

**The Wenonah Historical Society  
is pleased to participate in StoryWalk.®**

**Our story is “Fun Facts about Wenonah.”**

This is the third story prepared by the Wenonah Historical Society to promote the history of our special town. Our story includes information that you may find enlightening, amusing, or in some cases, unbelievable. We hope these “fun facts” will give you a better sense of Wenonah’s past.

Enjoy our story and your walk from the library through the park!



## **Fun Facts: Volunteer Organizations**

Volunteer organizations are the backbone of Wenonah. You likely recognize many of the organizations that are active today, such as the Lions Club, Woman's Club, Lake Association, and hopefully, the Historical Society. But have you heard of the following organizations of yesteryear?

- Ladies Mite Society
- Library Society
- Young Women's Christian Temperance Union
- Cycle Club
- Ladies Aid Society
- Progressive Euchre Club
- Christian Endeavor Society
- Daisy Club
- Needlework Guild
- Tourist Club
- Musical Society
- Foreign Mission Society
- Third Rail Club
- Sorosis Club
- Lodge of Junior Order of American Mechanics
- Literary Society
- Park and Woodland Improvement Association
- Monday Club
- Mother's Circle
- 4-H Club
- Garden Club
- Junior Flower Club
- Playground Association
- Masonic Club
- Fourth of July Association
- Boy's Brigade



## Fun Facts: Two Hotels

### Wenonah House (1872-1887)

The Wenonah House, a majestic 3-story structure with 40 rooms, opened for guests in spring of 1872. There were only 10 houses in Wenonah. The hotel was located on S. Clinton Ave. across from the park. A boardwalk connected the hotel to the railroad station 2 blocks away.

The Wenonah House was only open during the summer.

Most guests staying at the Wenonah House arrived by train from Philadelphia.

Although summer business at the Wenonah House thrived until 1887, it changed ownership multiple times, and finally closed before being sold to founding father Stephen Greene for \$5,000.



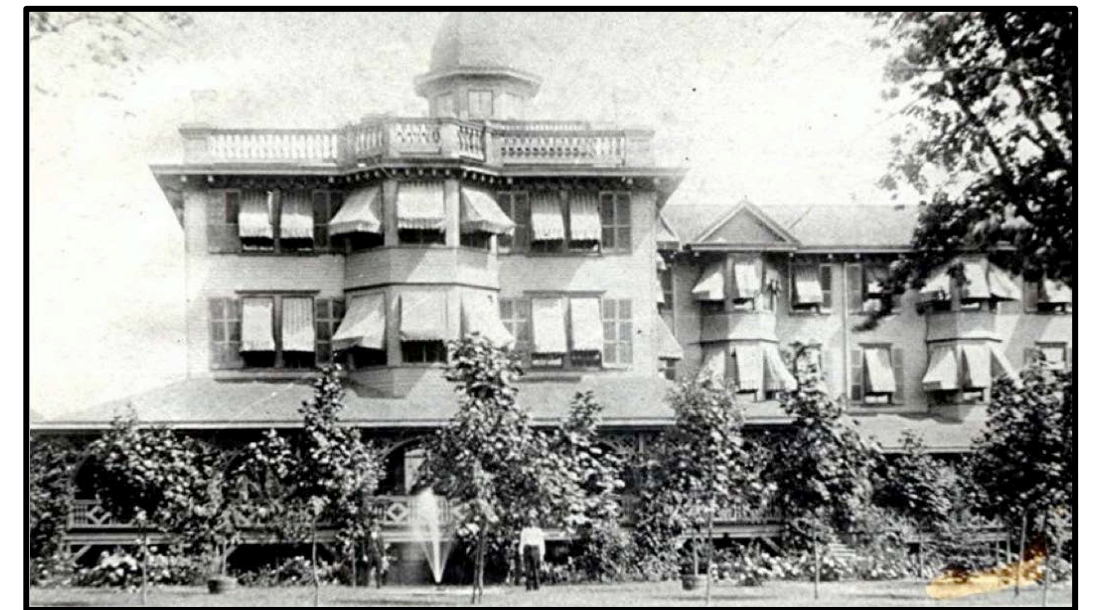
Wenonah House

### Wenonah Inn (1894-1899)

The Wenonah House was demolished and a new hotel – the Wenonah Inn – opened on the same site in 1894. **The Wenonah Inn accommodated 150 guests and included a barber shop, laundry, amusement hall, billiard room, and bowling alley.**

The hotel became an instant success. On several occasions special trains from Philadelphia brought patrons for large dances and other affairs. There even was an opera.

Business was described as “booming.” However, the boom was temporary. The Wenonah Inn closed in 1899 because automobiles made it easier to travel to more distant destinations.



Wenonah Inn



## Fun Facts: Wenonah Military Academy

The Wenonah Inn, which closed in 1899, became the Wenonah Military Academy.

The hotel's guest rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitory rooms, a library, a chapel, and an infirmary. Later, a gymnasium/drill hall was constructed, a stone wall was added along Clinton Ave., and the building that had housed the hotel's bowling alley was transformed into a science laboratory.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors on September 20, 1904. The academy taught grades 5-12 and offered courses to prepare students for either further education or employment soon after graduation. Classes were small with 8-12 students.

Students came primarily from NJ, PA, NY, DE and OH, but some cadets came from as far away as South America, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

A diploma from the academy entitled the graduate admission to West Point, Annapolis or one of the best colleges or universities in the country, usually without qualifying tests.

The Wenonah Military Academy closed for economic reasons after the 1934-1935 school year, at the peak of the Great Depression. The land, buildings, furniture, equipment, books, linens, and utensils were sold at a sheriff's sale on October 18, 1935. Within a few years, most buildings on the academy campus were demolished.



Wenonah Military Academy  
(Wall is still here today.)



## Fun Facts: Southwest Corner of Mantua & West Aves.

You're probably familiar with the building at the southwest corner of Mantua and West Aves. It's the home of Ananda Yoga + Wellness, Salon Maxima, and Wenonah Family Chiropractic. Did you know many other business establishments used that corner location as well? In fact, Wenonah's very first store, the Benjamin Packer Store, was located there in 1872. Later businesses included a convenience store, restaurant, cabinet store, and even a gas station.



Benjamin Packer Store



Charles Fredrick Sinclair Gas Station



Fun Facts: Wenonah Was the Home of No Fewer Than 4 Horseback Riding Stables

**To Horse! To Horse!!**

and learn to know, to enjoy the quiet leafy roads of your own County!

**WENONAH RIDING ACADEMY**

furnishes safe horses for inexperienced riders; excellent mounts for those who ride well.

ONE DOLLAR THE HOUR

MARION and PINE STREETS WENONAH  
Phone — Wenonah 105 or 54

On Pine St. between Marion and Clinton Aves.

FOR HIRE BY THE HOUR  
Well - Groomed

**RIDING HORSES**

Expertly Broken to the Saddle.

These horses are unusually good stock, well kept and well appointed. There are gentle mounts for the quiet rider; spirited mounts for those who wish their horses so — but all mounts are thoroughly dependable to be as represented.

**\$1.50 the Hour**

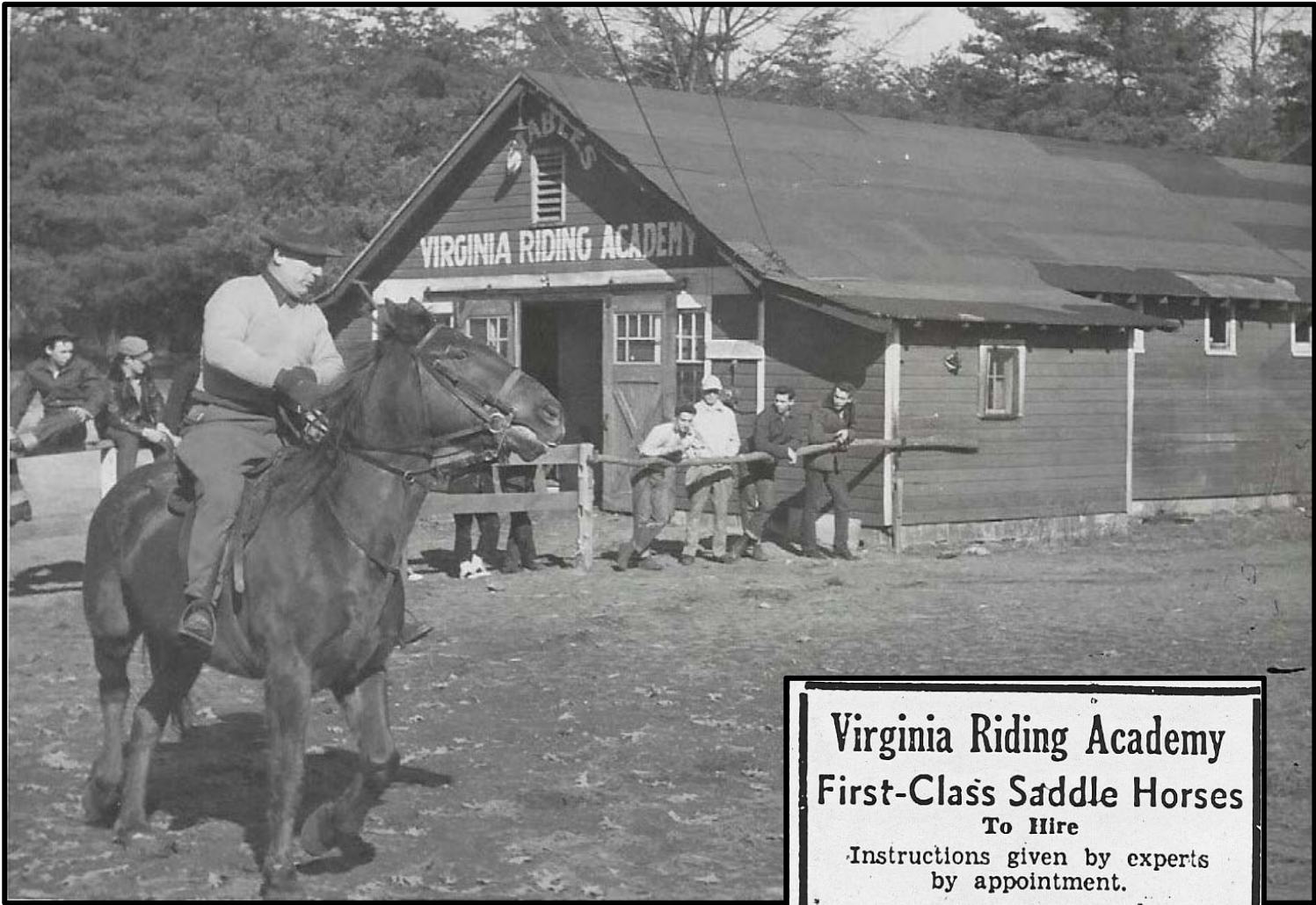
Write or telephone for appointments  
Call Wenonah 105

**WENONAH RIDING ACADEMY**  
Pine and Clinton Avenues  
WENONAH, N. J.

**Saddle Horses**  
To Hire  
Apply  
**FOX'S RIDING ACADEMY**  
South Jefferson & Cedar Aves.  
WENONAH  
Instructions Free  
Phone Wenonah 85-W

Near Cedar St. and Jefferson Ave.

**RIDE HORSEBACK**  
**SHANNON'S RIDING ACADEMY**  
Private Lessons  
Horses For Hire at All Times  
Call Wenonah 149-W or 33-J  
Stables:  
South Jefferson Ave., Wenonah



Near East and Linden Aves.

**Virginia Riding Academy**  
**First-Class Saddle Horses**  
To Hire  
Instructions given by experts by appointment.

**Marvin Woodzell**  
Formerly of Hot Springs, Va.  
Mantua Ave., rear of Dress Factory  
(Formerly J. T. Allen's Warehouse)



## Fun Facts: Historic Firsts

1872 – First July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

1877 –



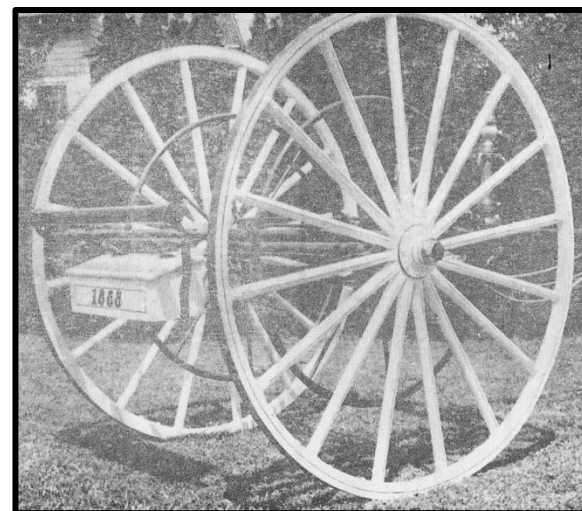
First Church (5 N. Clinton Ave.)

1878 –



First School Building  
(6 N. Marion Ave.)

1888 –



First Fire-Fighting Equipment

1894 –



First Water Tower

1896 –



First Mayor  
(Charles M. Wilkins)

1900 –



First Car

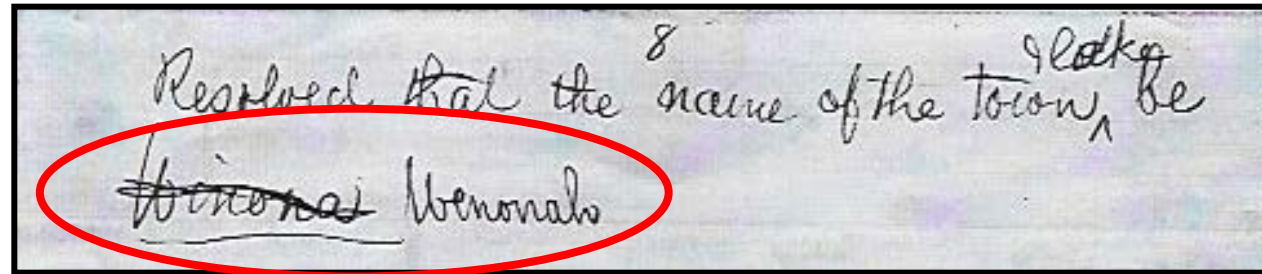
1924 – First house numbers

1925 – First paving of Mantua Ave.



## Fun Facts: Did You Know?

- The name of our town was almost spelled "Winona."



From Minutes of Mantua Land and Improvement Company

- The first ice cream parlor in South Jersey was in Wenonah at 7 & 9 W. Mantua Ave.
- The church bell at the former Methodist Episcopal Church (northeast corner of Clinton Ave. and Willow St.) was once used as the town's fire alarm.
- The first 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in Wenonah was in 1872. **Activities ran from 5:00 AM to 11:30 PM.** Supper was available at the Wenonah House for 50 cents.
- The train tracks originally ran along what is now N. Jefferson Ave. to just west of S. Jackson Ave.

- **William Frederick Allen, who was responsible for the original street layout for Wenonah, created standard time and time zones that are still used worldwide.**

- A YMCA was located at 6 N. Marion Ave. after the elementary school moved to its current location at Elm St. and Clinton Ave.

- Ice nearly a foot thick was "harvested" from Wenonah Lake in the late 1800's/early 1900's.

- The house at 100 S. West Ave. was constructed as a tavern before 1773. It was a stop for stage coaches traveling between Camden and Cape May.



Harvesting Ice at Wenonah Lake



## Fun Facts: Contest Winners

### Wenonah Public School Wins a Piano!

In 1895, the Philadelphia Times sponsored a contest open to all colleges, academies, and public and private schools in New Jersey. Ballots were printed in the daily and Sunday newspapers from October 19 through December 31. The two entrants that submitted the most ballots would win their choice of upright pianos.

The Wenonah Public School entered the contest against great odds. At the time, there were only 100 families and 413 residents in town, including some staying at the Wenonah Inn. The winner of a similar contest for Philadelphia schools submitted 199,000 ballots.



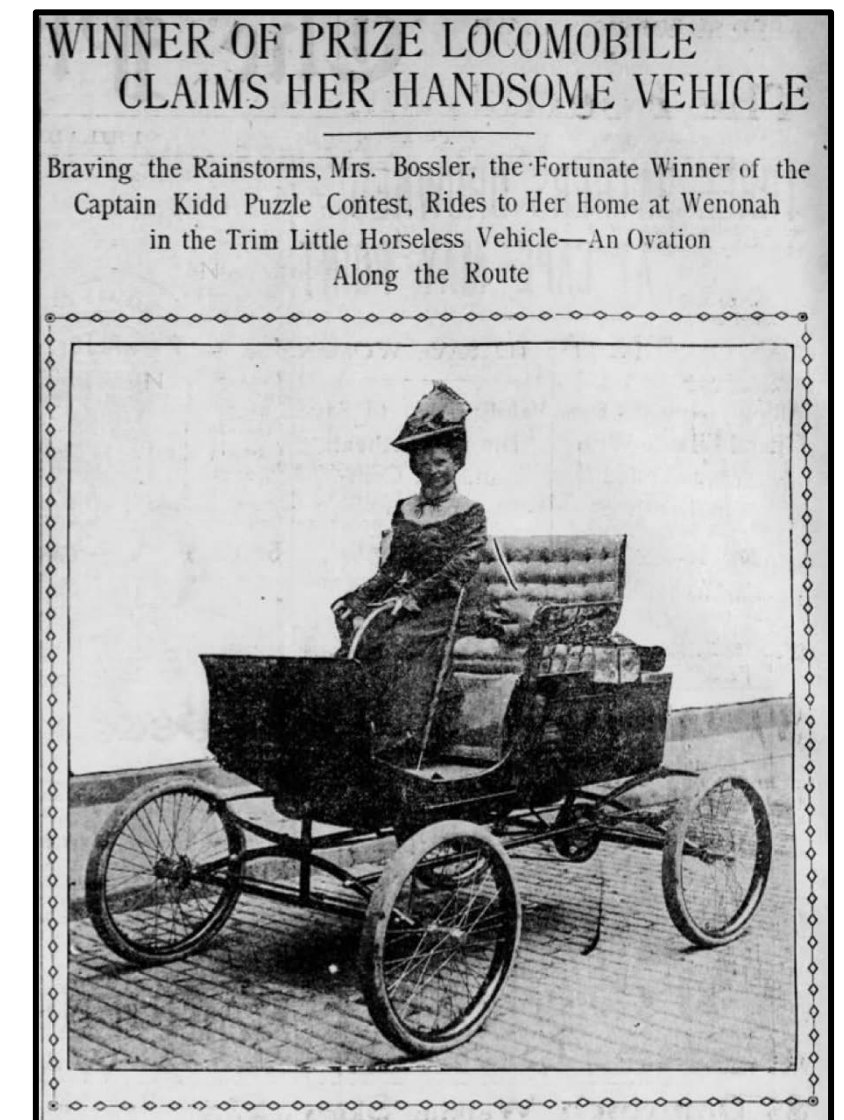
**Despite the odds, Wenonah Public School amazingly won the contest and its choice of a piano with 411,000 ballots! Pretty amazing, don't you think?**

### Mrs. Frances Bossler Wins First Car in Wenonah!

On May 27, 1900, the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper announced the Captain Kidd Hidden Picture Series Contest. Entrants had to identify 6 hidden objects in each of 9 puzzles. The grand prize was a 1900 Locomobile, valued at \$750.

Mrs. Frances Bossler, a 23-year-old resident of Wenonah, entered the contest and (with help from her husband) correctly identified the hidden objects in every puzzle. However, six others also solved the puzzles.

Mrs. Bossler was declared the contest winner after a blind draw. **Her prize became the first automobile to be owned by a Wenonah resident!**





## Fun Facts: Famous Visitors

### Teddy Roosevelt

Teddy Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, spoke in Wenonah on May 24, 1912, while on a whistle-stop tour through New Jersey.

### Herb Pennock

Herb Pennock attended the Wenonah Military Academy. He excelled in baseball, basketball, and track and field.

At age 17, while still attending the academy, Herb was signed by baseball's legendary Connie Mack to pitch in the major leagues for the Philadelphia Athletics.

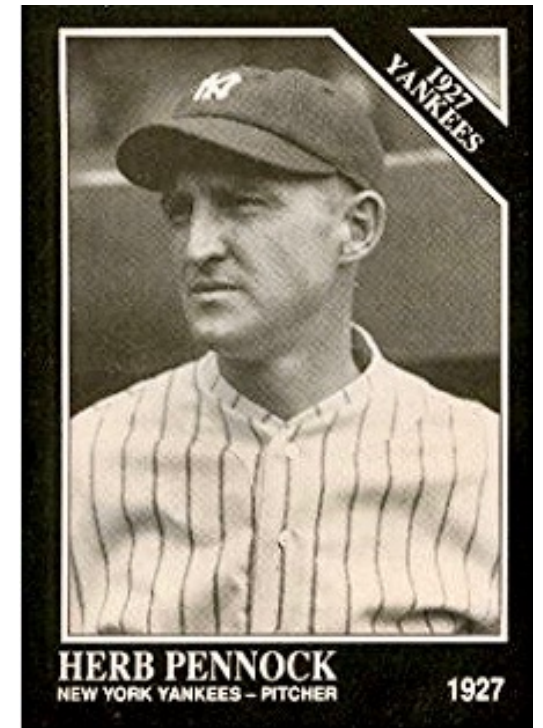
Herb went on to pitch for the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.



Teddy Roosevelt

He pitched for the team some consider the greatest baseball team of all time – the 1927 New York Yankees. His teammates included Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Herb Pennock was elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 1948. His hall of fame plaque in Cooperstown, NY notes the jump from prep school (Wenonah Military Academy) to the majors.



### Groucho Marx

Groucho Marx, the most famous of the Marx Brothers, occasionally visited his sister-in-law at 4 E. Willow St. He treated the boys' baseball team to ice cream after a game at Cedar Field.

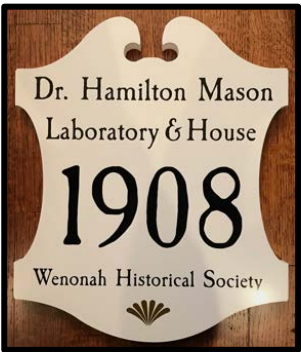


Groucho Marx



Fun Facts: Dr. Hamilton T. Mason

Dr. Hamilton T. Mason formulated and manufactured medicinal products in his laboratory at 7 S. Marion Ave. in the early 1900's.



**Athletes!** I have Found It!

Something Mighty Good For Your Muscles—Good Smelling Stuff From The Great Out-Doors

**BULL-PINE**

Nature's Fragrant Pine Needle Es-sence. Powerfully penetrative, induces muscle smoothness, flexibility, suppleness and strength. Also a real quick relief for sore, strained muscles and stiffened joints. And as healthy to use as a stroll in a pine forest breathing pure pine scented air.

**\$1.00**

Will bring you, by parcel post, a bottle of this strong muscle...

Mason's Labo  
Wenonah, New J

(75)

Acne Lotion

zinc Sulphate	2 oz
Potassium Sulphide (Sulphur)	2 oz
Rose Water	2 qts

Disolve separately each of the two solids in 1 qt Rose Water and then mix.

**FEEL OLD?**  
A DRINK OF  
**DOUBLE DUTY**  
Glanderized Yerba Maté

Will swift the old feelings away and make you think of youthful days

Glands you know, are said by scientists to be the human spark plugs, powerizing the batteries of life with their hormone secretions. It is said their normal chemistry means youthful vigor of mind and body.

And Maté the South American beverage plant praised by scientists, doctors, government officials and others as a great muscle strengthener and invigorator, overcoming weakness and giving force and endurance to the body. "Means of obtaining the maximum force and energy, and can only be compared to a reservoir of vitality," said one doctor.

What A Mixture! (the two scientifically put together), for those whose glands may need re-viving—whose muscles and nerve forces need strengthening.

Yea! What a harmonizing combination for old age sequels. Its potent parts most invigorating, energizing and revitalizing. A drink of DOUBLE DUTY will give old folks a thrill of strength and vigor of by-gone days.

Called DOUBLE DUTY because fortified with each other's merit, glandular substances and Yerba Maté.

Double Duty is not meant for a medicine nor a cure for any disease, but don't know of any two ele-ments better to associate together than Maté as a quick reviving tonic, and Glands as body vitalizers.

The Chemist wrestled hard for palatability to overcome all unpleasant ingredient taste.

Double Duty Non-Alcoholic Cordial, tastes good, mighty good. You'd like it if it was just a drink, but you will doubly like it for its pleasing invigoration, its rapid relief from fatigue and weariness and for all-around health help.

Just One tells its own story. Take a DOUBLE DUTY and get a thrill of a more youthful feeling.

Formulated and Made Only By  
**MASON LABORATORY**  
Research and Creative Work WENONAH, NEW JERSEY

**WHISPERING PINES**  
Bottled Pine Forest Fragrance

Essence of Evergreen Pine Tree Needles and Associated Aromatics

Used as a massage or skin rub with or without bath, gives tone to nerve endings, relieves muscle fatigue and refreshes bodily strength. Application to sore muscles, stiffen joints, strains etc.

Ideal for the sick chamber, to bathe ailing bodies, cool feverish skin, relieve itching, sooth painful muscles, joints and swellings, anoint aching head, overcome unpleasant odor of body and diffuse refreshing piney scent in the sick room.

Delightful for convalescents and delicate folk with weak muscles, who tire easily and overgo their strength. Most refreshing, strength-ening and soothing, thrill of good feeling experienced after its use and there clings to the skin delicate fra-grance of the pine forest so pleasing and healthful.

In all, there is pleasurable use for fragrant WHISPERING PINES for everybody. Try it today. If dealer cannot supply, enclose \$1.00, a bottle will be sent at once prepaid by parcel post.

**MASON LABORATORY**  
WENONAH -- NEW JERSEY

**Real Joy in Living is Possible**  
ONLY WHEN THE  
**Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Bowels**  
are Working Properly

Constipation, Torpid Liver and Sluggish Bowels cause Nervousness, Biliousness, Ennui, Nausea, Headache, Dizziness, Indigestion, Colds, Sallow Complexion, Pimples and many other ailments. These are frequently mere forerunners, danger signals, of serious diseases.

**PEP LAX INS**

are small wafers that taste like candy; that they are a gentle, easy and most efficient laxative has been testified to by many prominent citizens of Gloucester County, whose names will be furnished if desired.

Peplaxins contain No Belladonna or Strychnine to irritate the nerves; No Aloes to cause piles; No Croton Oil to inflame the bowels; No Calomel or other mineral product to injure the bones or teeth; and

**No Narcotic or Habit-forming Drug**

are of vegetable and harmless ingredients; and give thorough relief by unpleasant or injurious after-effect. Taken immediately before going to bed.

**LOVE THE CAUSE OF TROUBLE**  
and do not disturb you before morning.

during the day, relief should follow in five or six hours.

DISTRIBUTED AND GUARANTEED BY  
**Laboratory Co., Wenonah, N. J.**  
All Druggists, 10c a box..



# Fun Facts: Soft Drinks, Soap and Medicine

In 1925, Pan American Products Corporation constructed a 2-story, 6,000-square-foot bottling plant on West Ave. near Cedar St. **The plant was built to bottle Matteen, a new soft drink formulated by Wenonah's Dr. Hamilton T. Mason.** The plant was capable of bottling 1,000 cases per day.

The bottling plant closed less than 3 years after opening.

The building that housed the bottling plant was later used by the New Jersey Tex Company to manufacture cleaning products and Clark & Clark to manufacture pharmaceutical products. It became known to many as the "pill factory."

The pill factory was ravaged by fires in 1969 and 1971.



**Announcement**

THE NEW PLANT OF THE

**Pan American Products Corp.**

AT WENONAH, N. J.

Is Now Producing The New South American Drink

**MATTEEN**

*From the Formulae of Dr. Hamilton T. Mason Perfected In 1925*

After Six Years of Experiments With the Herb "Yerba Mate" Authorities Say:

**"The Most Invigorating Beverage Imaginable"**

**"Gives Great Capacity To Undergo Fatigue"**

Sold at Stores and Fountains

Beware of Similar Names

WHY DON'T YOU

Try

Thousands of Women Use It

As a Dependable Cleaner

For All Purposes

CONSULT YOUR GROCER

NEW JERSEY TEX COMPANY

WENONAH, NEW JERSEY

Date.....

**CLARK & CLARK**  
Wenonah, N. J.

Gentlemen:

Please ship me the following:

**CLARKOTABS Improved**  
With **\*PROFETAMINE PHOSPHATE**  
\* (Amphetamine PO<sub>4</sub>)

Sets of 3000 Tabs. i.e., 1M Grey No. 1, 1M White No. 2, 1M Pink No. 3 @ \$20.00 per set

Sets of 3000 Tabs. i.e., 1M Green No. 1, 1M Blue No. 2, 1M Yellow No. 3 @ \$20.00 per set

Sets of 300 Tabs. i.e., 1C Grey, 1C White, 1C Pink @ \$3.00 per set

Sets of 300 Tabs. i.e., 1C Green, 1C Blue, 1C Yellow @ \$3.00 per set

so send me the following Profeta-  
ne Phosphate Tabs. 10 Mg. White,  
k or Yellow @ \$7.75 per M, or  
Mgm. @ \$6.25 per M, same colors.

Quantity .....

10 Mgm. Double Scored to facilitate Dosage

All Prices F.O.B. Wenonah, N. J.

Address.....

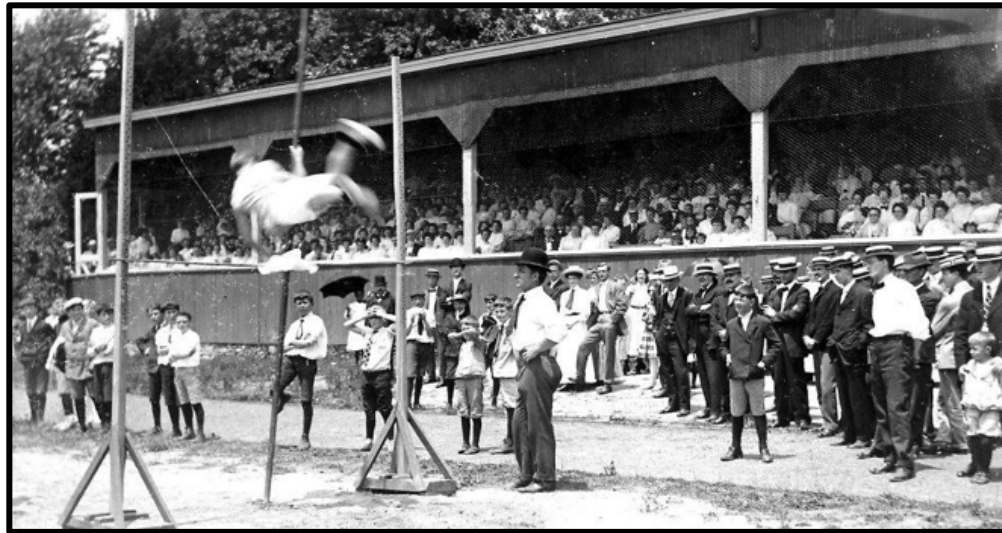
City.....Zone.....State.....

M. Reg. & Pat. App. For Amphetamine Phosphate



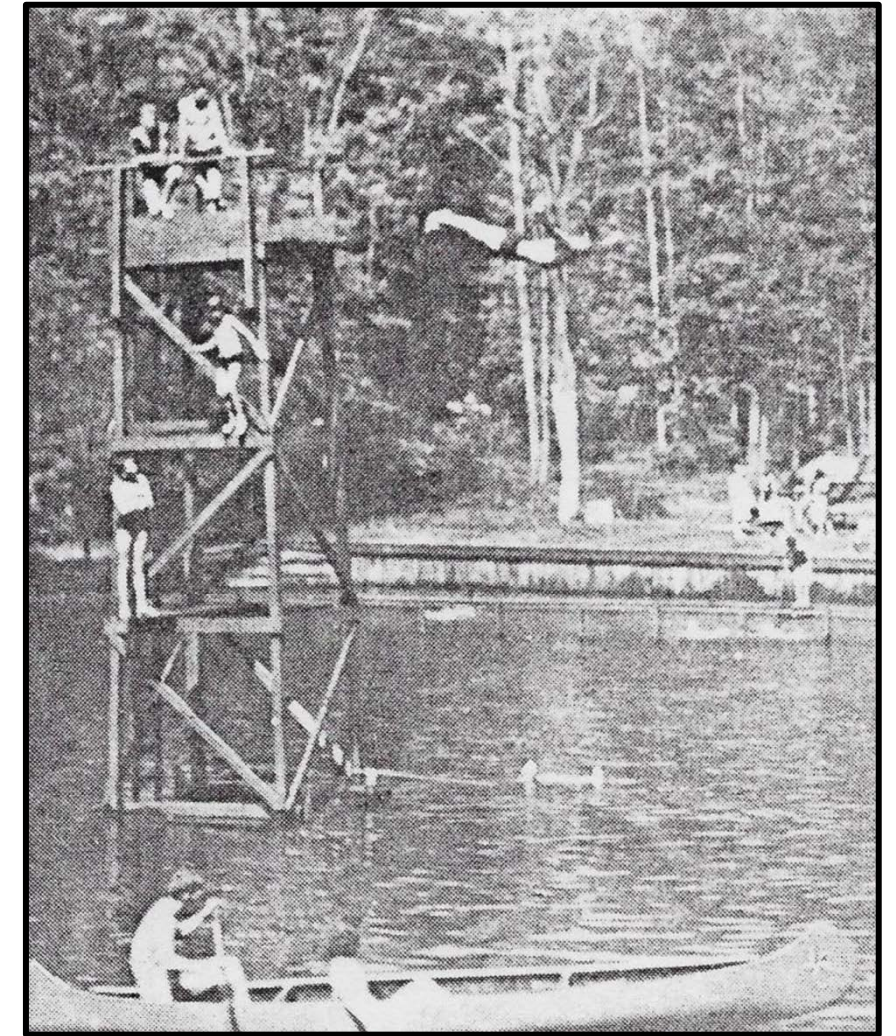
## Fun Facts: Did You Know?

- Once there was a grandstand that could seat 500 spectators at Cedar Field.
- A trowel used at the 1865 cornerstone-setting ceremony for the Methodist Episcopal Church (northeast corner of Clinton Ave. and Willow St.) is displayed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.
- **Belford G. Royal, who lived at 500 E. Mantua Ave., was part of a team that invented the disc record.**
- More than 60 trains passed through Wenonah each day in the late 1890's.



Grandstand at Cedar Field

- The Memorial Presbyterian Church is the only structure in Wenonah on the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places.
- The first industry in Wenonah was a factory that canned 250,000 pounds of tomatoes per year in the 1880's.
- In 1890, the price of lots averaged about \$200.
- Before Wenonah, the land here consisted of sweet potato farms.
- **Wenonah Lake once had a diving tower.**



Diving Tower at Wenonah Lake



Fun Facts: Past Businesses

Wenonah has been the home of numerous businesses:

- Bakery

■ Cannery

■ Meat Markets

■ Coffee Shops

■ Pharmacies

■ Gas Station

■ Dry Cleaner

■ Flower Shop

■ Hobby Shop

■ Tea Room

■ Barber Shop

■ Clothing Store
- Car Service Shop

■ Bottling Plant

■ Skating Rink

■ Shoe Store

■ Grocery Stores

■ Meat Markets

■ Hardware Stores

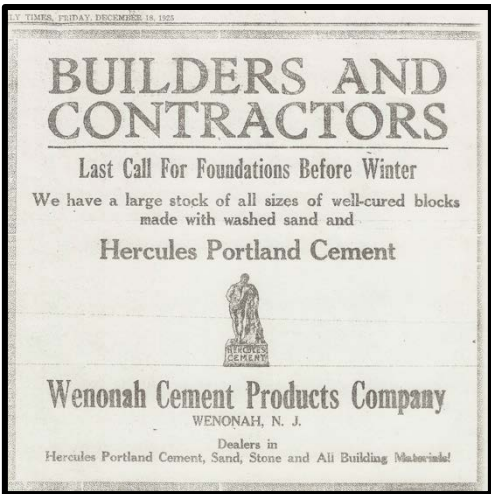
■ Delicatessens

■ Music Studio

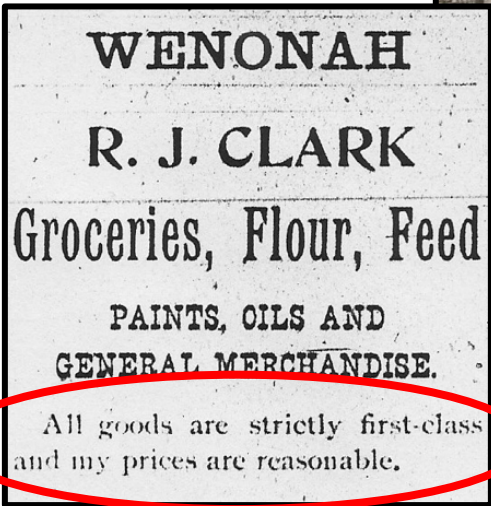
■ Restaurants

■ Ice Cream Parlor

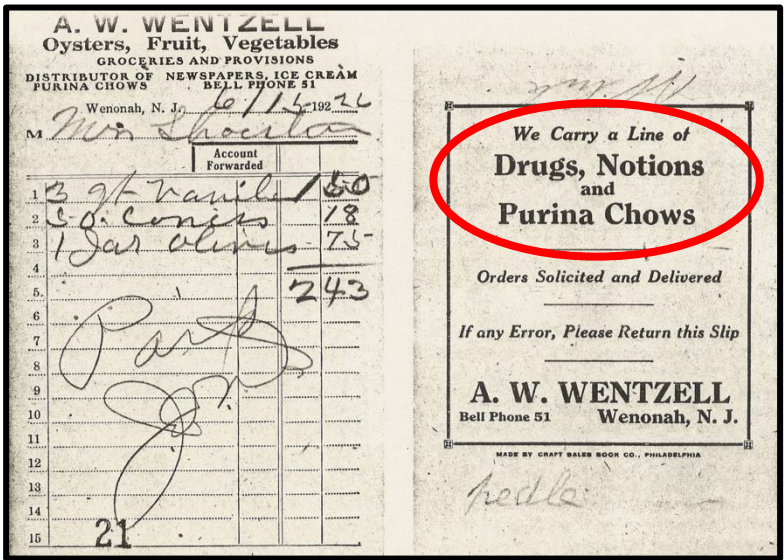
■ Greenhouses



S. West Ave.



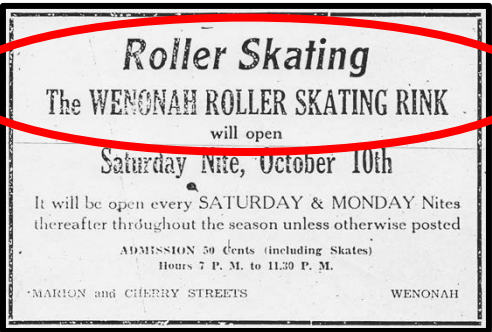
3 E. Mantua Ave.



7 & 9 W. Mantua Ave.



W. Mantua Ave.



Marion Ave. at Cherry St.



3 E. Mantua Ave.



101 S. Marion Ave.



## The End

This concludes the story walk. The Wenonah Historical Society hopes you enjoyed reading the fun facts about Wenonah and learned a bit about the history of our town. Perhaps, you even gleaned a trivia question from the fun facts to test the knowledge of a neighbor or friend.

## Coming in June ... “July 4<sup>th</sup> in Wenonah”

Ask anybody what their favorite day of the year is in Wenonah. Chances are the answer will be “July 4<sup>th</sup>.” It’s a special day in a special town. In June, the Wenonah Historical Society will tell a story about the town’s Independence Day celebrations, beginning with the very first celebration in 1872.

