

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1 January 2005

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT JACK SHEPPARD

Dear Members;

Happy New Year. The program for the January 14th meeting should be very interesting

The first order of business will be to nominate and elect a slate of officers. The Bylaws require four officers and three trustees to be elected for "terms of two years by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting". Please note the Bylaws further provide that "any member in good standing may make additional nominations from the floor".

I am pleased to report that the nominating committee has selected a slate of qualified individuals and will offer it at the meeting.

At our most recent meeting of officers and trustees I made the comment that the year 2005 may well be considered a "make or break" year that will determine if the Society is to be simply a social organization or if it is to fulfill the aims and objectives set forth in our Constitution. We now have the availability of the full upstairs of the Community Center consisting of one large and two smaller offices. We envision that the smaller spaces can serve as workshops and a headquarters area while the large room can be used to store and display the many historic articles in our possession.

The first order of business will be to survey the furnishings left by the Borough employees when they moved to the new building and determine what should stay and what should be gotten rid of.

Next we need to poll our most recent list of member volunteers to determine areas of interest and capability.

Once these steps are completed we will be able to get on with the business of identifying the papers, photographs and artifacts we currently have on hand and start the process of sorting, identifying, cataloging and storing these items.

At that point we should finally be able to reach out to the surrounding community and say, "please let us have your historic materials".

WHS OFFICERS 2004

Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Eileen Caraker
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Macy Pedersen
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

**Meetings second Friday of the
month at the Wenonah
Community Center except
June, July and August**

In that way we will finally start to comply with that part of our Constitution that essentially calls for us to acquire and preserve the Borough's backlog of historic materials.

JANUARY 14TH PROGRAM

Robert Sandes of Glassboro will speak to us about his recently completed second book entitled *Glassboro*, published by Arcadia Publishing. It captures historic

Glassboro in the past two centuries as a booming southern New Jersey community at the height of its glass industry.

Bob Sandes Jr. has been fascinated with the history of Glassboro from his early years in growing up there.

He is a 1981 graduate of Glassboro High School and graduated from a photography school in Philadelphia. He spent 10 years in the television field as a news director in Atlantic City and in Harrisburg, PA.

Returning home 3 years ago he became the Museum Coordinator for the Gloucester County Historical Society.

Robert is currently working with Barbara Turner, president of the Gloucester County Historical Society, on a book for Arcadia about Woodbury.

He is currently a full time student at Rowan University where he plans to become a secondary education social studies teacher.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

From the Gloucester County Constitution, March 7th, 1894

Miles Nerve & Liver Pills

Act on a new principle – regulating the liver, stomach and bowels through the nerves.

A new discovery. Dr. Miles Pills speedily cure biliousness, bad taste, torpid liver, piles, and constipation. Unequalled for men, women and children.

50 doses for 25 cents. Samples free at A.S. Marshall's Pharmacy.

WENONAH'S ORIGINS AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES

WENONAH

Gloucester County Constitution April 19, 1871

This is the name adopted for the new village at Mantua Station, about two and a half miles below Woodbury. The directors have gone to work and in a very short time a surprising change will be seen by those who remember the "truck patches" of that locality. We hear that about 100 acres have been laid out into building lots, those lots 75 x 150 feet each

The two central avenues, West Jersey and Mantua, are each 100 feet wide. On West Jersey Avenue the railroad company reserves 100 feet in the center, and on each side of their reservation will be avenues for carriages and driving of 75 feet width, with sidewalks of 15 feet.

An imposing hotel is now in process of erection. It is to be 45 x 52 feet in dimensions, three stories high with back buildings 26 by 40 feet, and the whole surrounded by a verandah 12 feet wide. Each room is to contain water and gas and furnished in elegant style.

The hotel is to be on the Doric style of architecture, and surmounted with a splendid cupola. This hotel is contracted to be finished in June next, at a cost of \$15,000. During the summer about twelve other elegant cottages are to be completed. All the streets, except the two main avenues, are to be 66 feet wide.

The location of this piece of ground is peculiarly adapted for the building up of a suburban village, being high and healthful with pure and cool wells of water for all domestic purposes. It is 65 feet above Mantua Creek and from its summit can be seen the steeples of Swedesboro and many prominent points in the surrounding country.

The name selected for this young village is Wenonah (Daughter of the West Wind) from Longfellow's "Hiawatha".

The prices of lots have been fixed from \$200 to \$400 and the extensive Improvements contemplated by the company have already given

to the place an impetus, which cannot fail to make it one of the most desirable points along the West Jersey railroad.

Over 600 trees, mostly maples have already been set out along the avenues. The creek in the vicinity affords grand waterpower for manufacturing purposes, which will be at once taken advantage of and converted into use.

Remembering Wenonah's Early Days

By Bob Shryock March 17, 1985

Claire Poff Jones of Woodbury, who will be 83 next month, pleasantly occupies some of her time by reflecting on her early 20th-century upbringing in historic Wenonah. After reading a post-Christmas column about Wenonah nostalgia, Mrs. Jones taped her own memories. The tape belongs in the Gloucester County Historical Society archives.

Mrs. Jones dedicates her thoughts to her brother, Walter Poff, a paperhanger and decorator well known throughout Gloucester County for many years. The longtime Woodbury Heights resident died three years ago.

"Our family moved to Wenonah in 1906, when it was a quiet little town with all dirt streets," Mrs. Jones says. Wenonah, for more than a century, had been a 180-acre farm known as "stone house farm"; then in 1871, it was plotted and successfully promoted.

Mrs. Jones recalls spending 5 cents to attend silent movies at the American Legion hall on North Marion Avenue; spending another nickel on touring car rides from the old Wenonah Inn {now Dr. Churchill Blakey's home on South West Avenue) across miles of farmland to Salem City; frolicking at a huge lake that today is East Mantua Avenue; and graduating from the old Wenonah schoolhouse in 1913 as grammar school valedictorian in a class of four.

Wenonah in the early 20th-century was a quiet, shade-tree summer refuge for rich city folks;

cactus and scrub pines; streams where violets grew; strutting peacocks; the Wenonah Military Academy; and, as it still is today, THE place to be on the Fourth of July.

"In those days, we had dusty Fourth of July parades on Mantua Avenue," Mrs. Jones says. "The bands would be playing, Mrs. Greene would be singing the Star Spangled Banner, and there would be Japanese lanterns in the park. Candles would be lighted at night, and everyone who ever lived in town and had moved away would come back for that day.

"The Fourth of July ballgame was a little different then. Men from the west side of the railroad tracks had to play left-handed baseball, and men from the east side had to wear skirts. It wasn't really fair, because my father, Walter Poff Sr., played for the west side, and he was a left-handed pitcher."

Mrs. Jones explains that the west side of town was known as "Brown Town," which, she says, "was named for Daniel Brown, who built many of the houses, and was the 'poor' part of town. The east side of town was considered the wealthier part."

But most of the county looked at Wenonah as a wealthy community regardless of which side of the tracks you came from.

"We would go through Mantua on hay wagons for Sunday School picnics in Pitman, and the Mantua kids would throw dirt at our wagons and holler, 'We don't know you'. We chanted back, 'Wenonah is just the stuff.'"

The Wenonah Military Academy was one of the premier prep schools in the East before it went bankrupt in the early 1930s. "The cadets would march to the churches in their white dress suits and present us drills at the park on Sundays. We'd all come out to watch. And the Academy had a social center where there were many happy dances for the townspeople."

Mrs. Jones recalls the day William Howard Taft unexpectedly came to town on the train to do a bit of campaigning for the presidency. "How he

happened to come to Wenonah, I don't know. But we were intrigued by this huge man who was giving a political talk at the park, and we stopped to listen. Just then, the new Mrs. Thomas Farr (Farr built and lived in the current George Braun home) rode along in her limousine and asked her chauffeur to stop to see what was happening. "But just then, Mr. Farr walked across the street and really gave his wife a lecture about listening to a politician. They got in the limousine and drove home. It made quite an impression on us because it seemed so rude to Mr. Taft."

Some of Mrs. Jones' fondest memories are of Dr. Harry Stout, a beloved, old-fashioned family doctor who for many years served Wenonah. 'There was no one he wouldn't go to help, regardless of the weather. He brought my sister (Estelle Silver) through spinal meningitis in the days when there were no wonder drugs. My sister was so bad, Dr. Stout even went to church asking for people to give prayers for her. But she recovered and is living in Haddonfield today.

"Dr. Stout was overworked, and he always undercharged. When he died at 58 from a heart condition, there were hundreds of thousands of dollars on his books he never collected. He could never be replaced in the hearts of the people he helped."

And some of the old-timers who read the Gloucester County Times will remember not only Mrs. Jones' brother, Walter, but also her mother. From 1908 to 1935, Lillian Poff wrote a Wenonah column for the old Woodbury Times.

"They paid her three cents an inch to write it, and a lot of it was 'gossipy' stuff," Mrs. Jones says. "My mother's main source of news was the one and only telephone operator we had in town."

Bob Shryock, a veteran Gloucester County Times newsman writes about people and happenings in the county. Bob and his family spent years in Wenonah and is still thought very highly of by his many friends who wish he still lived here.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

As the New Year begins I am pleased the membership has elected me to be their President. I hope to contribute as much to the organization as past presidents have done.

As we started the January meeting, I stated we have two main objectives during the two years of my term as President. First to complete the identification and cataloging the various documents and artifacts in our possession and second, to assist with the restoration of our historic railroad station building, both inside and out.

Ours is a volunteer organization and it was especially gratifying to see the large turnout at the January meeting. Many have volunteered to assist in our projects and meetings to make them more enjoyable.

We have in the past and will continue in the future to strive to accomplish the objectives set forth in our Mission Statement. The gist of those objectives are to acquire and preserve historical material related to Wenonah, keep them in a suitable place, encourage the preservation of historic places within Wenonah, encourage historical research, and make all of our acquisitions available to our citizens, especially the children.

Since the January meeting our objective was to survey the furnishings left by the Borough when they moved to the new building and dispose of unneeded furniture. This has been accomplished. The next activity will be to do a raw inventory of the many documents, photos and artifacts and decide how best to identify, classify and store the materials. For this work we will need some willing and able volunteers. We have some names of

those who volunteered at the last meeting. If you were not contacted and wish to become involved please contact me or any other officer so we can add you to the list.

Future Projects we need to pursue are:

- Acquire a computer to help in the filing and cataloging process.
- Reinstate the plaque program for those dwellings that qualify. We will have to establish an age of the dwelling, such as over 90 years old, and a cost to the dwelling owner.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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Secretary	Rachel Knisell
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
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Trustee	Macy Pedersen
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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

- Reinstate an exhibit and open house on the 4th of July.
- Look into the possibility of creating a "Life Membership" fee, in conjunction with the annual fee.
- Establish an annual budget and audit of our finances.
- Encourage and train members to become officers of our Organization. We need a good continuity of our leadership, especially the younger members.
- Make a contact with the Wenonah Public School to see if we if we can

establish an essay program for the 6th grade students, on the subject of the *History of Wenonah*.

- Develop a questionnaire for members to complete, as to future topics of interest, or programs to increase interest in our organization.

FEBRUARY 11TH PROGRAM

Joe Colanero, Author of *Down Jersey Cooking*. "*Celebrating Our Heritage From Past to Present*," will be our speaker. His book sells for \$19.95. He will return \$5.00 to our organization for each one sold at our meeting. Joe will also do sample cooking for our enjoyment during the course of the meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, is currently recovering from recent hip surgery at the Manor Care Health Center 550 Jessup Road, West Deptford, NJ 08068.

Should you wish to send a card to Lucy she is in room 108, 2nd bed.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

As young boy, living in Wenonah, I remember, 1936 was a very cold month. Temperatures were as low as 6 below. Ice on Warner's Lake was measured 14" thick. Gordon Fay would drive his car on the Lake.

We ice skated with old clamp skates and built bonfires on shore to keep warm.

It was a wonderful period of time in Wenonah. To clear the sidewalks Mr. Carr used a mule with a wooden plow. Little did we realize that 5 years later our country would be involved in a worldwide war.

The War Memorial in Wenonah Park contains the names of the Wenonah citizens who served. Don Ralston

At the January meeting Bob Sands, author of a new book about the origins of Glassboro spent much time describing the Whitney family, whose glass manufacturing operations were probably the most important factor in the towns creation. I thought it interesting that Thomas Synnott who went to work as a \$300.00 per year clerk at the Whitney Glass Works eventually became a partner in the Company. In the late 1800's he became involved in the creation of another town, Wenonah, building and living in the beautiful mansion at Mantua and Marion Avenues.

The following narrative was excerpted from "The Glassboro Story 1779 – 1964" by Robert D. Bole and Edward H. Walton Jr.

THE SYNNOTT FAMILY BEFORE WENONAH

This is the only Glassboro first family of Irish stock. Long before the first Synnott left the old country, the family had played a heroic role in Ireland's sad and turbulent history Colonel David Synnott, for example, a military governor of Wexford, Ireland, had contested bravely but futilely the Puritan Oliver Cromwell's ruthless siege of Wexford, in 1649. For his efforts the Colonel paid the highest price a man can pay in defense of home and country; he was slain in a brave but vain attempt to throw back the English invaders. Martin Synnott, a descendent of the courageous Colonel David, was the first of the proud Irish family to leave the old country and settle in America. In 1794 Martin established himself in the shipping business at bustling Philadelphia, where he built a fortune but lost most of it in 1812, when the British intercepted and confiscated his ships on the high seas. A few years before this unhappy event, the Irish immigrant had shifted the base of his operations from the Quaker City to Mays Landing, New Jersey. It was at this place that Martin Synnott died at the early age of thirty-six, leaving behind a widow and four children, one of whom was a six-year-old boy named Myles. This was the Synnott who later became a part of the Glassboro Story.

Myles Synnott was eight years old when his widowed mother remarried; her second husband was the medical doctor. Jacob Fisler. By marrying Dr. Fisler, Myles' mother made it possible for her son to grow up in a medical atmosphere of patients, pills, and medicine. He developed a great interest in the medical profession, probably accompanying his stepfather on his daily rounds of home visitations and in many ways acquiring a kind of pre-internship in the medical field. Myles' boyhood zeal for medicine remained with him to young manhood, so much so that he decided to choose this profession for his lifework. He, therefore, translated this decision into action by attending and graduating, in 1831, from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College. Now a full-fledged doctor, Myles Synnott returned to his birthplace at Mays Landing, where for about ten years

he practiced the healing art on many of the patients who had known him first as the boy interne.

In 1841 Dr. Synnott brought his medical kit, equipment, and skill to Glassboro to begin a long and fruitful twenty-six year career. Exactly what attracted the young doctor to the glassmaking village is not known. But not long after his coming he provided solid evidence that his was not to be a transitory stay. For, in 1842, he married Harriet Heston Whitney, daughter of Ebenezer and Bathsheba Whitney. By this union, young Dr. Synnott became the brother-in-law of the up-and-coming Whitney Brothers, a relationship which must have given the young physician immediate status in the glass community.

By coming to Glassboro, Dr. Synnott earned the distinction of being its first doctor. The young physician had no trouble in building up a large practice, for the people "down in the woods" were in need of medical care, and the supply of doctors was short. Dr. Synnott serviced Glassboro residents. He also saddled and rode his horse to make calls in the outlying villages of Cross Keys, Williamstown, Franklinville, Fislerville, Mullica Hill, Five Points, Bethel, Barnsboro, and Mantua.

Some conception of the extent of his practice can be gleaned from his account books, which showed that Glassboro's first doctor had 450 patients, not a small number when it is realized that Glassboro's entire population in 1842 numbered only 604 people. The good doctor was a busy man engrossed and dedicated to his healing work. He apparently had little or no time for any other activities. His name for example, fails to appear among those nineteenth-century boro citizens holding political or civic offices. His sole service to the community was getting and keeping its people well not an unworthy contribution.

What was this dedicated medical man really like? Those who remembered him best have left some fascinating written answers to this question. Among other characteristics, they tell us that Dr. Myles Synnott was a man with a few delightful idiosyncrasies, among which was an excessive fondness for cigars.

He was a tall, slim man, noted for his native wit, his dedication to his profession, and incidentally, his love for cigars. He wore a high hat, filling the upper section with cigars, holding them in place by a large handkerchief between the cigars and his head using about one hundred a week, usually between house to house visits to his patients. However, he did not smoke them all the way and the Glassboro urchins used to linger about Doctor Synnott, waiting for the generous butts . . .

Doctor Synnott must have had a cheerful bedside manner for he is remembered as having a ... "humorous disposition and the scene of his labor is full of dry jokes, and numerous witty sayings". Notwithstanding this light touch, he could be stern when the occasion demanded sternness. The doctor

stood for no nonsense from his patients. He expected them to follow his instructions explicitly. It is said, perhaps apocryphally that: . . . "he once blistered a man's feet because he would not stay in the house when the doctor ordered it."

Fellow members of the medical profession held Glassboro's first physician in high esteem. Among other things they admired his dedication, his abhorrence of quackery in or out of the profession, his quiet, unassuming competence, his willingness to counsel and encourage budding young medical colleagues. Undoubtedly, there were times when Doctor Synnott's medical contemporaries considered him a bit rigid in applying his high professional standards. Nevertheless, they forgave him his flashes of dogmatism because they realized that the medical profession was fortunate in having Myles Synnott as one of its members.

Death came to Glassboro's first physician in 1867 his widow and three children were his survivors. Before he died, Dr. Myles Synnott had provided his only son, Thomas Whitney Synnott, with a sound educational background! in Glassboro's public school, at Plainfield Academy in Pennsylvania, and at Bridgeton's West Jersey Academy. Furthermore, the Doctor's son, two years before his father's decease, had begun what was destined to be a long and profitable business career, one which made him a worthy son of his worthy father.

Thomas W. Synnott began work in his uncle Whitney's glassworks as an assistant bookkeeper. For working six days a week and eleven and one-half hours daily, Thomas collected \$300.00 annually. The salary was low, but there were other compensations. For one thing, he took advantage of the opportunity to learn thoroughly the commercial aspects of operating a large glass manufacturing plant. His progress was so rapid that by 1872, his uncles admitted him into the firm's management as a partner with a fourth interest, the other partners being Thomas Whitney, Samuel Whitney, and John P. Whitney, Thomas' son. Approaching retirement, the two elder Whitney's, Thomas and Samuel, increasingly placed the active management of the Whitney Works in the hands of the younger men. At age twenty-seven, Thomas Synnott had become general business manager of the Glass Works, with headquarters in Philadelphia; his cousin, John P. Whitney operated the actual manufacturing end of the business at Glassboro. Ten years later, in 1892, Thomas Whitney passed away. With his death Thomas Synnott and John P. Whitney became the sole owners of the Whitney Works. And in 1887, the business was legally incorporated as the Whitney Glass Works. Thomas Synnott was made the first president of the corporation. Four years later, in 1891 Synnott retired from the glass business after a nineteen-year service stint which was marked by a doubling in the Whitney Plant output.

Synnott had retired from the Whitney Glass Works at the relatively young age of forty-six. On the surface this seemed to be a puzzling step for a successful businessman to take.

But the explanation is that Synnott wanted more time to devote to his banking and investment interests. In 1892, one year after his retirement from glassmaking, he became President of Glassboro's First National Bank. Shortly after taking over Synnott faced an unpleasant situation. A trusted employee's dereliction placed the bank in financial jeopardy. After this act became publicly known, bank officials braced themselves for a run on bank deposits. Bank President Synnott forestalled this calamity *by* posting a notice taking upon himself full responsibility for the bank's fiscal ability to meet its obligations. Synnott's reputation, together with his firm action, was all that was needed to restore depositor confidence, although some Glassboro residents of that time gave some credit to an incident which occurred during the crisis. It seems that funds hastily requested from Philadelphia had reached Glassboro by railroad transportation. Harried bank officials met the train at the station, piled the greenbacks in a wheelbarrow, and raced to the bank. Depositors, seeing money arriving in wheelbarrow volume, were satisfied that all was well. The story may be a dubious one, but it does seem interesting.

But banking and investments were not Thomas Synnott's sole interests. While he made no attempts to hold political offices of any kind, Mr. Synnott devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to educational and church matters. He was, for example, a member of the State Board of Education for eight years; President of the Board of Trustees of Princeton's Theological Seminary; and a trustee of Lincoln University. Among his church activities were: Vice-president of the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; Vice-president of the Presbyterian Board of publications; President of the Lord's Day Alliance in New Jersey; Vice-president of the Lord's Day Alliance in the United States; and member of the Presbyterian General Assembly's Evangelistic Committee.

Thomas Synnott took his religion seriously. As a leader in the Lord's Day Alliance, he led the fight against the motion picture, liquor, and racing interests. In effect he acted the role of a legislative lobbyist determined to defeat bills calling for legal approval of gambling, motion pictures, and racing on Sundays. Synnott was no political amateur when the threat of commercializing the Sabbath was the issue. He won his legislative battles. Sundays remained a day of rest and worship, at least during the 1890's.

There is no question that the Synnotts belong in the tight little category of Glassboro's first families. Like the Hestons and Carpenters, the Synnotts brought prestige to the community. Their achievements, professional and commercial, were recognized far beyond the Glassboro boundaries; for very often in the nineteenth century, outsiders thought of Glassboro in terms of the Synnotts. But still more important, the Synnott family was a potent force in promoting the Glassboro community and in making its steady growth possible.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We have started off the year 2005, in a very positive manner; Membership turn out has been very large. Members volunteering to work on the various projects of interest to the Society is also gratifying. Our programs have been well received. The second floor area has been cleared and made ready for filing, cataloguing and storing historical papers and artifacts. The refreshments prepared by our ladies have been delicious.

The speaker, Joe Colanero, author of "Down Jersey Cooking", was very interesting. At the meeting twenty-two of his books were sold @ \$ 20.00, with \$5.00 refunded by Joe to the Wenonah Historical Society. Since then six more have been purchased at an additional \$30.00, net \$140.00, a very pleasant way to raise funds for the Society. We thank the members for their support. For those unable to attend the meeting and wanting to acquire a copy of the book, contact Corresponding Secretary Betty MacLeod and we will try our best to get one to you.

I am pleased to announce that Eileen Caraker has agreed to return as Secretary of the Society. Rachel Knisell will continue to gather historical documents and artifacts for

our collection.

The Historical plaque program is underway. Should you be aware of any resident whose home is at least 90 years old (built prior to 1915) and would like a plaque, notify the Plaque Committee Chairman, Frank Eggert.

I refer you to the February 2005 newsletter for the projects we are planning to pursue, except the Life Membership has been tabled for now.

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

We have many fine members and volunteers but we need and encourage each to step forward to become future officers and trustees of the Wenonah Historical Society.

MARCH 1TH PROGRAM

Mayor Thomas J. Capaldi will be our speaker. Tom has been a member of Borough Council for many years,

and has just been elected to his second term as mayor. I have asked him to speak on programs of Wenonah now in the planning stage, existing problems, such as Homeland Security, water shortage, traffic control, and the Tea-21 grant for restoration and repairs to the Community Center. Please plan to attend this meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, is coming along well with the recovery from serious surgery. She is currently staying with her daughter in Delaware.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Chuck Forsman, a member of the Planning Board and Environmental Commission as well as a member of our Society has published a booklet entitled "Historical Overview of Wenonah, Gloucester County. NJ".

It is an outstanding description of the origin and growth of Wenonah over these many years. At our March meeting I will present this booklet to be placed in our archives. I am going to recommend the Wenonah Historical Society underwrite the cost of printing this booklet in some quantity so it can be distributed to the school, public library, and the municipal building.

Don Ralston

The severe snowstorm of last week blocked the trains cutting off communication with the outside world, causing considerable anxiety to those of our townsmen doing business in Philadelphia.

Saturday morning a heavy run was made on the grocery stores, and by noon those who had not done their marketing had little hopes for Sunday dinner.

Postmaster Eldridge reports no mails delivered from Friday of last week till Monday of this due to the storm.

Miss Rena Moore accidentally shot herself while examining a revolver.

A number of interesting young people formed themselves into an amateur choir Wednesday evening last in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in rendering the music for the service assisted the pastor very materially.

The boys having cleaned the snow off the ice at Wenonah Lake are indulging themselves in the healthful pastime of skating.

It is understood that "The Inn" will be opened very early in the spring. There is no reason why this beautiful and home like house cannot be made a success.

Thomas W. Synnott and wife and Clayton Synnott have gone to Lake Worth, Florida where they will remain several weeks.

Clifford Farr, whose family are residing in Philadelphia for the winter visited us last week. (Quite a few people wintered in Philadelphia)

Another one of our oldest inhabitants has passed away, Mrs. Christina Allen, widow of Josiah Allen, who was buried from the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. James Carey on Friday. Mrs. Allen was among the first settlers here, her family being among the oldest in the county.

The Musical Society met last Tuesday at the residence of I.P. Eppiesheimer and decided to continue the class rehearsal for another quarter.

The supper given by the W.C.T.U. in Noblitt's Hall last week was a very successful one.

Samuel Whitney was visiting friends here last week. (He and his brother Thomas founded the Whitney Glass Works, founded the Glassborough bank and were large stockholders of the West Jersey and Seashore Rail Road)

The borough was treated with a sensation on Friday last. Francis Williams and his wife while walking along one of our thoroughfares got into an altercation over some of their domestic affairs. Francis became very much excited and forgetting his vows to be good and true struck his spouse with great violence; fearing that the blow was fatal he skipped for parts unknown while Rebecca went the magistrate and laid out a complaint of assault and battery with intent to kill. The dusky pair reside in Jericho.

Little Ed Benson feels a foot taller than any of his comrades - he caught a live muskrat.

Richard Clark has a very spirited horse- he is a trotter, his proud spirit rebels at being hitched to a delivery wagon and at times gives an exhibition of his rebellious spirit by running away. Last week while in charge of Will Price went into a mad gait and before his driver could bring him down to the delivery wagon trot he succeeded in making kindling wood of a portion of the vehicle.

The West Jersey ferryboats experience great difficulty in crossing the river, on account of the ice. On Sunday many people walked across the Delaware from Camden to Philadelphia on the ice.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a good sprinkling of older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt Hall and indulged in the favorite pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

We regret to learn that the good-natured Blair Smith is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold (he had the first drivers license issued in Gloucester County)

There are quite a few Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over at Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury, New Jersey February 1895

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: 1. Overture-Bonnie Scotland Orchestra; 2. Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. Dmetrius- Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J.McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelle, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the ME Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter, Mrs. Mehorter, and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the 'wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies. At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

August and September 1896
Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 3 April 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We are now through the winter season and entering the springtime. This season brings out the very beauty of Wenonah.

The Wenonah Lions Club theme for the 4th of July this year will highlight the Wenonah Military Academy for the years it was in existence from 1904 until it closed, allegedly as a result of the depression, about 1934.

The Wenonah Historical Society has a large number of artifacts from the former Military Academy. Therefore we are planning to display them on July 4th with an open house at the Community Center. By then we hope to have many, if not all of our historical papers, photographs and artifacts identified and catalogued by our filing committee. We will also do some fund raising activities on the Fourth such as selling Wenonah flags, hand bags, and possibly donations will be on hand.

Membership chairperson Jean Cowles has sent out a letter requesting those who have not yet paid their dues for the current year to please do so.

At our March meeting speakers Bob and Carol Cassel, presented a very interesting program on the wildlife in South Jersey. The pamphlets on

"Conserve Wildlife" they provided are interesting to read. The Cassels sent a thank you note to our organization for allowing them to speak.

I encourage all members to be active in the Wenonah Historical Society. Should you have any subject, a speaker, or program preference you wish to be presented please bring it to our attention.

In closing I wish to emphasize

WHS OFFICERS 2005

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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

once again that although we have many fine members and volunteers, we need and encourage you to become future officers and trustees of the Wenonah Historical Society.

APRIL 8TH
PROGRAM

Mayor Thomas J. Capaldi, will be our speaker for this meeting.

Tom has been a member of Borough Council for many years,

and was recently elected to a second term as mayor. I have asked him to speak about the Tea-21 grant for restoration and repairs to the Community Center. Also about programs now in the planning stage covering problems, such as Homeland Security, the water shortage and traffic control. Please plan to attend this meeting.

WHS Trustee Lucy Schulz, has recovered from her recent surgery for a fractured hip and is currently staying at the Mews in Woodbury.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

The Wenonah Inn Company of which Stephen Greene is president, Dr. Geo W. Bailey Vice President, Dr. Wm. Greene Treasurer, is just completing a magnificent hotel, designed to accommodate 150 guests. The house and furniture will cost at least \$70,000 and be completed in time for this season's business. The erection of this hotel was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad company is erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks immediately opposite the old station. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

From the *Gloucester County Democrat* April 20, 1893

The following is the text of a letter I prepared and sent to our federal and state legislators recently expressing my concerns about putting trains on the old tracks through Wenonah.

Like most of you I too have pleasant memories of the days when you could board the train in Glassboro or Pitman, Wenonah or Woodbury Heights and go to Woodbury, Camden and eventually Philadelphia. But that was a long time ago, a time that ended back in the sixties when the railroads finally admitted railroad passenger service could no longer compete with the convenience of the automobile.

Since then a great amount of development has taken place in our part of the state with the result that the majority of people in the tri-county region want to go to the Deptford, Cherry Hill and Echelon Malls, as well as to numerous housing projects that are not remotely close to Camden or Philadelphia.

As a result, even though it sounds like a good idea, in my opinion recreating train passenger service may be great for a trip down memory lane, but for all practical purposes it will just result in one more heavily subsidized system that will not solve our traffic woes but in fact will add to them.

By now anyone living in south Jersey for any length of time has to be familiar with the frequently recurring studies of transportation needs in our Gloucester, Camden, Burlington County region. Most of the studies were sponsored and conducted by the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and New Jersey Transit (NJT) either singly or in combination.

The earliest modern study done in 1975 concluded with the recommendation that a high-speed rail line in the median of Route 55 be implemented. The reason given for the recommendation was that "Although a Glassboro Line alignment following the PRSL Millville Branch has been studied, this alignment has been proven inferior on the basis of capital costs and disruption to the local community".

The most recent study in 2003 by the DRPA apparently went nowhere at the time but has now re-emerged as the "Route 55 to Philadelphia Corridor Transit Study" and has as its stated objectives an assessment of the need and opportunity for improved transit services in Gloucester and Cumberland Counties, improved transit passenger distribution to Penn's Landing and other business districts in Philadelphia, and improved connections between the High-Speed Line and the Camden waterfront.

I attended the transit study "Open House" at the Deptford Township Municipal Building March 3rd and was fortunate to run into former state Senator John Matheussen, now the new head of the Delaware River Port Authority. It provided me with an opportunity to present him with several of my previous writings on the subject and to discuss with him my thinking on why an extension of light rail from Camden to Glassboro on the old railroad tracks is still not a good idea.

There is a fundamental reason why trains on the old tracks and/or trains in the right-of-way of Routes 42 and 55 will not significantly address and appreciably resolve our transportation problems.

According to a Philadelphia Inquirer study conducted in 1996, "While 13,500 Gloucester County residents work in Philadelphia, nearly four times that number work in Gloucester County". "Only about one in ten workers who live in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties works in Philadelphia according to a special compilation of statistics from the 1990 Census".

Today employment opportunities are to be found in every direction, wherever there is a road to take you there.

Unfortunately our major roads follow the old railroad routes like spokes on a wheel generally toward and away from the major cities. Studies in the 1960's by the transportation-oriented agencies indicated there was a great need for construction of "cross-county corridors" but action on these failed to materialize. As a result there is a great tide of traffic morning and night from the residential areas to the commercial areas in and

around the Deptford, Cherry Hill, Moorestown and Echelon Malls. Many would be surprised to learn how many people are employed at the large number of industrial parks in and around the tri-county region.

Traffic heading toward these and other similar areas zig and zag their way through local streets in Glassboro, Pitman, Wenonah, Mantua, Woodbury Heights and Woodbury, with much stop and go driving.

Will the implementation of railroad service generally heading in a north/south direction relieve the congestion on these roads? I think not and predict that grade level train traffic will disrupt the cross-county traffic flow and result in even slower driving times, if that is at all possible.

However it is not enough to just criticize the ideas of others who are trying their darnedest to find a way to address and resolve our traffic problems. Anyone criticizing should at least offer what might be a better idea.

My idea is this. Instead of concentrating all our eggs in one basket, that being an extremely expensive, long-term construction project to put trains in the infields of our major north-south highways, we should give priority to alternatives that could be implemented more quickly.

One way to get started on this is by adding another element to the study that is currently being conducted, and that is “demand-activated bus systems”.

Give immediate priority to construction of cross-county road improvements. Certainly not limited access highways, we have no space available for them, but a few new roads where it is still possible to build them, and third or fourth lanes added to existing roads.

You have seen the small busses currently in use on our roads. They come in many different sizes and configurations, attractive, with comfortable seating and other amenities. Unlike trains on their fixed tracks, the bus routing can be changed very quickly to suit changing needs and routes can be designed to pick up numbers of people with the same or similar destinations.

Busses would be afforded reserved portions of the

new and widened roads at certain times of the day thereby aiding greatly in getting one-person vehicles off the road during peak periods of traffic.

One thing is absolutely certain. With the traffic congestion as bad as it is we need action and we need it now. Possibly the best part of this idea is that it can be implemented almost immediately as soon as busses can be acquired, with the road additions and improvements coming along as time and funding permit.

As I mentioned earlier in this letter I have been involved in many of the studies of transportation needs in this region and can almost predict the outcome of this one.

No doubt the current “Corridor Study” will once again determine that “light rail”, whether on old tracks or in the center of Routes 42 or 55 will be tremendously expensive and take a long time to construct. But due to the intense pressure to do something, even if it won’t do the job, a lot of money will be put into some part of a project with little anticipation of a beneficial return. See “Camden to Trenton Line” as an example.

However there is a new and different aspect of the current study that we haven’t heard before and that should be of great concern to Wenonah residents. In response to the often cited criticism that the trains will disrupt “cross county” auto traffic at the crossings during peak traffic periods, this new proposal is to either raise the tracks above grade on elevated piers, or to bury the tracks below grade in a pit similar to the below-grade line through Haddonfield. The problem this creates for us especially is that the right-of-way width needed for construction purposes will have serious consequences for our beloved Community Center and the new Borough Hall that are located very close to the existing track bed.

We need a solution and we need it now!! But it must be a solution that doesn’t ruin Wenonah while trying to help the problem.

Let us give some serious thought to the idea that offers a quicker and better “bang for our buck”, “light-busses” instead of “light-rail”.

May I suggest you contact our elected officials.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4 May 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We begin this newsletter with a note of sadness. WHS member Dorothy Diament was injured recently in an auto accident. Bob Gartside, her friend and ours didn't survive the accident. We extend our condolences to Dorothy and to the Gartside family.

At our May 13th meeting we will have a Memorial Service honoring Wenonah's past and current military veterans. Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, American Legion, will conduct the service.

On display will be photos of veterans showing what they looked while in the service of our country. We ask them to recite an event involving themselves or a fellow comrade, or any interesting vignette they may recall. Members of the Historical Society who had a spouse, relative, or child who perished in one of our country's wars are invited to bring a photo, memento or recollection.

On May 29, 2005, The Memorial Presbyterian Church will conduct its annual Memorial Day Service. I have been asked to give the Memorial Day address. Refreshments will follow the service. They will also have on display personal objects or memorabilia from veterans or their loved ones.

The Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192 is currently recording the names of Wenonah residents who are in the military. Capt. Keith Wyckoff, son of Dr. and Mrs. Wyckoff, is stationed in Iraq. Lt. Jillian McNulty is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and is scheduled for deployment. John and Karen Barry's

son-in law has just completed officers training and is to be stationed in Alabama. Lt. Jg Cory Weeks, grandson of Harry and Mary Alyce Schroeder, is in the Coast Guard and has been in the Middle East.

Membership chairman Jean Cowles sent 24 letters to those members who have not paid the dues. She is pleased to report that 14 have paid.

We call your attention to the light on the Community Center flagpole which now operates from evening to morn.

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**Meetings second Friday of the
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Many thanks to Doug Gehring for making the repairs.

Also thanks to Mayor Tom Capaldi for his enlightening presentation on the many programs important to Wenonah, especially the plan for development of the Lizzi property on Glassboro Road as a senior housing project of 40 homes. The Planning Board has held hearings on it.

Also discussed was the possibility of the extension of a light rail line on the present railroad in the center of our town. Hearings have been held and the Delaware River Port Authority as well

as Woodbury and Glassboro favor this route. I refer you to the April newsletter article, written by Jack Sheppard on the serious impact it would have on our community.

Please, please plan to attend our May 13th meeting when we honor those veterans who have gone to their eternal reward.

In June we will have our picnic.

MAY 13TH PROGRAM

Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, American Legion, will conduct a Memorial Service honoring past and current Wenonah military veterans.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

In regard to the recent removal of telephone service from our borough there seems to have been a very serious misunderstanding between the telephone company and our Borough Commissioners recently.

For months past there has been a pile of telephone poles laying on the sidewalk of West Jersey Avenue.

The Borough Commission notified the telephone company to remove these poles from the street.

The telephone company understood the notice to mean the upright poles and the public phone in the pay station and Hotel. The error was not discovered until the telephone company employees removed all phone service from the Borough.

Happily for all concerned the service has been restored and the "pile" of telephone poles removed.

Glouco Democrat, April, 1894

Mrs. Hannah B. Farr, after a pleasant visit of several weeks in Philadelphia, has returned to her home on Marion Avenue. (She and her husband Lincoln built the house which is now Dr. Wycoff's dental office, she was the mother of Edward Farr.)

The Progressive Euchre Club which has been meeting every two weeks at Noblitt's Hall held their last meeting for the year last Saturday evening.

On last Friday the trustees and teachers of our public school united in celebrating Arbor Day, which is one of the most important National holidays of the year. Unfortunately through the rapacity and greed of a great many citizens in the North, North west and South, large acreage of our timber lands are being destroyed. In the years which are to come on account of this wholesale slaughter, there will be no forest unless we judiciously plant trees to take place of those which are being destroyed. The scholars planted twelve Norway maples on the grounds surrounding the school house after which addresses were made by the trustees and teachers. Reading, recitations, vocal and instrumental music were furnished by the scholars of the school.

Our musicals have become so well known and appreciated that even a stormy night cannot prevent a good attendance. Mrs. I. P. Eppelsheimer tendered the use of her home for the semi-monthly meeting on last Monday evening.

Quite a large delegation attended the Princess Bonnie performance at Woodbury Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Miss Bugbee began her examinations yesterday. (She was a teacher and principal of the Wenonah Public School)

Lake Cornelia is receiving several little improvements. (This lake, on the lands of Stephan Green, was sited on the east side of the Marion Avenue Bridge.)

A report is in circulation that work will commence soon on the trolley bridge and that the employees are to be colored. Such ought not to be, as it is not doing Mantua people justice. (This was in the Mantua section. The trolley line was being built from Woodbury by the Camden, Gloucester and Woodbury Electric Railway Company.)

The game of baseball on Saturday was unfair as the Wenonah players did not know of the game until Friday night and not more than half of the regular players were there.

A Camp Fire will be held at the M.E. church, Wenonah, Monday evening. Stirring war songs, thrilling experiences, eloquent speakers, Comrade Wm. P. Haines, "the Fighting Quaker", and Dr. and Mrs. H.L. Gilmour will relate their army experiences. A silver collection will be taken at the door. Proceeds for benefit of Gen. Howell Post No. 31 G.A.R. and for a flag for the church. (Dr. Gilmour was a prisoner at Libbey prison during the Civil War. The G.A.R. was the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization of the survivors of the Civil War.)

The attendance at the Prayer Meeting on Friday night was unusually large.

The Wenonah Inn was the scene of a lively time on Saturday. The occasion was the Opening day at the Inn. Progressive Euchre was played until eleven o'clock after which a hop was given. The guests remained over night and a great number returned to their homes on Sunday evening.

An exploring party engaged a wagon of Sylvester Chew on Saturday last and visited all the marl pits in the vicinity. (That's different !)

An Aunt Jerusha's Photograph Album Entertainment was given at Noblitt's Hall. (?)

Ice cream can be had at the residence of Mrs. Phelps or at the residence of Mrs. Russell Green. The former makes the cream herself.

Frank Van Hess, who has been with Sylvester Chew for a long time, seems right at home now in his new position, having charge of baker Koch's wagon.

We are glad to see the railroad company have placed a flagman at our Mantua Avenue crossing for the season. We need gates and a flagmen the year round. (Railroad traffic increased considerably in the summer due to vacationers to Cape May and Atlantic City.)

Our Wenonah men who do not go to the city daily appreciate the opening of the barbershop at the Inn.

The *Constitution* May 1895, Woodbury, NJ

Miss Sue Lynch was married at high noon on Saturday in historic old Christ Church on Second Street, Philadelphia to Howard Earle of Philadelphia. Mr. Earle is business manager for the large seed house of Burpee and Company.

Our churches are beautifully decorated for Easter, large congregations attending for morning and evening services.

Real Estate Agent, William C. Cattell has suffered a severe relapse of la grippe that has developed into typhoid pneumonia. We wish for him an early convalescence.

The death of Mrs. Irwin Middleton which took place on Saturday last was a shock to her many friends in the community. Mrs. Middleton leaves six children, the eldest being but thirteen years of age. (She was the grandmother of our friend and member Lucy Schulz. They built and lived in the Cox-Cook house, corner of Cherry and South East Avenue.)

Mr. Nelson Strong is making some attractive improvements to his already handsome property.

Miss Carrie DeZouche, who has charge of the kindergarten department of our public school, is confined to the house by illness (this is the first mention of a kindergarten in our public school system)

Contractor George H. West is supervising the additions now being made at the "Wenonah Inn."

The Wenonah Water Company in boring the artesian wells in the glen near the lake struck a deposit of mineral which is claimed to be copper, some of the mineral has been taken to Camden for analysis.

The M.E. Parsonage was greatly improved by the committee of ladies for the reception of the Rev. Mr. Zelly and family.

The kitchen and bowling alley of the Wenonah Inn are being enlarged by the company. The Inn will be opened for the reception of guests about the middle of next month.

The tramp nuisance has reached our borough and is likely to reach such proportions that the authorities will have to take some action in the

matter, some of the nomads are very impudent and disposed to make trouble.

The Forget-Me-Not mission band of the Presbyterian Church took in over \$30 at the fair held in Noblitt's Hall.

The foundation of the engine house in the glen by the lake has been completed. When this improvement is made Wenonah will have a flow of the purest water in South Jersey. (Previous to this the residents were drinking the water out of Dilkes' Little Pond - Davis Lake.)

George Jennings (He was a veteran of the Civil War) is one of the early birds with peas, as he has them three inches above the ground.

A large party of young people have been scouring the woods for the beautiful trailing arbutus. (They did a good job as arbutus in Wenonah is now non-existent in the wild.)

The warm spring days are bringing a number of visitors to the borough.

We cannot vouch for the truth of the rumor, but give it for what it is worth. It is said we are to have a Roman Catholic church erected in the borough. We trust the rumor is correct, we cannot have too many churches. If the proper effort is made it is more than probable that Bishop Scarborough would consent to the removal of the St. Barnabas P.E. chapel to the borough.

Dr. George W. Bailey is making his usual spring improvements to his model residence corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Synnott and Master Clayton Synnott returned from their winter home in Florida the past week. (Master Clayton was the father of Tom Synnott which we knew. They had a summer home in Ranglely, Maine.)

The members of Dr. George W. Bailey's, Mrs. Greens' and Mrs. Whitman's classes in the Presbyterian Sunday School assembled at the residence of George Green on Mantua Avenue and passed a few pleasant hours of social intercourse. Samuel Carey and John Voight assisted in entertaining with selections on the banjo and mandolin

The *Constitution* April 1885, Woodbury, NJ

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 6 October 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

I hope that our membership had a very pleasant and enjoyable summer.

We started a new year with a lovely get together at "Little Grange", the home of Vicki and Lou McCall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the McCall's hospitality. The fellowship, refreshments and the socializing was just great. We thank Vicki and Lou for once again making their home available to us. At this September meeting we received applications for membership from Frank and Claire Magin and Paul and Joetta Eldridge.

I wish to reflect on the presentation of all the artifacts of the Wenonah Military Academy which were displayed on the Fourth of July. We had wonderful help from our members who arranged the display. The public appeared genuinely interested in all of the items we displayed and it helped focus attention on our Historical Society.

It is with sadness and regret that I must advise of the illness of Bradley Caraker, eight year old son of Bill and Eileen Caraker. He has been in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for treatment. I understand that he is coming along nicely and is even being tutored while there. Several of our members and his friends have been able to send him e-mails wishing him a speedy recovery. Anyone wishing to send best wishes via this medium can send them to www.caringbigidge.org/about.htm

The October meeting will be held Friday, October 14th. The program will be presented by the Wenonah Environmental Commission. It will be conducted by Chairman Bob Bevilacqua, members Chuck Forsman, and Frank Eggert who was a founding member of the Natural Woodlands Council in 1965. They are called "Friends of the Wenonah Trails." It will deal with the Acquisition and Restoration of Historical Sites within our Conservation Lands, Streams, Lakes Ponds and Trails.

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Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

At our November Meeting, the Women's Club will present a sketch under the direction of Jenny McQuaide and Marge Lentz. More details will be given in the November letter.

In December we will have our Annual Christmas Party.

If any member has any suggestions for programs for 2006 please let me know.

At the Harvest Craft Fair on September 24th, under the direction of Betty MacLeod the Wenonah Historical Society had a very successful sale of caps, banners, large and small tote bags and postcards. Other members of the Historical Society assisted her.

Please plan to attend our meeting on October 14th, enjoy the socializing, the program and the refreshments

If any member has any news that they wish to be included in our newsletter please let me know.

PHOTOGRAPH ON PAGE 2

The picture on the next page is an enlarged section of an aerial shot centered around the Military Academy. It reveals a historical curiosity. The Weems medical center is at the center of the picture and in the center foreground is the "Senior House" of the military academy. The former Synnott mansion is at the upper right and at the top are the Synnott farm outbuildings. Please note the black arrow on the left pointing to a beautiful Victorian home with a domed tower. This building is no longer there and is now the site of the Wenonah Free Public Library that opened in 1927. Apparently the residence was acquired by Edward Farr (Little Grange) only to be torn down to provide the necessary space for the library. Anyone knowing anything about the origins of the house such as when it was built, who lived in it before it was torn down, or any other information please let us know.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 7 November 2005

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

As we head into the fall and winter seasons, our membership continues to grow and at the end of October totals 92. If any member is aware of friends or neighbors who would like to join the Historical Society please notify membership chairperson Jean Cowles.

Betty Rose reported that the display case, in the Wenonah Public School lobby has been filled with decades old farm equipment on loan to us from the Gloucester County Historical Society. If you have not had a chance to view this exhibit please do so before the materials are returned.

Jack Sheppard, chairman of the committee filing our historic artifacts reports progress. Julie Ream of our Academy Hill section, who has considerable experience in cataloguing and filing, has been working with Jack. They have been consulting with the Gloucester County Historical Society who use a computer program similar to ours as their filing system. I am pleased to report this progress. At a date in the near future volunteers will be called upon to assist with identifying, labeling and storing the historical objects and records of Wenonah.

Although our organization is not the custodian of the Community Center Jack recently became aware of three problems with this building. The heating and cooling system thermostat failed as did the oil burner.

Also a falling roll of carpeting broke a window. The problems were taken care of by the borough.

We wish to thank Bob Bevilaqua and Frank Eggert for the fine program they presented at the October meeting describing the Conservation area surrounding Wenonah and the trails they have built through the area.

The program for the November 11th meeting features a skit written by Marjorie Lentz about the founding of the Woman's Club in 1922.

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The original idea of forming a local club was proposed by Jessie White after she had attended the 1922 New Jersey State Federation of Women's annual convention in Atlantic City.

Jessie and Nathaniel White were long time residents of Wenonah.

Nathaniel White and George Eldridge were instrumental in promoting the idea and securing assistance from the estate of Frank Stewart to acquire the lands surrounding Wenonah known as the Conservation Area.

We want to congratulate Rachel and Ralph Knisell who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 17th, 2005. Rachel is a charter member of the Wenonah Historical Society. She is now designated as the official historian for Wenonah. Rachel has been honored by the Cape May County Historical Society for the very large collection of scrape books and photo albums she has assembled for that section of South Jersey. Rachel is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her family tree extends back to the early 1700's. A large amount of our historical artifacts were gathered by Rachel.

Eileen and Bill Caraker extended their thanks to all in the Historical Society for the generosity and support during their son Bradley's stay in the Children's Hospital. They truly appreciated our kindness and prayers.

Please plan to attend our November meeting. Several of our members are also members of the Woman's Club.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Researching old Wenonah records one gets the impression that during the early days our town was overrun with animals. There were dogs, goats, cows, horses pigs and chickens wandering through people's yards and ruining the grass in the park. There were frequent complaints about dogs biting citizens. But when Borough Council introduced legislation to control the problem people turned out in droves against such regulations.

PUBLIC SALE!

100 BUILDING LOTS

WILL BE SOLD

AT PUBLIC AUCTION

On THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23d, 1890.

AT THE

WENONAH HOUSE, WENONAH, N. J.

100 OF THE MOST ELIGIBLE AND DESIRABLE BUILDING LOTS
IN THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH.

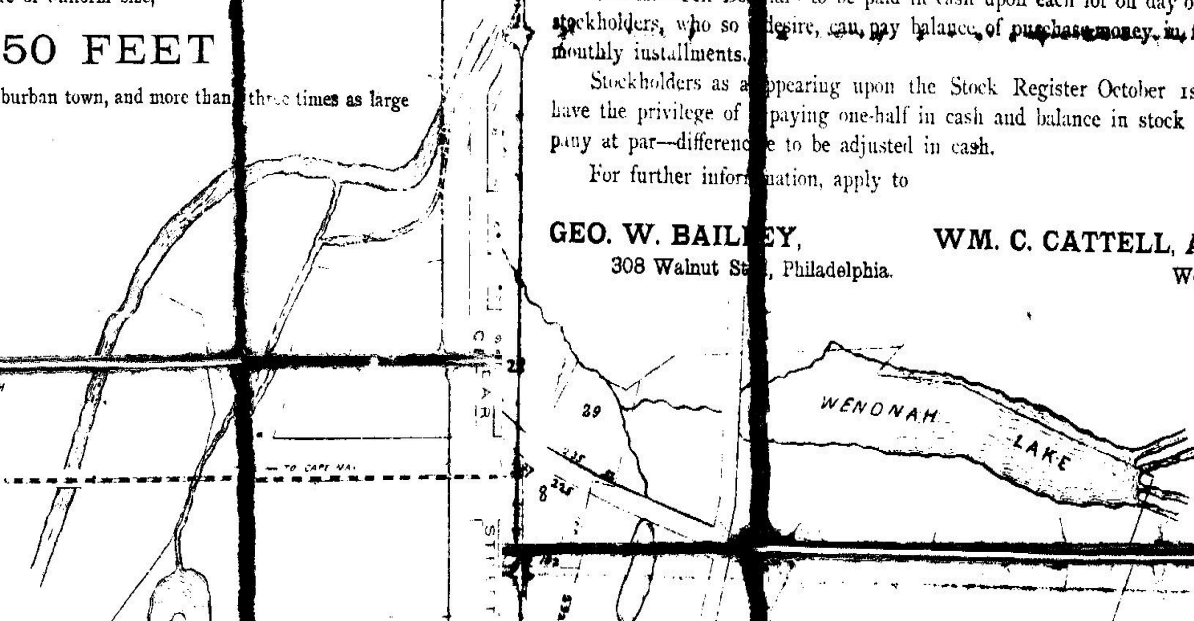
SALE POSITIVE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER,
WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.

With a single exception, and the lots reserved for business purposes west of
the railroad, the lots to be sold are of uniform size,

75X150 FEET

THE LARGEST offered by any suburban town, and more than three times as large
as some.

- SOLD AND IMPROVED
- ▲ SOLD
- TO BE SOLD
- † M. E. CHURCH
- + PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- ☐ WENONAH HOUSE
- ⌒ PUBLIC SCHOOL



WENONAH

Enjoys the most beautiful location on the line of the West Jersey Railroad, and offers advantages superior to any other town in New Jersey adjacent to Philadelphia.

WIDEST AVENUES, HIGHEST LOCATION, LARGEST LOTS,

SHADED AVENUES, FLAGGED WALKS, LIGHTED STREETS,

THRIVING CHURCHES, EXCELLENT SCHOOL, GOOD STORES,

PURE SPRING WATER, ECONOMICAL BOROUGH GOVERNMENT,

FREEDOM FROM SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS,

CHEAP COMMUTATION RAILROAD FARES, FREQUENT TRAINS,

GOOD SOCIETY, LOW TAXES.

IN FACT, ABOUT EVERY ADVANTAGE WHICH THE MOST PARTICULAR COULD REQUIRE.

If you are considering the question of a residence in the suburbs, where your family will be free from the contaminations of a city life, and enjoy the benefits of fresh air and pure water, then you cannot afford to determine upon a location without first informing yourself as to the advantages which Wenonah has to offer.

The lots will be conspicuously marked prior to day of sale, and the Agent of the Company may be found at his office at Wenonah daily.

Sale to commence at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

TERMS.—Ten Dollars to be paid in cash upon each lot on day of sale. Non-stockholders, who so desire, can pay balance of purchase money in five per cent monthly installments.

Stockholders as appearing upon the Stock Register October 1st, 1890, can have the privilege of paying one-half in cash and balance in stock of the Company at par—difference to be adjusted in cash.

For further information, apply to

GEO. W. BAILEY,
308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

WM. C. CATTELL, Agent,
Wenonah, N. J.

Wenonah Land and Improvement Company Sale of Building Lots - 1890

The documents shown on the opposite page are from an original blueprint on linen backing. There were little or no plastics in those days and paper was not useful for blueprints and other drawings when they were intended for long-term use. This plat plan is in excellent condition although over 110 years old. It is only illegible at the folds.

As you can see the sale date was "October 23d, 1890" and the sale was for the purpose of selling "100 Building Lots".

As mentioned some legibility is lost at the folds and in the copying process so I will retype the smallest type to avoid eyestrain on your part trying to read it. It says the following:

"Wenonah . . .Enjoys the most beautiful location on the line of the West Jersey Railroad and offers advantages superior to any other town in New Jersey adjacent to Philadelphia".

"Widest Avenues, Highest Location, Largest Lots, Shaded Avenues, Flagged Walks, Lighted streets, Thriving Churches, Excellent School, Good Stores, Pure Spring Water, Economical Borough Government, Freedom From Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, Cheap Commutation Railroad Fares, Frequent Trains, Good Society, Low Taxes. In Fact, About Every Advantage Which the Most Particular Could Require"

"If you are considering the question of a residence in the suburbs, where your family will be free from the contaminations of a city life, and enjoy the benefits of *fresh air* and *pure water*, then you cannot afford to determine upon a location without first informing yourself as to the advantages which Wenonah has to offer."

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Geo. W. Bailey, 308 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia

Wm. C. Cattell, Agent, Wenonah, N.J.

William C. Cattell was a land surveyor who did most of the Wenonah surveying.

Dr. George Bailey was one of the first citizens of Wenonah and played a very important part in our town's creation.

He was born on a New Jersey farm near Paulsboro, carried a musket in the Civil War, and taught school while studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1871 he had a residence dwelling built at the SE Corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues across from the Library. It is still there.

He was an original member of the Mantua Land & Improvement Company, the company that created Wenonah.

Dr. George W. Bailey appears to have been born in the year 1840 or thereabouts. If this is so he was 76 years of age when he died. He is interred along with his wife at the Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro, NJ.]

By Jack C. Sheppard Sr. , Editor

Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

I sincerely hope all of our members had a Merry Christmas and will enjoy a happy, prosperous and healthy 2006.

I hope that in the year 2006 we will find peace for the whole world, and that we will not again be tortured by natural catastrophes, as was so often the case during last year.

Looking back over 2005, we find that our organization accomplished several things. All files and artifacts were moved from the library to the Community Center. A computer system has been set up to start creating a permanent record. Our membership list has been updated. New members have been added; more merchandise was obtained and sold.

On the 4th of July an open house was held to display artifacts from the Wenonah Military Academy. This was well received by visitors and members alike. The monthly meetings were well attended.

During 2006 we look forward to the commencement of work on restoration of the Community Center. Mayor Tom Capaldi appeared at our March 2005 meeting and described the progress that is being made along this line.

In addition to this newsletter we contribute to the Wenonah Town Watch newsletter. You can track other items of community interest between our newsletter and the Town Watch letter.

Wenonah is noted for Volunteerism, and it is amply shown in the Wenonah Historical Society. Our officers and members have shown this trait in our various committee assignments. Jack Sheppard is head of cataloguing and filing and of the Building Committee.

Carol Wiltsee, Treasurer for many years keeps track of our finances. Membership chairperson Jean Cowles has updated the membership list and added new members. Betty MacLeod handles merchandise ordering and sales. Acting secretary Jo Dominy, has done a great job filling in for Eileen Caraker whose son Bradley has some medical problems. Rachel Knisell, historian who's many diaries compiled over the years have recorded the growth and history of our town for all to see.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

President	Don Ralston
Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

The historical house plaques program started originally by Jean and Jack Ehlers is now overseen by Frank Eggert, Don Davis and Chick Cowles.

Each committee has been helped by other member volunteers.

Vicki and Lou McCall opened their home to us for our September meeting as they have for several years. It was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Pat Sole organized our annual Christmas Party and she and her committee did a spectacular job! Besides decorating the Community Center and having the dinner catered an exchange of gifts took place.

The speaker for the January meeting will be Victor Anderson. He will tell us of his many years of auctioneering and handling the sale of estates, from attics to basements

During 2005 there were several things we planned to do but did not complete. We will do our best to accomplish the following tasks during the coming year.

1. Complete the filing and cataloguing of our artifacts
2. Purchase a Historical Society banner for the Wenonah Ball Park.
3. Update our by-laws to build in their protection for the future.
4. Prepare a budget and audit process.

We entertain any and all suggestions from the membership to help make the organization prosper and grow and continue to be a force and voice in the Wenonah cultural activities.

Sincerely yours; Don Ralston

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council.

April 12, 1912 Jesse English was placed in charge of the Borough's water plant at a salary of \$120.00 per year.

At the June 6, 1912 meeting a

Resolution was introduced on first reading proclaiming; "That bathing or swimming in the upper lake, known as Warner's Pond in a nude state is prohibited. Those desiring to avail themselves of the bathing privilege must be provided with suitable clothing and avoid all indecent or unseemly exposure."

Jack Sheppard Sr.

The following story and photos are from the newsletter of the Hereford inlet Lighthouse Museum at the northern end of Wildwood. Our Rachel Knisell was interviewed during the early part of last year by Betty Mugnier, lighthouse Manager. Rachel has been designated Wenonah's Historian and it is a title she has earned and deserves. She provided me with a wonderful historical recollection concerning the battleship Maine that was sunk in Havana Harbor. The story is too long to relate here but I strongly recommend we ask Rachel to be the speaker at a future meeting. She has volumes of information and recollections about history in general and Wenonah in particular.

Several years ago a busload of senior citizens came to tour the Lighthouse as many do during the "shoulder" seasons. One of the women from the bus asked if anyone would be interested in seeing some scrap books that she brought with her. "Yes I would love to see them" I said without hesitation. We have learned from experience that you never know when a new piece of information about our history is going to turn up. In this case, it turned out to be a real treasure trove and the beginning of a great friendship. I called Steve Murray right away knowing that he would be very interested in the books Rachel had brought with her. While the others from the bus took the tour Rachel sat and talked to us as we browsed through her albums. When she saw our interest in these treasures she made an arrangement with the bus driver to continue the bus tour without her and come back later in the afternoon to pick her up for the trip home. She had decided at this time to leave the material with us to be returned to her at a later date.

Rachel Burke Knisell is a sweet soft-spoken woman with an incredible knowledge of history. She shared with us this day just several scrapbooks and photo albums from her collection of 130. She began putting these together over 60 years ago. There are rare magazine articles, maps, almanacs, photos, diary entry's, newspaper clippings and much more. Most of this is maritime history. Much of it is her own family's history.

Her family tree has so many branches of early and important Cape May County Families, it is truly amazing. The surnames read like a "who's who" of the county's history. Burke, Corson. Cresse. Smith. Stiles, Hickman, Ross, Young. Whilden, Somers, Godfrey, and on and on.

Rachel's interest in history began at age nine during trips to her grandmother's home in Woodbury. Adult conversations always turned to some fascinating story of her family's history. This captivated the young girl.

Rachel told me that she was born in Wildwood on Glenwood Ave. 77 years ago. Her mother Emily, a teacher at Glenwood School, first caught a glimpse of her future husband at a fire at the Marine Bank. Emily was among the crowd watching the Wildwood Fire Company battle a blaze at the bank on Pacific Ave. She saw a brave and handsome fireman on the roof surrounded in smoke and wondered how he could survive this. She was very relieved when later, she saw him on the ground and they struck up a conversation. The fireman was Horace Burke. He and Emily eventually married.

Rachel's ancestry goes way back - probably to the Mayflower. The earliest known relative she has been able to trace is Anthony Ludlam, born in Long Island in the 1670's.

Of particular importance to Hereford are some names that have played important roles in our history. Her great, great, grandfather was John S. Ludlam. He was the commissioner of wrecks or "Wreck Master" from the "Dry Inlet on Learnings Beach to Turtle Gut Inlet." His job was to find and secure wrecks and cargo and place notice of this until the legal owners were found. He was also in charge of the first Life Saving Station in Anglesea from 1849 - 1863. This was long before Hereford Lighthouse was constructed.

In 1857 he was awarded a silver medal for his courage in saving the crew of the Schooner "Race Rock", lost on Hereford Bar on Christmas day 1856.

Rachel's grandmother's half brother was Henry S. Ludlam, Keeper of the Anglesea Life Saving Station from 1902 - 1914. His numerous well-known rescues included the wreck of the Schooner Fannie Bailey in 1882 and the party boat Nora in 1906.

Another relative of Rachel's was the famous Christopher Ludlam, Keeper of the Anglesea Station from 1883 - 1897. Christopher was considered a national hero and received a gold medal for his December rescue of the crew of the Schooner D. H. Ingraham in 1886. He is responsible for saving 232 lives and \$641,000 in property (1890's dollars) during his career.

Not all of Rachel's famous relatives lived in the 19th Century. One of her father's brothers was Raymond Burke, founder of Burke Motors. Another uncle was Richard L. Burke, President of Sun Ship Yard in Chester, Penna.

Rachel's collection of historical information includes the whalers, pirates, Life Saving Service, Lighthouses, sunken treasure and much more. She is a very talented woman that admires the self-sufficiency of our ancestors. She said she always wanted to learn to do everything herself. She still does her own carpentry work!

Rachel's husband, Ralph Knisell, is a well-known outdoor sports writer and radio personality in the Cumberland County area. They have two sons, Harry Wilson Knisell and Richard Ludlam Knisell.

It is a pleasure to spend time with Rachel who comes down several times a year to visit. She always brings more gems for us to display or put in our archives. She is also a "Friend" and we are much appreciative of her sharing her wealth of knowledge and family history with us.

Betty Mugnier
Manager Hereford Lighthouse



Rachel Burke Knisell with photo of her
great great grandfather John S. Ludlum



Henry S. Ludlum

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 2 February 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The regular meeting of the Wenonah Historical Society will be held Friday February 10, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Wenonah Community Center.

Our meetings this past year of 2005 have been well attended. The meetings gave us an opportunity to learn more about the history of our town and the progress we have made in increasing our knowledge through the collection of many artifacts, photos and documents.

I am pleased to report on the health of a few of our members who were incapacitated. Marge Lentz is now recovering nicely at her home after her hip operation. Jennie McQuaide is no longer "house bound". We look forward to both again attending our meetings.

At our January executive meeting it was agreed to again sponsor an "Open House" on the Fourth of July. We will show more artifacts and items from our past rather than just those related to the Wenonah Military Academy.

We will solicit other organizations in town, such as churches, Lions Club, Fire Company and the Wenonah Public School to display any artifacts they may have and even individual citizens who may have such artifacts in their homes.

We still have some fund raising objects remaining to be sold and we will order more of these items such as banners, hats, postcards and booklets of the history of Wenonah. They are an excellent means of raising funds for WHS operations.

The speaker at our February meeting will be Anne Zuber who is currently the part-time librarian in the Wenonah Elementary School and is also director of the Wenonah Free Public Library.

She began the process of automating the library collection through the World-wide Web it is connected to the website of our school.

Victor Anderson, the speaker at our January meeting gave an interesting program on his experiences of selling contents of estates in Wenonah.

A request was made for our programs, to have other organizations in town appear and advise of their history in the formulating of our town.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

A banner has been ordered to be part of the display at the ball field on South East Ave. It will say " *Preserving Wenonah's Heritage*" with the WHS logo, a picture of the "tower" of the historic Shull House on Mantua Ave.

Bradley Caraker, son of Eileen Caraker and grandson of Eileen Honabach, both Society members, is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant on February 7th. Let us all pray that it will be successful.

"A Ladies Night Out" is planned for March 25th, at the Incarnation Hall, Mantua, NJ. This is a fund-raiser to help with the tremendous expenses involved in Bradley's treatment and recovery.

I refer you to our January Newsletter for the tasks we wish to complete during 2006..

Sincerely yours, Don Ralston

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council. (and Commission)

April 10, 1883 "The first meeting of the Wenonah Borough Commission was held in the public school house of Wenonah for the purpose of electing a permanent organization, and transacting such business as may come before it".

"T.W.Synnott called the meeting to order and a permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers." President Dr. George W. Bailey, Secretary C.B. Johnson, Treasurer I.C. Stevenson, other members A.W. Carey, M.H. Perry, T.W. Synnott, and J. Frank Shull.

At the April 17, 1883 meeting "Dr. G. Bailey, on behalf of the Mantua Land & Improvement Co. presented to the borough 2 squares of land for our Borough Park. It was formally accepted by the Borough by means of a Deed received Sept. 11, 1883.

Editor's Note: The meaning of "2 squares of land" is that a street, Park Avenue split what now is our park into squares, or blocks. Park Avenue east of the railroad was vacated in 1896 and the park then became 1 square or block as it is today. This accounts for the Park frequently being referenced as "squares" in many meeting Minute notations.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

110 Years Ago in Wenonah

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3000 feet, were discovered to have been despoiled of feed wire sometime during the previous night. Investigation showed the wire was removed with considerable skill.

The season at the Inn is at its height and the enterprising management keep fully abreast of the social pleasures. Last Friday evening the guests gave a testimonial entertainment to the Inn's excellent orchestra, the audience filling the entertainment room of the Inn. The program was as follows: 1. Overture-Bonnie Scotland Orchestra; 2. Selection-Mrs. George Weale; 3. Cornet Solo-Mr. Edward Belding; 4. Dmetrius-Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last.

Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent. Mr. and Mrs. W.J. McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelle, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of this place was joined in marriage at noon on Wednesday to Miss Claire Dobbins of Camden at the home of her father, W.H. Dobbins.

Miss Mary Linard recently fell from a chair on which she was standing and fractured her hip.

Tuesday evening this borough was greatly enlivened by its first musical of the season given at the home of Mrs. George B. Finch. The "talent" consisted of Miss Sharp and Miss Grist of Philadelphia, Mrs. Turner and daughter, Mrs. Mehorter, and Mrs. Finch of Wenonah. Mrs. Johnson, the "wit" of the occasion created much merriment by her dry but funny sayings. Mr. Finch and Mrs. Mehorter, the "thorns" among so many "roses" enjoyed the distinction immensely, as did the ladies. At ten, the guests retired to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served, the table decorations being a profusion of choice asters.

Joseph Noblitt and family returned on Wednesday from Ocean City where they are spending the summer. (He was a Civil War veteran and a friend of the Lake brothers, founders of Ocean City) Several Heptasophs from here attended the picnic at Washington Park last Tuesday.

The Berkley (now called Mount Royal) Baptist Sunday School picnicked here last Wednesday.

Surely Wenonah is a fine resort for all kinds of outings.

Charles M. Wilkins and family are in the Catskill Mountains for a while.

August and September 1896, Gloucester County Democrat & Gloucester County Constitution

Turner and McCormick will furnish Java coffee for the missionary supper at Noblit's Hall tonight.

The thermometer registered 4 above zero here this morning

The safety gates are now assured us. It seems almost incredible that over 300 teams use the crossing at the depot in a day

The library association is rapidly arranging matters to have the room in the rear of the post office open for use soon, which will be highly appreciated by our people. (This was at 1 East Mantua Avenue.)

The iron fence to be placed between the tracks has arrived and now when the safety gates get here we will be nearly satisfied. (The iron fence was short lived as the advent of the electric line in 1905 made the fence a potential hazard.)

The only drawback to the ice cream social of the Forget-Me-Not Mission Band at the home of Mrs. English was the spoiling of about 10 quarts of ice cream by it being saturated with salt water. (Remember when we made ice cream using rock salt in the hand cranked ice cream maker?)

Some think there will be a Democratic and Republican ticket in the field here for borough officers this spring while it is hinted by others that this is just what some do not want-for their own success. However it will soon be known positively and then the political pot may boil with a vengeance.

Since the death of Mr. Fullerton we have been without a Justice of the Peace. But we have very little need for such an officer here, but they are rather handy to have around when they are needed.

The pleasant "at homes" which were held quite frequently not long ago have been discontinued for some unaccountable reason.

Daniel W. Brown went to Burlington yesterday to hear the "silver tongued" orator, William Jennings Bryant.

There was a little excitement on the ice pond Saturday while the house of Turner and McCormick was being filled. Frank Clark, driving the team of J. Chew, thought he would show them how to cut ice and picked up a saw. When he cut off the cake he was standing on and took an icy bath for his health. Thomas Savage heard a splash and gurgling sound and as he turned around saw George Dilkes pulling Clark out of the water.

Poor Dash, he came all the way from Barnesboro to get a bone, and as he was crossing the track ahead of the Cape May express about 5 o'clock last night,

lost his life by collision with the engine, which was moving faster than he was.

C.W. Hussey had a serious runaway yesterday. While hitched in front of John Vierick's place on Mantua Avenue, the horse flew back and broke the bridle and halter, and dashed up the street, striking a post or two, almost completely demolishing the wagon. No one was injured.

The Cape May freight, due here about six o'clock last night was laid over till 2 o'clock this morning because the engine threw a tire from one of her drive wheels. Two engines and a wrecker were sent down and travel was delayed. The wheel broke 100 yards north of the depot but the train could not be stopped for nearly a half mile. There was considerable excitement for a while.

We have become accustomed to the new lights at the depot, and they are so in keeping with the other streetlights, that we can scarcely realize that we put up with oil lights for so long. Progress is the motto of the age.

Grocer Richard Clark has a curiosity on exhibition in the shape of a monster collar button which is a showcase for eight different styles. It is at least 10 inches high and the same across and is a striking advertisement for patent buttons he has for sale.

Our people are anxiously awaiting the result of the skating contest.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society in Noblit's Hall will give a supper tomorrow from 6 to 8. Tickets 25 cents

Turner & McCormick have secured a vicious bulldog to guard their store. A stitch in time saves nine.

The shelter on the southbound track is completed except the tin on the roof and it meets the requirements.

J.S. Chew had to call Dr. E. Bassett Kirby of Woodbury to see two of his horses, which were sick, this morning.

J.W. English, treasurer of the Wenonah Conclave, I.O.H. has received a check for \$2,000 death benefit for the late Benjamin F. Coles, a member of the order, to be paid to his widow.

We had almost another sleighing snow Saturday night and the coal dealers are smiling, but warmer weather is promised tonight.

Some of our people complain of the dearth of amusements here this winter, compared with other seasons.

Woodbury Daily Times Courtesy Milton Webb

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 3 March 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

For our next meeting the featured speaker will be Richard M. Burr, a Certified Genealogist. Richard is a Past President of the Gloucester County Historical Society. He is a member of 18 Hereditary Societies. He is also Past President of both the Sons of the American Revolution and the South Jersey Chapter of the Sons of The American Revolution. Richard has traced his ancestry back to Charlemagne and to the Crusades

He has taught genealogy classes, in the evenings at Moorestown High School, Gateway Regional School, Gloucester County College and the Gloucester County historical Society.

If you have not been interested in your "family tree" before our meeting I am sure you will be after hearing Richard's presentation.

In the next Wenonah Town Letter there will be an article about our Historical Society. I have spoken to Beth Hoffman, who writes the newsletter and have asked that the list of movies to be shown in the Municipal Building, be listed and displayed in prominent places locally.

The latest about our friend Bradley Caraker. Brad received a bone marrow transplant from his 12-year-old sister Kristen. He appears to be in a good spirits. Remember the "Ladies Night" fund-raiser March 25, 2006, 8 to 12 pm at the Incarnation hall, Mantua.

Helen Manners, a fellow member of the Historical Society fell and broke her hip and is currently recovering at Manor Care. She should be coming home shortly.

At the February meeting librarian Anne Zuber gave an excellent lecture on the history of the Wenonah Library. Jack Sheppard and Julie Ream are working on computerizing our museum materials. When up and operating it will connect with the Library computer already tied into the Wenonah Public School computer. This will make it easy to research Wenonah's history.

Our Trustees hold an executive meeting on the Monday prior to our monthly meeting. In this manner we can discuss in detail each committee's functions and other business.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

This allows more time at the regular meeting for our speaker's presentation. Members are invited to attend these meetings at the Community Center.

At our last meeting it was announced we would again have an "Open House" on Fourth of July 2006. Members are invited to bring pictures, articles of historic interest and any artifacts they may have relating to Wenonah for display.

Our April meeting will feature Charles Wingate who grew up in Paulsboro where his father operated the lighthouses. This should be an interesting talk.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council. (and Commission)

12/3/86 Complaint to Commission by Mr. Dawson about "the continual grievance inflicted upon him by the trespass of chickens belonging to Mr. E. Stokes" in violation of the Borough Ordinance prohibiting same. Much discussion concerning State laws governing Boroughs and the powers to enforce the laws. After "full discussion M. Hayes Perry was nominated and duly elected as Policeman for the Borough". Mr. Perry was the first policeman in the Borough of Wenonah followed by Thomas Savage who was paid a salary of \$12.00 for the year 1891.

3/20/88 At a meeting of citizens a resolution was drawn seeking to separate Wenonah from Deptford Township in the matter of taxation and elections by securing special legislation for that purpose. The increase in population was given as the reason, there being 100 voters. (Less than 50 when the Wenonah Commission was first organized).

Stephen Greene opened Marion Ave. at his own expense, to the intersection with Bark Bridge Road. He built a bridge over the stream and the approaches thereto. "Therefore, Clinton Ave. and Bark Bridge Rd. are hereby vacated and closed from point of intersection of Clinton with the South line of Pine St., to a point in Bark Bridge Rd. where it intersects with the West line of Marion Ave."

Jack Sheppard Sr.

More from Old Wenonah

July 24 1903

Norman Schock will spend some time at Pitman Grove.

Miss Georgiana Coward has gone to Monroeville for a few days.

The stork visited the home of Geo. H. Greenig, Wednesday and left a fine daughter of which Mr. and Mrs. Greenig are very proud.

The Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church disposed of thirty quarts of ice cream in two hours last evening, at the home of Mrs. Hamilton Turner.

Miss Etna Andrews of Tuckerton, N. J., who has been lying at the point of death with peritonitis is reported by Dr. Harvey who is attending her in conjunction with their local physician to be slightly improved and hopes of her recovery are entertained.

Tramps as a rule stay clear of Wenonah but yesterday an ugly fellow so far forgot the unwritten rule, as to intrude in the vicinity of the Camels Back woods. Mrs. Joe Truncer and Mrs. Wm. Stewart who were walking along admiring the scenery there, were terribly frightened at seeing the tramp emerge from the woods and without any provocation hurl a stone at them, which luckily did not hit either of them. The ladies called lustily for their husbands, which had the desired effect and the tramp skulked back into the woods. The same tramp was also seen there by some young ladies who left the scene badly scared by his actions.

January 10 1911

Mr. and Mrs. Mulvey will have a corned beef and cabbage dinner Wednesday evening.

Dr. Lorence and Charlie Frederick had a very interesting game of pool Saturday evening.

Railroad Committee of the Improvement Association, do not forget to try and get a covering put over our west platform.

We see that Council has been requested to pass an ordinance to license the pool table in the barber shop. Amen to that as it is right, and proper. Every town has this regulation; but its not right to circulate reports that gambling and boys under age are sold cigarettes and allowed to play all night as that is not so.

Some men whose names were mentioned the night Council was requested to pass the ordinance have played late at night, but whose business is that? They are of age and their own masters. Pool is not a bad game at all. Several citizens of Wenonah have their own tables, but everyone cannot afford this so have to play in public. We know of several church organizations that have them. Is it not better to have our young men play pool in our own town at night than have them to Woodbury, Camden and Philadelphia and fall in with all sorts of bad people? It is far better for parents to make their boys hours so attractive they would not want to go out at night. Now, these people who think the barber shop is such a terrible place why not investigate for themselves and not pay so much attention to what the other fellow says, because repeating names and tales, both that come second handed is liable to get some one in trouble. Wenonah needs a good barber shop. We have one. Let us keep it. Signed, someone who gets shaved there.

March 28, 1912 - Magical Beautifier (Advertisement)
A Delightful Toilet Article Used by Leading Society Women. Half Price Offer

The leading society women in New York have now a new fad that was brought from Paris recently – the use of Beauty Blush, a dainty liquid for the complexion.

This protects the skin from the wind, sun and dust, and is marvelously effective in giving clear, rosy complexion, curing freckles, pimples, blackheads and other blemishes.

Beauty Blush is used instead of the dry powders which clog the pores and change the skin to a muddy, sallow appearance. It is non-greasy and has no tendency whatever to cause a hairy growth.

This week you can get a 50 cent bottle of Beauty Blush from W. H. Sutton for half price, 25 cents, and every woman who desires a good complexion should have it on her toilet table. Money refunded if not satisfactory.

Editors note: W. H. Suttons Pharmacy in Woodbury was owned and operated by the father and grandfather of our member Betty Sutton MacLeod.

Above from the Gloucester County Democrat and Times newspapers

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 4 April 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

We are all glad that spring has finally arrived. The forsythia, flowering crepe, and daffodils are all blooming. The trees will soon be clothed in green leaves. Wenonah is especially pretty at this time of the year.

In the December 2005 newsletter we enumerated our accomplishments for the year 2005.

In the January and February newsletters it we outlined our objectives for the year 2006. They were to see the renovation to start on the Community Center and the completion of computerizing artifacts, photos and news articles on the history of Wenonah.

A meeting was recently held to explain what was decided by the historical architect and the borough engineer to renovate the Community Center. In attendance were Borough Business Manager Dawn Human, Mayor Tom Capaldi, Council member. Bill Schnarr, Borough Engineer Dave Kreck and Environmental Commission member William Schram. Blueprints were laid out and explained what renovations deemed necessary. A diagram was also shown concerning curbing and correction of a drainage problem to the building. The Historical Society will be given access to these plans so that we can show them at our meeting.

Speaker for the April meeting, Friday 14, 2006, will be our member Charles Wingate. Charles' father was the operator of the lighthouses at Paulsboro and Billingsport. He lived in one of them for 19 years.

An update on our sick list. Carmela Lipari, is rehabbing at Kennedy Hospital, Helen Manners is now home and Jo Dominy is recouping at home but is expected at our April meeting.

We obtained a copy of the Wenonah Community Bus Schedule;
April 12, Wednesday .Smithville.
April 24, Monday, .Camden Aquarium, \$13.95 per person
May 10 Wednesday, Morven Museum and Gardens, Princeton, \$4.00 for Seniors

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

May 22, Monday, .Ocean City.
June 7, Wednesday, Winterthur, DuPont Mansion, Brandywine Valley.
Admission \$13 to \$18.00 depending on the tour chosen.

A very successful "Calendar Party" was held March 25th, for the benefit of young Bradley Caraker who is being treated for Leukemia at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

The Wenonah Home and School Association is holding its Annual Ice Cream Social May 15th at the Wenonah School. They have offered to allow the Historical Society a table there for display purposes.

Once again, our dues are \$15.00 per family. If by chance or oversight you have not yet paid, please do so.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Woodbury Daily Times June 1900

Last night's dance at the (Wenonah) Inn was a very enjoyable affair, from the accounts of it heard, and a large number took part. A jolly crowd from Woodbury came down in Budd's hack, but one young man we understand, had the misfortune to lose his overcoat. We should presume he might have had one hand free to take care of it, but apparently both had gone to "waist."

A very fortunate runaway accident happened early last evening. Ran Stevenson was out driving with his sister and in going east on Mantua Avenue, the traces broke and the spirited animal started to run. Young Stevenson clung to lines, even though the animal's heels were flying close to his nose almost at every leap, and as his sister remained quietly in the wagon the frightened animal was stopped going up the steep hill. Both young people were complimented upon their steady nerves by the large crowd which were attracted by the brief excitement.

This is not to get in the Times, so you had best not read it. Marshal Drummer, the custodian of our peace, always watchful of suspicious characters, found two tramps prowling about the other night, and for the want of a better place, locked them in an empty freight car, on a siding, intending to release them just before going off duty in the morning. Business cares preoccupied his mind until half the morning had gone, when he bethought himself of his prisoners. When he reached the depot, the car, the suspects and all were gone — perhaps just what both parties desired—Drummer as well as the tramps.

More from Old Wenonah

"In 1888 the land company deeded to the Borough Commission the square in front of the hotel between Clinton and West Jersey Avenues with the provision that the same should always be maintained as a public park for the inhabitants of Wenonah."

This is a quotation from "Wenonah's Background" written by Constance Cowell. The hotel was the Wenonah Inn, which later became the Wenonah Military Academy.

The square has been faithfully maintained as a public park by the people of Wenonah and various improvements have been made over the years. In 1946 a project was started to renovate the park. A plan was drawn up which describes a large parade ground to be continued at the southern end of the park and a smaller open area at the northern end; a broad north south avenue to be lined with trees and ornamentals, terminated at the northern end by a stepped entrance to the park and at the southern end by tall evergreens and a semicircle of benches; an east-west corridor entirely enclosed by trees which will be suitable for outdoor meetings; curved walks along the south and east sides of the park to be suitably landscaped with flowering trees and shrubs; the gradual replacement of the old and deteriorating silver maples and sycamore maples with more permanent trees; and finally to create a beautiful display of flowers and foliage.

Progress has been made each year toward accomplishing the objectives of the plan. Open areas have been preserved, progress has been made toward lining the avenue and corridor with suitable plant material. The curved walk at the southern end has been placed. Considerable progress has been made toward removing the old silver and sycamore maples. The oaks in the park have been increased from two to twenty-four representing ten different species. The new planting also include sugar maple, red maple, honey locust, beech, yellow wood, oxydendron, red bud, Hawthorne, hemlock, Douglas fir and holly.

Much progress has been made in providing flowering trees and other ornamentals. These include four varieties of dogwoods, flowering cherries, flowering apples, rhododendrons, azaleas, laurel, taxus, lilac, crepe myrtle, rose, evergreen barberry and Japanese holly.

Much of the improvement in the park has been accomplished thru the assistance of organizations and individuals of the Borough. With money raised by the Wenonah Woman's Club fifty dogwoods and many other ornamentals were purchased. The Wenonah Garden Club donated a group of rhododendrons and azaleas. The Wenonah Junior Garden Club contributed five American hollies and three Japanese hollies. The Explorer Scouts held four work parties at various times at which they planted twelve oak trees and painted the park benches. The Wenonah Fire Company has on several occasions saved the young trees by watering the park during droughts. The curved flagstone walk at the southern end was placed by work parties involving twenty-eight citizens. The park benches were made by volunteer labor. Many individual citizens of Wenonah have made very valuable contributions of trees and shrubs.

With the maturing of the plant material already placed, and with additional improvements in the future, the park will become more attractive each year and will contribute more and more to the beauty and peaceful atmosphere of our town which, to quote from the last sentence of Constance Cowell's paper, is surely ". . . a refuge from the industrialism which has sprung up in the area around it."

George Eldridge, Jan. 23, 1960

From the *Woodbury Times* Nov. 1910

Mr. Editor; Of all "Tom Fool" propositions that have come before our Council, the one to spend \$350 to practically parallel the present cement walk from the depot across the Park is the worst. It is time the tax payers should take notice and protest against such a waste of money. We need this money on our streets, and this amount will gravel ten blocks and be a benefit to the town, while the walk would be an injury to the Park and benefit a few men who would sacrifice the beauty of the park and put a load on the taxpayers to save themselves a half minute of their valuable time each day. We are better off without them. signed,

"Pro Bono Publico"

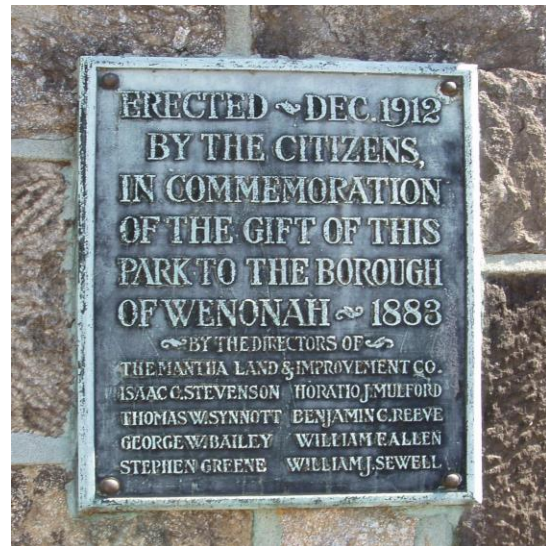
Editor comment: The walk referred to is the cross-walk through the Park shown below.



Photo March, 2006

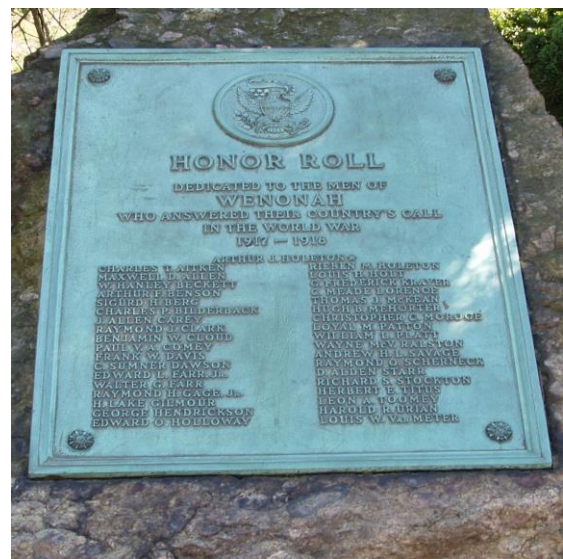
From the *Woodbury Times* Nov. 1912

Work on the approach to the Park is well under way and already you can form an idea of what the finished job will look like. The two outside taller columns are to be topped by lanterns of bronze. The pipe, which shows in the building of the columns, will accommodate gas and electric conduits. A bronze tablet in the column next the railroad will hold a tablet commemorating the gift of the Park to Wenonah by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company in 1883. The eight directors of the company at that time will be named in the tablet.



The Constitution June 1919

Sometime this week W. B. Snelbaker, the marble dealer of Woodbury will commence to place the big boulder (which was recently moved from Mr. Comey's corner to the Borough Park) on its foundation where a bronze tablet containing the names of our soldier boys will be placed on it in preparation for the celebration on July 4th.



Researching the history of our Park one notices there was controversy from time to time as to the condition of the Park and the improvements that were sometimes needed, and sometimes made.

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 5 May 2006

MESSAGE FROM

PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The Historical Society will have its monthly meeting on the second Friday, May 12, 2006. We will be discussing plans for the June picnic which we have decided to have in the Community Center. Please bring a dish of food or a dessert. The Society will provide the beverages.

The entertainment for the May meeting will be a Memorial Day service provided by the Arthur J. Holeton Post #192, American Legion. I believe we should have Wenonah organizations tell of their history. We have had several participants speak. We will give a brief history of Post 192 since its founding in 1920.

On May 15, 2006, the Home and School Committee will have its annual Ice Cream Social at the Wenonah Public School. We should all support this program. This organization does a wonderful job of assisting the teachers and the administration in the education of our children. While you are at the school please visit our display in the school lobby. Betty Rose keeps it filled with historic items. This time it will have pictures and artifacts that pertain to the history of Wenonah.

On May 30, 2006 The Women's Club is sponsoring the annual Red Cross Blood Drive at the Presbyterian Church from 2: PM to 8: PM. Phone calls are being made seeking donors. Donors should call Jennie McQuaide at 468-3001 to make an appointment.

As to the proposed rehabilitation of the Community Center, revised specifications were sent to the historical architect and from there to Trenton.

The time period is about 6 weeks, then requests for bids can be solicited. Then another 6 weeks for review of the bids and their acceptance.

Betty Rose, Chairlady of the Fourth of July Open House, has formed a committee and letters will be sent out to 12 Wenonah Organizations asking them to display historical pictures or artifacts. Individual citizens will also be asked to show any historic items they may have.

The Wenonah Historical Society banner is now on display at the ball

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field located at South East Avenue and East Cedar Street. Jack Sheppard did the design. If you have not yet seen it please do so.

Pat Sole, Jack Sheppard and I have had an opportunity to examine the model sailing ship hand-crafted by an original citizen of Wenonah, Andrew Carey. The model is in very good shape in a glass case. After the Community Center renovations we will move it here for display. The model is over one hundred thirty years old.

May is when Americans pause to honor their fallen heroes. Memorial Day was commemorated after the Civil War when Ladies of the Confederacy placed flowers on the graves of their soldiers.

On Saturday, May 27, 2006 Arthur J. Holeton Post # 192, will place flags on the graves of Veterans buried in the Wenonah Cemetery. Veterans buried there are from the Civil War through the Vietnam War until the present.

We thank you for your interest in the Wenonah Historical Society and the support you have given to it.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Hard to remember now, even harder for younger generations of Americans to grasp, but back in the days of the first and second world wars the defense of our homeland was not taken for granted.

As a teenager during the early days of World War II, before entering the Navy in 1944, I had many experiences that when I tell my grandchildren about them they seem incredulous.

For example, total blackouts on the Ocean City boardwalk during summers in 1942 and 1943. Strict food rationing as well as other commodities including gas, and no pleasure driving allowed. Horses and wagons being used for deliveries of milk and bread, as well as to get racing patrons to Eugene Morie's brand new Garden State Race Track. The wagons picked up people on street corners in the area around the track and returned them after the races.

That kind of patriotism has just about disappeared from the United States today and we are a different people and country without it, at least in my opinion.

Frankly, hindsight being what it is, there is a greater chance of Wenonah being "invaded" by the enemy during this current war of terror than ever existed during prior conflicts. But home defense was a serious matter during both of those wars as the following newspaper articles and excerpts will indicate.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

WORLD WAR I

Woodbury Daily Times April, 1917

Last evening a big patriotic mass meeting was held in the Wenonah Military Academy gymnasium. Every seat was taken and a number had to stand, but still we had room for the few more whose faces we did not see. A most enthusiastic gathering was there, however.

After seats had been secured for as many as possible the Scouts and Camp Fire Girls came in. and then the Academy boys, led by their band, marched in.

The meeting was opened by the singing of America accompanied by the Cadet Band. After this Rev. R. H. Gage led in a splendid prayer, praying God for his mighty help in this struggle. Following the prayer Mayor Fowler Cline gave an enthusiastic appeal to the people, dealing with the purpose of the meeting. Then Hon. David O. Watkins, of Woodbury was Introduced by Mayor Cline and delivered an especially fine address which fired the people with patriotism.

Mr. Geo. Grosscup. Borough Clerk read the minutes of the meeting of the Joint committees. Mr. Charles Hobson then gave a talk on the work of the census committee, of which he is chairman, after which Mayor Cline gave a call for volunteers for military training for home defence, to which more than forty responded. There are quite a number of men in our town already in the service of their country, but there are others who could have offered their services.

The Nakomls Camp Fire Girls of Wenonah offered their services In any way possible and asked for permission to practice rifle shooting.

There will be drills three nights a week in the gymnasium, which was very kindly offered us by Dr. Lorence. Captain McFeely has also volunteered his service to drill the men, so there is no doubt that the men should become finely trained soldiers. Dr. Lorence then gave a short address telling the men that these drills were to be regarded as very serious affairs and also explaining other military subjects. Then everyone arose and, accompanied by the band joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner". There were nearly four hundred people who attended.

Next, six months later, is a letter from Mayor C. Fowler Cline to the citizens. It appears the patriotism exhibited during the April rally had fizzled out and

he felt the need to send a personal letter to stir renewed enthusiasm. He apparently felt if you could drill properly it would enable you to fight well. Notice his accusation at the end, that the women were doing more than the men.

Wenonah, N.J., Sept. 18, 1917.

Dear Sir:

You are cordially invited to attend the rally and reorganization of "Wenonah Home Guards" in Academy Drill Hall, Monday Eve., Sept. 24th, 8 o'clock, at which time plans for the winter work will be decided and a full list of officers elected by the members.

Those in authority in both Nation and State urge upon us the need and importance of organized, drilled companies of Home Guards. Wenonah has done splendidly and has made quite a reputation in the County as a leader in this work. The need for such Organizations exists now as much as at any time and the fact that we have had no need for actual service arid cannot now see any actual, visible danger does not prove that such need does not exist.

Gardens, vacations and a number of members entering active service has interfered with our attendance at drills during the summer months but now that winter evenings are here and we plan to drill but one evening a week we expect renewed Interest.

Every one of those who have attended our meetings and drills claim to have derived real benefits from the drills and exercises as well as genuine pleasure from the social intercourse with their fellow men of Wenonah.

We believe it to be the patriotic duty of every man who is physically able to do his bit toward the protection of his home and community.

Come out to this meeting and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you. It will do you good, you will do good and you will enjoy it. Don't let the fact that you have never drilled keep you away; the officers will take care of that.

Membership .In "Wenonah Home Guards" is for service in the Borough of Wenonah only, just as its name implies.

The women of our town are doing splendid work, are the men going to let them do it all?

Respectfully yours,
C. Fowler Cline, Mayor

Woodbury Daily Times May, 1917

The Wenonah Woman's Service Committee since the first of the year have made 4,531 bandages, 1,496 oakum pads, 7,002 gauze compresses, 450 towels, 140 wash rags, 50 surgical sponges, 72 eye bandages, 107 sweaters, 80 helmets, 70 wristlets, 50 pairs of socks, 92 trench caps, 3 coverlets and 1 Belgian shawl. We call on everyone in our town to do something for this great and necessary cause.

Woodbury Daily Times May, 1917

In a letter to Mr. Edw. L. Farr, President of the Wenonah branch of the American Red Cross the Rev. Elbert M. Conover stated "The Methodist Episcopal Church has, sometime ago, placed its entire force and organization at the command of the Government for the purpose of helping win the war at the earliest possible time".

The letter went on to say the Wenonah church has a patriotic Service Committee composed of Messers. Hobson, Fleming, Ekey, Bell and Evans who are asking each church member to commit to giving a certain sum each month and advising the amount of \$10.00 has been volunteered already.

Woodbury Daily Times June 1919

HOME GUARDS ATTENTION! We are invited to take part in the big Fourth of July parade next Friday morning. It's the last time we shall be called upon so let us respond with all the fervor and enthusiasm of the days when we believed we should be needed to defend our own immediate firesides.

WORLD WAR II

And this apparent need to act on the home front to defend our borders and community continued at the onset of the next "great war". Consider the following;

Woodbury Daily Times Feb, 1942

Wenonah Pupils to Build Model Planes. Pupils in manual training classes of the Wenonah School soon will be making models of hundreds of airplanes to assist in a national program to instruct defense units to identify enemy aircraft David Starr, chairman of the manual training committee explained.

Woodbury Daily Times Apr. 1942

All auxiliary trainees of Wenonah, including are raid wardens, auxiliary firemen, auxiliary police, first aid groups, demolition squads, home nursing classes, gas and decontamination units, members of

the Wenonah defense council and the citizens of Wenonah are requested to attend a meeting to be held at the American Legion Hall Thursday April 30th. Experts will attend and explain the proper procedure to follow in event of gas attack on our community.

Another on the same date;

Citizens of Wenonah; Commencing this Saturday your local salvage committee is instituting a collection campaign for waste materials that are urgently needed by your government. The boys in the front lines are doing a swell job. Let's show them we are behind them on the home front and "get in the scrap".

Woodbury Daily Times May. 1942

On Thursday evening commencing at 9:00 p.m. and ending at 9:30 p.m. there will be a practice simulated air raid in the Borough of Wenonah. It is only by practice that we can function properly and smoothly in case a real air raid should occur. Norman L. MacLeod, Chairman Local Defense Committee and Wayne M. Ralston, Acting Chief, Wenonah Fire Company.

Woodbury Daily Times Sept. 1942

Air Warning!! How many Wenonah people know where the observation post is located, that protects you and our community. Do you know it is manned 24 hours each day? Have you ever thought, as you hear the planes roar overhead, that it might be an enemy plane?

Woodbury Daily Times Oct. 1942

Urging every man, woman and child in Wenonah to hasten the day of victory by salvaging needed scrap materials, Mayor Gilmour today pledged full support to the local salvage campaign. He said "As you search for scrap in your own home remember that the scrap you are looking for will give our armed forces more weapons for a quicker victory."

Woodbury Daily Times Nov. 1942

More volunteers are needed to assist in the bandage-folding project now in progress each Wednesday at the Legion Hall.

Woodbury Daily Times Jan. 1943

Volunteers are needed to man the airplane observation post on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 to 5 a.m. This is the most difficult watch to fill and a service demanding real sacrifice.

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 6 July 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

This past winter and spring we had very pleasant meetings. I hope you all enjoyed them. We can now look forward to our summer of individual activities.

I wish to note some news about our members and their families. Pat and Andy Sole's son Dr. David P. Sole was named to the Personal Achievement Hall of Fame of the Gateway Regional High School. David is a 1985 graduate. He is enshrined with two other Wenonah graduates, Stephen Squyres, head of the NASA Mars Probe and his brother Tim named to the Academy Awards for Film Editing. Our congratulations to all three of these fine Wenonah youngsters.

Four Junior High School students at Gateway Regional have been selected to attend the American Legion Boys State. It is held at Rider College from June 18 to June 23. The boys are Louis McCall, son of Vicki and Lou McCall, Chris Mayer-Bacon, Christian Morency and Jonathan Stranahan. Jersey Boys State is a fictitious 51st state organization under the direction of the American Legion. Its objectives are to educate and familiarize our young people with the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.

I want to thank those members, who were responsible for setting up and handling the June picnic. They were Helen and Jack Sheppard, Betty MacLeod and Pat Sole and others who

contributed. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and sociability. .

For Kathryn and myself I want to thank Jack Sheppard for the very fine tribute paid to my father, Wayne M. Ralston and to the Ralston family.

On a sad note we extend our condolences to Bill and Eileen Caraker and Bill and Eileen Honabach for the loss of Bradley, their son and grandson.

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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

Plans are progressing for the Fourth of July open house. Betty Rose is heading up the committee.

She has contacted and made arrangements for twelve local organizations to display the historic artifacts of each organization. They are the Fire Company, Free Library, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lions Club, Women's Club, Lutheran Church, Episcopal Church, Methodist church, Presbyterian Church, the American Legion and of course, our Wenonah Historical Society.

We encourage members to visit the Community Center on the Fourth of July. We will need volunteers to help set up on July 3rd.

We will also need members to watch the displays and exhibits. The Open House will be from 11: a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If the crowd is large we may extend the amount of open time.

Our fund raising for the year will be sale of merchandise. A price list is attached. Help support our organization by purchasing one or more items for sale. They make wonderful gifts.

In addition to our usual goods Chuck Foreman has revised and updated his booklet "Map Overview of Wenonah". It covers other topics of interest to our citizens. There is a limit of 50 copies and we will sell them for \$3.00 per copy.

Last year's open house was well received and we believe this year's will be equally as well attended.

Our next meeting will in September and once again Vicki and Lou McCall will host it at their home "Little Grange" on Mantua Ave.

I wish all a happy and healthy summer. Don Ralston President.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

On March 16, 1928 a Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Wenonah Borough Council petitioning the New Jersey Legislature to allow the annexation of Deptford Township land east of the railroad tracks and south of Linden Ave.

Parts of this land are currently occupied by the Lizzie property along Glassboro Road and the Wenonah Swim Club. Residents in the area requested the action and Deptford Township had no objection.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

THE RALSTON'S OF WENONAH
The Epitome of Duty, Honor and Country
A collection of excerpts from the archives of the *Woodbury Daily Times*
as researched and recorded by former member Milton H. Webb Jr.

- Aug 1907 Wayne Ralston, one of the “gold dust twins” caught a bass weighing 3-½ pounds in the Mantua Creek on Tuesday.
- Oct 1912 Young Arthur Holton is on his way to California where he will attend the Seventh Day Adventist School at Towa Linda. His purpose is to prepare himself for medical missionary work in some foreign country. (Arthur J. Holton died in France at the end of WWI. “Nearly 2,000 persons attended his funeral in Wenonah in November, 1920. Wenonah’s Legion post is named for him).
- Oct 1912 Munico Crogralia noticed a wire dangling on Mantua Ave. on Thursday morning and seeing that children could easily reach it, decided to see if it was alive. He picked it up and wrapped it around a utility pole. The pole was wet and when the wire came in contact with the damp wood 2,400 volts passed through his body. Wayne Ralston (Sr.) who was going gunning noticed him lying against the pole. He went over and seeing the predicament, in which he was in, placed his gun to the wire and shot it off. Munico was then carried to Dr. Stout’s office unconscious and after much difficulty was brought around all right.
- July 1917 Wayne (Sr.) Ralston’s name was among those drafted into the army although he didn’t wait to be drafted as he was among the first volunteers for service on the Mexican border where he served seven months in the Engineer Corps of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He is now at Fort Myer qualifying for an officer’s position.
- Sept 1918 It is interesting to look back to notice the career of your former Daily Times carriers. Ten years ago they were Fred Kray, Hugh Mehorter and Wayne Ralston (Sr.). All three are at present in the military somewhere in France.
- Oct 1919 Captain Wayne Ralston (Sr.) is receiving a hearty welcome home from his many friends who are glad to see him after his 18-months absence overseas.
- June 1925 On June 16th the voters of Wenonah will select their candidates for the various borough offices. Among the candidates will be Mr. Wayne M. Ralston Sr. who seeks the nomination on the Republican ballot for the office of Borough tax collector.
- June 1925 Alexander Hamilton Ralston died at his home on North Marion Avenue early Tuesday morning from pneumonia. Mr. Ralston was born near Aberdeen, Scotland seventy years ago and was brought to Philadelphia at the age of 10 where he resided until 20-years ago, at which time he and his family took up their residence in Wenonah. He leaves a widow Mary McKowen Ralston, two daughters Mrs. Frank Black of Wenonah and Mrs. Eugene Brownsworth of Mt. Vernon NY, and a son Wayne MacVeigh Ralston of Wenonah.
- Sept 1927 Dr. H. Lake Gilmour, Wayne MacVeigh Ralston, J. A. Carey, Raymond Clark, George Hendrickson and Oscar Toomey sailed on the S/S Leviathan for Europe on Saturday morning where they will attend the American Legion Convention. *
- May 1931 Wayne Ralston Sr., chief of the Wenonah fire department addressed members of the Friendship Fire Company in Woodbury speaking on “The Organization and Training of a Volunteer Fire Company”.
- May 1934 County Fire Marshal Nelson Furman, who is not a candidate to succeed himself, nominated Wayne Ralston of Wenonah for fire marshal. Ralston is unopposed.

- Dec 1936 Mrs. Mary Ralston Laird, mother of Wayne Ralston Sr. of Wenonah, died yesterday in Philadelphia. While a resident of Wenonah Mrs. Laird was active in the Wenonah Presbyterian Church.
- Aug 1942 Prominent Wenonah resident Wayne M. Ralston Sr. has been called into active army service and is now stationed at Fort Dix. He was a captain during World War I and since promoted to the rank of major. His son Wayne Jr. is now a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. A younger son, Donald is a student at the University of North Carolina. (editor's note: I didn't know Don when I was growing up in Woodbury but Wayne Ralston Jr. was my camp counselor at the YMCA Camp Ockanickin in Medford)
- Feb 1943 Lieutenant Wayne M. Ralston Jr. married Beatrice Dobbs at the Presbyterian Church in Brady Texas. Major and Mrs. Ralston on their return trip from Texas visited their son Donald at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill NC.
- July 1943 Major Wayne M. Ralston Sr. of Wenonah has been ordered to overseas duty and left for his new assignment on July 19th. He was stationed for seven months at the Army Air Forces training center at Atlantic City. Major Ralston, former county fire marshal and clerk of the Wenonah Board of education has two sons in service.
- Jan 1945 Lieut. Wayne M. Ralston Jr. was killed Tuesday at an army air base in Texas. Lieut. Ralston was the husband of the former Beatrice Dobbs of Mt. Royal, who has been in Texas with him. His father Major Ralston is in China and a brother Lieut. Don Ralston is with the Army Air Force in Italy.
- June 1945 First Lieutenant Donald N. Ralston of Wenonah, a 22-year-old combat veteran received the Distinguished Flying Cross at a formal presentation ceremony held at Ellington Field, Texas. Recently returned from seven months of combat duty as a navigator with the Fifteenth Air Force in the Mediterranean theater, Lt. Ralston also has been awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Don's father also served on Wenonah Borough Council in the early 1920's as did Don from 1967 through 1969. Don also served Wenonah as Zoning Administrative Officer during the 1980's.

And many of you are aware of Don's long-term activity with our American Legion Post as a Past Commander and long-time Post Service Officer and of course the current WHS President.

We must also recognize and praise Don's companion of 55-years, Kathryn, who excelled as one of Wenonah School's finest teachers for 25 years retiring in 1987. In fact on June 11, 1987 I had the privilege and honor of introducing a Borough Council Resolution at the time of her retirement honoring Kathryn for her teaching accomplishments. Congratulations to Don and Kathy who recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

But the point of reviewing this history of the Ralston family, both current and past, is to honor Don, Kathy and the entire Ralston family for their involvement in America and Wenonah.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to have known and worked with father Wayne Ralston Sr., son Wayne Jr., son Don and wife Kathy. The Ralston's have provided our country and our town with an outstanding example of patriotism, dedication to duty and honorable service that is sadly lacking in our country today.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr., Editor

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 7 September 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The summer season is just about over and we now look forward to our Fall and Winter Seasons.

With great sorrow we note two of our members have passed away since our last meeting. Helen Smith Manners and Harry Schroeder, both faithful members of the Wenonah Historical Society and long time residents of Wenonah. We will miss their presence at our meetings.

Our September meeting is scheduled for the second Friday, September 8th, 2006. Vicki and Lou McCall have again graciously offered their home for this meeting. Normally we start our meeting at 7:30 p.m. However this meeting we will start an hour earlier at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite "libation" or dessert to share with others. An informal business meeting will be held.

On Saturday, September 30th, 2006 the 18th Annual Wenonah Harvest Fair will be held in Wenonah Park., from 9: a.m. to 4: p.m. Betty MacLeod is in charge of our location where we will be selling our merchandise. We invite every member to purchase one or more items for sale. If you do not already have one of our banners with our logo at your home, we have a lot to sell. This is the way we advertise our organization. Another item is the booklet, "Map Overview of Wenonah" written by Chuck Forsman. It is a wonderful

story of Wenonah and makes a great gift for your grandchildren. We will have caps, place mats, photographs and other items that were displayed on the Fourth of July.

The Fourth of July Open House was a big success with twelve local organizations displaying their historical items. Our thanks go to Chairperson Betty Rose and her committee of Pat Sole, Jo Dominy, and Betty MacLeod.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

President	Don Ralston
Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

A large crowd, mingled, enjoyed fellowship and the various exhibits.

Frank Eggert reports that to date 101 historical home identification plaques have either been installed or are on order. If your home is 75 years or older or you know of someone whose home meets this criteria, contact Frank.

With respect to the proposed renovations to the Community Center, Wenonah is waiting for approval of the revised specifications from the NJ Dept. of Transportation in Trenton.

In the fall, work on cataloguing our artifacts will also be resumed.

For those who are interested, on Saturday September 9th "One Night of Song and Dance" will be held at the Wenonah Lake. Enjoy another evening at historic Wenonah Lake.

As we all know Bradley Caraker passed away earlier this year from leukemia. On Sunday, October 1, 2006 a Run/Walk for T-Cell Research will be held to benefit the Children's Hospital and T-Cell Research. It will start at 8:15 a.m. at the Wenonah School. If you cannot physically participate perhaps you would make a donation to assist with this excellent cause. This fundraiser is dedicated to Bradley's memory.

Thank you for your support of the Wenonah Historical Society these past several years.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Gloucester County Democrat 4/22/87.

Mr. E.L. Farr, the Camden manufacturer has plans perfected and contracts made for the erection of a palatial residence at Wenonah. The site is on the main avenue nearly opposite Mr. Synnott's house. The house will be a combination of Chestnut Hill and Indiana limestone and pebbledash, and finished in a variety of the finest hard woods. The work will be done by Woodbury mechanics, Mr. E.P. Henry having the contract for the stonework and Wilmer B. Haines will superintend the carpenter work. The cost of construction will be about \$20,000.

Glimpses into Wenonah's Past

Gloucester County Democrat April 20, 1893

This beautiful residence borough (Wenonah) is now taking its longest stride forward. New buildings are being erected of a character that give the town an air of stability and thrift, possessed by new suburban places, and the borough authorities are evincing a public spirit in keeping with period by the introduction of a complete system of sewerage, Insuring to the people surroundings that shall be as healthful as the borough is beautiful.

The Wenonah Inn Company, of which Stephen Greene, Dr. George W. Bailey, Dr. Wm. Greene, Chas. M. Wilkins, T. W. Synnott, Isaac Stevenson, J. Frank Shall are Directors, and of which Stephen Greene, is President; Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, Vice President; Dr. Wm. Greene, Treasurer, Is just completing a magnificent hotel designed to accommodate 150 guests. The house and furniture will cost at least \$70,000 and be completed in time for this season's business. The erection of this hotel was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad are erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks, immediately opposite the old station. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

Another evidence of the broad and liberal platform on which the borough of Wenonah is constructed is, that in public affairs, politics is eschued [sic] and public servants are chosen on the basis of fitness. At the Borough election last week Wednesday, J. Blair Smith and Ed. K. Grosscup, Democrats, were elected Commissioners for three years, and Richard Ballinger, for one year, to fill the unexpired term of H. C. Hess. The Board of Commissioners organized by electing Mr. T. W. Synnott, President. Stated meetings are held on the last Friday evening of each month, and at the next meeting the President will announce the Committees.

Real estate has had a boom here the past week, and this is only a forerunner of what is to follow. Mr. R. J. Clark has bought back from Jesse English the store property for \$8,000. The price of

the stock is to be fixed by an appraisement. Blair Smith, bought four houses of the Horatio Mulford estate, and has already sold one of them. Commissioner Ed. E. Grosscup has bought four lots on William Street from the Cohen estate. Rumor says he will do some building soon.

Mr. J. Frank Shull has clothed his residence in fashionable and becoming colors, and it is one of the beautiful houses of the borough.

Gloucester County Democrat December 7, 1893

The jingle of sleigh bells, the merry shouts of the school children, the whirling of the snow, and the debut of Ulster's and gum boots remind us that winter is here.

The right Rev. John Scarborough, Bishop of the diocese of N.J. held services at St. Barnabas Chapel last Sunday. In spite of the inclemency of the weather quite a number of our Episcopalians were among the congregation.

The corporation owning the Wenonah Inn has closed the contract for the management of this elegant establishment, which will be opened to the public some time in April.

Mr. Wm. McCowan's imposing residence on Mantua Avenue is one of the numerous, handsome and attractive houses lately erected on that thoroughfare.

The real beauty of our little station is more highly appreciated these cold wintry mornings than during the summer months. To the early birds especially, the bright cheery waiting room presents a most attractive appearance. The building of the station master's house in connection with the office is a great improvement also making it not only more convenient for this official, but giving him a better opportunity of fulfilling the duties of his position.

Mr. Thos. W. Synnott was missed from his accustomed place in the Presbyterian Sunday school last Sabbath. His old trouble, rheumatism visiting him again.

The Shull Peddle wedding is still the talk of the village, and the Gloucester County Democrat graphic account of the same has met with pleasant commendations.

In the way of modern improvements we can now claim to be ahead of any village in South Jersey. Businessmen, clerks and salesmen in Philadelphia appreciate this as is evinced by the increased demand for houses. Fifty houses could be rented here before Spring, but we have not a vacant house in the Borough.

Mr. Frank Cookson's youngest son Raymond, is convalescent from his recent illness.

Gloucester County Democrat December, 1894

George Vogt has returned from Philadelphia after a three week absence where he was engaged decorating several large private residences. (George did a lot of planting in our park)

Last Saturday evening the Wenonah assembly had a large card party at Noblitt's Hall.

Proprietor Piggott of the Inn announces that the hotel will be closed until May 1895 when he expects to reopen for the Spring and Summer season.

Sylvester Chew is laying sewer pipes to connect with the residences of Stephan Green, J. Frank Shull, Blair Smith, Edgar Smith and Edward Farr. After completion of this work these residences will have the most complete drainage system in South Jersey (raw sewage was discharged into the Mantua Creek where the children swam.)

The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches united in celebrating Thanksgiving Day. The collections were donated to the house for feeble-minded children in Vineland.

George R. West has opened an office in the building occupied by William C. Cattell on Mantua Avenue. (This building was on the corner of NW and Mantua Aves called the Borough Commissioner's building, moved to present site of Wild Iris Florist Shoppe)

The butcher shop on West Jersey Avenue, which is owned by Thos. Dilks has been closed for the winter season (SW corner SW and Park Avenues)

Mr. Stephan Greene is laying several hundred yards of flagging in the southeast end of the borough.

The decisions of the Supreme Court against the rights of women to hold office as school trustees has created a great deal of discussion here. Our lady trustees, notably Mrs. Carey, were acknowledged among the best our school has had.

A dance was held by the Wenonah Assembly in the Amusement Hall of the inn on Saturday evening.

An entertainment consisting of music and tableaux will be given on Friday night by the Forget-me-not Mission Band of the Presbyterian Church in the Amusement Hall of the Wenonah Inn.

The Wenonah Water Company are boring several artesian wells and erecting a large pumping and engine house in the glen near the lake. (Warner's Lake)

On account of not all the tickets being in for the prize bicycle, the award will not be made until next Monday.

The receipts of the post office for the past year are over seven hundred dollars and the average daily number of letters which has passed through the mail has been two hundred and thirty.

Last Wednesday the Wenonah branch of the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children held their first business meeting.

Charles Bilderback has contracted with J.T. West for a new roof to be placed on his house. (This house, a replica of Holly Bush in Glassboro was demolished to provide land for our Free Public Library)

Sweet potatoes are selling here from \$1 to \$4.35 per barrel.

On Monday evening, a Christmas service was held in the ME church at which Santa Claus appeared in all his glory, giving beautiful gifts and pleasant greetings to all the little folks. A large collection of groceries and vegetables was made to send to the worthy poor of Philadelphia.

In making the excavations for the foundation of the new building for the Wenonah water works contractor Brown struck a large vein of dark marl in which was imbedded mammoth oyster shells measuring one foot across and almost round.

Gloucester County Constitution

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 8 October 2006

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

On behalf of the members of the Wenonah Historical Society I wish to thank Louis and Vicki McCall for the lovely evening we enjoyed at their home "The Grange" for our September meeting. It provided for a relaxed atmosphere, the fellowship and refreshments were great, and the weather was ideal. The world is so full of turmoil, hustle and bustle it was such a peaceful time we were able to spend there.

Our Historical Society had a table reserved at the Harvest Fair held Saturday, September 30th. Our display of merchandise for sale was set up by a committee headed by Betty MacLeod. The committee consisted of Helen and Jack Sheppard, Betty Rose and Pat Sole.. The sale netted a profit of over \$400.00 in spite of being cut short by some early afternoon rain. Our materials consist of large and small banners, handbags, historical scene placemats, baseball style caps, Chuck Foreman's book on the Map of Wenonah, and packets of historical picture postcards Many of these items continue to be for sale and can be purchased at our meetings, or by contacting Betty MacLeod or myself. They will make wonderful gifts for the upcoming holidays. Help support your organization.

Our next meeting is will be Friday, October 12, 2006. The program will feature vignettes on the past History of Wenonah. Rachel Knisell, a charter

member of the Historical Society and its first secretary has collected news articles, letters, photos and numerous writings about our town. Rachel saves and catalogues them in bound folders. She has donated several to the Historical Society and they are now part of our archives. Rachel is the local historian of Wenonah and is so listed in the Historical Office in Trenton.

At our November meeting we will, according to our bylaws, choose a nominating committee to select officers for the next two years.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

President	Don Ralston
Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

To keep the Wenonah Historical Society strong, vibrant and growing we must elect officers who have the desire and enthusiasm to perform the duties of the position for which they are selected.

During the business portion of the meeting we will have our committee chairpersons give their reports.

Thank you for your support of the Wenonah Historical Society these past several years.

WHS MUSEUM PROJECT

Many have asked, "how is the creation of the museum coming along and when will it be finished?"

A very good question, in fact two questions in one.

The answer to the first part is that progress is being made. The lead volunteer Julie Ream has put in a great many hours preparing a procedure to expedite entering information into the computer, and training volunteers how to use it. Julie does a lot of the computer entry herself and as a result most of the Wenonah Military Academy artifacts have been added to the computer program along with photographs. Once entered, Julie carefully prepares the items for long-term storage, properly boxed or wrapped, in numbered locations.

As to the second part of the question, when will it be finished, it is much harder to answer. We have been learning that apart from the military academy objects we don't have a great deal of truly identifiable, meaningful Wenonah related items. We are sorting what we have into two sections. Those that have historic value and the others that have dubious connection to the town's history.

What we do have however that we have to decide how to handle are the notebooks and folders holding photocopies of news articles from local newspapers. The quality is poor and many are fading fast.

More reports will be provided as we progress.

Mantua Creek and the Industry of Boat Building

Compiled by H. A. Long

The question how much has Mantua Creek filled up at Mantua during the last fifty years is frequently discussed among some of our citizens. Some say two feet while others assert that in the channel the fill up is not more than six inches.

Having given the subject some thought has enabled me to gather some history of the boats that have been built at the headwaters of Mantua Creek, together with other items of history as far back as we can gather reliable information. In collecting the items we have' no other means to obtain them than the memory and statements of our oldest citizens, and If not true in the whole are true in the main.

In my schoolboy days I recollect the appearance of an old road passing in front of "Old Chase's," a colored family, now owned by Myers. Mrs. Mary White and the Hazlet property, now S. Lewallen's passing back of William Hendrickson's house, across the creek a little way below Eldridge's bridge on the Dilksboro Road, running an easterly direction and crossing the east branch near Wenonah, thence running a more northerly coarse passing West Jessup's farm, coming out to the turnpike near the Madara property, afterward Garrigues, now L. M. Green's, in the southern part of Woodbury. The South branch of Mantua Creek was called Chestnut Branch, and the crossing was known as the Old Ford. The east was called Cedar Branch and the crossing Spark's Ford. There is no history of vessels being built any further up the creek.

Nathaniel Chew built one vessel near the forks of the creek on Chestnut Branch and named her the "*Eight Brothers*" in honor of his eight sons, Andrew, Nathaniel, Wesley, Elijah and Elisha, (twins), Sylvester, Jesse and Nathan.

He also built two at the Ford on the same branch one of which was named *Industry* and the other *Traveler*. I am not informed what became of the *Traveler*, but the *Industry* went down on the middle ground below David

Whitall's house, (now C. N. Shuster's) and was removed at the time the steamer Daniel Drew was running between Berkley and Philadelphia. Seth Jones was her last captain. Benjamin Allen, grandfather of the late Josiah C. Allen, of Wenonah, built several sloops one of which was built near the forks of the creek. His carpenter was John Christian.

Thomas Sparks built a sloop of 45 to 50 tons burden near Sparks' Ford on Cedar Branch. Elisha Chew was the carpenter. The ground where she was built was much higher than the water in the creek and being more than her length from the water, to use the language of my informant, "she went like wild fire," stuck in the mud, and they were several tides getting her away.

Jacob Swope and Joseph Heritage built a vessel about where Duell & Perry's canning factory now stands, near the road leading from Mantua to Wenonah (this was a site on Mantua Creek just north of the Mantua Avenue bridge, known as Hennisey's Landing). Her name was *Temperance* and John Stotes was her first captain. Others were built on Hennisey's Landing and near the forks of the creek by Leonard Clark, Benjamin Parks; Thomas Sparks, Nathaniel and Elisha Chew and perhaps others of which we have no correct history. Continuing down the creek we next come to Abram Park's wharf, afterward Norris' now Dilkes' where several vessels have been built, some which must have been built near a century ago while others are within the memory of some now living. One, Isaac Durmot, who lived on the hill near the wharf, (the house now gone) was noted as a ship carpenter and builder, and seemed to have a fancy for naming his boats after the common water fowl such as the *Duck, Drake, Grey Goose, Gander*, etc.

In conversation with Mrs. Mary White nee Alfred, who was well along in the 80's we learned that when she was a small girl in the company of other girls went, in the fall of the year, down the creek with Captain William

Hazlett, who was about to lay his boat up for the winter, the children going for the ride. The name of the boat was *Drake*. The captain took her up the creek, laid her at High Hill landing near the forks of the creek where she would lay afloat and be near his home during the winter.

Sometime during the decade of 1840 John C. Eastlack, a ship carpenter and builder, moved to the house on the hill where Louis Carre now lives and followed his trade. Of those that he built one was called the *Rio Grand* for James Jessup. She was owned by Capt. Albert Lodge of Paulsboro at the time of his death, and we believe is still in a condition for use although she was built more than forty years ago.

Another was built for Alexander R. Long, named *Mantua* and launched during the summer of 1849. Isaac Cowgill Esq. and Joseph R. Paul of Paulsboro were the first to run her. Mr. Long afterward sold her to Spencer McIlvain of Ridley Creek for the stone business. There is scarcely a distance of a hundred feet of the shore between the Tonkin line, now Morgan's and the Bee line, now T.C. Dilkes', but what a vessel has been built upon. On the north side of the creek and about two hundred yards east of the turnpike near a small bridge, a sloop was built by Frances A. Campbell on land owned by T.C. Dilks. Your writer, though a small boy at the time, recollects being on her when she was launched. Among those on the sloop was Jonas Chew who asked the question of those with whom he was in conversation, whether the true name of the dock then growing on the sides of the creek should be "water dock, splasher dock, splatter dock or simply dock, or if it might not be classed as some kind of a lily" when voices were heard saying "there she goes" and the vessel slid into the water. The same F.A. Campbell built another vessel nearer the bridge on the same side of the creek; a canal was dug behind her so as to get her into the water.

On the south side but a few feet from the bridge, and now under the trolley road, a keel

and timbers were laid by John and William Tonkin, but was not launched for twenty-one years, when the decayed parts were taken out and the boat finished sufficient to be placed in the water. She was never completed and went down a short distance below the bridge and was torn to pieces and taken out by a German named Frederic Schrader. At the lower end of the wharf vessels have been built by Charles Clark, Samuel Locke and others. A little below on the opposite side of the creek Stille Chew built the *Nathan* and the *Two Brothers*.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Gloucester County Democrat

November 24, 1898

An electric motor wagon ran through Woodbury on Tuesday. It was a four wheel, one seated affair with bicycle tires. A man and lady occupied it with several large sample cases such as are carried by notion drummers. It was going at about a six miles an hour pace and a jet of steam came out about the centre of the hind axle. The man guided it from one side of the trolley tracks to the other and seemed to be as entirely at home as the rest of us would be behind a pair of thoroughly broken high steppers. The natives stared as the queer contrivance passed.

Gloucester County Democrat

March 15, 1900

On Thursday evening a meeting was held [in Wenonah] for the organization of a Fire Company. A number of representative citizens met and elected Councilman William B. Oat, President; Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T.J. Savage, Chief; Joseph Truncer, Foreman.

Now in case of necessity everyone will lend their assistance as before, but there will be a head to the concern, and so save valuable time.

March 30, 1900

The added improvements at the station are rapidly nearing completion. What with the new shed, gates and fence between the tracks, the residents will feel safe as to accidents at the crossing.

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 9 November 2006

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The holiday season is approaching with Thanksgiving Day Thursday November 23rd and of course Christmas December 25th. This will be a very busy time for all of our members.

Prior to those dates an important event will take place on Election Day, Tuesday November 7, 2006. We should all exercise our special right of franchise, voting, granted to us by our founding fathers.

A little bit of history about Wenonah. I have been told this is the first time we have had a contest for the office of mayor. Of course in the past there have been many contests for council seats. This is a great thing for democracy.

Besides the general and local elections our own Historical Society will be nominating a slate of officers for the next two years starting January 2007. All members are urged to attend this November meeting as nominations can be made from the floor.

If you have driven about our town you have seen the beautiful change of color in our trees, especially the view at Warner's Lake.

There will not be a specific planned program for this meeting. If any member would like to present a remembrance of Wenonah of some historical fact we will like to hear it.

The Arthur J. Holeton Post #192 is sponsoring a Veterans Day Dinner at Oak Valley Caterers November 11th Veteran's Day, once known as Armistice Day, the date when the first World War ended. If any person wishes to attend contact Doug Gehring 468-2255 or Joe Schultes at 468-5241. This year we will be honoring the U.S. Coast Guard.

Dues for 2007 will be due January 1, 2007. Jean Cowles is membership chairperson. She can be reached at 468-6031. Our post office box is # 32 should you wish to mail your dues.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

We invite non-members and new people in town to join our organization.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. Pat Sole is once again chairing the committee. Her telephone # is 468-6661. Further notice of details will be forthcoming.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you for your support of the Wenonah Historical Society.

WHS MUSEUM PROJECT

As mentioned in the last issue of our newsletter progress on our museum is being made, although slower than I had originally anticipated. Right now we continue the cataloguing, photographing and entering the materials in the computer. This is being done by Julie Ream and her volunteers.

The project I have undertaken is to determine how many of the paper plans and other documents have historical value and how to identify and store them for future retrieval. One of the problems with this process is that most of the objects are tightly coiled and resist being flattened. Many of them are old and brittle, very difficult to work with.

One item of interest is the original plan for the layout of the northeast section of Wenonah that unfortunately was not implemented.

J.C. Sheppard Sr.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

The Wenonah House was opened for guests in the spring of 1872. The forty-room hotel rose three stories and was crowned by a square cupola. Iron Doric columns reaching all the way to the roof surrounded three sides of the hotel and a veranda twelve feet wide provided space for promenades. From the veranda guests could stroll across South Clinton Avenue to an open space being developed into parks divided by a lane. Running water and gas were installed in every room and, according to a newspaper article; it was "furnished in elegant style."

Wenonah House Hotel and Inn 1872 - 1903

Compiled by J. Sheppard Sr.

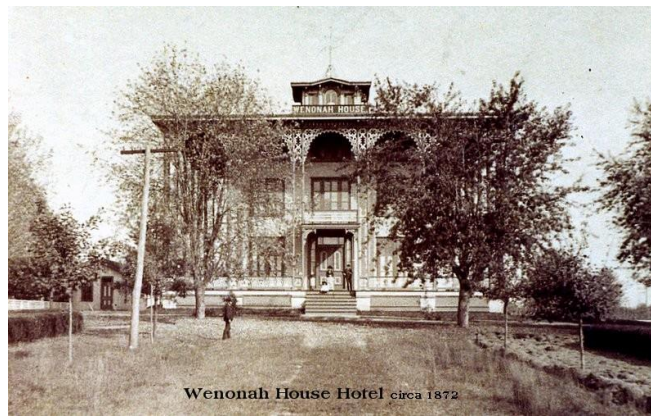
Constitution Newspaper Nov 29, 1871 Under the management of the skilful engineer of the West Jersey Railroad, Mr. W.F. Alien, this beautifully laid but village begins to assume shapes and proportions highly flattering to the West Jersey Railroad Company. Avenues have been opened, shade trees planted and the grading of the streets placed in the hands of competent workmen. Although a newly started village, some ten or fifteen beautiful cottages and mansions have already gone up. The hotel is a beautiful structure, and shows at once the spirit of the men having the place in charge. It was built by Harden & Brother of Camden. The beauty of the site, healthiness of the location and nearness to the city make Wenonah certain of receiving many who seek retirement for the Summer and a home in the country and at the same time a place in daily contiguity with the city. Another year will place Wenonah on a footing, from the cheapness of the land or advantages offered, with the oldest villages in the state. Factories are being talked of and soon we may expect to see a population of 500 to 1,000 people.

Constitution January 6, 1886 "A Sad Ending of life". On Tuesday afternoon of last week the dead body of Isaac Newton was found in a room at the Avenue Hotel on Delaware Ave., Philadelphia. In a cup on the washstand were the dregs of a dose of poison. His outer clothing was removed and carefully folded and laid on another bed in the room, while an unsealed letter addressed to his brother was found on the windowsill. In the letter he said: "For God's sake, bury me in the same grave with my wife. I have done this because life has been full of trouble since her death. I commit the children to your care." He went to the hotel on Monday, and after eating a meal picked out a room which suited him and retired early. As he gave no instructions about being called he was not disturbed until noon following when the door was forced open. He had evidently been dead several hours. Isaac Newton was well known in this county having been

proprietor of the Wenonah House and Mantua Hotel for years. He was of genial disposition and made many friends. Since the death of his wife, which occurred about three months ago, he had been very despondent.

Editorial Comment: For many years following the opening of the Wenonah House the proprietors were Isaac and Mahlon Newton. Of course the name Newton was connected to the Newton Hotel in Woodbury. In Wenonah the Isaac Newton's, husband and wife were responsible for arranging many of the affairs and revelry that took place during the summer seasons. Reference to them occurs frequently in the Wenonah news sections of the local newspapers. I have no way of knowing how Isaac and Mahlon were related. Perhaps a reader might have that knowledge.

Constitution August 10, 1887 On Thursday



Wenonah House Hotel circa 1872

last a private car was attached to the excursion train on the West Jersey Railroad and forty seven guests of the Wenonah House went to Atlantic City and passed a pleasant day in bathing, sailing and fishing. On their return to Wenonah they found the hotel illuminated with Chinese lanterns and a choice supper awaiting them. Mr. Newton, the proprietor, understands how to make things pleasant for his guests and his efforts are thoroughly appreciated. The fact that the excursionists were all acquainted with one another added to the enjoyment of the trip to Atlantic City.

Glouco Democrat March 20, 1893 This beautiful residence borough is now taking Its longest stride forward. New buildings are being erected of a character that give the town an air of stability and thrift, possessed by new suburban places, and the borough authorities are evincing a public spirit in keeping with period, by the introduction of a complete system of sewerage, insuring to the people surroundings that shall be as healthful as the borough is beautiful.

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M. Wilkins, T. W. Synnott, Isaac Stevenson, J. Frank Shull are Directors, and of which Stephen Greene, is President; Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, Vice President; Dr. Wm. Greene, Treasurer, is just completing a magnificent hotel, designed to accommodate 150 guests. The house and furniture will cost at least \$70,000, and be completed in time for this season's business. The erection of this hotel was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad is erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks, immediately opposite the old station. The new building is constructed of rough-faced eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

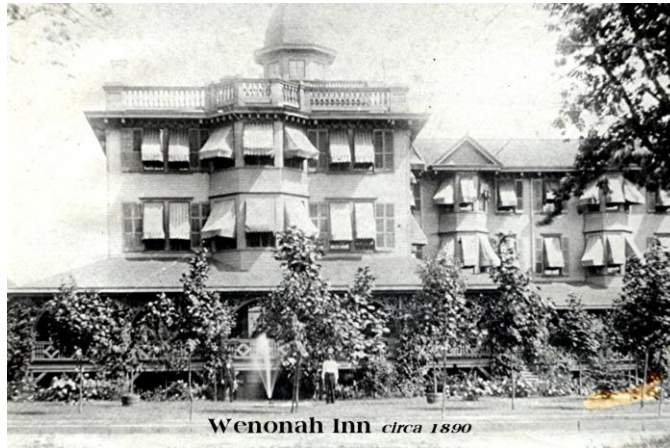
Another evidence of the broad and liberal platform on which the borough of Wenonah is constructed is, that in public affairs, politics is eschued [sic] and public servants are chosen on the basis of fitness. At the Borough election last Wednesday, Blair Smith and Ed. E. Grosscup, Democrats, were elected Commissioners for three years, and Richard Ballinger, for one year, to fill the unexpired term of H.C. Hess. The Board of Commissioners organized by electing Mr. T. W. Synnott, President. Stated meetings are held on the last Friday evening of each month, and at the next meeting the President will announce the Committees.

Real estate has had a boon here the past week and this is only a forerunner of what is to follow. Mr. R. J. Clark has bought back from Jesse English the store property for \$8,000, the price of the stock is to be fixed by an appraisal. Blair Smith bought four houses of the Horatio Mulford estate, and has already sold one of them..

Glouco Democrat July 6, 1891 It is reported on good authority that the "Wenonah House" formerly owned by Charles Middleton is now owned by a syndicate of three, viz: Stephen Green, T.W. Synnott and Dr. Geo. Bailey. Some think it will be converted into a home for invalids, but we can't tell, you know.

Glouco Democrat September 28, 1892 The project for a large new hotel is now fairly started, a large part of the excavation for the cellar having been made, and the stone masons are at work on the foundations walls.

Constitution August 16, 1893 There is nothing being left undone to make the "Wenonah Inn" the finest country hostelry in the State. The appointments, conveniences and accommodations will be the best. A splendidly sufficient supply of water has been secured; the electrical apparatus is of the latest design; the plumbing, always one of the most important in a public house, has been put into the most competent hands, while the drainage and sewerage system is according to the best regulations of sanitarians; 8 inch drain pipes are now being laid from the house to a lot on the creek banks, a distance of near half a mile. The cost of the improvements and the furnishings will exceed \$70,000.



Constitution April 12, 1894 The building being erected

for the servants quarters of the Wenonah Inn is rapidly nearing completion.

Constitution May 30, 1894 The bowling alley at the Inn is nearly completed; the billiard room in the basement was opened on Saturday night.

Constitution June 19, 1872 A windmill is being erected on the Wenonah House to pump water into the large tank upon its roof.

Constitution December 16, 1903 In line with other extensive improvements going on at the Inn, Stephen Greene has had architects down drawing plans for remodeling the first floor, and making other interior changes. A feature of the improvements will be a swimming pool on the spacious grounds. One of the best seasons for this well-known house is anticipated next year.

A great many people were surprised when on September 20, 1904 the Inn building opened under a new name - The Wenonah Military Academy.

Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

It is WHS officer election time again. Our Constitution and Bylaws specify election of officers at the Annual meeting in January. The pertinent rules are as follows;

ARTICLE IV -Officers and Trustees

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and a Treasurer
Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall consist of these four officers plus two trustees, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Society.

ARTICLE V -Election of Officers and Trustees

Section 1. The Officers and Trustees shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by a majority of those present at the Annual meeting

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

Section 1. The Annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of January or as close as possible at a proper place and time determined by the officers of the Society.

At that time we are to present a slate of officers for the organization to consider and vote on. At our November meeting a new slate of officers was nominated to serve during the next two years They are; President: Louis McCall Vice President; Barbara Capelli Recording Secretary; Jo Dominy Finance Officer; Carol Wiltsee Trustee; Vicki

McCall Trustee: Betty MacLeod, Honorary Trustee Lucy Schultz. Nominations may also be made from the floor at that time.

Our annual Christmas party will be held Friday, December 8, 2006 at the Community Center. Pat Sole is in charge of this event. Pat and her committee of Helen Sheppard, Betty Rose, Jo Dominy and Betty MacLeod have worked diligently to make this party an outstanding event.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

President	Don Ralston
Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

Social hour will be 5: PM to 6 PM.

At 6 PM we will take our places at the dining tables. At that time we will open with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance and a few opening remarks. At 6:15 PM dinner will be started. The Telford Inn is once again catering the buffet style dinner. They will serve dessert at the tables. Pat has arranged for the Munier Mandolin and Guitier Quartet for music. The leader of this group is member Bob Bevilaqua's brother.

Following the meal we will have the drawing for the exchange of gifts.

Betty Rose has again arranged with the Gloucester County Historical Society for a Christmas display in our display case at Wenonah Public School. It is wonderful!!

A very nice program was held recently at the Wenonah Public School Butterfly Garden. A Red Maple Tree was planted in memory of Bradley Caraker. Verses were read and songs were sung at the event.

If you are looking for "Christmas stocking stuffers" the Society has various items such as caps, t-shirts, place mats, banners and booklets for sale. Betty MacLeod handles the sale of such items. Her telephone # is 468-6981.

Please take a moment to remember our military people and their families during this holiday season.

As a final thought, have yourselves a safe and happy holiday season and God Bless America.

STATION RESTORATION

In the October newsletter Borough Engineer Dave Kreck's timetable for the station rehabilitation project was provided. It noted that by the end of 2006 all preparatory steps would be completed and that bids for the work could be solicited. It further noted construction could commence by April 2007. If this timetable is accurate our Museum Committee is going to be very busy making arrangements to protect the artifacts.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

We Who Were Born Before 1945 . .

We are survivors. Consider the changes we have witnessed:

We were born before television, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL.

We were born before credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioned homes, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Paramount Theater.

We were before househusbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before daycare centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums: A "chip" meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, "McDonald's" and instant coffee, who knew?

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores where you actually bought things for five and ten cents. Breyers' or Hershey ice cream cones sold for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a bus, make a phone call, buy Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00, but who could afford one; a pity too because gas was 11 cents a gallon

In our day smoking was fashionable. GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not before the differences between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think that you needed a husband to have a baby

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today. BUT WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason to celebrate?

Contributed by President Don

Wenonah 100 Years Ago 1907

Mrs. Lummis is selling fresh dairy butter.

Mantua Avenue speedway is in fine condition. (The people were outraged at cars going through town at 20 miles per hour)

Mrs. Gilmour led the service in the Presbyterian Church this Sunday.

Mr. William Dawson has bought an oil lamp like the town used for street lighting and has put it up. (He lived in the house that presently is the Wenonah Medical Centre)

Wenonah is the banner town for card playing. Five hundred seems to be the most popular game.

Mr. Dawson is doing his duty trying to light up his property. If every citizen did the same it would not be necessary for the town to light up the streets. Wenonah has been the darkest place the last night or two. We understand the Electric Light Company has refused to fulfill the balance of their contract, therefore the darkness. Is our town to be in darkness all winter? Possibly our council can throw some light on the subject. City fathers let us hear from you.

Mr. Locke sold a handsome piano to a party in Pitman this week. Mr. Locke is doing a fine business in musical instruments.

Miss Bacon is very sick with the flu. Ex-Mayor Harlan has been sick in bed for about a month. Mrs. George Dilkes is able to be out after an attack of the grip.

The King's Daughters met at the home of Miss Dorothy Paris. (Miss Paris married and became Dorothy Mulvey. She and her husband and family were some of the grand, wonderful people of our community)

The Wenonah orchestra met at the home of George Greenig last Friday.

The W.C.T.U. will meet at the home of Mrs. Gilmour tomorrow afternoon at one o'clock. (The

local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was a powerful moral force within the community.)

Two dogs were on the third rail yesterday but not hurt much. One was killed during the week. FOR SALE A one horse bolster wagon. Milton Chew Mantua Mr. And Mrs. C.Fowler Cline spent Wednesday at Blackwood.

Thirty-eight more gas lamps have arrived which will be enough to cover the town. (Previous to this street illumination was by electric and was very undependable)

The best game of basketball of the season will be played tomorrow night at Woodbury when they meet with Camden.

There was a big time at the Grange here last night when about eighty members were present. Mr. Whitehead's lecture was greatly enjoyed. (They meet on North Marion Avenue at Noblit's Hall, a former school house which later became the Y.M.C.A. Hall then the Legion Hall, now a private residence.)

The Ladies Aid Society of the Wenonah Memorial Presbyterian Church will hold a bread and cake sale on Friday from three till five o'clock. There will be on sale bread, cake and salad. Tea and coffee will be served at five o'clock at 5 cents per cup.

FOR SALE Eight fine pigs, six weeks old. Howard Henrickson Wenonah (He built the house on the north east corner of North Jefferson and Mantua Avenue.)

Plumber Viereck has received a carload of stone. He will build an addition to his house.

Miss Lucy Carson has the misfortune to have to wear glasses

Dr. Stout is taking advantage of the cold weather and is filling his ice house (5 East Mantua Avenue)

Chalky Lyon's horse was frightened here yesterday and ran away. The wagon struck a tree and turned over with Mr. Lyons underneath but he escaped with a few bruises. (He lived on Bank Bridge Road which also was called Saw Mill Road or Lyon's Avenue)

The Annual Minstrel Show will be given by the cadets February 1st. This show promises to eclipse all former efforts in that line. The cadets will have a hop on ground hog day. Two new cadets from Pennsylvania will enter the Academy February 1

The Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey January 1907

BRADLEY PAUL CARAKER

He plays baseball, third base
the most valuable player
he loves to fish, play football
video games and boogie board too
he plays the piano and guitar
I bet one day he's gonna be a star

Bradley has got a great smile
a great sense of humor
he's a wonderful guy
Bradley's an amazing boy
we're singing this song to you
I hope you enjoy it, Bradley
yes I do, Bradley
this song is for you

Going to the beach with mom and dad
and brother Billy and sister Kristen
running around with
Bailey Baxter Jr. your dog
the color red or baking with mom-mom
or eating crab, shrimp or steak

Bradley has got a great smile
A great sense of humor
He's a wonderful guy
Bradley's an amazing boy
We're singing this song to you
I hope you enjoy it, Bradley

Bradley has got a great smile
a great sense of humor
he's a wonderful guy
Bradley's an amazing boy
we're singing this song to you
I hope you enjoy it, Bradley
yes I do, Bradley
this song is for you

Words, music and vocals by Carl Allocco
This song generously sponsored by the Karma
Foundation

@2006 by Songs of Love Foundation

With permission of Eileen Caraker

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1 January 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOUIS MCCALL

Dear Members;

I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to be the Wenonah Historical Society President for the 2007 year. I am truly humbled by Past President Don Ralston's achievements and all the rich personal history which he often shares. On behalf of the membership I want to thank Don for his untiring efforts and devotion to the Society and hope he continues to actively share with us many of his interesting tales for many years to come!

I am often amazed about the richness of our town's history and am sure it will be an even bigger asset to Wenonah in year's to come. We must not lose focus that we are the sole organization in town specifically designated to search out, preserve and share Wenonah's history. Thus our mission continues to be to enrich the lives of current and future generations by preserving the historical record of Wenonah and advancing interest and awareness in it's past. ...and of course to have a good neighborly time doing so! Our Historical Society, like any society by definition, is a collection of people with common interest, so I am asking each of you to do two things in the upcoming year: first- Please sign up and actively participate in one of our committees which we will discuss in our next meeting and secondly- I would like each member to try to bring at least one new member in by the end of 2007.

After all, we are also one of the best social groups that Wenonah has to offer!

For the 2007 year, I would like to continue the many achievements and projects already in motion or are ready to be started. These include the continuing pursuit of the restoration of our Community Center, a significant gem to our town, and the historical archiving project, a must for the preservation and documentation of the Society's assets.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

As for newer business, I intend to pursue with the membership some yet-to-be discussed new projects, including a to be proposed new Wenonah Historical Society publication, a "Wenonah Family Album," to be comprised of pictures and quotes obtained from members and our archives. I would also like to pursue additional grant monies from the New Jersey Historical Commission. These efforts should not only be good sources of financial strength, but can also be excellent vehicles to further our mission of

promoting the historical understanding and awareness of Wenonah.

Lastly, I want to make a personal plea to all of you, our members, to take the time and write-down a personal Wenonah family history and story and gather some pictures we can copy, as we need to save today what may not be available to us tomorrow. It is you, your memories and your pictures and artifacts that we need to preserve and share. I would like to ask each member to write a Wenonah historical interest type story of your memories and stories that we need to preserve. We would like to not just preserve them but share them in future newsletters and other publications such as in the proposed "Wenonah Family Album" and of course, own archives.

Lastly, I want to hear if you would like to entertain adding another annual social event to our calendar and what the ideas. Maybe it could be a wine and cheese before the Fourth of July's open house or bus trips to the casinos to see shows, or even a joint wine and cheese with some other organizations in town.

I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting on Friday the 12th and to another fun and productive year. Please bring your ideas!

Lou McCall

STATION RESTORATION

In view of the resignation by Dawn Human as town manager we can only wait and see the effect on the state grant and rehabilitation plans.

Wenonah 98 Years Ago - March 1909

The Mantua Grange No.39, P of H, held an interesting meeting in their hall in Wenonah, when they initiated in the first and second degrees the Marshall of the borough, Mr. John Drummer and wife.

Quite a discussion took place on the platform this morning among the commuters while waiting for the 7:40 train. The subject was license and no license. Some contended that there was as much liquor used in Wenonah as there was in a licensed town of its size. Others doubted this statement. Our columns are open if there is anyone that desires to refute this statement.

The fine weather of today brought out the automobiles in force.

You who are lovers of good sour kraut go to Daniels (Mantua). 8 cents a qt.

FOR SALE 95 cords of wood. Also six tons of hot bed hay. Thomas Dilkes

Mr. Buzby is enlarging his barn for his new four cylinder Jackson. He won't have to get out and push when he gets that.

Mr. Nathan Shaddock declares that he is the crack checker player instead of Walter Wentzell and says he will challenge him to play Saturday in the flag house.

The members of the Wenonah Women's Christian Temperance Union are endeavoring to replenish their treasury by each one making a dollar in some way. Mrs. Johnson is selling those useful canvas gloves to be worn while performing that necessary but rather disagreeable task of taking up ashes from the furnace and other rough chores about the place.

Mrs. Sweeten is keeping harmony with her name and is selling sweets in the shape of ginger snaps.

Four new houses are underway. The outlook for spring is excellent. At least fifty new houses are contemplated in the next few months.

The explosion at Wilmington was plainly heard here this morning.

A change in the trolley schedule will go into effect this Friday, but this will not change the time on the Mantua line.

Pan Dandy found half of a dollar note in Wenonah this morning which had been cut in two pieces by a wagon wheel. He is looking for the party who found the other half and he will either buy or sell.

The Automobile Club are getting their machines in order for an early spring run. Daniel Brown will make some of them look to their laurels.

CUSPIDORS both in tin and chysolite painted red or blue 12 cents Leppee, Opera House Block, Woodbury

Adam Knight was in Trenton yesterday at the state boulevard hearing. He said it was amusing to hear some of the New Yorkers telling Jerseymen what they need in the way of roads. It would be a fine thing for the millionaire New York auto owners to have a fine boulevard along the shore at the expense of the taxpayers of New Jersey. South Jersey was well represented at the hearing, the Grangers taking a determined stand against the project.

Officers Drummer and Parks arrested a Negro in Pitman Sunday evening. The man had been acting in a suspicious manner and tried to get away from the officers. He was brought to Wenonah and the Mayor questioned him as to where he was going and his purpose. He told many different stories and contradicted himself too often. He gave his name as Arthur Boldin. He was sentenced to thirty days in jail.

A large and enthusiastic crowd witnessed one of the most intensely and exciting basketball games ever played in Wenonah. The Central High School boys came to Wenonah, Saturday, confident in their ability to make our boys feel and look like thirty cents. Husky boys, that strutted around in their egotism, for they are independent champions, of Philadelphia. They almost doubly out weighed Wenonah Military Academy, but like the diamond, the Wenonah team was small, brilliant and intrinsic value and by cyclonic plays out-pointed the Central High by a score of 32 to 28. The game was rough and fast. Despite the weight and size of the visitors our boys were amply able to cover themselves with glory.

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mhw

Wenonah 98 Years Ago –April 1909

Our grange is purchasing more goods each year. The main thing which is being purchased now is fertilizer. (North Marion Avenue must have smelled very fragrant.) The grange held its session last night and the "Planting of corn to derive the best results was openly discussed."

The Academy relay team won second place at the University of Pennsylvania relay races at Franklin Field. Girard College with 1200 students beat the cadets by a few yards.

May evangelistic meetings will be held in the M.E. Church. Able speakers will be present. The ladies will serve free luncheons at 12 o'clock and at 6 p.m.

Remember the minstrel entertainment tomorrow night. The Lulu Band Orchestra and the Lulu Saxophone Quartette will assist the Wenonah Minstrel Club.

Cards are out for a dance to be given by Miss Henrietta Comey at the Woodbury Country Club.

James Carey is making much needed improvements in the drain of his cesspool. Mr. Carey is a citizen that believes in doing to others, as he would have them do unto him.

Mr. John Colbert has been made president of the farmer's Club and would like all members present to attend church in a body Sunday evening.

Dr. Harry Stout is having his icehouse repaired and painted so as to have it in shape for the next winter (5 East Mantua Avenue)

Nine new houses are in the course of erection. All the improvements seem to be on the West Side and if it continues to grow as at present it will soon eclipse the East Side by numbers and fine homes.

There was a noticeable sprinkling of lovers around Lake Cornelia Sunday afternoon. (This lake was on the East Side of what is now the Marion Avenue Bridge.)

The minstrel entertainment for the benefit of the library will be given in the armory of the

Academy Saturday evening. (The armory was located on the northwest corner of Marion Ave. and Cherry St.)

With the advent of spring, strangers will visit us and the appearance in general of the borough will determine whether they will settle with us or not. Every citizen should take personal pride in our town. Homes and yards should be at their best in the next months. The Park Committee should do something with the park.

There are still two beer arks which visit Wenonah every Wednesday. You can bet it is not the men who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow who patronize them. It is useless to argue whom drinks the "stuff" commonly called beer and whiskey.

Considerable kick is going on because the Park Committee threatens to close the walks across the park.

No town in jersey is as free from tramps as our borough. Marshall Drummer nabs them as they arrive and if the excuse is not very good the mayor sends them up the road. Our families are well protected and it seems generally known.

The Sewing Circle met at the home of Miss Margaret Farr yesterday.

George B. says everything is lovely when the goose hangs high (?)

All those who take part in the crucifixion are urged to be present at the rehearsal in the Presbyterian Church Friday night. (?)

For the month of March 122 books have been circulated. The three most read books have been First, Revolt of Ann Royal, Martin; Second, The Trail of the Lonesome Pine, Fox; Third, Lavender and Old lace, Myrtle Reed. -Mortie L.Stokes, librarian (she was librarian from 1902 until 1944.)

The ladies of the Sunbeam Club, of Wenonah will hold their sixth annual concert and reception in Green Street, North Woodbury. String music and dancing will add to the evening's enjoyment. Tickets can be had of any member for 15 cents.

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mhw

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 2007

YET ANOTHER WENONAH HISTORY

Wenonah was a housing development created by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. This organization was a mix of men associated with local businesses, the West Jersey Rail Road and Philadelphia investors. The West Jersey tracks in Deptford Township below Woodbury had been realigned and a new station built called the new Mantua Station at Wenonah. This was sited in the middle of what was previously Isaac Stevenson's sweet potato field. This was the area proposed for the new town on the West Jersey Railroad. In December of 1870 the decision was made to form this land company and to buy 572 acres of land in this area for \$69,575. The members present at the meeting subscribed to half of this amount.

One of the men attending this preliminary meeting was William Fredrick Allen, Resident Engineer of the West Jersey Rail Road. He was the son in law of Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the railroad and director of the Land Company. Allen's role in the creation of Wenonah was vital as it was his plat plan that would be the guideline for the future evolution of this new town.

In this plan the focal point was to be a "boarding house" facing a two-block park area. Adjacent to this was the new railroad depot. The streets were laid out in a grid pattern, roughly north and south, east and west. Wenonah was an early example of a

railroad suburb that was established around a transportation node both to derive profit from the sale of land and to provide ridership for the railroad itself.

The proposed Wenonah House hotel was to be 45 by 52 feet, three stories high with a back building 26 by 40 feet surrounded by a veranda 12 feet in width. It was described as being Doric in style but the cupola on top gave it a distinctive Italianate style, very Victorian. Each room was

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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

to have water and gas, a luxury for this period. An interesting feature was a windmill to provide power to pump water into a tank on the roof.

Bids came in from as far away as Cape May City. One bid of interest for the "Boarding House at Mantua Station" was for a sum of \$15,800 and was signed by Sterling Clayton, guaranteed by E. Stokes Co. of Woodbury, dated April 3, 1871. The lowest bidder was Harden and Brother of Camden in the amount of \$15,000 for which they were awarded the contract.

In 1872, the new Wenonah House opened for its first summer season with Benjamin Packer, a local resident in charge. Although the town was sparsely populated with only ten houses the hotel was fully booked up for the season. Newspaper accounts give a glimpse into the activities of the boarding house. Mentioned were plays, cakewalks, pigeon matches, a turtle supper for fifty people and concerts. One such event is described in the local newspaper.

"The guests of the Wenonah House prior to closing enjoyed a reedbird supper, and the last hop of the season, impromptu. At the supper the reed-birds were invitingly imbedded in the only toast offered as if they were anxiously expecting appreciation, which they fully met with, in connection with the hot waffles and dressing of "sugar and spice and all that is nice." Every luxury was included in the amply spread table, and all did full justice to the repast, and were reluctant to leave the supper room radiant with brightness and good cheer. Dancing on the "light fantastic toe" was heartily enjoyed until the participants were well tired. This was followed by a tableaux and stair dance, so vivid, so real that all could participate in the mirth. The respected proprietor and his lovely wife have our warmest thanks for their cordial hearty efforts for the comfort and pleasure of their guests, and as we parted it was with the earnest wish and prayer that they might be encouraged for many years with the same well filled house of cultured and pleasant people".

Wenonah was never a "boom town" and has had its periods of depression. One such period was in the early 1880's. Bookings at the hotel became meager; houses built on speculation by the Land Company remained unsold. It was decided to hire a resident agent to create momentum to the land development. The man hired was Ephram J. Lloyd of Salem. He pursued his job with vigor, his first action was to persuade the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to get out of the hotel business and sell the Wenonah House. The sale was to an Ann Linen of Philadelphia and then to a Samuel Shreeve of Mt Laurel in the same year and finally to Mahlon Newton of Woodbury in 1884.

Newton was an experienced, young hotel manager. He entered the hardware business at the young age of eighteen and four years later opened and managed the Newton Hotel at Broad and Delaware Streets in Woodbury. The first new approach at the suggestion of Lloyd was that the hotel would be opened all year. Flyers were distributed which read "*GO TO WENONAH the new town on the West Jersey Rail Road 11 miles from Philadelphia before making arrangements for the summer or for the year No healthier location in the vicinity of Philadelphia fine rolling country and the best of water, boating and fishing.*".

In 1884 Newton opened the Wenonah House with a reception with one hundred invited guests. There was a stringed orchestra from Philadelphia, Chinese lanterns, flags and flowers. This set the stage for the coming season. There were elaborate dinners, tableaux, lectures, yachting parties and hops. General William Sewell, a frequent guest of the hotel, who was the supervisor of the West Jersey Railroad, on several occasions provided private cars to be added to the excursion trains for trips to the shore. This period of 1884 to 1887 was very successful.

Unfortunately the ownership by Newton ended in 1887 when the building and grounds were sold to Senator George Pfeiffer, Jr. of Camden for \$12,000. He was a successful businessman owning a coal and lumber business, also the water supply business for the city of Camden. His hotel experience was the ownership of a hotel at

Brown's Mill In-The-Pines. Business at the Wenonah House diminished rapidly, possibly because of absentee ownership and lack of interest. In 1890 the building remained empty and reflected poorly on the financial condition of the community. The newspaper wrote "*There is no probability that the hotel will open this season. As things go at present the Wenonah House is of no advantage either to the owner or to the borough.*"

Finally in May of 1891, there was a public sale of the House and its furnishings by M. Thomas and Son of Philadelphia. The sale was a disaster, only the furniture was sold. Charles Middleton of Philadelphia held a \$7,000 mortgage on the building and foreclosure soon followed. The building was put on the market and sold for \$5,000 to Stephen Greene of Philadelphia.

Stephen Greene was one of the early pioneers of Wenonah. He was the owner of Helfenstein, Lewis and Greene, one of the largest printing firms on the East Coast. Mr. Greene vacationed for several years in Wenonah with his family as a guest at the Wenonah House. In 1880 he purchased a large tract of land and built a large home with many outbuildings including a large barn, stables and a greenhouse suitable for him to go into the florist business. His love was Wenonah and he became very supportive of the growth and betterment of the new village. One large philanthropic gesture was the financing of the construction of the new Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1892, Stephen Greene created a syndicate incorporated as the "Wenonah Inn Company" made up of himself, Thomas Whitney Synnott, Dr. George Washington Bailey, J. Frank Shull, and Charles M. Wilkins. Mr. Synnott was the president of the Whitney Glass Works, Glassboro and had retired the year of the formation of the syndicate. Dr. Bailey, a Civil War veteran had been a medical doctor but because of overwork had health problems. He then went very successfully into the coal business and amassed a considerable amount of money. J. Frank Shull was the owner of the wholesale grocery firm of Shull, Wireback and Company, Philadelphia. Charles M. Wilkins was the owner of Patrick, Carter and Wilkins, manufacturer of electrical supplies.

Plans were formulated to build a new hotel on the site of the old Wenonah House, which was to be demolished. It was designed to accommodate one hundred fifty guests, three times as many as the old hotel. The total cost would exceed \$70,000, a considerable amount of money in that period. The paper reported *"a sufficient supply of water has been secured and the electrical apparatus is of the latest design, the plumbing, always one of the most important in a public house, has been put into the most competent hands."* There was a bowling alley, billiard room, barbershop, a 32 by 60 foot amusement room, and laundry and an engine-dynamo room."

The West Jersey Railroad started construction of a new "handsome" station as part of the agreement with the syndicate in their guarantee to build a new larger hotel. This station that opened in 1893 still stands today as the Wenonah Community Center.

Other improvements followed the 1892 construction of the Wenonah Inn. In 1894 servants' quarters were built on South Marion Avenue. Additional "shedding" for carriages and horses of the guests were erected on East Cherry Street. A large athletic field with a grandstand was laid out on East Cedar Street. An extensive sewage system was built not only for the hotel but also for the houses of the community. Remains of the system still exist today. A park area called "Camel Back" was created for the hotel patrons and the citizens of the town. This is now known as Comey's Lake, a Frank H. Stewart Estate acquisition. A wooded area on West Cedar Street called the "Glen" was cleared and "put into good order" for the visitors of the Inn. A new lake was formed at the foot of South Clinton Avenue with a large boathouse. This created accessibility to the Great Mantua Creek for canoeing which was quite popular during this period. This pond was called Greene's and later Parker's Lake. A small golf course was built extending from the recreational field to "Camel Back". Sidewalks were "flagged" replacing the old wooden walkways.

The hotel was an instant success and business was described as "booming". This brought back memories, to the townspeople, of the Wenonah House under the management of Mahlon Newton

in the 1880's. The staff consisted of a manager, chief clerk, room clerk, night clerk, chef, headwaiter, head cook, head engineer, head porter, master of ceremonies, waiters and bellboys.

On several occasions special trains were put on the railroad siding for large dances and special affairs for the convenience of the patrons. One such affair was the performance of an opera advertised in July of 1890. *"WENONAH INN, N.J. extraordinary event grand opera "FAUST" by Gounad sung in concert by the Wolffunger Grand Opera Company of Philadelphia chorus of 40 people"*.

Another interesting account was in 1895: *"A novel parade took place last Saturday afternoon by the guests of the Inn who have their teams here. There were about 35 turnouts and these were gaily decorated. The occupants carried flags and flowers while handsome horses held their heads high and seemed to feel as though they were engaged in the novelty as much as their owners. After parading through the borough they drove to Mantua and Woodbury"*.

In 1899 the Wenonah Inn Company sold their real estate holdings back to Stephan and Martha Greene for an unknown reason. It could have been that there was a growing apprehension that trains previously carrying guest to the Inn were now transporting them to seashore points. The railroads during this period had created spurs to most of the off shore islands giving access to the growing popularity of salt water bathing. The advent of the automobile after the turn of the century gave freedom to explore new vacation spots. Wenonah was no longer considered a summer resort.

In 1903, Stephen Greene started extensive restoration of the first floor of the building and the grounds. Rumors circulated that he was even going to build a large swimming pool. These changes seemed strange considering the dim outlook for the future of the building. These doubts were answered on September 20, 1904 when the Inn building opened under a new name – "The Wenonah Military Academy".

from the Milton H. Webb archives

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 3 March 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOUIS MCCALL

Dear Members;

The program for our next meeting will take us on a trip back in time to the high seas 150 years ago!!!

We are extremely pleased and honored to have member Pat Hart make a presentation to us during this month's meeting March 9, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Wenonah Community Center.

All of those fortunate enough to be in attendance will experience the extremely unique opportunity of being taken back in time to a sea voyage that took place in 1857, exactly 150 years ago. Our voyage will be second-handed of course through a narration by Pat of the life and times of husband Jack's great-grandmother, Elenora Green. She was the wife of a clipper ship captain whose home port was Baltimore, who often sailed around the world. Remember at that time in history a trip around the world was a quite substantial voyage on the high seas. Especially as there was no Panama Canal to use as a short cut, the trip required going "around the Horn", a very dangerous and exacting passage.

Although the Hart's have a few general diaries of Jack's great-grandmother Elenora, Pat will read excerpts from the diary of a special voyage where she accompanied her husband on his ship's voyage around Cape Horn, and they were accompanied by one of their baby children.

Those in attendance will also be privileged to see many related artifacts that the Hart's are in possession of including a shawl the Captain gave his wife as a gift from a voyage to China along with period dishware, a silver mug from that era and pictures from the Captain's and Elenora's Homestead in Virginia.

On another topic mentioned at our last meeting, please gather up those photos, memories and stories for inclusion in the upcoming Wenonah

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

Family Album. Many thanks to Don Davis for the excellent photos and stories already submitted.

I look forward to seeing you Friday March 9th at 7:30 pm.

HISTORIC WENONAH

The Wenonah Inn on South Clinton Avenue had a bowling alley.

In 1900 Stephen Greene, owner of the Wenonah Inn had a golf course laid out extending from the present Cedar avenue ball field to the Comey's Lake area.

The first improvement to the streets of Wenonah was laying down cinders from the West Jersey railroad and oyster shells brought in from Port Norris.

Originally the Wenonah Park was divided in half with Park Avenue running through its middle.

In 1911 there were 35 different clubs and societies in Wenonah.

A woman, Hannah Bossler, owned the first automobile in Wenonah. In 1900 she was the winner of a Locomobile in a picture puzzle contest offered by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

William Fredrick Allen, Chief Engineer of the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, created the original street layout for Wenonah.

The grist mill at Wenonah Lake was started by Abraham Dilks before the Revolutionary War.

Jonathan Chew, owner of the "Stone House Farm" (South West Ave & Cherry St.) was a Tory Captain in the British Army during the Revolutionary War. He was captured and sentenced to death but was pardoned upon his exile to Canada.

There were 14 veterans of the Civil War living in Wenonah at the turn of the century.

Mantua Avenue was a gravel road until 1925.

The streetlights in Wenonah were gas until the 1920's.

There were three livery (horse) stables in Wenonah in the 1880's.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY by Elm McCormick 1/7/77

To the youngster of this day the name means nothing. But to those who attended the institution in Wenonah, Gloucester County a few miles south of Woodbury, it's another world.

It still brings to mind days of warm friendships, studies under strict but pleasant conditions, parties, military balls, and of course, athletics, and everything else which went with a well operated educational institution.

Railroad tracks toward the shore still pass the remaining part of the immense athletic grounds. Here Academy teams strove against other private school groups and some of the better high school teams.

The period: in the early part of the 1900's to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

To don the military blue of the Academy, to march with newly made friends, to play on the athletic squads or just to be part of what was one of the best military complexes of its time—that was something to be desired.

Many a boy reached that stage, where his entry wish was fulfilled. And he was the better for it. Faculty members were learned in their subjects. Coaches knew thoroughly the sports they taught.

One of their games was polo. Edgar W. Holton, class of 1924, recalled, "we were so good that one year we beat the championship Army team at West Point Military Academy."

Holton, now retired and an active member of the Woodstown Rotary Club is president of the alumni association, which meets twice a year.

Herb Pennock, one-time famed pitcher for the Athletics and the New York Yankees, did his school day hurling at Wenonah. Dozens of others who had their beginning at the Academy went on to greater recognition in college or with independent athletic groups. It was at a time, however, when only a small percentage of scholastic graduates sought higher education.

Holton played with the semi-pro Penns Grove Red Devil footballers. Under an assumed name, of course as he was still with the Academy team. Other Salem County boys were there.



Brought to mind by Holton were the Shuman boys (they were hot in the three main sports, football, basketball, baseball), and Jim Goslin, brother of the late big league diamond star Goose Goslin. There were a number from this county over the years who were athletically

inclined in a fiercely competitive athletic world. Some of them did not flash to the extent of drawing the headlines.

It wasn't just the athletic life of the Academy community that concerns Holton now. He's interested in keeping track of the many living grads that make up the alumni rolls.

"Many of our boys were from this area," he said, "New Jersey, Pennsylvania and nearby, and yet we had them from all over. Florida, California, Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, Idaho and places even outside the country. The students came from everywhere."

He recalled two Mexicans who were at Wenonah in the 20s, and several boys living

in the town of Wenonah found the private school so to their liking that they transferred from the public school classes.

Hap Farley, long-time political leader in Atlantic City, rarely misses one of the alumni gatherings. Several others come long distances to be with their classmates of 50 and more years ago.

Holton recalled that when their spring meeting was held at the shore last year, Bill Woodburn came from Riverside, Cal. So that the business of association can be carried on more readily, all officers are from this area.

Bill Graupner is secretary. One of the better athletes at the Academy, he had been just as good at Collingswood High School. He continued his athletic participation after leaving Wenonah

Michael S. Cettei (right away you think of the Salem Community College) was in the '34 class. Roy Bloomingdale, active in Pitman sports, kept up his playing field participation. So did Nick Caterina at Vineland.

A.W. Chandler is now retired as a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Another who entered the service Kenneth E, Dilks, '31, lieutenant colonel, retired, has his home in Thailand.

Athletics continued to be a part of Ray Coble's (Woodbury) after he departed the Academy. Retired at the DuPont Chambers Works, Nicholas V, DeLucia, Penns Grove, '35, now lives in Runnemede.

Bill Graupner, Collingswood, in the '28 class, went in for officiating after a brilliant career in sports. A Swedesboro Higher, Cleveland Sholders, was a grid performer after entering in '34. Another in the field of athletics was Carl Tripician, '26 of Margate.

All-arounder (any sport you wanted to name) Maurice P. Shuman (they called him Kid) went to Peddie Institute at Hightstown, became a coach there and finally head master,

He was a Salem boy. Footballer William B, Vanneman, '17, now living in Wilmington, recently published his first book.

Some of the earlier meetings of the old grads were devoted to the possibility of restoring the Academy to the stature of former days. But no buildings remained. The cost of construction was prohibitive.

Holton recalled how officials would tell of the school's catalogue being sent far and wide. It included a thought, "*We teach boys how to live.*" Remembered too on the front wall of the study hall was the inscription,

"He conquers who conquers himself".

While the Wenonah Military Academy as the oldsters remember it is no more, there's still a plaque to note the passing of the once famous institution. "*Lest we Forget*" it reads. The dates, "1902 – 1935 are followed by "Fond Memories, the Alumni Association."

In recent years a display of Academy memorabilia was set up in the Gloucester County historical Society building in Woodbury. Graduates provided most of the material, which they had treasured for y ears.

The alumni members have something to look forward to. Holton has sent out word that the annual spring gathering will be held on May 14. It'll be at the accustomed shore point, the Port-O-Call.

Moze Segal, who was playing for Paulsboro High at the time, recalls a Wenonah visit. He was both a baseball player and a track teamer. The diamond match was halted for a couple of minutes while Segal went over to the track area where the Oilers and Academy teams were in conflict. Moze got his jumps in, went back to the ball field and the tilt was resumed. It was several years ago, you know, he said, and the scores, or who won have escaped him.

Salem County Sunbeam— January 7, 1977

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2007

MESSAGE FROM
VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CAPELLI

Dear Members;

Spring has finally arrived here in our sunny Wenonah. Spring brings new life, re-growth and reminds us that warm weather is almost here to stay. This first Historical Society meeting of spring will bring us a fun and educational presentation by Judy Thompson and Charla Newland, members of the Quilter's Group of Wenonah. They will share with us information on the Wenonah Commemorative Quilt that marked the 100 year anniversary of the train station (1993). Judy and Charla will also share with us a photo scrapbook showing the progression of the quilt. I hope to see you all Friday and don't forget to bring a friend!

Now, back to thoughts of spring. Spring and summer can also be a great time for spring cleaning! So, perhaps somewhere in your attic or basement you'll come across some great family heirloom or something that is historically relative to our great Wenonah. Possibly, this prized possession will elicit some great memories of family and friends you have adored. I think it is very important to our future to reflect and remember times past and where we came from.

Maybe a favorite story, photograph, or item from long ago can be shared with your children and if we

are lucky enough maybe you will share it with all of us at our June picnic. From now until June, hopefully you can find time to clean out those closets in search of some special piece in time that will recall special memories dear to your heart.

I can remember many evenings as a child that my dad would entertain us with old slide shows of family, friends, and special events. Those slide shows were filled with great family stories and memories of lives past.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

I was always particularly interested in our family's origin and what life was like when my grandparents and great grandparents grew up. I think more families need to bring back these memories and stories of family history for their children. After all, without those stories being told, they will soon be lost forever.

So, whether it is something you can share with our group or not, make sure to have a fun family night of history. If you should come across

something particular to the preservation of Wenonah's history or even some great memories of times past in Wenonah, please make sure to come to June's picnic and share your treasures. Eventually, we'd like to document these stories and items in a book about Wenonah.

Therefore, let's welcome spring, its renewal of all those things living and let's not forget all the people, friends, and family that have shaped us and made us who we are today.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Wm. C. Cattell has bought the land recently sold by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to J.C. Stevenson on the west side of Mantua Creek. A party of capitalists will organize and at once lay out a beautiful cemetery, which is very much needed in our midst.

Gloucester County Democrat
December, 6, 1900

Editor's Note:

What was to become known as the Wenonah Cemetery did organize the following year. The article said "thirty acres of land were purchased between here and Mantua and will at once be put in shape. This will be one of the prettiest cemeteries in this section. The trustees were Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia; Dr. H.A. Stout, H.G. Peddle and Wm. C. Cattell of Wenonah; Miss S.R. Chew of Mantua, and D.O. Watkins of Woodbury.

There were nearly a hundred people assembled in the M.E. Church last night to welcome their new pastor, Rev. Mr. Cobb and family. The evening was exceedingly pleasant with music, and the sociability of the people made the new pastor feel as if he were among friends. After partaking of ice cream and cake the people left, all wishing the new "Dominie" and his family a pleasant happy year.

Both our stores have fine stocks of garden seeds etc on hand for early spring planting.

Our people who have been residing out of town during the winter months are returning to their residences here. (Wenonah was still considered a summer resort, by many, at this late period. They resided in Camden and Philadelphia in the winter.)

It is said there was a lively time at the annual school meeting held at Noblitt's Hall last night. There were five candidates. The appropriation of \$2,300, which has been asked for the past few years, was endorsed.

R. H. Clark has erected a new grape arbor at his home in "Browntown" and expects to erect a new shed when the weather settles. (Browntown was the first block on West Willow Street.)

The grounds of the Inn are being put in shape for the coming season. (The Inn was the Wenonah Inn, east of the Borough Park.)

Turner and McCormick's store was a pleasing sight on Saturday filled with a fine line of fresh southern fruit.

Constable Drummer captured two suspicious characters loitering about town about 12:30 last night, and locked them up until morning. They made the excuse that they were looking for a friend.

After months of agitation enough interest in the Fire Company has been aroused to form such an organization, which was effected last night. A number of representative citizens meet and after weighing the matter well, elected councilman W.B. Oat, President; Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T. W. Savage, Chief, and Joseph Truncer, foreman.

What is everybody's business is nobodies business and for years all have been fireman and though we have been very free from disastrous fires, the lack of organization, so that each one would know his place and fill it in the least possible time, would have been seriously felt had a conflagration broken out. Now all will lend their assistance as before but there will be someone in authority to direct and use the brain and muscle of our stalwarts to the best advantage.

The decision of the Democrats to put a ticket in the field this spring has put the Republicans on the anxious bench as to who the nominees will be. No one seems to know until Saturday night, when the citizen's caucus will be held.

That our borough is a healthy place is proven by the fact that nearly all our doctors are dentists. The death rate is hardly mentionable and there is very little sickness. The population is increasing all the time.

Officer Drummer was not so successful in capturing the last man he went after. In company with officer Dopson and Deputy Savage, he started after John Tilden at Jericho wanted for resisting an officer in Woodbury about a year ago. The two officers entered the house but Tilden's father denied that his son was in the house. One started up the stairs and the other, it is said, looked in the room where the son was hiding but did not see him, when Savage called out "there he goes" and heard some one drop from the window. A hot chase ensued in which the officers shot at the fleeing darky nine times but he waded through a large pond, nearly to his waist, and escaped while they were groping around.

Bachelors and old maids, those very necessary adjuncts to all properly managed towns, as they always know the theory of bringing up children and other duties are remarkable for their scarcity in our borough. We have, though, some comely widows and the prettiest young girls in the State - this is a fact strongly attested by the young men thereabouts.

The best on earth Wenonah corn and tomatoes Turner and McCormick Wenonah, NJ.

The borough's nomination election will be held Saturday at the land office, tomorrow evening to name a Mayor for two years, two members of council for three years, one commissioner of appeal for three years, a pound keeper and Justice of the Peace.

The plumbers are about the busiest people in the town this time of year.

L. F. Feitner, a clerk for Job Scott, is nursing a gathering on his finger from running a large splinter in it.

The most unique form of entertainment provided for our people for some time was a "Stocking Social" held at the residence of Mrs. Cookson last evening. It was in charge of one of the Missionary Committees of the Presbyterian Church and was most successful. The Orchestra and Mandolin Club furnished entertainment for a while and refreshments took up the remainder of the evening. Each person who

attended was supplied with a small silk hose into, which was placed two pennies for each size of stockings worn. The receipts amounted to about \$22.50. The inference is very small hosiery -worn.

The need of a baseball team here this summer is already being felt, and some steps are being taken toward the formation of such a club. We have the material and it would take very little money to put up a good team in the field and we could have some amusement on Saturday afternoons. Push the good work along.

A carload of trees arrived yesterday to beautify the already pretty property of Stephan Green. (These trees, white pine, still exist particularly on South Princeton Avenue and significantly Pine Street.)

Daniel W. Brown is laying a new stone pavement in front of his property on West Mantua Avenue. (Victor Anderson's property)

Always on the watch for anything crooked or suspicious, Officer Drummer tells that he was almost sure he was about able to swoop in on a daring burglar early yesterday morning. As a rule thieves and thugs give him a wide berth knowing well his reputation for fearlessness in capturing them, and so when he saw lights in the home of Dr. Harvey he suspected at once that some daring desperado had foolishly entered his preempted domain to do violence. Accordingly plans were arranged for a surprise of the wrong doers, and just as the swoop was about to take place the timely discovery was made that the doctor and family had arrived home late last night from Newport News, Va. where they had been spending the winter.

The annual reception of the Monday Club was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. H. Lake Gilmour last evening and was a brilliant affair. Vocal and instrumental music and a social hour occupied the attention of the guests for a while when a beautiful collation was served by Caterer Claphan of Woodbury. (The Monday Club still exists today.)

Fred Middleton and Miss Margaret Farr are the graduates of our school, being the only ones passing the county examination just concluded.

Schools of herring are reported in the creek and the boys are having delightful fishing. (This was an annual event in Wenonah for many years) The butchers say they will be glad when the shad season is over.

The automobile, which went through here yesterday, scared several horses and had many

craning their necks to see what was causing all the excitement.

Ice dealer Joe Warner has put his wagon on for the summer to serve the people.

A lady demonstrator is at Richard Clark's store in the interest of Walker's Gasoline Borax soap that is said to avoid so much hard work in the wash.

The new bicycle ordinance has been posted forbidding riding on the sidewalks.

New trestlework has arrived for Dr. Bailey's coal yards. (Across from the firehouse.)

The rehearsal for the musicale and cantata last evening was all that can be desired. The young misses that are in charge of the affair are much pleased. The admission is only three cents, the proceeds to be turned over to the church.

Hiram Leap has received another bag of seed from the grange, which he is kindly distributing among his friends and neighbors, who have gardens (The Grange Hall was on North Marion Avenue, originally Joseph Noblitt's Hall, later the American Legion Hall.)

Quite a number of our people witnessed the solar eclipse here this morning. The weather was clear and a good view of the phenomenon could be had.

J.L.Drummer has just completed a nice boardwalk in front of postmaster Wilson's property. (It was quite common at this period to have wooden sidewalks called boardwalks.)

Rev. R.H. Gage will give an illustrated lecture of the tour of the continent made by he and Edward Farr in the Presbyterian Church tonight. (They spent half a year in Europe.)

A number of G.A.R. men from this section are to attend services in the M.E. Church on Sunday afternoon. (The Grand Army of the Republic was a Civil War veteran's organization.)

Mr. Lewis, the lessee of the Wenonah Inn, is making arrangements to open it sometime this month.

The electric light wires seem to be burning the tops of the trees in several places about town.

It seems your correspondent was wrongly informed regarding the dog of Dr. Stout having symptoms of rabies. Dr. Stout accounts for the bloody and disheveled appearance of his dog from the fact that the animal received a laceration of one ear while chasing through the swamp, which bled freely and covered its jaws with blood and dust

Woodbury Daily Times - Milton Webb archives

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 5 May 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

Please Pray for Sean McQuade's Full Recovery

I believe few of us would argue that Wenonah is one of the "richest" places to live based on history, family and volunteerism. Many of us know the families in town that have become part of the town's fabric. Many are our fellow Historical Society members, who like yourself, exemplify the family values that have built our community and differentiate it so. Unquestionably the Forsman family is included in that fabric.

It was a tremendously disturbing and sad day when we learned of the April 16th horrific shooting and senseless death and violence that incurred that day on the Virginia Tech campus. We were all overcome when we heard about it and speechless when many of us quickly found out that one of our member's families and closest of friends was so tragically affected by the Virginia Tech massacre.

Chuck and Lorrie Forsman's grandson Sean, a senior at VT and just two weeks away from graduation, son of Jody who grew up here in Wenonah, was shot in the face on campus by the gunman. I believe Jody and Grandmom and Grandpa would easily and proudly say Sean has

always been a model son, grandson, student and athlete. It seems like only yesterday that I remember Sean being that sweet little kid in diapers. Horrifically, Sean, like the others shot that day clearly did not deserve what happened to them that tragic day.

Sean, now 22 and a senior majoring in mathematics, was in that German language class when the gunman entered and started shooting, killing or injuring 20 of the 24 students in the class.



Grandpa, Grandmom and Mom rushed off to Sean's bedside as soon as it happened and have kept a constant vigil.

We all hoped and prayed as Sean went from making it through the first hours, then days and now weeks. Today Sean remains the last person hospitalized with injuries from the Virginia Tech shootings and just recently was upgraded to good condition.

I would like to ask all of you to continue to keep Sean, Jody, Chuck and Lorrie and all of the Forsman family in your prayers asking God for a full and complete recovery as soon as possible.

You can learn more of Sean's tremendous struggle and updated details, including information for fundraisers to help Sean on a web site set up to help disseminate such information at: www.seanmcquade.faithweb.com

Currently in the works are plans for putting together a dinner/dance "VT Hokie Night" to raise funds for Jody and Sean. Please keep June 28th open. More information will follow as Vicki is just getting it off the ground.

The recent family photo to the left shows (left to right) Sean, sister Morgan, Mom Jody, and Grandpa Chuck and Grandma Lorrie.

PROGRAM FOR MAY 2007

Patricia (Clunn) Wellingham-Jones grew up in Wenonah during the '40s and '50s. Her father was Norman Clunn, a regional bank president. The book she wrote and donated to us about her youthful experiences has been used as a Historical Society fund-raiser for quite some time. For our program this month Pat will relate some of her collection of poetic stories. Most are reflections of childhood memories while living in Wenonah..

In her poems she refers to her Wenonah experience "at a time of more woods, only the lake to swim in, and fewer cars". Pat's poems should bring back happy memories to those native to Wenonah and be of great interest to our members who have adopted Wenonah as their own. .

THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER

3 EAST MANTUA AVENUE

Levander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he operated a general grocery store on the premises. This was a short-lived enterprise as the store and property were deeded to Richard J. Clark in September of 1888.

The store was expanded with honest goods and honest prices. The stock consisted of dry and fancy goods, notions, furnishings, boots, hats, caps etc. During this period he was in competition with Turner and McCormick who had similar goods. He outlasted them and eight other competitors until 1912. He was quite active in the community serving on the town council and various church boards. His

sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert would operate the coal yard business at Maple Street and the railroad where the borough public works garage is today. Jim Clark became a semiprofessional baseball player

The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central office" in his store serving the thirty telephones within the town. Five years later when the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone Company wanted to house their exchange in his building Clark refused them permission because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark eventually sold the business and the building to John Madara. He was a glass blower at Whitney Glass Works in Clayton. He continued the dry goods and grocery business successfully until 1920 when he sold it to a Norman Brown.

The business continued under Brown's leadership until 1925 when it went up for public sale. The advertisement for the sale gives insight into the business. Listed was the store stock of shoes, hosiery, hardware, notions, dry goods, groceries, a meat cutter, refrigerator display, and

everything to be found in a general store. The ad said "This is one of the best residential and business properties in town located at the Wenonah station and across from the Military Academy Park".

Bill Seiders at this time had a hardware store in the northern part of the Grosscup building, being formerly owned by John Viereck. He was seeking a new location. Milton Webb, a salesman for Winchester-Simmons Hardware Company, was persuaded by him to go into partnership in the 3 East Mantua Avenue building and to create a new hardware store. Mr. Webb, with the consent of his wife, also was talked into moving to town. They moved into the apartment next to what would become the hardware store. Soon after moving they

were assessed \$500 for the concrete paving on Mantua Avenue which was their welcome to the town.

They called the store "THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER".

The Winchester Simmons Company was the forerunner of our present True Value, Ace

and other hardware chains. The stock was quite varied: sporting goods, tools, hardware cutlery, paints and building materials. The barn in back was made a warehouse. The enterprise was quite successful despite the depression. However in 1935 the academy closed and this was a disaster to all the businesses in town and the area. The store closed in 1937.

The store was then leased to Mr. A.H. Williams who opened up a Fairlawn grocery store which was unsuccessful and closed in two years. After this Charlie Hill opened a hobby shop, which went out of business in 1940. The store was then turned into an apartment unit. During this period Mary Bilderback, formerly a piano teacher at the academy, taught music in the second floor. Many children from Wenonah started their musical careers with her.



In 1949 Mr. Webb sold the building to Jim and Eleanor Ross. Eleanor's father was Charlie Hohlweg who owned Charlie's, later renamed the Tall Pines Inn. Jim and Eleanor successfully created the Jim-El Sweet Shoppe, which was in business for fifteen years. This was basically a luncheonette and coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch. Many years later Eleanor after returning from Florida opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Marjorie and Bill Fox. At one time Bill Fox had a riding academy in Wenonah. Marge's became an institution in Wenonah. In the morning for breakfast there was an influx of workers from Atlantic City Electric, Bell Telephone and other locals. For lunch were those from Marmac and Newton Tool Works and the schoolteachers. It was a gathering place for the community, So many fond memories. Sadly Marjorie died of cancer but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys' husband was Herb Clark who was born in the building and whose father was Richard Clark the early owner.

The next owners were George and Jane Bowker who ran the business under the name of The Carriage Shoppe. They ran it for several years but Jane's ill health caused it to have to close. Several attempts were made to reopen but unsuccessfully. Realtor Roy Duffield then bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who have conducted an outstanding business there since that time.

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed it's message is that it would be good to have a coffee shop again as we did years ago. This is something that is lacking in our community. For those who remember, we know.

Archives of Milton H. Webb

RECOLLECTIONS BY MILTON WEBB

The railroad held a great fascination for the kids of town. There was nothing more awesome than the third rail that carried the electricity to propel the

trains. On several occasion a dog would get too close and that was the end of the ball game or it would be severely burned. Each year a representative of the railroad would come to school and lecture the students on the danger of this potential killer. We were told there was more electricity in the third rail than the electric chair at Trenton. Lois Fink, who was noted for his intelligence, doubted this and spread the word that the agent was lying to us. Unfortunately there was no way to disprove this theory and it was a mystery for years.

Many a penny was put on the tracks to be flattened out becoming quite a collector's item. The well-equipped boy, along with his marbles, carried a flattened coin. The meaning was not as great with the girls of the class.

The railroad station was a haven in the wintertime, a great place to get warm. In the middle of the waiting room there was a big steam radiator that heated many a pair of cold gloves, Mrs. Phallis, the station mistress was always very nice to the kids and never objected to us coming in the station. Probably she was lonely and liked to have company. This must have been a tradition as Mr. Tuft, a stationmaster for many years, also was a kind person. I didn't know him as he was before my time.

The Phallis family lived in the apartment in the station. They were very big, tall people and it is a wonder that they all fit in to so small a space.

It was with great sadness that the steam trains were replaced with diesel locomotives. It just wasn't the same. Steam engines blew off big clouds of vapor and emitted black sulfur smelling clouds of smoke. Even the whistle seemed more commanding. Soon after the diesels arrived passenger service ended.

So many times we went to Philadelphia on the train. We liked to go to the foot of Market Street in Camden and get on the ferry to Philadelphia. You would walk up the hill to Front Street and take the trolley. The alternative was to get off in Camden and take the bridge train and subway.

We went to Woodbury High School on the train, walked up Cooper Street every morning. Passed by Ace Motors, Snelbakers, The Woodbury Times building.

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 6 September 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;
Welcome Back!

PORCH PARTY FRIDAY SEPT 14TH 7:00PM

We are all looking forward to a fun filled and interesting year. First, Vicki and I are looking forward to again hosting and seeing all of you at this month's porch party at our home at 300 East Mantua Avenue on Friday the 14th at 7:00 pm to kick off our Fall schedule. Speaking during the meeting will be Karl Anderson on conservation in Wenonah. Refreshments and snacks will be served. We hope to see you there and remember, **start time 7: 00 PM!**

SUMMER 2007 ROUND UP

As you may or may not know, the theme for the 2007 July 4th again celebrated Wenonah's rich history. Our members were well represented in the patriotic ceremonies and in orchestrating the set-up and running of the open house historical exhibit "In the Beginning" at the Community Center. The exhibit was very well done and well attended. I have heard a lot of compliments about it. Very special thanks to all who helped on the Fourth, including but surely not limited to Betty Rose, Pat Sole, Helen Sheppard and Jo Dominy.

WENONAH FAMILY ALBUM

Related to Jack Sheppard and Vicki's speeches on the Fourth is the

importance of the need to document and preserve what we have today before it is gone. I again urge you to please take the time to compile some photos and stories/memories you cherish and want to share with future generations of you and/or your family living in Wenonah. Please give them to Barb Cappelli or myself so we may compile them in order to safeguard one of our richest natural resources-our history.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

With Deepest Regrets – Our condolences to Betty and the MacLeod family on the passing of her husband Doug during the summer. He will be missed but he will always remain one of Wenonah's finest.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

OCTOBER 12th: Paul Stankard ~ glass arts

NOVEMBER 9th: South Jersey Ghost Research ~they're ba-ack!

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

WENONAH SCHOOL
FALL DISPLAY

In partnership with the Gloucester County Historical Society, the first display for the school year will begin on September 12, 2007. The theme will be about Native Americans, with the main focus on the Lenape tribe living in and around our area. Artifacts on display will include arrow and spearheads, axes, smoking pipes, hoes, clay bowls, pottery shards as well as information on this subject. The exhibit will continue through mid November.

You are invited to view the exhibit during school hours. Display cases are in the main entrance on North Clinton Avenue. Hopefully you will find this display both interesting and informative.

HISTORICAL FACTS

Prior to 1875 Wenonah children went to the Mantua school, and it was not thought a hardship for them to walk the couple miles there and back. After 1875 for some reason it was decided to send the children to the Monongahela School in Deptford, which was located about three miles east of Wenonah in a farming district.

The parents hired Charlie Buckman, who ran the flourmill that then stood at the foot of what is now called Warner's Pond, to carry the children back and forth in his one-horse stage about a dozen children attended the Monongahela School

Wenonah Historical Society Activity – Summer of 2007

by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Well as much as it pains me to say it the summer of 2007 is all but over, but what a summer it was. Great weather for summer lovers like me with an outstanding Fourth of July. Belated congratulations are due Betty Rose who chaired the open house display in the Community Center along with the many member volunteers who assisted her. Also kudos to Pat Sole who set up the fund-raiser display and sold many items during the open-house period.

For those who missed the event the theme was “The Beginning”, especially the railroads and the part they played in the creation of Wenonah. Worthy of particular note were the following photographs and displays that were featured;

- A photo of the West Jersey railroad track route prior to 1866 via what is now Jefferson Avenue. The tracks were adjacent to Wenonah Lake crossing the Mantua Creek at “Clay Hill”. Also a plaque containing a cross-section of rail from that route. (both items contributed by member Carol Campbell)
- A large (36” X 48”) map of the Wenonah area between 1770/1870 showing owner’s names of farms that became Wenonah. The current street layout is superimposed on the drawing.
- Photos of the first Wenonah station (circa 1866), the current station (circa 1893) and other stations including North Woodbury, Woodbury, Pitman, Glassboro and Clayton.
- An exhibition of “HO” gauge model trains provided by former Wenonah resident Len Morgan.
- Photos of the Wenonah House Hotel (circa 1872) that became the Wenonah Inn (circa 1890) that of course became the Wenonah Military Academy (circa 1904).
- An aerial view of Wenonah with the Military Academy in the center.

The summer of 2007 also saw continuing gains in the creation of the WHS Museum in the Community Center building. Julie Ream and her volunteers continued the cataloguing of Military Academy artifacts and photos. For those who may have forgotten what Julie is doing, the work consists of identifying the various historic objects and

photographs, mostly but not entirely Military Academy, entering the information in the computer, and then suitably storing the materials in the various boxes, files, closets and shelves available to us.

I find it advisable to remind the membership from time to time that the “Museum” being created cannot be the kind you normally think of when the word “museum” is mentioned. Due to the nature and location of the second floor space with the single narrow and winding access stairway and lack of fire protection facilities, open public access to the collection is out of the question. Instead the materials will be readily retrievable for display in the first floor space, or through computer access, or both, and possibly by links to the library and the school. The other advantage the repository provides is the ability to receive and store historic materials from contributors so items of Wenonah history will no longer leave town in a trash receptacle, as may have happened too-often in the past.

Lastly, the Borough performed some curb installation and street paving activity adjacent to the station during the summer. However at this writing there is still no definite timetable for repairs and improvements to the building itself. According to Borough Engineer David Kreck any such rehabilitation activity will not occur until 2008 or later. Considering the deplorable condition of parts of the station, (birds are actually nesting in holes in the gable-end woodwork), our Society may want to consider taking the lead in providing emergency repairs ourselves. Could be by volunteer work, financial contributions, or some combination of both.

Comments by Chairperson Betty Rose

Many of the viewing public commented favorably on the total exhibit, various articles of particular interest to them and they were happy to see old documents, discover facts they were unaware of pertaining to Wenonah and its growth.

The focal point of the exhibit was an old enlarged map of farm land (which would become Wenonah) overlaid with the layout of proposed building lots, Incorporation papers for the Mantua Land and Improvement Company and an Aerial view of the

early town all helped to draw the viewers interest. As the theme of the exhibit was Wenonah – In the Beginning, it featured many photos and written material pertaining to the town and how it evolved.

Many guests commented in a positive way about this event in general and each had favorites they enjoyed viewing. The ten oldest homes on the Wenonah Historical Society register were well received and led visitors to inquire on how to register and obtain a plaque. The large display of old photos drew a great deal of interest. No positive identification of any photo took place but the viewers seemingly enjoyed viewing them, especially the Victorians who were dressed to the nines in the heat of summer.

Over 200 people attended our “open-house” event, many from out of town, one from Vancouver, Canada, several from Spartanburg, SC, one from Charlotte, NC, one from Melbourne, Australia, one from Sarasota, FL., and four from PA. Our new guest book served us well! As we all know, celebrating Independence Day, Wenonah style is full of activities so it is all the more gratifying when we have a large number of the public take the time to visit our exhibit each year, obviously there are many people interested in revisiting the past, in and around Wenonah.

Sincere thanks to the many members who helped make this event possible by volunteering to help on this hectic, but fun-filled day.

Vicki McCall's Comments on the Fourth

Vicki was the featured speaker during the Patriotic Ceremonies. She spoke on growing up in Wenonah. I would like to share with you an excerpt of her speech that day:

“We learned the most about our home when we visited Wally Farr who was the first of 6 children born in the house in 1891. Our son Sean was the next generation to be born at the house in 1995. Wally shared many stories of Wenonah. Growing up in a town where young boys loved the woods, muskrat hunting, and canoeing from Wenonah to Cooper River. His shared experiences from the past made me realize that what stand out as the MOST important feature of this town are its people.”

Our friends and neighbors are the fabric of this place we call home. It is the Jack Sheppard's who we all have honored today for his tireless dedication to this town, it is the Chuck Forsmans and Bevilacquas and Frank Eggerts who spend endless hours making sure all future generations enjoy the Wenonah of their childhoods with the endless trails, forts, streams, and lakes. It is the Rachael Knissels who put us to shame with her constant tending of the gardens around the train station; it is Mr. Ehlers walking through the park every morning rain or shine, stopping to speak to neighbors, the crossing guard, as we are taking our children to school. It is Kathy Ralston who taught and mentored many of us here and her husband Don Ralston whose heartfelt prayers from a bible given to him by his mother when he went to war. It is Lucy Schultz who has lived in this town longer than anyone here. She still remembers when Cedar/Langston Field was a racetrack complete with racehorses. She was fortunate enough to actually attend dances at the Military Academy.

For all of you new to this town, take the time to say hello to these new neighbors. They have the stories, the fabric that binds this town together as a community. Do NOT miss the opportunity to get to know those who have guided and nurtured this town for so long and with so much love.

The roots of this town also lie with those who are no longer with us. It is Milton Webb who knew more secrets about this town and more history than anyone would think possible for one man's brain! It is the Victor Anderson's, the Harry Schroeder's, and the Doug Macleod's. It is Jane Ramsay who brought me into the fabulous and interesting fold of the Wenonah Historical Society...And for the unknowing, this group can party with the best of them. So get on board and pay your dues and be a part of the history of this town! OK....that's my plug for the day....

The bottom line is that this town is a community because of its people;...it is held together by a blending of the past with visions for the future. It is all of you here today who somewhere in the back of your head are humming the words to the Boss's song” This is your hometown”

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 7 October 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

It was great to see everyone on September 14 at our now traditional opening meeting of the year at our Porch Party. We had a great evening in spite of the threat of rain. Everyone enjoyed the slide presentation by Karl Anderson. Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments. People stayed into the wee hours of the morning, so I take that as a sign folks enjoyed themselves.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the October 12th meeting at the Community Center. World-renowned artist Paul Stankard, whose family has roots in Wenonah, will share his talents with us as he speaks about Glass art. For anyone who has not experienced hearing Mr. Stankard, you are in for a very uplifting evening. His works are a reflection of his true eye for the beauty and miracles in nature. His paperweights are displayed in many museums including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Arts, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, just to name a few. His poetry is thought invoking and gives insight into his artistic designs. Vicki and I have had the honor of meeting him and greatly look forward to seeing him on Friday.

Be sure to visit his website at www.paulstankard.com

We hope to see all of you there. Please bring a friend~ they will be glad you did!

We want to thank all of our hard workers who generously gave their time at the Harvest Fair. They did well selling our items; our hats, bags, and books are becoming quite popular! We will have some items on hand at the meeting if you missed out! Remember...Christmas is coming!

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Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

Please remember to find time for writing and compiling your pictures for the Wenonah Album! See you on Friday!

UPCOMING

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 9th: South Jersey Ghost Research ~they're ba-ack!

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

WENONAH 101 YEARS AGO
OCTOBER 1906

Mrs. W.G. Peddle is visiting in Bridgeton.

Mr. Edward Knight was in town last night.

There is much complaint about the night telephone service here.

The Academy football team went to Glen Mills today to play a game.

For Sale – An Oldsmobile, very cheap. Apply to Dr. Lean. Reason for selling, does not have time to use it.

Mrs. Eisenburg of Baltimore, who has been visiting at the home of her sister Mrs. Wm. VanMeter, returned home today.

The third rail club have moved their headquarters to the second story back room in Noblit's Hall. Donations of coal would be very acceptable.

The Glassboro, Pitman and Clayton Gas Co awarded the contract Wednesday evening for the extension of their gas mains to Mantua and Wenonah. Work on the operation will be started in about 60 days.

The Academy 2nd team overwhelmed the Pitman team yesterday by the score of 21 to 0 in 15 and 10 minute halves. Fox and Housel did the best work for the Academy while Lefebvre of the Pitman first team did the best work for Pitman.

FOR SALE – 2 organs, also 2 organ boxes, just the thing for sweet potatoes. Geo. W. Locke.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS

South Jersey had role in development

By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(First in a three-part series.)

It's an old question that was first raised by a group of ambitious businessmen.

"Why would people want to drive from Gloucester County to Philadelphia if they could ride the rails?" they asked themselves. After all, they reasoned, train travel is quicker and safer, plus there's the added benefit of avoiding all those traffic jams.

So they set about building a bridge linking the area's existing passenger rail lines to provide a solid steel ribbon leading from Center City to Woodbury, Glassboro, Newfield and beyond, and ran out of money.

That was some 80 years ago. In the years since, turnpikes and superhighways have risen to provide what passenger rail promised. But as choked roads have become more commonplace, the plan attempted by those entrepreneurs back in the days of the Model T has received new attention.

"What goes around, comes around," says Don Wentzel. "Eventually, we're going to have to go back to some light rail form of transportation once again."

Wentzel, railroad editor for South Jersey Magazine in Millville, has written much about the dreams of would-be South Jersey railroad barons and their efforts at empire building. In the process, he has traced the area's rail history that began with a number of small lines and evolved into a network connecting Camden to Cape May.

Although the elusive passenger route to Philadelphia remained only a dream in those days, electric trains eventually would transport county residents to virtually any other commercial center on the Jersey side of the river. The trains were touted as quicker, more efficient and safe.

"I'm not aware of any serious accidents once electrification was in place," Wentzel says. "A few people stepped on the third rail, a few cars got in front of the train, but those were the exceptions."

According to Wentzel, Gloucester County's passenger rail history starts around 1836 with the chartering of the Camden and Woodbury Railroad. The first steam-powered trains arrived on the line two years later, but not long afterward were replaced by horse-drawn trains in an apparent cost-cutting move.

In 1850, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad's tracks were torn up — the state's first railroad abandonment. It was an ignominious start to the county's passenger rail legacy.

But other lines soon moved in to fill the void. In its heyday, which Wentzel places from the turn of the century until just after World War I, the area's passenger rail system connected most of the major towns in South Jersey, and the steel links stubbornly held together for several years after the train was dethroned by the automobile as the chief source of local travel.

"Until '31, you could get on an electric train and go to Atlantic City from Glassboro, Wenonah or Woodbury," Wentzel says.

Before it disappeared, passenger rail left its mark on Gloucester County, bringing about the early 1900s version of a development boom. Wentzel notes that the site of Glassboro Normal School, now Rowan College of New Jersey, was chosen in part because the town was a rail junction. Passenger lines also contributed to the birth of communities such as Woodbury Heights and Newfield, and sprouting neighborhoods like Glassboro's Chestnut Ridge Estates relied heavily on their proximity to passenger rail as a major selling point.

Meanwhile, the rumble of railway cars was echoing loudly through Woodbury as train tracks combined with roads to reshape the county seat into a transit core. "You have an awful lot of transportation in Woodbury in the early 1900s," Wentzel says. "It was definitely quite a transportation hub ... an early transportation center. All this was largely due to the efforts of local businessmen who started banding together around the mid-1800s to see that the iron horses that were spreading the Industrial Age made it to their neck of the woods. Across South Jersey, small railroad companies started popping up, though these tiny enterprises hardly looked like the makings of another Union & Pacific.

Take, for example, the Swedesboro Railroad Company. Incorporated in 1866, the firm boasted 11-9 miles of track running from Swedesboro to Woodbury. Under its equipment inventory, however it listed a big zero — no engines, no cars, nothing. The company simply leased its rail line to another railroad company.

The Swedesboro Railroad Company was typical of the area, says Wentzel. Businessmen from a town chipped in to build a rail line to that town, connected it with an operating railroad's already existing lines, then either leased it to the railroad or sold it outright. The procedure was more cost-effective than having the railroad build the lines itself and the businessmen were assured of an outlet for their goods and a new source of customers.

"In some cases here in South Jersey, they turned (the track) over the day the line was completely built. In some cases they held on to them for a few years," Wentzel says.

In the case of one railroad, Wentzel notes, the impetus was provided by one family, the Woods, who operated everything from an iron works to a cotton mill and bleachery in Millville. In 1860 when the family completed the Millville & Glassboro Railroad, it resulted in one of the earliest examples of a connector flight: Families traveling from Camden to Millville rode the train to Woodbury, hopped aboard the stagecoach to Glassboro and switched to a train again for the rest of the trip.

The following year, the West Jersey Railroad linked its Camden and Woodbury tracks to the Millville & Glassboro line completing a vital leg in a network that would eventually extend to Cape May.

UPDATE ON MUSEUM CATALOGUING PROJECT BY CHAIRPERSON JULIE REAM

Since the original survey of the WHS Museum holdings and storage needs in December 2005, I have worked on and off with several volunteers to catalog and store the collections of the Wenonah Historical Society. We are currently up to about 200 objects at last count. This number does not include the 114 architectural maps and drawings that Jack Sheppard took flattened and housed in the flat files storage facility.

We have completed work on the most cumbersome objects (ex: uniforms, 3-D glass and metal objects) that require more complicated storage plans and catalog descriptions. We have more recently begun to tackle the vast number of photographs, which will go faster (each item is similar to the last entry and storage is simply a choice based on size of folder). While in numbers we are probably just over halfway through, we have completed the most time-consuming items and with

more regular volunteers we'll be able to finish cataloguing the current holdings within the next several months.

In addition to myself and of course support by Jack Sheppard, volunteers over the past (almost two) years have included: Jo Dominy and Bud Rose, Brenda Birkland, Anne Zuber, Sue McNally and Melissa Eckstein.

All of the volunteers have been very adept, but few have been able to work often enough to become proficient. Since my schedule is limited (by my full time job and kids' activities), I would say the greatest need remains to find a few volunteers who can reliably offer a weekly presence to the project.

In writing this, I looked back over the report I made upon completion of the initial survey. Several of the recommendations I made have been followed and it reminded me how much progress has been made. There is one step that remains, and it is a crucial one before we can begin to ask Wenonah residents to donate items to our museum:

- ❖ The Executive Board needs to write a concise mission statement that allows for objective evaluation of present holdings and future acquisitions. We must have guidance and decisions about what to keep before spending time/money for accession and storage.

A committee would ideally be formed to write the mission statement and be responsible to consider items offered for donation to determine their appropriateness for the collection. We do not have the space or resources to store objects that bear no direct link with Wenonah's history and there should be a plan in place to accept or decline donations on that basis. Most of the items so far have been Military Academy, but we already have a sizeable group of items separated out that require a decision by the Society officers as to whether or not they should be catalogued, since they do not apparently meet this criteria.

I share your concern for the condition of the train station and its ability to provide a stable environment for the museum holdings. I would be happy to offer any support on that topic as repairs proceed. I continue to enjoy working on this project and plan to stick with it, ever hopeful that more people will see the value in it and decide to join the cause!

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 8 November 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

The Return of South Jersey Ghost Research to the Community Center on November 9th!

Well after an outstanding presentation by Paul Stankard last month that included insight to his book "No Green Berries or Leaves, The Creative Journey of an Artist in Glass" (copies still available- please see any officer), we now look forward to next Friday's 7:30 pm meeting in the Community Center where we again welcome Dave Juliano, Director of South Jersey Ghost Research and his team for what is always a very interesting and unique presentation.

Dave and his team's main goal is to assist anyone who is in fear of spirit activity in their everyday surroundings. Dave is also director of "The Shadowlands: Ghost and Hauntings" and author of "Positive Energy for Haunted Homes, Ghost Research 101: Investigating Haunted Homes" and "Armor of God" and "Ghost Hunting 101."

Dave has been researching paranormal activities for over 20 years and has consulted on thousands of cases. He lived in a haunted house himself for over 29 years and his current residence also keeps him practicing. Dave majored in History and World religions in College and is a police academy graduate.

The appearance by SJGR of the 9th will include video and audio presentations, photos and electronic voice recordings ("EVPs") from actual cases, photo displays, equipment displays, demos and the often-surprising Q&A session with the audience. Please bring your questions and stories.

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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

If you have a chance, please also check out SJGR's website at: www.southjerseyghostresearch.org, click on "cases" and the scroll down to "Wenonah Train Station" to see the picture results of their last investigation of the Community Center on December 13, 2002.

Christmas and the Wenonah Family Album

Folks please keep in mind our responsibility to help preserve Wenonah memories when you are up in the attic looking for holiday decorations and you come across those treasured pictures from days gone by in Wenonah. Please remember to compile your family

pictures and little quips to help us forever memorialize those Wenonah Memories and submit them to Barb Capelli or myself. Thanks!

Notice!! Executive Meeting of officers, trustees and anyone interested 6.00 pm prior to general meeting at Community Center.

Please remember to find time for writing and compiling your pictures for the Wenonah Album! See you on Friday!

UPCOMING

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 9th: South Jersey Ghost Research ~they're ba-ack!

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

REMINISCENCES OF WENONAH HISTORY BY J.C. SHEPPARD SR

Andrew W. Carey was one of a handful of men instrumental in the founding of Wenonah.

Mr. Carey served on the original group of Commissioners when Wenonah was first organized commencing in 1883 and was Mayor of Wenonah during the years 1897 and 1898. He died in 1905.

Andy's son James W. Carey served on Borough Council from 1900 through 1908. James was the father of Josiah Allen Carey who was our Borough Clerk when I joined Borough Council in 1962. He conducted the Clerks activities from his home.

The Carey homestead was the handsome dwelling on the S.W. corner of South Clinton and Cherry Streets opposite the Wenonah Park.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS

South Jersey had role in development

By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(Second in a three-part series.)

Over the years, the West Jersey Railroad bought and incorporated several smaller area rail lines. It consolidated the Swedesboro Railroad in the 1880s, and soon added the Salem Railroad, the Salem Branch Railroad Company, the Woodstown and Swedesboro Railroad Company, the West Jersey Terminal Railroad Company and the Maurice River Railroad Company. When it acquired the Delaware River Railroad in 1900, the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, as it was then known, had a virtual maze of tracks reaching into all corners of Gloucester County.

But finding a way across the Delaware to securely link the county with Philadelphia remained an elusive goal. The plan to build a passenger rail bridge to South Philadelphia ran out of cash between 1910 and 1920. Wentzel notes that a railroad bridge was already in place — in the Delair section of Pennsauken — but he points out that reaching the bridge would add another 30 minutes to the average train trip and thus remove one of the big selling points of passenger rail.

Meanwhile, another project to benefit passenger rail was hitting snags. Around 1905, West Jersey & Seashore embarked on a project to build a cutoff between Westville and Haddon Township to link two lines and ease freight traffic on the system. The link was about 70 percent complete when tight finances caused work to be halted, and the cutoff was never finished.

Then, in 1926, the area's passenger train service was dealt a more serious blow. "When the Ben Franklin Bridge was built, that was the death knell," says Wentzel.

From there, it was mostly downhill. The West Jersey & Seashore Railroad became the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines in 1933, but by then passenger service was already on the decline. Two years earlier, the electric line from Newfield to Atlantic City was torn out, limiting passenger service to only as far as Millville. The South Jersey passenger rail network was starting to shrink.

An incident in 1949 effectively put an end to the rest of the network. In Vineland, a fuel oil truck was hit by a passenger train of wooden cars carrying school children from Newfield. There were no fatalities, but, as Wentzel puts it, the state said that's

it," and cracked down on the use of wooden passenger cars. Lacking enough metal cars, Pennsylvania-Reading couldn't keep the service alive.

But Wentzel still sees reason for hope in the future. He notes that there seems to be renewed interest in freight rail as a cheaper way to move products, and adds that there appears to be a similar spark in reviving passenger service. Wentzel says he personally would like to see the PATCO High-Speed Line eventually expand south to Glassboro. "We seem to be turning around

Many great ideas don't work at first. Such was the case with the first railroad in Gloucester County.

Incorporated in 1836, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad was the first to be built south of Camden, but its rails were torn up just 14 years later.

The railroad was a victim of too much vision, doomed to failure because it was ahead of its time, says Paul Schopp, a historical consultant who specializes in rail history.

The idea was sound, Schopp says. In a time of terrible road conditions, create a reliable means of travel to link two budding towns. In a time when stagecoaches and wagons were the chief modes of transit, create a network suitable for passenger as well as freight travel.

This was the thinking when a group of businessmen, merchants, builders and attorneys gathered in the Woodbury courthouse in January 1836 with the goal of establishing the railroad.

The railroad would serve many purposes, the planners reasoned. It was a means of transporting citizens from Camden to the county seat of Woodbury where court business was conducted.

It would also provide a way to get goods from the farms and markets of Swedesboro and other rural locations to Camden where they could be sold or shipped across the river via ferry to Philadelphia for sale.

The Camden and Woodbury line became official on March 1, 1836 after it was incorporated by an act of the state Legislature, according to court papers.

After two years of surveys, purchasing and track construction, the railroad was ready for service. Private stockholders picked up the total cost of \$87,301.28.

The line's maiden journey was conducted Saturday, Jan. 20, 1838. The steam locomotive "Fire Fly," pulling a 40-foot passenger car filled with dignitaries covered the nine miles of track between Camden and Woodbury in about 20 minutes with a short stop in Westville. Fifteen-year-old Camden resident Isaac Mickle was on hand as the Fire Fly rumbled back after its trip that day.

"We gave her (the locomotive) nine cheers when she returned." wrote Mickle, who eventually became a lawyer and later chronicled Gloucester County history in "Reminiscences of Old Gloucester." published in 1845.

Initial interest in the fledgling line was great.

To many, railroads were "a new age, a new way to communicate with the outside world," Schopp said from his home in Riverton.

The Industrial Revolution arrived pulled by locomotives," he says.

Some were frightened by the new experience.

"People thought riding the train caused epilepsy. Others thought it was demonic to travel at those speeds of 10 to 12 mph. It was the fear of the unknown." says Schopp, who is an active member of the West Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Others may have been too fearless. Several pedestrians were killed during the first years of the Camden and Woodbury line, according to published reports.

The speed a train could travel was subsequently reduced to the pace of a walker. But that wasn't enough. Railroads were ordered to have a man walk 50 to 100 yards ahead of the train waving a flag by daylight. and a lantern by night to warn unsuspecting pedestrians.

Nonetheless, the impact of this new mode of travel was great.

WENONAH MUSEUM CREATION INFORMATION
BY JACK SHEPPARD

As I have pointed out many times recently the creation of the WHS museum is slow, but reasonably steady. The volunteers who have assisted since the effort started have been great. Unfortunately we have not had enough of them.

But forgetting that for the moment, I want to take this opportunity to tell the membership about where this project appears to be heading.

It is doubtful we can have a museum such as is usually envisioned, spaces with shelves, showcases, filing cabinets accessible by the members and/or the general public, open for any and all contributions.

This cannot happen for several reasons.

First and foremost, we do not have the necessary amount or right kind of space for the purpose. The three small rooms on the second floor of the former train station are accessible by only one means, a narrow, steep and winding stairway. In the event of fire an exodus from the upstairs would be difficult and maybe even impossible depending on the location of the conflagration.

Secondly, in order to preserve the artifacts for the long-term, especially the military uniforms and other items of clothing it is necessary to store them in special containers and packing materials making access difficult and requiring similar efforts to place them back in storage each time they are exposed.

For these reasons I have proposed to the Executive Board that the best practical approach is create a "virtual museum" in the following manner.

All historic materials will be photographed, photos and paper materials scanned, and stored electronically on digital hard-drives and other suitable storage media before being packed away in conventional storage facilities. Utilizing a computer program named "Microsoft Power Point" the digital images can be scripted into presentations suitable for different audiences. One program might be just about the Military Academy, another on historical buildings, etc. I have been advised that each program can be saved in a unique separate file and then shown repeatedly if it is desired to do so.

The equipment components necessary for a virtual museum are relatively few, a laptop computer with a large-capacity hard drive for photograph storage and a digital projector. Although not cheap, probably ner \$2,500.00, this is still a lot less costly than glass-enclosed display cabinets and quite likely a lot more practical.

If any member is conversant with Microsoft Power Point I would like to talk to him or her.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1 January 2008

MESSAGE FROM
VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CAPELLI

Dear Members;

Happy New Year! We celebrate another great year gone by and look forward to an even happier and more prosperous 2008! So, while you're putting away all your Christmas decorations and recalling all those wonderful holiday memories maybe take time to jot them down or even save a Christmas card that might mean something special to you or your family in the future. Keeping those memories remind us where we have been and help us look forward to creating new and fun filled adventures that your family and friends will certainly look back upon with fondness.

I must say that this past holiday season for me personally was very special. A wonderful Historical Society Christmas Dinner Party with many special friends and neighbors was one of the first highlights. Spending time with so many good people and family is what makes the holidays something truly special. We, here in Wenonah are so very lucky that our neighbors are our friends and for some our friends are our family. From events at the schools, the parks, the playgrounds, the meeting places and our homes it is clear that we in Wenonah know how to celebrate those special occasions with our friends and family.

I wish all of you a wonderful new year and look forward to new programs/speakers and to new members that will certainly enjoy all that the Wenonah Historical Society has to offer.

I want to share a phrase/quote I found in the newspaper a while back, by Mattie Stepanek.

"Even though the future seems far away, it is actually beginning right now. And while we are living in the

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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present, we must celebrate life everyday knowing that we are becoming history with every word, every action, every moment because we, today, are the history of tomorrow."

I am very pleased to inform you that our speaker/presenter for the January meeting is Paul Ladder.

Paul and his wife Sandy are fairly new to Wenonah and we are very happy that they are becoming involved with the Wenonah Historical Society. Paul will give us an overview

on New Jersey and South Jersey before and during the Civil War.

He will speak about South Jersey and in particular the Gloucester County region during the Civil war. He will discuss local personalities and figures and spotlight those from Wenonah who served in the civil war. Also, of interest he will show us how to trace our own ancestors who may have served in the war. He has a small slide show prepared and will certainly provide an evening of great intellect. Make sure to join us! Bring your friends and neighbors!!

REMINISCENCES OF WENONAH HISTORY BY J.C. SHEPPARD SR

The first formal government in Wenonah was not the Borough form but a Commission. The Commission form of government was adopted in April, 1883 and changed to the Borough form in 1896.

The first "President" of the newly created Commission was Dr. George W. Bailey, a physician who served during the Civil War, who built and occupied the handsome dwelling on the southeast corner of East Mantua and South Clinton Avenues.

The first "Mayor" of Wenonah, Charles M. Wilkins, assumed his seat as Borough mayor January 1, 1896, was replaced as mayor by William J. Dawson and then by Andrew Carey within the same year. Carey then became Mayor January 1, 1898.

Interestingly, prior to becoming a Borough, while still a Commission, residents continued to pay real estate taxes to Deptford Township.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS
South Jersey had role in development
By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(Last in a three-part series.)

Railroads and railroad companies started popping up all over Gloucester County. The Williamstown Railroad. The Williamstown and Delaware River Railroad. The Glassboro Railroad. The Swedesboro Railroad.

The abundance of railroads prompted stations to be built in just about every large town in the county.

Early railroad stations served many purposes. Stations sold tickets and stored goods which were to be shipped via rail. They served as a gathering place for the community — a center of activity where all townsfolk could assemble to hear news and gaze in awe at the huge, steam-driven monsters that crawled along the tracks. Some stations even served as post offices as well.

"The biggest gift of the railroad; early on was to give the common man the ability to travel beyond his own town's borders," Schopp says (Paul Schopp, a historical consultant who specializes in rail history).

It was an uncommon man who helped bestow the gift of rail travel to Gloucester County.

Henry Roe Campbell, a Woodbury native, was called upon by railroad organizers to head the Camden and Woodbury Railroad's planning committee. He was later retained as its chief civil engineer and oversaw the technical aspects of the railroad.

Railroading was in Campbell's blood. His father, Amos, was famous as a builder of railroad bridges. He built five bridges for the Camden and Woodbury Railroad and many other bridges in the area.

Henry Campbell's most notable achievement was his design of the 4-4-0 "American" Type locomotive, which was patented in 1836. Campbell's locomotive was driven by eight wheels — standard engines had six — and had a heavier freight hauling capability than the locomotives of its day. Campbell's engine was reportedly capable of pulling 40 cars up an inclined plane.

Campbell prided himself in doing things cheaply but efficiently, Schopp says.

"He was very sure of himself," he said. "If he said something would work, then he was sure it would."

As the Camden and Woodbury line was nearing completion Campbell gambled and purchased two locomotives from the state-run Columbia-Philadelphia Railroad. At the time, locomotives were difficult to maintain and were in need of constant repair. The two Campbell purchased — the Fire Fly and the Red Rover — were deemed especially bad by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In fact, upon receipt of their sale, it was recorded in the Pennsylvania State Canal Report of 1836 that "it would have been a savings to the Commonwealth had they been given away for nothing the first day they were placed on the track."

Despite Pennsylvania's snickering, Campbell managed to get four years' use out of the engines, but they required frequent repairs.

"I think he honestly thought he could do something with them," says Schopp, who intends to write a book about Campbell.

On the job, Campbell was a stern boss. In fact, his firm demeanor almost cost him his life.

According to court documents, Campbell was attacked on Aug. 15, 1838 by a mob of six to 10 men "wielding fists and brickbats."

Although the motive of the attack is unclear, Schopp thinks the men may have worked for Campbell at one time. Campbell had a strict policy prohibiting use of "spirituous liquors" by anyone working for the railroad. Schopp thinks the malcontents may have violated that rule.

"He might have fired them," he said. "But that's just my opinion."

The day after the assault he was "attacked again by two men wielding Bowie knives with an intent to kill," according to court documents.

Campbell survived both attacks and continued to work on the railroad.

But all was not well with the Camden and Woodbury line. Rider-ship was never as strong as the organizers had hoped, due in part to a reluctance to change practiced routines.

The locomotives proved unreliable and horse-drawn cars were introduced. Heavy rains routinely washed away rails and ties. In April of 1839, sparks from a locomotive caused a brush fire. Saboteurs

routinely placed ties and other debris on the tracks and jammed switches in an effort to thwart the train's progress.

Bad business practices implemented by a scandal-plagued stockholder board led to more problems. A revision of the railroad's original charter allowed for the line to continue to Cape May. That project dried up the railroad's funds and plunged it further into debt.

Eventually ridership declined to a point where the tracks lay barren. Schopp said stagecoach drivers — the railroads direct competitors — used to take passengers along the empty tracks and laugh at the railroad's misfortune.

"The ridership was never as strong as the proposers anticipated," Schopp said.

It was dealt a deathblow in November 1842 when a fire at the Woodbury stable destroyed several pairs of horses used to drive the railroad cars. The line ceased operations in April 1846 and the rails and ties were taken up in 1850. Campbell, who had acquired a bad reputation, left the area and took up operations in New England where he was held in such high regard that a song was written about him.

Despite its failure, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad did usher the age of rail travel into Gloucester County.

The old railroad's right of way was later used by the West Jersey Railroad, which was chartered in 1853.

At the time, "Gloucester County was just not ready for a railroad," Schopp said.

RESTORATION OF PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE THROUGH WENONAH – A BAD IDEA?

By 1860 the tracks from Woodbury to Glassboro had been straightened and improved and a sizable amount of both freight and passenger service was being generated. Just imagine how the passenger service benefited the communities along the line.

Prior to the coming of the trains, freight and people moved very slowly and arduously. Horses and wagons on dirt roads, barges on the rivers and creeks, walking, movement was difficult and slow at

best. Then, almost miraculously, a person could board a train and get from Camden to Cape May, or from Glassboro to Camden or Philadelphia quickly and comfortably. What a quantum leap in technology.

Then along came the automobile, bus, truck, paved roads and everything changed again. People and jobs moved away from city centers and the rails no longer took them where they wanted to go and or to live. According to a Philadelphia Inquirer study conducted in 1996, "While 13,500 Gloucester County residents work in Philadelphia, nearly four times that number work in Gloucester County". "Only about one in ten workers who live in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties works in Philadelphia according to a special compilation of statistics from the 1990 Census".

In spite of statistics such as these the DRPA and other agencies are proposing putting trains back on the tracks, the very same tracks where they took them from in the 1960's due to lack of customers.

Well in my opinion it will not work. The alternative is no longer the horse and wagon, it is the motor vehicle that wants to go east and west (cross-county), not north to Camden.

Residents, especially those of Wenonah and Pitman should know that a two-rail system is no longer easily accomplished. The railroad companies sold off a lot of their lands and the right-of-way is no longer the width it needs to be. Reacquisition of the necessary land would do away with Wenonah's new municipal building and severely impact Pitman's business district. With the rails at grade (ground level) the disruption to cross-county auto traffic would be substantial and unacceptable. When this problem was raised during the 2005 study, we were told the rails would either be raised on towers or buried in an open trench. Besides the tremendous cost of such a design, the resulting disruption to town centers would severely damage many towns along the route and cause significant reduction of property values at and near the tracks.

Add in the very real possibility of a nearly \$1 billion cost and you may be forced to agree that putting trains back on the old track is definitely an idea whose time has passed.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 2 February 2008

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

Many thanks to new Wenonah resident Paul Lader for his outstanding presentation about the Civil War along with the local impacts and contributions thereto. We look forward to seeing (and hearing) a lot more of Paul and his family in the future!

This month's meeting will include a wonderful program by Linda Boyd who is going to do a presentation on all the etiquette of serving tea. She is a science teacher that has always had a love for tea but has furthered her love for tea into the whole idea of how tea is served, the china, the food, the type of tables used and of course the types of teas. Please be sure to attend!

Those of you attending our January business meeting will recall Betty Rose's comments for acknowledgement of support and our related discussion of the many ways the Gloucester County Historical Society has always assisted the Wenonah Historical Society, including loaning us many interesting artifacts which help keep our display case full, ever changing and always interesting. Accordingly, I just wanted to share some information with you about the Gloucester County Historical

Society and encourage you to lend them your support. Please be sure to stop by in at 17 Hunter Street in Woodbury to either visit their Library, the Museum, just make a contribution to, or attend one of their upcoming activities!

The Library of Gloucester County Historical Society (where Wenonah's own Barbara Price helps out) specializes in genealogy. They have scheduled the following upcoming genealogy workshops for you genealogy buffs!

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Friday, April 11, 2008, 7 pm-8 pm "Pursuing Your Ancestral Trail: Starting on the Right Path".

Learn the basic standards of good genealogical research. Do it right the first time!

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 am-10:00 am - Preponderance of Evidence vs. Genealogical Proof Standard - What is the Difference?

Reservations are required. Seating is limited. Please call 856-845-4771 to reserve:

Good researchers examine primary and secondary sources, direct and indirect evidence, original records and documents, including published and unpublished sources as well as records contradicting them. Then and only then have they met the Genealogical Proof Standard or have they?

Saturday, April 12, 2008. 10:20 am-11:20 am - Ten Research Shortcuts Used by Professional Genealogists

You may be amazed that their Library holdings include:

- Vertical files for hundreds of Delaware Valley families
- Over 2,200 microfilm reels of census, wills, deeds, newspapers, church and cemetery records
- Approximately 900 family genealogy volumes
- Over 300,000 vital statistics records

GCHS Library Hours:

Monday thru Friday, 1 - 4 pm

Tuesday evening 6 - 9:30 pm

First Saturday of each month
October thru June, 10 am - 4 pm

The last Sunday of each month,
2 - 5 pm

The Museum of the Gloucester County Historical Society is in the 18th century house that was the home of the Reverend Andrew Hunter, a tea burner and educator of the Revolutionary War era, James Lawrence of "Don't give up the ship!" fame in the War of 1812 and John S. Jessup, a judge and prominent citizen of the 19th century.

A gift shop is maintained in the Museum. Fine reproductions of South Jersey glass and unique items that reflect the collections are available.

Museum Hours:

Monday Wednesday and Friday, 1-4 pm

Last Sunday of each month, 2-5 pm

Admission Fees: Members free

Non-members and adults - \$4.00

Children ages 6-18 - \$1.00

Children under age 6 free

Please visit the Gloucester County Historical Society's website

<http://www.rootsweb.com/njgchs/-index.htm> for more information about their history, programs, contributions and how to join. Many thanks again to the Society for all its support!

The following are some excerpts from their listed history on their website:

In the December 10, 1902 issue of the Woodbury Constitution, it was reported that plans were discussed to form an historical

society in order to protect the Revolutionary War battlefield and Whitall mansion at Red Bank from impending sale. The Federal government intended to sell the tract at public auction. Those at the meeting announced that "the dues will be \$1 per year and it is requested that every person interested in the commendable work, which the Society proposes to take under its care, will not hesitate to come forward and give what assistance they can."

One month later, on January 12, 1903, the Gloucester County Historical Society took life at its first annual meeting. Officers were elected, the Constitution and By-Laws were unanimously approved and thirty-five members were proposed and elected to membership. The object of the newly formed Society was to "discover, procure, preserve and exhibit whatever may relate to the natural, civil, military, literary, educational and ecclesiastical history of Gloucester County, the State of New Jersey or the country, and to protect and preserve the historical landmarks and points of interest within the county."

From its very inception, the Society has been the recipient of many interesting and important gifts. In the early years, these gifts were often recorded in the local newspapers. One of the first so recorded was a "handsome picture of Big Cattle" donated by Mrs. Mary Bradway. The cattle were owned by Edward Tonkin and were carried around in specially made wagons to be viewed by

curious crowds. Named The Earl of Jersey and the Duke of Gloucester, one weighed 3,750 pounds and the other 3,800 pounds. In a society that was primarily agricultural, they were a source of pride. On February 9, 1838, Mr. Tonkin sold the cattle to a buyer from Washington, DC for \$3,500, an enormous sum of money for that time. The Society purchased and installed a cabinet in the corridor of the Court House to display such artifacts.

John Gill Whitall, our first president, held that office until he resigned in 1918. For Mr. Whitall, the Society's fight to retain the mansion and battlefield had special meaning. He had been born in the mansion on the grounds of the Red Bank Battlefield. James and Ann Whitall, who lived there during the Revolutionary War, had been his grandparents. Both are historically important in our county's early history. Following the Battle of Red Bank on October 21, 1777, the house was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers. Many of the Hessian casualties were buried on the grounds. The Battle was one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War and an important American victory. The famous Jonas Cattell ran from Haddonfield to Red Bank to warn the Americans of the approach of the Redcoats.

On July 11, 1904, the Society held a meeting in the old Whitall mansion with a celebration following on the battlefield grounds. Every citizen of Gloucester County was invited.

Trolley cars carried the guests directly to the battlefield. Music was provided by Jennings' Third Regiment Band. Luncheon was served by the Ladies' Committee. Tours of the rifle pits, battle monument and house were given.

In a speech later that year when the Society held a meeting at the battlefield, Judge John Boyd Avis said, "All honor to the Gloucester County Historical Society which has made these things possible; which by its example has inspired all those who have so gladly and willingly taken upon themselves the work of making this historic field a public park, where all may come and enjoy the prospect, the scenery and God's free air and be filled with the spirit of those who fought on this ground, guaranteeing the perpetuation of those ideals for which the Colonists fought as declared in the Declaration of Independence.

June 21, 1906 promised to be "the biggest day ever seen in South Jersey" according to the Woodbury Constitution of June 6. The new monument at Red Bank was to be unveiled to the public. Harry Lewis, the official decorator for the White House, was engaged to decorate the battlefield. Eighty trolley cars on the Camden, Gloucester and Woodbury trolley road and twenty motor cars on the branch line from Washington Park to National Park were in service. The Committee arranged for William J. Thompson to provide a fleet of eight steamers from the South and Arch Street wharves in Philadelphia to the Sanitarium at

Red Bank, about an eight minute walk to the battlefield. The grounds of the National Park Amusement Company were leased and numerous caterers were secured to feed the crowds. Water barrels containing several tons of ice were placed about the battlefield. Hitching grounds and feed for horses was arranged along the Hessian Road leading to the battlefield. In Woodbury and along the parade route on the Hessian Road, businesses and residents were asked to decorate. Businesses were closed. A re-enactment of the battle was performed. Miss Matilda Whitall unfurled the United States flag donated by the Society, with hundreds of smaller flags dropping from its folds as it was raised. Mr. William Snowden of Alexandria, Virginia, presented the Society with a portrait of Ann Cooper Whitall, the heroine of Red Bank.

Before the year was over, the officers and members of the Society embarked on another preservation effort. The Woodbury Burying Ground, on the south side of Woodbury Creek in Thorofare, was in deplorable condition due to a combination of neglect and vandalism. The cemetery was thought to be the first and earliest burial plot in Gloucester County. Names of our earliest and most prominent families were inscribed on the stones: Thackeray, Cooper, Ladd, Hugg, Matlock, Whitall, Howell, Packer, Hillman, Shivers and of course, Wood.

In those early years, there was much interest in the British frigate

Augusta that sank during the Battle of Red Bank. Trustee Dr. Wallace McGeorge wrote a paper concerning the Augusta in 1905. In 1907, the Society proposed to the Board of Freeholders that they could mount the cannon found during the excavation of the battlefield in a carriage made from timbers from the Augusta and display it on the Court House Lawn. (In 1911, this cannon was placed near the monument at Red Bank.) In 1907, there was again discussion among the members of the Board of Trustees concerning preservation of the remnants of the Augusta. It was decided not to pursue the matter. In July 1909, it was reported in the Woodbury Constitution that Society Librarian Miss Ellen L. Matlock had managed to have the New Jersey in the DAR building at Washington furnished with "beautifully wrought wood" from the Augusta. This was one way of preserving the history of the Battle of Red Bank and Gloucester County. The Society did not yet have a permanent home and met in a variety of places. Some of those early meeting places were the Gloucester County Court House, the Woodbury Real Estate Mutual Loan Association, the Whitall House, the Indian King Tavern at Haddonfield, Woodbury Country Club and the Friends Meeting House at Mickleton, to name a few. Pilgrimages were made to historical landmarks such as Princeton, Brandywine Gettysburg and Valley Forge, often attracting two hundred or more guests. Carriages or special railroad cars

were sometimes engaged to accommodate the large number of guests. Other historical societies or patriotic organizations such as the DAR or SAR would sometimes host or join the Society for a meeting. Members were invited to read papers of historical interest. Sometimes several, each covering a different topic, would be read during one meeting. By 1907, these early speeches were being preserved for the Society's archives.

At the annual meeting of 1911, President Whitall announced that \$100 has been subscribed to care for the old burial ground. Later that year, Dr. J. G. Halsey of Swedesboro, collected donations for the purpose of placing a monument made of Barre granite on a solid concrete base inscribed, "Wood Burying Ground, Henry Wood who first settled Woodbury was buried here in 1806. It was used as a burial place by the Indians before that time. Gloucester County Historical Society." On Saturday, June 27, 1912, over one hundred members of the Society met at the old burying ground to participate in the unveiling of the monument. President Whitall urged those present to consider further donations to install a wall to keep the tide from washing away the ground and for some type of protection from squatters.

At the annual meeting in January 1916, Frank H. Stewart was elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. This was the beginning of a new era for the

Gloucester County Historical Society. During that year, Stewart had three pamphlets he had written, printed at his own expense, and then sold for fifty cents each with the proceeds going to the Society. He advocated the inauguration of a publications fund. A Publications Committee was formed.

In January 1918, John G. Whitall stepped down as president after serving in that capacity for fifteen years. Frank H. Stewart was elected to that office. Mr. Stewart immediately announced a plan to liquidate the mortgage on the Society building and formed a committee to proceed with his plan. President Stewart explained that the plan was to sell ten memorial memberships at \$100 each and life memberships at \$25 each. The membership drive was a huge success. In the Gloucester County Democrat of March 14, 1918, it was reported, "The two thousand dollars for the Gloucester County Historical Society has been raised and on Monday evening, March 25 at 8: pm at the Courthouse, an open meeting of the Society will be held to which all are invited with their friends to see the mortgage burned."

In early 1919, following the end of the First World War, the Society formed a Scrapbook Committee. This committee solicited information from veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American War and First World War

By 1920, the Society was bursting at the seams. Two rooms of its home were used for its own

purposes. The remainder of the house was let to a resident caretaker. At the January 1921 annual meeting, it was decided, "... that the Society was in need of larger and fireproof quarters for the proper care of its valuable collections." At that same meeting, President Stewart made the challenge that "anyone who will spend \$10,000 on a fireproof building for the Society will be met by him with a like amount either in cash or in valuable historical documents now in his possession to the value of \$10,000."

In the Woodbury Constitution of November 12, 1924, it was reported that the Society had purchased the John S. Jessup property. The article read in part, "when the houses across the street are removed from in front of the new Central school and the new post office completed, the outlook from the new Historical Society home will be greatly improved." Rooms in the new home were dedicated to the contributors and a tablet was placed on the outside of the building with the names of those who donated \$13,000 towards the purchase of the new building.

Finally, on August 6, 1925, after renovations were completed, the Society moved into its new headquarters. The first book to go into the house was the Holy Bible. One of the acquisitions received that year was a desk from the old courthouse. (This desk holds the guest book in our library today.) There were two curators, the

Misses Nellie Thackeray and Sibyl Tatum Jones. There was also a live-in caretaker.

The building was closed in the colder months during the World War II years due to heating oil rationing. Resident Curator Sibyl T. Jones was relocated to the Newton Hotel with the Society paying the weekly rent of \$8 plus the cost of two meals daily. From June to October during the war years, weather permitting, the Society's home was open on Wednesdays and Fridays with Miss Jones in attendance. The Society lacked publicity during this time since the newspapers had both a shortage of linotype operators and paper. The Society's yearly publications were also suspended during these years. Room 202 in the county building was closed to visitors. In 1944, the Society's income was reduced when savings interest rates dropped as low as ½ of 1%.

With the hard times of war over, the Jessup house reopened on June 1, 1945. Interest in the Society had waned and a \$1 membership drive was begun. Mrs. Henry H. Clark was appointed as Resident Curator in April 1946.

The first exhibit ever held in the Jessup house concentrating on just one aspect of the Society's collections (in this case hats and bonnets) was held for one week during March 1948 with a turnout of 269 guests. At the annual meeting in May 1948, it was announced that the Board of Chosen Freeholders had restored the Society's sole use of Room 202

and the vault in the county building.

At the same meeting, it was also recorded that the Society had finally acquired the deed to the Moravian Church property in Woolwich Township. The Society had met and attended services since its beginning in the church, the oldest Moravian building in New Jersey.

Our next president was long-time Bulletin editor, Mrs. Hazel Simpson, who served a one year term from 1953 to 1954. In 1954, Daniel W. Beckley assumed the office, a position he held until his death in 1965. During his tenure, the Society acquired the doorsill from the first Philadelphia mint. (This doorsill today is at the entrance of our library.) In 1960, the Board, in cooperation with the County, participated in designing the first flag of Gloucester County.

In 1969, L. Kepner Gottshalk was elected President. The library rooms of the Society were filled to overflowing. It was decided by the Board to make their dream of a library a reality. A library building fund was started. During the years that followed, the Society hosted many book fairs, bazaars, house tours and sales of commemorative bottles.

After four years of hard work, on October 13, 1973, the new library building was dedicated with Rev. Parker F. Auten officiating as the Society's new president at the library dedication ceremony.

Once again, the library needed additional space and in 1983, an addition to the reading room was

added. In 1986, the early 18th century Schorn (or Mortonson) log cabin was donated by the Schorn family to the Society and was moved to the grounds of Trinity Episcopal Church in Swedesboro. This cabin was probably used by early Swedes as a granary. After moving the cabin piece by piece to the grounds of Trinity Episcopal Church in Swedesboro and much restoration work, the cabin was dedicated on September 30, 1989.

In 1996, due to continuing growth, the Society was facing a storage problem. In that same year, our Annex building on the corner of Hunter and Broad Streets was purchased to be used for much needed storage and office space.

In 2001, through the generous support of our membership, the Museum was equipped with a climate control system to ensure proper preservation of our irreplaceable artifacts. For the first time, the building was open to the public year round.

Today, the Society has a membership of over 1,300 members. We are proud of the ever-growing collections of the Hunter-Lawrence-Jessup House Museum. Our library is nationally known for its wealth of genealogical and historical materials.

As we begin our second century, the Gloucester County Historical Society is still committed to its original purpose: to preserve, promote and protect the history of Gloucester County.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 3 March 2008

MESSAGE FROM
VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CAPELLI

Dear Members;

This Friday's meeting is sure to be a crowd pleaser and we are expecting a super crowd at that! So, come early and make sure to get your seat! Also be sure to tell your friends and neighbors...bring the kids!

Another matter of importance, the Historical Society is taking a significant role in the creation of a Founder's Day in Wenonah Park on June 5th. We are looking for volunteers and anyone interested in speaking about the history of Wenonah!

Jennie McQuaide and Jack Sheppard are assisting Marjorie Lentz on an updated version of Marjorie's history book "Wenonah". The original edition was published in 1976 and has long since been out of print. When available it is sure to be a fun and informative reading experience.

We have so much to be thankful for here in Wenonah and so many people that work very hard to preserve what Wenonah's founders started.

Wenonah is full of great volunteers, and many of those volunteers are part of our Wenonah Historical Society. How wonderful it is to know that so many of you have been instrumental in keeping our town the reason why people want to live here and we continue to flourish by your examples.

Founder's Day should be a great family experience that the whole town

can enjoy and it will certainly provide a great opportunity to work with the Wenonah Elementary School and additional volunteers to see that this day will be another great reflection on the pride we all share about our town!

HISTORICAL FACT

Our neighbor to the south, Sewell, NJ was named after William Sewell, a General in the Civil War and President of the West Jersey Railroad. He was substantially involved in the creation of Wenonah.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall

Meetings are held the second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

Wenonah resident Larry Ledrich will display his Native American Indian artifacts collection. The collection originated in a site in Harrison Township. He will be joined by professional archaeologist Jack Cresson. Jack has spent a lifetime studying native habitats and will share his knowledge and expertise on the subject. If you have found something unique or unusual while digging in your garden or yard bring it for Jack's

interpretation and analysis. This will be the "Show and Tell" part of the meeting.

THE HISTORY OF WENONAH BY MARJORIE K. LENTZ

During the mid-1970's the Wenonah Historical Society, wanting to do something for the Bicentennial decided a book about the origins of Wenonah would be an excellent way of both participating in the event, and creating a fund-raiser for the Society. Marjorie Lentz volunteered to author such a book. It was completed and published in 1976. She did a fantastic job, the project was a success, the entire printing sold out and there are few, if any copies available for the public.

Marjorie has graciously agreed to allow parts of her book to be used in subsequent WHS newsletters.

Accordingly, this and future issues will contain parts, or even chapters of her book. Save them up and you will eventually have your own copy of the original "Wenonah" by Marjorie K. Lentz.

For those who want a "whole" book, an updated version is currently being written, available late 2008.

HISTORICAL FACT

4/17/1883 Dr. George Bailey, on behalf of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company presented to the Borough two "squares" of land for our Park. It was accepted by the Borough and the Deed received and acknowledged September 11, 1883.

“JUST A RAILROAD STATION” December 1870

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

The new railroad station along the west side of the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad stood incongruous among the fields that surrounded it. Farmers had eyed the station with interest because they anticipated it would be a convenience in transporting their sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets. However, as the newspaper, *The Constitution* stated, the station looked far "too elegant for sweet potatoes because it boasted of "two compartments, one for the sale of tickets and joined by a comfortable passenger saloon."

Heading toward the station on December 19, 1870 was a special train which left Camden, New Jersey, just before noon. The train followed the West Jersey Railroad tracks past Gloucester, past Westville and at Woodbury took the Y that made a beeline to the station known as the New Mantua Station. The passengers who detrained that day were not in the least interested in transporting sweet potatoes, but they were interested in converting the sweet potato patches into building lots and in transporting commuters to a "new suburban town."

From the rise of the land at the New Mantua Station the visitors had a sweeping view of the fields now sliced by the railroad tracks. They saw Henisey's Landing Road which led to the busy wharves a-long the Mantua Creek. Within sight of the station they looked across to the dwelling of the Stone Farm House already 97 years old. A short distance away were meandering lanes that led to a few other farmhouses and to the west was the abandoned road bed of the railroad tracks that previously surmounted a thirty-two foot high trestle over the Mantua Creek leading to the old Mantua Station.

The stop at the station was brief, but while the passengers were there they envisioned how the land could be leveled, the country lanes erased and the existing farm houses squared and placed properly on straight streets. After "a site visitation the Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" at 1:15 p. m. when Samuel A. Whitney read a proposal for forming a "Real Estate and Improvement Company to operate at the New Mantua Station of the West Jersey Railroad."

Whitney augmented the report by noting that the land, consisting of 572 acres, could be purchased for \$69,575. The group unanimously agreed and in a few minutes, \$29,500 was subscribed.

It was just a railroad station but it witnessed the beginnings of a town and the town, still unnamed, already had a history.

Early maps reveal small campsites of the Unalachtigo Indians of the Lenni Lenape Tribe spotted along the banks of the Mantua Creek and the Chestnut Branch that flows into it. In the 1600's cartographers named the streams for the Indians who lived by them, and it is assumed that the Mantua Creek was named for the Manteses, a small band of Indians who had campsites along these waterways. The trails that border Mantua Creek and Break Back Run are considered to be Indian trails and it is along these waterways that arrowheads, net sinkers, stone hammers and axes have been found. Potsherds of the Woodland Period have been discovered and sufficient fragments at one site have made possible the reconstruction of pottery revealing a skillful design of inverted Vs.

Some of the land bordering the Indian trails was owned by Nathaniel Chew who in 1712 recorded in Gloucester County's earmark book the marks of his pigs, "a slitt in each ear and half penny on each side." One of his sons, Jeffrey Chew, inherited a part of the acreage and to his holdings purchased 125 acres from Samuel Moffett. Moffett either retained or later secured a five-acre plot from the farm on which in 1773 he built a dwelling which traditionally was a stage line stop on the route from Camden to Cape May. The house was strategically located on the Old Ford Road which led to the edge of Chew's farm to the only place below Berkeley, now Mount Royal, that stage lines could cross the Mantua Creek. During the ownership of Robert Sparks it is recorded that "the militia met in a field in 1777 to practice, hold meetings and elect officers at the stone-house." Deeds note that the five-acre plot was later joined to the farm and it was known as the Stone House Farm.

Traditional accounts relate that a Revolutionary War skirmish occurred at the intersection of Old Ford Road and Bark Bridge Road.

On both sides of Glassboro Road was the "plantation" of Benjamin Clark. The story has been told that while the British camped along the Monongahela Trail in 1777 they seized Clark's team of horses and a load of wheat he was driving to Valley Forge for General Washington's Army. However, that night Clark crept into the British camp and retrieved his horses hiding them on an island in the Mantua Creek. Also that same winter General Anthony Wayne foraged for supplies for Washington's army and records note that he secured hay along the Mantua Creek in this area and probably some of the hay was secured from the Stone House Farm.

By the 1850's the Mantua Creek was bustling with shipyards where shallops and flatboats were built. To the Philadelphia markets were shipped sweet potatoes, buckwheat, turnips and shad and from Philadelphia were received staples. Another commodity received from Philadelphia was manure which was sold to the farmers in this area. In 1855 shipped out of Philadelphia to the Mantua Creek were 120 loads priced of manure at seventy-five cents a load.

When the West Jersey Railroad was extended from Woodbury to Glassboro in 1861, a newspaper account notes that there was "difficulty in bridging the Mantua Creek." When a Danforth locomotive was added to the line it was reported that it had a three hundred ton traction and that "the power of this massive iron horse was seen recently when it took 24 loaded cars up the steep grade at Mantua." With the merger of the West Jersey Railroad with the Millville and Glassboro Railroad, plans were made to relocate the tracks to alleviate a dangerous curve and to reduce the height of the tracks.

New railroad tracks, a new station, easy commutation to and from Philadelphia, "healthy breezes" that promised a malaria free area, high elevation above the Mantua Creek that assured adequate drainage were all prerequisites for a "new suburban town."

William F. Allen, resident engineer of the West Jersey Railroad and son-in-law of the president of the railroad, made contact with the seven landowners whose land was adjacent to the tracks. Each one agreed to sell his land. The largest landowner was Isaac C. Stevenson who owned about 244 acres extending from the New Mantua Station northward to Glassboro Road and south to Bark Bridge Road. Charles Starn owned 163 acres in the area of the railroad station reaching westward toward the Mantua Creek. The Peter Kier Stone House Farm extended southward to the Mantua Creek. Other landowners were David Kay who owned the land including Dilk's Little Mill and the mill pond, Edwin Stokes whose land bordered the northern stretch of the new railroad tracks, Nathaniel Chew, a tanner, whose land bordered the northern section of Glassboro Road and Samuel W. Chew who owned a small slice of land on the road leading to the mill.

On December 14, 1870 Allen invited a group of twenty-one businessmen to the Camden office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider a plan to organize a land development company. Horatio J. Mulford of Bridgeton was appointed presiding officer and he named a committee to prepare a proposal.

Five days later on December 19, 1870 the businessmen reassembled in the Camden office and heard the first reading of the proposal which had been submitted by Samuel A. Whitney, former president of the Millville and Glassboro Railroad and leader in the glass industry, General William J. Sewell, vice-president of the West Jersey Railroad who secured the special train for the site visitation, George Wood, a director of the West Jersey Railroad and president of the Millville Manufacturing Company, and William F. Allen. The entire group then boarded the special train that took them to the New Mantua Station.

Although the visitors may have seen dormant sweet potato patches that winter day, they visualized the possibilities of a "new suburban town." The Constitution reported that "from the known energy of the gentlemen at the head of the enterprise, there is no doubt of its success."

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 3 April 2008

MESSAGE FROM

TRUSTEE VICKI MCCALL

Dear Members;

March was designated as National Women's History Month. This recognition of Women in History was established nationally to ensure that the history of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces, and communities throughout the country. The stories of women's historic achievements present an expanded view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life. American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation.

In honor of Women's History Month, I want to share memories of moments with some very special Women of Wenonah, who are no longer here with us. My membership in the Historical Society is a result if the influence of these women.

First, I wish to remember Jane Ramsay. Jane took me into this special fold of people when I came back to Wenonah. I wish I could say I remember when I first joined the Historical society, but I do not. What I DO remember are the people, the members. Jane Ramsay took me under her wing and shared with me not only her love for life, but her love for Wenonah and its people. She opened a door to the past that opened my eyes to this town in another dimension.

Her group of friends soon became people I truly admired. Her own family is a prime example of what happens when you are a true "Wenonian".

Not only do you grow up here, but you come back to raise your own families! Jane raised five children and several still live here in Wenonah or close by.

Jane and I served for four years together as officers. Under her leadership, we brought the Display cabinet that is now located in the Wenonah School. This program was implemented to educate and inspire our youth to take a closer look at their history. Many helping hands have served to procure and set up the rotating displays.

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Betty Rose has done a magnificent job over the last several years and has stepped up the program to bring not only local displays, but many unique items the Gloucester County Historical Society.

Another woman having a profound impact on many if us was Lucy Schulz. A life long Wenonah resident, Lucy's knowledge of this town and her contributions to this town are unrivaled. She also served some mean "after Meeting" refreshments! I so enjoyed her stories from her youth

and her escapades regarding the Military Academy Cadets! She was one of the few who remember Cedar Field as a horse racetrack.

Lucy and Jane truly exemplified what our town is about. They volunteered for so many organizations and serve as role models for all to follow! We could all take a lesson from them and their commitment. We thank them and miss them!

HISTORICAL FACT

Wenonah Women in the News circa 1900 Woodbury Daily Times

"There was much interest manifest in school matters in our borough Tuesday evening. It was rumored no women were to be placed on the board and this aroused the women of our town to action and the result was the highest vote ever cast at a school election. 70 were cast for Mrs. Annie Johnson, 65 for Eldora Hurff and 62 for Ed Farr. 23 of the ballots had written on them "no taxation without representation".

APRIL MEETING PROGRAM PATTI HRYNENKO GLOUCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Patti will speak generally about the operations of the very successful County Historical Society, and specifically about an 18th century desk and fireplace, an 1806 sampler, and how the objects are related.

"WENONAH"

On pages 2 and 3 more of the Marjorie Lentz 1976 book "Wenonah"

For those who want a "whole" book, an updated version is currently being written, available late 2008.

“A HOTEL, SANDBURRS AND THE 4TH OF JULY” 1871 - 1872

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

The new railroad station along the west side of the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad stood incongruous among the fields that surrounded it. Farmers had eyed the station with interest because they anticipated it would be a convenience in transporting their sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets. However, as the newspaper, *The Constitution* stated, the station looked far "too elegant for sweet potatoes because it boasted of "two compartments, one for the sale of tickets and joined by a comfortable passenger saloon."

By 1872 the Company had spent \$25,417.94 in the building and furnishing of Wenonah House, \$200.44 on parks, \$62.37 on roads, \$3,000.60 on grading and \$1,751.53 on advertising. The farmhouses and the mill property were rented for \$744.68. Some of the land not allotted for building lots was farmed for the Company. Although the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was making a profit on its lots, it knew less about agriculture. By a special act of the State of New Jersey, the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was incorporated on February 21, 1871. The Company was authorized to lay out building lots as well as boulevards, alleys and parks. It could erect buildings for residences as well as sell and mortgage them and it could make regulations "to prevent the manufacturing or sale of intoxicating liquors" or "the carrying on of offensive trades."

The capital stock of the Company was \$150,000 with permission to increase the stock to \$300,000 if needed and it was to be divided into shares of fifty dollars each.

On March 15, 1871 the first eleven directors were elected. They were Samuel A. Whitney, General William J. Sewell, George Wood and Horatio J. Mulford who had helped formulate the resolution to organize the Company. Also elected were George S. Harris, John F. Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas P. Carpenter, Stephen Greene and Thomas Jones Yorke, President of the West Jersey Railroad.

In addition to the farm land in the 572-acre tract purchased by the Company, they secured a grist mill with its miller's house, the Stone House Farm dwelling as well as several other farm houses. The entire tract stretched from the Mantua Creek to

Glassboro Road and from Dilk's Pond to Bark Bridge Road. From this tract the company selected one hundred acres to be divided into building lots.

The railroad station was the core of the rectangle, one-half mile in length and one-third mile in width which comprised the original town. West Jersey Avenue bisected the town plot north and south with a seventy-five foot avenue on each side of the railroad tracks "for carriage and driving." Bisecting the plot east and west was Mantua Avenue, one hundred feet wide. All other streets, Jefferson, Monroe, Clinton and Marion extending north and south and Elm, Poplar, Cherry, Willow and Cedar extending east and west were sixty-six feet wide. Traces of Henisey's Landing Road were erased.

The Mantua Land and Improvement Company marked out the town plot into fourteen squares of twelve building lots each measuring seventy-five feet in front and one hundred and fifty feet deep. It was agreed that "only the even numbers of lots should be sold" first and only lots within the one hundred acre boundary. However Joseph D. Bates of Mantua requested a lot outside the town limits and his request was granted. The original sketch of his house with a "French roof, wooden ornamentation and 4 light windows" still exists.

A scrap of paper with jagged edges has been carefully preserved among the earliest Minutes of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. The scrap is covered with the scribbles of names proposed by members, no doubt as they sat around a table pondering for the right word to name this "new suburban town" The names scrawled on the scrap of paper are Rosedale, Winona and Wenonah. In the Minutes of April 3, 1871 it is recorded that it was "resolved that the name of the town and lake be Winona Wenonah."

Sixteen years before 1871, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *The Song of Hiawatha*, was published. In the poem Nokomis, swinging on a grapevine on the moon fell to earth when a jealous woman severed the vine.

There among the ferns and mosses,
There among the prairie lilies
on the Muskoday, the meadow,
In the moonlight and the starlight
Fair Nokomis bore a daughter.

And she called her name Wenonah
As the first-born of her daughters.

The name Wenonah or Winona is derived from a Santee dialect word meaning a first-born daughter. The Santee Indians lived along the shores of Lake Superior where the part legendary, part historic Hiawatha lived. In 1823 Keating in his work, *The Narrative of Long's Expedition to St. Peter's River*, which is in the Lake Superior region, relates the story of a Sioux named Wenonah who committed suicide because her family insisted she marry some one she did not love. Henry Schoolcraft, a geologist and ethnologist who was a prolific writer on Indian lore, wrote *The Myth of Hiawatha and Other Oral Legends* in 1839. In the work he named Wenonah as Hiawatha's mother. Longfellow openly acknowledged he based his *Song of Hiawatha* on Schoolcraft's writings and he too named Wenonah as Hiawatha's mother. In all the stories of Wenonah or Winona her life ended tragically in early womanhood. However the words that are remembered most about Wenonah are the words of Longfellow's poem when he wrote that she;

Grew up like the prairie lilies
Grew a tall and tender maiden
With the beauty of the moonlight
With the beauty of the starlight.

In its first Annual Report in 1871 the Mantua Land and Improvement Company stated that Wenonah's lots had been measured, six hundred shade trees, mostly maples, had been planted along the avenues, streets had been graded, and a hotel was being constructed. There were already a "handsome passenger depot and freight-house and convenient turnout and wagon-sheds" at the railroad station. Also during the same year the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders was contacted concerning building a bridge across the Mantua Creek "on line of the road lately laid out leading from Wenonah to Mantua." William F. Allen, now treasurer of the Company, ordered a special train to transport the Freeholders to inspect the location. Consequently the Board of Freeholders agreed to construct the bridge and plans were developed to build "an elegant roadway" between Mantua and the railroad station. No longer was the station known as the New Mantua Station. It was now the Wenonah Station.

The Wenonah House was opened for guests in the spring of 1872. The forty-room hotel rose three stories and was crowned by a square cupola. Iron Doric columns reaching all the way to the roof surrounded three sides of the hotel and a veranda twelve feet wide provided space for promenades. From the veranda guests could stroll across South Clinton avenue to an open space being developed into parks divided by a lane. Running water and gas were installed in every room and, according to a newspaper article; it was "furnished in elegant style."

A board walk reached Clinton avenue to the railroad station where six trains a day brought guests from Philadelphia to the hotel as well as prospective buyers for Wenonah's building lots. Prospective buyers were offered free round-trip transportation on the railroad and they were personally greeted by DR. J.E. Garrison, the resident agent of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. His annual salary was \$200 plus three percent commission on every lot he sold. Lots facing West Jersey Avenue, Mantua Avenue and the parks were priced at \$400. All the other lots were \$200. To encourage building on the lots the company loaned "one thousand dollars and the price of the lot upon mortgage for one year without interest."

An advertising brochure issued by the Company noted that Wenonah is a "favorite place for all those who are seeking country fresh air and cheap living combined with the advantage of close proximity to the city. The claims of New Jersey over Pennsylvania in respect to taxes are too well known to need more than passing mention and the notable strictness and impartiality with which the laws are administered cannot fail to recommend it to all peace-loving and law-abiding citizens." Another brochure advises that "before making your arrangements for the summer or for the year" to consider Wenonah, and that there is "no healthier location in the vicinity of Philadelphia, fine rolling country and the best of water." Also there are "boating and fishing." A statement issued by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company foretold that the towns which "hug the railroad" invariably succeed and the towns a mile away from the railroad are doomed to failure.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 5 May 2008

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

The weather is finally getting warmer and Mother Nature is coming back to life. Nature has been closely aligned with Wenonah's history since the very beginning. After all, the original prospectus given to potential homeowners living in the city areas of Philadelphia and its surroundings touted the healthful qualities of Wenonah's natural resources. Since then much has obviously changed. Wally Farr (born 1905 to Edward and Edith Farr in the house I currently try to maintain) spoke to my wife and I of all the wonderful things the youth of Wenonah did in the woods, lakes and streams of Wenonah and beyond. Wally spoke of the annual canoe trips that would start at the lake that was next to my garage and they would canoe out to the Delaware and back again. He said they always chose mid June to do the trip because of the length of daylight then but could only make it back to Woodbury, where upon George Parks would take the Farr's horses and wagon and pick up all the kids and canoes. Wally also spoke of how in Wenonah School many a boy would lean their guns next to their coats in the back of the room so when school was over, they would all go muskrat hunting.

If you have seen the old photographs of Wenonah, especially aerial ones (every member should own the unbelievable aerial photo turned placemat complements of Jack Sheppard Sr.) it is dramatically clear that much of nature has gone asphalt or at least private. Thus we can not appreciate or thank enough the

foreword thinking by previous Council and Environmental Commission members for the resurgence of our natural resources via unique Wenonah trails and the teahouse. Additionally they have gone beyond their usual Herculean efforts by seizing an opportunity to educate many in the region of the benefits of converting the ex-golf course which adjoins Wenonah to a nature park.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Meetings are held the second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

PROGRAM FOR MAY

Richard Dilks will speak on the current effort to dedicate the former Maple Ridge Golf Course as a nature preserve and/or recreational area for the county.

Rich, a lifelong Wenonah resident, is chairman of the Wenonah Environmental Commission. He is active in the Gloucester County Nature Club and member of the Maple Ridge Preservation Committee

One of the loveliest places in Gloucester County is nestled away on a 112 acre tract just south of Wenonah in Deptford and Mantua Townships. Once site of Tall Pines Golf Course, later known as Ron Jaworski's Eagles' Nest (of

Philadelphia Eagles fame) and finally as Maple Ridge Golf Club. It is a place of gently rolling country-side, meadows, wetlands, and forest patches. The Mantua Creek flows gently through the center of the tract and wildlife abounds there. Many birds make a home there including warblers, a Bald Eagle and a rare albino Red-tailed Hawk. Beautiful trees, both native and exotic, give one the feeling of being in an arboretum. Those walking the paths are struck by the tranquility and natural beauty of this special place.

When Maple Ridge Golf Club closed in December 2006, the land was sold to a developer who had plans approved for 123 homes on the site. A beautiful place was on the verge of being lost forever to commercial development and sprawl. Many were sad to hear that yet another housing development was about to claim a beautiful property, but some good people were motivated to action. A preservation committee, spearheaded by the members of the Wenonah Environmental Commission was formed in January 2008 and an effort to preserve the entire Maple Ridge tract as a county owned nature park was born. In our presentation we will tell why Maple Ridge is special and deserves preservation. Things have begun to happen and we will provide the latest information on the preservation effort.

We will also talk about the mission and projects of the Wenonah Environmental Commission and about the history and natural beauty of our town's special places in our 135 acre conservation area.

Richard Dilks, President

“A HOTEL, SANDBURRS AND THE 4TH OF JULY” 1871 - 1872

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the April 2008 newsletter)

By 1872 the Company had spent \$25,417.94 in the building and furnishing of Wenonah House, \$200.44 on parks, \$62.37 on roads, \$3,000.60 on grading and \$1,751.53 on advertising. The farmhouses and the mill property were rented for \$744.68. Some of the land not allotted for building lots was farmed for the Company. Although the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was making a profit on its lots, it knew less about agriculture. It lost nine dollars the first year of its farming operations. Also it was noted that “a portion of the land valued at \$260 per acre has been sold for \$650 per acre.”

Dr. George W. Bailey, associated with the Philadelphia real estate brokerage, William T. Bailey Company, built a “cottage” next to the Wenonah House where he was residing during the summer. Across the street from Dr. Bailey’s house, Thomas W. Synnott, nephew of Samuel A. Whitney and prominent in the glass making industry in South Jersey, built a “cottage”. A block up the street on North Clinton Avenue a “cottage” was built by Andrew W. Carey, general manager of the White Dental Manufacturing Company in Philadelphia. These were the first three houses built on the original town plot.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in Wenonah in 1872. A printed program announced that the celebration began at five o’clock in the morning with a thirteen-gun salute. This salute was repeated at noon and at sunset. At five-thirty in the morning there were reveille and roll call. Resuming at eight o’clock after breakfast the flag was raised followed by the Wenonah Silver Cornet Band. The program notes that the flag was a gift of Samuel A. Whitney and the flagpole the gift of George Wood. The remainder of the day was devoted to “general amusement for all, such as croquet, bowling, quoits and the balloon ascensions.” Following fireworks in the evening, refreshments were served in the Wenonah House. The day ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and playing of taps. Although modified in format, the celebration has continued to the present.

On September 15, 1872 “the citizens of Wenonah and the guests on the Wenonah House met in Dr. Garrison’s office” for a Sunday School. Twenty adults and twenty-one children arrived the first day with Dr. George W. Bailey as superintendent, Andrew W. Carey as secretary-treasurer and Thomas W. Synnott as librarian. The Minutes of the Presbyterian Sunday School note that “Dr. Bailey was not slow in gathering scholars and arranging classes and in pushing into the work of any and all who had any capacity to act as teachers.” For more adequate facilities the Sunday School soon after moved to the railroad station. Preaching was held at irregular intervals, sometimes in the afternoon following Sunday School. Although the Presbyteries organized the Sunday School, the first sermon preached in Wenonah was by William S. Cattell, a Methodist.

With the influx of guests at the Wenonah House and the Philadelphia commuters who were building “cottages” within the town plot, it cannot be ignored that Wenonah was still a farming community. Surrounding the town plot was land which the Mantua Land and Improvement Company rented for farming. Charles Buckman rented the former Dilks Mill which was now known as the Wenonah Mill and an advertisement notes that he could do “customer work of all kinds with care and despatch at short notice” including “fresh ground wheat and rye flour, corn meal, etc., of all grades.” Benjamin Packard opened a general store.

Newcomers to Wenonah fought sandburrs. Andrew W. Carey wrote that one needs “a good knife blade to shave off the sandburrs before entering a neighbor’s house. The first year on my residence here we had no sidewalks and the sandburrs were so profuse that one was compelled to take the middle of the road to elude the common enemy.”

However, Dr. Bailey reported that “as a community we were of one mind, no friction, each willing to work, no one seeking preferment. We were indeed a happy family”.

“A CHAPEL, A SCHOOL AND TOMATO CATSUP” 1873 - 1883

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

According to the annual report of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company fifteen residential lots and four business lots had been sold and \$75,000 worth of buildings had been erected by May 8, 1873. During the next ten years fifty “cottages” were built. The new houses bordered the parks, faced the railroad tracks and lined up and down Clinton Avenue and Mantua Avenue. They can be identified by the Mansard roofs, some retaining the original slate, Mansard double doors, campaniles, fish scale shingles at the top of the towers and iron cresting along the rooftops.

Not only were houses built but also a chapel. On September 22, 1873 the Presbyterian Chapel was dedicated and on the same day the First Presbyterian Church of Wenonah was organized. For ten years the Methodists and the Presbyterians worshipped together with the agreement that when there were sufficient Methodists in Wenonah they could form their own congregation. In 1882 the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and the following year the cornerstone of their church was laid. The silver trowel used for the ceremony is housed in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Children of some of the new residents in Wenonah attended boarding schools in Philadelphia. Other children walked to the Mantua School even though it was not in Deptford Township. However in 1875 parents hired Charles Buckman to drive the school-aged children to the one-room Monongahela School where Sallie Bailey was the teacher. This school was three miles east of Glassboro Road down a lane that passed the former Benjamin Clark brick farm house. The following year Dr. George W. Bailey, district clerk and brother of Sallie Bailey, proposed a school for Wenonah. In a letter to William Milligan, Gloucester County Superintendent of Public Instruction, he outlined a plan. “The school during the months of September and October will meet in a room in a private dwelling. On October 31st we expect to occupy a

part of the Wenonah House. Please send the books and blanks which as I understand the matter are furnished by the state.” Subsequently classes were held in the Howard Building, commonly called Daddy Howard’s Hall and in the winter classes met in the dining room of the hotel. The school budget for the first year was \$605 which included Sallie Bailey’s salary of \$360 and also an allowance for the purchase of a stove to heat the dining room in the Wenonah House.

Two years later Wenonah built a two-storied school on the edge of the town plot just behind the Presbyterian Chapel. By the end of the first year 55 children were registered. The one complaint of the new school is recorded when a neighbor declared the school bell a real nuisance and pleaded it be torn down.

In 1877 a Young Men’s Christian Association was organized by George L. McGill which met in a “cozy room in Daddy Howard’s Hall.” A newspaper commented that the YMCA provided a “comfortable room for the improvement and innocent amusement of the young men of Wenonah.” Books, magazines and games were available for the youth who met four evenings a week.

The Wenonah House dominated the social scene. At first it was opened all year with activities such as a pigeon match followed by a “turtle dinner” which was attended by fifty persons in January 1873. Essentially, however, the Wenonah House was a summer resort hotel. Under various managers including Benjamin Packer, Thomas Clark, Joseph C. Yerkes and Isaac Newton, the hotel season began with a hop in early May followed by a continuous round of activities which kept the town humming until the closing hop in late September. When the resort season ended in Cape May on Labor Day some Philadelphians finished the season at the Wenonah House. A newspaper account stated that those with “weak lungs who cannot stand the heavy salt water air” often preferred the Wenonah House to shore hotels.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 6 September 2008

UPDATED WENONAH HISTORY BY MARJORIE LENTZ

I am pleased to announce that our esteemed member/author Marjorie Lentz has spent most of the summer working on the long awaited history update of her book "Wenonah". The original version that was published in 1975 has long been out of print.

Her work consists of additions to the original text as well as new material that was not included in the original version. Should be very interesting and an excellent addition to our fund-raising capability.

COMMUNITY CENTER GRANT

According to Borough Engineer and grant coordinator David Kreck he has submitted updated plans to the NJ Department of Transportation and hopes to receive approval of that agency yet this month. Once that approval is received funding is assured and bids for the work can be sought, hopefully yet this Fall/Winter. Contracts can then be awarded for work commencing in the Spring of 2009.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Progress is being made, albeit more slowly than I would like, however we are somewhat closer to the goal of the "digital museum" completion.

Computer whiz Scott Barnes has been assisting with setting up a new computer program that affords a great deal of flexibility for using digital images. The program permits sorting images into presentations for different interests such as Wenonah's Origins,

Wenonah's Historic Homes, the Wenonah Military Academy, etc.

Julie Ream continues with her necessary and much-valued activity of categorizing and storing the items having Wenonah historical meaning.

Jack Sheppard Sr

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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SEPTEMBER 1908 WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO

Mayor Lorence gave four boys, who were caught playing crap by Constable Park, a good lecture and told them if he ever caught them again he would fine them \$25.

The Academy opened Tuesday. All the boys have not reported yet, but there will be more than last year. The boys seem very much pleased to get back. That's because demerits haven't commenced.

Notice: I beg to announce to my friends and patients I have opened a branch office for the practice of my profession and am thoroughly equipped for advanced dentistry in all its branches. I have personally administered narcotized air, thirty two thousand times and extracted thousands of diseased teeth without

pain. Chas. H. Lorence DOS (Among his many other talents, he was Mayor of Wenonah)

We hear that Mr. Jorden and Mr. Swartz are going to run for council on the Prohibition ticket.

Our railroad station is well lighted now since the electric company has been cut out and the railroad company is using its own electricity. (This was a problem in the community and gas was still the source of illumination.)

James Carey has just returned from Maine where he has been touring in his 60 horsepower Pierce Arrow car. He had as his guests on the trip Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farr.

Part of the Canoe Club will take their annual Labor Day cruise up the Timber Creek. Mantua Avenue is a fine place to train horses and our people are availing themselves of the opportunity.

The Misses Comey, daughters of Robert H. Comey entertained about twenty five of their young friends at their handsome boat house. Guests were present from Philadelphia, Woodbury and other places and all report a delightful time. The boat house was beautifully decorated and a string orchestra from Philadelphia provided the music for dancing. (The boat house was at the foot of East Willow Street.)

We have no congratulations only regrets for the indifference or willful ignorance of the people of this county of a subject that is vital to them-Temperance.

An Episcopal Church and a bridge across the railroad at Elm Avenue seem to be the next things necessary for a perfect town.

Woodbury Daily Times

“A CHAPEL, A SCHOOL AND TOMATO CATSUP” 1873 - 1883

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the May 2008 newsletter)

Previously the topic was the Wenonah House that purportedly dominated the social scene. By now the hotel was kept open all year with many interesting activities. However it was still considered to be a summer resort.

Dinners included such local specialties as reedbirds served on toast and lunches included waffles served with a “dressing of sugar and spices.” Dances included quadrilles, glides and mazurkas. There were maze dances and stair dances. At some dances the women were requested to wear only pink gowns and at a phantom dance they wore white gowns. Orchestras arrived from Philadelphia by train. One account notes that the “company enjoyed themselves without restraint in dancing, promenading, music and conversation until an early morning hour. During intermission terpsichorean exercises were held. Afterwards the company was invited to the dining room where tables were spread with fruit collation, both native and imported.”

However the most talked about entertainments were the amateur theatricals planned sometimes by the hotel staff and sometimes by the guests. Original songs, tableaux, farces with pungent stabs at those in the audience were weekly performances. In one instance the “Philadelphia hotel visitors devised costumes to represent potato bugs which were grotesquely made to promenade and indulge in a comic flirtation. The lampoons evoked peals of laughter especially on one gentleman farmer in the audience who recently purchased a hundred young turnip sprouts for celery sprouts. He gathered his agricultural knowledge in Pennsylvania and only recently has been transplanted into Jersey long enough to represent his district in the Legislature and to serve as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.” Few guests escaped being caught into a farce.

Other entertainment planned for the hotel guests included a Dime Museum Burlesque complete with barkers, lining skeletons and snake charmers. Often the waiters and bellhops participated in concerts and cakewalks. A Carnival of Venice was staged by the lake with a juju band and pantomimes and at this event the applause was so tremendous that some of

the performers overplayed their roles and fell into the lake.

Private railroad cars for the hotel guests were attached to excursion trains to Atlantic City and upon their return the guests would find the hotel veranda illuminated with Japanese lanterns and a special supper prepared. Guests who traveled the summer resort circuit reported that the festivities at the Wenonah House compared favorably with the best hotels in Cape May and Long Branch.

Some hotel guests brought their teams for the summer season. On one occasion thirty-five turnouts¹ decorated with flags and flowers paraded through Wenonah, Mantua and Woodbury.

Morning card parties, progressive euchre parties, strolls around Wenonah’s lakes, bowling and shuffle board kept the guests busy during the day. In the evenings the men who commuted to their businesses in Philadelphia joined their families at the hotel or at their summer homes. In September when the hotel closed for the season and the commuters closed their summer homes, Wenonah settled down to a slower tempo. However this lasted only a short time because excellent commuter service on the railroad encouraged summer visitors to purchase lots and to become permanent residents. Commutation tickets to Philadelphia were fifty dollars a year.

Much pride centered around the railroad station. Flower beds were groomed and permanent plantings established. The People’s Stage Line brought passengers from Woodstown, Mullica Hill and Mantua. In 1873 passenger receipts from the West Jersey Railroad were \$9,232.34 and freight receipts were \$1,469.94.

By 1875 the Pennsylvania Railroad owned 80% of the West Jersey Railroad stock and plans were developed for a double track to extend from Wenonah to Glassboro. With increased railroad service, troubles grew. Accidents were frequent. South of Wenonah a train collided with a Cape May freight and six cars were demolished. As one observer described the scene, “a more complete train wreck cannot be imagined.” A Bridgeton freight lost a wheel forcing three cars down an embankment.

¹An outfit of a carriage with its horse or horses

Locomotive SPARKS started frequent brush fires, track walkers were killed by on-coming trains and passengers were discouraged from standing on the platform as the trains approached. With the railroad came a deluge of tramps who were blamed for stealing everything from watermelons to trousers from nearby clotheslines.

The railroad controlled the town. No special church service, no musical program, no out-of-town dinner guest was scheduled without first consulting the time table. Advertisements to Presbyterian musicals noted that "Woodbury people can take the 7:07 for Wenonah and return on the 10 o'clock train." Even funeral announcements included the time when trains arrived in Wenonah and one as far away as Mullica Hill noted that "carriages will meet the 8: o'clock train from Phila. at Wenonah station." Special cars were attached to regular trains. Special cars brought visitors to the dedication of the Presbyterian Chapel, to weddings, and, of course, to the annual meetings of the Board of Directors of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company.

Although Philadelphians filled the forty rooms in the Wenonah House, built big houses around the square, spent their evenings driving their teams along the avenues and promenading on the hotel verandas and the parks in front of the hotel, Wenonah was still bordered by farm land. Farmers exhibited prize vegetables at the stores and delivered fresh farm products to the door. Because of the abundant supply of farm products a cannery was established. Located along the Mantua Creek on the northern side of West Mantua Avenue, the cannery occupied a building formerly used by Daniel Brown for a sash factory. Hayes Perry, Chalkley Duell and John Colbert began operations in 1880. However Colbert shortly withdrew to begin his own cannery across the creek. In the first year of operation 50,000 cans of tomatoes were processed and two years later they increased their production to 200,000 cans hiring about one hundred workers. The cannery processed not only tomatoes and catsup, but when the tomato season ended it canned pumpkins and during later years asparagus which was sealed in glass jars.

Other businesses followed. William W. Clark opened the Wenonah Coal Yard², Carre's gardens sold flowers and plants³, B.F. Coles opened a general store⁴ and Mrs. Lashley had a boarding house⁵.

The new residents from Philadelphia and the farmers who rented land from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company were congenial neighbors. The dances and the amateur entertainments at the Wenonah House were opened to all. A newspaper account notes that "to the Wenonah House guests, the neighboring farmers' dairies are never bolted or melon patches or orchards barred, while the novelty of these summer excursions among the farmers in the height of their work are reciprocally enjoyed."

On the Fourth of July the entire community joined together to celebrate. A new event introduced during this period was the tub race. Contestants paddled tubs with their hands to a stake in the lake and then raced back to shore. The event was boisterous, upsets were expected and the races became so vigorous that complicated rules were enforced by the judges. No ballast was permitted, no water splashed into the tub could be removed until the tub capsized and no assistance could be given "unless the contestant is in dire danger." One account notes that "the staid professionals, thriving merchants and brawny business men engaged in the sport."

During the decade of 1873 to 1883 as the town grew, Thomas W. Synnott continued to receive patents on his inventions in the manufacturing of glass bottles. The Wenonah Advance, a newspaper was published by Milton Pierce and a ferry boat named Wenonah plied across the Delaware River.

Also the Mantua Land and Improvement Company made detailed plans to dam the Mantua Creek along the southern border of Wenonah to create a lake. Drawings, cost of securing necessary land bordering the creek and all details are preserved. However the lake was not created because of the limited height of the railroad bridge.

²In area of South West Ave. And Cherry St.

³In area of 205 South Princeton Ave.

⁴3 East Mantua Ave.

⁵1 East Mantua Ave.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 7 October 2008

OCTOBER 1908
WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO

Halloween parties will be numerous in this town.

According to the evidence already obtained in the poker gang, there seems to be a baker's dozen and when His Honor brings down the whip of justice there will be some squirming.

Application soon will be made to have gas lamps placed in the new section of Wenonah.

Charles Hopson will move into his new house about November 1st. (100 North West Avenue)

Contractor Brown expects to complete the new firehouse this week. It is quite a building and will be a credit to the borough.

Thomas Wentz has picked over 1700 baskets of pears this fall. He has over a thousand baskets on hand yet, which he will market soon as they yellow up. (His farm was north of Linden Avenue, west of Jericho.)

A girl wishes a position in Wenonah as a child's nurse or as a chambermaid or waitress. Call Bell phone 112-L

The Military Academy has sent invitations out for a big military hop to be given Halloween.

The hinges on the door of our "jug" have not had time to rust the past week. There was much comment over the gent that was arrested at 3:00 o'clock yesterday morning and kept in the jug until one o'clock that some of the citizens furnished him with victuals and cigars and are thinking of asking borough council to put a couch and carpet in the jug.

Rev. R. H. Gage preached one of the best temperance sermons ever heard in the new church.

When some little life is sacrificed probably means will be found to stop the fearful rate at which autos speed along the streets of this borough.

Mayor Lorence is making an effort to have the 8:05 morning north bound express stop here, as since the 8:19 has been taken off there is no other train until 8:34, which makes it late when the passengers arrive in Philadelphia.

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Community Center except June, July & August

One of Dan Mumford's mules became tangled up in the harness here yesterday and in trying to free itself was severely cut.

The citizens meeting for the arrangement of the election night entertainment will be quite successful and a pleasing entertainment will be given. For men only. The ladies will have to prepare an entertainment for themselves that evening. (They were lucky National Organization for Women didn't exist at that time.)

We received the following this morning, and evidently from one of

the scholars of the public school, who rejoices in the fact that his or her teacher failed to get out of the school house before the janitor locked up the building. "One of the school teachers was locked in the building last night and had to jump out the window. It was a good jump, don't you think. It was more than I would like to do. I bet she will go out sooner the next time, don't you."

Going to Woodbury tomorrow night to see the Boston Bloomers Girls' basketball team play the Woodbury team? Better go; as it is an opportunity which you will never, get again to see the only girls' team in the United States that plays against men. The girls also give fencing exhibitions.

Officer Drummer found two men loitering around town early yesterday morning and as they could not give a good account of themselves he took them to Woodbury and locked them up. They were afterward discharged.

Rev. R. H. Gage and wife had a large reception Monday evening for the congregation of the Presbyterian Church. It was a very large affair. Some of the ladies gowns were imported from Paris for the affair.

Some of the Wenonah Athletic Club who profess themselves to be the best players of Wenonah forget they had to use two pitchers in order to defeat the Methodist team last Saturday. Their first pitcher lasted only six innings for he was knocked all over the field.

Woodbury Daily Times
October 1908

“A BOROUGH COMMISSION, A FIRE HOSE CARRIAGE AND A FISH FARM” 1873 - 1883

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the September 2008 newsletter)

Previously the topic was Wenonah’s churches, the start of its schools, and the fact that much of the activity in the town centered around the hotel and the railroad. The next chapter is entitled “A Borough Commission, a Fire Hose Carriage and a Fish Farm.

When Wenonah had grown to fifty “cottages” and a population of three hundred, the voters chose to be incorporated as a Borough Commission on March 8, 1883. The seven elected commissioners were Dr. George W. Bailey, President who served as secretary-treasurer of the Mantua Land & Improvement Company, Isaac C. Stevenson, treasurer and a director of the Company, and Thomas W. Synnott, a director of the Company. Also elected were Andrew W. Carey, M.H. Perry, J. Frank Shull and Cunningham B. Johnston.

The first item of business as a Borough Commission was the receiving from the Mantua Land and Improvement Company the deed to two squares of parks which faced the Wenonah House. The first purchase was two fire ladders which were stored in the School basement along with twenty-two fire buckets, the trustees of the Wenonah School having granted permission to use one cellar window and one side of the cellar for storage. The first resolution passed by the Borough Commission was one urging property owners to repair their sidewalks. The original wooden sidewalks were being replaced by flagstone walks.

Although the Mantua Land and Improvement Company had laid out streets, planted shade trees, built a hotel, sold lots and houses, a newspaper noted that since the Borough had been incorporated “the spirit of improvement has taken on a strong grip upon the residents and gratifying proofs of it will soon be witnessed.”

Immediately the Borough Commission installed twelve lamps on the streets and William Vogt was hired as a lamplighter at a salary of six dollars a month. As an economy move the lamplighter was cautioned not to permit the lamps to burn too late in the mornings. Poles were erected to connect the Wenonah House to Glassboro Road for telephone service and a post office was placed in the railroad

station with Sallie Ballinger as postmistress.

H. Haynes Perry was appointed Wenonah’s first policeman in 1886. After serving four years with no salary, the Borough Commission granted him an annual salary of twelve dollars. In 1893 a pair of handcuffs was secured for the policeman and his salary was increased to twenty-four dollars a year.

In order that the town be “built up with a creditable class of dwellings,” a resolution was passed by the Borough Commission that “no dwelling should be erected east of the railroad at a less cost than two thousand dollars and that no dwelling should be erected west of the railroad at a less cost than one thousand dollars.” In later years in good humor the eastern section of town was referred to as the silk stocking side and the western section as the cotton stocking side.

The Borough Commission was faced with a myriad of problems. Should dogs be muzzled? What should be done with the farmer’s chickens roving the streets? Should hogs be slaughtered in town? What should be done with the resident who buried his horse in his backyard? How can burglaries be prevented? Should stores be closed early in the evening to discourage loafing? What should be done with the boys who remove the burrs from the wheels of the carriages hitched in front of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday evenings? Should housewives give handouts to gypsies and tramps? And should the farmers unload manure in the middle of Wenonah?

The manure problem created heated arguments. With the mixing of Philadelphia commuters and Wenonah House guests who used the passenger service of the railroad, and farmers who used the freight service there was bound to be a conflict. The unloading of manure in the center of town was declared a nuisance by the commuters and the railroad was requested to build a siding near the pumping station to unload the manure. However some farmers were not satisfied with the new location and wrote letters claiming they would never use the railroad again. The siding was installed and the farmers did use it. Also the commuters did attempt to prevent freight trains from stopping more than five minutes and they complained of excessive locomotive whistling at night.

Freight service accelerated. Joseph Cattell shipped his baskets of sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets and T.P. Darlington, a local poultry shipper, sent four tons of poultry a week out of the Wenonah Station. Sweet potatoes, watermelons and tomatoes were leading farm crops. Charles Buckman continued to operate his Wenonah Mills at the mill pond, John Steward operated a steam corn sheller, and on a sad note, John Kromer's cow died from eating potato vines sprinkled with Paris Green. One farmer boasted of a hog that weighed 775 pounds and another farmer displayed a watermelon in Thomas Savage's tobacco shop that weighed 63 pounds. The story was reported in the newspaper that "two young ladies were told they could have the watermelon for nothing if they could carry it away without letting it down to rest on the way. The ladies put the watermelon in a clothes basket and carted it home." The Duell and Perry canning house was purchasing the farmers' tomatoes and one progressive farmer succeeded in raising very large potatoes by using chemical fertilizer.

With the increased passenger service on the West Jersey Railroad, a new station was built in 1893 of Pompeian bricks to "harmonize with general improvements and surroundings of the Borough." Also the freight house was enlarged and James Darlington was appointed the gatekeeper.

The Wenonah Water Company was organized in 1885 with Stephen Greene as President, Thomas W. Synnott as Vice-President, Dr. George W. Bailey as secretary-treasurer, Blair Smith, Daniel Brown and J. Frank Shull. Galvanized pipes were laid, a Dover well bored and the first experimental fire hydrant placed at the corner of East Mantua Avenue and North Clinton Avenue, commonly known as Shull's Corner. Two years later twenty-three acres, including the mill property and the two adjoining lakes were purchased, a fourteen-foot wheel as well as a steam pump were installed. As need for water increased, the Wenonah Water Company erected a one hundred foot standpipe, bored five artesian wells and built a steam engine house on the south side of the dam. While digging the foundation for the engine house a vein of marl was uncovered and circular oyster shells measuring a foot across were unearthed.

Concerned with the "decorating and otherwise improving the parks," the Wenonah Park Association was formed in 1886 under the leadership of Stephen Greene, Thomas W. Synnott, Dr. George W. Bailey, Edward L. Farr, Andrew J. Carey and others. The Association's first act was the closing of Park Avenue as a driveway from South Clinton Avenue to the railroad tracks which had created two parks in front of the Wenonah House. There was now one park. Three hundred shade trees were placed along newly surveyed streets and land was cleared on Camel's Back¹ bordering Camel's Back Run, a popular picnic area in the woods on the eastern edge of Wenonah. Picnics were organized "to bring all the people together" in Wenonah and also wagon loads of picnickers came as far as Richwood and Clarksboro for church outings.

Several years prior when the barn at the Wenonah House burned and consideration was given to calling for assistance from as far away as Camden, the community realized the need for fire equipment. The Wenonah Hose Company, NO. 1 was organized in 1888 with E.R. Winship as President and chief engineer. Other officers included Charles Wilkins, Lewis Buzby and Blair Smith. To test their new fire hose carriage, called Mareshanks, a fire was ignited in a pile of barrels on the outskirts of Wenonah and within nine minutes after the alarm was sounded the new hose carriage was at the scene and the fire extinguished. The equipment was housed in the new barn of the Wenonah House and later transferred to Synnott's ice house. For several years the firemen possessed keys to the Methodist Episcopal Church in order to use the church bell for a fire alarm.

A lawn tennis club and baseball team were organized. One baseball game was played against a Philadelphia deaf mute team. In the Mantua Creek boys caught pike weighing three and a half pounds, terrapins, herring and at night they fished for eels. Rail birds were shot in the marshes and in the spring young people hunted for trailing arbutus in the woods.

¹In woods bordering South Stockton Ave.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 8 November 2008

NOVEMBER 1908
WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO

Mr. Oscar Ogden, Thomas Ritson and Clement Mattson have purchased handsome Waltham-Orient touring cars from H.D. Leap who represents the Waltham Manufacturing Company in this area.

All Saints Episcopal Mission. Service in Noblitt's Hall tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. All welcome.

The town was very lively yesterday. Every train bringing a load of visitors and the beautiful weather kept them on the streets enjoying the air.

The woods were full of gunners here yesterday, but the bags were rather small. Whether due to unskillful marksmanship or lack of rabbits is hard to tell.

Captain Persey is no longer a member of the Campers Union at the Wenonah Military Academy. The union was organized for the special benefit of the bachelors of the academy and lost a very active member when he quietly married Miss Ratcliffe of Camden.

A family passing through town on the way to their Thanksgiving dinner met with an accident on Marion Avenue. The horse they were driving fell and broke a leg and had to be shot.

The epidemic of colds, which almost put a number of cadets in bed, has almost subsided and all were able to eat turkey today.

The Ladies Aid of the M.E. Church particularly requests that you defer buying your Christmas gifts till you come to their supper and bazaar next Tuesday. Beautiful articles, useful and ornamental will be on sale. A table of dressed dolls, at very reasonable prices, presided over by Miss Jessie Baylies' class of little girls will be one of the features. Mrs. Cline's class of young ladies will have a Christmas tree covered with gifts. Ice cream will be on sale, also cakes, bread and pie.

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Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
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Trustee	Vicki McCall

Meetings are held the second Friday of the month at the Community Center except June, July and August

A travelling Uncle Tom's Cabin Company will entertain our people tonight at Noblitt's Hall.

The public school building has been connected to the sewerage system and sanitary conditions will be much improved.

John L Drummer was elected constable over Thomas J. Savage, who was on both tickets by a 61 vote majority.

There is considerable discussion as to what use the room over the

new fire house should be put other than regular meetings of the Fire Company. There seems to be a desire on the part of some to use it as a smoking room and a place to play cards. Of course there will be no gambling under the new administration.

A ballot was taken this morning at the Academy on the Presidential candidates and the results are as follows. Taft 38, Chafin 3, Bryan 6.

Fine Black Sateen Petticoats \$1.00 Outing Flannel 25 and 50 cents Gingham 25, 50 and 75 cents try a pair of our ladies 25 cent stockings. H. E. Wood 185 So. Broad Street Woodbury.

The painting of the Methodist Church is about to be done and it will be a decided improvement.

A Republican landslide. Taft sweeps the country in the great contest for the nation's next executive. Gloucester County gives Taft 1610 plurality and elects entire county ticket. (Wenonah's vote Taft 138 Bryan 18)

The young ladies of the Embroidery Club which meet at the home of Miss Clara Turner Saturday afternoon proposes to fill a bride's chest for the first member married.

With the streets well scattered with masqueraders and the Academy dance in full swing Saturday evening, Wenonah was quite lively for once.

Woodbury Daily Times
November 1908

“A BOROUGH COMMISSION, A FIRE HOSE CARRIAGE AND A FISH FARM” 1883 - 1896

Excerpts from the book “Wenonah” by Marjorie K. Lentz

(continued from the October 2008 newsletter)

Continuing with the chapter entitled “A Borough Commission, a Fire Hose Carriage and a Fish Farm describing the growth and activities in Wenonah during the waning years of the nineteenth century.

“To furnish pleasure in the community in the line of outdoor sports” the Wenonah Field Club was started in 1890. The Club used Stephen Greene’s athletic park¹ which was completely enclosed by a high board fence and included a grandstand where he held his private horse shows. A bicycle track, baseball diamond and tennis courts were built and under the grandstand a “commodious room” was built for “storing the wheels of those who ride to the grounds to witness the baseball games.” Sixty-five persons signed for membership at the organizational meeting. Opened to everyone the membership had a sliding scale, an active member holding voting power and paying five dollars annually, an associate member entitled to a voice but no vote and paying \$2.50 a year and an honorary member paying \$1.50.

Wenonah had an organization for everyone. The Wenonah Assembly scheduled hops in the hotel. The Wenonah Singing Class met for regular weekly rehearsals. The Progressive Euchre Club met in the hotel, the Wenonah Outing Club had straw rides and the Wenonah Cycle club ran bicycle trips to Vineland. The Wenonah Branch of the Needlework Guild sewed three hundred garments a year and the Wenonah branch of the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Wenonah Women’s Christian Temperance Union all had activities. A Republican Club was organized as well as a Masonic “club,” the Citizen’s League protested against the evils of the race track and the Lodge of Junior Order of United American Mechanics had a fife and drum corps. The Chautauqua Circle planned free lectures and entertainments ranging from ventriloquists to elocutions, from sciopic views to lectures on physical education.

The Wenonah House was sold in 1883 by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company for \$12,000. During the first years of private ownership,

a newspaper account noted that “comparatively few boarders at the Wenonah House this summer, though why, it is difficult to explain as the town never looked prettier and the Wenonah House never so well conducted.” In 1884 it was sold again this time at auction to General William Sewell for \$6,500 including all the furniture. The following week the newspaper reported that “now that the sale has been made” the people “are cracking their heads because they weren’t on hand to bid. It is said to be the best furnished hotel in South Jersey.”

Immediately Gen. Sewell made improvements. The hotel received a new roof, interior decoration, steam boiler and pump. Again the hotel was opened and filled to capacity. However the Wenonah House soon closed and an account states that the “Wenonah House is of no advantage either to its owner or to the Borough. Every friend of Wenonah has had a feeling of regret that the Borough should be obliged to look at this closed house.”

In 1892 Stephen Greene, Dr. George W. Bailey and Thomas Synnott formed the Wenonah Hotel Company. The hotel was purchased and a tremendous remodeling program was commenced. An annex of 75 rooms was added, the exterior remodeled and a separate building was erected for billiard and pool tables, shuffle board and ten pin alleys. Servants quarters² were built in back of the hotel, an ice house was built for summer storage and a sewage system was installed. In May 1894 the hotel was reopened but it was no longer the Wenonah House. It was now the Wenonah In and it again resumed its whirl of concerts, hops, nightly entertainments and daily parade of turnouts.

With the increased population in Wenonah the school had outgrown its capacity and in 1894 a stone school was opened in the section of Wenonah popularly called Sand Town. The original school building was purchased by Joseph Noblitz and it was known as Noblitz Hall where the Wenonah Hall Association produced entertainments, elections were held and any one could present a musical program, an oyster supper, a dance or a lecture for a rental fee.

¹Jessica Wood Langston athletic field, East Cedar Street

²Site of 106 E. Mantua Ave.

Mrs. Andrew Carey and Mrs. Edward Farr were the first women in Wenonah to be elected as school trustees and Wenonah was the second school district in Gloucester County to elect women to this post.

The Mantua Land and Improvement Company continued to sell its lots and at one public sale held in the park, 116 lots were sold in one day. Also the Company sold houses it constructed, graded the streets and covered them with gravel and made extensive improvements on the Old Stone Farm house which it subsequently sold to W.J. Ladell. Among the builders who purchased lots and built houses for resale were Daniel Brown, Horatio J. Mulford, Stephen Greene, a. McFarland and Thomas W. Synnott. Double cottages were built facing the railroad tracks and a row of houses on West Willow Street was named Brown Town for the builder. Some builders used the identical plans on various lots and they can be identified throughout Wenonah.

On the eastern edge of town Thomas W. Synnott built a stone house³. His barn, greenhouses and caretaker's house covered a large acreage extending to Glassboro Road. Bordering East Mantua Avenue was Synnott's Pond. On the southeastern edge of Wenonah Stephen Greene built his home. His dwelling⁴, the dwelling of John Truncer⁵, his caretaker, the coachman's dwelling⁶, the laundry and living quarters for the cook and laundress⁷, occupied a block long complex. Remaining also are a gazebo from his Dutch garden, a peacock house and a brick wall⁸ mortared with flecks of oyster shells which bordered his peacock run. Also Greene developed Marion Avenue at his own expense, lined the neighboring streets with pine trees, built a dam at the foot of Marion Avenue and developed a lake named lake Cornelia⁹ for Cornelia Truncer. A two-

storied boathouse and a Japanese-designed bridge were built along the lake front. Arbored walks from his rose gardens¹⁰ led to a glen known as the Hermitage. A Japanese gardener cared for the gardens which included a greenhouse for the growing of carnations¹¹.

Residents had pride in their well-cared lawns. Iron fences surrounded property lines, stone walks were laid and nearly all the houses were illuminated.

In the 1890's a monthly newspaper, the Wenonah News, was published by E. Richmond of Philadelphia and William C. Cattell, real estate agents. Articles noted that swings were needed by the Wenonah Park Association for Camel's Back where the Fourth of July was being celebrated, a bridge was needed across the railroad tracks at Elm Street, and an observance was needed for Memorial Day. And, of course, there were advertisements for the sale of lots and houses in Wenonah which was described as the "Germantown of West Jersey, the model home town" with "pure spring water, conveniences, hot and cold water, best schools, established churches and seventeen trains for the city and sixteen trains from the city, and no saloons." The advertisement added that it is "just the place for you and better still for your children."

Businesses increased in Wenonah. Joseph Warner who had a milk, ice and ice cream route, moved into the former Miller's house and the lake became known as Warner's Lake. Sylvester H. Chew and James Chew had a livery stable and coal yard¹², R.J. Clark and later S.D. Fisler had a general store¹³, James Baylies also sold groceries as well as hay¹⁴ and Jesse English had a general store as well as serving as postmaster¹⁵. George Poor built an aviary¹⁶ and raised carrier pigeons.

³202 East Mantua Ave.

⁴201 and 203 South Clinton Ave. And also a wing destroyed by fire

⁵204 South Marion Ave.

⁶106 East Willow Street

⁷Rear of 201 South Clinton Ave.

⁸207 South Clinton Ave.

⁹Site of west side of dam on South Marion Ave.

¹⁰208 South Marion Ave.

¹¹100 East Cedar Street

¹²Site of 6 West Mantua Ave.

¹³3 East Mantua Ave.

¹⁴Site of 2 West Mantua Ave.

¹⁵1 East Mantua Ave.

¹⁶On site at rear of 205 South Marion Ave.

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 9 December 2008

U.S. PRESIDENTS AND WENONAH

With Presidential politics dominating the headlines in recent months, I thought it would be interesting to review the history of U.S. Presidents in Wenonah. In 1910 then Governor of New Jersey, Dr. Woodrow Wilson, attended chapel services at the Wenonah Military Academy and delivered an address to cadets. In 1912 he was elected President. In May 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt was running for President and made several campaign stops in the area, including Wenonah. He delivered an address in the park. According to deceased local historians Milton Webb and Victor Anderson, Roosevelt slept at the Scargel residence at 109 S. Clinton Avenue. I am not aware of any documentation to substantiate these reports. But if any of you are or if any of you have additional information about these visits, we would love to hear about it.

BACKGROUND ON 1912 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

For you to appreciate the articles that follow, I thought it would be helpful to present a brief background on the 1912 election. According to PBS, the 1912 Presidential election was one of the most extraordinary stories in our country's political history. The choices facing voters was more diverse than at any other time in the 20th century. Four major candidates were running for President

each with their own specific plan for tackling the nation's problems. Incumbent President William Howard Taft was re-nominated by the Republican party with the support of the conservative wing of the party. After former President Theodore Roosevelt failed to get the Republican nomination, he called his own convention and created a new Progressive Party (nicknamed the

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall

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"Bull Moose Party"). Woodrow Wilson was the Democratic nominee and Eugene Debbs was the Socialist Party candidate.

Brenda Birkland

WOODBURY DAILY TIMES
MAY 24, 1912

Col. Roosevelt will be here tomorrow evening about 6 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the park if the weather is fair; should it be stormy it will be held in the drill hall of the Academy. Let everybody turn out and greet the Colonel.

COL. ROOSEVELT'S BIG RECEPTION WOODBURY DAILY TIMES MAY 25, 1912

Ex-President Warmly Greeted All
Along the Line

Col. Roosevelt arrived in Woodbury last evening at 6:30, about fifteen minutes late. He found a crowd of people estimated from 2500 to 5000, who hailed him with a mighty cheer. After the Moose Band had finished playing "Gee But It's Great to Meet a Friend From Your Old Town," the Colonel stood up in his automobile which had stopped in front of the monument and talked for ten minutes. Then he stepped from his automobile into Dr. H. H. Clark's, accompanied by Adon W. Cattell, and they whisked up Broad to Newton avenue, to Euclid, to Cooper, to Broad, down Broad to Glassboro avenue, and down Glassboro avenue to his private car, which immediately pulled out for Camden. It was then 6:45 and the Col. Said that he had to take a bath, eat his supper and be shaved, all by 7:30, when he spoke at the Camden Armory.

The Col. met with a great reception all along the line. He was twenty minutes late in arriving at Glassboro, and his time was so closely scheduled that he could not make it up.

A large crowd greeted him at Glassboro, Pitman, Barnsboro, Wenonah. Flags were displayed at all these places, and at farm houses

along the road. At one farm house a woman was seen holding two small children in her arms and at the same time waving a small flag. The Colonel noticed the woman with her babies and doffed his hat.

The Colonel was accompanied by Hon. John Boyd Avis, Custodian Adon W. Cattell, Dr. H. H. Clark, Former Governors Stokes and Forr, Frank B. Jess, L. L. Hurley, Dr. Hires, Dr. Black and others. During the part of the trip from Glassboro there were seventy automobiles in line. He rode in C A. Hilyard's new six cylinder Everett car from Glassboro to Woodbury.

The Colonel was more than pleased with his reception here. Our people decorated their houses with flags and bunting.

SPEECH BY GOVERNOR WILSON
TO THE CADETS OF THE
WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY
OCTOBER 6, 1910

His speech in front of the Court House follows:

“My friends, it is indeed a pleasure to be here be here and see you. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself in New Jersey these two days. I appreciate your feeling and the interest you have given me, and now friends, I feel that I have a peculiar right to appeal to you in this contest if we are to stand by our rights. We are asking only that you yourselves shall see that you have the power and the will to rule yourself: to control you own government. (Indicating) you, you, you and I. There has never been such a springing up of the plain people against the bosses. (The Colonel's attention is called by ladies on the upper floors of the Merritt Block asking him to face toward them. He turned and waving to them said, “You will hear me in a moment. You shall have a square deal.” I ask you I am only asking for only the right, and claim for ourselves, that we wish to rule ourselves. Each of us wishes to rule himself. You do, I do. I know that I make mistakes, but I want to make them myself. I do not want others to make them for me. So, we have a right to appeal our cause. History shows us that all of the American people have in some time made mistakes in its government. We still make them. The only way we can get real justice is to have the rule of the people and not the rule of the

bosses.” (Stepping into the other auto the Colonel continued) Now friends, I ask in this contest that the people of New Jersey show themselves awake to the issues of the fight as they have in every state where there has been direct primaries and there the people have shown themselves, from Maine to California, wherever we could get a chance against our foes there the people have and can win. I would not be in New Jersey if they did not have the primaries. I did not go into Connecticut because the plain people did not have a chance. I cannot do anything with the politician but I have made my plea straight to the people of New

WENONAH NEWS
WOODBURY DAILY TIMES
May 25, 1912

Jersey for you to get in this line-up between the people and the bosses; between the Abraham Lincoln plain people and the powers that be. I ask that you, on Tuesday next put New Jersey beside Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania and Ohio.

About three hundred people greeted Col. Roosevelt here last evening. He was given a rousing reception. One man did not seem to enjoy it as he was seen going home with his family.

“I wish it were possible” said Mr. Wilson “to impress upon fellows at your age the great importance of what you are doing here. I suppose, as most boys do, that school is a necessary evil and few realize it is to equip them for a better battle of life. The men who loaf don't get anywhere, don't amount to any thing; it is only the men who achieve who get anywhere.

“It is a question for you to answer whether you are going to be mere tools in the hands of someone else or are going to be masters and take hold of things. Don't be foolish enough to ask what the sense of this is. You go to the gymnasium and wonder what the use of it all is. You will never perform on the parallel-bars with your business partner. You are expending good muscular strength and wonder what the use of it all is. You are just getting your muscles in shape to answer the call when the time comes for you to use them.

It is just like the piece of structural steel fitted in all its fibers to meet the strain in the steamship when the stress of storm of the Atlantic comes. It is just so with

your books. They are getting you men fully fit when the contingency arises and you are called upon to wrestle with the problems of life; you are mentally fit to meet the stress. Don't lose sight of the fact that you want to play a creditable part in the world to do something in its great work.

"A school like this is a breeding place for men. Some one said, "If you would consider me witty, I must ask you to make a joke. If you would be considered educated, I must ask you to know something. The witty man who preceded me as head of the university (Princeton) once told an anxious mother whose son was about to begin the course: "Madam, we guarantee satisfaction or return the boy". Most men I know, after their years of experience, would like to go back and be schoolboys again and gain the greater profit from the advantages then obtained. Take the advice of one who knows, who has been through it, and lay hold of all that you can here obtain for the building of your bodies and minds, that you may be useful citizens in this great land.

Woodbury Daily Times
Letter to the Editor
May 24, 1912

Dear Sir – There are times in the life of every man, whether he be rich or poor, that he should take time and thought enough to thoroughly resolve in his own mind, to cast the ballot for what he thinks the best candidate who will represent the people regardless of politicians who enter into politics so often for their own benefit.

At the present time, we are confronted with our President and Ex-President, touring the country, telling the people of each others short-comings, in which we, the people, are not interested, but what we are interested in is having a God fearing man s President our United Country – one that gives his very best talents and who is guided by the Supreme Power above in all of his official actions.

In my opinion, we have such a man in the Presidential chair, in our President, Wm. H. Taft, who unfortunately has been driven to make answer to the attacks of the Ex-President in his speeches throughout the states.

I shall just say this much as to Theodore Roosevelt. In my humble opinion, Roosevelt of today is not the Roosevelt who succeeded our beloved Ex-President, Wm. B. McKinley. From his present actions and expressions, he seems to want to make it appear that he is the only man in the United States fit to become President, and that "I am the Saviour of the Country." From his actions and remarks one might think that he feels like the remark credited to the present Emperor of German – "Me and God."

Now just the reverse of this is what we, the people want, and as one of the people, and a Republican, because I believe in the principles, I feel it my duty to vote for Wm. Taft, as President of the United States for four years more, so that the experience that he has had in the past may be a help to him to correct any mistakes in the future, if any have been made.

He like ourselves is mortal and cannot please all.

I hear so much of our President conferring with such men as Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania. Do they forget the same Senators are not there to represent the people, but the Legislators, a chosen few selected and sent to the Legislative bodies by political leaders or bosses, who control these men for their own gain and influence.

The time is ripe for the people to use their own good judgment, and have the U.S. Senators elected by the people who would be guided by the majority of the citizens of the sections of the country which he represents.

This would bring the President of the United States in closer touch with the people, through the Senator, whom they elect to represent them.

Look at the Grand Old Man, Major of Philadelphia, Rudolph Blankenburg, standing like a rock, doing what is right for the best interests of the whole people, regardless of politicians.

The people arose in their might and threw off the yoke with which they had been girdles so long and elected the right man in the right place.

Go thou and do likewise.

RICHARD C. BALLINGER,
Wenonah, NJ

Wenonah Historical Society

Newsletter

Next Meeting 7:30 pm Friday January 9, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 1 January 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we ring in the New Year I'd like to thank past President Lou McCall for all his hard work and dedication. Also, I would like to thank Jo Dominy for her tireless work as Secretary and her "all around knowledge" of our membership. I've counted on her many times and I hope she will continue to allow us to utilize her knowledge going forward.

Newly named for two-year terms are me, Treasurer Carol Wiltsee, Vicki McCall as Secretary and Brenda Birkland, Vice President.

This year I am looking forward to many new and special presentations. For instance, in February we celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday with a much anticipated presentation from Reverend Frank Colburn. In March Katherine MacGregor will speak on her Historic Wenonah and WMA recollections. Those are just two of many great speakers we look forward to hearing from. This month's presentation will be by local resident and past speaker Paul Lader.

This New Year we will hope to finally see progress on our most beloved Train Station and also hopefully the completion of Marge Lentz's book on Wenonah. We have some other goals for the new year within our membership but most

important let's not forget those things most important. Our friends and family that we hold so dear to us are what is truly important. In this time of bad economics and warring countries, we should make sure to enjoy the things that don't cost us money. This year, make sure to reach out and connect with your loved ones and maybe bring them to one of our meetings, we would love to have new guests and see old ones. Wenonah was built on fellowship

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Betty Rose

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Community Center
except June, July and August

and working hard together. Let's do that this year and hope to enjoy peace and prosperity in 2009.

Have a Great Year!

Barb Capelli

TRAIN STATION REHABILITATION

We have been informed the funding for the station restoration has been confirmed and that work could start as early as the coming spring.

Outside improvements will consist of brickwork repair, gable end stucco-timber replacement. Also exterior woodwork repairs and replacement of the storm sash.

On the inside the plaster will be repaired and painted while termite damage in the basement will be attended to.

MARJORIE LENTZ'S BOOK "WENONAH"

Marjorie Lentz's second edition book *Wenonah*, finished at last. It was first written and published in 1976, in time for both the nation's Bicentennial and the dedication of our railroad station/Community Center. Marjorie permitted me to help her with typing and technical assistance and it was a lot of fun. Because of the arthritis in her hands she can no longer type efficiently. Instead she resorted to a "cut and paste" system to give me information for inclusion in the book. Her system resembled a method used by kidnapers for creating untraceable ransom demands. The book does contain some new material and photographs along with explanatory footnotes and an index. All that remains to be done is to find a book binder to reproduce the book at a reasonable price so it can be used by the Society for fund-raising purposes. Hopefully the book will be available in time for our February meeting.

Jack Sheppard

Wenonah 100 Years Ago

Clifford Armbruster, assistant foreman of the section gang on the railroad came in contact with the third rail below here yesterday and was hurled quite a distance.

Remember the oyster dinner to be given by the fireman at Noblitt's Hall Saturday evening. A good supper for a good cause. Price 35 cents.

The Mysoytis Sewing Circle will meet tomorrow afternoon at the home of Mrs. Sam Mehorter on Clinton Avenue.

The Wenonah Fire Company housed their apparatus in the new fire house this afternoon. The members of borough council were present to witness the event. (The apparatus at that time was a horse drawn ladder wagon and three hose carts.)

While going home last night Dean Williams was startled by hearing a strange noise in back of him at Synnott's woods. He turned around and saw a very strange animal. It stood about four feet high and had a head like a horse. When he saw it he struck a bee line for his house on the other side of the woods and did not come out any more that night. (There had been several sightings of the "Jersey Devil" in Wenonah during this period.)

There was a skating carnival on Green's Lake last night. It was largely attended by the Academy boys. They declared they saw the devil. They said it spit fire and had a head on it like the Gorgon Medusa.

The explosion at Gibbstown this morning shook the houses here like leaves. Several thought an earthquake had come.

M. F. Lummus. M. D. of Pitman has opened up an office on the northwest corner of Monroe and Mantua Avenues.

The revival services will continue all week at the Methodist Church and the pastor, Rev. O. S. Duffield would like to see a large congregation out every night.

A company of the cadet battalion, Wenonah Military Academy, under command of Major John R. Jones, will give the exhibition drill Wednesday

evening at the military reception and ball to be given by Company I, Third Regiment, N.G.P., at Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia.

Nuncio is the undefeated checker player of Wenonah. (He was the local barber.)

The Boy's Brigade held a camp fire at the church last night.

Miss Jean Duke held a donkey party at her home last night.

Wayne Ralston, of Philadelphia, was the guest of Lewis Holt yesterday.

Andrew Savage has returned home after working in Woodbury on Locke's express wagon. Andy said it was too cold for him.

A freight car door fell from the morning express yesterday on the track below here and it came near wrecking the Atlantic City Flyer, which was flagged just in time to avert a disaster.

The pictures of the fox hunt are now on sale at Buckhart's barber shop. It is a very good picture, especially of Lawyer Horace F. Nixon mounted on his steed. (This was in tradition of over a hundred years in Mantua and Carpenter's Landing. Many Wenonah people participated.)

An illustrated temperance lecture will be given in the Methodist Church on Thursday evening. This will be quite a treat for the people of this town and everybody should turn out if they want to see some fine pictures and hear some good singing.

Harold Buzby has returned to George School after spending the holidays with his parents.

The Wenonah Military cadets have started practicing for their minstrel show which will be held some time in February.

A good many people wonder why the brakemen on the freight train which arrives here at 7 o'clock wave their lanterns after they leave the station. Why do they?

Woodbury Daily Times January 1909 mhw

Genealogy of Thomas W. Synnott – A Founder of Wenonah

From: "*Sinnott genealogy : Michael Sinnott of Harpswell, Maine, his ancestry and descendants : also records of other Sinnetts, Synnotts, etc. in Ireland and America,*" by Charles N. Sinnott

Concord, N. H: Rumford Press, 1910, 142 pgs. page 122

Mr. Thomas W. Synnott, Wenonah NJ gives the following sketch of his family line:

- (1) Martin Synnott, b. Wexford, Ireland 1775; d. in New Jersey, 1812; studied in Wexford (Ireland) College; merchant; came to America about 1793; lived at Mary's Landing, N.J. and in Philadelphia PA; m. 1804, Hannah Scull, b. 1780; d. 1840. His brother, John Synnott, lived near Wexford, Ireland in 1832, his mother with him.
- (2) Dr. Miles Synnott, b. 1806; d. 1867; lived Glassboro, N. J 1833-1867; graduated 1831 from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia PA; m. 1842 Harriet Heston Whitney, b. 1814; d. 1854; the daughter of Eben Whitney, who was descended from Eben Whitney who came to New England in 1640, and of Bathsheba Heston, the daughter of Col. Thomas Heston, an officer in the Revolutionary War, and who in 1784 began the manufacture of glass at what is now known as Glassboro, N.J.
- (3) Abigail Whitney Synnott, b. 1843; m. Isaac Moffett.
 - (4) Herbert N. Moffett, b. 1877
- (3) **Thomas Whitney Synnott**, b. 1845; resides Wenonah NJ; a very efficient elder in the Presbyterian Church; trustee of Princeton Theological Seminar and of Lincoln University; member of Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School work; member of the General Assembly's Committee on Evangelization; president of the First National Bank, Glassboro NJ; retired from active business some years since; m. July 1872 Mary D. Eldridge, b. Philadelphia PA 1848, the daughter of Septimus T. Eldridge and Mary Pierce; these parents lived at Wilmington DE and at Philadelphia PA
 - (4) Clayton E. Synnott, b. 1876; m. 1897 Faith Botsford
 - (5) Marion B. Synnott, b. 1898
 - (5) Thomas W. Synnott, b. 1906
- (3) Fannie W. Synnott, b. 1847; unmarried
- (2) Margaret Synnott, b. 1808; deceased; m. Rev. John Crouch
- (2) Catherine Synnott, b. 1810; deceased; m. John Porch
- (2) Dr. Martin Synnott, b. 1812; d. 1871; graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia PA, 1839; no male heirs

Note: The Synnott Mansion is located at the northeast corner of Mantua Ave at Clinton

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2 February 2009

A MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT BARB CAPELLI

Dear Members;

We are looking forward to seeing all of you this next meeting to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. This Friday's meeting is sure to be a HUGE crowd pleaser with our guest speaker Frank Colburn.

So much has been written on our 44th president and in his honor, this recent Inauguration of President Obama, the President used Abraham Lincoln's bible as he was sworn into office...twice!!

Even during this current time of economic woes and foreign wars, in a message to Congress in December of 1862, President Lincoln was quoted, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the storm present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

How similar are the times?? We celebrate this 200th Birthday with our local Lincoln Historian, Frank Colburn and welcome all of you and your guests this week. Frank is the former curator and director of the museum at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrowgate, TN. He was most inspired by the great man's writing on the promise of the Declaration of Independence, which Lincoln felt granted all men the "right to rise" to their full potential, regardless of their origins.

Please join us this Valentines weekend, bring your friends --Vicki and I are in charge of the snacks and

beverages so no dieting this weekend!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER
AND EMAIL OPTION

As many of you may know, our membership dues run from January to January. Please either mail your dues using the attached form or bring the form and payment to the next meeting. In an effort to save money, we are providing the option of receiving the newsletter by email. If only half of you participate, we can save nearly \$500 a year! Circle either yes or no on the form about receiving the newsletter by email. You may also email me at sbbirkland@verizon.net to let me know your preference. We realize some of you may not have email or do not wish to participate. We will still send the newsletter to you by U.S. mail. We are also interested in knowing your email for special announcements and reminders.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2009

Building upon the success of the first Founders' Day, a borough wide committee has chosen the theme "Celebrating the Train Station." The date was moved to April this year to coincide with the original Founders' Day in April as noted on your borough calendar. You may contact either Stephanie Berenato at 464-8686 or Brenda Birkland at 609-504-6917 if you are interested in helping. Rain date is Sunday, April 19.

TRAIN STATION REHABILITATION

According to Borough Engineer Dave Kreck, an informational meeting for prospective bidders will be held on February 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. Bids will be received February 20. An award could be made as early as February 26 and work could start in April.

RECALLING CHILDHOOD DAYS
IN WENONAH

Have you ever found a treasure while yard selling in town? Several years ago, I was at a yard sale and purchased a book. I later found inside the book an old newspaper article entitled "Former Resident of Wenonah Recalls Childhood Days of 1890s." Although I have shared some of the article with you before, I wanted to reprint it here in its entirety. I also recently obtained a document written by the late Milton Webb that describes his childhood memories of Wenonah from 1938-1944. I thought it would fun to read these two articles together. Milton's piece will be continued next month.

Brenda Birkland

To the Editor:

It was a nice little village, bearing an Indian name “Wenonah”; a quiet, safe country town, ideal for bringing up children.

I was born in Philadelphia in 1885, but my first recollection of being alive would be 1890 in Wenonah where both my sisters were born. There was ravine called “The Glen” in that part of the town then known as Frogtown. The glen was a shady, cool place, containing a spring with good pure, clear water. The outflow from the spring had been dammed up to form a very small pond in which I remember seeing catfish, probably placed there by some neighborhood men for future use in a frying pan. Many a drink we boys enjoyed from that spring, returning home from swimming in the railroad culvert, the outlet from upper lakes.

The house nearest the glen was occupied by a crippled Civil War veteran named Jennings and our generous government at that time probably gave him \$8-\$10 per month pension. I remember hearing some of his war experiences as he told them to my father.

Over Mantua Creek was an old wooden bridge, a spot that appealed to smaller boys as we climbed over the framework or maybe fished in the creek, which at that time was a fairly good sized stream. On the Wenonah side of

the creek there stood a canning factory for a few years, which eventually went out of business and to ruin. A short walk down from the factory was a sandy spot in the creek, this being the place where younger boys learned to swim, as the water was never over our shoulders and as we learned, we graduated to Warner’s Pond. Didn’t need school taxes for pools to teach boys how to keep their heads above water in those days. Of course, we went in skinny – not exactly Atlantic City style of that period.

During the early nineties, from Mantua Pike, then a toll road to the W.J.R.R., the creek was bordered with woods, making a pleasant place to roam during summer school vacations. There are two lakes, upper and lower. The lower lake was called “Warner’s Pond. The upper lake served the borough for its water supply, pumped by a small engine used in a kind of shanty. The water was pumped to a wooden tank which stood on stilts, situated where the present standpipe is now located, I guess, as I haven’t been there for 70 years. The old tank leaked and ferns and grasses grew under it.

The lower lake, as I first remember it, had an icehouse, which was filled each winter with ice, packed in sawdust, for summer months. Also there was an old broken down grist mill and I really believe if someone would

dig down in the sand they would find the old grinding stones covered at the time the lake’s outlet was moved to its present site, at the time the new pumping station was installed rising artesian water. Of course, we boys had to supervise both the building of the standpipe and the pumping station, which was quite an event.

I first went to school in what was Noblitt’s Hall. The next year our new school was ready for occupancy. Teachers were Miss Bugbee, Miss Taylor and Mrs. Talman, all wonderful teachers and strict disciplinarians – and you present kids need not think they were not.

Let’s not overlook Clark’s store. Mr. Clark was there in 1890 and I don’t know how many years before that time. He carried groceries, hardware, horse feed, pots, brooms, buckets, apparently all the necessities of life. He had a clerk who went around in the morning collecting orders, making delivery in the afternoon by horse and wagon. In the store was a pot belly stove and a couple of chairs for a few old-timers to pass the time, gossip and at the same time, sample the big round cheese – free. Wish I had some of the things from the old store – they would now be valuable, especially the wooden Indian which stood on the porch of the store.

We had an Italian shoe repair man who lived in the old railroad station and in the fall made his

own wine, pressing the fruit in his bare feet. Also a barber shop with its row of shaving mugs, and a livery stable (Chews). When President McKinley was elected in 1896, Sumner Dawson and I made a nickel a run from Noblitt's Hall, the voting booth, to the telegraph office located in the R.R. Station run by Mr. Tuft, for interested Republicans.

I could go on reminiscing back to our Christmases', Fourth of Julys, church entertainments, etc., and I just wonder if the present generation of youngsters will be able to look back to such a happy period in their childhoods.

John C. Holinger

Milton Webb's childhood memories, Time period around 1938 to 1944

The town was much smaller in number of houses and population. There were many lots in which to play football, baseball etc. On our side of the tracks there were the Academy lots where there was the Academy tennis court maintained for a while and the kids put up a basketball standard. This was after the drill hall was torn down. Up where Eddie Fredricks lives there was a good tennis court but this was pretty well closed to us kids as there was a tennis club made up of adults. I believe Evan Woodward ran this. Of course there was the ball field now called the Cedar Avenue field.

More organized sports were run there. Lots of time the big kids

would throw us out. At that time there was a full cinder track going around the field. A lot of people used this for track and also bicycles. There was a big grandstand which I witnessed burning down. The kids built a lot of model airplanes and that was the launching spot. Bob Nicholls built the best models unfortunately he died in the polio epidemic in 1949 or 50. Behind the ball field there was a persimmon grove and at times people used the old academy rifle range there (Harry Simmerman might remember this). A lot of the kids had 22 rifles. Below that was Greens boat house which we used until Joe Truncer, the guardian of the Greene estate would throw us out. That also burned dow'n. Greens lake was full of turtles which we would shot with our 22's. Martin Dipper was the ace on this. This was a good fishing lake particularly for calico bass.. This was a great place until Elliot built the house that Dewey Parker lives in today -he threw us out but we had our revenge when he ended up bankrupt, lived in a trailer where the Jonas Barrel Co was located and Knapp took over and opened up the lake again. Unfortunately, on our side of the tracks a large area was closed to us-This was Hassricks or Royals. They erected a cyclone fence around the lake which partially closed this off to us. However, we fished by concealing ourselves in the bushes. On the west side of the lake was a boat house. It was filled

with phonograph records which we skimmed across the lake. If the lake is dredged there will be a wealth of Victor Talking Machine discs uncovered. Diana Hassrick had beautiful horses and they were stabled in the huge barn where Bob and Jane Kitz live. There were also cows which were Jerseys imported from Europe. Mr. Hess ran the farm and we started working for him in the summer. We had quite a team- Earl Cox. Lewis Fink, Jimmy Gill, Joan Hill and Ruby May Dewitt. This gave us fishing privileges as a fringe benefit. Where the Lutheran Church is sited there was an orchard but the big farming was done out across from the Tall Pines Inn in what is now the Woods at Wenonah. This was planted with rye, oats and barley for the horses. But greater opportunities arose when Tommy Synnott opened up the chicken farm the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Mr. Hendrickson built the chicken house which later became the site of many police and fireman's banquets There were many fond memories there. In the barn there was large carriage which was a beauty, a sleigh and a little sulky. Also there were two horses, one of which Tom shot when he was trying to eliminate rats in .the barn. Also he had a 1904 Chalmers automobile which I believe was bought from George Fredrick.

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 3 March 2009

A MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT BARB CAPELLI

Dear Members;

This coming spring reminds me that I have some housekeeping to do. With that being said, I have some reminders and some thoughts to share with you about our Historical Society.

Please, don't forget the Membership dues are past due now...so please, be sure to fill out your membership forms for us. We are updating our current dues list and hope that we all are up to date!

Our February meeting was a HUGE success and we thank Frank Colburn for his wonderful presentation. Although the food was totally yummy for this special – Valentine-Lincoln's Birthday celebration, I want to remind everyone that our refreshments need only to be a few snacks or sweet treats and a beverage of choice. With the difficult economic times we want to keep things simple as we enjoy the social time after a presentation.

We are also very, very excited about the buzz surrounding our Train Station Restoration, bids for the work to be done is being reviewed and I am confident things will be progressing quickly. Since we have been advised that restoration could start soon, I want to let you all know that our April and May meetings will be held in the Municipal building to ensure all of our safety. Our June picnic location will be decided and that information passed onto you soon.

Founders Day is going to be another super celebration of our Train Station and it is moving along very well with so many great ideas and volunteer involvement. Don't forget to save April 18th on your calendar.

Something else we might want to consider, Clean Communities Day is May 2nd We need to have at least ten volunteers in order to qualify for the \$500 that is donated to our Society. If anyone is interested, please let me

WHS OFFICERS 2009

President	Barbara Capelli
Vice Pres.	Brenda Birkland
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held the
second Friday of each month at the
Community Center
except June, July and August

know. We can decide if we want to join in the effort if we have enough volunteers.

The speaker for our next meeting is Katherine MacGregor, she promises a great surprise for us...so many surprises that she wouldn't even tell me what she is bringing! Her father, Dave Knight, was an instructor at the Wenonah Military Academy. She is going to present an interview with the oldest living cadet of the Academy. I am sure she will be bringing a variety of show and tell items from that interview.
Barbara Capelli

BOOK SIGNING BY MARJORIE
LENTZ AND JACK SHEPPARD
HISTORY OF WENONAH

As many of you know who were at our last meeting, we had a surprise unveiling of the History of Wenonah book by Marjorie Lentz. Both Marjorie and Jack Sheppard, Sr., who provided consultation and technical assistance on the book, have agreed to a book signing at our next meeting on Friday, March 13. The books are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. The book was first written and published in 1976, in time for both the nation's Bicentennial and the dedication of our railroad station/Community Center. What a timely release of this new second edition with all the upcoming restoration at the train station.!

TRAIN STATION REHABILITATION

Bids were received February 25th and there was a successful bidder, Aliano Brothers from Vineland, and the bid was well within the amount of the grant. This should mean all of the hoped for repair work can be done and there may be money left over for some extras. This was an excellent outcome for the future of the building and we are hoping for a Grand Opening on the Fourth of July.

FOUNDERS' DAY

Do you have any photos, fun stories, and wonderful memories of the train station restoration from 1975? We would love to use them for Founders' Day. Please contact Stephanie Berenato at 464-8686.

MILTON WEBB'S CHILDHOOD
MEMORIES IN WENONAH
1938 TO 1944

(continued from the February 2009 newsletter)

Previously the topic was the farming done in what is now the Woods of Wenonah. Tommy Synnott opened up a chicken farm here. Mr. Hendrickson built a chicken house which later became the site of many police and fireman's banquets. There were many fond memories here. In the barn there was a large carriage which was a beauty, a sleigh and a little sulky. Tom had a 1904 Chalmers automobile which I believe was bought from George Fredrick.

Tommy also had a twelve cylinder Lincoln car. Anyway the business was not profitable as we developed our own egg route. Another dividend to the town was the harvesting of the runaway chickens. Mrs. Synnott spent a fortune buying food for us. Once a month we had open house in the basement where we could dance, play pool and watch movies thanks to her. It seems to me that on VE day (Victory in Europe) Tom sold the chickens to either Rode or Demme. I remember the sadness we felt when we loaded them on the truck. On the subject of chickens, quite a few people in Wenonah had them, also pigeon lofts, and a house was not well appointed if it didn't have a grape arbor.

If you got what they called a contagious disease you would get a sign put on the house so informing the public. This was quite a prestigious addition to your house. It seems almost appalling the number of diseases that went around town including head lice (Mrs. Lapp, the school nurse would check you periodically), ring worm which the whole gang got supposedly from playing with Hop sons' dog Ziggy, the nastiest dog in town. Also mixed in with this were impetigo, pin

worms, chicken pox, measles, mumps, pink eye, flu, and a variety of ailments which are unknown today.

The Legion hall was a big center of activity for the kids. Friday night we would have movies which were of an earlier vintage with Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd. On Saturday you would go to Woodbury to the Rialto Theater. Our friendship with Joan Hill whose dad was the owner paid off with free passes, otherwise it would have cost 11 cents, however the train fare was ten cents. Sky King was our hero at the movies. A big occasion was when Earl threw up over the railing in the balcony. Also there were dances, strawberry festivals, Legion covered dish suppers, plays and a super drum and bugle corps run by Les Webb. They were all World War I veterans and they were looked at as the kids today view the Vietnam veterans. Doctor Black was in the Spanish-American War.

The train played a big part in the life of the community, the big thrill being the first trip to Philadelphia without your parents. The electric trains had a third rail which was a fascination to the kids. Every year in school a representative of the railroad would give a talk to the kids about the power in the rail, stating there was more electric in this than in the electric chair in Trenton. Smart little kid Earl Cox called him a liar which sent him to Miss Tonkin for dismissal from school. Practically every boy carried a penny in his pocket which was squashed by the wheels of the steam locomotive.

Included in the treasures you carried was tar to chew on out of the street and the white paste that was in cloak room in each class. (I often wondered why they called it a cloak room) and marbles. The marble matches were held in front of the American Store. Mrs. Wentzell wouldn't allow us in front of their store. She was awesome to say the least. If you were really good you went to Wildwood to the marble tournament. I think Donny Rowland

went one year. Mrs. Wentzell had a goldfish pond out front of the grocery store which was a fascination to us. We would throw stones at the fish. One day she hit Earl Cox so hard with the broom that he went in the pond head first. Louis Fink, the brains of the outfit informed her that we were going to sue her so he also went in the pond. Next door Miss Wilan had penny candy in big glass jars. She would always check your hands for cleanliness before you would reach in but would be very kind and say Earl let me get the candy for you. She also sold spools of thread. But the greatest of all stores was Foster Mullins drug store on the corner where Duffield Realty is today. Before him was Doc. Sheisser who I remember had a goatee. Foster's store had an old fashioned fountain made out of marble and ice cream chairs with matching tables. A coke was a nickel, a soda a quarter and he dished out ice cream. Foster had a Ford Phaeton automobile. A thrill to us was when he would race through town and clear all four tires off the road at the railroad crossing. Bill Scank, the colored man from parts unknown, worked for him. The last time Foster saw him was when he was entrusted to make a deposit at the bank in Woodbury.

We spent a lot of time in the park. One section up in the front we called bums paradise where we sat. Walter Zigwolf was the state policeman from the Mantua Barracks; he worked along with a man named Montgomery. Zickwolf was like a god to us, he wore leather boots and gloves and rode on a motorcycle. When he would drive through town we would watch with awe. He would always gun the motor when he passed us.

On Sunday there was a regular list of taboos, one being mowing your lawn, playing baseball and even fishing. Sunday was truly the Sabbath. The churches had morning and evening services, also one on Wednesday night. This could have been because of the beginning of the war. Sunday was the

day for visiting. I don't remember Rev. Gage unfortunately but through the scouts Rev. Taylor and Rev. Mervin Campbell became good friends. Our scout meetings were Friday night in the Presbyterian Church basement, this was troop 31. This was an active organization. Then the explorer scout unit formed and the architect Dick Erskine gave us the building behind his house to use. I wasn't a charter member by two years but Frank Eggert was, also Bob Sundt who later in life moved the London Bridge to Arizona. On Saturdays once a month during the war we would go around on the borough truck picking up what was called salvage. One item was cans of cooking grease. I never could figure what this was used for.

A big event in Wenonah was the washout of the culvert in the south end of town. Labor Day weekend we had a record breaking storm. All railroad travel stopped at Wenonah because of the washout. They had a shuttle bus at Wenonah station which took the commuters to Sewell to get back on the train. Equipment arrived to erect the trestle including a crew of laborers. The work train was on the railroad siding across from the present post office. We spent hours watching the construction and out of this there was an outbreak of swearing among the kids at the school. Miss Tonkin took harsh action by expelling several of the students. I can remember all day and night you could hear the steam pile driver.

Radio programs had great importance to us. The highlight of the day was Jack Armstrong, the all American boy. We all sent in a box top and twenty five cents to get the secret decoding ring. At the end of each program they had a secret message to be decoded.

Earl Cox punched Brud Sundt in the face and to the day when Brud operated on the President of the United States, Ronald Regan, he wore the scar on his forehead of the imprint of Earl's

decoding ring. Another favorite program was the Shadow on Sunday night at seven. We were listening to the Shadow when we heard that Pearl Harbor was bombed.

A favorite place to sled was at Farr's house. We would start at the steps of the house and go down the drive and past the little pond into the woods. Also we would sled on the hill at the cemetery. Unfortunately the Lewis boy got run over by a bus there while sledding. Most people remember ice skating at Warners' and Little Lake which was a big community affair. However on our side of the tracks we used Synnot's pond. It was really two ponds and the upper one ended up in a stream which went up around the area of Jack Sheppard's house. We would take hot dogs and marshmallows to cook over the bonfire. Each night at eight o'clock the fire whistle would blow. This was sort of an unofficial curfew and at our house you had it if you weren't home.

May Veach was the postmistress and also an ardent democrat. It was a terrible affront to the good republicans in the town to walk in and face the huge picture of FDR on the wall. She even smoked cigarettes in a holder like President Roosevelt. Meade Glading was before her but he took a trip to the Federal penitentiary for absconding with funds. May Veach helped us kids with our stamp collections and she was a good friend. Mr. Carr had a mule and he would go around town and plow the sidewalks. A big thrill was to ride on the triangular wooden plow. We would take turns.

Mr. Napper ran the water works down at the lake. When he filled up the standpipe he would watch the top of the standpipe to see it overflow and then he would stop pumping. Sometimes he would get preoccupied with something else and the standpipe would overflow and if there was a wind it would be like a rain storm in the school play ground - this was one of our small thrills.

We all went to school on a bike. It would be a demeaning experience to have your parents take you to school unless it was to get you back after being suspended. Discipline was no problem in school; teachers were highly respected and were put on the same plane as your parents. Punishment was to be put in the cloak room where we would eat the paste or worse be sent to Miss Tonkin. My teachers were first grade Miss Jorden and Miss Engler, second, Ann Woolman (Sellen), third Mrs. Tucker who had to go to the hospital and we had a class trip to visit her, fourth Miss Ella Jorden, fifth was tough Mrs. Reeves. Sixth, Mrs. Long, seventh Elsie Stratton, eighth Miss Shishoff, we worked on her farm planting onions. She was probably the strongest teacher ever to be at Wenonah Grammar School. She had muscles like a weight lifter which made her a good principle.

Dr. Peters was the head of the school board. Many dogs followed the kids to school so it was the site of many famous dog fights. Everybody went home for lunch. Arbor Day was a big occasion and May Day. We had a May pole in the park, you would be dressed up either like a robin or a blue bird and we would put on a play. In second grade we had a rhythm band, I played the triangle. We made a lot of things out of paper mache. Dave Knight was our manual training teacher and we all made pump lamps. At the beginning of the war we made plane models for the Air Force for plane identification. The girls had a sewing room. Class trips included going to Glassboro Normal School to the production of Peter Pan and visiting the windmill in Pitman. These are but a few memories of growing up in a beautiful town by an appreciative person, Milton Webb.

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 4 April 2009

APRIL MEETING TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED AT THE
TRAIN STATION

Dear Members,

Due to the renovation of the train station, we are tentatively planning to have our April 10 meeting there. It does not appear the contractor's work will prevent our use of the building for April. However, if there are any last minute changes, a note will be posted on the door of the train station and we will have our meeting at the Municipal Building.

Our May meeting will definitely be at the Municipal Building. And we will be having our year end picnic on June 12 at the Wenonah Lake.

Clean Communities Day will be May 2nd. If ten volunteers participate, we will qualify for the \$500 that is donated to our Society. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

The speaker for our April meeting is Stephanie Berenato. She will be discussing the program for the Founders' Day event on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, April 19. The theme of the event is "A Step Back in Time: A Celebration of Wenonah's Train Station." There will be a story time about trains for children, a presentation by Jack Sheppard, Sr., on the Trains and Origins of Wenonah, crafts for the children, model train displays of the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore

Line, which ran through Wenonah, train memorabilia, and live music. At our meeting, we will play the trivia contest that the children at Wenonah Elementary are currently doing. Prizes will be given for the most correct answers at our meeting. HINT: Read the new book about Wenonah's history by Marjorie Lentz. All answers are found in her book which can be purchased at the Wenonah Library.

Brenda Birkland

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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Vice Pres.	Brenda Birkland
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

WENONAH ADVANCE, THE FIRST NEWSPAPER OF WENONAH

Are any of you acquainted with Lester Shoemaker of Mullica Hill? He has several fragments of the Wenonah Advance newspaper, the first newspaper of Wenonah. They contain beautiful illustrations of Wenonah and points of interest in our area. I have contacted him and he is searching among his collections for the newspapers. If any of you know him, perhaps you could encourage him in his search. Please contact me if

you can help 415-0985 or
sbbirkland@verizon.net.

DO YOU HAVE THE HISTORY OF
WENONAH BY WILLIAM
CATTELL?

William C. Cattell was a prominent citizen of Wenonah and a surveyor-engineer. His home was built in 1902 at 200 West Mantua Avenue. His map of Wenonah is our earliest complete map. He also wrote a history of Wenonah with an account of lifestyles of that period. We are not sure what form the history is in, perhaps it is only a handwritten account, perhaps it is in book or pamphlet form. Jean Ehlers referred to his written history in the Historic House Register book. Howard Hendrickson also quoted from Mr. Cattell's written history in his article entitled "History of Wenonah." Sadly, we are unable to locate his written history and are wondering if you may possess it in your collection? We would love to have a copy for our museum and membership use. It may be useful for you to know that Jean Ehlers' maternal grandmother was a Cattell.

DO YOU HAVE A HISTORIC
PLAQUE AND AN OLD PHOTO OF
YOUR HOUSE?

Frank Eggert is making a display for homes with historic plaques. The display will include the plaque, an old, original photo of the home and a current photo. If you have an old photo, please contact Frank at 468-6465. He will make a copy and return it to you.

INTERVIEW WITH MARJORIE LENTZ ABOUT HER NEW BOOK "WENONAH"
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE WENONAH PUBLIC LIBRARY AND WHS MEETINGS

Why did you originally decide to write a book on Wenonah's history in 1976?

In planning for the Centennial celebration of our town, a committee realized there was no written history of Wenonah. I was part of that committee and I volunteered to write the book.

How did you write the first book?

I took two months off from work and totally dedicated myself to the task. Everyday, I would go to the Woodbury Courthouse and I read 100 years of the Constitution, the oldest newspaper available for our area. I brought my typewriter along everyday and I catalogued on index cards every article that had anything to do with Wenonah. I also used interviews with residents who had lived in Wenonah for many years, letters, diaries, minutes from innumerable organizations, and private conversations as source material for my book.

How did you write the second book?

First, I reread all the index cards in one lump sitting to get an overall picture of Wenonah's history. It would have been much easier to write a book with chapters labeled "The History of the Wenonah Fire Company" or the "History of the Wenonah Military Academy." But I wanted to write a book that described the history of Wenonah as it evolved so you could feel what it would be like to live in a particular period.

Second, I used new source materials such as letters, diaries etc. so the second book contains new information that was not in the first book. Also, I went back and corrected any errors that were found in the first book.

As for both the first and second book, I made sure I included little details, ones that are not necessarily of historic importance but ones that give you a feel for what it was like to live in a

period of time. For instance, Jennie Fox told me a story that when she was growing up in town, the children would follow the ice wagon around town so they could catch slivers of ice when the ice man was cutting it. There's another funny story about the boys removing the burs from the wagons in front of the Methodist church. These stories tell you what the children were doing at different periods of time.

I understand Jack Sheppard, Sr. helped you with the second book. How did you work together?

Really, the second book would not have been possible without Jack's help. He gave advice, used his computer skills and provided written material for the book, photos, and emphasized the importance of accuracy. He also wrote the afterword of the book which documents more recent history of our town.

What was one of your greatest challenges in writing the book?

Because it is a history book, it was difficult to sometimes determine the accuracy of stories, even those found in newspaper articles. Sifting through stories and written material to determine their accuracy led me down some interesting investigative paths. For instance, an oral history existed that claimed the mansion torn down by Mr. Farr where he built the Wenonah Public Library was a replica of the Hollybush mansion in Glassboro. But upon further investigation, including using the only known photograph of the mansion, which is an aerial shot, revealed they were not exact replicas, not even close. I also visited the Hollybush mansion and had lunch with the President's wife to familiarize myself with its layout.

When you were conducting research for your books, did you discover anything that surprised you?

All the prominent men of Wenonah, Synnott, Farr, Comey, Greene, and Bailey were very religious and integral to the churches here in Wenonah. I read once that Mr. Comey had a Bible class of 70 people in his boat house. George Bailey was internationally known for his Sunday School Association work. Their dedication to their faith was inspiring to me.

I also thought it was interesting how even though many of these men were from Philadelphia and quite wealthy, they seemed to happily come along with the farmers and locals who also lived in this area. George Bailey stated “we are all one happy family.” I find that remarkable.

If you could go back in time, what period of Wenonah’s history would you like to live in?

I would like to live during the period of the Wenonah Military Academy. There was so much activity in town during this time period. There were drills and parades, athletic events and dances, concerts and lectures.

What one message from your book would you like to convey to the people of Wenonah, both young and old?

The message I would like to convey is contained in my foreword. There are so many people in this town and we all have talents and skills to share for the good of our community. The original purpose of the written history, found among almost discarded papers, states it clearly “The purpose would be to share some of the enthusiasm, the love of the natural resources, the wisdom and the cultural background of the early fathers (and mothers) who dreamed of the kind of town they would want to live in themselves.”

This concludes my interview with Marjorie Lentz. If you have ideas for future newsletters, any old newspaper clippings or photos that you believe would be of interest to our membership, I would welcome your ideas. Please contact me at sbbirkland@verizon.net or 415-0985. You may also contact us at WHS, PO Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090.

Brenda Birkland

DID YOU KNOW:

The grist mill at Wenonah Lake was started by Abraham Dilks before the Revolutionary War.

Stephen Greene, owner of the Wenonah Inn, had a golf course laid out extending from the present Cedar Avenue ball field to the Comey Lake area in 1900.

The first improvements to the streets of Wenonah were laying down cinders from the West Jersey Railroad and oyster shells brought in from Port Norris.

The original street plan for Wenonah was created by William Fredrick Allen, Chief Engineer of the West Jersey Railroad, and father of Standard Time.

Mantua Avenue was a gravel street until 1925.

The street lights in Wenonah were gas until the 1920s.

There were 14 veterans of the Civil War living in Wenonah at the turn of the century.

Compiled by Milton Webb, October 30, 1997

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 5 May 2009

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA CAPELLI

Dear Members,

Spring is here and our town is beautiful with new flowers and plantings and "How about that Train Station!" Yes, our beloved Wenonah Train Station is getting the much needed restoration and big thanks to everyone involved in that project, and there are many! I especially want to mention a recent donation for the Train Station from Eugene Cowell III in honor of his late aunt (former WHS member) Connie Cowell. This very generous donation will certainly be of great help to us in making special additions to our Train Station.

Founders Day was a huge success this year and also included many hard working volunteers. The Train Station was celebrated and everyone enjoyed a beautiful day of learning and great community socialization. Thanks again to all who participated.

We are continuing to make great progress with some new ideas for our Society. This summer we hope to have ideas for new sale items, a beginning of a website that will be included as a link to the Borough's website, new programs, and perhaps a new committee or two, so let's continue to encourage new members to join us. Also of note, we want to encourage anyone who has memorabilia. We would graciously accept anything of historic value regarding Wenonah. Just recently, I received a 1920's Wenonah Military Academy yearbook from Richard Paulus whose father attended the academy! It's in pretty rough

condition but it is a super donation for our museum.

This Friday, we will have the pleasure of having Jeanne Brody as our guest speaker. She is an adjunct professor at Villanova and St. Joseph's University where she teaches Art History. She is going to speak about History through Prints, and how printmaking has been used historically to spread ideas, propaganda, and counter-government ideas.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

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Secretary	Vicki McCall
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Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

If anyone has old prints or even old cartoons or political imagery she would be glad to reference them. Please feel free to bring your old prints for sharing!

Also of note, don't forget our June Picnic is at the Wenonah Lake...no bathing suits yet please!! See Pat Sole to sign up to make your favorite dish!

I hope to see you all Friday! And don't forget we are meeting at the Municipal Building!

Barb Capelli

GLOUCESTER DEMOCRAT APRIL 20, 1893

The erection of the Wenonah Inn was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad are erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

GLOUCESTER DEMOCRAT DECEMBER 7 1893

The real beauty of our little station is more highly appreciated these cold wintry months. To the early birds especially, the bright cheery waiting room presents a most attractive appearance. The building of the station master's house in connection with the office is a great improvement also making it not only more convenient for this official, but giving him a better opportunity of fulfilling the duties of his position.

STATION REHAB PROGRESS

As many of you have no doubt noted while driving by, the station is a mess. Don't despair, it will get better, just wait a little while. The interior is stripped down to the bare plaster and painting is about to commence. Outside the old overgrown trees and shrubs have been removed and a brick plaza with plantings is about to be created. We are now trying to determine a color scheme for the exterior and the architect Margaret Westfield is trying to identify the original colors from when new in 1893. When finished our much used building should be useful for another generation or two.

INTERVIEW WITH JACK SHEPPARD, SR., ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE PUBLICATION OF MARJORIE LENTZ'S NEW BOOK "WENONAH"

Marjorie stated her new book would not have been possible without you. What type of assistance did you provide?

Marjorie is too modest. I mainly provided technical assistance with word processing and photos and an index for the new book which was lacking in the original. I encouraged her to write the second book since she had additional material that wasn't included in her first book. It was enjoyable working with Marjorie and comparing notes on Wenonah history.

How did you become so interested in Wenonah's history?

In 1982, Jane Ramsey, Marjorie Lentz, Jack and Jean Ehlers and others came to council and asked permission to create an archives committee. Out of this committee, the Wenonah Historical Society was formed. While planning for the 1976 bicentennial celebration Marjorie was asked to write a book about the town's origins. Her book made me realize how little I knew about the early days of Wenonah. I was amazed how interesting our history is.

If you could go back in time, what period of Wenonah's history would you like to live in?

I would like to visit any period of time prior to 2001. I would love to sit on the porch of the Wenonah House in 1872 and watch the guests arriving from Philadelphia. I would like to be at Noblitts Hall and watch the beginnings of the first Wenonah School. I would love to attend the opening day of our train station built in 1893 and certainly all the activity surrounding the Wenonah Military Academy would be thrilling to watch.

Some people new to town may not realize you served as Mayor of Wenonah for 24 years, which is the longest time any single Mayor has served. In your lifetime as a Wenonah resident, what have been your fondest memories?

My fondest memories are related to my children and their activities, and to the many

benefits of living in a small town and having involvement and friendships with people. We are a close knit community and there are many clubs and organizations for one to be involved in such as the Lions Club, Athletic Association, the Home and School, Wenonah Swim Club and Warner's Lake, the Fire Company. Volunteerism really shines in a small town. The push by Governor Corzine to merge services among municipalities is concerning to me as I believe our quality of services will decline and we could lose our small town identity.

You also wrote a book with highlights from Borough Council minutes. What was the genesis of that book?

Thomas Synnott III, grandson of one of Wenonah's original residents, found in the Synnott mansion old borough records dating to 1871, the time of Wenonah's creation. He invited me to visit his home to view those records. I spent many Sunday afternoons reviewing the material, ultimately using much of the information in a book as a fundraiser for the Historical Society.

While reading the old minutes, did you discover anything about the town that surprised you?

I was surprised that the Borough government had little contact with the Wenonah Military Academy. There was virtually nothing in the records about the relationship of the borough to the Academy. After 1935 when the Academy was closed, the minutes did mention that our building inspector Tom Carlson determined the building to be a fire hazard and recommended it be demolished. At the time, the Academy was still owned by the Estate of Stephen Greene, the entity that owned it. There is no information about the Borough contacting the Greene Estate before it was town down.

I was also surprised about the huge part the West Jersey Railroad Company (WJRC) played in founding the town. In 1861 the narrow-gauge tracks that ended in Mantua were straightened, replaced with the more universal standard gauge

tracks and extended to Glassboro. WJRC Vice President William Sewell and his Chief Engineer William Allen apparently seeing the beauty of the area decided a town at this location would increase ridership for the rail company. They convinced investors of the benefits, created the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to do the selling, built a hotel and a town was born.

While you were reviewing the minutes, I understand you found the deed for the train station land that allowed you and council to stop the sale of the train station to a private party in 1973. Tell me about the timing of this.

In 1973 I learned the Pennsylvania-Reading railroad company had sold our train station to a private party. I don't know whether it was pure coincidence or just plain good luck but at almost the same time while viewing the old Synnot records I found a deed noting the land given to the railroad by the Borough Commissioners was granted with a condition: the land was to be used "for passenger station purposes only." Borough Council contested the sale in Superior Court and the land reverted to Borough ownership. Council then purchased the building for \$3,000.

Volunteers refurbished the train station for use as a Community Center for Wenonah citizens. What was the refurbishment project like?

The project was so much fun. Kids, parents and grandparents all worked together on this project. Dave Miller headed a committee of volunteers and we had people in town donate their skills, time and money. Local professionals also volunteered. We repaired plaster, put on a new roof, planted and painted. We even had T-shirts with the slogan "I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD." This project was another great example of small town living and volunteerism.

As we sit here looking at the current renovation of the train station, how does that make you feel?

Wenonah is one of the few towns along the track that has successfully maintained its historic

train station for community use. It is truly an accomplishment and I am so pleased to see its current renovation underway. I am extremely grateful to former Borough Administrator Dawn Human for her success in acquiring this grant and to Dave Kreck for all his expert efforts as Borough Engineer to ensure satisfactory completion.

What do you feel was your most significant achievement while Mayor?

Because Wenonah is such a small town I felt it was important to be connected to the region outside the town to ensure our voice was heard. When the county wanted to create a county-wide sewer system I volunteered to spearhead the project mainly to assure Wenonah wasn't damaged by the process. The project took four years and involved the 13 most populated communities in the county. As a result we were able to close our sewage treatment plant that existed at what is now Lisle Field, and the previously frequent Oak Valley sewage plant overflows no longer affect Wenonah Lake.

What one message would you like to convey to the people of Wenonah, both young and old?

Wenonah is a wonderful place to live and in which to raise a family but its future well-being could be in jeopardy if plans to place passenger service back on the tracks through Wenonah are carried forward. Such a project would be devastating from a construction standpoint. Whether placed below grade in a pit or raised high in the air the increased width of the right-of-way would severely impact our new borough hall or the train station or both. The resulting barrier of pit or elevated structure would be an eyesore that would devalue a significant amount of our beautiful housing stock. With no room for parking space we would not even have access to the train but would have to drive to a "park & ride" facility somewhere else in the region. Suffice it to say the most recent professional study of the proposal resulted in a recommendation against putting trains back on these ill-suited old tracks.

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 6 June 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE
PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As our program for the year comes to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their work throughout this past year. Our organization relies on you and we could not operate without your many contributions. For fear of forgetting someone, we will not try to name everyone but know we appreciate what you do! As we think back over the year, there are two accomplishments we are especially proud of and want to highlight: we are so excited to have the new Wenonah book published and we are so pleased to see the train station being rehabilitated!

We wish you a very special summer filled with relaxation and fun activities but also good times with family and friends. If over the summer you have ideas for new programs or activities, we would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact one of the officers.

We hope you can join us for the picnic at Wenonah Lake on Friday, June 12, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact us if you'd like to come. We are asking everyone to bring an item to share for eight.

Again, have a great summer!

Brenda Birkland and Barb Capelli

STATION REHAB PROGRESS

For various reasons, it does not appear the train station will be complete by July 4th. Many of the steel columns that hold the roof of the platform were almost completely rusted through at the base. It is amazing the roof had not collapsed. The plan is to weld new steel patches in these areas rather than replacing the entire column, which is cost prohibitive.

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The exterior color selection was made and it was decided to go with the original color scheme in 1893 as found by architect Margaret Westfield. The colors will be a dark green on the trim and doors and a light grey/green on the stucco.

The brick pavers for the plaza will be installed soon and this should soften the appearance of the concrete area recently poured.

There are also shrubbery beds planned in several rectangular areas and this will soften the appearance of the hardscaping. You may ask why so much hardscaping? The Borough plans to relocate the annual Christmas tree lighting from the park to the station plaza and to use the plaza for future community events as well.

GLOUCESTER DEMOCRAT
APRIL 20, 1893

The erection of the Wenonah Inn was one of the conditions under which the West Jersey railroad are erecting a handsome railroad station on the east side of the tracks. The new building is constructed of rough-faced Eastern hydraulic brick, which gives it the appearance of a finely chizzled [sic] stone structure.

GLOUCESTER DEMOCRAT
DECEMBER 7, 1893

The real beauty of our little station is more highly appreciated these cold wintry months. To the early birds especially, the bright cheery waiting room presents a most attractive appearance. The building of the station master's house in connection with the office is a great improvement also making it not only more convenient for this official, but giving him a better opportunity of fulfilling the duties of his position.

generation or two.

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 8 November 2009

TRAIN STATION UPDATE

The train station/Community Center restoration project is finished at last and we have a green light from engineer Dave Kreck and architect Margaret Westfield to start using the building for meetings. We have received nothing yet from Borough Council. I have to say it looks great both inside and out (except for the kitchen) and should continue to benefit Wenonah far into the future. However there is a lot of work needing to be performed before that can happen. Most of the furniture that stayed in the building such as the meeting tables, solid leg chairs, the long fold-up tables, etc. are dusty and dirty requiring a wash and wipe before they can be used. All of the folding chairs used for meetings are in the storage pod in the parking lot. Unfortunately they are behind everything else. That is also where the clocks, the huge wall hanging with the eagle and the rest of the plaques and photographs are stored.

The only restoration performed in the kitchen is new linoleum floor covering. The kitchen is extremely dirty needing a scrubbing before it can be used. The counter-top is badly beat up and needs to be replaced. What we need quickly is a survey and list of tasks needing to be done. We will then seek volunteers for

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a few hours of work. I will check with Borough officials to see if there is any possibility of assistance with moving heavy material and with kitchen improvement. Jack Sheppard Sr.

CHRISTMAS PARTY REGISTRATION DUE AT NOVEMBER MEETING

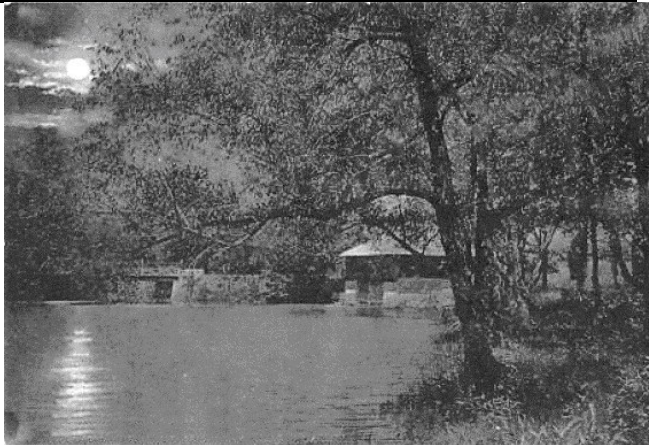
Our annual Christmas party is December 11 at the train

station. and will be catered by Telford Inn. The menu is turkey, dressing and all the accompaniments. The cost is \$20 a person and needs to be paid at the November meeting to reserve your spot. If you can't make it to the meeting, please give Pat Sole a call and drop your check off to her no later no Monday, November 16. We will also have our usual polly anna exchange. If you'd like to participate, please bring your unwrapped gift costing around \$10. The time for the party is 5:00 p.m. for greeting and 6:00 p.m. for dinner. Thank you to Pat Sole for arranging.

TRAIN PRESENTATION AT OUR NEXT MEETING

At our November meeting, Lou McCall will present information about the Wenonah Train Station and recap his presentation from this past Founders' Day. There may be a few other surprises related to the train station so we hope to see you at our newly restored train station. Brenda Birkland

**"THINGS THAT AREN'T HERE ANYMORE"
WHAT LAKE WAS IT? WHERE WAS IT?**



This photograph is a postcard entitled "Moonlight on Lake Cornelia, Wenonah, NJ." The lake was also known as Greene's Lake and it was located at the end of South Clinton Avenue. It was part of the Stephen Greene estate and included a carriage road over the dam with a Japanese designed bridge and a two story boat house, both visible in the postcard above. Why was it called "Lake Cornelia?" Stephen Greene's caretaker, John Truncer, had a wife named Cornelia and this is the origin of the name. Stephen Greene's estate included his residence and multiple dwellings for his caretakers, as well as a barn and stables occupying a block long complex on S. Clinton Avenue. He also built a gazebo for his Dutch garden and a peacock house with a brick wall mortared with flecks of oyster shells bordering his peacock run (portions of the brick wall still exist). A Japanese gardener cared for the gardens and his greenhouses. Arbored walks from his rose gardens led to a glen known as the Hermitage. Stephen Greene was a wealthy Philadelphian who made his fortune in the printing industry. He played a great part in the development of Wenonah. His involvement in the purchase of the Wenonah Hotel in 1892, which became the Wenonah Military Academy, probably assisted the town in surviving the great depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

**WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO
MAY 1909 (CONT.)**

At the rate our City Fathers are spending money, our tax rate will be \$2.50 next year. O, never mind it is not their money. (There was a feeling that a dozen axes and two hose carts afforded adequate fire protection for the community.)

While swimming yesterday in Synnott's Pond, Arthur Holeton dove and struck his arm on the bottom and broke it. Dr. Stout was called and his arm was set. (He was killed in World War 1 and our local Legion Post 192 is named after him.)

Architect Charles Peddle of Woodbury awarded the contract for the stable and garage for Edward Grosscup to John L. Drummer. It will cost \$3,500. (This is the former Oscar Redrow-Harris Cotton property. Hopefully the new owner will restore this historically significant structure.)

Miss Henrietta Comey and Miss Fanonda Lorence entertained at cards yesterday followed by a luncheon at Comey's boat house.

The boat "Wenonah" was launched here yesterday morning by Porch Brothers, who built it. The craft was christened by Mrs. E. Porch of Mantua. (The "Wenonah" was a canoe.)

Housel and Bird, the Academy's star runners, covered themselves with glory, winning their races at Rutgers College meet at New Brunswick on Saturday and winning at the Boy's Club A.A.U. meet yesterday.

Woodbury Daily Times

**WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 1909**

Fair in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, November 4th Fancywork, groceries, candy, homemade bread and cake. Supper 35 cents.

Wonder whom the two young ladies were who got bewildered on the road between Cooper's Hill and Wenonah.

The River and Harbor Committee met at Hohlweg's Hotel (now Telford Inn) yesterday to determine whether to have the Mantua Creek dug out. Several appeared before the committee urging the creek be opened up to the Wenonah Bridge.

A workman in the employ of the gas company was knocked unconscious here yesterday by the bursting of a gas pipe. He was taken home in serious condition. No one would have thought there was so much force in the pipes.

In order to make an equitable charge for water to all customers, the Wenonah Water Company will place water meters on the premises of all water takers. The installing of the meters will be done during the present month and the meter rates will commence January 1st, 1910.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union held their business meeting and finding out that they had money immediately proceeded to spend it. It was voted to offer a prize of \$5.00 to the Wenonah Military Academy and \$5.00 to our public school for the best scientific temperance essay.

Bryn Athyn and Wenonah Military Academy played a tie game on Bryn Athyn grounds Saturday, neither team being able to score. The game was fast and clean throughout.

Call at the public library and look over the latest books. (The library was in the former Presbyterian Church Chapel which was moved from North Clinton Avenue to West Mantua Avenue in the first block.)

The Wenonah Mutual Improvement Association will place three carloads of manure on the lawn of the park. (This is one way to get people's attention to the park.)

There was a fire last night at the M.E. parsonage on Willow Street, and but for its timely discovery the parsonage would have been burned down. Miss Cornelia Truncer saw a light in the third story of the building and concluded at once that there was something wrong. She went to the parsonage and asked if there was anyone in the third floor with a lamp. She was told there was not, and upon investigation it was found that a box of papers was on fire. A bucket brigade was formed and the blaze was soon subdued. The Fire Company did not go into service. Just how the fire started is a mystery, but it might be the old story of mice and matches. Pastor Senser worked like a beaver in carrying buckets of water up the stairs and he thinks that his heart is all right or he could never have stood it.

Mr. Thomas W. Synnott will lead the prayer meeting this evening at the Memorial Presbyterian Church. (Mr. Synnott was one of the founders of the town and at this period had land holdings of almost one fourth of the total area of the town.)

Lost, strayed or stolen - one black and white hound dog, black face. Answers to the name "Doc" John T. Moore

The question, which is puzzling our gunners, is where to gun on Monday, when the rabbit season opens. In almost every direction one looks in the country his eyes behold a notice, which forbids gunning on the premises.

An exciting runaway occurred here last evening. A farmer drove into town to meet the train, and his horse was frightened and ran up the street east of the depot and down the embankment north of the station where it meet an express train and turned off the track at the flag house completely circling the depot. No damage was done, but how the horse missed the third rail is a mystery. It also had a narrow escape from the express train.

The machine pipeline digger of the Pitman Gas Company is digging a trench from the Wenonah Bridge to Woodbury Heights. This will give gas to all the farmers along the line.

Quite a number of our young matrons have enrolled themselves as students in the "Domestic Science Class" recently organized.

Mrs. McGill's house looks well with its new coat of paint. (N.E. corner of Clinton and Cherry Streets -The Thompson's house, formerly the Magarelli's home.)

Our Improvement Association has two classes of members, those who contribute money and those who contribute advice as to how it should be spent. These latter are mostly knockers and are a hindrance to the growth of the town.

Woodbury Heights is improving rapidly notwithstanding its lack of electric lights, sewer, artesian water, library, fire company, and church and school facilities such as Wenonah has.

A little girl visiting barber Fisher's was badly cut about the head Saturday by a flowerpot. The flowerpot was in the second story window and fell on the little girls head.

We see the hurdles have disappeared in the park and hope they will not come back. (People had been making their own paths through the park.)

Woodbury Daily Times

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 9 December 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WHS OFFICERS

The WHS officers would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. As we look forward to 2010, our thoughts and prayers go out to our troops who so bravely serve our great country.

We also want to thank everyone for the time and effort they dedicated this past year in helping the Wenonah Historical Society. At this time, we would be remiss if we did not specifically mention the dedication and persistence of Jack Sheppard Sr. in overseeing the train station restoration project. His insights and hard work are a great asset to our organization and we deeply appreciate the many hours he dedicated to the project. Please be sure to walk by the newly restored train station. The kiosk will be undergoing some improvements as a Lions Club project. It is wonderful to have this historic landmark available for all of us to enjoy.

Barbara, Brenda, Vicki and Carol

TRAIN STATION COMPLETE – REQUEST FOR HISTORICAL ITEMS ABOUT WENONAH

The train station restoration is complete and we can resume the creation of the

“Wenonah Museum.” For those who haven’t visited the building, there are visible changes inside including new paint and restoration of the interior woodwork, and best of all, a new carpet. There were many beneficial repairs both inside and out. One thing we learned was that the passenger platform roof was in danger of collapse due to the supporting wrought iron

future we will commence requesting contributions of historic artifacts, photos, writings, and news articles, anything having to do with Wenonah history. So search your attics, basements and garages, and if you have anything of interest concerning Wenonah please let us know so we can provide a place for it.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

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columns being almost completely eaten away by corrosion. Also of great benefit, the gable-end stucco and “half-timbering” woodwork has been fully repaired and restored to weather-tight condition. The badly deteriorated storm sashes have been replaced and many of the doors adjusted to work properly. The brickwork has been cleaned and repointed. All in all the building is now in sound condition and can be expected to serve Wenonah for many more years. In the not too distant

FRIENDS OF WENONAH TRAIN STATION

At our last meeting, we voted to approve Charlie Horan and Barbara Conway as chairpersons for a committee called the “Friends of Wenonah Train Station.” Charlie and Barbara will spearhead continued improvements to the building as well as ensure its upkeep by the organizations using the train station. Any suggestions may be forwarded to them or any of the WHS officers. We welcome your comments.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members since September: Marcy Ireland, John and Laura Murphy, Nicole Odenbrett, Anna Marie Goldy, Hugh Luck, and Marie and Chris Lanzalotti.

**WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 1909**

The progress and enterprise of this place demand greater conveniences and facilities in the news line, and the management of the Times has decided to meet this demand, and will begin today serving the readers by carriers, instead of through the mail. Arrangements have been made to have all the latest news of the place published and our people will appreciate the effort. (Previous to this there was no Wenonah column, therefore our publication was "Wenonah 90 years ago.")

F. J. Savage is taking orders for Christmas trees, greens, etc.

Our people are very much pleased with the extra noon mail lately put on. (The mail was sorted and delivered on the railroad.)

The thermometer registered 23 degrees this morning. This kind of weather will soon make skating good. Twelve more days and we will have to write 1910.

The "Something New Under the Sun" laundry runs a wagon through here now.

Lowell Ridgeway with Turner and McCormick had the misfortune to burst a finger on his right hand this morning while handling a barrel of apples. It pains him very much.

The question of safety gates or a watchman all year round at the railroad crossing on Mantua Avenue is being agitated again. It is believed the company will grant the request of the citizens. (There was a watchman during the summer months when the Cape May Flier would go through town at sixty miles per hour.) James B. Robenson, of this place, has been granted an original pension of \$6 a month.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE BUT YOU HAD BETTER HURRY AND LEAVE YOUR ORDER FOR A TURKEY WITH Turner & McCormick, Wenonah (Many years later a similar sign read "now is the time to talk turkey with Tony")

James Moore, near this place, had a homing pigeon to come home yesterday that had been away for a year.

It seems that the scarcity of barbers compels some of our young men to raise moustaches-they think.

H. S. Leap has a sale of his farming implements etc, today, previous to retiring from farming and taking up his residence in Mantua.

Numbers of Christmas shoppers are traveling city ward yet.

Operator Bossier has a very peculiar break in one of the depot windows to remind him how close a shave he had from a pebble picked up by an express some time ago and thrown violently against the window. A perfectly round hole was broken in the window. For a long time many thought it had been cut with a diamond by burglars. (He was the telegraph operator at the train depot.)

Our town is filling up with Christmas visitors.

Here we are. We now have our stock of Christmas goods in apples, oranges, dates, white grapes, bananas, fine layer raisins, citron, lemon and orange peel, finest Jersey celery, lettuce, spinach, and a variety of fresh confectionery-Richard J. Clark (This building is now Mary Kaye-3 East Mantua Avenue.)

A. DeSanno has made his son George a Christmas present of a handsome bicycle.

While the team of Ellison Turner was standing hitched in front of R. J. Clark's this morning, the horse became frightened, and in its struggle to free itself, broke both shafts from the wagon, Mr. Clark loaned Mr. Turner another wagon to get home.

The Christmas festival by the Presbyterian Sunday school, in Noblitt's Hall last night, was a decided success, and much credit is due the superintendent who furnished the entire entertainment. Prof. Hoy with his marionettes

greatly entertained the little folks and Mr. Herbert Lloyd with his solos and character sketches came in for a goodly share of the applause. The hall was densely packed and there was scarcely standing room. A feature of the program was the presentation of a handsome cane to the Superintendent Wilkins from his class by Ex-mayor Andrew W. Carey.

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**GROUCHO MARX
IN WENONAH IN 1934**

Remember the list of famous people who have visited Wenonah over the years in Marjorie Lentz's History of Wenonah book? I recently ran across an original source document describing Groucho Marx's visit to Wenonah. You will note his sister-in-law lived in town at 4 East Willow Street, now the home of Ann and Nick Godsey. I hope you'll enjoy this article from the Evening News, April 12, 1934. There are interesting historic parallels to our current economic recovery in the article.

**GROUCHO MARX DECLARES
CRANKY BANKERS A SURE SIGN
OF U.S. RECOVERY**
PATIENT ALWAYS CRANKY WHEN
RECOVERING, FAMED COMEDIAN SAYS;
SPENDS FEW DAYS WITH SISTER-IN-LAW
AT WENONAH HOME; WIFE AND
CHILDREN WITH HIM IN REST PERIOD
BEFORE NEW SHOW; ADMITS DISLIKE
FOR WORK

Wenonah, April 12 -This small, quiet residential town entertained royalty yesterday afternoon and last night and it seemed that fully half the population turned out to see him sign his name and to settle the age-old question: "Is that moustache real?"

The Person of royal lineage was none other than the President of Fredonia. In the event you're not a movie fan, this personage is Groucho Marx,

of the famed Marx Brothers of stage, screen and radio fame.

Marx, with his wife Ruth, and two children, Miriam, 6, and Arthur, 12, are visiting Mrs. Marx's sister Mrs. Lester Russell, of 4 East Willow Street. Or rather, they're there with practically everybody else in town - or at least so it seemed last night when interviewers arrived upon the scene.

The comedian talked of the stage, the screen and radio; discussed the depression, the recovery movement, the prospects of unknowns in the theatrical venture and revealed why the famed moustache was painted and not real.

Something To Laugh At

In discussing the depression, Marx said: "Without something to laugh at during the past two or three years, people would have committed suicide. It seems to me that comedy has a very definite place in the world today, as it always has, and that place is the stop-gap, or safety valve between a complete collapse of the nervous system and enjoyment of life."

"Tell me," pleaded an interviewer, "how do you try out your gags? On your wife?"

"Not any more," was the reply, as Groucho looked sidewise at Mrs. Marx, seated on a nearby davenport. "I once did, but I found out a paying audience was more responsive. Even a wife gets tired of a comedian's jokes.

"The best place and, to me, the only place to try out gags is on the stage. There you get instantaneous response."

Much In Luck

A youthful interviewer asked what the chances were for an unknown to break into the theatrical set-up. "How good is your luck?" Groucho asked.

"Getting anywhere in this business is about 25 percent ability and 75 percent luck. If you don't get the breaks, you'll stay in Uncle Tom's Cabin road shows for the rest of your life." He cited the instance of one film comedian of middle age who for many years played minor roles on the stage until finally given the role of a comic undertaker. The play was later filmed and he again got his

same role. It made him and today he is to be seen
in many pictures. (to be continued next month)