

Wayne M. Ralston, former sheriff, 84

WENONAH — Former Gloucester County Sheriff Wayne M. Ralston, the first sheriff in county history to be re-elected to the position, died Tuesday at his home at 8 N. Clinton Ave. He was 84.

Mr. Ralston served as sheriff from 1947 through 1959. He became the first sheriff to succeed himself in 1950 when the New Jersey State Constitution was revised to allow consecutive terms for sheriffs.

Ralston, a Republican, also was a former member of the Wenonah Borough Council and a former secretary of the Wenonah Board of Education and a former chief of the Wenonah Fire Co. He also was a director of the Wenonah Building and Loan Association and a director of the Gloucester County Red Cross.

He also was a member of Mantua

F&AM Lodge 95 and a member of the American Legion Arthur L. Holton Post 192 in Wenonah.

Mr. Ralston served with three military units. In 1916 and 1917 he served with the U.S. Mexican Border Service. In World War I he served in the Quartermaster Corps and attained the rank of captain. In World War II he served in the Air Force and retired as a colonel. He also was a member of the Air Force Retired Officers Association.

Surviving are his wife, Helen; a son, Donald N. of Wenonah; and one granddaughter.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. in the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wenonah. Burial will be in Wenonah Cemetery. Friends may call Thursday after 7 p.m. at the Smith Funeral Home, 47 Main St., Mantua.

Wayne M. Ralston obituary

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