

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, October 14, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 7, October 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

The hot, humid, and very wet summer season has given way to the cool, crisp autumn weather that makes living in Southern New Jersey such a joy. I would like to again thank our members Sue and Larry Smith for opening their beautiful home for our September Meet and Greet. Although I was unable to attend in person, I was certainly there in spirit.

Our program this month features local botanist Karl Anderson, who presented "Natural Places of Gloucester County" at our April 2011 meeting. Karl has prepared a new program on the history of iron mining in New Jersey will debut it at our October meeting. A glimpse of Karl Anderson's "Iron" follows:

Iron was the Great Equalizer of the ancient world, and it formed the basis of our civilization today. Traces of the New Jersey iron industry are well known to historians and industrial archaeologists. But what led up to that? This program will present a little of the history, a little about the chemistry, and something about the production of this metal, from its earliest uses in the Near East about three thousand years ago, to the two hundred years or so when its mining and manufacture played a prominent part in the economy of New Jersey.

There also will be a surprise donation made to the WHS of an artifact that dates back to the old Wenonah Inn. The donors, who are related to original proprietor of the Inn, will be present at our October meeting so that we may recognize and thank them.

I look forward to seeing you Friday, October 14th at 7:30 P.M.

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF WENONAH

Wenonah is called home by current and many former residents. Two of those former residents Cara DeHart Lewis and Gerard McGarrity have been discussing plans to create a video on Wenonah's rich history as well as the people that have made it into a wonderful town. Cara owns a video production company in Florida and Gerard is a producer in Washington, D.C. for C-SPAN. This past July they interviewed Majorie Lentz about her book and her recollections of the town. On October 14th, they plan on talking with former mayor and local historian Jack Sheppard Sr. about the town.

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.

The long-term project is in the beginning research and planning stages. They are looking for old film or video footage and plan on continuing to talk with present as well as past citizens. If you have old film/video of the town or parade or questions, please contact them at: gerard_mcgarrity@yahoo.com or cardehlew@yahoo.com.

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE
YOUR NEWSLETTER
ELECTRONICALLY?

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.

SUNSHINE NEWS
by Vicki McCall

Marjorie Lentz will soon be moving from Manor Care to Pitman Manor. Her main complaints? She does not like getting old and claims she has a lot of work yet to do at home.

Please forward any news of a member's illness or surgery to me at vmccallpc@comcast.net so we can send cards and well wishes. I will forward the information to the newsletter editor, Larry Smith.

WENONAH
Provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

This [Wenonah] is the name adopted for the new village at Mantua Station, about two and a half miles below Woodbury. The directors have gone to work and in a very short time a surprising change will be seen by those who remember the "truck patches" of that locality. We hear that about 100 acres have been laid out into building lots, 75 x 150 feet each.

The two central avenues, West Jersey and Mantua, are each 100 feet wide. On West Jersey Avenue the railroad company reserves 100 feet in the center and on each side of their reservation will be avenues for carriages and driving of 75 feet width, with sidewalks of 15 feet.

An imposing hotel is now in process of erection. It is to be 45 x 52 feet in dimensions, three stories high with back buildings 26 by 40 feet, and the whole surrounded by a verandah 12 feet wide. Each room is to contain water and gas and be furnished in elegant style.

The hotel is to be on the Doric style of architecture, and surmounted with a splendid

cupola. This hotel is contracted to be finished in June next, at a cost of \$15,000. During the summer about twelve other elegant cottages are to be completed. All the streets, except the two main avenues, are to be 66 feet wide.

The location of this piece of ground is peculiarly adapted for the building up of a suburban village, being high and healthful with pure and cool wells of water for all domestic purposes. It is 65 feet above Mantua Creek and from its summit can be seen the steeples of Swedesboro and many prominent points in the surrounding country.

The name selected for this young village is Wenonah, (Daughter of the West Wind) from Longfellow's "Hiawatha".

The prices of lots have been fixed from \$200 to \$400 and the extensive improvements contemplated by the company have already given to the place an impetus which cannot fail to make it one of the most desirable points along the West Jersey railroad.

Over 600 trees, mostly maples, have already been set out along the avenues. The creek in the vicinity affords grand water power for

manufacturing purposes, which will be at once taken advantage of and converted into use.

From *"The Constitution"* April 19, 1871.

THE STONE POND GARDEN
Information and photos provided by Frank Eggert and Richard Dilks

The Stone Pond was built in 1912, as part of an extensive garden in an apple orchard owned by Dr. William H. Greene, son of Stephen Greene. The elder Greene was a prominent resident of early Wenonah and an original director of the Mantua Land and Improvement Co. The Greene estate included the land between S. Clinton Ave. and S. Marion Ave., extending south from Willow St. to then Greene's Lake along the Monongahela branch. Also included on the estate were the Greene's residence on the southeast corner of S. Clinton Ave. and E. Willow St., a caretaker's house (106 E. Willow St.), gardens, a greenhouse, a peacock walk, a pleasure lake, and a two-story boathouse.

The Stone Pond was "discovered" by the Wenonah Environmental Commission in about 2000, obscured and covered with debris. Supported by a donation from the Women's Club of Wenonah, the Environmental Commission created the first Stone Pond Garden (below) that same year. In 2010-11, the Environmental Commission, again supported by the Women's Club, further improved the pond

and garden (below) by adding a low stone wall, steps, a bench, and numerous plantings of bushes, ferns and perennial wildflowers.



WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

Stamp
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
