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



Advertisement found in the Gloucester County Democrat

December 1913

everal 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."

2014 WHS OFFICERS

President Charles Horan

Vice President Paul Lader

Secretary Vicki McCall

Treasurer Carol Wiltsee

Trustee Betty MacLeod

Trustee Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PHILADELPHIA

NEW YEARS DAY

Anticipating a record breaking throng of visitors to Philadelphia to view the New Year's Mummers' Pageant—the Mardi Gras of the North—the Pennsylvania Railroad has completed the arrangements for furnishing additional train service to the city on that day. The 1917 parade promises to be the most elaborate and interesting ever held. About 40 clubs of New Year's "shooters" will be in line and great rivalry will be displayed in novel and beautiful costuming effects, caricatures and the presentation of up-to-date features in the floats.

Ten special trains will be operated to Philadelphia, over the Pennsylvania Railroad, from points in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. They will reach Broad Street Station on the morning of January 1st in time to permit viewing the entire pageant, which pass the City Hall about 10 o'clock a.m.

From *The Woodbury Daily Times*, December 20, 1916.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Charles Horan

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Greetings members!

The start of the Christmas Season marks the annual and much anticipated WHS Holiday Dinner. Response was good and we are "sold out" for this event which begins at 6 PM this coming Friday at the Community Center/Train Station.

Please bring your good cheer and a healthy appetite as we share community and celebrate an excellent year for the Wenonah Historical Society.

We have attracted new members and unveiled our Facebook page and WHS website. I am looking forward to seeing you Friday evening at 6.

Newsletter Contributions

If you are interested in contributing an article for this newsletter, please contact newsletter editor, Barbara Price, at b.price111@comcast.net.



WENONAH

December 1914

- Miss Helen Gaither is a taking a course of domestic science at a Philadelphia college.
- It is rumored that Mr. Richard Kincaid of Mantua has purchased Mr. James Baylies' new house.
- The stork left another boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Fredericks on Thanksgiving Day.
- The west platform of the station has been finished and is composed entirely of stone.
- The Wenonah Military Academy will give "The Pastoral Frolic," an evening of song by the celebrated Apollo Quartette of Philadelphia, on Saturday evening in the academy auditorium.
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Vierick expect to move into their new home on S. Lincoln Avenue this week.
- The Wenonah Realty Company have rented the house formerly occupied by Mr. George.
- Considerable excitement was caused on Friday morning by the ringing of the fire bell. It proved to be a field and would have caused considerable damage if it had not been discovered. The hose was not used as the volunteer firemen beat the flames out.
- The Boys Scouts attended the Episcopal church on Sunday morning.
- The Woodbury High School second team trimmed the Wenonah Military Academy junior team by the score of 34 to 14 in basketball, Friday, at Woodbury.
- The cadets of the Wenonah Military Academy left for their homes on Friday for the Christmas holidays.

- Our boys and girls are enjoying the very fine skating on Warner's pond, it being so sheltered the ice is very smooth.
- Old Santa is being assisted to a very great extent this year by the daddies who explore the woods for a fine tree.
- The motion pictures at the YMCA hall on Saturday night were exceptionally good. The four reel picture of Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens' well known story, was excellent.
- Mr. Morgan McKeen is confined to his home with an injured ankle sustained while on duty on his train.
- The Wenonah Masonic Club gave an entertainment on Friday evening to members and their friends.
- Mr. Joseph Noblit, an old resident of our borough, was renewing acquaintances here last week.
- Miss Sargent is home from Bryn Mawr College for the holidays.
- Mr. and Mrs. James Avis and family attended a family reunion on Thanksgiving Day at the home of Hon. J. Boyd Avis at Woodbury.
- Our community was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Robert, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George McCormick, aged four years, on Thursday. He was operated on at a Philadelphia hospital on Wednesday for adenoids and his blood being in a poor condition caused his death. The funeral services were held on Sunday at 2:30 o'clock. Interment at Wenonah Cemetery.



PO Box 32 Wenonah, New Jersey 08090 Stamp Here

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

Membership Benefits

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS

ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA

INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS

NAME:
Address:
PHONE:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO
AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK CASH

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

Bring form and payment to meeting, or mail. Thank You WHS PO Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090