

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3 March 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

We have started out 2004 with lots of activities and optimism. The Museum is certain to become a reality. We have already taken over two rooms on the second floor of the train Depot Community Center. We have File cabinets, desks and an antique map cabinet that was donated to the Society by Cynthia Baum. Cynthia's father was Bill Baum, long-time borough engineer as well as Gloucester County Engineer. The Wenonah Library has also given us two sets of Card Catalogue cabinets.

We now have a safe space to store our artifacts and more importantly to start organizing and cataloging our items. Lots of work is needed in this area and we need volunteers to help in many ways. Please contact me if you are interested in helping! There is a job for everyone.

Our Monthly programs have been outstanding and I believe that the February program about the history of Gloucester County was one of the best attended. This month's program by glass artist Paul Stankard should without doubt be very exciting.

This is a very exciting time to be a part of the Wenonah Historical Society. The WHS is certainly a group on the move.

Should you want to volunteer or make a tax-deductible contribution to the organization to help with the

museum, please contact me at 415-1215.

PS; we have received an exciting contribution to the Society and you must come to the March meeting to see it!

WHS OFFICERS 2004

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

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

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Report by Jack C. Sheppard, WHS designated member to the TEA 21 Community Center Grant Committee.

I was invited to a meeting held Tuesday, March 2nd at the Community Center attended by Mayor Tom Capaldi, Councilman Bill Schnarr, and Bill Schramm. The meeting was conducted by Borough Engineer David Kreck. The purpose of the meeting was to be brought up to date on the current status of the grant in relation to station building need, and to set a course of action for the immediate future.

Not meaning to downplay the grant effort but I have to point out the first meeting of the Committee I attended

was November, 2000 and thus far we have managed a roof.

It does appear that to continue our qualification for the grant funding it is up to the town to express support for the building repairs both in writing and at a public meeting that will be held for information and support purposes

MARCH PROGRAM

The speaker at the March 12th meeting will be world-renowned glass artist Paul Stankard who lives in neighboring Mantua.

On page 2 of this issue there is information about Paul describing his early life, how he got his start with the glass paperweights and listing some of the accolades and awards he has been given.

We can all look forward to this meeting, it should be great.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

On May 28th, 1887, an agreement was made to build a Two Room School House on Marion Avenue. Daniel W. Brown, a local builder (who built many Houses in Town) was contracted by George W Baily, E.C. Stevenson and Andrew W. Carey. The cost was \$2,245.85. The contract provided Brown would be paid as follows:

\$100.00 when the foundation is finished; \$250.00 when the building is raised; \$250.00 when the building is enclosed; \$500.00 When the carpenter and mill work is finished; \$645.85 when completely finished.

Paul Stankard

As most of us know Paul Stankard lives in Mantua Township where he maintains a studio.

Paul was born in North Attleboro, Massachusetts on April 7, 1943. He struggled through high school and in 1961 decided to attend Salem County Vocational Technical Institute (now Salem Community College) where he studied scientific glassblowing for two years. Afterwards, he worked in the scientific industry for eight years for such companies as McAllister Scientific, Fisher Scientific, and Philco-Ford. During this time, he developed an interest in making small lamp-worked animals as a way of satisfying his creative urges, but what he really wanted to do was to make paperweights. In 1969 Paul stopped making the animals and devoted himself entirely to paperweights, working tirelessly to develop his skills.

For the past thirty years Paul Stankard has been practicing an art of gentle persuasion. Using glass as his medium he has quietly but persistently been spreading a message that the natural world, especially the realm of wild flowers, testifies to a higher, spiritual ideal.

Looking at a Stankard botanical sculpture or paperweight one is immediately struck by the dazzling technical achievement it represents. Years of dedication and experimentation have honed Paul's natural talent to an extraordinarily high level. But more than skill is evident in these intimate sculptures and Stankard's interest goes far beyond simply replicating the forms of nature. He is expressing a deeper idea as he creates what critic James Yood has called "...some of the most poetic and nuanced commentary on the wonders of nature as exists in any medium anywhere in contemporary art."

From 1971 to 1975, his reputation grew so that he became well known for his floral paperweights. By 1977, he was making a limited edition series of weights for the Smithsonian, and by 1982, another for the Art Institute of Chicago. His weights progressed from those that resembled the traditional round French floral weights to rectangular botanicals composed of two or more laminated pieces to create a complete scene. His celebrity grew and his pieces continued to be highly sought after.

These botanicals transformed the collective attitude of paperweight enthusiasts. Stankard's pieces were thought of as sculpture, challenging the traditional notion of what a paperweight was. As other artists took notice of his success and tried to emulate his work, Paul found himself an important influence on both paperweight making and glass art as a whole.

Stankard is the world's leading paperweight artist. His work embodies the spirit and soul of his subject matter, needing no explanation or justification. Each piece contains his personal poetic vision expressed with a technical mastery unmatched in contemporary paperweight making. The imagery goes far beyond what might be construed as simply realistic. Paul's botanicals imagine spirits inhabiting the roots of plants. They seem to dance in a frozen choreography with insects as their counterparts above the ground. These communities are suspended in crystal space like tiny galaxies, complete in their environment and perfect in their spirit.

Today, Stankard is without peer, precisely because of an unwavering commitment to integrity and a firm belief in his art. "My work is my prayer", he says, stating in words what his pieces express silently in color and form. His work is included in nearly every important museum and collection, private and public, in the world

His work is included in permanent museum collections in nine countries and has been featured in over 50 articles and videos. He has received several awards for his contributions to the field, including the Urban Glass Award for Innovations in Glassblowing Techniques. In 2000, Paul was awarded the prestigious honor of being named a Fellow of the American Craft Council and was elected to the ACC Board of Trustees. In 1999, Salem Community College named him a Distinguished Alumnus. The College has named the gallery in the Glass Center in his honor.

In recent years, he has lectured and taught workshops in the United States, Scotland and Japan, influencing new artists throughout the world. He continues to promote the formal education of flameworked glass at Salem Community College by providing artistic guidance and teaching classes.

The Wenonah Historical Society is privileged and honored to have Paul Stankard attend our meeting and speak to us.

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 3,000 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. D-metrius- Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gloucester County Democrat

Gloucester County Constitution



Stamp
Here

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 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
