romeo, George C. & Vitto, Cindy L. Guest, Michael H. Pozza, Alexander & Susan |
| 1886 200 E. Willow St. 104 E. Mantua Ave. | Greene, Stephen Smith, Tacy Duell | Hummel, Kenneth R. & Ellen K. Eiden, Francis D. & Virginia T. |
| 1887 12 W. Willow St. | Brown, Daniel W. | Zagone, John M. & Jacquelyn R. |
| 1888 4 E. Cherry St. 107 E. Mantua Ave. 101 W. Mantua Ave. 206 E. Willow St. | Buzby, George Dawson, William J. Johnson, J. Wilkens, Charles | Pellegrino, Michael & Theresa Wenonah Medical Associates Capelli, Barbara A. 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. 7 W. Park Ave. 4 W. Park Ave. 12 S. Monroe Ave. 11 S. Lincoln Ave. 12 S. Princeton Ave. 207 E. Willow St. | Bailey, Dr. George W. Bailey, Dr. George W. Bailey, Dr. George W. Bee, Anna H. Greening, Sara Jane Langston, Jessica Stokes, Merdia | DiBona, David M. Watson, Jana D. & Joan C. Dominy, John F. & Jo A. Bender, Wayne A. Messaros, Steven E. & Sherron E. Tzitzifas, Konstantinos & Effie Ramsay, David & Linda |
| 1891 103 N. Lincoln Ave. | Beucler, R. | Helmbrecht, William D. & Linda S. |
| 1892 12 N. Marion Ave. 10 N. Marion Ave. | Carey, Andrew W. Kipper, Fredericka | Zimmer, Joseph F. Cimino, Mark & Laurie F. |
| 1893 205 E. Willow St. 102 W. Mantua Ave. 14 S. Monroe Ave. 8 N. Monroe Ave. 105 E. Mantua Ave. 204 W. Mantua Ave. 1 E. Poplar St. Mantua Ave. & N. East Ave. | English, Jessie Leap, Henry M. Savage, Catherine Scott, Job Smith, Blair Smith, Blair Trask, Harry M. West Jersey & Seashore Railroad | Farina, Ronald J. & Deborah R. Seville, Joan B. Sparks, Steven W. & Florentina H. Snock, Ronald E. & Linda L. Dugan, Janice S. DiLisciandro, Pietro & Kimberly Kelly, Ian E. & Christa R. Borough of Wenonah |
| 1896 300 E. Mantua Ave. 202 W. Mantua Ave. 6 N. Clinton Ave. | Farr, Edward L. Smith, Blair Stout-Vogt | McCall, Louis C.J. & Vicki Braun Innes, Neil & Catherine Malfitano, Vincent C. & Jennifer |
| 1897 401 E. Cherry St. 8 N. Clinton Ave. | Farr, Edward L. Sooy, Samuel T. | Murtha, Thomas M. & Kristina G. Lewis, Gregory & Melisa |
| 1898 203 E. Willow St. | VanMeter, Wiliam | Streck, Leonard E. & Maureen H. |
| 1899 300 W. Mantua Ave. 107 S. Clinton Ave. | Colbert, Clarence Holeton, John | Finch, Edmund 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.

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.

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.

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 | Donnelly, 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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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 \$1 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 I wish you good health and prosperity in the new year.

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 1912*

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 nine 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

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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 accidentally 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 Tiltan" 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 contractor 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 1912*

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.

2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

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

ODDS AND ENDS

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

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

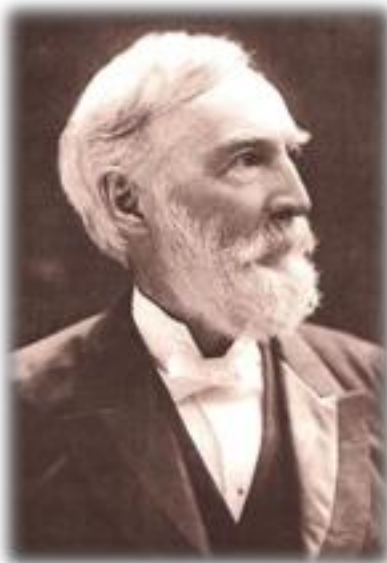
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The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. Sources of information for the article were "The Business Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania" by John Woolf Jordan, et al., and the book "Wenonah 2009" by Marjorie K. Lentz.

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



Stephen Greene
1831 - 1908

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

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

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

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

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

I started the interview with Stephen Greene:

Question: When and where were you born?

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

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

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

Question: Tell me about your marriage and family.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

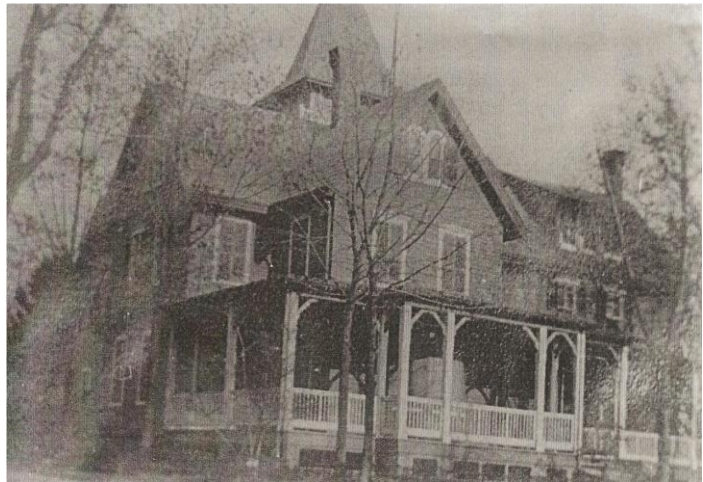
Stephen Greene: Mainly because I had a vision of what Wenonah could become and I wanted to play a part in it. Once it was decided to build the Wenonah House Hotel in the southeast quadrant of town, I could foresee that this section would grow the fastest, and not only provide the most housing sales opportunities,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

2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

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

ODDS AND ENDS

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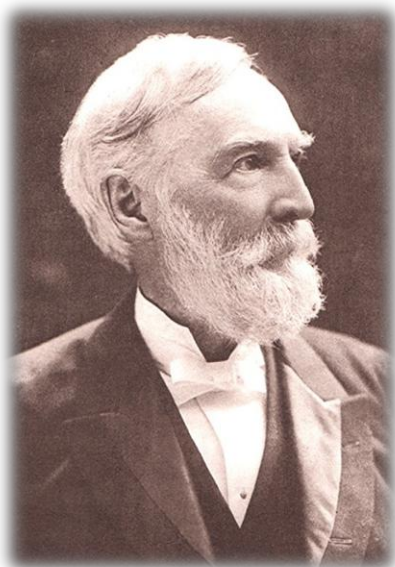
Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.

The following article was 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
Friday, March 8, 2013

Volume 11, Issue 3, March 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

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

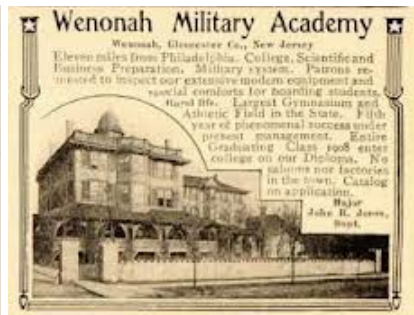
The students' rooms are large, heated by steam and nicely furnished with first-class furniture, the beds having woven-wire springs, hair mattresses and the best sheeting and woolen blankets. The rooms on all floors are 10 by 16 feet and 14 by 16 feet in size, and are arranged for cadets wishing to room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

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



Typical Cadet Room

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



Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 4, April 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

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



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

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

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

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

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

WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY "TAUGHT BOYS HOW TO LIVE"

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

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

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

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

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

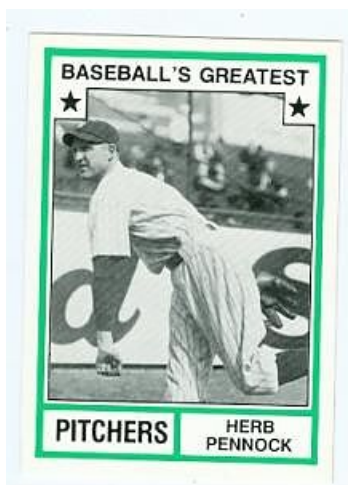
The period: in the early fall of 1904 to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tripician, '26 of Margate.

All-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.

2011 WHS OFFICERS

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|----------------|---------------|
| President | Charles Horan |
| Vice President | Paul Lader |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
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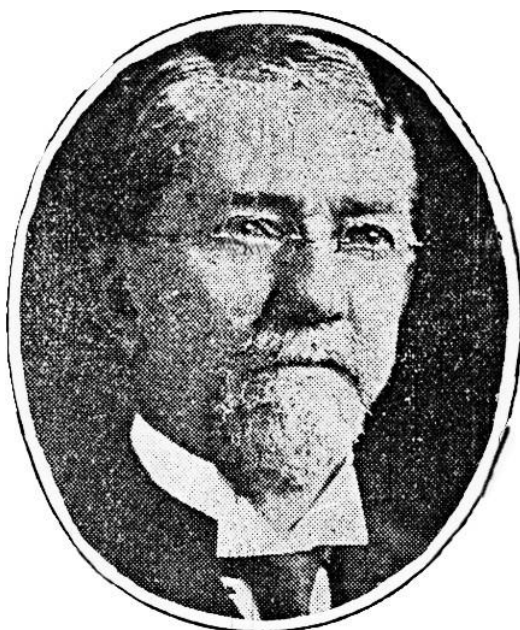
Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.

2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

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

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. Zelle also a popular song leader. They were so capable and enthusiastic it was rumored the singing in Wenonah park was so spirited it could be heard as far away as Mantua. While in Wenonah the two of them wrote literally hundreds of gospel songs and edited innumerable gospel song books. Among their works which gained nationwide recognition were the gospel songs, "Heavenly Sunlight" and "I've Anchored My Soul to the Haven of Rest." All of this out of little Wenonah. It was just amazing.

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

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

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

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

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

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 6, June 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

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

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

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

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

2013 WHS DUES ARE DUE

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

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.

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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.

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

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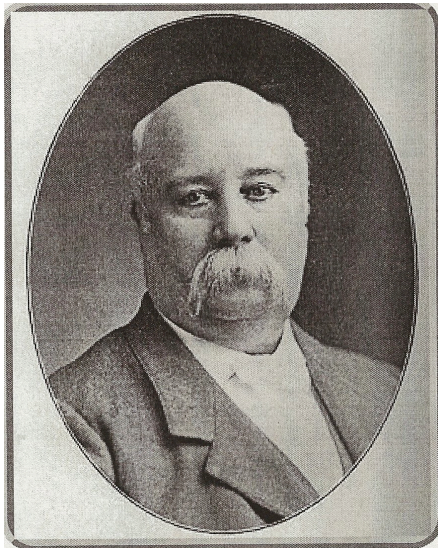
The following article was researched and written by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Information for the article was provided by Marjorie K. Lentz.

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

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

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

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



Dr. Henry Lake Gilmour, Sr.

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

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

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



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

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

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

Some of his hymns are:

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

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

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 8, October 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

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

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

Robert Catando will be the speaker at our meeting on October 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 Superintendent of Schools (1989-2001).

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

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

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

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

ZUCCHINI CORNBREAD CASSEROLE *from Jennie McQuaide*

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Sometimes I add a grated carrot for color.

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

2011 WHS OFFICERS

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

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

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

WENONAH 96 YEARS AGO – NOVEMBER 1917

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WENONAH GARAGE; Allen Dealer

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

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

Woodbury Daily Times November 1917 mhw

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 9, November 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS DINNER

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

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

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

CHANGE OF NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Barbara Price has offered to take over as your newsletter editor, allowing me to switch my focus to our museum. I will work with Jack Sheppard, Sr. and Julie Ream to finalize the facility so its contents can be made available to all Wenonahians.

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

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

2013 WHS OFFICERS

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

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

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

WENONAH 106 YEARS AGO – DECEMBER 1907

Mrs. Lummis is selling fresh dairy butter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale MILK 6 cents a quart Geo. Kean.

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

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

Boys Brigade tonight.

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

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

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

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

Photographic calendars. Views of Wenonah at the Post Office.

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

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

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

*Woodbury Daily Times
December 1907*

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 10, December 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

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

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

Considering the possibility of inclement weather and having an outside

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

CHANGE OF NEWSLETTER EDITORS

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

Larry

2013 WHS OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
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| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
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**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 morning. (The two stores were competitors, both general stores within a stones throw of each other, one where Mary Kaye is today and the other at the former location of the One Stop Shop.)

Mud, mud everywhere.

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

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

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

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

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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| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
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second Friday of each month
(except June, July and August)
at the Train Station Community
Center

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.

2014 WHS OFFICERS

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(except June, July and August)
at the Train Station Community
Center



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 *inamorate* 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.

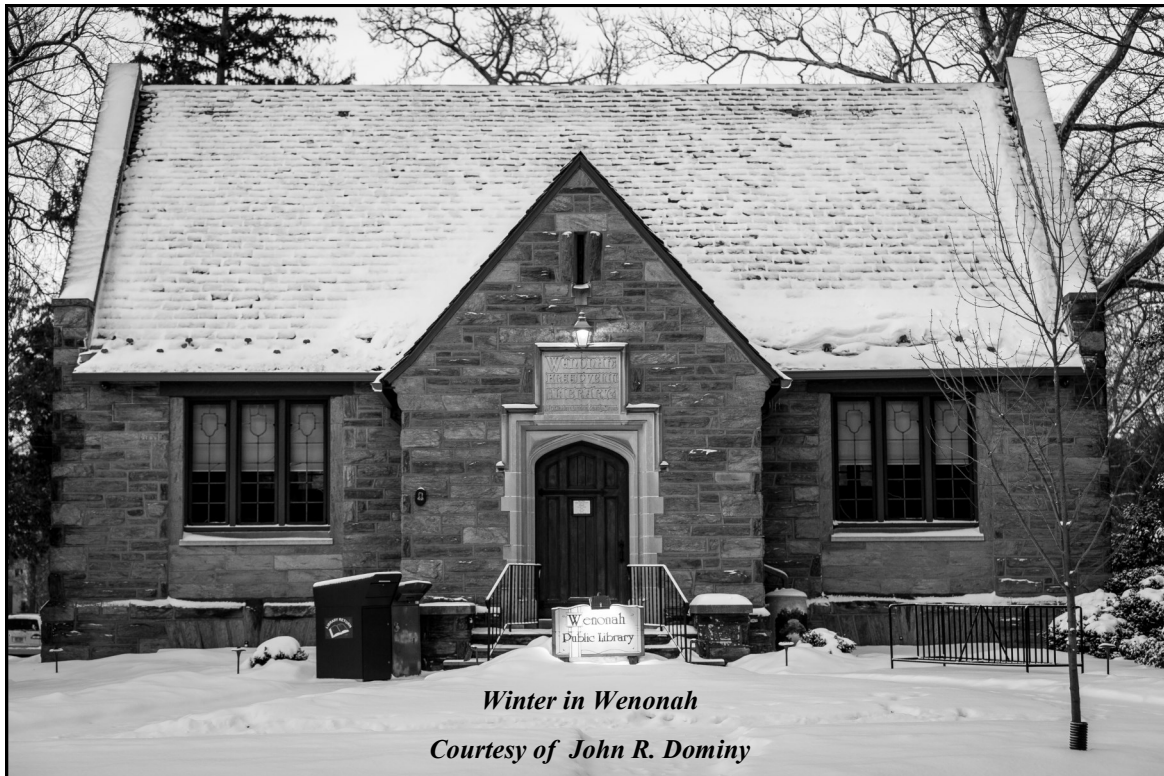
WENONAH
FEBRUARY 1914

- ◇ 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 Orogalle, 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.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, March 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 3, March 2014



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.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

2014 WHS OFFICERS

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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**

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.

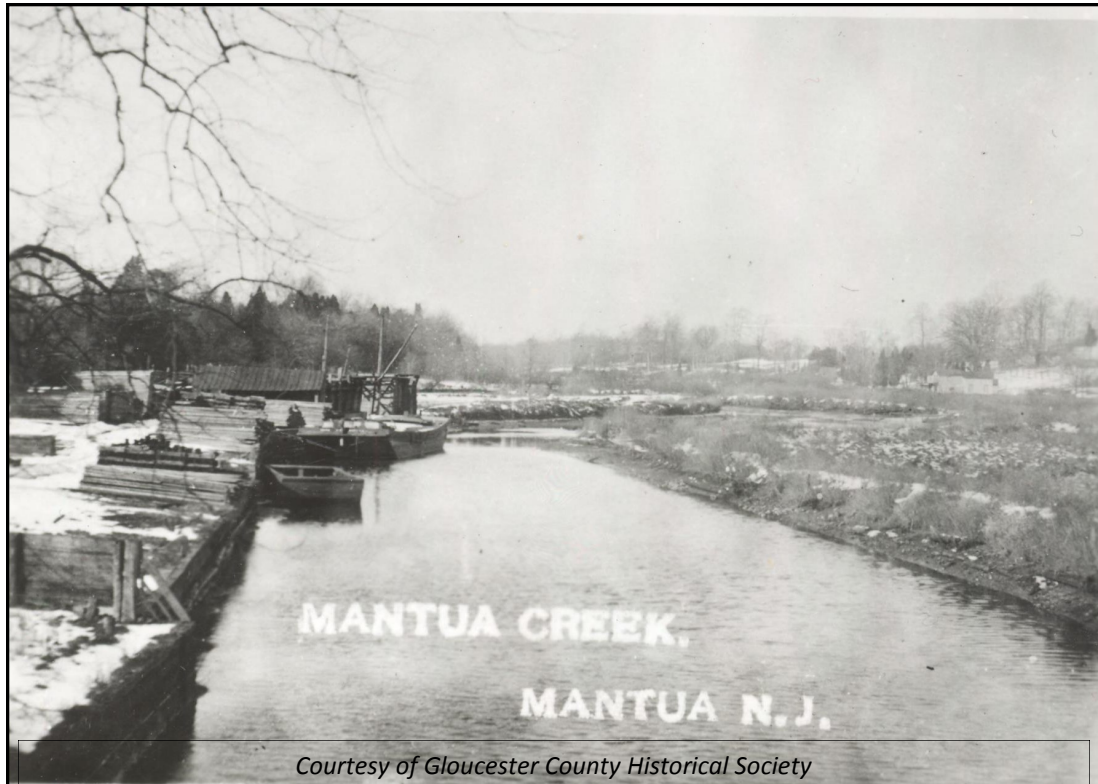
WENONAH
MARCH 1914

- ◇ 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 putting 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.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, April 11, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 4, April 2014



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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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.

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

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 Em-len 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 Margareta 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.

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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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

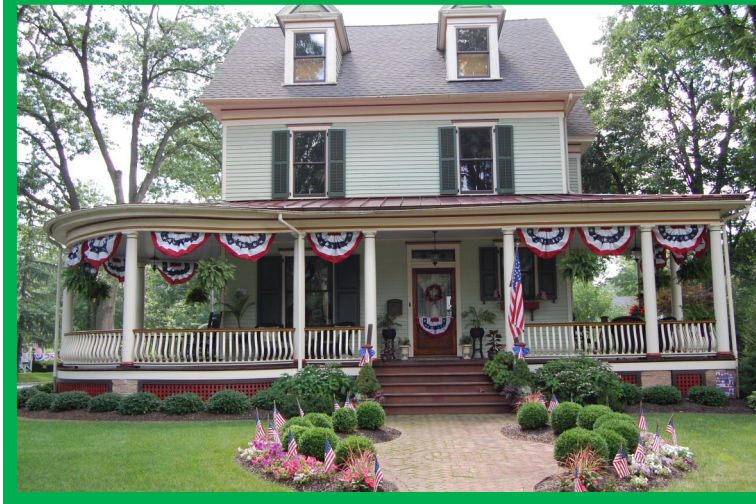
WENONAH

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

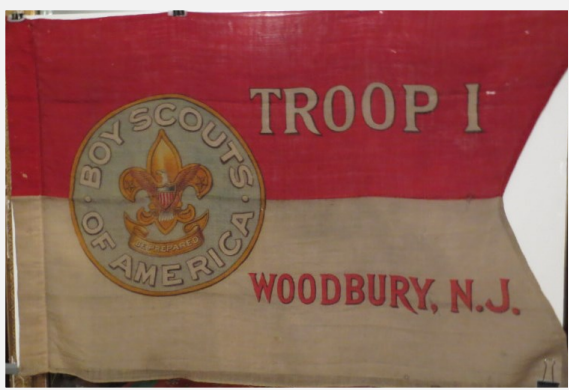
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/>

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.

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 school-teachers. 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 late 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. Comey 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.

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?

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 At-



From *Popular Science Monthly*, Vol. 57
December 31, 1899

lantic 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.

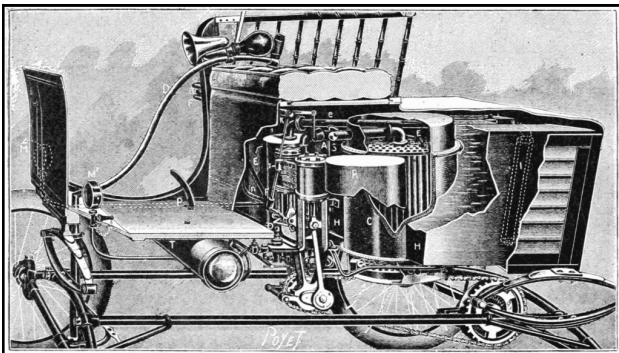
The drawing followed an interesting double blind drawing format and at first Mrs. F. J. Bossler had no idea that she had won. Soon, however, it was reported that she was the happiest woman within 300 miles of the newspaper office. The other contestants graciously congratulated her. Mrs. Bossler had never 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 registered 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.

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 | GIFTS FOR HER |
|--|---|
| Silk Shirts in separate boxes, \$1.50 to \$2.50 | Ivory Picture Frames.....50c |
| Ties Galore at.....25c, 50c and 75c | Ivory Pin Cushions.....25c and 50c |
| Initial Handkerchiefs 2 for 25c and 25c | Ivory Shoe Horns, Nail Files, Button Hooks, Buffers at.....25c |
| Hosiery in Boxes, 4 pair in box, 50c and \$1 | Brooches.....25c and 50c |
| Gloves.....25c to \$3.50 | Rhinestone and Silver Slipper Buckles. 50c |
| Sweaters.....\$1.00 to \$6.00 | Le Vallieres.....50c |
| Boys' Sweaters, Gloves, Trousers, Ties | Cuff Pins.....10c to 50c |
| Men's Jewelry in Fancy Boxes, 50c to \$1, combination | Fancy Barretts & Hair Pins 25c to \$1 |
| Keen Kutter Kutlery, the finest made 25c to \$1.25 | Handkerchiefs in fancy boxes 5c to 25c each |
| Suspenders, Belts, Garters, and Arm Bands, all kinds, combinations, | Coin Purses.....25c to \$1.50 |
| Special offer of Designer, 30c a year. | 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 "left-overs."

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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.

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PHILADELPHIA

NEW YEARS DAY

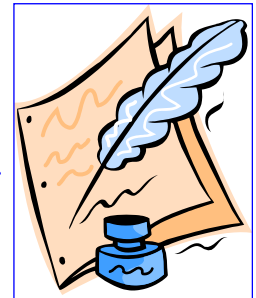
Anticipating a record breaking throng of visitors to Philadelphia to view the New Year's Mummers' Pageant—the Mardi Gras of the North—the Pennsylvania Railroad has completed the arrangements for furnishing additional train service to the city on that day. The 1917 parade promises to be the most elaborate 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.

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 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.