

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Friday, September 9, 2016  
Volume 14, Issue 4, September 2016

## Wenonah Cemetery History

By Nora Taylor



*Chew Mausoleum, Wenonah Cemetery*

**By** 1900, Wenonah was a thriving town with about 500 residents. Philadelphians built “cottages” to enjoy the beautiful lakes and to escape the city heat. Wenonah was considered an ideal community with telephone and electric service and streets laid out at right angles. It was populated by many Philadelphia businessmen.

*The Woodbury Daily Times* reported on December 3, 1900, that Isaac Stevenson had sold a plot of

land on the west side of Mantua Creek to real estate agent William C. Cattell. Stevenson had only recently bought the land from the Mantua Improvement Company. Cattell represented a party of capitalists with plans to start a new cemetery.

On January 3, 1901, the *Times* reported that the Wenonah Cemetery Association had been formed, with Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia, Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Stout, Harry G. Peddle, and William C. Cattell, all of Wenonah, Miss Sara R. Chew of Mantua and David O. Watkins of Woodbury as elected trustees.

The association had purchased thirty acres of land, and they were immediately planning to lay out the grounds with the help of experienced landscape gardeners.

On January 18, 1901, it was announced that “the Wenonah Cemetery Company are having plans drawn for laying out their new plot, and work on grading and marking will be commenced early this spring. This is one of the prettiest natural plots for this purpose in the state.”

November, 1901 saw the cemetery open for business, inviting people to come and see this pretty space. By January, advertisements were in the *Woodbury Daily Times* each day.

April, 1902 was a busy month for the cemetery. Grading and sodding was completed down to Mantua Avenue, the driveway was graveled and the area was being prepared for the summer months’ visitors. Construction of a handsome granite mausoleum by Miss Sara Chew was taking place. Parts of the mausoleum, believed to weigh over ten tons, were delivered to the Wenonah Depot.

“Mantua Mentionings” in the *Woodbury Daily Times* on April 14, 1904 noted that “Miss Sarah Chew, of The Oaks, had her father and mother re-

## WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Nora Taylor
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Scott Barnes
Trustee	Paul Lader
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month  
(except June, July and August)  
at the Train Station Community Center

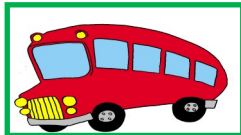
moved from the Mantua Cemetery, yesterday, to her mausoleum in Wenonah Cemetery. They had been dead about seven years. Their caskets were in excellent condition.”

In May, 1901, a carload of granite arrived at the depot for use at the cemetery. June saw workmen at the cemetery. It was said that Miss Sarah Chew would spend \$12,000 to beautify the cemetery. In July, grading was completed.

In February and March of 1902, snow blanketed the cemetery, and trees and hedging were added. Shade trees were added along Mantua Avenue.

Just over 100 years later, residents still enjoy the natural beauty of the Wenonah Cemetery. The new board of trustees hopes to maintain the standard set by the original trustees as they move forward in this century.

Bus Trip to Lancaster County  
Saturday, November 5



\$95 per person includes:

- ◆ Admission to National Christmas Center
- ◆ Dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord
- ◆ Shopping at several locations
- ◆ Transportation and gratuities

Call Gloucester County Historical Society  
@ 856-845-4771 for reservations

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

You are cordially invited to welcome the 2016 -2017 season of the Wenonah Historical Society at the home of Larry and Sue Smith on **Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm. This beautifully restored home is the work of noted Philadelphia architect Isaac Pursell who also designed Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wenonah. The church is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Please bring an appetizer to share for this always enjoyable event!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 15**, when the society, in coordination with the Wenonah Cemetery Association, will host our second annual cemetery tour. Every plot has a story to tell and you will have the opportunity to meet spirits of the past as local actors re-enact the dear departed!

Self-guided tours begin at 4pm and end at 5:30pm. Dinner will follow for Wenonah Historical Society members at the Jack C. Sheppard Community Center.

The new cemetery board is making a terrific effort to bring the cemetery back to pristine condition. This includes plans to restore the stone wall on Mantua Avenue.

On **Friday, November 11**, John Dominy, our mayor and Wenonah Fire Company member, will present a history of the fire company. Come out and celebrate the past and present volunteers who make Wenonah a wonderful place to live.

**Thursday, December 8** is the Annual Christmas Party at the Telford Inn. This is our second year at the Telford and was well attended last year. Details for reservations will be available at the November meeting and in the newsletter.

For 2017, we will host local speakers for the winter months, a spring field trip, and the annual picnic. Stay tuned for details. We also hope to offer a special family friendly event this spring.

*Charles Horan*  
President

WENONAH  
A Century Ago

Mrs. R.A. Sargent is recovering from her recent attack of typhoid fever and was able to be out of doors on Monday.

Mrs. Charles Fredericks, recently of our borough, is seriously ill with typhoid fever at St. Luke's Hospital, Phila.

Mr. Ira Burdsall and family will move to Philadelphia and Mr. Albert Porter and family will move to Audubon.

Our public school opened on Monday with good attendance. Miss Ethel Grosscup has accepted the position of physical director of Hopkins College, Virginia, and left for her new post of duty on Monday.

Paul, the 8-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rieban, died of infantile paralysis at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning. The house will be quarantined for two weeks. Interment was made in Wenonah Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. A meeting of the Board of Health was called Saturday evening and precaution taken to prevent a spread of infantile paralysis here.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Warren and daughter have returned home after spending the summer in Pennsgrove.

Mr. Robert Comey and son Paul sailed for Europe on Saturday and expect to be gone six weeks.

Mrs. Edward Snow, who has been quite sick with a nervous breakdown, is recuperating at the home of her parents at Atlantic City.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckman and sons have moved from here to their former home at Boston, Mass.

Householders of our borough are notified to place their garbage in proper receptacles in convenient

places, as arrangements have been made for the collection of same on evenings of Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

It is thought at this writing that our public school will begin on Monday as the quarantine will be lifted from the house where the Rieban child died of infantile paralysis on Saturday.

Mr. Edward Knight's beautiful new home on N. Clinton Avenue is rapidly nearing completion.

Captain Samuel Barnard has moved his household goods to be stored in Camden. His daughter, Bernice, will make her home with relatives in Philadelphia.

Wenonah's tax rate is \$2.12, an increase of 15 cents.

Mr. Walter Wentzell and family have moved into the house formerly occupied by Mr. Harry Glading and family, corner Willow St. and Monroe Ave.

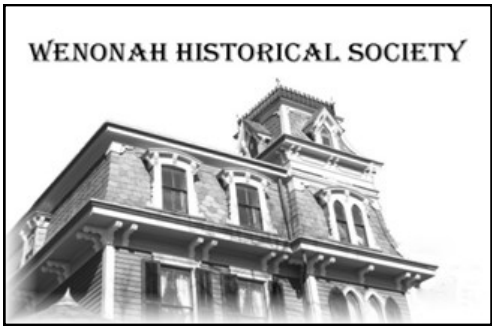
The Sunday School of the M.E. Church will be held after the morning service until the quarantine is lifted.

Miss Clara Turner has returned from the mountains much improved in health.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dye and son have returned from a month's visit with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dye at State College.

Miss Rebecca Flagg, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Mass., is visiting her uncle, Rev. R.H. Gage.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement Mattson, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Sargent and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hendrickson motored to Avalon on Sunday.



Stamp  
Here

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2016

## Membership Benefits

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

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