

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 June 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that the May meeting will be the last formal meeting before our June Picnic and our summer break. After this past winter, I am sure that you are all looking forward to summer. Please continue to talk to others in town not yet members of our great Historic organization. This is the one organization that everyone has a stake in. Talking about a stake in our town, I am sure that you have all been noticing the deplorable condition of our historic Train Depot. If you talk to a member of council, please express your concerns to them.

This month's program should be very interesting for everyone. The program is on Photo preservation and album making, stressing the importance of and the requirements for safe and proper storage of precious family photographs.

The new elementary school display for May and June will be related to past Wenonah Fourth's of July. If you have anything that you might want to add you can contact me or Eileen Caraker.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 9th, meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

The railroad tracks between Camden and Woodbury were constructed in 1857 and extended to Glassboro in about 1861. However the track arrangement was unsuitable and dangerous due to a steep grade and a dangerous curve in the right-of-way. To correct these problems the right-of-way was leveled and straightened in 1866.

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**

Following the track realignment, Civil War General William Sewell, President of the West Jersey Railroad Company and it's Chief Engineer William F. Allen conceived the idea of laying out a town along the tracks about 3 miles south of Woodbury, the objective being to increase ridership and therefore business for the railroad.

Once this layout was accomplished it was reported that "A number of Gentlemen

met at the office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider the expediency of organizing a Land and Improvement Company to operate at a new Mantua Station on the West Jersey Railroad. On December 19, 1870 in a special train the men visited the site. After an inspection of the land the "Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" and a town was born". The Mantua Land & Improvement Company then proceeded to purchase tracts of lands consisting of about 572 acres at a price of \$26,162.50.

At a meeting held April 3rd, 1871, handwritten in pencil on a scrap of paper it was: "Resolved that the name of the town and lake be Wenonah".

A hotel and four cottages were erected in 1872. Andrew W. Carey, Thomas W. Synnott and George W. Bailey were the first to erect cottages for the purposes of occupying them.

By the year 1883 there were about 50 dwellings in existence and about 300 souls living in Wenonah.



Stamp
Here

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2003

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
