

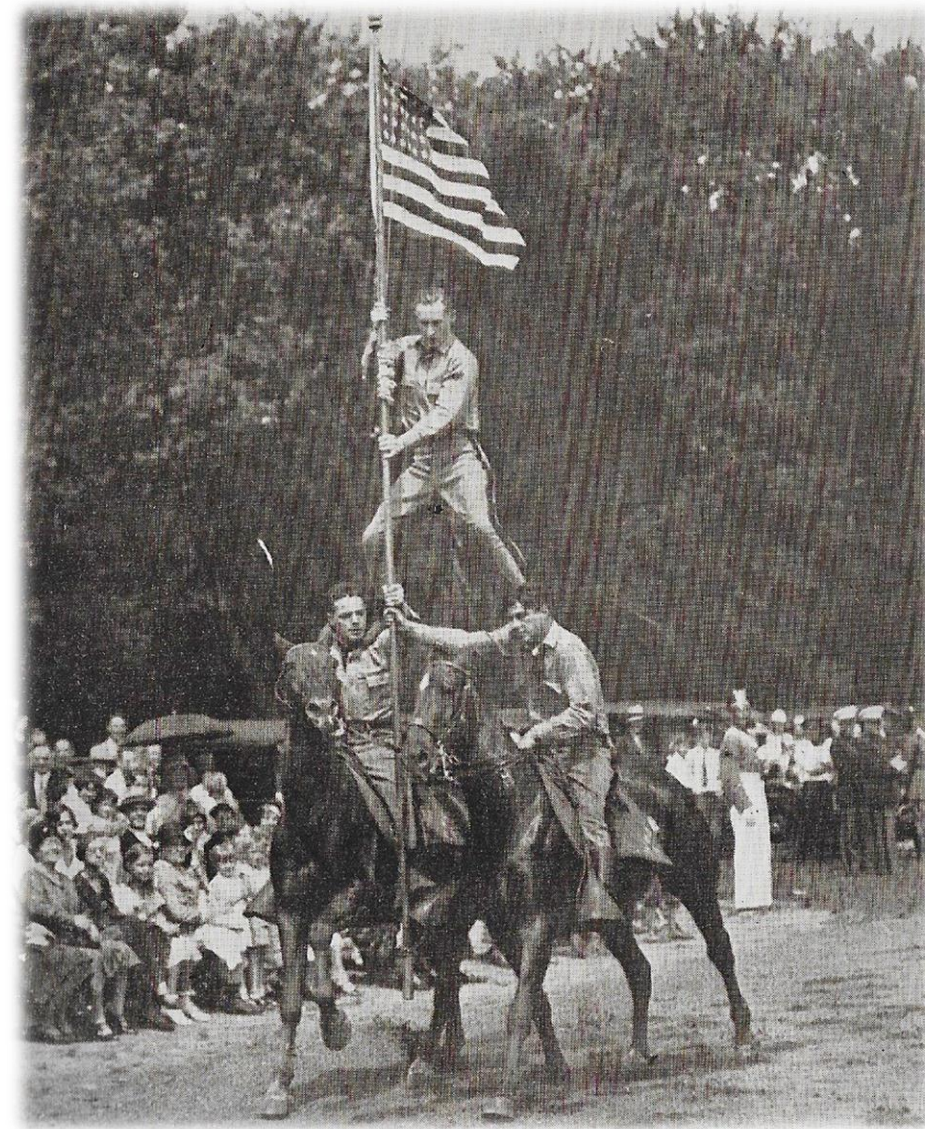
**The Wenonah Historical Society  
is pleased to participate again in StoryWalk.®**

**Our story is “The Wenonah Military Academy.”**

Our story begins at the turn of the century. The 150-room hotel on Clinton Ave. across from the park remained empty since closing in 1899. The town was quiet despite growing to more than 500 residents. Missing were the social festivities of the Wenonah Inn and the attention it brought to our town.

A new focus was about to re-energize Wenonah and put the town “on the map,” not only regionally and nationally, but internationally. Our story is about this new focus – the Wenonah Military Academy.

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





## **From Wenonah Inn to Wenonah Military Academy**

The Wenonah Inn on Clinton Ave. across from the park closed in 1899. The magnificent building, which accommodated 150 guests, stood vacant.

While riding through Wenonah, Captain John R. Jones, from the South Jersey Institute in Bridgeton, saw the closed hotel and deemed the site perfect for a military school. The owner of the hotel, Stephen Greene, one of Wenonah's founding fathers, agreed with Jones and work started on a new military school – the Wenonah Military Academy.

Rooms that had accommodated hotel guests 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.



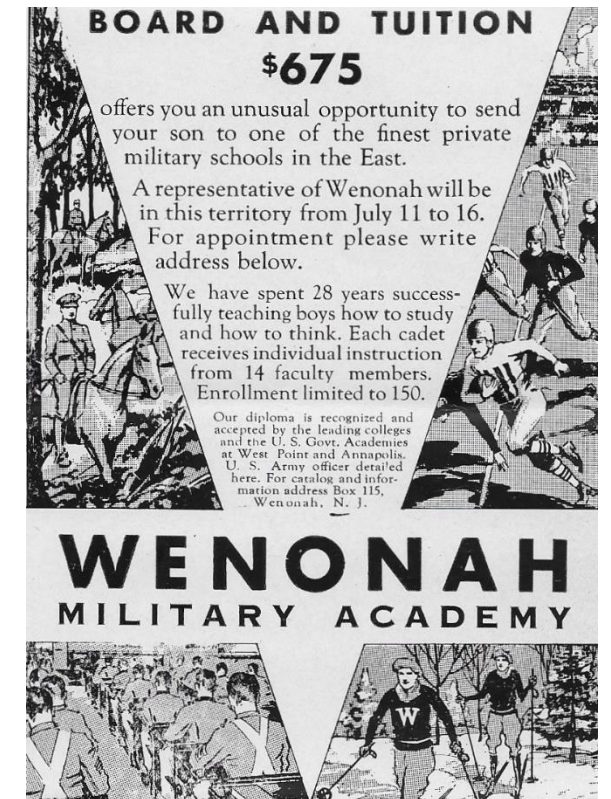
Wenonah Military Academy

The Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors on September 20, 1904. Formation of moral character, teaching respect for authority, and adherence to fundamentals of sound academic and business education were its guiding principles.

The academy immediately became the center of social activity in Wenonah. In

the first month it opened, the academy hosted the following:

- Dance for 200 people
- Skating carnival on Wenonah Lake (formerly known as Warner's Lake) with hundreds of glowing lanterns
- Minstrel show
- House party
- Football games



Academy Advertisement



## Wenonah Historical Society

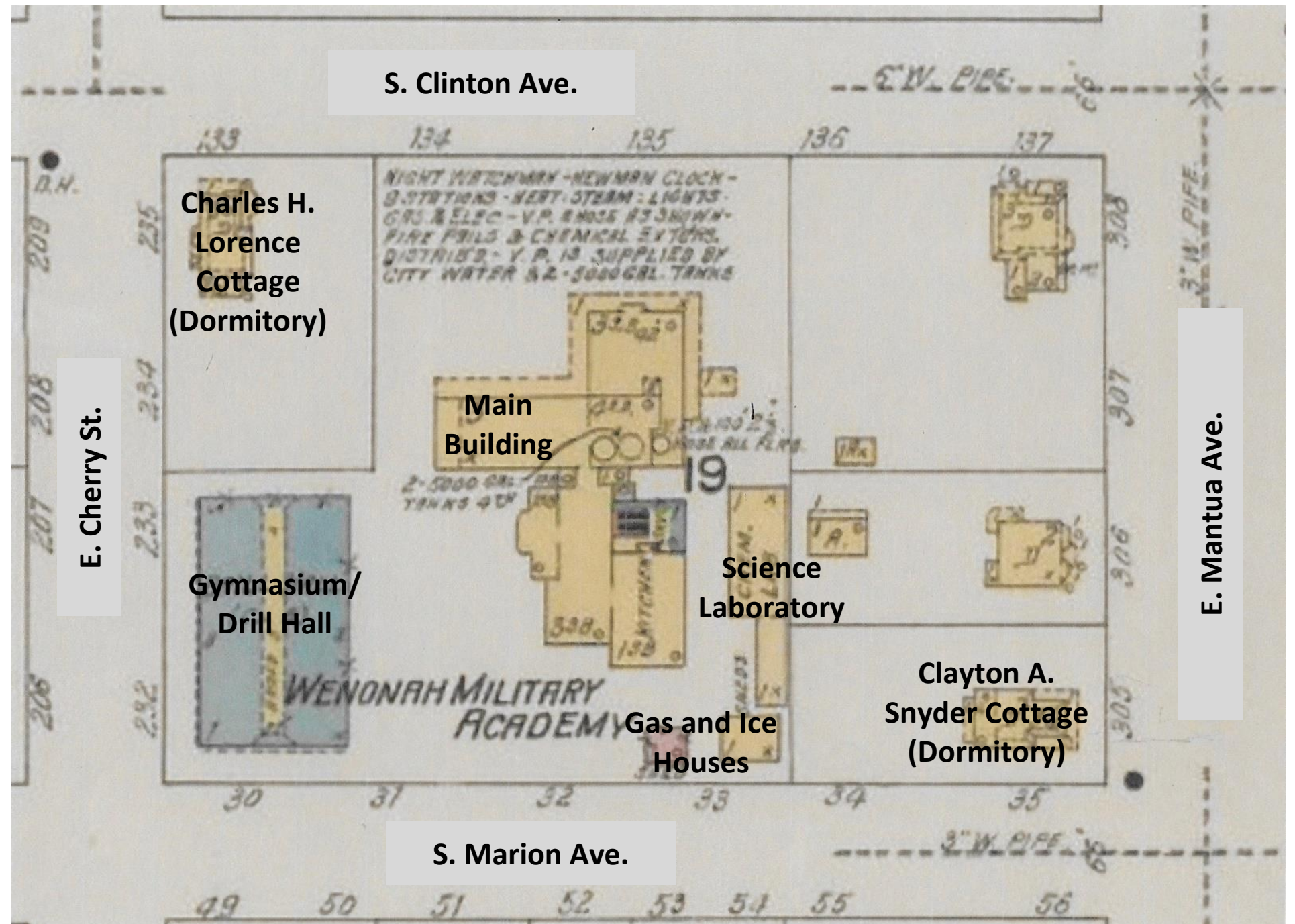
# Campus Layout

The Wenonah Military Academy campus was located in the block bounded by Clinton, Mantua and Marion Aves. and Cherry St.

Facilities included:

- Main building (previously the Wenonah Inn)
- Gymnasium/drill hall
- Science laboratory
- Gas house
- Ice house
- 2 houses that served as dormitories (Charles H. Lorence Cottage and Clayton A. Snyder Cottage)

The academy also had stables for horses and 2 athletic fields. One field was Stephen Greene's 5-acre field at Clinton and Cedar which included a 500-seat grandstand. The field was used for football, baseball, and track and field. The second field was a 12-acre field on Glassboro Rd., approximately 0.5 mile east of the campus. This field was used for polo and lacrosse.



Campus of Wenonah Military Academy



# Aerial View of the Wenonah Military Academy



Presbyterian Church

Clayton A. Snyder  
Cottage (Dormitory)

E. Mantua Ave.

Wenonah Park

E. Cherry St.

S. East Ave.

Railroad Tracks

Main Building

Gymnasium/Drill Hall

Charles H. Lorence Cottage  
(Dormitory)

S. Clinton Ave.

Looking Northeast with the Main Building of Wenonah Military Academy in the Center



## Wenonah Historical Society

# Main Building

Wenonah Military Academy's main building was the 3-story structure that was previously the Wenonah Inn. The building included:

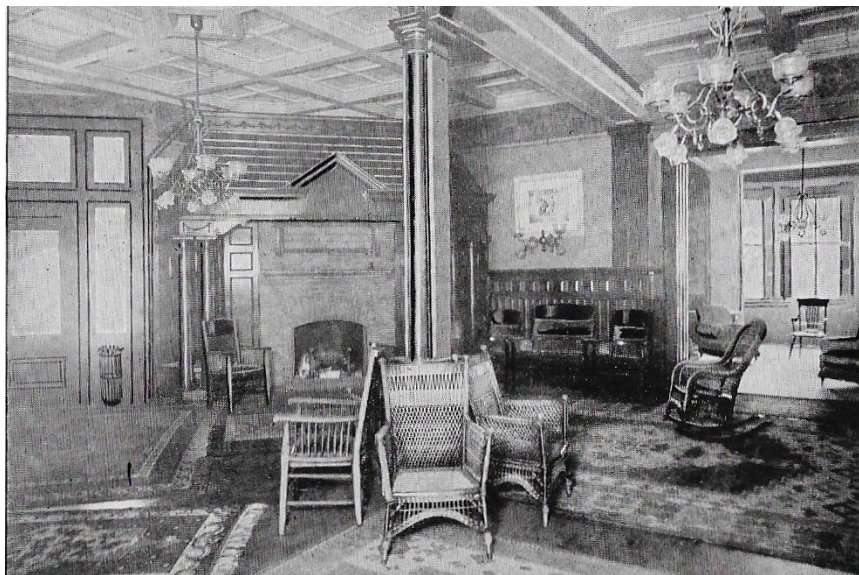
- Lobby
- Dining hall
- Kitchen and bakery
- Library
- Reading room
- Assembly rooms
- Classrooms
- Dormitory rooms
- Infirmary



Dining Hall



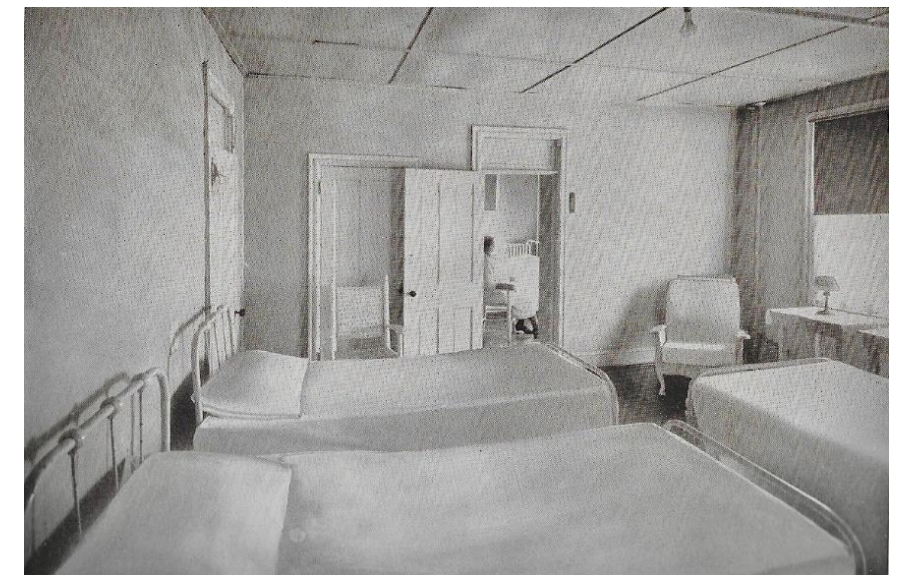
Assembly Room



Lobby



Reading Room



Infirmary

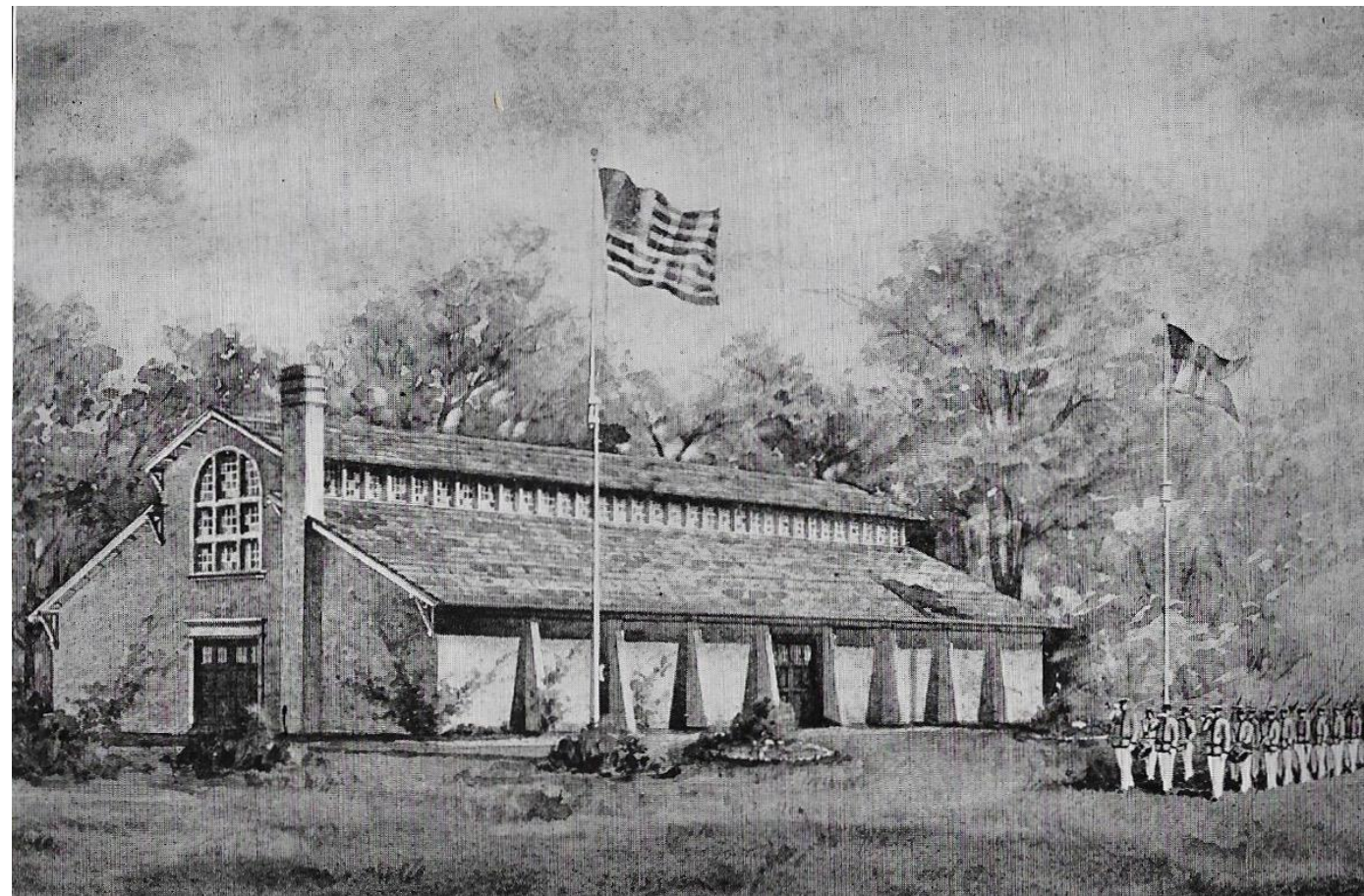


## **Gymnasium/Drill Hall**

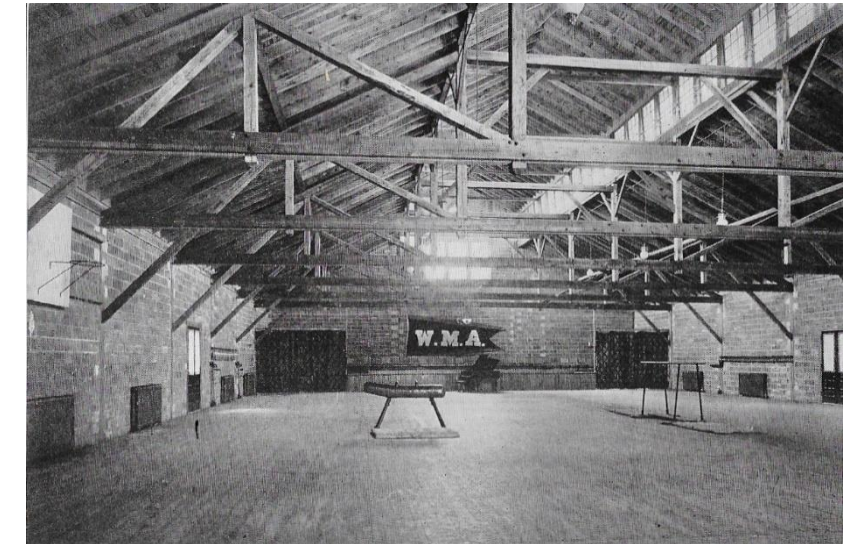
The gymnasium/drill hall was located on the southeast corner of the academy campus, near Marion Ave. and Cherry St. Considered the largest gymnasium at any school in NJ, it was used for numerous purposes, including:

- Basketball
- Military drills
- Gymnastic exercises
- Commencement
- Lectures
- Social events

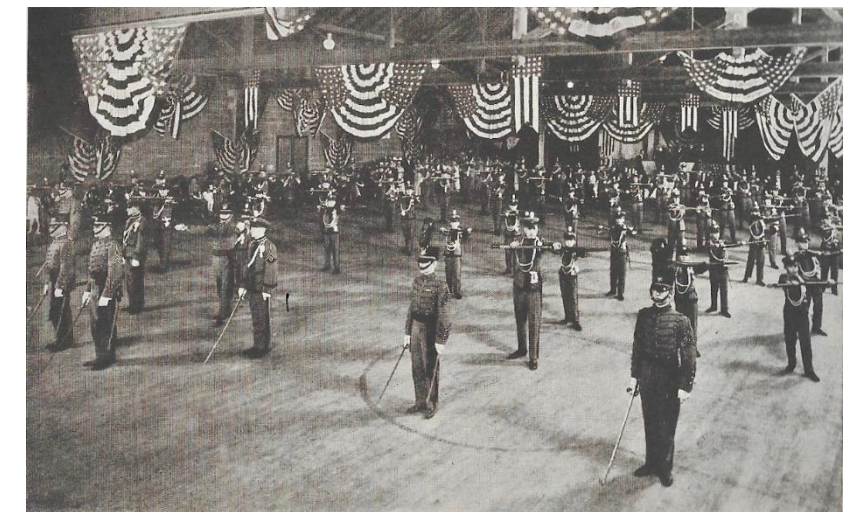
Musical events, theatre productions, and formal and informal dances were also held in the building. An annual mid-year dance attracted hundreds of people, with local women and girls vying for invitations. More than 500 guests attended the event in some years.



Rendering of Exterior of Gymnasium/Drill Hall



Interior of Gymnasium/Drill Hall



Military Drills in Gymnasium/Drill Hall



# **Dormitories**

Rooms for the Wenonah Military Academy students were available at the following 3 locations:

- Juniors lived in the Clayton A. Snyder Cottage at the corner of Mantua and Marion Aves.
- Seniors lived in the Charles H. Lorence Cottage at the corner of Clinton Ave. and Cherry St.
- Remaining students lived in the main building, which could accommodate 120.

At least 1 faculty member lived with the cadets on each floor of the 3 dormitories.



**Student Room**



**Clayton A. Snyder Cottage**



**Charles H. Lorence Cottage**



## Wenonah Historical Society

# Education

The Wenonah Military 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 primarily came from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Ohio, 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.



Classroom

Faculty at the academy were the finest, selected from the best schools based on experience, character, and dedication to teaching. Their salaries were the highest in the nation for teachers at high schools and prep schools

and equal to what college professors were paid at large public universities.

The academy often had a waiting list for admission. Peak enrollment was nearly 150 students. The largest graduating class was 36 students.

Cadet days were very structured, often beginning with reveille at 6:15 AM and ending with taps at 9:30 PM. The first class each day could start with a 25-word spelling test. Specific time periods were defined for meals, drills, athletics and studying.



Faculty



## Wenonah Historical Society

# Athletics

Athletics were an important part of a cadet's life. The academy offered opportunities to participate in most sports, including:

- Football
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Track and field
- Polo
- Tennis
- Golf
- Archery

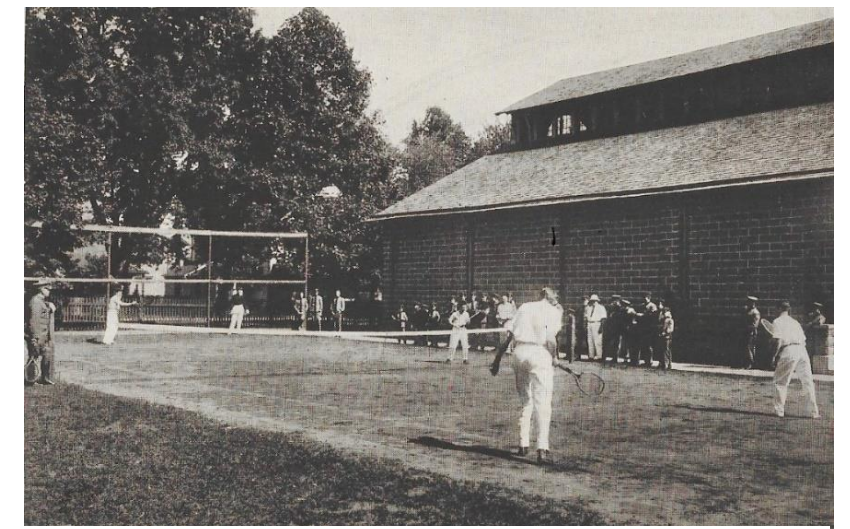
Athletic teams at the Wenonah Military Academy were successful in competing against high schools and the best prep schools and college freshman teams on the east coast.

In 1912, the football, baseball and basketball teams were all undefeated. In 1924, the polo team defeated a championship freshman team from West Point.

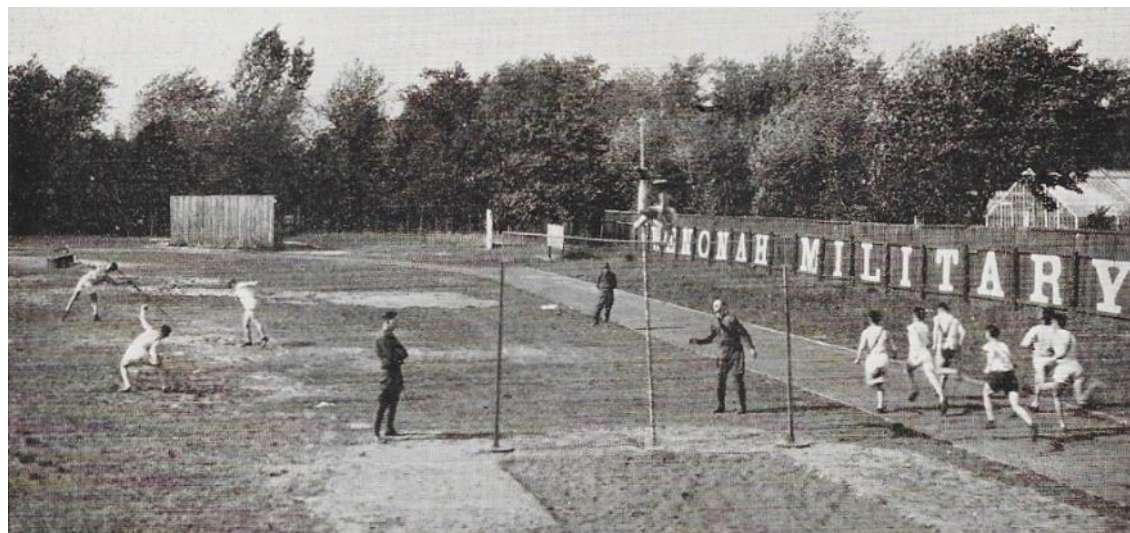
Because of that victory, and its reputation for educational excellence and military discipline, the Wenonah Military Academy became known as "The West Point of New Jersey."



Baseball at Cedar Field



Tennis at Main Campus



Track and Field at Cedar Field



Archery at Cedar Field



Polo at Cedar Field

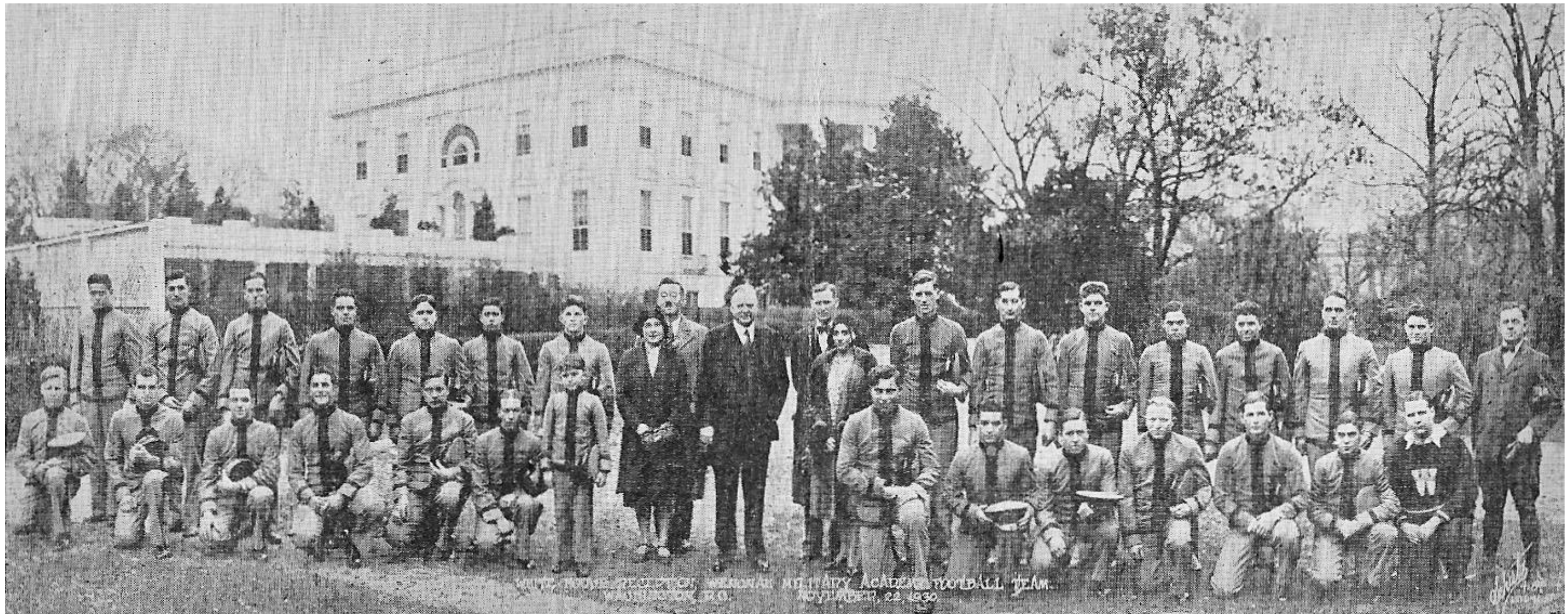


# Football and President Herbert Hoover

The football team was the most successful sports team at the Wenonah Military Academy. In 1911, the team was undefeated, outscoring its opponents by a margin of 235 to 6. Between 1915-1924 the team compiled a 9-year

Oct. 7.—Bordentown High School.....	0,	Wenonah M. A.....	23
Oct. 14.—Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.....	0,	Wenonah M. A.....	21
Oct. 28.—Radnor High School.....	6,	Wenonah M. A.....	90
Nov. 7.—Wilmington High School.....	0,	Wenonah M. A.....	70
Nov. 11.—St. John's Academy.....	0,	Wenonah M. A.....	19
Nov. 18.—Mays Landing High School.....	0,	Wenonah M. A.....	12
	6		235

winning streak at home. In 1 season during the streak, the opposing teams did not score at all. The 1930 team was undefeated and untied, and not scored on until the season's final game. Because of that remarkable season, the football team received an invitation to visit President Herbert Hoover at the White House.



Wenonah Military Academy Football Team and President Herbert Hoover



## **Lighthearted Competition**

While competition in the major sports was intense, some activities were more fun than competitive, and might include participants from town. Examples include 3-legged races at Cedar Field in the summer and ice polo at Wenonah Lake in the winter.

Another was pushball, a game played on the football field in which 2 teams tried to maneuver an extremely large ball under or over the opposing team's goal. When the first snow fell in Wenonah, teams would spontaneously assemble at Cedar Field for a game of pushball.



**Pushball at Cedar Field**



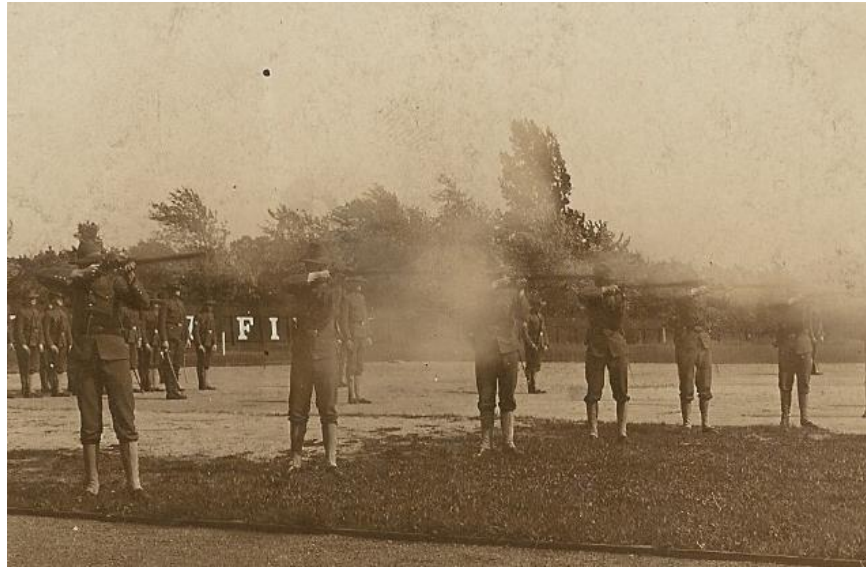
**3-Legged Race at Cedar Field**



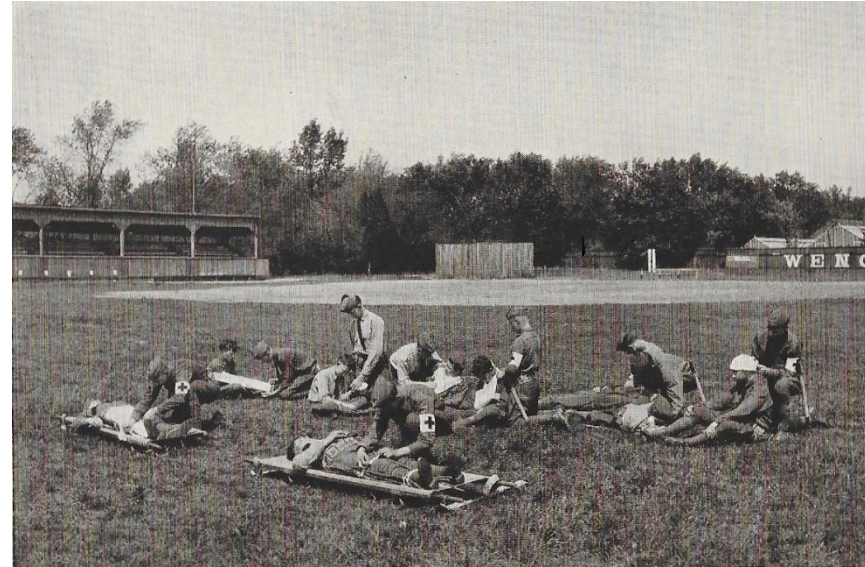
**Ice Polo at Wenonah Lake**



# **Cadets about Town**



**Target Practice at Cedar Field**



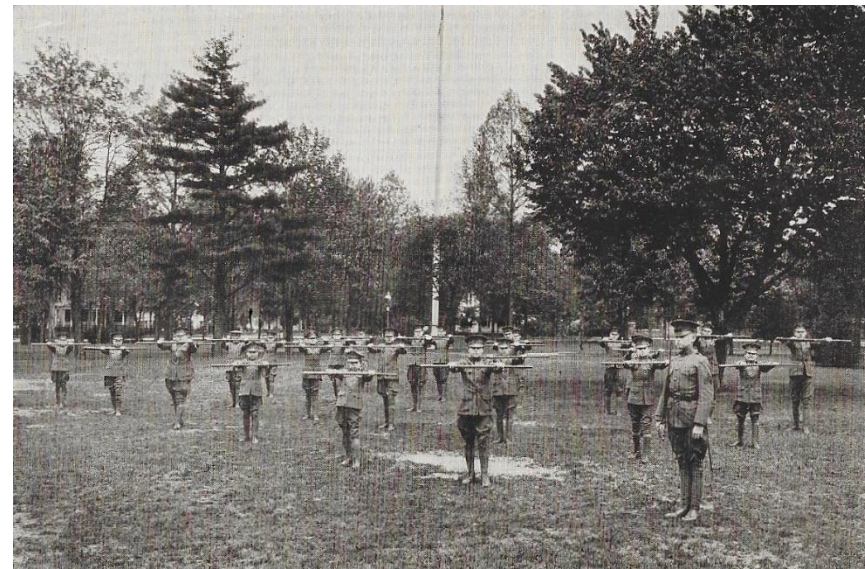
**First Aid Class at Cedar Field**



**On Leave, Walking through Wenonah Park**



**Visiting a Neighbor on Clinton Ave.**



**Drills in Wenonah Park**

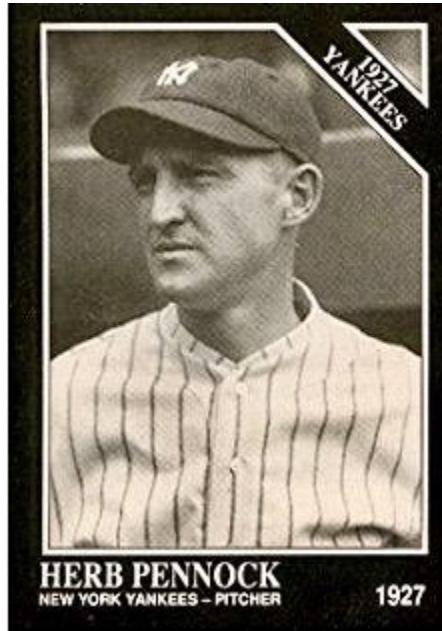


**Marching Across Wenonah Lake**



## Two Notable Cadets

### Herbert J. Pennock

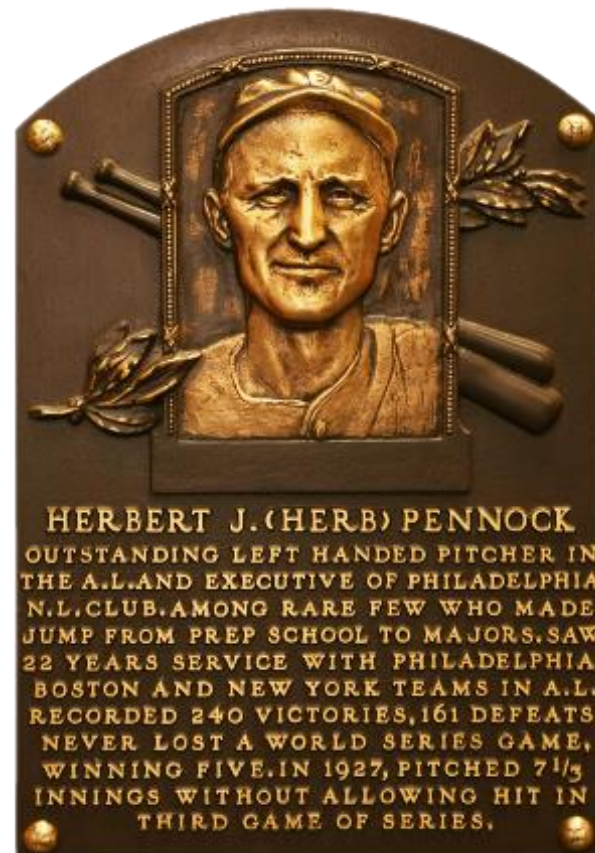


Herbert J. (Herb) Pennock was born February 10, 1894, in Kennett Square, PA. He excelled in baseball, basketball, and track and field at the Wenonah Military Academy.

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

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



Hall of Fame Plaque

Fame in 1948. His hall of fame plaque in Cooperstown, NY notes the jump from prep school (Wenonah Military Academy) to the majors.

### Arthur J. HOLETON



Arthur J. HOLETON  
(Class of 1912)

Arthur J. HOLETON graduated from the Wenonah Military Academy in 1912. After graduation, he earned a medical degree and joined the US Medical Corps as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. HOLETON served in World War I but tragically was killed just after the war ended while boarding a train in France. His funeral, which was held at the Wenonah Military Academy, was attended by 2,000 people.

HOLETON is buried in Wenonah Cemetery.

The Wenonah Post of the American Legion was named in honor of Arthur J. HOLETON.



# Artifacts from Wenonah Military Academy in Wenonah Historical Society Museum



Uniforms



Belt and Buckle



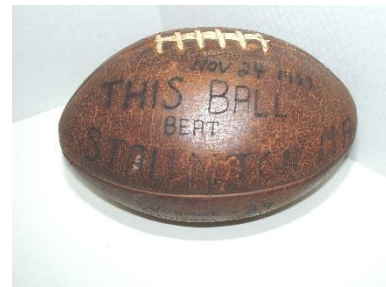
Utensils



Banner



Ring



Sports Items



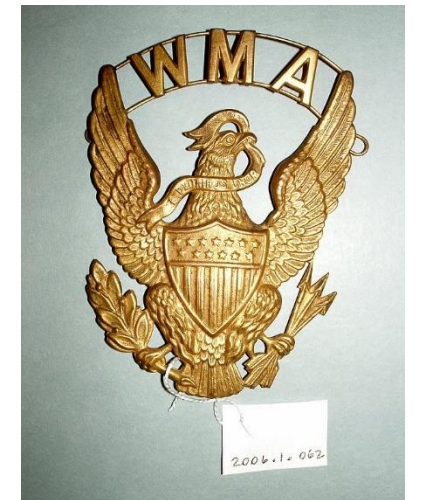
Sword



Trophies



Hats



Pins



## **Remembering the Wenonah Military Academy**

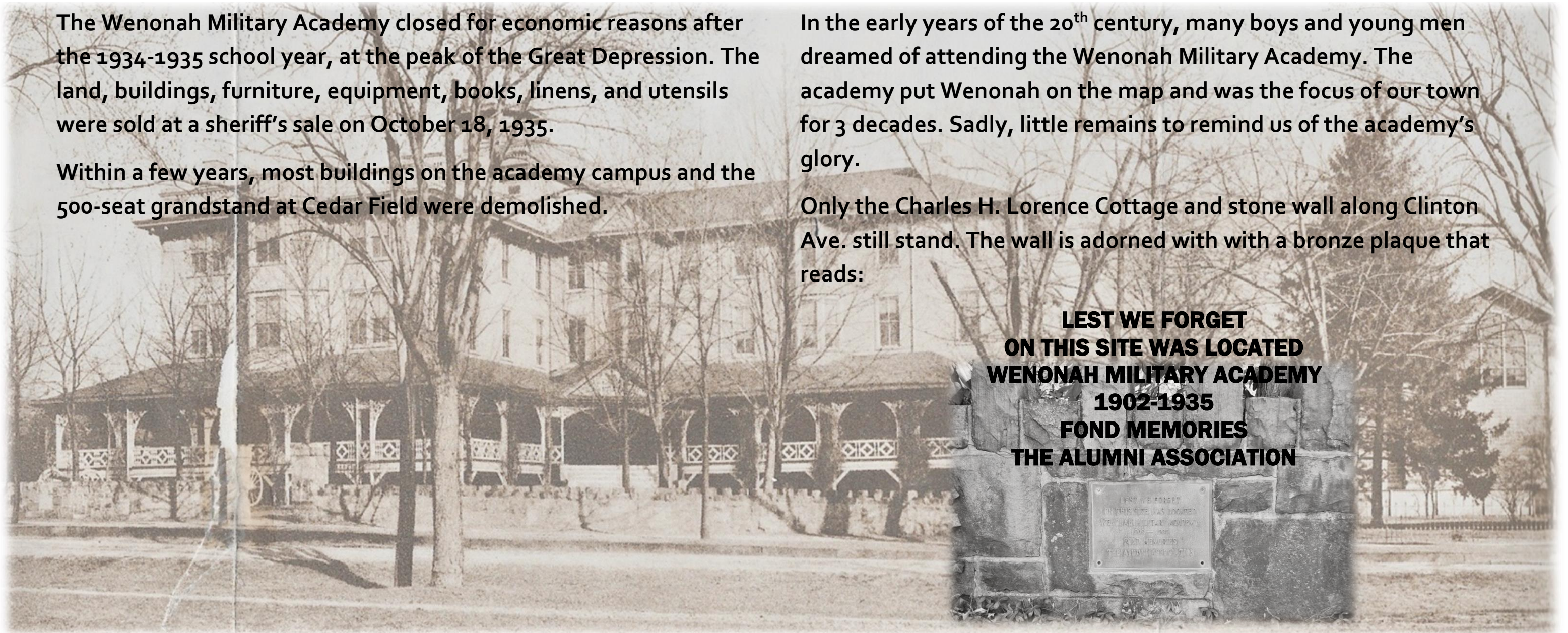
The Wenonah Military Academy closed for economic reasons after the 1934-1935 school year, at the peak of the Great Depression. The land, buildings, furniture, equipment, books, linens, and utensils were sold at a sheriff's sale on October 18, 1935.

Within a few years, most buildings on the academy campus and the 500-seat grandstand at Cedar Field were demolished.

In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many boys and young men dreamed of attending the Wenonah Military Academy. The academy put Wenonah on the map and was the focus of our town for 3 decades. Sadly, little remains to remind us of the academy's glory.

Only the Charles H. Lorence Cottage and stone wall along Clinton Ave. still stand. The wall is adorned with with a bronze plaque that reads:

**LEST WE FORGET  
ON THIS SITE WAS LOCATED  
WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY  
1902-1935  
FOND MEMORIES  
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



---

*This concludes the story walk.*

*We hope you have enjoyed reading about the Wenonah Military Academy and the fascinating history of Wenonah.*