

# WENONAH

## Historical Society Newsletter



October 2000  
Published by the  
Historical Society of  
Wenonah, NJ

# WHAT GOES BUMP IN THE NIGHT IN YOUR HOUSE?

We just couldn't resist the combination of Halloween and Friday the 13th to offer a program to discuss, shall we say, "unusual happenings" in our local historic homes. A few of our town "frequent haunters" will be present to tell you about the popular lore of otherworldly activities in their homes, and we

invite everyone to share their own personal experiences. Let's hear about all those sounds in the attic that you logically dismiss but deep-down know that something else is going on while you're sleeping!

This is the meeting to bring the kids and all your friends to!

## WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - OCTOBER 1900

Compiled by Milton Webb

F.I. Savage and William Holt took a trolley ride to New Castle, Delaware yesterday.

There was plenty of amusement yesterday at the meeting of the Republican Club. After listening to the able presentation of the Law and Order League of the county, each member present had to tell why he was of such a political faith under penalty of a fine. There was some head scratching to avoid such a fine.

Farmers about here have the fall plowing nearly all done and most of the corn husked. Wheat has sprouted in several sections.

Manager Lewis of the Inn was down yesterday and formally closed the well-known hostelry for the season. It will open next year about June first.

F.J. Bossler was in the auto parade at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia on Friday.

"Zella," a clever presentation of a gypsy encampment will be given in Noblitt's Hall Saturday evening under the auspices of the Daisy Club. Adult tickets 25 cents, children 15 cents.

Constable Drummer stopped an auto, which was going through town after dark last night and made the driver "light up."

Flowers which have beautified so many of our lawns all summer are being taken indoors.

The formal opening of the Free Public Library took place last evening. The affair was highly patronized by our citizens who appreciated the efforts of the ladies and gentlemen who made such a convenience possible for our young folks that they might have the proper kind of reading instead of the lower class literature so easy to get nowadays.

Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson went through here on the Cape May express for Millville this morning.

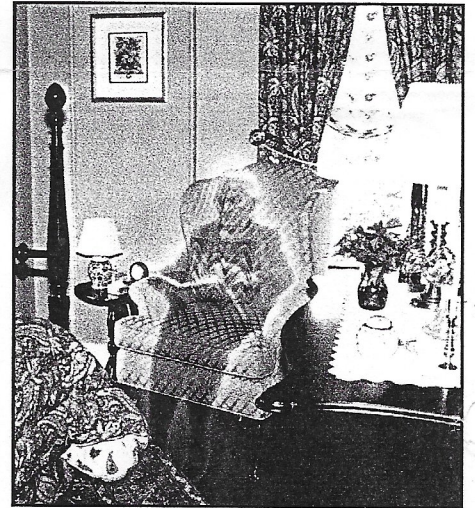
A suspect was an inmate of the lockup last night. He was found acting suspiciously about town. Officer Drummer put him in for the safety of the town.

There were not many out at the depot to see the Prohibitionist's special train go through this morning.

There is to be a cineograph exhibit at Noblitt's Hall tonight.

A number of our people will go to Washington Park tomorrow to see William Jennings Bryant.

From the Woodbury Daily Times - Woodbury, New Jersey



## Welcome to Our New Newsletter

We hope you find it to be both informative and interesting. Yes... this first issue is sparse, but we would like to incorporate member contributions and much more material of historical significance in future issues. If you have ideas for articles or would like to submit something for publication, send them to Curt Kapus - PO Box 32 - Wenonah, NJ 08090. Thank you and see you at Friday's meeting!

### In Memory of KATHRYN WENONAH WAGNER KNIGHT 1908-2000

We will surely miss you. You were the personification of the good things that we possess in our wonderful town. Your knowledge and association with the Wenonah Military Academy, Camp Wenonah, and the past events of our town were a valuable source of historic information. We were honored to have had you as a founder and member of the Wenonah Historic Society.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE



# WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, October 13th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center

## Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

There have been many new additions to our Wenonah community since our last meeting in the summer, and we invite everyone—both young and “experienced”—to attend and see what our local historical society is up to. We have a great deal planned for the coming year; your participation can help make it all a success!

Ralph & Rachel Knisell  
100 West Mantua Ave.  
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH  
Historical Society  
Newsletter Committee  
PO Box 32  
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



# WENONAH

## Historical Society Membership Form · 2000-2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

eMail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting. Thank you!

**Join today and enjoy the benefits of getting to really know your town!**

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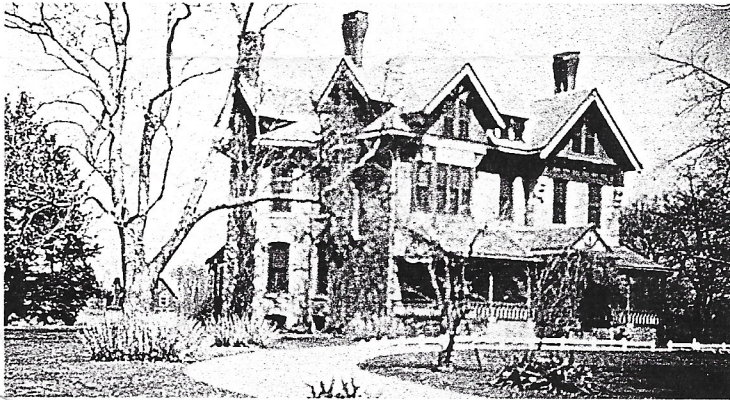
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## Historical Society Newsletter



November 2000  
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## THE LEGACY OF THOMAS SYNNOTT



For our November meeting, Karen Bruner of Rowan University will be speaking about the life of one of Wenonah's well-known residents of the last century, Thomas Whitney Synnott. Her presentation will cover the legacy left after his death in 1941, including a

*Thomas Synnott's first "Hollybush" at the corner of North Marion and East Mantua Avenues in Wenonah as it stood mid-century.*

large collection of business and personal letters, manuscripts, selected documents, and the process of making Rowan University Library's Stewart Room collection ready for patron use. Synnott played an important role in the foundation of the State Normal School for Teachers in Glassboro, eventually to be known as Rowan University, along with being one of Wenonah's founding residents.

## WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1900

Compiled by Milton Webb

A masquerade ball was held in Noblit'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 Noblit'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.

**McKINLEY AND ROOSEVELT CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE TO CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF STATE—A REPUBLICAN LAND SLIDE, Wenonah: McKinley 89, Bryan 21.**

If the children in town had made half the noise the men did last night there would have been trouble for the juveniles surely.

**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 Noblit's Hall on Saturday evening. —Joseph Noblit, 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 M.E. 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. Bailly, Stephan 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 be probably disbanded.

Wanamaker's deliver goods here now on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

**YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE**



# **WENONAH Historical Society**

**Friday, November 10th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center**

**Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!**

Our last meeting in October was a huge success with many, many new faces. We hope to continue this tradition and that everyone who came out for last month's meeting will join us this month, too. We have an interesting presentation planned, and Mary Ready will be our hostess providing victuals and beverages.

Ralph & Rachel Knissell  
100 W. Mantua Ave.  
Wenonah, NJ 08090



**WENONAH**  
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December 2000  
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of Wenonah, NJ

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Annual Holiday Party is upon us again and will be held at the regular meeting time of 7:30 on Friday, December 8th. "Chef Bud" will be catering for us—as he did last year—with ample food! A Wenonah Historical Society tradition, the holiday event is usually well attended, so it is advised that you contact Jane Ramsay at 468-5593 as soon as possible to reserve your seats. The cost will be the same as last year, \$12 per person, and we request that everyone attending please bring

an unwrapped "door prize" for the drawing (it's always nice if everyone present receives a gift). We'd also like to remind anyone who volunteered to help decorate and set-up to arrive around 10am the morning of the party. We've all been extremely pleased at our meeting turnouts lately, and hope you'll all attend!

*Santa hasn't changed much in the last hundred years, except nowadays he does not deliver rifles with affixed bayonets. This illustration from the December 24, 1900 Woodbury Daily Times seems to also be making a political statement about the raging Spanish-American War, or as Twain referred to it, "the incident in the Philippines."*



## WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 1900

*Merry Christmas from Martha and Milton Webb!*

On Saturday real estate agent William C. Cattell bought in the land recently sold by the Mantua Land Company to Isaac Stevenson on the west side of the Mantua creek for a party of capitalists who will organize and at once begin to lay out the spot in one of the finest cemeteries in South Jersey. The land has many advantages for vaults, etc.

Marie Knibloe, the Boston Warbler, is to give one of her unique entertainments in Noblitt's Hall next Tuesday for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Hollinger will open her select dancing class in Noblitt's Hall tomorrow evening. The cost will be 25 cents a lesson.

John Colbert would like the party who took half of his hen roost to bring it back or come take the rest. Divided up it is not worth much good to either party.

Dr. Harvy is talking of taking a trip to Honduras in the near future on an exploration expedition with Dr. M.B. Huey of Philadelphia. The doctor has been an extensive traveler. Winter struck us rather suddenly after all and we have some skating for the boys and girls.

Surveyor Cattell and George L. Dilkes are running out the lines of the new cemetery on the bluff today.

A parlor meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Hamilton Turner in honor of Mrs. Gilmour, Brown, Greene, Holeton and Savage delegates to the Women's Christian Temperance Convention held in Washington last week. The delegates gave a very interesting report of the convention and also of their sightseeing on their trip having the honor of shaking hands with President McKinley and an introduction to Mrs. McKinley. Mrs. Gage with four other ladies helped receive the delegates at the White House, a sight long to be remembered by them and which seemed like entering fairyland of which Mrs. McKinley was the sweet looking fairy, everything was so beautiful.

Christmas trees are being erected in many homes.

By the number of express bundles it looks as though Santa Claus was not to overlook the little ones in our borough. We hope he will remember the poor ones as the more well to do.

Our grocers are prepared for a big holiday trade.

The holiday festival of the Methodist Sunday School was held last night and was enjoyed by a large audience. Sune Taro, a Japanese magician, formed considerable amusement with his deft tricks. The Christmas exercises of the public school were held last Sunday evening.

B.F. Buzby is wondering who snow balled him. He will be surprised that it was not a boy.

It is stated the electric light plant from which we get our service has changed hands. (Electric service during this period was very undependable.)

The public feels grateful to Tom Savage for opening up the paths after the snow stopped falling last night.

It is said Ed Farr's children have the prettiest tree in this place. It is sure a handsome one.

Our stores are trimmed in holiday attire.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER!**



# WENONAH Historical Society

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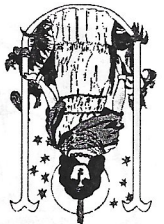
**Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!**

We would like to thank Karen Bruner of Rowan University for her interesting and informative presentation on Thomas Synnott at last month's meeting. To learn of the impact that Wenonah resident Synnott had on the business world and local community of the past century was quite impressive.

Ralph & Rachel Knissell  
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