Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

August 2022

WHS Officers and Trustees

President, Charles Horan Vice-President, Nora Taylor Secretary, Jennie McQuaide Treasurer, Scott Barnes Trustee, Lou McCall Trustee, Paul Lader



Upcoming Events

Friday, September 9, 2022, 6:30 PM: Annual Meet and Greet at Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center (Train Station) - *see page 2*

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 1:00-3:00 PM: 7th Annual Cemetery Walk – "Dine with the Dearly Departed" at Wenonah Cemetery (Rain Date: October 8, 2022) – *see page 3*

Friday, November 11, 2022, 7:30 PM: Elaine Goodman will present "The Pine Barrens: Sand, Iron, Pirates; Early Life along the Mullica River" at Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center (Train Station)

Message from WHS President

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We look forward to having you all join us for some fun fall events!

The Wenonah Historical Society is committed to embracing our town's history while looking ahead to new visions for the future. As this beautiful place we call home evolves and grows, we want to invite you to join us for programs that look to the past to show us where we come from, and move us into the future to see where we can go!

We are proud of our accomplishments as we continue to grow our on-line museum, offer awards to local students, partner with the Wenonah Free Public Library to produce StoryWalks in the park, and bring history to life through our programs such as the annual cemetery walk each October.

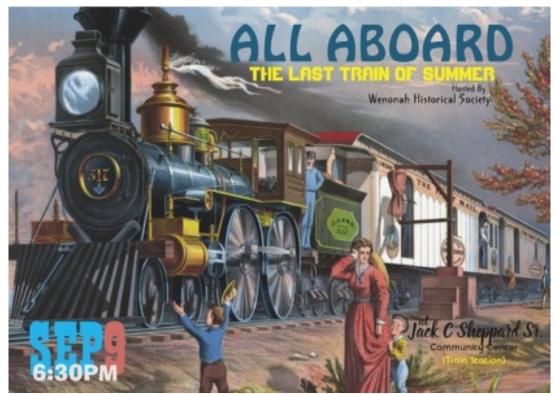
We look forward to starting some new and fun social events in the upcoming years. Please contact us with your ideas and interests.

Friends of the Wenonah Train Station

In 2009, the Wenonah Historical Society voted to approve Charlie and Barbara Horan as chairpersons for a committee called the "Friends of Wenonah Train Station." They have spearheaded continued improvements to the building as well as ensured its upkeep by the organizations using the train station. We thank Charlie and Barbara for the recent coordination of having the carpet professionally cleaned. It looks new again! Any suggestions may be forwarded to them or any of the WHS officers. We welcome your comments!

Annual Meet and Greet – All Aboard the Last Train of Summer

The Wenonah **Historical Society** will host its annual meet and greet on Friday, September 9, 2022 at the Jack C. Sheppard, Sr. Community Center (Train Station) at 6:30 PM. The event is open to everyone interested in sharing a good time with friends and neighbors, and perhaps learning more about the



Wenonah Historical Society. There will be food, prizes and fun for all! Come join us aboard the last train of summer!!

Be sure to check in at the ticket window for your ticket and a chance to win a door prize!

If you would like a seat aboard the last train of summer, please RSVP to <u>contact@wenonahhistoricalsocietyevents.org</u>.

Wenonah 2021 Tornado History Project

A volunteer task force has been documenting the tornado that hit our town on September 1, 2021. The project, which includes both fact-gathering and story-collecting, aligns with the mission of the Wenonah Historical Society to preserve our Borough's unique history. There is no doubt the final product will be of interest to not only current and former Borough residents, but also to future generations. The task force has completed numerous interviews with Borough leaders, first responders, and residents about the devastation and responses to this historic event.

The task force needs your help to complete the project! A survey was sent to

all residents. Please complete and return the survey as soon as possible. And, if you have a story to share or news articles, photographs or a



video that documents the tornado, please let us know at <u>https://wenonahtornadoproject.org/</u> or contact KiKi L'Italien at <u>dckiki@gmail.com</u>.

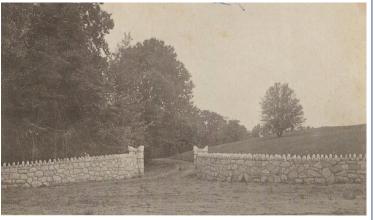
History of Wenonah Cemetery by Nora Taylor

By 1900, Wenonah was a thriving town with about 500 residents. Philadelphians built "cottages" to enjoy the beautiful lakes and to escape the city heat. Wenonah was considered an ideal community with telephone and electric service and streets laid out at right angles. It was populated by many Philadelphia businesspeople.

The Woodbury Daily Times reported on December 3, 1900, that Isaac Stevenson had sold a plot of land on the west side of Mantua Creek to real estate agent William C. Cattell. Stevenson had only recently bought the land from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. Cattell represented a party of capitalists with plans to start a new cemetery.

On January 3, 1901, the Times reported that the Wenonah Cemetery Association had been formed, with Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia, Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Stout, Harry G. Peddle, and William C. Cattell, all of Wenonah, Miss Sara R. Chew of Mantua, and David O. Watkins of Woodbury as elected trustees. The association had purchased 30 acres of land, and they were immediately planning to lay out the grounds with the help of experienced landscape gardeners.

On January 18, 1901, the Times announced that "the Wenonah Cemetery Company are having plans drawn for laying out their new plot, and work on grading and marking will be commenced early this spring. This is one of the prettiest natural plots for this purpose in the state."



Early Postcard of Main Entrance at Wenonah Cemetery

7th Annual Cemetery Walk – Dine with the Dearly Departed

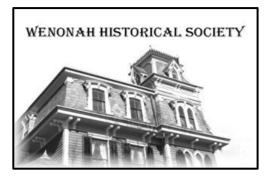
On October 8, 2022, the Wenonah Historical Society and the Wenonah Cemetery Association will host the 7th Annual Cemetery Walk from 1:00-3:00 PM. The event is free, and no tickets are needed. There will be live music and live re-enactors. Bring a picnic basket and blanket!

Every plot has a story to tell! Get a glimpse of what life was like in the early 1900s.

Every script is researched, using historic newspapers and primary source material. Graveside presentations will be dramatized by actors in period costumes. Come and experience this compelling living history at Wenonah Cemetery!



Re-enactors at 2021 Cemetery Walk



P.O. Box 32 Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NAME: **Membership Benefits** ADDRESS: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS PHONE: EMAIL ADDRESS: RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK _____ CASH _ BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090 Any information you would like to see presented in future programs or newsletters? DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR