

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4 April 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

This year is shaping up to be one of many accomplishments for the Historical Society. We continue to gain new members, many who are new to our historical town.

Our programs thus far have been geared to a slide show of Victor Anderson's 18 room, Victorian mansion, the Daniel Brown house, which was a treat for all who attended.

Our March Program, which was funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities, was titled "The Gibson Girl Friday meets The Victorian Lady". This was an excellent program providing a historical slice of life during the Victorian era. The program was so well received that we had to hold the meeting in the all purpose room at the elementary school.

Special thanks go out to all those members who helped make this night a success.

If you haven't seen our Victorian display in the front entrance of the elementary school you should make plans to stop by.

April 11th Meeting Program

This program for this month's meeting is titled "Preservation Problem shooting/ maintaining the Older House."

This topic will certainly be of interest to the many owners of

the beautiful older homes we are so proud of.

The Guest Speaker will be Margaret Westfield, owner of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants in Haddon Heights. Margaret has a Masters of Arts degree in Preservation History as well as a Degree in Architecture. Margaret worked for the New Jersey State Preservation office.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

President: *Rocco Doto*
Vice Pres. *Jack Sheppard Sr.*
Secretary *Eileen Caraker*
Treasurer *Carol Wiltsee*
Corr. Sec. *Betty MacLeod*
Trustee *Vicki McCall*
Trustee *Diane Magarelli*

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

She currently teaches in both the Burlington County College and Drew University's Historic Preservation Programs. Don't miss this presentation!

We continue to make strides in our Archival collection and its organization. Hopefully many of our postcards and photographs will be preserved properly and be readily available. If you have any historical items you might wish to donate please bring them to our next meeting.

ALERT!! ALERT!! ALERT!!

Please note the awful condition of our irreplaceable Community Center. The roofing, supporting lumber, exterior surfaces, windows and parts of the interior of the structure are in deplorable condition. Communicate your concerns to the Mayor and Council that we are greatly concerned about the situation and ask immediate assistance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Andrew W. Carey was one of several men instrumental in founding our town. He served as a member of the original Borough Commission commencing in 1883 and was Mayor during 1897, 1898. Shown below is a model sailing ship that he hand-crafted He died in 1905.



His son James W. Carey served on Borough Council from 1900 through 1908. He was the father of J. Allen Carey who served on our Board of Assessors, Registrar of Vital Statistics and as Borough Clerk 1962 through 1967. He died July 8, 1978.

HISTORY OF THE WENONAH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

(The following history is "borrowed" from a booklet that was part of the Milton Webb collection of documents provided to us by his brother Bernard after Milton's death)

"The Wenonah A.A. came into being in the Spring of 1965. The reason for the formation of the A.A. was the need for additional recreation programs for the youth of Wenonah under one organization.

The following men were instrumental in its formation: Lou Stahl, Charles Lake, Jack Wiler, Ray Condell, Bob Root, and Charles Wingate.

Prior to the formation of the A.A. we were represented in the Gloucester County Tri-League by a Babe Ruth team and a Pony team, which were then sponsored by service organizations such as American Legion and Lions Clubs at quite an expense to these organizations.

The summer of '65 the A.A. added another team, then called the Minors (Midgets). Our first annual banquet was held that year in the Presbyterian Church, at which time the first of many League trophies was presented to our championship Pony team. It is interesting to note that two members of that team are still continuing their baseball careers in college: Barry Root and Gary Condell. Also still participating from our first Minor team is Bob Schweigart. Others from the original group of boys have come back to aid the A.A. from a coaching position. They are Herb Danner, Joe Cipriano, and Sonny Mecholsky.

The year 1966 was probably the most important year in terms of growth. In one year we increased our program from the original Babe Ruth, Pony, and Midget teams to a total

of eight teams. Three Minor teams were added and a girls' program was put under way with the formation of two softball teams. This year was important also in the expansion of our athletic facilities. The use of the Tall Pines field was obtained and put into playing condition, thanks to many friends of the A.A. Considerable hard work was contributed by the members, who were then operating on a very limited budget. The Snack Bar had its inception that summer, thanks to the generosity of Jim Henry, and the hard work of Ray Condell, Al Mecholsky, George Anderson, and Dave Miller.

It should be noted and underscored here that much of the physical work that has been done to increase our facilities, such as backstops, fences, dugouts, snack bar, and lighting has been done only through the hard work and generous donations of time by many men. Special thanks should go to Ray Condell and Al Mecholsky. These men gave more than their fair share and the A.A. will be forever in their debt.

From these modest beginnings the A.A. has grown to include many more teams, which will participate in either inter-town or in-town leagues:

During these years of growth many improvements were made to our physical facilities, including the construction of an outdoor basketball court, baseball dugouts, and backstops. The existing facilities also required constant maintenance. (In the number of fields) we are in deep trouble, as evidenced by the number of teams we have as compared to the number of fields (3), two of which do not belong to either the Borough of Wenonah or to the A.A. These latter fields are the Tall Pines fields, which in all likelihood will not be available to the

A.A. for the year 1975. This possibility puts our position of providing athletic facilities for the boys and girls of the town in jeopardy.

Over the years many policies of the A.A. were established.

Two of the more important ones are:

1. Every child who registers will be assigned to a team. (Contrary to the policies of many of our neighboring towns, we do not "cut" anyone.

This policy has been upheld many times by the A.A.

despite the arguments of some who feel we cannot compete against towns that play only their best players. Our trophies, which are currently on display at the Wenonah Food Market, disprove that theory.

2. Participation by and development of the individual is the primary responsibility of team managers. (Resolution adopted 4/21/71)

It would be impossible to list all of the men and women who have contributed both financially and physically to the growth of the Wenonah Athletic Association. Special thanks, however, should go to a few loyal friends of the A.A. They are: Helen Sheppard, G. Wayne Post, Tony Sacca, Ray Condell, Al Mecholsky, Dave Miller, and Chuck Peters.

The following men have helped guide the early growth of the Wenonah A.A. to its present size:

Presidents: Lou Stahl, Jack Wiler, Charles Miller and Chris Carroll.

MESSAGE FROM THE A.A. PRESIDENT:

With the influx of more and more families moving into Wenonah, the tedious job of assigning children to teams becomes exceptionally more difficult, especially in the light of losing two minor fields at Tall Pines in 1975. Our present team enrollment could be seventeen this year.

We of the Athletic Association are trying to meet these demands by working closely with the Borough Council in securing new and usable ball fields. These areas, however, are not easily found. We are hoping by this June to have a commitment from the Borough in turning the present Sewer Treatment Plant on West Mantua Avenue into a minor league ball field. We are also working on the possibility of a field outside our Borough.

We cannot overstress the importance of parent

participation in Wenonah. Whenever possible, please try to come out and support your son or daughter's team. They will really appreciate it, and I am sure the managers and coaches will also. Come out and lend a hand. Get involved in the Wenonah Athletic Association. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Fire Hall. All are welcome."

(Note: This history apparently written about 1974. Author unknown)

MISSION OF THE WENONAH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.



Wenonah Station Winter 2003

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Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2003 – 2004

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOUR HOME
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGEABLE HISTORIANS
- HISTORICAL FIELD TRIPS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

AMOUNT PAID \$

CHECK _____ CASH

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090
