

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, March 9, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 3, March 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Many thanks to our VP Paul Lader for his most interesting and moving presentation at last month's meeting of the WHS. Having the main character of the documentary as a member and present that evening added to the appeal of the presentation. Terrific acting job Jeff Rodriguez!! Kudos also to Vicki (and Lou) McCall for the wonderful Valentine's Day themed refreshments / "wedding reception" for Barbara and me. It was very much appreciated.

The presenter this month will also feature a WHS member, Karen Heller. Her topic will focus on the life and times of Ann Whitall who resided in the James and Ann Whitall House located at Red Bank Battleground Park. We look forward to Karen's program as we are always interested in local history.

Also, please remember that your 2012 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer.

Hope to see you this Friday March 9th at 7:30 P.M.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, let me know at smithlr@att.net. The newsletter will arrive

sooner, reduce our printing and postage costs, and if there is something in color, you will be able to see the colors.

REFRESHMENTS

Instead of soliciting volunteers for the entire year at one time, Jo Dominy will ask for volunteers to provide refreshments at the next meeting. If you would like to volunteer for the April meeting, please advise Jo at the meeting on Friday or give her a call. You will be reimbursed for the refreshments.

2011 WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center.



Photos courtesy of the McCalls. As Vicki and Lou say "miss one meeting and you miss a lot."

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. The source of the article was the 1909-1910 Catalogue of the Academy, published by Stephen Greene just five years after the Academy opened. Greene was the founder of the Wenonah Military Academy and a successful printer in Philadelphia. His publications contained a great deal of information about the functioning of the Academy, individual cadets, and benefits to parents considering sending their sons to the Academy.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

Location

The location of Wenonah Military Academy is in the choicest section of south and west New Jersey, possessing pre-eminently the advantages of healthfulness, beauty, accessibility and quiet seclusion—sufficiently removed from the dangerous enticements of the city, and yet within easy reach of city patrons.

The conditions desirable for an institution of this character have been fully realized in the selection of its site. The sale of intoxicants within a mile of the Academy is absolutely prohibited by law.

It is about twelve miles distant from Philadelphia, with which it is in communication by frequent trains over the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad.

Wenonah being situated on high grounds, the natural drainage is as perfect as possible, and the Academy has an entirely independent sanitary drainage system, designed and constructed under the personal supervision of one of the most accomplished and experienced engineers of the country; it is believed to be as nearly perfect as expert skill can make it.

Wenonah is an entirely residential town; there are no factories, and the charter of the town absolutely prohibits saloons, a clause to this effect being incorporated in every original land title deed.

The Academy building is a handsome structure of attractive modern architecture. It stands on an apex of the highlands in the midst of spacious grounds that are ornamented with stately oaks, balsams and maples, attractive evergreens, well-trimmed hedges of acacia and ornamental shrubs in abundance. Indeed, so complete and admirable are these premises for the purposes to which they are now devoted, that, with the supplemental improvements, made with special reference to that use, they constitute a model establishment not excelled in the particulars named by any similar educational institution in the country.

Buildings

The Academy building is only a few minutes' walk from the railroad station, telegraph office and churches; it has three stories, and has comfortable rooms for all students under one roof. The rooms are heated by steam, and lighted by electricity and gas and furnished with an ample supply of pure water from the plant of the borough, in addition to which the Academy has a separate and entirely independent supply from an artesian well 351 feet in depth. Careful analysis has demonstrated this water to be of absolute hygienic purity, and this purity is assured for all time, as the water cannot become contaminated by organic matter from surface drainage.

The Academy main building is the home of the cadets. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, this building is one of the best-adapted school edifices in the East. Its unique plan affords peculiar advantages for a school home for boys.

A description of the building follows: On a central angle of 50 feet three wings of 100 feet extend, with a massive tower rising 80 feet over the central angle; consequently the building has abundance of light all day long. The lower floor is occupied by the store-rooms, boiler-room, laboratory, lavatories and laundry. On the main floor are rooms for the superintendent and masters. The general assembly room is in the south wing, the lower school in the east wing. In the central angle are the reception-rooms, the library and reading-room. From this diverge the assembly, class and dining rooms. The second and third floors each contain 30 sleeping-rooms, besides lavatories. An 8-foot hallway extends the full length of each wing. The sleeping-rooms are warmed by steam, regulated to keep an even temperature. Danger from fire is at a minimum, for the reason that no stoves nor heating apparatus other than the steam heat are allowed in the building. Two exits for each hallway, one by a short stairway of only twelve feet, the other by an enclosed stairway, furnish immediate access to the main entrance. Extreme caution has been taken in providing for the general care and safety of the students. The students' rooms are large, heated by steam and nicely furnished with first-class furniture, the beds having re-enforced woven-wire springs and hair mattresses. These rooms are all outside rooms and are so situated as to receive light all day long; they are 12 x 16 feet, and all open into halls that have light and ventilation at both ends. Each room is furnished with one bed for each occupant, a five-drawer chiffonier with a mirror, a wardrobe 7 x 3 feet, and two chairs. They are arranged for cadets wishing to room alone, or for two cadets. The furnishings have been selected carefully, and with a view not only to convenience and comfort, but also to attractive appearance. Bath and toilet rooms are on each floor, supplied with hot and cold water, the plumbing being constructed in the most modern and improved manner.

The classrooms are provided with every convenience for the work of instruction. They are ample in size and number, and convenient in arrangement.

The library, 43 by 50 feet in size, is lighted by large windows opening upon the great piazza, beyond which may be seen the beautiful park and Academy campus. The library is always open to the booklovers among the cadets. Among the periodicals on file are Harper's Magazine, The Century, Scribner's, The Cosmopolitan, McClure's, Munsey's, Review of Reviews, World's Work, Outing, St. Nicholas, The American Boy, Harper's Weekly, Collier's Weekly, Country Life, The Churchman, The Church Standard, The Outlook, The Army and Navy Register and Army and Navy Journal.

From WMA archives. Research by Jack Sheppard Sr 2/12

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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Here

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHANS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____

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

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090
