

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.

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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.

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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

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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"

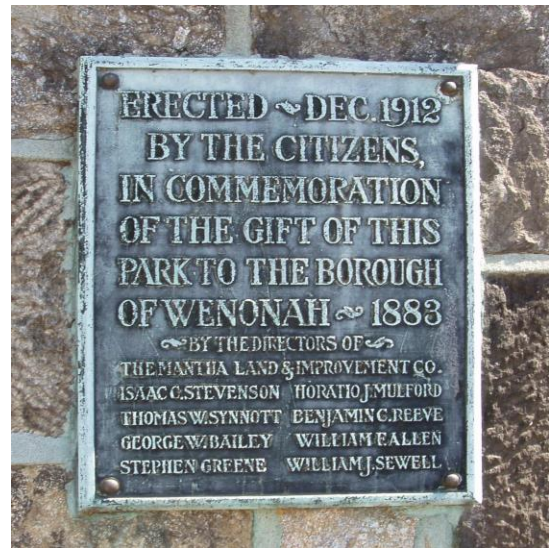
Editor comment: The walk referred to is the cross-walk through the Park shown below.



Photo March, 2006

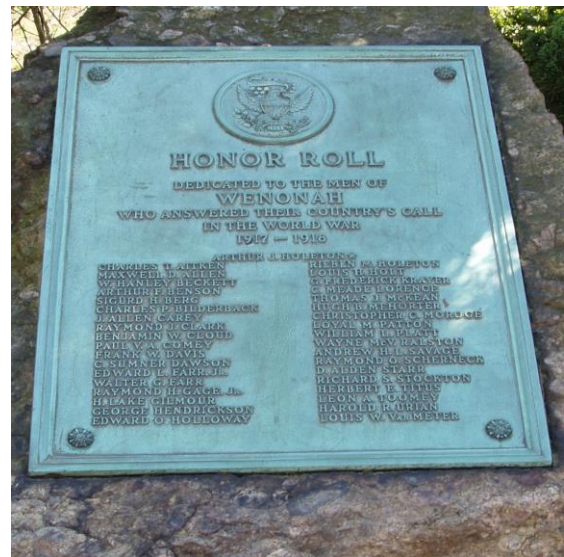
From the *Woodbury Times* Nov. 1912

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

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Jo Dominy
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Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

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

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.

WHS OFFICERS 2006

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Trustee	Lucy Schulz

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.

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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 course 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.

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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.

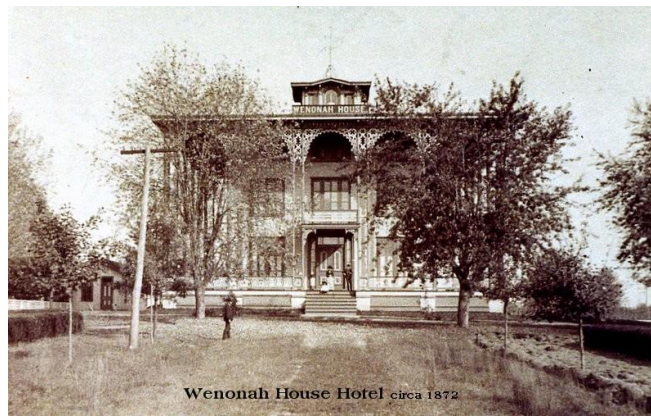
Constitution Newspaper Nov 29, 1871 Under the management of the skilful engineer of the West Jersey Railroad, Mr. W.F. Alien, this beautifully laid but village begins to assume shapes and proportions highly flattering to the West Jersey Railroad Company. Avenues have been opened, shade trees planted 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.

The Wenonah Inn Company, of which Stephen Greene, Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, Dr. Wm. Greene, Chas.

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.

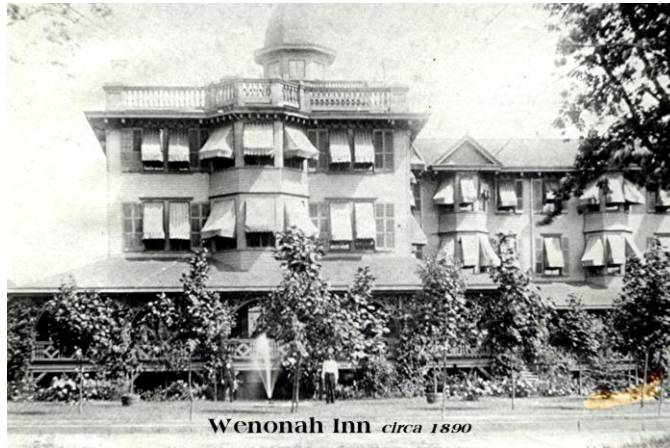
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Glouco Democrat July 6, 1891 It is reported on good authority that the "Wenonah House" formerly owned by Charles Middleton is now owned by a syndicate of three, viz: Stephen Green, T.W. Synnott and Dr. Geo. Bailey. Some think it will be converted into 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

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With permission of Eileen Caraker