

WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



October 2000
Published by the
Historical Society of
Wenonah, NJ

WHAT GOES BUMP IN THE NIGHT IN YOUR HOUSE?

We just couldn't resist the combination of Halloween and Friday the 13th to offer a program to discuss, shall we say, "unusual happenings" in our local historic homes. A few of our town "frequent haunters" will be present to tell you about the popular lore of otherworldly activities in their homes, and we

invite everyone to share their own personal experiences. Let's hear about all those sounds in the attic that you logically dismiss but deep-down know that something else is going on while you're sleeping!

This is the meeting to bring the kids and all your friends to!

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - OCTOBER 1900

Compiled by Milton Webb

F.I. Savage and William Holt took a trolley ride to New Castle, Delaware yesterday.

There was plenty of amusement yesterday at the meeting of the Republican Club. After listening to the able presentation of the Law and Order League of the county, each member present had to tell why he was of such a political faith under penalty of a fine. There was some head scratching to avoid such a fine.

Farmers about here have the fall plowing nearly all done and most of the corn husked. Wheat has sprouted in several sections.

Manager Lewis of the Inn was down yesterday and formally closed the well-known hostelry for the season. It will open next year about June first.

F.J. Bossler was in the auto parade at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia on Friday.

"Zella," a clever presentation of a gypsy encampment will be given in Noblitt's Hall Saturday evening under the auspices of the Daisy Club. Adult tickets 25 cents, children 15 cents.

Constable Drummer stopped an auto, which was going through town after dark last night and made the driver "light up."

Flowers which have beautified so many of our lawns all summer are being taken indoors.

The formal opening of the Free Public Library took place last evening. The affair was highly patronized by our citizens who appreciated the efforts of the ladies and gentlemen who made such a convenience possible for our young folks that they might have the proper kind of reading instead of the lower class literature so easy to get nowadays.

Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson went through here on the Cape May express for Millville this morning.

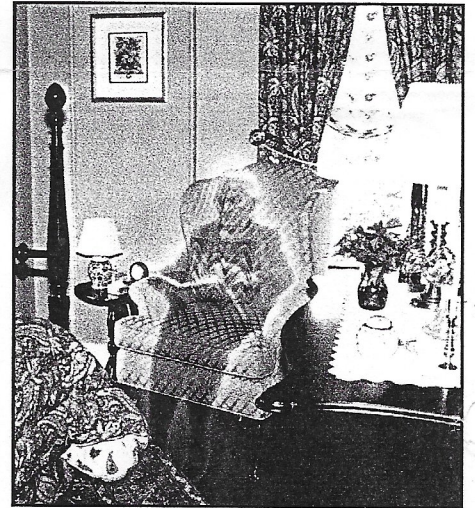
A suspect was an inmate of the lockup last night. He was found acting suspiciously about town. Officer Drummer put him in for the safety of the town.

There were not many out at the depot to see the Prohibitionist's special train go through this morning.

There is to be a cineograph exhibit at Noblitt's Hall tonight.

A number of our people will go to Washington Park tomorrow to see William Jennings Bryant.

From the Woodbury Daily Times - Woodbury, New Jersey



Welcome to Our New Newsletter

We hope you find it to be both informative and interesting. Yes... this first issue is sparse, but we would like to incorporate member contributions and much more material of historical significance in future issues. If you have ideas for articles or would like to submit something for publication, send them to Curt Kapus - PO Box 32 - Wenonah, NJ 08090. Thank you and see you at Friday's meeting!

In Memory of

KATHRYN WENONAH WAGNER KNIGHT
1908-2000

We will surely miss you. You were the personification of the good things that we possess in our wonderful town. Your knowledge and association with the Wenonah Military Academy, Camp Wenonah, and the past events of our town were a valuable source of historic information. We were honored to have had you as a founder and member of the Wenonah Historic Society.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE



WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, October 13th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center

Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

There have been many new additions to our Wenonah community since our last meeting in the summer, and we invite everyone—both young and “experienced”—to attend and see what our local historical society is up to. We have a great deal planned for the coming year; your participation can help make it all a success!

Ralph & Rachel Knisell
100 West Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090



WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
PO Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



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Historical Society Membership Form · 2000-2001

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Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

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- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: \$10 per family household per year

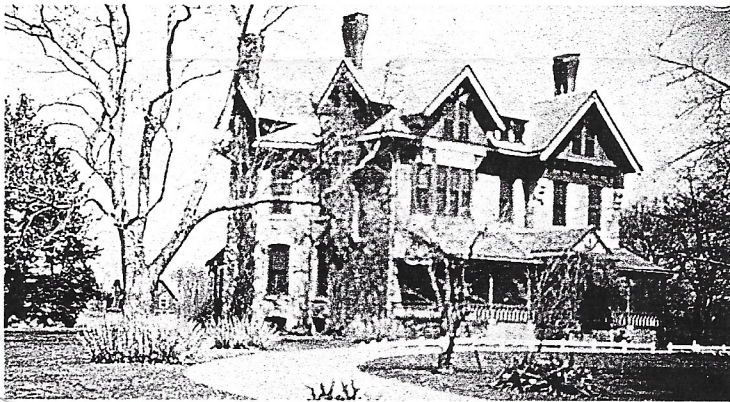
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November 2000
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THE LEGACY OF THOMAS SYNNOTT



For our November meeting, Karen Bruner of Rowan University will be speaking about the life of one of Wenonah's well-known residents of the last century, Thomas Whitney Synnott. Her presentation will cover the legacy left after his death in 1941, including a

Thomas Synnott's first "Hollybush" at the corner of North Marion and East Mantua Avenues in Wenonah as it stood mid-century.

large collection of business and personal letters, manuscripts, selected documents, and the process of making Rowan University Library's Stewart Room collection ready for patron use. Synnott played an important role in the foundation of the State Normal School for Teachers in Glassboro, eventually to be known as Rowan University, along with being one of Wenonah's founding residents.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1900

Compiled by Milton Webb

A masquerade ball was held in Noblit's Hall last night. There were about thirty present from Mantua, Westville, Woodbury and Wenonah.

Butter prices are going up but Turner and McCormick are keeping their prices as low as possible.

The Junior Athletic Club will open their football season tomorrow with a game with Sterling Junior of West Philadelphia. Admission to the ball grounds will be free.

The democrats of the borough think they will poll something like fifty votes next Tuesday. Time will tell just how many are of that persuasion however.

Stephan Greene has moved some of the furniture of the Inn to his boathouses in Atlantic City.

All the arrangements have been made for the vaudeville entertainment and food by the Republican Club in Noblit's Hall. The club members are looking forward to the best time in the history of the organization. Cards of admission have been issued. The program will be interspersed with returns by telegraph when they come in.

McKINLEY AND ROOSEVELT CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE TO CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF STATE—A REPUBLICAN LAND SLIDE, Wenonah: McKinley 89, Bryan 21.

If the children in town had made half the noise the men did last night there would have been trouble for the juveniles surely.

REWARD The subscriber will pay \$5.00 reward for information which will lead to the conviction of a party or parties who alleged to burn Noblit's Hall on Saturday evening. —Joseph Noblit, Wenonah

A new telephone is being put in the depot to connect to the marl pits.

Regular services in the churches tomorrow with prospects of large congregations. Our pastors are quite popular with their people and the houses are always nearly full.

The cottage prayer meeting of the M.E. congregation was held at the house of W.J. McGowan last evening. Tonight it will be held at the home of Mrs. Cline.

An extension of South Marion Avenue is to be laid out across the meadows [Mantua Creek] making a more direct course and shorter drive.

The entire number of lots of land of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company—268 lots—were sold at their recent sale. Dr. Baily, Stephan Greene, and Thomas Synnott were the principal buyers. This practically puts the land company out of business as they have nothing more to be in business for and it will be probably disbanded.

Wanamaker's deliver goods here now on Tuesdays and Fridays.

George Dilkes lost a valuable cow Saturday. (He would graze it in the park.)

Who would bother with a horse? No one after a ride in Blair Smith's Locomobile. Mr. Smith almost froze a Times representative on a trip from here to Woodbury this morning. Most of the time the speed was fully 20 miles per hour.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE



WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, November 10th, 2000 • 7:30pm • Wenonah Community Center

Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

Our last meeting in October was a huge success with many, many new faces. We hope to continue this tradition and that everyone who came out for last month's meeting will join us this month, too. We have an interesting presentation planned, and Mary Ready will be our hostess providing victuals and beverages.

Ralph & Rachel Knissell
100 W. Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090



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December 2000
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CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Annual Holiday Party is upon us again and will be held at the regular meeting time of 7:30 on Friday, December 8th. "Chef Bud" will be catering for us—as he did last year—with ample food! A Wenonah Historical Society tradition, the holiday event is usually well attended, so it is advised that you contact Jane Ramsay at 468-5593 as soon as possible to reserve your seats. The cost will be the same as last year, \$12 per person, and we request that everyone attending please bring

an unwrapped "door prize" for the drawing (it's always nice if everyone present receives a gift). We'd also like to remind anyone who volunteered to help decorate and set-up to arrive around 10am the morning of the party. We've all been extremely pleased at our meeting turnouts lately, and hope you'll all attend!

Santa hasn't changed much in the last hundred years, except nowadays he does not deliver rifles with affixed bayonets. This illustration from the December 24, 1900 Woodbury Daily Times seems to also be making a political statement about the raging Spanish-American War, or as Twain referred to it, "the incident in the Philippines."



WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 1900

Merry Christmas from Martha and Milton Webb!

On Saturday real estate agent William C. Cattell bought in the land recently sold by the Mantua Land Company to Isaac Stevenson on the west side of the Mantua creek for a party of capitalists who will organize and at once begin to lay out the spot in one of the finest cemeteries in South Jersey. The land has many advantages for vaults, etc.

Marie Knibloe, the Boston Warbler, is to give one of her unique entertainments in Noblitt's Hall next Tuesday for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Hollinger will open her select dancing class in Noblitt's Hall tomorrow evening. The cost will be 25 cents a lesson.

John Colbert would like the party who took half of his hen roost to bring it back or come take the rest. Divided up it is not worth much good to either party.

Dr. Harvy is talking of taking a trip to Honduras in the near future on an exploration expedition with Dr. M.B. Huey of Philadelphia. The doctor has been an extensive traveler. Winter struck us rather suddenly after all and we have some skating for the boys and girls.

Surveyor Cattell and George L. Dilkes are running out the lines of the new cemetery on the bluff today.

A parlor meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Hamilton Turner in honor of Mrs. Gilmour, Brown, Greene, Holeton and Savage delegates to the Women's Christian Temperance Convention held in Washington last week. The delegates gave a very interesting report of the convention and also of their sightseeing on their trip having the honor of shaking hands with President McKinley and an introduction to Mrs. McKinley. Mrs. Gage with four other ladies helped receive the delegates at the White House, a sight long to be remembered by them and which seemed like entering fairyland of which Mrs. McKinley was the sweet looking fairy, everything was so beautiful.

Christmas trees are being erected in many homes.

By the number of express bundles it looks as though Santa Claus was not to overlook the little ones in our borough. We hope he will remember the poor ones as the more well to do.

Our grocers are prepared for a big holiday trade.

The holiday festival of the Methodist Sunday School was held last night and was enjoyed by a large audience. Sune Taro, a Japanese magician, formed considerable amusement with his deft tricks. The Christmas exercises of the public school were held last Sunday evening.

B.F. Buzby is wondering who snow balled him. He will be surprised that it was not a boy.

It is stated the electric light plant from which we get our service has changed hands. (Electric service during this period was very undependable.)

The public feels grateful to Tom Savage for opening up the paths after the snow stopped falling last night.

It is said Ed Farr's children have the prettiest tree in this place. It is sure a handsome one.

Our stores are trimmed in holiday attire.

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER!



WENONAH Historical Society

Friday, December 8th, 2000 · 7:30pm · Wenonah Community Center

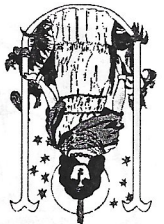
Friends, Family, Children, and New Members Welcome!

We would like to thank Karen Bruner of Rowan University for her interesting and informative presentation on Thomas Synnott at last month's meeting. To learn of the impact that Wenonah resident Synnott had on the business world and local community of the past century was quite impressive.

Ralph & Rachel Knissell
100 W. Mantua Ave.
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January 2001
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Another woodcut from the turn-of-the-century Times.

JANUARY MEETING TOPICS

Happy New Year! We have a lot of exciting things happening for 2001, and this first meeting of the new millennium will be an important one for everyone who wishes to have a voice in the Society to attend.

For "entertainment and education" Rocco Doto will be presenting a slide presentation that he prepared for the historical preservation course he attended at Burlington County College. We may also have another surprise guest (which you will have to attend to find out who!) to participate in a question and answer session.

Many topics will be on the table for discussion, including ideas for future meetings, ideas for special Society events, and the formation of a few committees for various purposes (sorry for the vagueness...but we'd like to put these ideas to the membership at the meeting before making them public).

Also, I'm sure you've noticed that the newsletter has expanded by two pages for this issue. We hope you enjoy the new features, and if you have anything you'd like to submit, we'd be happy to publish it!

See you at the meeting.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 1901

Compiled by Milton Webb

The birth of the new century was welcomed in here last night with a great deal of gusto and flourish. The churches were well-attended and deep spiritual feeling exhibited.

Our people are all happy in the beginning of the new century and there seems to be bright prospects about for all.

About 40 young people attended the masquerade ball at Noblitt's Hall. There was a watch night service at the Methodist Church.

Pastor Cobb has been presented with a handsome new watch and Mrs. Cobb was remembered with a handsome silk umbrella.

Icehouses are being filled here and we understand Dr. Stout, Will Stevenson, Frank Hendrickson and Turner and McCormick are among the number. (There were numerous icehouses in Wenonah including a large one at the Wenonah Inn and Joseph Warner's at the Wenonah Lake.)

George Sawyer is carrying a pretty severe cut

across his eye from being hit over the head with a lantern in the hands of the brakeman on the 6:40 southbound train. It is said the trouble arose over an altercation over Sawyer's ticket, which he refused to give up and the later was intoxicated.

The telephone exchange is to be located in Richard Clark's store where there is now a pay station. (This is now Mary Kaye hair dresser, 3 East Mantua Avenue.)

We understand parties are negotiating toward starting a laundry here in the near future. (This never happened however there was out of town laundry picked up and delivery for many years in town, White Star and Cascade being two of them.)

Mrs Hamilton Turner surprised her guests with a dinner of fish and oysters and the good things that go with them. The occasion was greatly enjoyed by the ladies. The merry laughter proving to the passer by that there were other good things beside the dinner.

The snow hangs on well.

As February nears the Rail Road men are experiencing a sort of dread for fear the blizzard of two years ago may be repeated.

It is reported that some of the scholars put red pepper in the heater at the school yesterday to shorten the session but their session is now somewhat extended.

Rudolph's big Camden bakery is delivering free samples of bread here today.

There is someone harboring my black and tan hound dog, Therefore I give notice that I will prosecute to the full extend of the law any person or persons in whose possession he is found. -W.H. Sithens

It is reported that a certain well-known contestant for fancy skating had to go to the doctors after a rather severe effort a day or so ago.

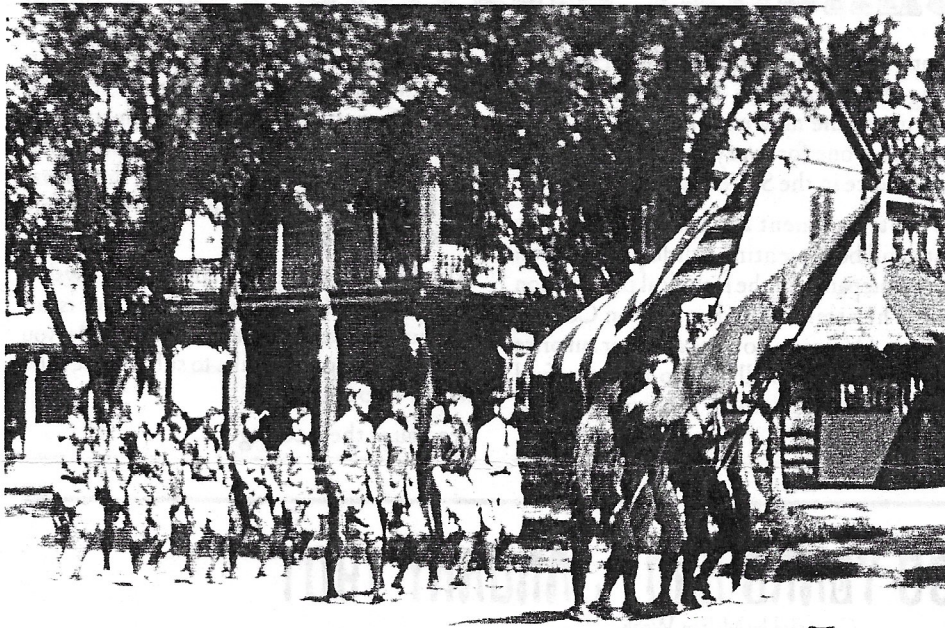
From the Woodbury Daily Times - Woodbury, New Jersey

THE HOWARD-WENTZELL BUILDING

7 West Mantua Avenue

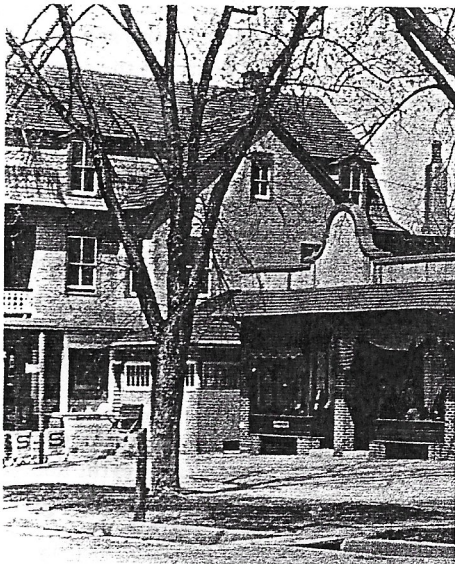
First in a series of articles detailing the histories of some of Wenonah's more notable structures. By Milton Webb

If one were asked what is the most historically significant building in Wenonah a likely candidate would be the Howard-Wentzell Building in the business district of our town. The old timers in Wenonah have known this for many years as the Wentzell apartment house. However there is much more to be told about this building than its role as an apartment house.



The Wentzell building with the 1914 Fourth of July parade passing in front of it...

...and another photo taken during its life as a store.



In December of 1872 the "Constitution", printed in Woodbury, stated "Mr. Ramson Howard is building a handsome three story store at Wenonah, the raising taking place Saturday last. The basement will be used for a restaurant while the third floor will be devoted to public purposes." This was an ambitious project considering the new village of Wenonah having less than two dozen houses was only a year old.

The Howard building was finally erected after a bad start when a twister destroyed the partially weather boarded unfinished structure, completely leveling it, a loss estimated at \$1,000. Completion was accomplished in the year 1873, a giant step forward for the vision of creating a new town along the tracks of the West Jersey Rail Road.

One of the first tenets was newly formed School District 54 of Wenonah who rented space for schooling. Previous to this, teaching took place in a private home (Dr. Garrison's), the rail road depot and a room set aside in the "Wenonah House" This space was used for two years, from 1876 until 1878 when a new permanent building was put up on North Marion Avenue. Many years later, Edward Farr in reminiscence of his early

school years refers to the building as "Daddy Howard's school. History does not record why it was called thus.

In 1878, the newly formed YMCA moved into the third floor. The "Wenonah Advance" reported, "The YMCA is now fully organized and is a fact. The association has a cozy room in the Howard Building and has upon its tables magazines, newspapers, games for the profit and pleasure of its members and its primary object viz to provide a comfortable room for the improvement of the young men of Wenonah and vicinity. The room is open on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of every week." This use lasted until 1916 when they moved into what later became the Legion Hall on North Marion Avenue.

A new era evolved in the building when Walter and Elizabeth Wentzell opened a store on the first floor in 1910. Previous to this he was the local huckster who was noted for having a mule to pull his cart. His specialty was seafood, particularly oysters brought in by rail from Port Norris-Bivalve on the Delaware River. Upon opening, they advertised selling vegetables, fruits, pickles, fruitcakes, ice cream and oysters. As time went on they became a Purina feed dealer, the Inquirer news distributor and pumped Gulf Gas out front. They afforded home delivery to their customers for many years.

In 1913, they built an ice cream pavilion next door where Keller's insurance office is sited today. This was a favorite of the academy boys where they reportedly were allowed privileges not allowed elsewhere such as smoking. The pavilion was a great place to go not only for them but also for the people of Wenonah. This stood for many years until the Wenonah Food Market building was erected. Out front there was a cast iron horse-watering trough, which was the donation to the citizens of Wenonah by the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The Wentzell heritage extended into later decades, when after the new store next door was built their daughters Francis and Jennie ran it as a food market. They later married becoming Fran Sweeney and Jane Bowker. Tony Sacca joined with Jane and her husband George later and opened up a meat department in the store. Jane and Francis' brother Earl, a graduate of the Wenonah Military Academy, became a doctor and was our local physician for many years until 1965. He was one of the primary founders of the Memorial Hospital in Woodbury.

Fortunately, Rocco and Colleen Doto, members of our Wenonah Historical Society, now own The Howard-Wentzell Building. Their love of our local history has been expressed in the efforts they have made to bring it back to its former appearance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

New to the Newsletter...

Each month this space will be reserved for reports from the various committees which are forming in the society. It can be a place to update the membership on what you have accomplished, on what you need volunteers for, or any other pertinent information you would like to share. To submit your reports, please either provide a disc to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file, or just eMail it to wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

We look forward to hearing about your progress.

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Attention all Members: Do you have memories of Wenonah's past that you think should be recorded for future generations? Are you interested in donating pictures, letters or other mementos that can be used for exhibits or for cataloging our town's history for others to enjoy? If you or someone you know is interested in preserving our past—Wenonah's past—please contact Rocco Doto, Chairperson for the Archiving Committee. Also, if you are interested in joining our newly formed committee please call Rocco at 415-1215.

1801

LIFE A CENTURY AGO

Reprinted from the January 3, 1901 issue of the Woodbury Daily Times.

One hundred years ago a man could not take a ride on a steamboat.
 He could not ride a bicycle.
 He could not send a telegram.
 He had never crossed an iron bridge.
 He had never taken a ride in an elevator.
 He had never heard of an automobile.
 He had never used anything but a wooden plough.
 He had never seen his wife using a sewing machine.
 He could not call in a stenographer and dictate a letter.
 He had never received a typewritten communication.
 He had never struck a match on his pants or anything else.
 He had never seen a McCormick reaper or a self-binding harvester.
 He could not go from Washington to New York in a few hours.
 He had never seen an electric light nor dreamed of an electric car.

He never looked (sic) pleasant before a photographer or had his picture taken.
 He had never heard of the germ theory nor worried over bacilli or bacteria.
 He couldn't take an anaesthetic and have his leg cut off (sic) without feeling it.
 He had never imagined such a thing as a typesetting machine or a typewriter.
 He couldn't talk through a telephone, and he had never heard of the hellogirl.
 He never heard a phonograph talk or saw a kenescope turn out a prize fight.
 He never saw though a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary with the aid of a Roentgen ray.
 He had never purchased a 10 cent magazine which would have been regarded as a miracle of art.
 He could not buy a paper for a cent and learn everything that had happened the day before all over the world.
 In short there were several things he could not do and several things he did not know.

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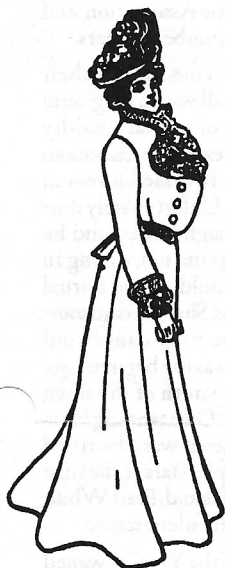
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WHAT FEBRUARY HOLDS...



Our program for February is another one which depends on your participation. We would like to make our February meeting about "the things you love." Since Valentine's Day is upon us, we thought this month would be a great time for you to share with the society one object that you love (other than your spouse!). So bring in that one treasure that sits at the center of your front parlour and tell us why it means so much to you. It doesn't necessarily have to be a Wenonah artifact, and the more unusual the better!

We will also be starting a new "feature" at our meetings: "Can You Identify It?" At the commencement of each meeting, we will present an object to you for identification. If you can guess its purpose... the payoff is big! You gain the admiration and adoration of your fellow Society members and the nickname "Know-it-All"

Our next newsletter will also be expanding, with regular columns on "Why I Moved to Wenonah", "Letter from the President," and "Letters." As part of our meetings and newsletters, we will gradually incorporate some of the ideas presented during our January meeting. We appreciate any help or contributions you can offer.

Thank you to Bill DeAscentiis for answering our questions about the new municipal building and Rocco Doto for his fine presentation in January!

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO - FEBRUARY 1901

Compiled by Milton Webb

There is considerable complaint about the electric light service again.

Checkers have become a fad here again and several of our players would like to meet some who think they can play from other communities.

The first meeting of the tourist club was held at the home of Miss Edith Farr last evening. (The Farr's were great travelers with many frequent trips to Maine and later to Europe, particularly Switzerland.)

The small pox scare has reached this town in the past few days and has caused a number of the mothers to keep their children from attending school.

Charles E. Simpson is engaged in the Belgian hare business quite extensively. (This was on North Jefferson Avenue north of Buttonwood Street. He had over five thousand rabbits at one time. The Wenonah depot became the main debarkation

point for these animals in New Jersey. We were the rabbit capital of South Jersey!)

There was an interesting all day missions meeting at the Methodist Church yesterday.

There is complaint because of the ordinance prohibiting the dumping of ashes in the streets is not being enforced.

There is a prospect of renting several of our houses this spring. (This was the tail end of Wenonah being a summer resort. A hand full of houses was still unoccupied in the winter in anticipation of summer rental.)

Officer Drummer picked up a man about 3:00 o'clock this morning. The officer declared a man with good intentions would hardly be prowling about in the cold at that unseemly hour. He was locked up but nearly froze and so was released at daylight.

Good ice is making but most of people have their icehouses filled.

A missionary lunch was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Bilderback. (The site of this home later became the Wenonah Free Public Library.)

The grip epidemic seems to be abating.

Frank Hendrickson has his tomato and cabbage beds sown.

A bargain for sale because of want of use. An 8-year-old bay horse-kind, sound, and gentle-can road ten miles per hour-price \$50-credit of 3 months can be given-apply to Charles Fedser

One of Job Scott's grays is dangerously ill this morning. (These were draft horses used to pull the lumber and coal wagons from his Mantua lumberyard.)

From the Woodbury Daily Times - Woodbury, New Jersey

JOE NOBLIT'S HALL

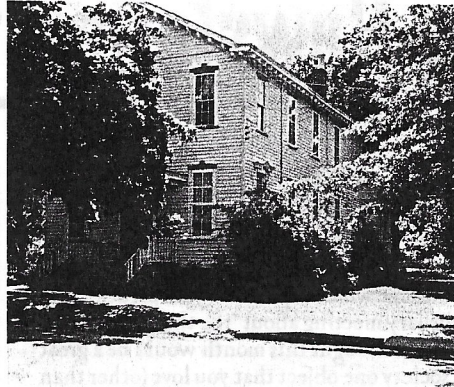
6 North Marion Avenue

Second in a series of articles detailing the histories of some of Wenonah's more notable structures. By Milton Webb

On March 19, 1878 in three public places in Wenonah the newly formed school district 54 posted the following notice: The annual Wenonah school meeting will be held in the school room in the Wenonah House on the Tuesday of the week following the town meeting at which meeting will be submitted the question of voting a tax to maintain a free public school, the amount thought to be three hundred dollars. The question of building a schoolhouse will also be considered with the matters related thereto. The amount thought to be necessary for this purpose is twentyfive hundred dollars. George Baily District Clerk. The meeting was a public forum where the question of building a schoolhouse was thoroughly talked over and a free expression of opinion given. It was agreed that the Board of Trustees be authorized to build a school not to cost over \$2500 exclusive of well, out buildings and fences. There was one vote in the negative. The Mantua Land and Improvement Company donated the land and Dr. Fithian purchased the entire bond issue.

The contract for the erection of the building was let out to Daniel Brown, a local builder and developer for \$2245.95. Other contracted items were to Sam Chew, digging a well \$15; Henry Frederick, well pump \$13.50; William Allen, bell and lightning rods \$9.00; Sam Dilks, carting \$3.00; Isaac Stevenson, grading and digging cellar hole \$38.00 and Ed Ward, plans and specifications \$30.50. The building was completed in the early months of 1879 and classes were immediately started in the new schoolhouse. This building, as a schoolhouse was to serve the community until 1894 when it was replaced by the "Stone School House" on North Clinton Avenue.

Several expenditures were significant during this period. Ella English to be employed as teacher at a salary not to exceed \$35 dollars a month. Sam Chew coal for the year \$37. May Clark to assist Tracy Waddington at a salary of \$1 a day.



The building in its role as the American Legion Hall in 1959.

During the period of use as a schoolhouse the trustees rented out the building for other purposes. The most significant was the Mantua Grange #39, Patrons of Husbandry. It might be noted that the Granger movement was a powerful political force and this chapter was large, numbering over two hundred members. Lectures were held and auctions of produce and grain held in the building. Also the tradition of this building as a polling place started lasting over one hundred years.

In June of 1894, the Trustees of the school district sold, at auction, the building to Joseph Noblit for \$1,500. He was a well-known citizen of the community. A farmer by trade, he also was the Deptford Township clerk. Wenonah still was a part of this township at this time. Known as "The Old War Horse," he was a veteran of the Civil War having served with the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Civil War veteran's organization.

Every up and coming community during this period had what was known as an "Opera House" and this building would fall into the category. On several occasions an advertisement would mention that an event would be held at Noblit's Opera House. He leased out the building for a number a varied social affairs. The Mantua Grange continued to use the hall as well as several political organizations. In 1889 the Wenonah Field Club was formed which was the forerunner of our modern Wenonah Athletic Association, and they used the building for a number of years.

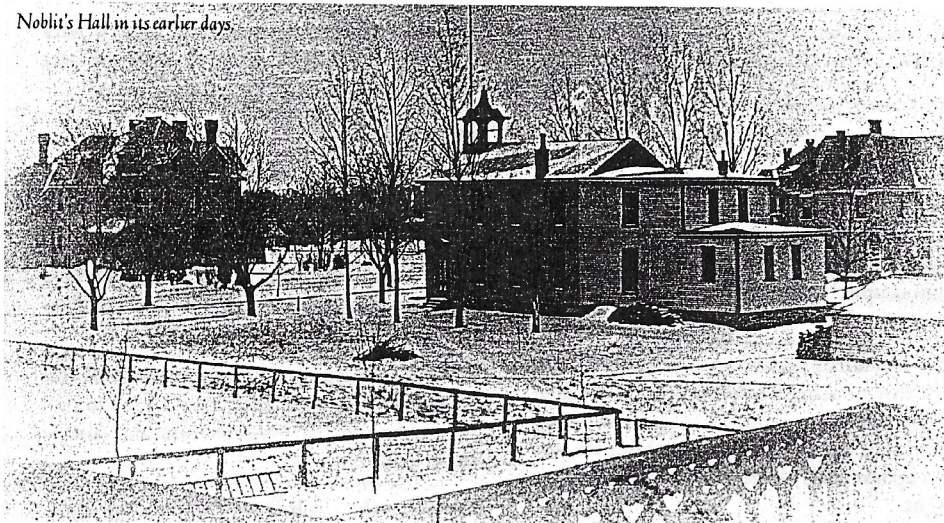
In 1913 The YMCA was reconstituted their organization and rented the hall with a long-term lease. They had the backing of several wealthy citizens who provided funds for extensive renovations to the building. It was then became known in Wenonah as the YMCA Hall. Unfortunately during this period Joe Noblit's sight failed and he moved to Oregon with his grandson, dying in 1915. The Y took title to the building and started a large undertaking of activities. Shuffleboard tournaments were held and there were dances and socials for the teenagers. This was the beginning of the ongoing concern for the youth of the town through providing recreation. Outstanding were the Saturday night movies when it was advertised seating capacity for 250 people. Stars at the time were Charles Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Pearl White, Buster Keaton and others of the silent screen.

Interest in the local chapter of the YMCA waned and the building went into disuse. Probably the greatest reason for this was the growing interest in the scouting movement under the leadership of Dr. Gage. In 1922, the newly organized J. Arthur Holeton Post 192, American Legion purchased the YMCA Hall. Previous to this they were meeting at what is now the Wild Iris floral shop, formerly the offices of the Wenonah Realty Company. Now the building became known as the "Legion Hall", the name lasting for over half a century. It became the center of social activity in the town. Saturday movies were started again for the children as well as teen-age dances, travel lectures, potluck dinners, strawberry festivals, band concerts and public forums. Voting was still held there. The American Legion Rifle and Pistol Club, the oldest NRA sponsored club in New Jersey build an indoor pistol range in the basement. In the second floor were recreational facilities including a fine old slate pool table.

In 1984 the Legion sold the building to a private owner after they began using the newly renovated train depot for their meetings, a new era emerged in the history of the hall.

Regardless of what you call it—Public School House, Grange Hall, YMCA Building, Legion Hall or my house—it is still a grand building. Basically it still retains its exterior architectural integrity and if treated kindly should exist another one hundred and thirty years.

Noblit's Hall in its earlier days



Feb 2001

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

We would like to present our mission statement for this newly formed committee:

Mission Statement

Committee for the identification, archiving, and preservation of Wenonah's historical treasures for future generations to enjoy. To identify all existing Wenonah Historical Society artifacts. To secure additional Historical treasures relevant to Wenonah's heritage and History.

The overriding goal is to prevent the destruction or damage of historical artifacts.

Currently the steering Committee for this new Committee is made up of Milton Webb, Diane Magarelli, Curt Kapus and Rocco Doto. The committee has had two additional volunteers and they are Larry Ledrick and John Mullens.

Our immediate goals are:

- Catalogue the existing inventory of W.H.S. documents and artifacts
- Identify Archival storage materials and conservation supplies
- Identify a temporary storage facility
- Identify a computer-based program that we can use for storing data about documents, photographs, and artifacts, and make the information available on a web page for all to enjoy.

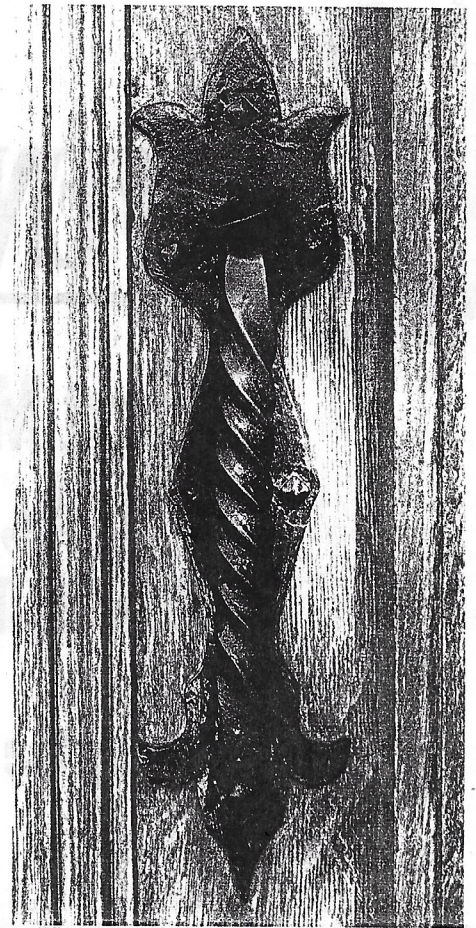
Our goals are ambitious and we will need everyone's cooperation. We encourage all to learn as much as possible about the history of our special town. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or articles to donate to the Historical Society please feel free to contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215 · rockracc@aol.com

To submit your committee's report:

- Provide a disc to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file
- eMail your file to wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

Your report must be received two weeks before our monthly meeting for inclusion in the newsletter.



WHERE IS IT?

Can you identify this building by this key piece of hardware? Each month we'll feature an architectural detail from one of Wenonah's structures for you to ponder. Don't worry...they'll get harder as we go along! If you haven't already figured it out, you can find out the answer at this month's meeting.

WENONAH LIBRARY

Remember to bring the thing you love to this month's meeting! See you there.

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form • 2000-2001

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting. Thank you!

Return to Wenonah Historical Society • P.O. Box 32 • Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: \$10 per family household per year



WENONAH Historical Society

**Next Meeting will be held
Friday, February 9th, 2001 · 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center**

Bring the Thing You Love to Our Meeting this Month!



06090-1829 06

Ralph & Rachel Knissell
100 West Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090



Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
PO. Box 32
Newsletter Committee

**WENONAH
Historical Society**



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



March 2001
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO · MARCH 1901

Compiled by Milton Webb

While at the B.F. Davis sale at Lambtown on Wednesday surveyor Cattell had a runaway as one front axle broke throwing the occupants out of the buggy and the horse continued on towards Almonesson where it was caught.

FOR SALE one bay pacer 15½ hands high 6 years old can show better than a 2:30 pace without training. Inquire Dr. Harry A. Stout (He lived and had his practice at 5 East Mantua Avenue)

The annual town meeting of the borough will be held Monday evening in Noblit's Hall where the yearly financial report will be on record and other business transacted as may come up before the meeting.

The Wednesday evening prayer meeting of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches will be combined this week to hear Miss Effie Braddock, a returned missionary who spent seven years in Indian. She is said to be a pleasing speaker.

A citizens meeting has been called to be held in Noble's Hall to nominate an assessor, 2 councilmen for three years, one for one year and a justice of the peace.

There was talk of having the school children vaccinated but the small pox scare is over and it might be delayed or forgotten.

Politicians are out with their war paint and it is said to be the hottest election we have had in some time.

There was general sorrow expressed here this morning over the death of ex-president Harrison.

Eggs are selling at 18 cents per dozen and may go lower.

Richard Clark went to the city today to lay in his stock of seed peas, onions etc. (Traditionally peas and onions were planted on Saint Patrick's Day)

There was much interest manifest in school matters in our borough Tuesday evening. It was rumored

no women were to be placed on the board and this aroused the women of our town to action and the result was the highest vote ever cast at a school election. 70 were cast for Mrs. Annie Johnson, 65 for Eldora Hurff and 62 for Ed Farr. 23 of the ballots had written on them "no taxation without representation."

Several of our horse owners about town think they have some speed and don't have to take the dust of anyone. There seems to be one way to prove this, however driving separately even though the animals do make a record seems unsatisfactory. There must be a race. Sylvester Chew believes he has speed to burn while Hi Leap splits the air with his rig and John Holton says he takes no back seat. A course has been prepared on Mantua Avenue and about all it will take to get a meet some afternoon is for someone to name the hour and there will be several starters.

Bring out the dish pan—here comes the fish man with toothsome Delaware shad.

J. Vandergrif who has the bakery route is the prime favorite with all the boys as he sometimes has samples to pass out.

Both the residents of Mantua and Wenonah are again reviving the question of damming the Mantua Creek. Should this be done it is claimed we would have one of the finest lakes in South Jersey. (In 1885, William Allen, the engineer who laid out the streets of Wenonah created a plan to dam the creek. This was to be done at what we call today "Clay Hill" or the old West Jersey Rail Road trestle embankment. The lake created would have extended to an area near what is now Moore's Liquor store. This plan was again considered in 1901 and later on several occasions.)

From the Woodbury Daily Times · Woodbury, New Jersey

President's Letter

It has been a real inspiration to me to see such a great turn out for our meetings. I welcome all the familiar and the many new faces! It is a huge help to have so many volunteering to take on committees that are helping us to fulfill our mission statement. This is not an easy or a quick task. It takes the efforts of many and we still need lots of help...so, don't be shy...get involved! I want to take this opportunity in our first President's Letter to extend my gratitude to some of you who have been so instrumental in making this organization a success. A heartfelt thank you goes to:

- Jane Ramsay for her guidance and mentoring
- Milton Webb for his "100 Years Ago" letter that we have all been enjoying for so long... and for his newest column in the newsletter on our Historical Buildings and homes!
- To Jack Sheppard for keeping our mission statement foremost in our thoughts, for always taking on any task, and for his photography support
- Rocco Doto and staff for taking on the DAUNTING task of cataloguing Wenonah's archives! Please call if you have any help or archives to add!
- Curt Kapus for taking on the office of Vice President and presenting us with this wonderful newsletter...truly a great piece of historic journalism!
- Rachel Knisell for her dedication to keeping our Victorian Garden alive!
- And to all our officers' past and present who have set the solid groundwork from which we are able to go forward
- And finally, to all our members for it is your support that keeps our organization and this town's rich history alive!

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Bring a friend and introduce them to the many benefits of the Historical Society.

It is the knowledge of our past that keeps Wenonah the historically rich town that it is... a place where people not only stay, but still call home after moving away!

-Vicki McCall, President

Upcoming Historical Events

March 10, 2001 · 9:15am to 2:30pm · Winter meeting of The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey Mauricetown Methodist Church, Second and Noble Streets, Mauricetown, NJ.

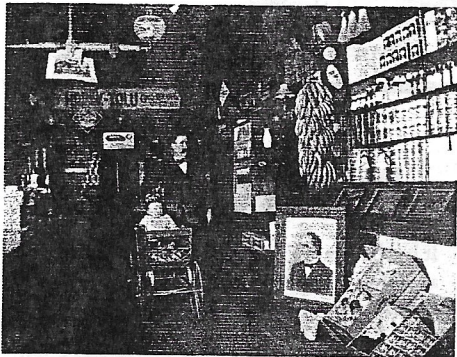
March 25, 2001 · 2:00-5:00pm · Gloucester County Historical Society presentation "Crazy About Quilts" in observance of Women's History Month. Gloucester County Historical Museum, 58 N Broad Street, Woodbury, NJ.

May 12, 2001 · 2001 Historic Preservation Awards Program, New Jersey State House in Trenton, NJ.

THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER

3 East Mantua Avenue

Third in a series of articles detailing the histories of some of Wenonah's more notable structures. By Milton Webb



Interior of the Richard Clark General Store 1897. Herbert Clark is in the baby carriage. Picture is of William Jennings Bryan.

Lavander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he conducted a general grocery store on the premises. This was a short-lived enterprise as the store and property were deeded to Richard J. Clark in September of 1888.

The store was expanded with *honest goods and honest prices*. The stock consisted of dry and fancy goods, notions, furnishings, boots, hats, caps etc. During this period he was in competition with Turner and McCormick who had similar goods. He outlasted them and eight other competitors until 1912. He was quite active in the community serving on the town commission and various church boards. His sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert would operate the coal yard business where the borough public works is today. Jim became a semiprofessional baseball player.

The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central" in his store serving the thirty telephones within the town. Five years later when the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone Company wanted to house their exchange but he refused because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark sold the business and the building to John Madara. He was a glass blower at Whitney Glass Works in Clayton. He continued the dry goods and grocery business successfully until 1920 when he sold it to a Norman Brown.

The business continued under his leadership until 1925 when it went up for public sale. The advertisement for the sale gives insight into the business. Listed was the store stock of shoes, hosiery, hardware, notions, dry goods, groceries, a meat cutter, refrigerator display, and everything to be found in a general store. This is one of the best residential and business properties in town located at the Wenonah station and across from the Military Academy Park.

Bill Seiders at this time had a hardware store in the northern part of the Grosscup building, being formerly owned by John Viereck. He was seeking

a new location. Milton Webb, a salesman for Winchester-Simmons Hardware Company, was persuaded by him to go into partnership in the 3 East Mantua Avenue building and to create a new hardware store. Mr. Webb, with the consent of his wife, also was talked into moving to town. They moved into the apartment next to what would become the hardware store. Soon after moving they were assessed \$500 for the concrete paving on Mantua Avenue that was their welcome to the town.

They called the store "The Little Hardware Store Around the Corner." The Winchester Simmons Company was the forerunner of our present True Value, Ace and other hardware chains. The stock was quite varied: sporting goods, tools, hardware cutlery, paints, and building materials. The barn in back was turned into a warehouse. The enterprise was quite successful despite the depression. However in 1935 the academy closed and this was a disaster to all the businesses in town and the area. The store closed in 1937.

The store was then leased to Mr. A.H. Williams who opened up a Fairlawn grocery store which was unsuccessful and closed in two years. After this Charlie Hill opened a hobby shop, which went out of business in 1940. The store was then turned into an apartment unit. During this period Mary Bilderback, formerly a piano teacher at the academy, taught music in the second floor. Many a child from Wenonah started their music careers with her.

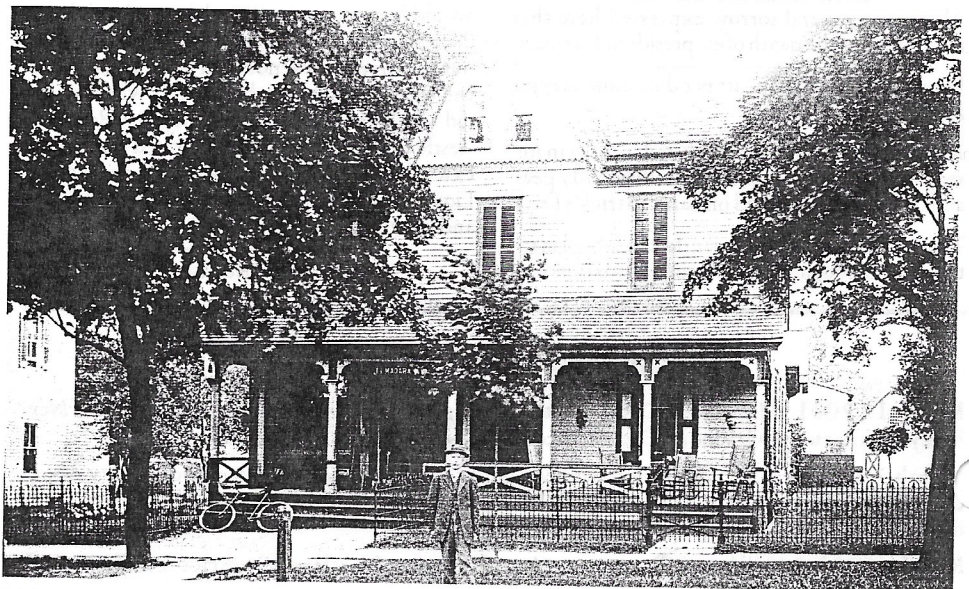
In 1949 Mr. Webb sold the building to Jim and Eleanor Ross. Eleanor's father was Charlie Hohlweg who owned Charlie's later called the Tall Pines. Jim

and Eleanor successfully created the Jim-El Sweet Shoppe, which was in business for fifteen years. This was basically a luncheonette and coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch. Many years later Eleanor after returning from Florida opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Margery and Bill Fox. This was an institution in Wenonah. In the morning for breakfast there was an influx of workers from Atlantic City Electric, Bell Telephone, and other locals. For lunch were those from Marmac and Newton Tool Works and the schoolteachers. It was a gathering place for the community, so many fond memories. Sadly Marjorie died but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys's husband was Herb Clark who was born in the building and whose father was Richard Clark the early owner.

The next owners were George and Jane Bowker who ran the business under the name of The Carriage Shoppe. They ran it for several years but Jane's ill health caused it to close. Several attempts were made to reopen, but were unsuccessful. Roy Duffield bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who have conducted an outstanding business there since that time.

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed its message is that it would be good to have a coffee shop again as we did years ago. This is something that is lacking in our community. For those who remember, we know.



Madara's General Store 1915. Iron fence in front. Porch was removed in 1925.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

The committee met on February 27th at the home of Milton Webb. The following items were discussed and agreed upon to be our main objectives:

1. Produce manual inventory list of all items recently acquired by the committee.
2. Prepare a receipt form to give to members handing over Wenonah Historical Society memorabilia.
3. Secure and prepare interim storage space at 9 West Mantua Avenue.
4. Identify purchase needs to submit to

Executive Board for approval.

5. Review Grant Program 2001 pamphlet from New Jersey Historical Commission for possible eligibility.

6. Arrange a meeting of the entire archiving committee.

7. Inventory the two lockers in the basement of the library.

8. Produce an inventory of all historical society artifacts

9. Identify any Historical Society artifacts not on the archiving committee list.

Our goals are ambitious and we will need everyone's cooperation. We encourage all to

learn as much as possible about the history of our special town. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or articles to donate to the Historical Society please feel free to contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215 · rockracc@aol.com

To submit your committee's report:

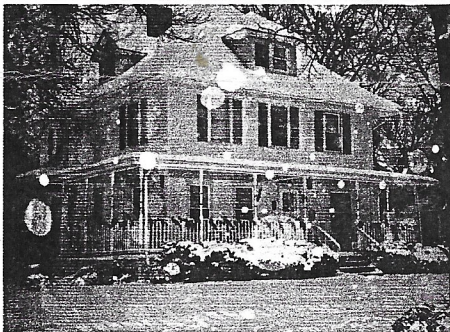
· Provide a disc to Curt Kapus (464-2485) with your file saved as a text or MS Word file

· eMail your file to wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

Your report must be received two weeks before our monthly meeting for inclusion in the newsletter.

WHY WE MOVED TO WENONAH

Featured Residents:
Jim, Mary, and Zachary Ready



We moved from Woodbury to Wenonah five years ago to live in a quieter and safer community. We knew that we wanted a "small town" environment in which to raise our family. Another draw to this town for us was the beauty and charm of the houses—every one was different and had a unique style. We also wanted to live within a town where the community cared and took pride in its town. You can see this by looking at our park, trails, and lake.

We found our house by accident. We were searching for the Wenonah Cemetery, made a wrong turn, and came upon this run-down house on 8 South Princeton. There was something about the house that drew us in—we knew we had to have it! After driving through the town we had confirmed our thoughts: "we were moving to Wenonah" and here we'll stay!

OUR TRIBUTE TO THE WENONAH LIONS CLUB

On April 21st of 1951 Charter Night was held for this local service organization. The group was made up of many outstanding citizens of the community many of which are no longer with us to name a few: Lew Hambrecht, Dave Knight, Norm Sanger, Bill Buckley, Howard Blithe, Charlie Hornberg, Tony Sacca, and Ted Worthington. Since then their work and outreach to the community has been outstanding. Foremost is the time and effort they put into organizing our annual, traditional Fourth of July. They have contributed equipment to our local fire company, aiding people in time of need and did much toward the restoration of our historic gem, the Wenonah Community Center. This is our opportunity on their fiftieth anniversary to say thank you for so much.

WENONAH

Historical Society Membership Form · 2000-2001

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting. Thank you!

Return to Wenonah Historical Society · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

Cost: \$10 per family household per year

March 2001

THE 4TH OF JULYS OF WENONAH'S PAST

Next Meeting will be held Friday, March 9th, 2001 · 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center



Our March meeting will feature a slide presentation of the Fourth of Julys of Wenonah's past. John Mullens is organizing the slides graciously donated by Marjorie Lentz at last month's meeting. Come point yourself out in the parades! There are many shots of old automobiles, homes in their former lives, and some of our town's long-time residents in their junior days.

Please leave your evening free for an interesting program and come ready to have a good and entertaining time!

INFORMATION WANTED!

· Does anyone have information on what the round stone structure is behind the McCall/Braun/Farr house located in the woods behind the house?

· Curt Kapus is looking for information about or photographs of his home's interior and exterior at 11 West Mantua Avenue. Anything you can provide will be appreciated!

The Mission of the Wenonah Historical Society

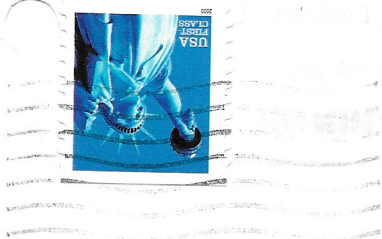
The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph & Rachel Knisell
100 West Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090

Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
PO Box 32
Newsletter Committee

WENONAH
Historical Society



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

PRESIDENT' S LETTER

As we head into spring, this is a great time to walk our historic streets and really take notice of the beautiful architecture in our town. Many of our own members have been working diligently (and I'm sure the task seems UNENDING) to restore their homes to the charm of another century. Their efforts have not gone unappreciated! Our small town is a truly an example of historic integrity. Our Goal as Historic Society members is to keep striving in our efforts to keep it that way!

As members of the Wenonah Historical Society, we are all proud of our heritage and we value the things that reflect this community's history. It has come to my attention that as citizens, there are tools available to us to help us in our efforts to preserve the historical significance of our town. One of these tools is a Section 106 review, which is a law that can be utilized to influence Federal decisions. By law, we are entitled to a voice when Federal actions will affect properties or districts that qualify for the National Registrar of Historic Places.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was established by Congress to preserve historical foundations of the Nation as a part of community life. Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal Agencies or Agents licensed under Federal Regulations to consider the effect of their actions or undertakings on historic properties. Part of the section 106 process involves identifying and consulting with interested public parties prior to implementation of any Federal undertaking. This section gives us a voice in determining how Federal projects may effect our town!

In speaking with the State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office it was determined that our town, while not registered as a Historic District, is RECOGNIZED as a Historic District. This is important on many levels. As to current undertakings in our town, as many are aware, there is an approved site for a cell tower on our water tower in Wenonah. This application by AT & T, a Federally licensed company that would be required to follow the Section 106 guidelines, was approved at State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office based upon AT & T's representation under Section 106 that there would not be an adverse effect on the town. The Historic Society was not consulted by AT & T on that site or on that undertaking, and accordingly, there remains a question as to the due diligence followed under Section 106. There is another application coming before Planning Board to approve an alternate site for a Cell Tower. The Agency requesting this approval (AT & T) is required under the National Historic Preservation Act to initiate a Section 106 process. This should entail AT&T identifying the Historical Society as an interested party and consulting with us on this matter. This affords us the opportunity to discuss and determine whether we feel that a cell tower at this site or any site requested will be an adverse effect on this historic community.

The State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office recognizes that wireless communication towers can have adverse effects on the view sheds of historic districts, sites, and landscapes. Knowledge about the New Jersey State Register Review and the Section 106 review and the Telecommunications Act is critical to understanding the regulation behind the placement of these towers.

This process is an important means of giving us the right and opportunity to give input on maintaining the Historic integrity of this town. We as members need to be aware of this and to speak up on our behalf to responsible parties that we do wish to have a voice and be considered in any Federal undertaking, whether it be a telecommunications issue, or how federal money will be used on any projects within our town.

I will have available at the meeting information on The National Historic Preservation Act section 106 Review. Please take a moment to read it and bring comments and suggestions to our meeting. I will be unable to attend the April meeting but am available to any who wish to call me on this matter.

Information about these regulations can be found at www.achp.gov/regs.html.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO-APRIL 1901

Misses Florence and Anna Greenig are ill with quinsy.

Palmer Finch is now employed at the Blasius Piano Works in Woodbury.

A large stock of Easter hams and fresh jersey eggs and all other necessities will be found at Turner and McCormick. (Corner of West Mantua and South West Avenue)

Irwin Middleton was remembered with a large box of rockfish from a friend in Port Norris.

The topographical work on the new cemetery is nearly complete and the landscape work will soon commence.

Our people are pleased with the new platform at the train depot.

George Greenig and Howard Holt caught 45 sunfish in the Mantua Creek yesterday.

Pretty lawns are all ready in evidence here.

A number of children are out of school with the chicken pox.

It is confidently asserted that we are going to have a dramatic association organized here in a short time.

The pleasant weather no doubt will have a tendency to fill out churches tomorrow. It is thought in proportion this town has actually the largest attendance in churches on Sunday of any other place in this part of the state.

The funeral of Isaac Stevenson will be held Thursday morning, internment at Blackwoodtown. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. At one time he was the owner of nearly all of the land that is now Wenonah. It is reported he is nearly a millionaire.

Edward L. Farr is on an extended trip through the west.

Dominee Cobb is enjoying his new wheel in this fine weather.

Woodbury Daily Times

Woodbury, New Jersey

Milton webb

THE FIRE HOUSE

In the beginning fire protection was very sporadic. Efforts to create a hose company started in 1888 and indeed were partially successful with the acquisition of a hose cart and organized manpower. Storage of the hose cart was in the barn of the Wenonah House, later moved to Thomas Synnott's icehouse on East Mantua Avenue. Two more carts were acquired and the need became apparent that a centralized location of equipment was needed. In 1902 this was expressed in the Woodbury Times-*the fireman again are agitating the removal of the fire station to a more central location somewhere near the depot would be most preferable*. At this time the fire company consisted of 22 members, three hose carts, 1000 feet of hose, axes, lanterns, ladders and fire buckets.

A building committee was formed consisting of George L. Dilks, Hon. William C. Cattell and Joseph Truncer. These men, held in great respect in the community, gave momentum to the realization that the town would have a fire station. Several sites were considered and the Harris Estate lot on South West and West Cherry Streets was purchased for \$150. Bids were solicited for a two story concrete block building, the low bidder being Daniel Brown. He was President of the fire company and the largest builder of dwellings in Wenonah. His bid was \$1475. Additional costs were \$60 for paving and \$39 for grading. It is interesting to note the architectural style was very basic, the same replicated in Mantua, Mount Royal and Clarksboro. The structure was to be *nicely heated* and illuminated with electricity and gas. On January 24th 1909 there was a housing of the apparatus. *The members of the borough council were present to witness the event*. At this time there was no motorized equipment. The fire bell was moved to the new building from McCormick and Turner's store on Mantua and South West Avenue. Out front, a gas lamp with a glass sign marked Wenonah Fire Co. was installed.

There was much discussion about the uses of the second floor. It was agreed that it could be used as a smoking room and to play cards but, of course, there would be no gambling. Dick Ballinger who lived across the street in the Stone Farm House provided furniture. A slate topped pool table was installed. Borough council who had previously met in the offices of the Wenonah Realty Company started meeting there as well as the Gloucester County Poultry Association. When the Wenonah Building and Loan was formed this was their regular meeting place. The new fire station became the town hall as well as the barn for housing the equipment.

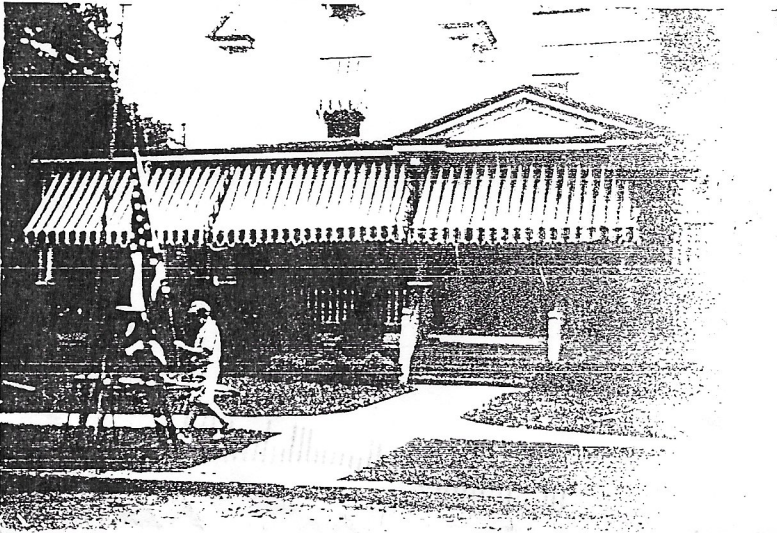
The first piece of motorize equipment housed in the barn ~~was~~ a 1915 Model C Auto Fire Truck. It was a dual-purpose vehicle as it was used to tow the hose cart and in the case of large fires the ladder wagon, which was, previously horse drawn. The second truck to be housed was a 500-gallon pumper and hose car made by the Stutz Fire Engine Company. This was at the time the ultimate pumper and it was commented in the paper that *they (the fireman) all think we have the best lot of councilmen in the state*. The cost was \$9,500 a considerable amount of money for the period. In 1928 a Seagraves pumper was purchased to replace the 1915 Ford. The cost was \$6,000.

Housing of the new pumper created a problem and it was determined to build an addition on the back of the barn. The addition was made of concrete block one story high. Part of the addition was a vault to store borough records, a new heating boiler and a jail. The jail replaced the one in the barn at 1 East Mantua Avenue. In order to finance the new addition carnivals were held in the park starting in 1921. This did not set too well with some of the citizens. One such person was Rev. Elbert M. Conover who was quoted in the Woodbury Times-

The writer has just learned with surprise and disappointment that gambling devises, chance selling etc are to be used at the Wenonah Fireman's Carnival. We had thought that the members of the Wenonah Fire Company and Women's Auxiliary were upholders of the law, order and decency. Evidently such members are in the silent minority. Is Wenonah so poverty stricken that we must resort to such low-grade methods of securing fire protection? Wenonah has gotten along without such degrading projects and should continue to do so. As much as the zeal of the workers for the carnival is to be recommended their effort is badly misdirected and entirely unnecessary. Wenonah has gotten along without such degrading projects and can continue to do so.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

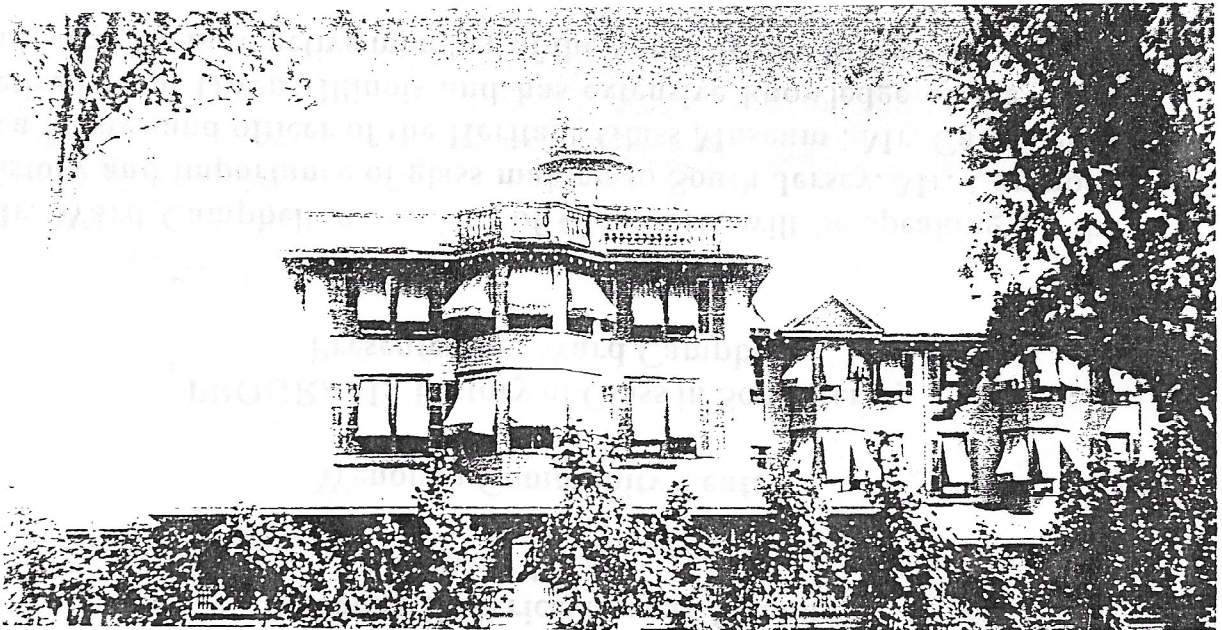
In the late spring workmen arrived in Wenonah to put up the awnings which had been stored for the winter on the houses of Wenonah. This was a big occasion. The whole appearance of the house changed with the new additional coloration. It was a welcome sign that summer was coming. Sitting on the porch was enhanced by the shade afforded by the awnings. It added a certain comfort to the house and served as a canopy to the entry area. In the fall the process was reversed and we knew that winter was on its way. Wouldn't it be grand if this tradition came back?



Typical configuration of awnings.

-101 South Marion Avenue C1930

The Wenonah Inn C.1890 In the Victorian period there was large use of awnings



Wenonah Historical Society Meeting
May 11, 2001
7:30 pm
Wenonah Community Center

PROGRAM: History of Glass in South Jersey
Presented by: Ward Campbell

Mr. Ward Campbell, a resident of Glassboro, will be speaking on the history and importance of glass making to South Jersey. Mr. Campbell is a trustee and officer of the Heritage Glass Museum . Mr. Campbell is retired from Owens Illinois and has extensive knowledge of the Glass industry. He is an active member of the South Jersey Bottle Club.

Please join us for an informative and hands on evening. Feel free to bring in any bottles that you would like Mr. Campbell to comment upon.

Ralph & Rachel Knissell
100 W. Mantua Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090



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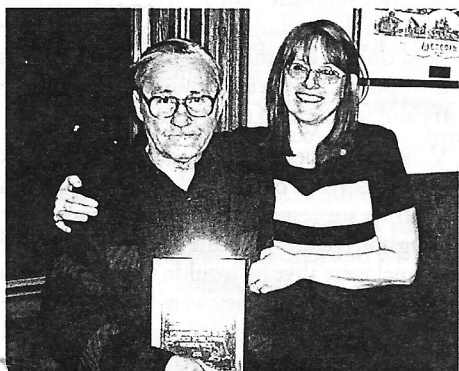
Historical Society Newsletter



August 2001
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

THOUGHTS ON THE PASSING OF MILTON H. WEBB, JR.

By Jack C. Sheppard, Sr.



Milton receiving the Society's Millenium Award from President Vicki McCall at the March meeting.

Since there are many people on the Wenonah Historical Society mailing list who are not from this area, a copy of the *Gloucester County Times* obituary for our friend Milton H. Webb, Jr., is enclosed.

Although the obituary is very much complete and factual, to some extent it fails to convey the full relationship that Milt had with his region and his community.

Although I was a classmate of Milt's sister Marjorie, Woodbury High Class of 1944, I didn't come to know Milt until Helen and I moved into Wenonah in the early 1950's and I was elected to Wenonah Borough Council.

Milt was extremely interested in the flora and fauna of Wenonah and encouraged Planning Board members George Eldredge, Nat White, and others to acquire parts of bordering woodlands using funds made available through the estate of Woodbury resident and naturalist Frank H. Stewart.

Once lands were acquired Milt was appointed to the Wenonah Woodlands Council, which at his urging became the Wenonah Environmental Commission. Milt was it's first chairman and a member for over twenty-five years.

Milt's knowledge of the origins and history of Wenonah was legendary. He spent countless hours in Wenonah and at the County Historical Society library researching and photocopying information related to Wenonah from the old newspaper records of the *Gloucester County Constitution*, *Democrat* and the *Woodbury Daily Times*.

Anyone researching Wenonah history or simply curious would stop by Milt's family home on South Marion Avenue and almost instantly Milt would produce one or more articles or photos on a particular point of interest.

My own personal relationship with Milt and his family was a great source of satisfaction to me. Many visits to Milt and his mother before her passing were very enjoyable as well as educational.

For those who haven't heard this story before, I was passing the house on my bike one day and saw Mrs. Webb, then in her eighties, on her hands and knees under the shrubs in front of the house. I stopped and asked if I could help her and that was my first experience with "Martha", the just acquired family kitten. Since that time Milton and Martha and I have spent many hours on Milt's porch, Milt and I talking about Wenonah and Martha attempting to gnaw through my shoe. Milt would just roll his eyes and tell me another tale about Martha's latest conquest, usually a chipmunk, squirrel or bird that Martha had dragged to, or into the house.

Milt's overwhelming interest in resisting change to the Wenonah he so fervently loved caused him to call me for discussion and advice many, many times.

He had spent a great many hours as part of the volunteers restoring the former train station and he hated to see it not being properly maintained or being altered in some way that was inconsistent with it's origins.

As development growth occurred in town he spent many hours perusing the plans and making constructive suggestions to the Planning Board and Borough Council.

He loved Wenonah absolutely and without concession.

I said at an ash scattering ceremony in the Wenonah woods that "heaven" is different things to different people and not necessarily just a wonderful place "up there". Some folks believe we can spend eternity in a place that was heaven to us while we were on earth. If this is possible then Milt is now a resident of Wenonah back at the turn of the previous century and will spend eternity roaming the streets of his favorite place in the universe, Wenonah.

We will all miss Milton H. Webb Jr. and I am sure I speak for all members of the Wenonah Historical Society in saying we extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to his family.

The Executive Board and membership would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of those who have so graciously contributed money to the Wenonah Historical Society. Your thoughtful donations will continue to enable us to preserve and promote the wonderful history and priceless artifacts of our town through projects such as this newsletter, the Archiving and Preservation Committee, and future endeavors. Again...

Thank You!!!

President's Letter

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. As most of you are aware, we lost a very dear member this summer. We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Milton H. Webb. We sent our condolences to his family and to his numerous friends. We will miss him terribly.

As we go forward into this new year, I hope you will take a moment to think about the amount of time and effort that Milton so freely gave to our Historical Society. There are not many places in this town that you can go and not be reminded of Milton. He touched so many of our hearts and it was his tireless efforts to keep this town true to its roots that have made Wenonah what it is today. In that spirit we must continue these efforts to keep the historical integrity of our town that Milton fought so hard to keep.

Take a close look around you ... at your own home and those surrounding it ... at the beautiful woods and nature trails that surround this town. Wenonah truly represents one of the few towns that can still boast a sense of community, a spirit of camaraderie, and a commitment to the town and its people. Let us never lose sight of that and let us renew our own promises to enrich this town.

In Milton's honor and in the honor of all our members who have passed that have shown such a commitment to this town (Jean Ehlers, Dorothy Fiege, and the many others) please, please, please volunteer your time and commit to continuing the efforts of those before us.

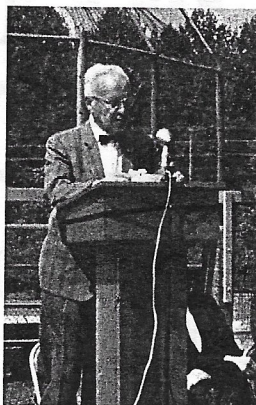
Join us at the annual Porch Party at Littlegrange on September 14, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend and hopefully you will come prepared to help us in our efforts to immortalize and honor this town.

As part of the evening's events, I would love it if you could bring a written story about how Milton Webb may have touched your life so that we can put his story forever in our archives as he put Wenonah forever in his heart.

-Vicki McCall, President

History of the Athletic Field

By W. George Gehring (July 4, 1969) [Edited for space considerations]



W. George Gehring giving this speech at Langston Field, 1969.

Langston Field was originally the Wenonah Military Academy Athletic Field. The Academy was located in the block bounded by Mantua Avenue, South Clinton, East Cherry, and South Marion Avenue. The stone wall in front of the home of a former teacher at the Academy, Captain David Knight, on South Clinton is the original wall of the Academy grounds and thereon is a plaque marking the site. Langston Field is where the cadets played football and baseball, held track meets and military maneuvers, and practiced horsemanship. It had an enclosed grandstand. The Academy was founded in 1905 and lasted until 1935. Old-timers will recall that a baseball pitcher by the name of Herb Pennock attended here and went on to become a star in the Major League, pitching winning ball for 23 years and making the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Another famous graduate was State Senator Frank Farley.

After the Academy closed its doors in the famous depression of the 1930s, the Wenonah Athletic Association played ball there and many were the battles with Woodbury, Paulsboro, Pitman, and Glassboro. A few remaining residents of Wenonah performed on that team. In the 1940s and 50s, the Wenonah Boys' Club was organized by Bill Queale and myself. Our best pitcher was Gordon Scargle, who was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals.

In the early 1950s, the Lions Club International came to Wenonah and what a lucky day for us. One of the finest deeds they offered to do was to take on the responsibilities of the athletic field and the organization of the various teams. We now have an immaculate diamond, replete with well constructed backstop, dugouts, grandstand, a refreshment house with water and electricity, and also a basketball court. Three years ago [1966] the Lions Club sponsored the formation of the Wenonah Athletic Association which is now operating baseball under the capable guidance of many men and women of the Borough.

Now, let us go back 21 years and I'll acquaint you with a most unusual incident that took place in June of 1948. We were playing ball when a bulldozer came on the field and began digging a hole right through the cinder track in left field. We ran out and asked the man what was going on. He told us that the ball field had been purchased and was to be sold into building lots. Mrs. Samuel Langston heard of this and within a month's time convinced the new owner to sell her all but a half-acre in the outfield. She did this to save it for the girls and boys of Wenonah. A little over a year later she sold it to the Borough of Wenonah for a thousand dollars less than she paid for it. So it is now public property because of the generosity and foresight of this great woman.

When Bill Queale and I went around to thank her in 1948 on behalf of the Wenonah Boys Club, we suggested that the field be named the Langston Memorial Athletic Field. She said if Samuel were alive he wouldn't agree to it. This is the kind of people they were. I remember during the formation of the Wenonah Playground Association around 1940 that most of the large equipment was purchased by the Langstons.

On September 30, 1967, Mrs. Langston departed from this mortal life of nearly 87 years of fruitful living. Immediately we began a movement to perpetuate the memory of this great benefactor of Wenonah with a fitting memorial. The Lions Club was very happy to do this and now our dreams have come true.

Truly our community is enhanced as a nicer place to live by her deeds. This town has been blessed with a great spirit of patriotism and local pride and we aim to safeguard it by instilling such a spirit in our youth. They take over when we are gone. The finest example of such a spirit during my 40 years in Wenonah was accomplished in 1948 by your friend and mine, Jessica Wood Langston.



Letters to the Editor

Please see below right for where to send your letters. Thank you!

Dear Editor,

It has been a great pleasure to receive the Wenonah Historical News. My husband and I thoroughly enjoy reading the news that brings back a flood of memories.

We have lived in Florida for forty-one years this coming New Years' Day. I was forty years old when we arrived and my husband was forty-three, so you can imagine the expanse of time that has slipped by since living up North.

My family moved to Wenonah when I was two years old, and I can recall the day of arrival, Momma and Papa with their five children. Needless to say, we had a wonderful up-bringing in the small town of Wenonah. For my own experiences, I recall living in many different homes, with the exception of our one home on S. Monroe Ave. and Willow St. My parents built this and the one next door and we lived there until the homes were lost due to the great depression of those days. We moved to Woodbury for a short span of time, but soon returned to Wenonah and lived there until the day I was married and moved elsewhere only to return to Wenonah for approximately three or four more years with our two young children. After this, we had to leave my beloved town so that my husband could locate closer to his place of work.

During all the years of my absence from Wenonah, my memories of my home town dwelled on thoughts of my young years. There was never a lack of things to do, for in those days,

we had the wooded areas to play in, and very often, all of us kids when living on S. Monroe Ave., would have a great time climbing down the trunk of a big old tree on the Mantua Creek which was on S. Jefferson Ave, at the Cann's residence. At that time, there were other woods where we would pick Violets from the great expanse of tiny flowers peeping up at us near the swamps on the north side of Lincoln Ave. On the west side of the street, we used to cross the swamp area on logs. Of course, there was Warner's lake and all the activities there through out all the years I lived there, namely swimming, ice-skating and just walking around the lake. I still recall all my grammar School Days and my Sunday School activities at the Wenonah Presbyterian Church and all the youngsters we knew and played with. My memories are endless and of course, how well we remember the Millitary Academy and the performance of the Cadets on certain occasions in town. During my absence from my home town, I often thought of returning, but it was not to be. My thoughts and memories were quickly revived thru the Newsletters we now receive. My brother, Sylvanus Beucler's name is inscribed on the Veterans list in the park. I have no family left except our very own. Hank and I have two children, four grandchildren, and four greats. All are our hearts' delights and deep in filling joy. Now our home is in Jupiter, Florida, and we love it very much here.

Gods love and blessings,
Janet and Hank Picucci

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Our committee is going strong. The *PastPerfect* software has been tested and thus far there have been no problems. It is very clear to us that this endeavor will take much more time than first expected. We have already located over 500 items and numerous collections. Our next step will be to produce the computerized database and photography for all members to take pride in and see our vast holdings. Now we have to think about ways of storing and displaying our artifacts.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

To Submit Your Committee's Report, Letters, or Articles to the WHS Newsletter

• **Provide a Disc**
to Curt Kapus (464-2485)
with your file saved as a
text or MS Word file

• **eMail Your File**
wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

Your report or article must be
received three weeks before
our monthly meeting for
inclusion in the newsletter.

WENONAH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

Name _____

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Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

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- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: \$10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

Annual Porch Party Meeting

Next Meeting will be held Friday, September 14th, 2001 • 7:00pm
Littlegrange • 300 East Mantua Avenue (The McCall Residence)



September's meeting will be our annual Porch Party at the McCalls' home. Please feel free to bring food or beverages to this opening of our "season." We look forward to seeing everyone at this always social and casual event.

Dues notice

Please note that yearly membership dues are due at the September Porch Party. Please accompany your payment of \$10 with the form on the inside of this newsletter. Thank you... your dues are what make everything possible for us!

How to Contact Us

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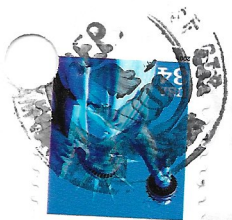
THE MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
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WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



October 2001
Published by the
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Wenonah, NJ

A Plea for Your Knowledge



With the passing of Milton Webb, we lost one of our most prolific contributors to this newsletter. Without his monthly articles, our newsletter has been left sorely empty and wanting for pieces dealing with the past

of Wenonah coming from the hearts and minds of those who have experienced it. If you can provide information about, or write yourself, an article for a future issue, please contact us. We need your help! Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Our knowledge of the *PastPerfect* software has grown since the last meeting as we continually find ways to make the program do what we require. We are also at this point attempting to locate any and all items owned by the Society that are being stored personally so that they may be cataloged and photographed. As we progress through this undertaking, the sheer scope and size of the job is becoming evident.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

**Please Submit Your
Committee Reports or
Articles to the Newsletter**

WENONAH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

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October Business Meeting

Next Meeting will be held Friday, October 12th, 2001 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



October's meeting will concern itself with many important business issues that we must discuss and vote upon. Your attendance and input is requested for this most important gathering. November's meeting will feature a guest speaker and program.

Dues notice

Please note that yearly membership dues are now due. Please accompany your payment of \$10 with the form on the inside of this newsletter. Thank you... your dues are what make everything possible for us!

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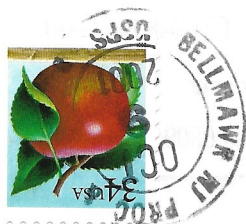
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WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



November 2001
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History to be Displayed at Wenonah School

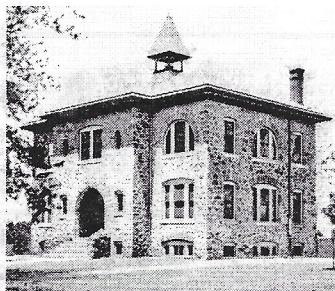
Our mission as a Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and display our town's artifacts. To this end we have been diligently working. I thank the Archive Committee for all their hard work and look forward to unveiling some of our treasures in the very near future. We have commissioned David Ramsay Cabinetmakers to design and create our FIRST Display Cabinet. This Cabinet will be put up in the Wenonah Elementary School. This will provide us with a wonderful method of bringing our history to future generations. The first display will be up in time for Parent Visitation at the Wenonah School on November 14-15, 2001. We are hoping to have a dedication ceremony as well.

I am extremely excited about finally being able to display and share our town history with the

school and the children. I hope you too will share in this enthusiastic project and volunteer to help with the set up and unveiling!

At this month's meeting, input from the membership would be greatly appreciated on what we should include in the school display. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the treasures we have been accumulating.

We will also be planning the Christmas Party for December. Please come and bring us some new ideas!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

The Archiving Committee has completed its Inventory of all known items. Some of the items are magnificent like the WMA Sabers and Silver Trophies from the Wenonah Military academy. Some items are in poor condition like a Red Victorian Dress and a WMA Silk Flag that is beautiful but deteriorating quickly.

There are other pieces of Wenonah's History like the hand drawn map outlining the main streets of Wenonah and the Wenonah Realty Company's sale of lots on July 8th, 1916. We also have lots of photographs and postcards from the early 1900s. Most of these items are unknown to most people, particularly the newer people in town. It would sure be nice to have somewhere to show our Wenonah pride and joy.

If you have any ideas or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

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rockracc@aol.com

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November Meeting

Next Meeting will be held Friday, November 9th, 2001 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



Due to health issues among our officers and their families, we will not have a program at the November meeting. We are planning to use the meeting time to determine the articles, pictures, and artifacts that we want to use for the first ever school display.

Dues notice

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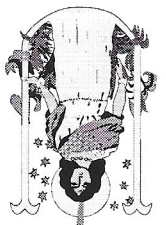
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P.O. Box 32
Newsletter Committee

WENONAH
Historical Society



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



December 2001
Published by the
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of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

As the holiday season approaches I want to take the time to thank you for all of your support and help. We have accomplished some important items over the last year. Our archive committee has documented and updated all our records and have prepared a database that will soon be available to all. We have accomplished setting up our first display cabinet in the Wenonah School. Be sure to stop in and see this wonderful piece. I wish to thank David Ramsay Cabinetmakers for the wonderful work they did with the design. Our first display is dedicated to the memory of Milton Webb. He would be very proud to see us finally reaching one of our goals...bringing our archives to the public's attention.

In these times of worldwide turmoil do not forget to take a minute every day to count your blessings. Let each of us look around and find ways, no matter how small, to reach out and help others. I wish you all a VERY HAPPY and HEALTHY HOLIDAY!!!

-Vicki McCall

Wenonah's Christmas in the Past

1890

The Methodists had a very interesting Christmas entertainment on Thursday evening. Beside the part taken by the little folks and the excellent part taken by the choir there was a short address by Dr. S.D. Risley, formerly a resident here. Several of the Sunday school teachers received valuable presents from their classes, and the Pastor Herr was presented with a costly gold watch, purchased by contributions from members of the church and other friends.

1891

As is its custom, the Wenonah Presbyterian Sunday school provided the inmates of the West Jersey Orphanage for Destitute Colored Children at Camden with their usual Christmas dinner of poultry and all the "fixins." (Thomas W. Synnott was one of the founders of this institution)

1893

The jingle of sleigh bells, the many shouts of school children, the whirling of the snow and the debut of ulsters and gum boots reminds us that winter is here. Christmas morning was joyously welcomed by our little folks whom Santa Claus had treated with great liberality. He made many little hearts happy and warmed the hearts of older folks with true Christmas cheer by the sight of their happy faces. "Peace and good will toward men" reigned supreme in the borough. Our post office has a very festive air in its decorations of Christmas greens.

1899

On Monday evening (Christmas night) an entertainment will be given for the Presbyterian Sunday school in Noblit's Hall. As usual at the M.E. church a collection will be received for the poor. Nothing will be refused from a ton of coal to a bar of soap.

1900

The Sunday school entertainment of the M.E. Church will be held on Christmas Eve. The children will give a cantata entitled "The New Santa Claus" forty nine taking part. Silver offering at the door for adults.

1903

A substantial and much appreciated gift comes to the Presbyterian congregation in the shape of a residence adjoining the church. The donor, Stephan Green has done much for the welfare of Wenonah and its residents, and has a warm place in the hearts of the citizens. (This Victorian house was sited where the social hall stands today.)

1904

The Christmas cantata of the Presbyterian Church will be held at Noblit's Hall. A rather unique admission will be charged - an apple or a potato or their equivalent in anything else or more. These are to be donated to the worthy poor irrespective of color, denomination or nationality.

Collected from the
Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury Daily Times

1908

A large audience enjoyed the Christmas Cantata "Sleepy Santa Claus" in the Methodist Church. The little folks chorus "The Sleepy Head Band" was quite the hit of the evening. Misses Truncer, Gringo and Jordan were very attractive as "Toy Factory Girls." Misses Eleanor Stout, Elizabeth Mehorter and Hazel Nightingale were the fairies. The scholars of the school received candy and oranges. Hon. William C. Cattell, in a stirring speech, presented the Pastor with a liberal remembrance from the congregation.

1909

The Christmas services of All Saints Mission Sunday School was held at the home of Rev. G. Livingston Bishop. Regular services at Noblit's Hall on Sunday morning at 10:45 all welcome. The Christmas cantata entitled "Santa Claus Junior" will be given December 30th and promises to be interesting.

1911

The Christmas cantata "Why Santa is Happy" rendered by the members of the M.E. Sunday school in the new recreation hall was a decided success, the participants entering into the spirit of the occasion in a most creditable manner due, no doubt, to the careful training of Mrs. Charles Hopson. Dr. Lake Gilmour as Santa Claus acted the part to perfection. The little tots claiming him for their sweet heart in song.

Wenonah School

N. Clinton Avenue and E. Elm Street

Fourth in a series of articles of some of Wenonah's more notable structures (series started by Milton Webb in February 2001)
Excerpts taken from Marge Lentz's book, A History of Wenonah

by Vicki McCall

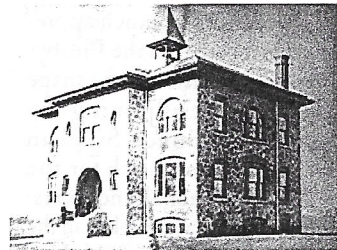


According to the annual report of The Mantua Land and Improvement Company, fifteen residential lots and four business lots had been sold and \$75,000 worth of buildings had been erected by May 8, 1873. Over the next ten years, fifty "cottages" were built which, can be identified today by their Mansford roofs, slate roofs, Mansford double doors, fish scale shingles, and towers with iron cresting.

Children of some of these new residences attended boarding schools in Philadelphia or attended the Mantua School. In 1875, parents hired Charles Buckman to drive the school aged children to the one-room Monongahela School where Sallie Baily was the teacher. This school was located three miles east of Glassboro Road, down a lane that passed the Benjamin Clark farmhouse (now on Gloucester County College property).

In 1876, District Clerk George Baily, brother of the teacher Sallie Baily, proposed a school for

Wenonah. He wrote a letter to the Gloucester County Superintendent of Public Instruction stating that "The school during



the months of September and October will meet in a room in a private dwelling. On October 31st we expect to occupy a part of the Wenonah House. Please send the books and blanks which, as I understand the matter, are furnished by the state."

After this, classes were held in The Howard-Wentzell Building located at 7 W. Mantua Avenue. This building was referred to as, "Daddy Howard's School". During the winter months, the children met at The Wenonah House, a hotel, in the dining room.

Teacher Sallie Baily was paid an annual salary of \$360 and was given an allowance to purchase a stove to heat the dining room of The Wenonah House. Classes were held in this manner from 1876 to 1878.

On March 19, 1878, the annual meeting of School District 54 in the County of Gloucester was held at the Wenonah House. The President read the following call, which had been posted in three public places: "Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of School District No. 54 in the County of

Gloucester, that the Annual School meeting will be held at the school room in the Wenonah House, on the Tuesday of the week following Town meeting, being the 19th day of March 1878 at 8 o'clock in the evening, at which meeting will be submitted the question of voting a tax to maintain a free Public school the coming year.

The amount thought to be necessary for the purpose is (\$300) three hundred dollars.

The question of building a school house will also be considered, with all matters relating there to.

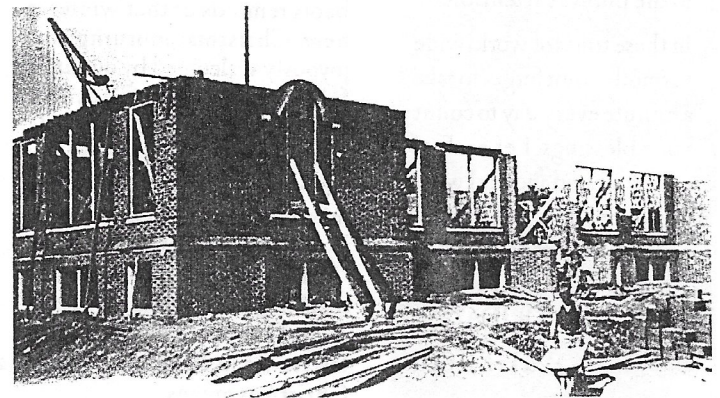
The amount thought to be necessary for this purpose is (\$2,500) twenty five hundred dollars.

Dated this Fourth day of March 1878"

-George W Baily, District Clerk

This was the official start of the Public School system in Wenonah!

The first school building was located at 6 N Marion Avenue. It was completed in 1879 and classes immediately started. This building served as the Schoolhouse until it outgrew its capacity for the growing number of school children in Wenonah. In June of 1894, the trustees of the school district sold this building at auction to Joseph Noblit.



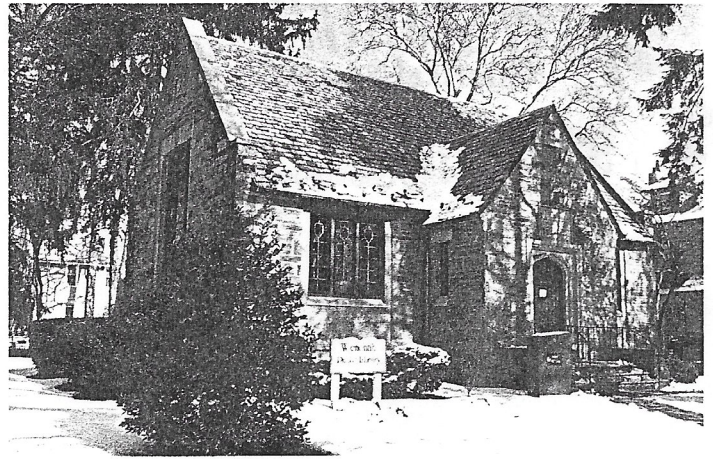
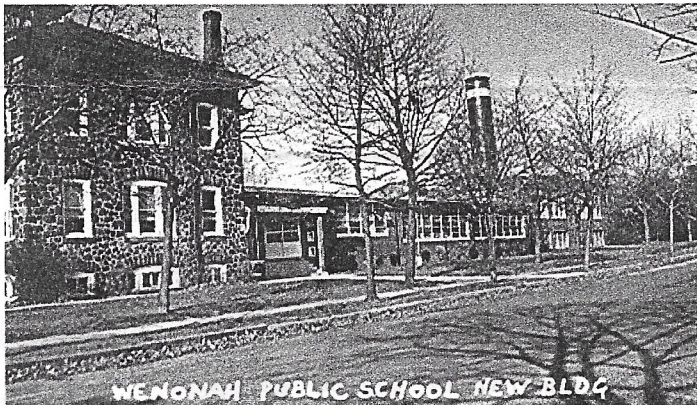
A new school was built in 1894 in the section of Wenonah known as "Sand Town." The new building was known as The Old Stone School and now houses the third and fourth grade classes. Mrs. Andrew Carey and Mrs. Edward Farr were the FIRST women in Wenonah to be elected as school Trustees. Wenonah was the second school district in Gloucester County to elect women to this post. The Old Stone School in 1894.

In the 1890's, an article in a monthly newspaper called "The Wenonah News," Wenonah was described as "a model home town with pure spring water, conveniences, hot and cold water, best

schools, established churches, and seventeen trains for the city and no salons. The article added it is "just the place for you and better still for your children."

As news of this great town spread, more people moved in and the population continued to grow. A new brick addition was added to the school ground in 1921 to house the older classes through eighth grade. In 1955 the two schools were joined by the brick addition that today houses the Kindergarten through second grade.

WENONAH SCHOOL: "A great place for you and better still for the children"



Don't forget the Wenonah Holiday House Tour!

Tour some of Wenonah's most historic public spaces and most delightfully decorated residences on Sunday, December 9th from 2-7pm. Tickets are available \$10 in advance or \$12 at the Community Center the day of the tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Photography has commenced to accompany the recorded written records in our database. This is the most laborious aspect of the archiving, but will also reap the most rewards for use on the internet and future generations. Digital photographs and scans are being used to record our holdings and will be available to anyone who may request them. We are working toward a February deadline to make a presentation to the society.

If you have any ideas or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

WENONAH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

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Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: \$10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. Box 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

December Christmas Party

Annual Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 14th, 2001
Community Center • 6:00pm Wine & Cheese • 6:30pm Dinner



Our annual Christmas Party costs \$15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped) and we will also have a special raffle!
RSVP to Jane Ramsay at 468-5593 as soon as possible.

January's meeting

Our first meeting of the year 2002 will be a special one. Bring an item or two for appraisal at our own "Antiques Road Show" on Friday, January 11th at 7:30pm at the Community Center.

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@home.com

THE MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

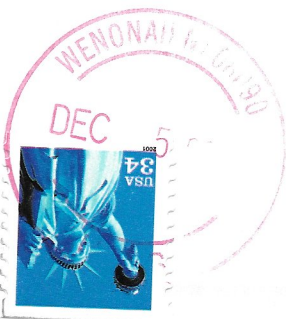
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5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph + Rachel Knissell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

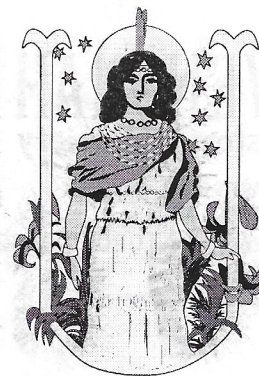
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
P.O. Box 32
Newsletter Committee

WENONAH
Historical Society



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



January 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a very happy holiday and that the year 2002 is a very good one for all! We have some great programs for the upcoming months as we listed in the December newsletter.

I hope to see a lot of faces this year and I hope we see some renewed interest in our town's rich history. If you have not had a chance to see the new display cabinet in the Wenonah Elementary School, be sure to stop in. We need someone to volunteer to do the next display for February... perhaps the Military Academy. There is a lot available, we just need some hand to do the set up.

I look forward to seeing you Friday night!

-Vicki McCall

WENONAH

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WENONAH Historical Society

Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

January Meeting

January 11th, 2002 • Wenonah Community Center • 7:30pm
Special "Antiques Road Show" Program



At this month's meeting, Cross Roads Antiques of Woodstown will present a special program about the antiques appraisal process. Each member is invited to bring with them one item for appraisal. Cross Roads Antiques has been in business for over 35 years and specializes in 18th, 19th and 20th century items.

Remember to bring one item with you for appraisal!

How to Contact Us

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WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



February 2002
Published by the
Historical Society of
Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

It was great to see such a wonderful turn out at the January meeting. It seems everyone enjoyed the Antique Road Show. We certainly seem to have some unique hidden treasures in our town! Much thanks to Crossroads Antiques!

The upcoming year promises to bring some interesting and unique programs. This month our program will be about archaeology and digs.

Next month we will be presented with an hour video presentation by South Jersey Ghost Research! Be sure to see their website!

Thank you to all of you who have helped bring these to fruition!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to continue with the various parts of our newsletter that we have all come to appreciate. This month's article on the Military Academy was put together by Eileen Caraker. Be sure to go to the Wenonah School in February to see the display of the Wenonah military Academy Artifacts. This should be up by Valentine's Day.

May the month of February find you all in good health and in the spirit of the season—filled with LOVE!

Happy Valentine's Day!

-Vicki McCall

A Reader's Submission

The picture of the old Railway Station in the October Newsletter made me think of the little gentleman that used to lower and raise the crossing gates when the trains came through town. He had a little shack on the S.E. corner of the railroad crossing where he could sit and wait for their arrival. At one time I lived at 5 E. Mantua Avenue. It had been my Grandfather Stout's home when he was the country doctor on Wenonah. It was either Sunday or Saturday that the Wenonah Military Academy would have their weekly parade down Mantua Avenue to the corner of the park where they would then turn south to their drill field. It was fun to watch. our phone number in those days was #1. I remember when the phone company changed it to #200 and my Grandfather Stout was upset. All calls went through the switchboard that was located on

the second floor of the building across the street from the station. When we went to Woodbury High School we could take the Wood Bus or the train. The cost was 10¢ on the train or the bus, but you could get 50 trips for \$4.50 on the train if you purchased a block ticket. Therefore, the Wenonah School Board would give us \$4.50 to cover 50 trips to Woodbury. That represented 25 school days. I can remember walking up Clinton to Wenonah Elementary School in the early 30s when there were several homes in those two blocks that were boarded up because they had been lost to the mortgage holder. They didn't get used until the war years brought in people to work in industry in our area. The Woodbury Times cost 3¢. As a paperboy, I got 2/3 of a cent per paper to deliver it. Wenonah was a great place to grow up in.

-Bob Sundt, Tucson, AZ

WENONAH

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The Wenonah Military Academy

1904-1934

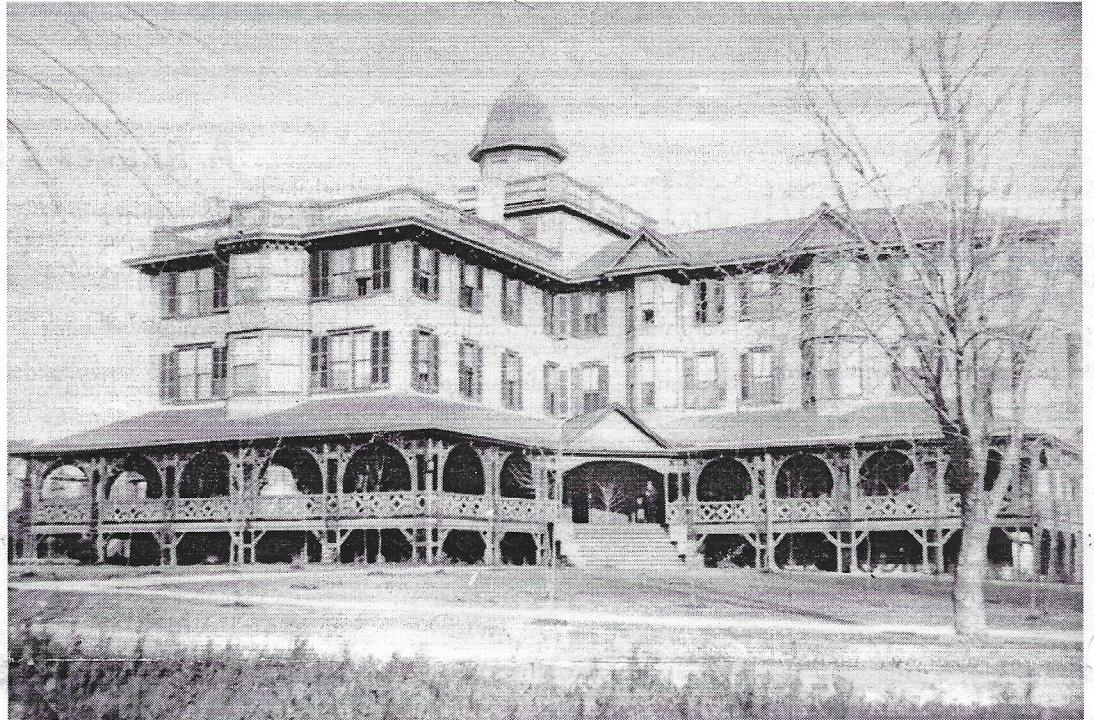
Fifth in a series of articles of some of Wenonah's more notable structures (series started by Milton Webb in February 2001)
Excerpts from Marge Lentz's book, *A History of Wenonah*

by Eileen Caraker

The Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors September 20, 1904 in what was previously known as The Wenonah Inn. The Academy was situated on the block east of Wenonah Park. The rooms that formerly accommodated hotel guests who were interested in dances and the cuisine now accommodated cadets interested in horsemanship and the highest standard of academic and military education. Hotel rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitories, a library, a chapel and an infirmary. The Academy consisted of a main building, a gymnasium, two cottages, two athletic fields, and stables for the horses. The main building, three stories high, contained the lobby, a large dining hall, a kitchen and bakery, a library, reading room, science hall, an infirmary with six beds, and sixty rooms which made up the dormitory and classrooms.

The first officers of the Wenonah Military Academy were Stephen Greene, president and owner, his son and vice-president Dr. William H. Greene, who was an internationally known scientist, local doctor H. A. Stout, treasurer and Major J. R. Jones secretary. It was Major Jones who originally conceived the idea of a military academy. On the Board of Counsel were the Rev. Raymond H. Gage and Thomas W. Synnott. Captain Percy C. Jones was commander of the cadets.

Although Wenonah was accus-



tomed to social activities at the Wenonah Inn during the summer months, the Wenonah Military Academy kept the town hopping during the school term. The first month the Academy was opened, there were several activities including, a reception and dance for two hundred people, a skating carnival on Warner's Lake with hundreds of lighted lanterns, a minstrel show, a house party and numerous football games. This was in fact the beginning of a social whirl that

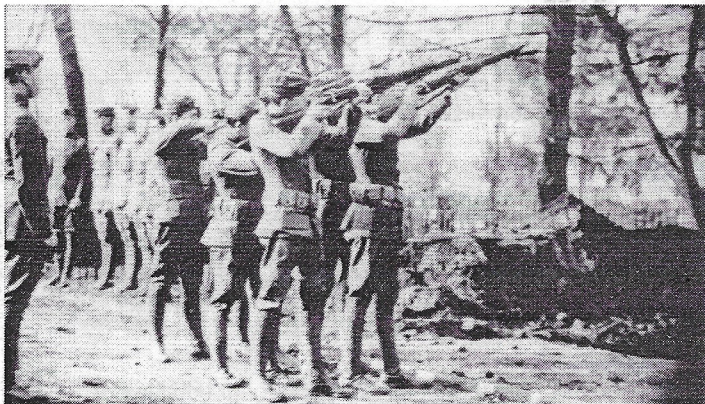
kept Wenonah spinning for the next thirty years. Wenonah residents were invited to band concerts, glee club performances, drama productions, declamation contests and horsemanship exhibitions. Local girls were invited to dances and on Sunday the whole town turned out for the dress parade and drill demonstrations. The big annual events were two gala dances, the Mid-Year Drill and Dance, and the Senior Prom at the end of the year. The Cadets wore full dress uniform with white cotton gloves and the girls wore full-length gowns. Dance etiquette at the time ensured that partners danced with six inches of space between them.

During the Presidency of Dr. Charles H. Lorence, the Wenonah Military Academy reached its peak with of 200 cadets who came from as far away as California and Cuba. The average student enrollment was 125 cadets. Cadets enrolled in the classical, Latin-scientific, or English-commercial courses. Military science included instruction

in rifle practice, infantry drills, horsemanship and military discipline. Horsemanship instruction was \$100 extra; this included the rental of the horse.

In its advertising the Wenonah Military Academy emphasized the following: "Established as its guiding principle the formation of moral character, the teaching of respect for authority and the adherence to the fundamentals of a sound academic and business education". It went on to say "Wenonah has a quiet seclusion and is sufficiently removed from the dangerous enticements of the city and yet is within easy reach of the city streets on the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad. Wenonah is an entirely residential town with no factories. It has its own entirely independent sanitary drainage system. The sale of intoxicants within a mile of the Academy is absolutely prohibited by law and the town has a marked freedom from sickness and disease."

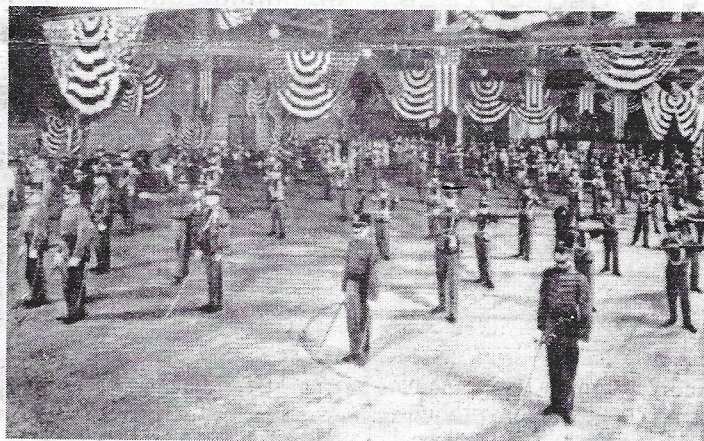
In 1913 the annual charges of \$600 include: tuition, board, heat,



light, twelve pieces of laundry and mending of underclothing. Tuition doubled during the years while adding to its services, table lined, pressing and use of firearms. However, this tuition did not include the \$250 cost for a uniform. The cadet wore a uniform of gray with a white belt and white crisscross straps both in front and back of the jacket and a chinstrap held the hat. The officers' full dress uniform included a sword, sash and a shako. The uniforms alternated between the khaki of the U.S. Army and the gray of West Point Academy. After the 1920's the uniforms stayed the same as the U.S. Army consisting of khaki puttees, high-laced shoes, jackets that buttoned at the neck, and overseas caps (a tall, neat cap worn by French soldiers). By 1916 the Academy announced that there is "now a waiting list: every available space is filled." Military training was under ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) regulations. Lessons were taught in accordance with U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations. All formations were in a military manner, cadets were expected to stand erect at all time and salute their officers. Rooms were inspected every day for dust or dirt, and properly made beds. The U.S. government assigned guns, ammunition, and equipment to the cadets, which had to be returned at the end of the year. To ensure that the cadets were on their toes an inspection of rifles, bayonets, uniforms and shoes was performed every week, and dirty equipment earned extra duty for the offending cadet. Extra duty consisted of walking guard duty at 128 steps per minute in the cadet's spare time, polishing the Civil War cannons at the campus entrance, or walking around the track in the athletic field with rifle in hand. Smoking was considered the worst offence; it earned fifty hours of extra duty, and a two-week suspension.

A Day in the Life of a Wenonah Military Academy Cadet

- 6:00 a.m. Reveille was called, signaling rising of the calisthenics. Breakfast in the dining hall
 - 8:00 a.m. Classes start until 2:00 p.m.
 - 2:00-4:00 p.m. Drills took place in the park or in the field
 - 4:00 p.m. Sports Practice
- Formal assemblies were held every evening before dinner. The cadets assembled in front of the Academy, and the band played and marched in parade formation for Retreat-the lowering of the flag.
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Mess Hall
 - 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. Cadets studied in their quarters



- 9:00-9:30 p.m. Cadets were allowed to socialize
 - 9:30 p.m. Call to the quarters preparation for bed
 - 10:00 p.m. Final room check Taps sounded to signal the end of the day
- Academics were rated in four classifications, distinguished, Honor, Profaning, and Unclassified. Classes were posted quarterly, and decorations were awarded. The Honor role allowed for certain privileges such as reporting late on Saturday night. The classes were small, with eight to twelve students. Teachers were expected to stay close to their

students, each faculty member had his own group, and they lived with their group and ate in the mess hall. The school motto was "Send us your boys and we will return to you the man". The Academy focused high intellectual achievement, but with equal consideration to the development of a sound body and superior ideas.

The military discipline soon earned the Academy the name of "The West Point of South Jersey" and athletics brought fame to the school. Stephen Greene's athletic field boasted a grandstand that held 500 spectators. Cadets ran a quarter-mile cinder track, played football with prep schools like Malvern, Seton Hall and Pennington, played

baseball and practiced horsemanship and military tactics. A twelve-acre field along Woodbury-Glassboro Road was used for polo and lacrosse. Golf was played in the Oak Valley Country Club or, originally Altwald Golf Links, which was situated in a wooded area off Ogden Road. The word "ogden" is derived from the Swedish word meaning "valley of the oaks."

During the summer the polo ponies were taken to the Pocono area where Camp Wenonah was established for a number of years. On the Wenonah polo field one polo team defeated a West Point team. Many

graduating cadets gained recognition on college teams and Herbert J. Pennock, who became a major leagues pitcher, is named in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In addition to the Wenonah Inn, the Military Academy occupied the Charles H. Lorence Cottage which housed senior cadets, currently known as 11 S. Clinton Ave and owned by Joe and Diane Magarelli. The Clayton A. Snyder Cottage which housed junior cadets is located on the corner of Mantua and Clinton Avenues. A drill hall was built behind the Academy along Cherry Street and it was claimed to have the largest floor space of any gymnasium in South Jersey. It was large enough to drill an entire battalion, and of course, to accommodate dances attended by as many as six hundred people. A stone wall was added fronting the Academy and in 1916. The building formerly housing Wenonah Inn's bowling alley was converted to a science laboratory.

At the start of the 1935 school year Dr. Charles H. Lorence announced the Wenonah Military Academy would close "because of economic reasons." The closing of the Wenonah Military Academy ended an era. The main building of the Academy was demolished in 1938 leaving its gray stonewall to mark its former location. The Academy's drill hall was declared unsafe and it along with the Cedar field grandstand was demolished. The fabric of Wenonah had been enriched by the presence of this great academy. As dogwood trees in the park were maturing into full grown beautiful trees, so was the Borough maturing. Although the Academy was gone, never to return again, Wenonah had gained a rich legacy from the Academy along with new residents and a strong sense of patriotism.

February Meeting

Friday, February 8, 2002 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



Our February meeting will be a program of interest about archaeology and archaeological digs. For a more detailed description of the program, please contact Jane Ramsay.

March's meeting

Come next month to see an hour-long video presentation by South Jersey Ghost Research. To find out about SJGR, visit their web site at www.sjgr.org

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
E-mail: temporarily unavailable due to the demise of @home

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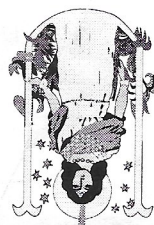
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08090+1823

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090



WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
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WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



April 2002
Published by the
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of Wenonah, NJ

President's Letter

Welcome to our many new members!! We have received a great response to our presence in the Wenonah School. The Display Cabinet and newsletters have been instrumental in bringing in some new faces. It is rewarding to see such a renewed interest in our town's history.

As some of you know, my father recently passed away. I wish to thank you for all your support and kindness. My father dearly loved this town and my parents recently pledged a donation of a town clock. This clock will be in his memory and the family hopes to see up in time for the Fourth of July.

We have some wonderful programs in the coming months. This month fellow townspeople Arnold Karp will be doing a slide presentation on effects of September 11.

We hope to see some of the new faces at the upcoming meetings

-Vicki McCall

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32
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E-mail:
wenonahhistoricalnews@
comcast.net

The Railroad and Wenonah, Part 1

Sixth in a series of articles about Wenonah's heritage.
Compiled by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.



The new railroad station along the west side of the tracks of the West Jersey Railroad stood incongruous among the fields surrounding it. Farmers had eyed the station with interest because they anticipated it would be a convenience in transporting their sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets. However, as the newspaper, *The Constitution* stated, the station looked far "too elegant" for sweet potatoes because it boasted of "two compartments, one for the sale of tickets and joined by a comfortable passenger saloon."

Heading toward the station on December 19, 1870 was a special train that left Camden, New Jersey, just before noon. The train followed the West Jersey Railroad tracks past Gloucester, past Westville and at Woodbury took the Y that made a beeline to the station known as the New Mantua Station. The passengers who detrained that day were not in the least interested in transporting sweet potatoes, but they were interested in converting the sweet potato patches into building lots and in transporting commuters to a new suburban town.

From the rise of the land at the New Mantua Station the visitors had a sweeping view of the fields now sliced by the railroad tracks. They saw Henisey's Landing Road that led to the busy wharves along the Mantua Creek. Within sight of the station they looked across to the dwelling of the Stone Farm House" already 97 years old. A short distance away were meandering lanes that led to a few other farmhouses and to the west was the abandoned road bed" of the railroad tracks that previously surmounted a thirty-two

Continued on next page...

Acknowledgement: Some of the information in this document is from a book authored by Marjorie Lentz on behalf of the Wenonah Historical Society and distributed in connection with the Community Center dedication July 4th, 1976. The remainder of the information is from research, personal records, and information from a book by J.C. Sheppard Sr.

The Railroad continued . . .

foot high trestle" over the Mantua Creek leading to the old Mantua Station.

The stop at the station was brief, but while the passengers were there they envisioned how the land could be leveled, the country lanes erased and the existing farmhouses squared and placed properly on straight streets. After a site visitation the Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" at 1:15 p.m. when Samuel A. Whitney read a proposal for forming a "Real Estate and Improvement Company to operate at the New Mantua Station of the West Jersey Railroad." Whitney augmented the report by noting that the land, consisting of 572 acres, could be purchased for \$69,575. The group unanimously agreed and in a few minutes \$29,500 was subscribed.

It was just a railroad station but it witnessed the beginnings of a town and the town, still unnamed, already had a history.

Early maps reveal small campsites of the Unalachtigo Indians of the Lenni Lenape tribe spotted along the banks of the Mantua Creek and the Chestnut Branch that flows into it. In the 1600's cartographers named the streams for the Indians who lived by them, and it is assumed that the Mantua Creek was named for the Manteses, a small band of Indians who had campsites along these waterways. The trails that border Mantua Creek and Break Back Run are considered to be Indian trails and it is along these waterways that arrowheads, net sinkers, stone hammers and axes have been found. Potsherds of the Woodland Period have been discovered and sufficient fragments at one site have made possible the reconstruction of pottery revealing a skillful design of inverted V's

Some of the land bordering the Indian trails was owned by Nathaniel Chew who in 1712 recorded in Gloucester County's earmark book the marks of his pigs, "a slitt in each ear and half penny on each side." One of his sons, Jeffrey Chew, inherited a part of the acreage and to his holdings purchased 125 acres from Samuel Maffett. Maffett either retained or later secured a five-acre plot from the farm on which in 1773 he built a dwelling that traditionally was a stage line stop on the route from Camden to Cape May. The house was strategically located on the Old Ford Road which led to the edge of Chew's farm to the only place below Berkeley, now Mount Royal, that stage lines could cross the Mantua Creek. During the ownership of Robert Sparks it is recorded that "the militia met in a field in 1777 to practice, hold meetings and elect officers at the stonehouse." Deeds note that the five-acre plot was later joined to the farm and it was known as the Stone House Farm.

Traditional accounts relate that a Revolutionary War skirmish occurred at the intersection of Old Ford Road and Bark Bridge Road."

On both sides of Glassboro Road was the "plantation of Benjamin Clark. The story has been told that while the British camped along the Monongahela Trail in 1777 they seized Clark's team of horses and a load of wheat he was driving to Valley Forge for General George Washington's Army. However, that night Clark crept into the British camp and retrieved his horses hiding them on an island in the Mantua Creek. Also that same winter General Anthony Wayne foraged for supplies for Washington's army and records note that he secured hay along the

Mantua Creek in this area and probably some of the hay was secured from the Stone House Farm.

By the 1850's the Mantua Creek was bustling with shipyards where an open boat fitted with oars or sails or both. Shallopssm and flatboats were built. To the Philadelphia markets were shipped sweet potatoes, buckwheat, turnips and shad and in return from Philadelphia was received staples. Another commodity received from Philadelphia was manure that was sold to the farmers in this area. Shipped out of Philadelphia to the Mantua Creek in 1855 were 120 loads priced at seventy-five cents a load.

When the West Jersey Railroad was extended from Woodbury to Glassboro in 1861, a newspaper account notes that there was "difficulty in bridging the Mantua Creek." When a Danforth locomotive was added to the line it was reported that it had a three hundred ton traction and that "the power of this massive iron horse was seen recently when it took 24 loaded cars up the steep grade at Mantua." With the merger of the West Jersey Railroad with the Millville and Glassboro Railroad plans were made to relocate the tracks to alleviate a dangerous curve and to reduce the height of the tracks.

New railroad tracks, a new station, easy commutation to and from Philadelphia, "healthy breezes that promised a malaria free area, high elevation above the Mantua Creek that assured adequate drainage" were all prerequisites for a "new suburban town."

William F. Allen, resident engineer of the West Jersey Railroad and son-in-law of the President of the railroad, made contact with the seven landowners whose lands

were adjacent to the tracks. Each one agreed to sell his land. The largest landowner was Isaac C. Stevenson who owned about 244 acres extending from the New Mantua Station northward to Glassboro Road and south to Bark Bridge Road. Charles Starn owned 163 acres in the area of the railroad station reaching westward toward the Mantua Creek. The Peter Kier landowners were David Kay who owned the land including Dilk's Little Mill and the mill pond, Edwin Stokes whose land bordered the northern stretch of the new railroad tracks, Nathaniel Chew, a tanner whose land bordered the northern section of Glassboro Road and Samuel W. Chew who owned a small slice of land on the road leading to the mill.

On December 14, 1870 Allen invited a group of twenty-one businessmen to the Camden office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider a plan to organize a land development company. Horatio J. Mulford of Bridgeton was appointed presiding officer and he named a committee to prepare the proposal.

Five days later on December 19, 1870 the businessmen reassembled in the Camden office and heard the first reading on the proposal which had been submitted by Samuel A. Whitney, former President of the Millville and Glassboro Railroad and leader in the glass industry.

General William J. Sewell, Vice-President of the West Jersey Railroad who secured the special train for the site visitation. George Wood, a director of the West Jersey Railroad and president of the Millville Manufacturing Company and William F. Allen. The entire group then boarded the special train that took them to the New Mantua Station.

Although the visitors may have seen dormant sweet potato patches that winter day, they visualized the possibilities of a "new suburban town." The Constitution reported that "from the known energy of the gentlemen at the head of the enterprise, there is no doubt of its success."

Much pride centered on the railroad station. Flowerbeds were groomed and permanent plantings established. The People's Stage Line brought passengers from Woodstown, Mullica Hill and Mantua. In 1873 passenger receipts from the West Jersey Railroad were \$9,232.34 and freight receipts were \$1,469.94.

By 1875 the Pennsylvania Railroad owned 80% of the West Jersey Railroad stock and plans were developed for a double track to extend from Wenonah to Glassboro. With increased railroad service, troubles grew. Accidents were frequent. South of Wenonah a train collided with a Cape May freight and six cars were demolished. As one observer described the scene, "a more complete train wreck cannot be imagined." A Bridgeton freight lost a

wheel forcing three cars down an embankment. Locomotive sparks started frequent brush fires, on-coming trains killed track-walkers and passengers were discouraged from standing on the platform as the trains approached. With the railroad came a deluge of tramps that were blamed for stealing everything from watermelons to trousers from local clotheslines.

The railroad controlled the town. No special church service, no musical program, no out-of-town dinner guest was scheduled without first consulting the time table. Advertisements to Presbyterian musicals noted that "Woodbury people can take the 7:07 for Wenonah and return on the 10 o'clock train." Even funeral announcements included the time when trains arrived in Wenonah and one as far away as Mullica Hill noted that "carriages will meet the 8 o'clock train from Philadelphia at Wenonah station." Special cars were attached to regular trains. Special cars brought visitors to the dedication of the Presbyterian Chapel, to weddings, and, of course, to the annual meetings of the Board

of Directors of the Mantua Land and Improvement Company.

To be continued next issue...

Notes

- i Relocated and now a residence at 8 South West Ave.
- ii 100 South West Ave.
- iii Extended through the parking lot of Wenonah Playground to Mantua Creek, slightly west of South Jackson Ave.
- iv Remains still visible in the Mantua Creek at location commonly called Clay Hill.
- v Extended from South Monroe Ave. To the area of West Cedar St. Where it curved through the woods fording the Mantua Creek.
- vi In area of West Cedar St. And South West Ave.
- vii In Mantua Creek opposite South Jefferson Ave.
- viii An open boat fitted with oars or sails or both.

Who remembers this program???

HATS OFF to our members!!!



WENONAH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

eMail Address _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Monthly newsletter mailed to your home
- Monthly meetings with informative programs
- Access to various archives and memorabilia
- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: \$10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. Box 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

April Meeting

Friday, April 12, 2002 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



Arnold Karp, 177th Fighting Wing, Air National Guard
will present a slide and picture presentation of the
Effects of September 11, 2001

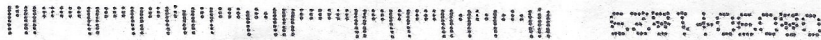
Future meetings

- May 10, 2002.....**Historic Postcards and Ephemera**
Jo White and Sallie Murphy
- June 14, 2002.....**Family Picnic at Wenonah Lake**
- July and August.....**No Meetings**
- September 13, 2002.....**Porch Party at Little Grange**
- October 11, 2002.....**South Jersey Ghost Research**
Scientific approach and study of
the paranormal

THE MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

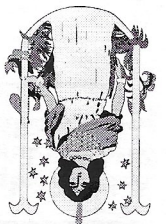
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2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.



Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



May 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

ALL AROUND TOWN

Garden Fair

The Wenonah Lake is having a fundraiser on May 18, 2002. There will be a plant sale and fair in the Wenonah Park from 10:00am-12:00pm.

A garden tour of some of our resident's home (including our Mayor) will start at 11:00am. For more information, contact Bernadette Faix at 468-4912.

Historical Society Picnic at Wenonah Lake

We will have our annual picnic at the lake on June 14, 2002. Join us for food and fun and good conversation. We provide the hotdogs and ice tea; we ask everyone to bring a share dish. For more information contact Vicki McCall at 589-2774.

Victorian Herb Garden

RACHEL KNISELL

Thanks to Rachael Knissel for all her hard work as she cares for the Victorian Herb Garden at the Community Center. Her painstaking attention to this project keeps this garden looking beautiful for our visitors. If you happen to walk by while Rachael is "trimming", you may even be the beneficiary of some aromatic herbs!

Fourth of July

YES, it is almost that time again! Roco Doto has offered to do a historical slide presentation at the Community Center between 11:00am and 1:00 pm. He has given this presentation at several local organizations and it has been very well received. If you would like to help out, please let us know! Look for more on this in June's newsletter.

We will be reintroducing the House Decorating Contest this year. The theme for this year's parade is "A Salute to America's Heroes." The House decorations can be in this theme or any patriotic manner.

We will have judges going around and awards will be given during the evening ceremonies. All participants will receive an 8 x 10 photo of their decorated home compliments of Tomorrow's Treasures, Inc. of Woodbury Heights, NJ (Thanks to George Braun for this ongoing tradition!). Applications will be available at the Wenonah Library. Look for more information in the June newsletter.

Japanese Teahouse Restoration

The Environmental Commission has been working VERY HARD to restore the Comey Lake Japanese Tea House. This project was the brainchild of Chuck Forsman and his perseverance is paying off! The commitment of people like Chuck Forsman, Bob Bevilaqua, and John Schad is truly appreciated. We thank the Environmental Commission for their efforts to bring back to life a monumental historic structure in this town. Anyone interested in donating to this cause can contact Chuck Forsman at 304 Mohawk Dr, Wenonah, NJ 08090. Look for updates and an article on this project in upcoming letters!

Help Needed

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do the research for "Milton Webb's 100 Years Ago" PLEASE, PLEASE CALL US!

We can start you off with Milton's meticulous files. Groundwork is already done for much of this. This is an opportunity to really get to know your town!

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS - PO. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

President's Letter

April's program featured a moving slide presentation by Arnold Karp that portrayed events from the September 11th attacks. The presentation brought home the importance of remembering those events and realizing the ongoing importance of protecting our country. Thank you Arnie for sharing with us your own personal experiences and reminding us that the events of September 11th should not be forgotten are taken lightly.

We have a full business schedule for the May meeting and it is important that we have a good turnout. There are some exciting events coming up and of course the Fourth of July is just around the corner! There are plenty of fun projects for you to participate in, so, even if you've never volunteered before, here is your chance to do your part!

There are many members who no longer reside in Wenonah. We would love to get some letters from you about your life in Wenonah that we could put in the newsletter. Anyone who would like to share an experience, please write in!

I look forward to seeing you Friday night.

-Vicki McCall

The Railroad and Wenonah, Part 2

Sixth in a series of articles about Wenonah's heritage.
Compiled by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Continued from our April issue...

The manure problem created heated arguments. With the mixing of Philadelphia commuters and Wenonah House guests who used the passenger service of the railroad, and farmers who used the freight service there was bound to be a conflict. The commuters declared the unloading of manure in the center of town a nuisance and the railroad was requested to build a siding near the water pumping station to unload the manure. However some farmers were not satisfied with the new location and wrote letters claiming they would never use the railroad again. The siding was installed and the farmers did use it. Also the commuters did attempt to prevent freight trains from stopping more than five minutes and they complained of excessive locomotive whistling at night.

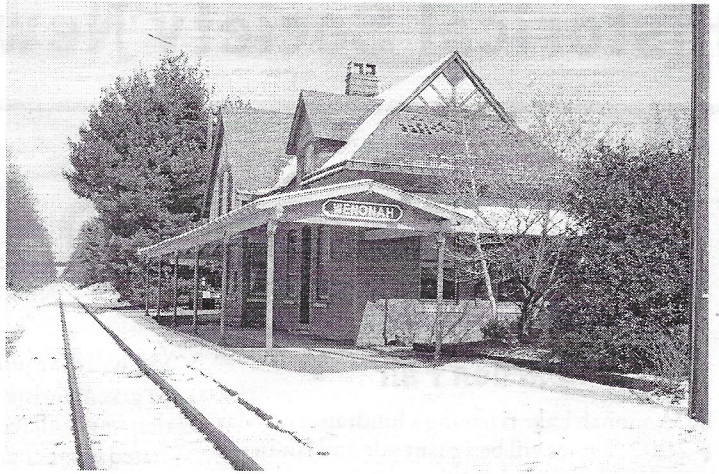
Freight service accelerated. Joseph Cattell shipped his baskets of sweet potatoes to the Philadelphia markets and T.P. Darlington, a local poultry shipper, sent four tons of poultry a week out of the Wenonah Station. Sweet potatoes, watermelons and tomatoes were leading farm crops. Charles Buckman continued to operate his Wenonah Mills at the millpond, John Steward operated a steam corn sheller, and on a sad note, John Kromer's cow died from eating potato vines sprinkled with Paris Green. One farmer boasted of a hog that weighed 775 pounds and another farmer displayed a watermelon in Thomas Savage's tobacco shop that weighed 63 pounds. The story was reported in the newspaper that "two young ladies were told they could have the watermelon for nothing if they could carry it away without letting it down to rest on the way. The ladies put the watermelon in a clothes basket and carted it home." The Duell and Perry canning house was still purchasing the farmers'

tomatoes and one progressive farmer succeeded in raising very large potatoes by using chemical fertilizer.

The town was growing at a rapid pace and by the early 1890's the old "New Mantua Station" was deemed inadequate to handle the number of people coming to Wenonah. Also, the Wenonah House, originally constructed in 1871, was apparently not attractive or large enough to provide the drawing power the railroad company felt was necessary for the greater number of passengers they sought.

A news article in April 1893 put it this way; "The Wenonah Inn Company is just completing a magnificent hotel designed to accommodate 150 guests." The erection of this hotel, which replaced the Wenonah House, was reportedly one of the conditions under which the West Jersey Railroad erected a handsome railroad station of rough-faced Pompeian bricks to "harmonize with general improvements and surroundings of the Borough."^{ix}

Trains were scheduled every fifteen minutes "during the busy part of the day and no break of more than one hour on the schedule from five-thirty in the morning until midnight." A total of sixty-one trains a day ran between Philadelphia and Wenonah. An advertising brochure issued by C.C. Grosscup, President of the Wenonah Realty Company, noted that Wenonah has every "modern convenience, artesian water, sewers, electric light, gas, both telephones, graded and curbed streets and paved sidewalks." Also "it has a high moral tone and an earnest, happy social life that makes it a good place in which to live." The water has no "filtering or boiling process" and "the high pressure maintained by the Holly System for every house." Furthermore the brochure stated "the sewerage system is one of the few entirely satisfactory systems in the state. Sidewalks are of flagstone and con-



crete and there are one hundred thousand feet of walks. Every street is well lighted at night by gas lamps of sixty candle power. Both electric and gas available for homes. No industries. Churches are thoroughly organized for service."

A newspaper article in 1896 noted that "the Inn is full, the cottages are all occupied and the people prefer the proximity to Philadelphia instead of the shore." A few years later a warning signal was sounded when the same newspaper revealed that "several of the summer residents have autos and sometimes the streets are lively with them." Before the advent of the car, the railroad brought summer visitors to the Wenonah Inn after the advent of the car, the automobile tempted summer visitors to more distant resorts. Fewer and fewer visitors spent their summers at the Inn. The Wenonah Inn closed its doors. In 1890 the Wenonah Hotel Company sold the hotel, the servants' quarters and the sewer plant to Stephen Greene.

Summer visitors were not the only people who owned cars. Local people also owned them. Blair Smith is believed to be the first resident of Wenonah to own a car. George Frederick owned an Allen, Oscar Odgen, Theodore Rison and Clement Mattson owned

Waltham-Orient Touring cars, Dr. H.A. Stout had a Buick and Edward L. Farr had a White Steamer that could hold seven passengers. Automobile parties traveled as far as Salem and sometimes to Atlantic City. By 1912 there were enough cars in Wenonah for all the children in the Borough to ride in the fourth of July parade and after the parade they were treated to rides as far as Sewell. In fact so many cars appeared that "Go Slow" signs were erected at the town entrances. The town bulletin board was often rammed by cars and cars often rammed residents' carriages. Garages were built instead of carriage houses, although Edward E. Grosscup, when he built his house^x, constructed both a garage and a carriage house. George Frederick built a garage^{xi} large enough to hold fifteen cars at one time. He not only serviced cars, but also had one of the earliest car agencies in this area.

Although the automobile forced the closing of the Wenonah Inn and ultimately railroad passenger service, a new era opened in Wenonah. Major J. R. Jones, former head of the drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, riding past the vacant Wenonah Inn, conceived an idea for the use of the facility. He immediately relayed his plan to Stephen Greene and on

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September 20, 1904 the Wenonah Military Academy opened. But that is a story for another time.

There is still a railroad station. Somehow it reflects the whole story of Wenonah.

When the original railroad station outgrew its usefulness, a more adequate station was built. Wenonah also rebuilt as it grew, sometimes discarding the old for the new. However, throughout the history of Wenonah, the railroad station has been a part of its growth. From the station, farmers' sweet potatoes were shipped to Philadelphia markets, summer visitors arrived to spend the season at the Wenonah Inn, the cadets arrived to attend the Wenonah Military Academy, the commuters rode to their places of employment beyond Wenonah. Still changes came. Trains became less and less frequent. And one day the passenger train no longer stopped, and the freight train shrieks and rumbles by it too, no longer stopping at Wenonah. The railroad station stood useless, forlorn and dilapidated.

And then came an event that was both unforeseen and fortunate for the future of the station and for the Borough.

During the early 1970's Mayor Jack C. Sheppard Sr.SM had been researching Borough history using old Borough records belonging to Thomas Synnott III, grandson of one of the founders of Wenonah.

During this research he discovered a Letter from the West Jersey Railroad Company to the then Borough Commission stating in part, ... "The West Jersey Railroad Company hereby accepts the provisions of the Ordinance of the Borough Commission of Wenonah, New Jersey entitled "An Ordinance to vacate a portion of the west side of West Jersey Avenue, between Mantua Avenue and Poplar Street, adjoining the right of way of the West Jersey Railroad Company and to sanction the use thereof by the West Jersey Railroad Company for station purposes", passed January 10, 1893, and hereby agrees to use the land in said Ordinance described, for the purpose and in the manner in said Ordinance described and not otherwise."

By marvelous coincidence about this same time the Mayor heard a rumor that Conrail had sold the station to a private party. Contacting the Railroad Company he was told that

the station had already been sold to a party who purportedly intended to open a food service shop of some sort and that the deal was already done. When Mayor Sheppard protested the sale and advised the railroad real estate agent of the words of the 1893 Ordinance he was told "your information is too old, it has no validity today."

The Borough challenged the sale in the Superior Court of New Jersey and it was the unique wording of this Ordinance that gained Wenonah ownership of the railroad passenger station in 1973. Superior Court Judge John B. Wick decided this provision was valid and governing and decreed the land should revert back to the Borough. The railroad company, no longer owning the land under the station and unable to convey clear title to any buyer, somewhat grudgingly agreed to sell the building to the Borough for \$3,000.00.

Volunteers from every section of town, from Academy Hills, from the Synnott Tract, from the original town plot and from beyond gave freely of their skills. Their skills were varied. They planned and painted, hammered and hauled,

landscaped and labored. Together they restored the station, which was opened and dedicated to community use on July 4, 1976.

From that time until today the railroad station turned Community Center has served as a focal point for the community. The building houses Wenonah's Municipal Court and Council Chambers, the Court Clerk's and Borough Clerk's offices, and is in constant use by all Boards, Commissions and private groups in Wenonah.

The railroad station seems to be a symbol. Just as many people representing many skills have made possible the preservation of this landmark, so have many people representing many skills made possible the preservation of a heritage that belongs in Wenonah.

Notes

- ix See historical information on page 5
- x 9 West Buttonwood St.
- xi Rear of 203 West Mantua Ave.
- xii Serving Wenonah 1962 thru 1990

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2001-2002

Name _____

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Amount Paid \$ _____ Check # _____ Enclosed Cash Enclosed

Please bring this form with your payment to any meeting or mail. Thank you!

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- Monthly meetings with informative programs
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- Network of knowledgeable historians
- Historical field trips

COST: \$10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. Box 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

May Meeting

Friday, May 10, 2002 • 7:30pm
Wenonah Community Center (Train Station)



May's program will feature Joanne White and Sallie Murphy of Murphy's Loft in Mullica Hill, NJ. They will be sharing information on historical postcards, letters, and memorabilia. Please join us for an informative "SHOW AND TELL".

Bring in your own items for evaluation!

Future meetings

June 14, 2002.....	Family Picnic at Wenonah Lake
July and August.....	No Meetings
September 13, 2002.....	Porch Party at Little Grange
October 11, 2002.....	South Jersey Ghost Research
	Scientific approach and study of the paranormal

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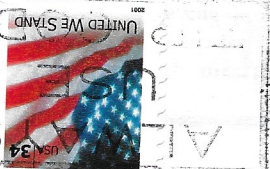
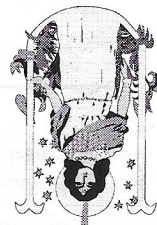
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PO Box 32
Newsletter Committee

WENONAH
Historical Society



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



September 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

Her Life was Rich by Example

Reprinted from the Gloucester County Times, August 19, 2002 · By Bob Shryock

The oldest of the six Ramsay children was 10 years old when their father left home. But Jane Tucker Ramsay, their mother, never wavered in her awesome responsibility as a single parent.

"She was a strong woman who was very protective of her children," says David Ramsay, oldest of the six. "She always showed us a positive attitude. Things could be bad for her but he'd still come up smiling, get through the days and weeks, and have dinner for us. We went through a lot of powdered milk and goulash.

I remember Christmases with \$5-\$10 budgets per kid. We always had hand-me-down clothes. She had a specific definition of what she'd accept and what she wouldn't. She didn't want charity from people who felt sorry for her, but she'd accept from good neighbors, and she was always helping others as well. She would absolutely refuse public assistance of any form. She wouldn't take Food Stamps. She wouldn't take unemployment."

Jane Ramsey died June 27. She is survived by her six adoring children: David, Tucker, Jimmy, Ed, and the twins, Jane and Louise. Four graduated from college. Five of the six are in business for themselves, and successful, a classic case of them mirroring their mother's powerful independence.

"We grew up with a very strong work ethic," David Ramsay says. "She taught us that and she demonstrated it. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and she



worked 53 years as a dental hygienist. Her independence traveled through us. We were one adult and six kids who stood our ground. As a family, we were very cohesive and balanced and backed each other up. We fought among ourselves like cats and dogs but we always stuck together as a family.

"It was a very good environment to be raised in. She didn't play favorites. She focused on our strengths and encouraged us to do whatever was good for us—as long as we had good grammar and used good English. She taught us to be independent, believe in ourselves, and beat the odds.

"Her kids were her life. After our father left, she shut down her social life. In the days after he left a single woman didn't get invited out so she decided early to stay out of the fray.

"Her legacy was that she accepted people for who and what they are. One of my brothers said that since her death we realize who she was as an individual. Hundreds have come forward to tell us how she gave them, and others, encouragement. She loved people and loved to be around them. Mother wasn't invited out much, and she hated to miss a party."

Jane lived in a big, sprawling house, and was a resident for all but one year of her life.

She gave back to the town what she felt the town gave to her. She belonged to the Wenonah Reading Club, the Wenonah Woman's Club, the Wenonah Historical Society, and served as Sunday school treasurer of All Saints Episcopal Church. A free spirit, she also was a member of the Wenonah Rifle and Gun Club as a young woman.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Dentistry, she worked for four dentists, including Dr. Don Furey in her hometown of Wenonah, and during her career worked with and educated children, migrant farm workers, and underprivileged children and adults in the Camden Free Dental Clinic. She was a uniquely talented woman whose many interests ranged from pottery making to jewelry smithing to watercoloring to antiques and carving.

Besides her children, her work and her hobbies, Jane Ramsay also had a healthy love for the uniqueness of Wenonah. No one loved the day-long Fourth of July celebration in Wenonah more than Jane. She passed away a week before the 2002 parade and festivities. Jane would have loved to be there, seeing old friends, remembering the good times, and perhaps the tough times as well.

"But I think she wanted to check out before the Fourth," son David says. "Mother never wanted to do anything halfway."

President's Letter

This had been a difficult year for many of us and we have experienced many losses. It is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of a DEAR friend to the Historical Society, the town, and to me. Jane Tucker Ramsay passed away in June. She leaves a legacy of friends and family. She inspired us all to follow her lead and dedicate ourselves to preserving the wonderful history of this town. Jane raised her family in this town and LOVED every bit of this town. She loved life and taught many of us how to savor each day.

Her love of the Historical Society was unquestioned. She brought new life to this organization under her terms as President and Vice President. She will TRULY be missed.

-Vicki McCall

How to Contact Us

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The Origin and History of Comey's Lake

Acknowledgments: Some data derived from the archives of Wenonah Historian Milton H. Webb



Milton Pierce, a member of the Mantua Land Improvement Company, had a Carp pond in 1872 along a stream called "Patrick's Run" in the vicinity of what is now Comey's Lake, where natural land contours had already created a water reservoir. It is believed that this was part of Aquadale Lakes where high quality Carp were raised to sell as food in Philadelphia and surrounding areas to the Jewish population as Gefilte Fish. A large lake was established in about 1885 when a leveling dam was placed at the South end of the Patrick's Run stream and the dam increased the water area to about four acres. In 1886 the first Wenonah Parks and Woodland Improvement Association was formed and they participated in the improvements to the lake. The inlet stream to the lake was later named "Camels Back Run". During the Spring of 1890, Stephen Greene purchased the land around the lake and made important improvements to it. In 1894 a new leveling gate and other improvements were made to the lake dam and they named it Camels Back Lake. That same year, the Northern end of the lake had filled

up with silt to such an extent that 20 men were employed for six weeks by Mr. Greene to clean and deepen it. This made the lake better for boating.

Robert H. Comey bought the lake and surrounding property Feb. 1904 from Stephen Greene. He bought an adjoining 27 acres April 1904 from George L. Dilks and started construction of a handsome, large White Mansion for \$25,000.00 as his residence on Mantua Ave. He also had a servants building nearby. (presently located at #12 Lenape Trail). April 1905 he received a large number of shade trees for a Park on his property that was to be stocked later with Deer. March 30, 1908 he moved into his new house. March 13, 1910 the Northern end of Mr. Comey's Lake was dug out again by eleven men to make a better boat landing. Dec. 7, 1910 he built a beautiful Wooden Arched Bridge with decorative side rails (constructed of Long Leaf Yellow Southern Pine) fifty feet over the upper lake and it was painted a bright Vermilion color. April 3, 1911 he built a new dam on his lake and added a colorful Japanese Tea House,

built by John L. Drummer, on Cedar pilings at the North end of the lake. An Amphitheater with five levels was built on the East side of the Tea House. Canoes and small rowboats were docked under and around the base of the Tea House for the use of guests who dressed in their finest for a ride in the lake. Adjacent to the amphitheater a large pool was built that was shaped like the State of NJ and a Tennis Court was also built nearby. A variety of Yellow, Gold and White Algae eating fish were introduced into Comey's Lake. The predominate fish species was Carp and although not specifically mentioned, it is believed that the others were a variety of Koi.

By June 1912 large catered parties were held at the Tea House area. The lake and Tea house were beautifully decorated with colored electric lights and all around the lake Japanese Lanterns peeked from the green foliage. The Tea House was illuminated with hundreds of lanterns and it looked like a fairy garden. A full string orchestra played all the catchy tunes while the guests sang with them. Launches plied up and down the lake for

the pleasure of the guests and the evening ended while they danced under the stars.

In 1924 Ethel R. Hassrick bought the property from Robert Comey. One year later she sold it to Doctor H. Wesley Jack and wife Pearle C, who carried on the tradition of parties at the lake until 1958. On 3/17/58 the lake and surrounding property were sold to Bryant and Sarah Langston. That same year Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sanderson bought the mansion on 4.760 acres. The Langston's built a large home overlooking the lake. The Sanderson's sold the mansion in 1979 to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sharp who made wonderful improvements to the building and grounds. The mansion was again sold to Mr. Lou Paolino in 1985. He made many additional improvements to the home, pool, tennis court and outbuildings and he is still the current owner.

During the 1960's the lake became known as Langston's Lake. Bryant and Sarah Langston died in a private plane that Bryant was piloting when it crashed in 1969. Through the efforts of the Wenonah Woodlands Council, the entire lake and the land on the East and West sides was dedicated to the Borough of Wenonah by the Stewart Estate for inclusion in their conservation lands. The house on 1.003 acres was then sold to Anthony S. and Carol (Wick) Balchan on Feb. 27, 1970. The house was sold again on May 8, 1971 to Jerome A. and Dolores W. Hoffman. On July 8, 1982 the home went to Sheriff George G. Small for lack of tax payment. The 1st National Bank of Princeton took over the property Feb. 11, 1983. On May 15, 1985 Charles and Dolores Cornell purchased the house overlooking the lake. They made many improvements to the home, built large gardens around it and cleaned debris from the Southern portion of the lake. Charles and Dolores Cornell

are still the current owners of the lakefront home.

Mr. Edwards, a builder, purchased additional land of about 30 acres adjacent to the lake in 1966, subdivided it into building lots and constructed 49 homes (Academy Hill). Up to this time the lake had remained crystal clear for over eighty years. As homes were built and lawns established, the rain-water runoff into the lake increased and along with it came fertilizer. This added excessive nutrient to the lake causing more and more Algae and Duckweed blooms on the surface. At the same time there were less Algae eating fish species due to other predator fish like Pickerel and Bass.

In 1972 Robert & Jane Kitz who owned the Tea House property, with the help of Chuck Forsman, Environmental Commission Members and neighbors, completed a partial restoration of the Tea House and Amphitheater. There was a large celebration with celebrity guests, music, dancing, entertainment, great food and drinks. From 1973 through 1982 Chuck Forsman promoted a massive cleanup of the area surrounding the lake and trail plus dam repair projects, which were all done by volunteers from the homes in Academy Hill.

In 1983 a second overflow dam was built adjacent to the existing dam. It was paid for by Heinz Hoefers to handle the increased water runoff by new homes he was building in the Brookmeade Development (Tom Synnott's property). Slowly silt filled the Northern end of the lake diminishing the size to about two acres. Chuck & Dolores Cornell, owners of the lakefront home, developed attractive gardens down to the lake on their property where they built a trail and allowed hikers to pass by.

By 1991 the lake developed a total cover of Green Algae and Duckweed during the summer months

and although the basic quality of the water remained good, it was not a pleasant sight to see the green cover over the water. In 1993 a pump from the lake to an attractive waterfall was built by the Cornell's, which helped aerate the water and increase the oxygen content. During the following years, Chuck Forsman with the help of volunteers, filled in the earthen area at the dam and raised it two feet to contain the erosion at the lake. A variety of indigenous plantings were placed over the area and the outlet stream was cleaned of debris. The original 1885 dam was rebuilt with material and funds provided by Bob and Dan Bevilaqua in 1995. A wooden dock was built in 1995 as a protective cover over both the original leveling dam and the 1983 overflow dam, with funds provided by the Cornell's. Two hatches in the dock provide access to the dams for maintenance and repair. In 1996 the Northern end of the lake inlet channels were cleared by hand with 7 local volunteers led by Gary Reddig. Frank Eggert and Chuck Forsman restored a bridge over the inlet stream with wood from the original arched bridge and placed a sample of the original bridge side rails nearby in 1996. During 1997, 1998 and 1999 several large trees were removed from the lake with many volunteers.

A program was instituted by Chuck Forsman of the Wenonah Environmental Commission in 1999 & 2000 to decrease the fertilizer runoff into the lake, rake off the bulk of the Algae, increase aeration, increase water activity/circulation and increase the Algae/Duckweed eating fish and fowl population. A railing was also added to the dock. The Cornell's again donated funds for these projects. Old and new trails around the lake were defined for hiking and equipment access. They were lined with mulch by

volunteers in preparation for the annual 4th of July trail hikes conducted by the Wenonah Environmental Commission members.

December 2000 the Japanese Tea House was exhibiting such severe damage that drawings and specifications were developed by Chuck Forsman in preparation for restoration. During that severe snowy winter the structure began to collapse and by April it was down. A call for volunteers to clear away the enormous amount of debris went out along with a request for \$5,000.00 in donations to purchase materials for the restoration of the Tea House.

Chuck Forsman, with the assistance of Bill Schnarr operating a tractor along with nineteen men and women, removed all the debris except key reusable parts of the Tea House. The group was so inspired that they also removed all the vines that had covered a won-

agreed and the first upright beams were in place on 6/12/01. Donations for materials began to arrive and by 6/15/01 \$2,370.00 had been received from former and current residents. Again, the Cornell's made a generous contribution towards the materials. By 6/23/01 John Shad had all the vertical posts, floor beams and knee braces in place despite the frequent and very heavy rainfall, which created terrible working conditions. Work continued on the Tea House in September. By October 26th \$4,300.00 had been donated, the decking was complete and roof beams were installed. December 2001 the roof rafters were installed. January 2002 the upper roof was enclosed. Nearby, a new trail and repairs to the inlet stream waterfall were completed by Jonathan Nate as an Eagle Scout project with the help of his volunteers. March 2002 the lower curved roof was installed. By May 2002 the steps and railings



derful 5 level cement Amphitheatre next to the Tea House. The only disappointment was later that week when 8 of the 20 had Poison Ivy infections. The base of the Tea House still had the original nine concrete foundation columns. Three of them needed masonry repair. Bob and Dan Bevilaqua donated forms, concrete and their time to complete the repairs on 6/2/01.

Chuck Forsman asked John Schad (Wenonah builder, Schad Construction Co.) to volunteer his time to reconstruct the Tea House. He

were installed and the project was completed within the one-year time frame. The goal of \$5,000.00 for materials was achieved. Another new trail was designed to go north from the Tea House Waterfall area and connect to Synnott's Pond on Elm Street, which would allow the trails to encircle two thirds of Wenonah.

Comey Lake ERI Document, Phase 4. Do not reproduce without express permission of C.R. Forsman, Chairman, Comey Lake Historical Restoration & Maintenance Committee 1973-2002.

Jane T. Ramsay

Jane T. Ramsay of Wenonah, NJ on June 27, 2002 at home among her children. Born Jane Tucker to Samuel Lewis and Frances Rode Tucker in Swedesboro, she moved to Wenonah at the age of 1 and resided there until her passing. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry, she was a licensed dental hygienist for 53 years. She began her career in private practice working with Dr. Sausser of Center City, Philadelphia and later with Dr. Don Furey of Wenonah and Dr. Don DeFonce of Mantua. Also during her career she worked with and educated children and migrant farm workers throughout southern New Jersey and later for underprivileged children and adults to the Camden Free Dental Clinic. She then joined H.I.P. of South Jersey from where she retired, but ended her career back in private practice working part-time for Dr. Holtzheimer of Mantua.

Mrs. Ramsay's hobbies and interests included designing,

making and painting pottery for the last 60 years, jewelry-smithing, gem cutting, painting in water colors, antiques, cooking and carving. Her particular interest was spending time and exchanging stories with her family and many friends. She was a member of the Wenonah Reading Club, the Wenonah Woman's Club, and of the former All Saints Episcopal Church, where she served as Sunday School Treasurer for many years. As a young woman she was a member of the former Wenonah Rifle and Gun Club. She remained a very active member of the Wenonah Historical Society until her passing.

She was previously married to David Ramsay, Jr. Together they had six children, all of whom survive her. The are: David Ramsay III and his wife Linda of Wenonah, Tucker Ramsay and his wife Tina of Woodbury Heights, James L. Ramsay and his wife Terry of Wenonah, Edward A. Ramsay and his wife Clare of Pittsgrove, Jane Ramsay, Jr. of Annapolis, MD and Louise Ramsay Cotta and her husband Chuck of Annapolis, MD.,

and four grandchildren, David IV, Scott, Victoria and Rebecca, also survive her. Also surviving are her sisters, Nancy Mohr of Yellow House, PA and Louise Tucker of Wenonah. Her brother, Donald K. Tucker predeceased her.

Friends and neighbors may call Monday evening 6-8pm at Smith Funeral Home, 47 Main St., Mantua, NJ. Funeral services Tuesday 10:30 am at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, N. Monroe and W. Poplar Streets, Wenonah, NJ. Interment will immediately follow at Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro. Memorial contributions may be made to either the Wenonah Historical Society, PO Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032 or the Wenonah Fire and Rescue Department, 14 S. West Ave., Wenonah, NJ 08090.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Photography is still underway to accompany the recorded written records in our database. As the cooler fall evenings and shorter days come upon us, we will have more time to work indoors to get back to the task of photographing the remainder of the archives. If you have any ideas or items that you would like to contribute to the Historical Society please contact me.

Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

Japanese Tea House Restoration Completed for Fourth of July!!!

The efforts of many volunteers under the guidance of Chuck Forsman and Bob Bevilaqua were rewarded at a dedication ceremony led by Chuck Forsman. John Schad, a resident builder, was recognized for his untiring volunteer efforts in the reconstruction of the nearly destroyed 1911 Japanese Tea House. The Historical Society thanks the many volunteers who have worked VERY HARD to restore

the Comey Lake Japanese Tea House. The commitment of people like Chuck Forsman, Bob Bevilaqua, and John Schad is truly appreciated. We thank all those who contributed to the efforts to bring back to life a monumental historic structure in this town. Anyone interested in donating to this cause can contact Chuck Forsman at 304 Mohawk Dr., Wenonah, NJ 08090.

All Around Town FOURTH OF JULY

YES... it was a banner year for the Parade. There was a HUGE turnout and patriotism galore. We did ourselves PROUD!

The House Decorating Contest this year was also a success. We Thank all those who entered. The theme this year was "A Salute to America's Heroes." The judges had many entries. All entrants will receive an 8 x 10 photo of their decorated home compliments of Tomorrow's Treasures, Inc of Woodbury Heights, NJ (thanks to George Braun for this ongoing tradition!).

The Top Three Winners Were:

- 1st Place.....The Snock Family at 8 N. Monroe
- 2nd Place.....The Scott Shaver Family at 1 N. Jackson
- 3rd Place.....The Redmond Family at 103 S. Marion

HELP NEEDED

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do an article, interview a longtime resident, or can contribute in any way PLEASE CALL. This is a great opportunity to get to KNOW your town!

WENONAH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM • 2002-2003

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COST: \$10 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

RETURN TO WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. Box 32 • WENONAH, NJ 08090-0032

September Meeting

Friday, September 13, 2002 • 6:00pm

The September Meeting will be held at two locations:

First, at 6pm at the newly restored Japanese Tea House will be the dedication of the plaque from the Wenonah Historical Society recognizing the efforts of Chuck Forsman, Bob Bevilacqua, John Schad, and the many other volunteers who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this historic treasure. For those who have not seen this wonderful restoration, this is a good time to come and bring a friend to thank those who have followed our mission statement and preserved the integrity of one of Wenonah's structures!

Second, at 7pm, we will have our meeting at Littlegrange (The McCall Porch). Refreshments will be served.

In the event of rain, both events will be held in the Community Center.



Future meeting

October 11, 2002.....South Jersey Ghost Research
Scientific approach and study of the paranormal

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5. To encourage interest in history generally and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.



08090+1829 06

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Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032
PO Box 32
Newsletter Committee

WENONAH
Historical Society



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



October 2002
Published by the
Historical Society
of Wenonah, NJ

Speak of the Devil

Over the past century, the Jersey Devil has been sighted throughout our area—including in Wenonah.

Move over, Dracula and Frankenstein. When Halloween comes to South Jersey, trick-or-treaters in the know tremble at the mention of our own local monster: The Jersey Devil. Sightings of the creature have been recorded throughout the 20th century, from 1909 to 2000. The list is long in Ocean and Atlantic counties (Winslow Township, Bamber Lake, Whiting, Leeds, and Mays Landing) but also closer to home in Salem and Gloucester counties (Salem, Greenwich, Woodstown, Gibbsboro, Bridgeton, Penns Grove), including right in our own backyard (Sewell, Barnsboro, Woodbury, Mantua, and yes, even in Wenonah!)

The appearance of the creature and its behavior varies only slightly. It is portrayed with a horse or monster turtle's head on which eyes glow. Its slimy, feathered body stands 3-1/2 to 6 feet high, on long back legs, crane- or frog-like. Its front legs or arms are short, and bear sharp claws. Its bat wings always help it to fly away. It lets people know of its presence by howling, hissing, or barking and can also produce unearthly, chilling screams. It has left behind strange giant prints of cloven hooves.

Even though it is accused of savagely killing many domestic animals, it has never injured a human being. Instead, it stalks unfortunate hikers in dark woods or peeps through windows at night.

Though many Wenonah residents have heard of the Jersey Devil, some may be unfamiliar with the macabre legend of its birth and life. According to South Jersey lore, a woman liv-

ing in the Pine Barrens near Leeds Point gave birth to a child in 1735—her thirteenth. Its freakish anatomy included a horse's head, the wings of a bat, cloven hooves and a serpent's tail. Originally called Leed's Devil, and later dubbed the Jersey Devil, the newborn beast is said to have flown away into the woods, where it has been hiding ever since. Through the years, it has been the subject of many a fireside story, and has even inspired two recipes: the Jersey Devil sandwich (eggs, pork roll, cheese and fried peppers and onions on a roll) and a Jersey Devil chocolate cake.

In 1909, the year a rash of sightings occurred throughout South Jersey, Wenonah had its very own sighting. According to the Gloucester County Times, "There was a skating carnival last night at Green's Lake. It was largely attended by the boys of Wenonah. They declared that they saw the (Jersey) Devil. They said it spit fire and had a head on it like the Gorgon Medusa."

In the same year, mysterious tracks were reported throughout South Jersey towns, including in Wenonah, and Professor Breikoph of Philadelphia identified them as those of a Jurassic lizard, *Peleosaurus Cattelleya*. He recommended feeding the creature fish and milk. If you are inclined to follow his advice, you could be the next observer of the Jersey Devil. As long as we preserve Wenonah's woods, we have a good chance of seeing it again.

For more information on the Jersey Devil, you can visit the web: www.pressplus.com/pineland/folklore or www.parascope.com/en/cryptzoo/predators03.htm

President's Letter

We have a busy and entertaining evening ahead of us. Come prepared for a work session and then enjoy the program as South Jersey Ghost Research joins us with tales of the paranormal and shares with us the scientific instruments used to measure paranormal activity. Our own Train Station seems to be alive with "traces from the past!"

Our agenda for the evening will include nominations for officers for the upcoming terms, program scheduling, Christmas party discussion, and the purchase of memorial items.

We will be reviewing our accomplishments of the past year and setting goals for the new term. As many of you are aware, there are some major changes that may be taking place in our town over the next several years. The town's new Community Center will mean changes for our Railroad Station. Many of you spent a LOT of effort and time in preserving the Train Station and it is our hope that we continue in this vein. Jack Sheppard is serving on the Committee that will review how a grant that was received will be used for the Train Station restoration. Roco Doto is also working on having the train Station recognized as a State Historic Structure.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to share ideas and time. **We need your support!**

We hope to see all of you at this meeting and please bring a friend. We have been fortunate in having a lot of new members that have contributed to the growth of the Historical Society. Each new face brings new and welcome ideas.

Refreshments will be provided.

Reminder: Please be sure to send or bring your dues: \$15 per family. (We have increased dues from \$ 10 to \$15 per year. If this causes difficulty for any member, please contact our treasurer for alternatives.)

-Vicki McCall

How to Contact Us

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Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net

The Wenonah Fire Company

Condensed by Vicki McCall from "Wenonah" by Marjorie Lentz and an article from Wenonah's "100 Year Celebration" pamphlet



The first record of the Wenonah Fire Company was on April 17, 1883 in a report from the Fire and Lightning Committee to Borough Council that 22 galvanized fire buckets were in good condition at the freight station. At the same meeting, Council passed a motion to purchase a 15' and 25' ladder for a cost of \$9.25!

On December 11, 1883 the cellar of the Wenonah School (later the Legion Hall and now a private residence) on N. Marion became the first fire house. Three years later, the Wenonah Water Works was built adjacent to the dam at Warner's Lake and the first fireplug was installed. Also in this year, official formation of the Wenonah Fire Company was initiated. The first piece of equipment, was purchased in this year, a one hose cart and 45' of hose. These were housed in the barn of the Wenonah Inn (which later became the Military Acade-

my). The first test for this equipment was done by setting fire to a pile of barrels on the outskirts of town. Within 9 minutes, the hose cart and team arrived and extinguished the fire.

On April 6, 1888 it was recorded in the Borough minutes that the Wenonah Fire Company had been officially formed. The first Fire Chief was E.R. Winthrop. The equipment consisted of two hose carts and hoses. They were stored at Birdall's Garage (located on the site of the present Library) and in Synott's Ice House. After one year of existence, there were NO fires!

In 1905, the lot where the Fire House now stands, known as Harrison Lot, was purchased for \$150. On June 21, 1906, the Fire Company was incorporated with ten charter members. In 1908, the building was constructed for a cost of \$1,420. This is the front por-

tion of the older section of the present firehouse.

During the early years before electric sirens, striking a suspended locomotive wheel rim with a sledgehammer sounded the alarms. This was eventually replaced with a rope pull bell. And for years the Methodist Church bell was used as a fire alarm. In 1918 the first siren and tower was placed at the corner lot of S. West Ave and Cherry St.

In 1918 the Fire Company purchased its first piece of motorized equipment. In 1921 a new Stutz fire truck was purchased giving Wenonah two motorized trucks.

Beginning in the early 1920's, a carnival was held every August as a fundraiser. This continued until 1942. In 1940, Wayne Ralston suggested an annual get together dinner. The first banquet was December 2, 1941. This eventually

evolved into a "Stags Night" and a "Ladies Night".

In 1943, an application was made to The American Red Cross. This was approved and Wenonah became one of the first Fire Company's with an official rescue squad in the State.

In 1960, with the increased equipment purchases it became necessary for the Fire Company to build an addition. This was completed in 1963. An upstairs game room was completed in 1969 with an original bar from the Telford Inn.

The first female member of the Fire Company was Susan Auerbach

In 1976. As a member of the ambulance squad and a fire fighter, Lorraine Geston became the first female line officer. Today, the Fire Company is open to men and women and welcomes all volunteers.

The Fire Company has served our community for over 100 years. It is through the support of volunteers, Borough Council, and the community that we are fortunate enough to have our own Fire Station.

The Wenonah Historical Society thanks all of our Fire volunteers for their service and commitment.

Be sure to see the Historical Display presented by the Fire Company in the Wenonah Elementary School in honor of Fire Prevention Month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archiving and Preservation Committee

Photography is still underway to accompany the recorded written records in our database. As the cooler fall evenings and shorter days come upon us, we will have more time to work indoors to get back to the task of photographing the remainder of the archives.

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Rocco F Doto · 415-1215
rockracc@aol.com

HELP STILL NEEDED!

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do an article, interview a longtime resident, or can contribute in any way PLEASE CALL. This is a great opportunity to get to know your town!

THANK YOU!

- To the children from Wenonah who participated in the dedication of the Japanese Tea House by singing songs from THE MUSIC MAN. We truly enjoyed the performance. The Gloucester County Times did a nice write up on the Tea House and the event on September 26, 2002.
- To Diane Magarelli, Roco Doto, Bernadette Faix, and Eileen Caraker for running the cart at the Wenonah Craft fare. They sold Historical Society bags and flags.
- To the Wenonah Fire Department for their display of archives in our cabinet at the Wenonah Elementary School. Be sure to stop in for a peek.

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- Historical field trips

COST: \$15 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

October Meeting

Friday, October 11, 2002 • 7:00pm

GUEST PRESENTATION BY SOUTH JERSEY GHOST RESEARCH

Free lecture with photo displays, equipment displays, EVPs and videos.

SJGR is a group of investigators that can trace it's roots back to 1955. They conduct discreet investigations, assist people in need, educate the public, conduct field research and promote the learning and understanding of ghosts and other psychic phenomena. They use the latest scientific methods and tools as well as psychic investigators in our research. SJGR members come from all walks of life, from nurses and psychologists to grandmothers and teachers. Most have years of personal experience dealing with ghosts and hauntings. SJGR routinely investigates documented hauntings and conducts field research to gain more knowledge of the phenomenon.



Future meetings

November 8, 2002.....**No Program Set as of Yet**
December 13, 2002.....**Annual Christmas Party**

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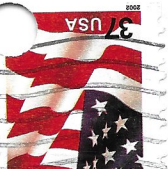
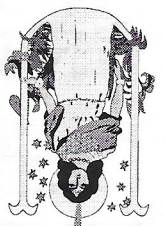


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PO Box 32
Newsletter Committee

WENONAH
Historical Society



WENONAH

Historical Society Newsletter



November 2002
Published by the
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President's Letter

We have a full business schedule for the November meeting and it is important that we have a good turnout. We will be electing officers, trustees, discussing programs, and planning the Christmas Party. There are plenty of fun projects for you to participate in, so, even if you've never volunteered before, here is your chance to do your part!

There are many members who no longer reside in Wenonah. We would love to get some letters from you about your life in Wenonah that we could put in the newsletter. Anyone who would like to share an experience...please write in!

I would like to thank all who came out for the October meeting. We had a great program from South Jersey Ghost Research. They shared some very interesting information on the paranormal. The South Jersey ghost Research team will be conducting a study of the Train Station on...of all days...Friday the 13th! This will take place following our Christmas Party. Stay tuned for their finding!!!

As the holidays approach and my long running term as President comes to an end, I want to thank you all for all your help and support. I wish you all a Happy and Bountiful Thanksgiving.

I look forward to seeing you Friday night.

-Vicki McCall

Proposed Changes to WHS By-Laws

October 30, 2001

Notification to Members;
Re: Proposed By-Law Changes

Dear Members:

At the October 2002 meeting of the Society a request was made by President Vicki McCall for the elimination of the post of second vice president.

It was further proposed that the terms of officers be increased from one to two years.

Finally, due to the conflict posed by the December meeting being an annual Christmas party and not a business meeting, it is proposed that the Nominating Committee be appointed at the November meeting with nominations/elections to take place at the January meeting.

To accomplish that goal it is proposed that the by-laws be amended as noted on the reverse side of this letter.

In compliance with the requirement of the Constitution for changing the Bylaws this proposal is being provided "at least one week" in advance of the meeting at which it is to be acted upon, that being the meeting to be held Friday, November 8th 2002.

Should you have any questions concerning the above please feel free to contact President Vicki McCall (468-9555) or myself (468-8724) at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jack C. Sheppard Sr., Proposing Member

Proposed Constitution and By-Law Changes

Constitution, Article IV - Officers and Trustees, Sections 1. and 2.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

The officers of the Society shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of these five Officers plus two Trustees, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Society.

Proposed Wording

The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of these four Offi-

cers plus two Trustees, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Society.

Article V - Election of Officers and Trustees, Sections 1. and 2.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

The Officers and Trustees shall be elected for terms of one (1) year by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting.

Proposed Wording

The Officers and Trustees shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

A Nominating Committee consisting of two (2) members of the Board of Trustees and two (2) regular members of the Society shall be selected by the membership at the regular meeting preceding the Annual Meeting, and at the Annual Meeting shall present a slate of five (5) Officers and two (2) Trustees.

Proposed Wording

A Nominating Committee consisting of two (2) members of the Board of Trustees and two (2) regular members of the Society shall be selected by the membership at the November Meeting, and at the Annual Meeting shall present a slate of four (4) Officers and two (2) Trustees.

Bylaws - Article I, Section 3.

Current Wording (Deletions underlined)

The First and Second Vice-Presidents shall in the absence of the President have all the powers and prerogatives of the President, and be subject to all restrictions of the President. In the absence of both, the Board of Trustees shall appoint one of their members to preside.

Proposed Wording

The Vice President shall in the absence of the President have all the powers and prerogatives of the President, and be subject to all restrictions of the President. In the absence of both, the Board of Trustees shall appoint one of their members to preside.

November Meeting

Friday, November 8, 2002 • 7:30pm

HELP NEEDED!

We need help in contributing to the newsletter. Anyone who can spare an hour a month to do an article, an interview, or share a story, PLEASE, PLEASE CALL US!

How to Contact Us

Mail: WHS · P.O. Box 32 · Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032

E-mail: wenonahhistoricalnews@comcast.net



Future meeting

December 13, 2002.....Annual Christmas Party

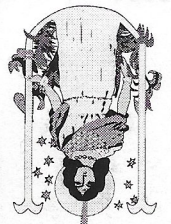
THE MISSION OF THE WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The objectives of this Society shall be:

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6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Ralph + Rachel Knisell
100 W Mantua Ave
Wenonah, NJ 08090

WENONAH
Historical Society
Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 32
Wenonah, NJ 08090-0032



WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DECEMBER 2002

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is hard to believe this is my last letter as President. I have truly enjoyed the honor of serving as an officer of the Wenonah Historical Society. I thank all of our long-term members who have been so generous with their time and expertise. Without your help, I would not have been able to accomplish the many goals we set. Like many of you, I will miss the company and stories of our two favorite Wenonah residents, Jane Ramsay and Milton Webb. I am so very grateful for having known them and so honored to have called them "friend".

Our new officers come to you with a lot of energy and commitment to this town. I know that under their leadership we will see many new accomplishments. We should all welcome them and offer whatever help we can. It is as a team that we make a difference. Step up and let your voice be heard. Every contribution, no matter how small it may seem, is a huge step towards keeping this Historical Society alive. Let's keep up the hard work that people like Jane Ramsay, Milton Webb, Jack and Jean Ehlers, Jack Sheppard, Rachael Knissel, Betty Macleod, Lucy Schulz ...just to mention a few...have done for so long!

This is a WONDERFUL town and in the spirit of the season, lets' remember that, as in Bedford Falls, Wenonah captures the spirit of Community and Friendship... it is why we all have chosen to live here. Truly, "It's a Wonderful Life"!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 13, 2002
6:00 pm Wine and Cheese
6:30 pm Dinner

WENONAH COMMUNITY CENTER

\$ 15.00 per person

RSVP Betty Macleod 468-6981
Lucy Schulz 468-5392

BRING AN UNWRAPPED DOOR PRIZE

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BRING AN UNWRAPPED DOOR PRIZE

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Wenonah Historical Society

Vol. 1 Issue No. 1 January, 2003

Next Meeting Friday January 10th at the Wenonah Community Center

There will not be a formal program for the meeting; instead it will be a session for becoming acquainted with the new officers of our organization and a discussion of plans and programs for the coming year 2003.

President:	Rocco Doto	Vice President:	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary:	Eileen Caraker	Treasurer:	Carol Wiltsee
Corresponding Sec.:	Betty MacLeod	Trustee:	Vicki McCall

Please attend and make your thoughts known on our important responsibility of seeking out, accepting, preserving and displaying the historic photos and artifacts constituting the history of our proud and beautiful town.

(Former) President's Letter by Vicki McCall

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Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

The severe snowstorm of last week blocked the trains cutting off communication with the outside world, causing considerable anxiety to those of our townsman doing business in Philadelphia.

Saturday morning a heavy run was made on the grocery stores, and by noon those who had not done their marketing had little hopes for Sunday dinner.

Postmaster Eldridge reports no mails delivered from Friday of last week till Monday of this due to the storm.

Miss Rena Moore accidentally shot herself while examining a revolver.

A number of interesting young people formed themselves into an amateur choir Wednesday evening last in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in rendering the music for the service assisted the pastor very materially.

The boys having cleaned the snow off the ice at Wenonah Lake are indulging themselves in the healthful pastime of skating.

It is understood that "The Inn" will be opened very early in the spring. There is no reason why this beautiful and home like house cannot be made a success.

Thomas W. Synnott and wife and Clayton Synnott have gone to Lake Worth, Florida where they will remain several weeks.

Clifford Farr, whose family are residing in Philadelphia for the winter visited us last week. (Quite a few people wintered in Philadelphia)

Another one of our oldest inhabitants has passed away. Mrs. Christina Allen, widow of Josiah Allen, who was buried from the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. James Carey on Friday. Mrs. Allen was among the first settlers here, her family being among the oldest in the county.

The Musical Society met last Tuesday at the residence of I.P. Eppiesheimer and decided to continue the class rehearsal for another quarter.

The supper given by the W.C.T.U. in Noblitt's Hall last week was a very successful one.

Samuel Whitney was visiting friends here last week. (He and his brother Thomas founded the Whitney Glass Works, founded the Glassborough bank and were large stockholders of the West Jersey and Seashore Rail Road)

The borough was treated with a sensation on Friday last. Francis Williams and his wife while walking along one of our thoroughfares got into an altercation over some of their domestic affairs. Francis became very much excited and forgetting his vows to be good and true struck his spouse with great violence; fearing that the blow was fatal he skipped for parts unknown while Rebecca went to the magistrate and laid out a complaint of assault and battery with intent to kill. The dusky pair resides in Jericho.

Little Ed Benson feels a foot taller than any of his comrades - he caught a live muskrat.

Richard Clark has a very spirited horse, a trotter. His proud spirit rebels at being hitched to a delivery wagon and at times gives an exhibition of his rebellious spirit by running away. Last week while in charge of Will Price went into a mad gait and before his driver could bring him down to the delivery wagon trot he succeeded in making kindling wood of a portion of the vehicle.

The West Jersey ferryboats experience great difficulty in crossing the river on account of the ice. On Sunday many people walked across the Delaware River from Camden to Philadelphia on the ice.

Dr. Harry A. Stout is quite busy dispensing pills and plasters. This cold weather has caused a great deal of sickness, the prevailing disease or complaint being cold or la grippe.

The young people, with a good sprinkling of older folks, calling themselves the Wenonah Assembly, met last Saturday night at Noblitt's Hall and indulged in the favorite pastime of a dance and progressive euchre.

We regret to learn that the good-natured Blair Smith is compelled to sit by the heater and nurse a very bad cold (he had the first drivers license issued in Gloucester County)

There are quite a few Episcopalians in our borough. If they would encourage the work in the little mission chapel of St. Barnabas, over at Mantua, by their presence it would materially help the lay reader in charge of that work.

Gloucester County Constitution
Woodbury, New Jersey February 1895

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 February, 2003



Wenonah Free Public Library - See Page 2

FEBRUARY MEETING

Friday February 14th, 2003 7:30 p.m. at the Wenonah Community Center, Mantua Ave. at the Railroad.

The program for the evening will be a presentation by Victor Anderson of the history of his home at 13 West Mantua Avenue, Wenonah.

Victor will describe the rooms and features of his home in words and photographs.

Should provide for a very interesting meeting with refreshments following.

A Message from the President Rocco Doto

Dear Members,

In my first month as your new President I have found that the job of President is both exhilarating and difficult. I sincerely respect my predecessors, especially Vicki McCall and the Late Jane Ramsey. Vicki still serves on our executive board and has been a life saver with her guidance and availability with any questions that I have... And I have many.

I am also lucky to have the support of our other officers and already have

reaped the benefits of their various talents, experiences and expertise.

We have many ambitious plans for 2003. Our plans include;

- Displaying Memorabilia/learning exhibits in our elementary school.
- Exhibiting historical artifacts in our Library
- Creating a permanent museum in our beloved Train Depot, once the municipal building is completed.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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Secretary *Eileen Caraker*
Treasurer *Carol Wiltsee*
Corr. Sec. *Betty MacLeod*
Trustee *Vicki McCall*
Trustee *Diane Magarelli*

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

We also plan to continue to offer informative programs each month and to actively publicize these programs to get as many residents interested in attending our meetings.

In fact, I have made it a personal priority to increase our membership. I have delivered Historical Society welcoming packages to all new residents that moved to our Historic town during 2002.

I think that it is so befitting or ironic that the first building by the Mantua Land & Improvement Company was the Wenonah Inn in 1872, one hundred and thirty years ago.

In addition we are planning to have Wenonah Historical Society Posters

around town announcing the date, time, and place of our meetings.

All of our meetings will be advertised in the Gloucester County Times and we will always have a message in the Wenonah Newsletter.

I also plan to add all of the major Borough organizations to our mailing lists so that our Newsletter reaches as many involved residents as possible.

I ask all of our membership to help me with increasing the membership of our organization. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join the Society.

I can't imagine why anyone living in such a jewel of a town with such a rich history not wanting to be a part of the Historical Society.

I thank all of you for being supporters and members of The Wenonah Historical Society.

Future Meetings

The March meeting program will be a presentation of the "Gibson Girl Friday meets the Victorian Lady" that you won't want to miss. Because of the anticipated larger attendance the meeting will take place at the Wenonah Elementary School All-Purpose Room. The date March 14th at 7:00 p.m.

The topic for April will be "Preservation Problem Shooting: Maintaining the Older Home" by Margaret Westfield of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants Co.

Did You Know?

The lands that are Wenonah today were farms specializing in the growing of sweet potatoes. The railroad delivered manure to the farmers who picked it up in the center of town.

WENONAH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
by *Ann Zuber*

Much of what I have learned about our library has been passed on to me from those who have spent years in service to the library; Lucy Schulz, Dave and Meta O'Connor, and Carol Wiltsee.

I also spent some time reviewing documents including the minutes of the organizing body of this library-the Wenonah Library Association. This organization was the brainchild of the Sorosis Club in Wenonah in the 1890's and was formally organized and chartered in 1900. The funding for the first collection of books came from the Sorosis Club, \$150.00 raised for this purpose, plus the initial investment of the "members" of the association. The members of the original board included familiar names such as Edward Farr, Thomas Synnott, H. Lake Gilmore, Mr. Stout, Mr. Gage, and Mr. Wilkins. Meetings were held at the homes of the committee members until a room was rented in the house of Mrs. Lashley (Wenonah's Quality Shop?) behind the post office in June of that year. The committee drew up a constitution; which stated that members could have lifetime library privileges for \$50.00 or join annually for \$5.00. They hired Emma Lichty, our first librarian. In 1902, the Association hired Miss Mortie Stokes, who saw the library through many changes.

By 1905 more space was needed and the former Presbyterian Sunday school Annex was received as a donation and moved to its current

location at 8 W. Mantua Ave. The original building was half the size of the building that we now know as September Rose Studios. Between 1906 and 1908 the library was used for borough council meetings. In 1914, the Association became the Wenonah Free Public Library, a public entity to be supported in part by the Borough of Wenonah.

In a report submitted to borough

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council in 1921, the library claimed 600 card-holding members.

The board of trustees of the library began negotiating the purchase of the property at Clinton and Mantua Aves. with the Bilderbach family. The land was purchased and the house razed to allow for the building of the current library building, which

was donated by the Edward Farr family in 1927.

In 1988, an idea for an expansion to the building was discussed. The idea was investigated with estimates from builders and a public questionnaire and was ultimately decided against.

In 1998, in conjunction with the automation project at the Elementary School, the library set up Internet access for the public and planned to automate the collection.

One of the most interesting things I discovered while reviewing the library's history is the number of people that have been devoted to this library. The longevity is impressive. I didn't document dates for the Farr family's tenure, but there were at least 2 generations involved and their financial contribution cannot be equaled. Mortie Stokes was our librarian for 42 years, from 1902-1944. Lucy Schulz has been on the library board since April 13, 1961-that's 41 years. Meta O'Connor and Carol Wiltsee have been the mainstays at this library since 1986, when Dorothy Nugent retired after 18 years. Most of our librarians and board members have worked with the library for more than 10 years.

The library has benefited from the attention of many groups and individuals over the years. Mrs. Edward Farr and the Women's Club hosted an English Country Fair in 1923 and raised \$600.00 for the library. A Paul Stankard paperweight and a trip to Mexico were raffled to benefit the library. The Women's Club has continued to support the library with monetary, furniture, and book

donations. The Junior Women's Club has joined in this tradition.

Many families from town have chosen to suggest a library donation in memory of their deceased loved ones. The Hobson family donated the beautiful bookcases, which make up our children's section downstairs. The Hopkins/Bennett family donated the round table in the junior section downstairs. Another table in that section was donated in memory of Louise Wiler, our librarian from 1966-1978. Most recently the family of Dorothy Nugent, our librarian from 1978-1986, suggested donations be made in her name to the library. The David Ramsey family donated the audio and video display racks to the library in recent years. Mr. Ramsey has used his talents to help maintain the special atmosphere by crafting many of the improvements to match the original architecture of the building. Often families that have participated in programs at the library, such as story time, choose to donate books as a remembrance. Daniel Navins, one of our young residents, chose to refurbish the grounds of the library last year as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The project included a bench for the back yard and an irrigation system and perennial flowers for the border gardens.

While the grounds were being improved, the library board moved forward with the installation of a technology based card catalog and circulation system by hiring Anne Zuber, part time Elementary School Librarian. The system chosen is the same one used in the Wenonah

Elementary School and so would be familiar to those students. In July of 2000, the shelf list was reviewed and updated and sent to the Follett Software Co. for conversion. In January 2001, volunteers helped apply the barcode labeling necessary to use the computerized system. We began to use the system in June 2001. Since that time we have recovered many books missing for up to two years, but the biggest benefit to having the computerized system is in its search capabilities. Not only will the computer search by keyword, but it will also show if the book is checked out.

Some of our expectations for the future of the library include making connections with more of the citizens of our town. One way might be to showcase some of the historical memorabilia of Wenonah. We have been in contact with members of the Historical Society and have discussed the showcase they have had installed at the Elementary School and the possibility of something in the library. We are shopping for appropriate cabinetry. Having the library entered into the Historic Buildings Registry is being investigated.

The next step technologically would be to put our Card Catalog on the Internet. This would make it possible to search our collection from your home computer. At last spring's Ice Cream Social at the elementary school, an opportunity was given to see a demonstration of OPAC. OPAC is the On-line Public Access Catalog system.

Each book, audio book, or videotape that the library has available for circulation is

recorded. The display provides the same information that a card catalog card would show but is located by the computer in a great variety of search methods. The card drawers provided cards for each book listed under Title, Author, and Subject, with the possibility of added subject entries and series. The computer can search by Call # and Keyword. Keyword is an invaluable search tool.

Some of the services this library can provide include; quick and easy search for materials, timely access to current adult fiction, interlibrary loan access to material not on our shelves, copier and internet access, expanded hours on Wednesday (9AM-9PM), and Story Time. Story Time is growing! We have offered both Wednesday and Thursday Story Time at 10AM for Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions. We have great expectations for a really fun Summer program. Our theme is "Library Safari"! We are in the planning stages and hope to enlist the help of many local residents in whatever area they may choose to help. Those of you with artistic ability are especially welcome! We are having a planning meeting this Wednesday 3/13/2002 at 12:00 at the library.

This presentation was made before the Woman's Club of Wenonah on 3/9/2002 by Anne Zuber, director of Wenonah Free Public Library.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 3 March, 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

Another exciting month. I have seen a few of our objectives come to fruition early in the year starting with our publicity campaign. Posters advertising dates and time of meetings are now in the Post-Office, Library, Train Station and its Kiosk. We succeeded in exhibiting several Wenonah Military Academy items in the Library. Please be sure to stop in and see the display. The items look great and certainly look better than when tucked away in a closet. Lastly we have received a grant from the NJ Council for the humanities, providing two presentations in 2003. I hope to see you at the March meeting and please bring a friend.

MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

Our March program is "***The Gibson Girl Friday Meets The Victorian Lady***". This program compares the lives and fashions of a turn-of-the-century society lady and a working class "typewriter", as those who first operated the typing machines were called. We will also be given a historical look at women's undergarments and the practice of tight lacing (of corsets). Obstacles women encountered entering the male-dominated world of office work and employment practices before and after marriage are also presented. Because we are offering this presentation to the general public, the **location will be at the Wenonah Elementary School**. The hour-long program will **start at 7 PM** with light refreshments being served afterwards.

Following the refreshments there will be a short business meeting.

The speaker for the evening is Barbara Meyer Darlin. Ms. Darlin studied ballet and acting before deciding on a career in costuming. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in theatre from Indiana University, she began a journey of creative experience ranging from her own fashion design business to costume designer for regional dance and theatre companies. In 1987, Barbara moved into a 100-year-old house and began her love affair with the Victorian Era.

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Fascinated by the 19th century, she produced "Unlacing the Victorian Woman", a fun, costumed lecture/demonstration that explores the impact of turn-of-the-century women's fashions on their lives. Barbara has added two more programs to her repertoire: "The Gibson Girl Friday Meets The Victorian Lady" which we will be offering, and "Arsenic and Tight Lace: Beauty Secrets of La Belle Époque" about turn-of-the-century beauty secrets.

Ms. Darlin performs these entertaining and educational programs for historical societies, libraries, schools,

women's groups, museums, retirement communities, and at conventions, but not at bachelor parties! She has given talks up and down the East Coast, as well as at the Biltmore Estate in NC, the Taft Museum in Cincinnati and several venues in the Berkshires. She is a familiar face at Cape May's Victorian Festivals. She has been featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine and Main Line Today.

Ms. Darlin is a founding member of the Costume Society of America and lives in Swarthmore, PA, with her husband and two cats.

We are fortunate to have this program sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The NJCH is a non-profit organization established in 1973 as the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Programs are offered free and open to the public. The mission of the NJCH is to develop, support and promote projects that explore and interpret the human experience, foster cross-cultural understanding and engage people in dialog about matters of individual choice and public responsibility. The Council's Horizon Speakers Bureau supplies lecturers to non-profit organizations in humanities areas as wide ranging as ethnic studies, history, literature, interpretation of the arts and public policies. Learn more about the NJCH by visiting their website www.njch.org or by calling 1-888-FYI-NJCH.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2003

A reminder that quite a few members have not remitted dues for 2003. Sorry but the newsletter will not be sent in April to those remaining unpaid.

**HISTORY OF THE
WOMAN'S CLUB OF WENONAH
BY PAT HART**

During the year 2003, the Wenonah Woman's Club is celebrating its 80th anniversary. The following is a brief history of the first 40 years.

In 1922, Jessie White went to The New Jersey State Federation of Woman's Clubs Convention in Atlantic City at the invitation of member of The Woman's Club of Woodbury. She returned to Wenonah fired up about the group because they were really eager to make the world a better place in which to live. The stated purpose of the organization is "The study of subjects affecting the development, the welfare, and the advancement of women, and cooperation in Federation and community projects." Jessie and several friends discussed the idea, found it appealing, and formed The Woman's Club of Wenonah.

Quoting from a letter that Mrs. White wrote for the 40th anniversary in 1963: "The idea of having a woman's club in Wenonah was actually spontaneous. It was every woman's wish ...everyone's work."

Jessie believed from the outset that much could be done for the local library. The first project, 80 years ago was to earn money for it. She had the brilliant idea to turn her house, (which is now the home of Jim and Pat Haney at 210 N. Jefferson Ave.) into a Dickens' house and fortunately, her husband, Nate, went along with the idea. She, with the help of other members of the Woman's Club, decorated one room to represent "The Tale of Two Cities." Then they decorated another room to represent Bleak House. Another was "David Copperfield." The members dressed in costumes of the time. One special room was just for children. It was decorated

entirely with cobwebs made of yarn and sprinkled with chocolate spiders. The children could select their favorite spider.

In May 1925 another major event held by the new club was a May Fair under the direction of Mrs. White and Mrs. Walter Farr. Mrs. Farr was the member who suggested that the library become the club's project. It was held on the "greensward" in front of the Farr estate, now owned by Vicki and Lou McCall. The Tudor style of architecture fitted in with the period portrayed by the affair, the Elizabethan age.

At 3:15 the church bells rang to call the folks to the festive scene. Woman's Club

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members dressed in costumes representing vendors, jesters, Gypsies, milkmaids, chimney sweeps, and dancers. There were May pole dances and booths where toys, food and beverages could be purchased. Husbands also participated as noted by Simple Simon and the pie man. A

highlight was the crowning of the May King and Queen.

Also, there was a parade including 40 young girls pushing their decorated doll coaches. The program ended with the Men's Club Chorus singing several old-time songs. Quite a large sum of money, \$600, was realized for the benefit of the Wenonah Public Library.

"A Pageant of Women" in 14 episodes was held in the Military Academy Gymnasium on Saturday, October 20, 1928. Once again the Wenonah library was the beneficiary of the event. Each episode featured an outstanding woman in history, from Deborah the Hebrew Prophetess to a grand finale featuring the Spirit of Motherhood. There were 75 women in the cast. And more than 400 people enjoyed the pageant!

On Saturday, September 28, 1929, the members staged the continuous perform of Le Jardin De Paris (The Garden of Paris) a gay resort of French Art Students, for the benefit of the library. The production took place in the gardens at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Erskine at the corner of South Princeton Avenue and Cherry Street. In addition to several dances, vocal renditions and a string ensemble, the comedy play "The Prince who was a Piper" was performed. Supper was served to more than 260 guests. A matinee was given in the afternoon at three o'clock for children.

During the '30's, our club performed an annual play, often in the Legion Hall or at the home of Mrs. Farr, Little Grange. Several titles were "A Chip off the Old Block," "Sardines," and "Shall We Join the Ladies." The latter was an unusual play because it was only the first act of an unfinished mystery play by Sir James Barrie. One year they gave an original play written by a member, Miss Elizabeth Farr, the Marjorie Lentz of that day.

In 1931 a very elaborate program entitled "The Little Shawl Pageant" was given to a very appreciative audience in the Legion Hall (originally Joe Noblitt's Hall on N. Marion Ave behind the Weems Medical Center). 15 tableaux, including music and dance, shawls of the ages from the early Egyptian period to the gorgeous silk shawls of that day were presented.

A Beggars Fair was held in the Wenonah Park in 1933. It was composed of many booths with food, games, books, etc. Also Major Lorence kindly offered the services of the Military Academy's Cadet Band. The afternoon affair ended with a dance in the drill hall, for which the band also played. The club netted \$88 for the library fund. In those days, the Woman's Club donated the bulk of the money spent by the library for book purchases.

In 1936 the club joined with the PTA to beautify the school grounds with shrubbery. The first Borough tree commission was appointed in 1938, largely through the efforts of the club. Musical instruments were purchased for the Wenonah Elementary School in 1939. Thirty of the lovely dogwood trees in the Wenonah Park were donated by the club.

During the early 1940's, much of the club's activities were channeled toward the war effort. During these lean years (beginning back in the '30's), there were often disbursements for welfare such as milk and eggs to needy families. Quite often there were expenses for materials for Red Cross projects such as ditty bags and saltines. A fair was held in September of 1944 and it turned a profit of only \$13.55, a testament to the lean times.

In the mid-1940's the club aroused interest in acquiring a community athletic field and urged that a referendum be placed on the November ballot to purchase it. The referendum passed. Mrs. S.M. Langston purchased the field for \$4,000 to

make sure it was still available for the Borough once approved.

Club meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church until 1948 when they were moved to the American Legion Hall. Beginning in 1956, the club met in the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall; and they still meet there today, 46 1/2 years later.

The practice of sending a Citizenship Institute delegate to Douglass College began in 1948. Girls from the entire State meet there for four days in June. The program is now called Career Institute and delegates are introduced to many career options for women, in addition to getting a taste of college life.

Beginning the '50's, a Women's Chorus was organized under the direction of Iris Starke. That chorus, directed by several other members also, was in existence until the late '70's.

Sometime during the '50's, the club decided to purchase a heifer. To quote a newspaper article: "Although the club has shown interest in a variety of fields, this is the first time it has expressed an interest in livestock. The group hastens to note, however, that the heifer will not be tethered to a dogwood tree in the Borough Park, but will be tethered to a kapok tree in Java. After examining many methods of expressing good will to other peoples, the Woman's Club evaluated the Heifer Project as being the most constructive approach to maintaining peace."

On Friday, September 28, 1956, a flower show and art exhibit was held in the Fellowship Hall. This was a community project planned by The Garden Club of Wenonah, The Junior Garden Club of Wenonah, and The Woman's Club of Wenonah. It was non-competitive and free. There was even a division for children's arrangements. For the Christmas program in 1959, the Millville Madrigal Singers entertained. The newspaper noted that this

type of singing was "almost a lost art." But we know better than that today, since our own Gateway Madrigal Singers are alive and well. At present they provide the entertainment for the Woman's Club December programs.

Beginning in 1962 the club members cared for all repairs to library materials, mending or rebinding approximately 100 books per year. It is not clear how long the project continued but it is not in practice today.

The 1963 Christmas meeting included dances performed by a group of South American dancers that lived in the Philadelphia area. Food for the evening was typical of Latin America and was prepared by club members who were part of the Spanish Language class taught by member Ada Jackson.

On May 25, 1963, the club's 40th anniversary was celebrated. An original skit, "Melvine's Trunk," marked the occasion. The trunk used in the play was the original trunk that for many years was passed from president to president, to store mementos of the club's activities. It had been recently rediscovered thereby explaining the curious item that appeared in early treasurer's reports. Annually the item, "transporting trunk: \$.30 appeared. In reading the remarks made at the anniversary, several more interesting facts about earlier years were discovered. Because meetings were originally held in members' homes, the amount of \$1.75 was set aside each month to purchase chairs so that there would be adequate seating. (Apparently they were transported from house to house as necessary). Dances sponsored by the Woman's Club were held for young people in the Legion Hall in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4 April 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

This year is shaping up to be one of many accomplishments for the Historical Society. We continue to gain new members, many who are new to our historical town.

Our programs thus far have been geared to a slide show of Victor Anderson's 18 room, Victorian mansion, the Daniel Brown house, which was a treat for all who attended.

Our March Program, which was funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities, was titled "The Gibson Girl Friday meets The Victorian Lady". This was an excellent program providing a historical slice of life during the Victorian era. The program was so well received that we had to hold the meeting in the all purpose room at the elementary school.

Special thanks go out to all those members who helped make this night a success.

If you haven't seen our Victorian display in the front entrance of the elementary school you should make plans to stop by.

April 11th Meeting Program

This program for this month's meeting is titled "Preservation Problem shooting/ maintaining the Older House."

This topic will certainly be of interest to the many owners of

the beautiful older homes we are so proud of.

The Guest Speaker will be Margaret Westfield, owner of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants in Haddon Heights. Margaret has a Masters of Arts degree in Preservation History as well as a Degree in Architecture. Margaret worked for the New Jersey State Preservation office.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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Vice Pres. *Jack Sheppard Sr.*
Secretary *Eileen Caraker*
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Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

She currently teaches in both the Burlington County College and Drew University's Historic Preservation Programs. Don't miss this presentation!

We continue to make strides in our Archival collection and its organization. Hopefully many of our postcards and photographs will be preserved properly and be readily available. If you have any historical items you might wish to donate please bring them to our next meeting.

ALERT!! ALERT!! ALERT!!

Please note the awful condition of our irreplaceable Community Center. The roofing, supporting lumber, exterior surfaces, windows and parts of the interior of the structure are in deplorable condition. Communicate your concerns to the Mayor and Council that we are greatly concerned about the situation and ask immediate assistance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Andrew W. Carey was one of several men instrumental in founding our town. He served as a member of the original Borough Commission commencing in 1883 and was Mayor during 1897, 1898. Shown below is a model sailing ship that he hand-crafted He died in 1905.



His son James W. Carey served on Borough Council from 1900 through 1908. He was the father of J. Allen Carey who served on our Board of Assessors, Registrar of Vital Statistics and as Borough Clerk 1962 through 1967. He died July 8, 1978.

HISTORY OF THE WENONAH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

(The following history is "borrowed" from a booklet that was part of the Milton Webb collection of documents provided to us by his brother Bernard after Milton's death)

"The Wenonah A.A. came into being in the Spring of 1965. The reason for the formation of the A.A. was the need for additional recreation programs for the youth of Wenonah under one organization.

The following men were instrumental in its formation: Lou Stahl, Charles Lake, Jack Wiler, Ray Condell, Bob Root, and Charles Wingate.

Prior to the formation of the A.A. we were represented in the Gloucester County Tri-League by a Babe Ruth team and a Pony team, which were then sponsored by service organizations such as American Legion and Lions Clubs at quite an expense to these organizations.

The summer of '65 the A.A. added another team, then called the Minors (Midgets). Our first annual banquet was held that year in the Presbyterian Church, at which time the first of many League trophies was presented to our championship Pony team. It is interesting to note that two members of that team are still continuing their baseball careers in college: Barry Root and Gary Condell. Also still participating from our first Minor team is Bob Schweigart. Others from the original group of boys have come back to aid the A.A. from a coaching position. They are Herb Danner, Joe Cipriano, and Sonny Mecholsky.

The year 1966 was probably the most important year in terms of growth. In one year we increased our program from the original Babe Ruth, Pony, and Midget teams to a total

of eight teams. Three Minor teams were added and a girls' program was put under way with the formation of two softball teams. This year was important also in the expansion of our athletic facilities. The use of the Tall Pines field was obtained and put into playing condition, thanks to many friends of the A.A. Considerable hard work was contributed by the members, who were then operating on a very limited budget. The Snack Bar had its inception that summer, thanks to the generosity of Jim Henry, and the hard work of Ray Condell, Al Mecholsky, George Anderson, and Dave Miller.

It should be noted and underscored here that much of the physical work that has been done to increase our facilities, such as backstops, fences, dugouts, snack bar, and lighting has been done only through the hard work and generous donations of time by many men. Special thanks should go to Ray Condell and Al Mecholsky. These men gave more than their fair share and the A.A. will be forever in their debt.

From these modest beginnings the A.A. has grown to include many more teams, which will participate in either inter-town or in-town leagues:

During these years of growth many improvements were made to our physical facilities, including the construction of an outdoor basketball court, baseball dugouts, and backstops. The existing facilities also required constant maintenance. (In the number of fields) we are in deep trouble, as evidenced by the number of teams we have as compared to the number of fields (3), two of which do not belong to either the Borough of Wenonah or to the A.A. These latter fields are the Tall Pines fields, which in all likelihood will not be available to the

A.A. for the year 1975. This possibility puts our position of providing athletic facilities for the boys and girls of the town in jeopardy.

Over the years many policies of the A.A. were established.

Two of the more important ones are:

1. Every child who registers will be assigned to a team. (Contrary to the policies of many of our neighboring towns, we do not "cut" anyone.

This policy has been upheld many times by the A.A.

despite the arguments of some who feel we cannot compete against towns that play only their best players. Our trophies, which are currently on display at the Wenonah Food Market, disprove that theory.

2. Participation by and development of the individual is the primary responsibility of team managers. (Resolution adopted 4/21/71)

It would be impossible to list all of the men and women who have contributed both financially

and physically to the growth of the Wenonah Athletic Association. Special thanks, however, should go to a few loyal friends of the A.A. They are: Helen Sheppard, G. Wayne Post, Tony Sacca, Ray Condell, Al Mecholsky, Dave Miller, and Chuck Peters.

The following men have helped guide the early growth of the Wenonah A.A. to its present size:

Presidents: Lou Stahl, Jack Wiler, Charles Miller and Chris Carroll.

MESSAGE FROM THE A.A. PRESIDENT:

With the influx of more and more families moving into Wenonah, the tedious job of assigning children to teams becomes exceptionally more difficult, especially in the light of losing two minor fields at Tall Pines in 1975. Our present team enrollment could be seventeen this year.

We of the Athletic Association are trying to meet these demands by working closely with the Borough Council in securing new and usable ball fields. These areas, however, are not easily found. We are hoping by this June to have a commitment from the Borough in turning the present Sewer Treatment Plant on West Mantua Avenue into a minor league ball field. We are also working on the possibility of a field outside our Borough.

We cannot overstress the importance of parent

participation in Wenonah. Whenever possible, please try to come out and support your son or daughter's team. They will really appreciate it, and I am sure the managers and coaches will also. Come out and lend a hand. Get involved in the Wenonah Athletic Association. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Fire Hall. All are welcome."

(Note: This history apparently written about 1974. Author unknown)

MISSION OF THE WENONAH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 5 May 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that the May meeting will be the last formal meeting before our June Picnic and our summer break. After this past winter, I am sure that you are all looking forward to summer. Please continue to talk to others in town not yet members of our great Historic organization. This is the one organization that everyone has a stake in. Talking about a stake in our town, I am sure that you have all been noticing the deplorable condition of our historic Train Depot. If you talk to a member of council, please express your concerns to them.

This month's program should be very interesting for everyone. The program is on Photo preservation and album making, stressing the importance of and the requirements for safe and proper storage of precious family photographs.

Marni Cunard will be the presenter and she is a teacher, preservation specialist, consultant for Creative Memories and the founder of the Family Photo Preservation Society of Southern NJ.

The new elementary school display for May and June will be related to past Wenonah

Fourth of July. If you have anything that you might want to add you can contact me or Eileen Caraker.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 9th, meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mayor Tom Capaldi who took office in January is the 18th mayor of Wenonah. He replaced Mayor Ed. Burger who filled the position for two terms.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

President: *Rocco Doto*
Vice Pres. *Jack Sheppard Sr.*
Secretary *Eileen Caraker*
Treasurer *Carol Wiltsee*
Corr. Sec. *Betty MacLeod*
Trustee *Vicki McCall*
Trustee *Diane Magarelli*
Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

The first person holding the position of "mayor" was C.M. Wilkins who took office in 1896.

Wenonah was originally incorporated in 1883 with a "Commission" government. The head of the Commission was titled "President" and the first of these was Dr. George W. Bailey, a wonderfully talented individual whose activities in connection with the early days of Wenonah will be detailed in a future newsletter.

The only mayor to die in office was William I. Conway who died December, 1959. Council's choice was to hold a special election to elect a mayor or wait until the next regular election to be held in November. They chose the latter. Thus Wenonah had no mayor the entire year 1960.

ALERT!! ALERT!! ALERT!!

The photo below shows the base of one of the wrought iron pipe columns that hold up the trackside roof of the railroad station Community Center.



The deterioration is typical of many parts of the building. At the American Legion meeting in May pieces of ceiling materials fell to the floor.

WHS members are again encouraged to contact Borough Council members with a request to get started on repairs before the damage is terminal.

Wenonah 90 Years Ago – April/May 1907

The star entertainment given by the Jericho Military Guards, here, last evening was a grand success; about one hundred enjoyed the fun. Ice cream and dancing helped make the occasion delightful.

It is reported that Mr. Loomis and Mr. Genter will put up an ice cream plant here.

Mr. Wright, our new operator (telegraph) and ticket agent, thinks Wenonah is just the right place for a slim man to spend the summer.

FOR SALE one rooster and three Bantam hens - Charles Youst

Andrew H. Savage will sell his six weeks old bull to the butcher this week.

Oscar Redrow, who was hit by an electric train in Woodbury Saturday evening, is still confined to his house.

Howard Vandergrift, who lights the gas lamps here was knocked down and rendered unconscious Friday night by a live wire. He was lighting the lamp at the main entrance to the park, when the accident occurred. His left hand was burned nearly to the bone. The current had been turned off and the company offers a reward of \$50 for the identification of the party who turned the switch on.

The Wenonah Military Academy baseball team won their fourth straight victory by defeating the strong Villanova Academy team. The game was close from beginning to end.

The roof is nearly completed on R. H. Comey's mansion.

The cadets of the Wenonah Military Academy. went on a practice march to Blackwood yesterday and to National Park today.

Letter to the Editor, *Woodbury Daily Times*:-

I am glad to see by Tuesday's paper that someone has interest enough in our park to bring its condition to the attention of the councilmen. It seems strange that they had not discovered it themselves. Isn't it a pity that one day in the year (4th of July) should be set aside to make the park so beautiful while the other three hundred and sixty-four days it looks like an abandoned beer garden. Why not take enough money from the 4th of July fund to keep the park in order, if the borough can't afford it. Citizen

Two rooms of the school were closed this morning on account of a case of scarlet fever.

Health Inspector Dawson, of Woodbury, was down this morning and fumigated the school rooms.

Theo. Geisel, of Woodbury, came near being run over at Middleton's crossing (there was a crossing at Cherry Street during this period) by an electric express Monday afternoon. He had just drove his laundry wagon on the track when he noticed the north bound coming a few feet away. With rare presence of mind he backed his horse off just as the train passed by. It was a narrow escape and Mr. Geisel has been quite nervous and unable to sleep since. This is the place that butcher Robinson's team had such a narrow escape.

A young man by the name of Slavin, who said he represented a cigar firm, called at Holeyton's livery here and said he would be around several days. He had his team put up and fed and he got his supper and breakfast but nothing has been heard of his since. Mr. Holeyton would like him to call and settle the bill.

George L. Dilks got lost last night while going through the park. The grass was so high he lost his way

Can anyone tell where Dikerson bought the fish he brought down to the baseball grounds on the end of the pole ? Ben Cloud would like to get one of the same kind.

Automobile Club News

R.C. Ballinger went to Salem Saturday in his Cadillac.

Mr. Ogden had his car thoroughly cleaned and put in good condition last week

Mr. H. Leap has not received his new four cylinder buckboard as yet.

Mr. E.L. Farr has received his long overdue 1907 model Pierce car. It is a "Red Devil."

Mr. Benson is looking around to see which car he likes the best.

Stephen Greene received 1,000 small perch yesterday which he will stock his beautiful lake here.

Come to the Spinsters Convention and see the old maids transformed into beautiful young maidens before your own eyes at Noblit's Hall May 7. Benefit of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Woodbury. Admission 25 cents

FOR SALE - Model F Ford Touring Car, with top, in first class condition. Address Box 67, Wenonah, NJ

The fountain has not started yet, and some people are anxious to have it in operation. (There was a public water fountain in town for horses and people donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The big mystery is where it was located.)

The Academy relay team covered themselves with glory Saturday by winning their race against Blight School, Philip Brooks School, Franklin and Marshall Academy, Hamilton Institute, Glen Mill School, Maplewood Academy, Perkiomen Academy and Wilmington Friends School. Winning in the fast time of 3:57. The school received a banner.

The man who was arrested here for threatening Adam Knight was caught while sitting at Mrs. Lashly's table (She ran the drug store at 1 East Mantua Avenue.) The fellow walked in and said he wanted his dinner.

The people of this village in general are glad that Edward Gibson who attacked Miss Dorothy Paris, here last week, landed in State Prison, but some seem to think they could get better satisfaction and feel more satisfied if they could get their hands on him.

Mr. Harry Genter is running a huckster wagon in Wenonah.

May Day. Did you gather flowers?

Rain stopped a ten-inning game between the military academy and Cheltenham H.S. here. The score was 6 to 6.

E.P. Klinger expects to bring his horse home from his father's place in Clayton tonight.

The entertainment given for the benefit of the M.E. Sunday School by the Vespers Sketch Club was not very well attended.

Notice- On account of death in my family I will not be able to run my huckster wagon here before next Wednesday. E. Sharp

Those interested in Fourth of July celebration met last evening in Noblit's Hall, and good hustling committees were appointed to look after matters.

Automobiles were in full force Saturday.

Woodbury Daily Times April and May 1907

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
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Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 June 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that the May meeting will be the last formal meeting before our June Picnic and our summer break. After this past winter, I am sure that you are all looking forward to summer. Please continue to talk to others in town not yet members of our great Historic organization. This is the one organization that everyone has a stake in. Talking about a stake in our town, I am sure that you have all been noticing the deplorable condition of our historic Train Depot. If you talk to a member of council, please express your concerns to them.

This month's program should be very interesting for everyone. The program is on Photo preservation and album making, stressing the importance of and the requirements for safe and proper storage of precious family photographs.

The new elementary school display for May and June will be related to past Wenonah Fourth's of July. If you have anything that you might want to add you can contact me or Eileen Caraker.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 9th, meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

The railroad tracks between Camden and Woodbury were constructed in 1857 and extended to Glassboro in about 1861. However the track arrangement was unsuitable and dangerous due to a steep grade and a dangerous curve in the right-of-way. To correct these problems the right-of-way was leveled and straightened in 1866.

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

Following the track realignment, Civil War General William Sewell, President of the West Jersey Railroad Company and it's Chief Engineer William F. Allen conceived the idea of laying out a town along the tracks about 3 miles south of Woodbury, the objective being to increase ridership and therefore business for the railroad.

Once this layout was accomplished it was reported that "A number of Gentlemen

met at the office of the West Jersey Railroad Company to consider the expediency of organizing a Land and Improvement Company to operate at a new Mantua Station on the West Jersey Railroad. On December 19, 1870 in a special train the men visited the site. After an inspection of the land the "Gentlemen met in the passenger saloon of the New Mantua Depot" and a town was born". The Mantua Land & Improvement Company then proceeded to purchase tracts of lands consisting of about 572 acres at a price of \$26,162.50.

At a meeting held April 3rd, 1871, handwritten in pencil on a scrap of paper it was: "Resolved that the name of the town and lake be Wenonah".

A hotel and four cottages were erected in 1872. Andrew W. Carey, Thomas W. Synnott and George W. Bailey were the first to erect cottages for the purposes of occupying them.

By the year 1883 there were about 50 dwellings in existence and about 300 souls living in Wenonah.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 September 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

Hello everyone. It is hard to believe that summer is officially over. Our September "Porch" Party is always a treat to start the fall meetings after our summer break. It is very gracious of Lou & Vicki McCall to host the gathering at their home. I always look forward to this meeting and I think it has a lot to do with where it is held. I admit that I have solicited new members with the promise of the meeting at the "Tudor Mansion".

We did receive great news from Borough Council, that is the promise of the upper rooms in the Train Depot for us to establish our much overdue Wenonah Museum. We will need lots of volunteers to help with all aspects of this project.

Another exciting thing for us recently is that we supplied items for the Wenonah "Time Capsule". We included the current names and addresses of all members of the Wenonah Historical Society. I am sure that our grandchildren or great grandchildren will get a surprise when the Capsule is opened. We also included the "Wenonah" book by Marge Lentz, with her autograph. This book provides a wonderful account of Wenonah's history.

We also included a copy of the Wenonah Realty brochure, which is also an interesting piece of memorabilia. I also added a personal letter on Wenonah Historical Society letterhead giving a short depiction of life in Wenonah in 2003.

I hope to see all of you at the September 12th meeting. I will have a table offering our new Mugs, Buttons, Wenonah Realty brochures and our Princess Wenonah garden size flags for future fundraisers.

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Trustee

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FROM VICKI MCCALL

Eileen Caraker and I just installed the new display in the school display case. It is "A LOOK AT SCOUTING". This display will be at the school for the months of September and October and then we will need a new theme.

Members are encouraged to pass along any ideas you might have.

We have not yet received the new, smaller size garden flags. I called this morning and am waiting for a call back. For the sake of our President I hope they will be here in time for the September 12th meeting.

The meeting on September 12th will start earlier than usual, at 6:30 p.m. to take advantage of the natural light. There is not enough artificial light on the porch. As for the meeting itself, I will supply wine, iced tea, coffee, and paper products. Should any member wish to bring anything else such as cookies, snacks, etc. they will be welcome to do so.

Guest speakers for the October meeting will be the South Jersey Ghost Research organization. Following the meeting Ghost Research personnel need to get into the community center where they will stay doing research until; about midnight. We need someone to go with them to open up and stay with them and then lock up when they leave. Any volunteers???

Lou McCall did it last time but he will be at a fireman's convention and not available.

WHS MEMBERS INVITED
TO LEARN ABOUT THE
PROPOSED WENONAH
SCHOOL ADDITION

Woman's Club of Wenonah President Jennie McQuaide informs us that on Monday, September 8 the Woman's Club will host a program presented by Christine Smith, Chief School Administrator and school board member Cheryl Morris.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Morris will explain details of the proposed additions and renovations to the Wenonah Elementary School. A three dimensional model will be available for inspection. The impact on property taxes will be discussed. This program will provide an opportunity for borough residents to ask questions and to learn the rationale behind the proposed changes so that they can vote wisely on this issue on Tuesday, September 30.

The Woman's Club meets in the Fellowship Hall at the Wenonah United Methodist Church at Willow and Clinton Streets. The business meeting begins at 7:30 PM followed by the program at 8:30 PM. All members of the

community are welcome to attend both the business meeting and the special program that is being presented as a service to residents. Those who prefer to attend only the informational meeting should arrive at 8:30.

For further details, contact President, Jennie McQuaide, at 468 – 3001

COMMUNITY CENTER

Now that the new Borough Hall all but complete the time is rapidly approaching when the clerk's offices will be moved to the new building.

Our hope of course is that the vacated rooms on the second floor will be turned over to the Historical Society for artifact storage and use as a museum.

As we have discussed many times in the past we will then be able to solicit and accept items related to Wenonah history that are currently stored in members attics, basements, and the Wenonah Public Library.

Obviously we are looking forward to this benefit and will have more information for the members as the transition takes place.

OLD WENONAH 1896

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's residence (on route 45 where CVS is now) 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 corner 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.

August and September 1896
Gloucester County Democrat
Gloucester County Constitution

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 7 October 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

Hello everyone. The October 10th meeting should be an exciting one. The South Jersey Ghost Research group will be providing a presentation on the results of their study of the Train Depot over the last year. It should be a lot of fun.

We also will be having a fun presentation at our November 14th meeting. Our speaker will be Margaret Westfield of Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants, located in Haddon Heights.

Her slide presentation will be on the restoration of the National Landmark "Lucy The Elephant", which is in Margate New Jersey and was built in 1881. Margarets' company was responsible for this project and has been showcased on television and in Preservation magazines.

Once again I would like to reiterate that we did receive great news from Borough Council and that is the promise of the upper rooms in the Train Depot for us to establish our much overdue Wenonah Museum. We will need lots of volunteers to help with all aspects of this project.

Anyone having Wenonah Historical items and would like to donate them to The Wenonah Historical Society, should contact one of the Officers.

Great news for our fundraiser, we have now added "Princess Wenonah" garden size flags to our collection. I hope that all of our members will purchase one for your yard.

WHS OFFICERS 2003

President: *Rocco Doto*
Vice Pres. *Jack Sheppard Sr.*
Secretary *Eileen Caraker*
Treasurer *Carol Wiltsee*
Corr. Sec. *Betty MacLeod*
Trustee *Vicki McCall*
Trustee —

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

Lastly, I would like all of you to take notice of the continuing deterioration of the Train Station. We have been promised renovations that include a new roof and the unreasonable amount of time that it is taking, is only doing more harm to our Landmark Building. I urge you to ask your Mayor and Borough Council to use the \$350,000 grant that Wenonah received in 2001, for

the purpose that the funds were originally requested for. (I have the January 31st, 2001 Times article in my file and would be glad to provide you with a copy.)

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the October and November meetings.

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The new Borough Hall is now occupied.

Borough employees have moved from the old Borough Hall on Cherry Street to the new building.

Clerk/Administrator Dawn Human has moved from the Community Center offices leaving only court clerk Jo Dominy in that building. It is understood the court will not make the move until January of 2004.

Also according to Dawn Human bids for the Community Center roof replacement are currently being solicited and should the costs be within the amount allocated, the roofing could be completed yet this year.

South Jersey ghost RESEARCH

The Delaware Valley's Oldest Ghost Research Group

SJGR is a professional research group with years of experience investigating ghosts and hauntings in the New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and the NYC area.

SJGR is a group of investigators that can trace its roots back to 1955. We conduct ghost research, discreet investigations and promote the learning and understanding of ghosts and other psychic phenomenon. We use the latest scientific methods and tools as well as psychic investigators in our research. SJGR members come from all walks of life and many have years of experience dealing with ghosts and hauntings.

SJGR routinely investigates hauntings and conducts field research to gain more knowledge of the phenomenon. SJGR also assists owners of haunted properties free of charge. We are all serious about the pursuit of knowledge and assisting those in need of help.

Featured in: The New York Times, The Courier Post, Trenton Times, Burlington County Times, South Philly Review, Idiot's Guide to Ghosts and Hauntings, Pottstown Mercury, Phillyburbs.com, Garden State Ghosts

Featured on: MSNBC Investigates, Comcast Newsmakers, Eyewitness News, Action News, KYW1060, CN8, WWOR Channel 9, RTL German TV, Westwood 1 radio network.

We conduct seminars and lectures to help educate the public about ghosts and our research. Most of these events benefit local historical societies or community groups. We have conducted events at The Franklin Mint, Gabreil Daveis Tavern, General Wayne Inn, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Camden County Historical Society, Wenonah Historical Society, Woodbury Kiwanis, Moorestown Rotary Club and many others.

SJGR is an incorporated 501(c)(3) Non Profit, Tax Exempt Organization funded solely by it's members, outside grants and donations. All donations are tax deductible.

SJGR's Mission:

Our goal is to gather and collate data that will lead to the better understanding of ghosts and hauntings. In the process of pursuing the goal, we also wish to aid any individuals having problems dealing with or understanding a situation. We hope to do this by educating them as to the true nature of their situation and giving them the information and understanding to create a livable resolution for the person and the spirit. We will also assist people who cannot live with their situations.

For more information about SJGR including information, photos, videos and recordings from some of our cases, please visit our website at: <http://www.sjgr.org>

Contact us at:

Voice: 1(877) 478- 3168

Email: help@sjgr.org

SJGR services range from discreet investigations for homeowners and business owners to scientific research in public places and historic sites. Here are just a few of the places we have investigated:

The Winward House, Cape May, NJ
Rowan University Dorm, Glassboro, NJ
The Cranbury Inn, Cranbury NJ
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Burlington County Jail, Mt Holly, NJ
Columbus Inne, Columbus, NJ
Gabreil Daveis Tavern, Glendora, NJ
The Logan Inn, New Hope, PA
Fort Mott, Salem, NJ
Eastern State Penitentiary, Phila, PA
Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia PA
Gloucester County Courthouse
The Ritz Theater, Oaklyn, NJ
Gibbstown Ambulance Corps
East Greenwich Twp Municipal Hall

For a consultation or questions, contact us at help@sjgr.org All our services are free.



Research, Assistance and Understanding

Wenonah 85 Years Ago – October 1917

The cottage prayer meetings in the six homes, Thursday night, were attended by 91 people and still there's room for more, so come out tomorrow night to the nearest meeting. It is an interesting fact to note that there has been a total number of 349 people in the four night's meetings. Surely a blessing must follow.

The Union Choir for the United Church Campaign will meet for rehearsal Tuesday evening at 8:10 o'clock in the Presbyterian Church. Great results are hoped for from the big choir Mr. Stevenson is organizing with the help from each church.

Camden, NJ Oct.18,1917

Gentlemen:-

The Mayor of the Borough of Wenonah appointed the Trustees of the Free Library a committee to collect subscriptions for the War Library Fund. We have forwarded to the treasurer \$186.00, the result of the efforts of the committee. As the allotment for the Borough was \$35.00, the citizens of Wenonah can feel gratification for the liberal response.

Edward L.Farr

Two hundred ladies are wanted tonight to attend the union service in the Methodist Episcopal Church when the women's organizations of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches will attend together, the Presbyterian ladies on the west side and the Methodist ladies on the east side of the church. (It was never recorded who was responsible for the seating arrangement or why it was necessary to keep the women separated)

FOR SALE -25 pairs of mated Belgian Homers from thoroughbred imported stock. To be sold at once for \$1.20 per pair. W.J.Parks So. Monroe Avenue, Wenonah

FOR RENT- House with modern improvements, with store suitable for drug store, having ice cream cabinet and soda fountain installed. Apply Jesse English, Wenonah (3 East Mantua Avenue, now Mary Kaye)

Gasoline 22 cents a gallon

Having installed a new Standard Motor Gasoline Pump, I will sell gasoline Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 22 cents a gallon.

Walter Wentzell, Wenonah

(Walter Wentzell had a store for many years where Wayne Post was later located . He was the father of Jane Bowker, Frances Sweeney and Dr. Earl Wentzell)

Wenonah Garage

Used Cars

1 Oakland Touring, like new	\$150
1 Buick Roadster	\$50
1 Allen Touring, like new	\$40

George E.Fredrick

Wenonah

(George was the father of Charlie and Ed)

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel G. Bernard, formerly of Wenonah was yesterday elected Colonel of the Second Regiment of Field Artillery of New Jersey.

Miss Eleanor Stout was home from Swarthmore College for the weekend. (many years later her sons Bob and Wilson's Company, the M.M. Sundt Construction Company moved the London Bridge to Arizona among many other engineering feats)

Red Cross Note

Shipment was made today of seven cases to France containing 3,749 articles for hospital use.

The change of time on the W.J. & S.S.R.R. which went into effect yesterday makes less trains to Atlantic City. Instead of running every hour they only go every other hour. The morning trains to the seashore resort are 7.26, 9.11, and 11.26

P.M. trains 1.26, 3.05, 5.05, 8.05 and 11.26 (Woodbury times, for Wenonah add five minutes)

Borough Council meeting

The mayor and Borough Council were authorized to sign a contract between the borough and the Electric Company of New Jersey for electric service at the firehouse for lighting and for use in connection with the new fire siren.

Dr. Stout reported that he had purchased a steel tower for the new fire siren and that the same would be delivered in a few days and erected at a cost not to exceed \$100. The fire company furnished written consent to the placing of the tower on their property.

Woodbury Daily Times, Woodbury, New Jersey
October 1917 from the files of Milton H. Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 8 November 2003

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

Hello everyone. The October meeting was one of our best-attended meetings. There were more than 60 people in attendance. (and numerous spirits). I guess the South Jersey Ghost research group appeals to a lot of people especially during the Halloween season. I apologize for not being there but my wife and I were out of Town.

The program for the November 14th meeting is "Landmark Lucy", by Margaret Westfield of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants. Margaret's company was responsible for the restoration of this Historic landmark in Margate. We are also very lucky that the New Jersey Council for the Humanities is sponsoring the program for us. The meeting is open to the general public, so please feel free to bring a friend.

Vicki McCall, Eileen Caraker, Jack Sheppard and I had a very productive meeting with Mayor Capaldi and other council members related to the Train station Community Center. We were assured that everything is being done to expedite the complete replacement of the roof.

The October Wenonah Newsletter reiterated this and the roofing contract has been awarded.

Once the roof is complete we have been told that other needed repairs will be attended to by Borough Council. I can assure you that we will work closely with borough officials to make sure our "Town Jewel" is preserved into the future. Once the new roof is on we can get started preparing the upper

WHS OFFICERS 2003

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Trustee *Vicki McCall*

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

rooms of the train station for our Wenonah Museum. We will be looking for lots of volunteers.

I look forward to seeing you at the November 14th meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

Guest speaker Margaret Westfield, RA is a historic architect in Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants. She will present a slide show about New Jersey's famous

seashore landmark Lucy the Elephant.

The presentation will cover the initial construction and rich history. Illustrations of the progressive decay that threatened her with demolition is followed by the details of the thirty-year restoration campaign that ultimately secured Lucy's place as one of New Jersey's premiere tourist destinations.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our annual Christmas Party will be Friday December 12th at the Community Center. Wine and Cheese at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. "Chef Bud" will cater it. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped). RSVP to Betty MacLeod at 468-6981 or Lucy Schulz at 468-5392 before Friday Dec. 5th.

TIDBITS FROM THE ARCHIVES

In 1886 our Schoolteachers' Salary ranged from \$25.00 to \$55.00 per month. For the 1891/92 school year the total school expenditures were as follows: Teachers salaries (\$1,000.00), fuel (\$20.07), mortgage (\$500.00), Incidentals (\$263.61). A receipt dated December 20th, 1889, indicates \$5.00 was paid for sweeping the schoolhouse for 15 weeks.

By Jack Sheppard Sr.

Two years ago on November 30, 2001, as the representative of the Wenonah Historical Society I sat in on a meeting with officials of the NJ Department of Transportation at which the TEA 21 railroad restoration grant was reviewed.

The following is a copy of the description in the grant application of areas needing rehabilitation to restore our unique and invaluable railroad station community center.

NJDOT TEA 21 Grant Application by Municipal Clerk Dawn Human Grant for “Rehabilitation and Operation of a Historic Transportation Building”. The grant was announced in August, 2001

The train station is over 110 years old and has always been the unofficial heart of Wenonah, as the entire community was designed around it. The station received a minor renovation approximately 25 years ago but is suffering some serious structural problems which could threaten the longevity of this important landmark. Renovation plans include the following:

Roof replacement - involving the replacement of underlying wood sheathing and use of reproduction historically correct shingle material. Shingles are currently missing, cracked and damaged. We lose more with every storm and water leakage is a problem.

Stucco work - The stucco material on the exterior of the train station is buckling and crumbling due to water damage, exposure, pests and insects, etc. We would like to re-

stucco the facility, but repairs to the most seriously damaged areas would be welcomed.

Exterior wood trim - the exterior wood trim is original to this facility and is in the advanced stages of rot. Every area of damage allows the stucco, the jersey stone foundation, and other areas and weather conditions to affect the structure.

Termite damage - Some inner walls in the basement area need to be replaced due to past termite damage, as do some floor joists. The evidence of termite activity is clearly evident in the crumbling wall areas along the stairways.

Plaster repairs - Water damage, train vibrations and shifting of the facility have caused some cracks and splitting in the plaster wall and wainscoted areas. Minor repairs are needed here,

Re-pointing of Bricks - The mortar material between the bricks has long since eroded and has caused water infiltration to the structural center of the facility. Loss of the original bricks is in an intermediate stage and immediate attention is necessary in order to preserve the

original building materials and features. The chimney is falling apart and is an area of water infiltration.

Replacement of corner moldings and other woodwork - During the previous informal restoration attempts, damage was evident in some corner moldings. Other cornices and rosettes have been missing for many years, but the oak is solid and restoration and duplication is possible with financial assistance. This would restore the elegance

MISSION OF THE WENONAH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To acquire and preserve historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of the Borough of Wenonah.
2. To locate and acquire a suitable place for the storage and display of such materials.
3. To encourage the protection and preservation of historical landmarks and points of interest within the Borough of Wenonah.
4. To encourage historical and genealogical research, and publication of its results.
5. To encourage interest in history generally, and in Wenonah history in particular, among the youth of Wenonah.
6. To make all information and acquisitions of the Society available to the public.

and integrity of this structure.

Installation of a sprinkler system - The facility currently houses many historical artifacts and municipal documents. However, it was constructed in a period where firewalls and sprinkler systems were unheard of, Therefore, this structure is very susceptible to the threat of fire. According to our local Fire Chief, without a sprinkler system or firewalls, fire would spread swiftly through this wood and plaster facility and its complete destruction would be the likely result in a very short period of time. Installation of these features could save this historic transportation facility for another 100 years,

Redesign and Reconstruction of landscape areas between Mantua Avenue and the facility - New lighting, plantings, benches and paving work would be done at this site in order to restore the outside aesthetics of this facility. Reproduction lighting would be used and existing crumbling and deteriorated planters would be replaced with acceptable reproductions. Existing benches, which suffer from many years of weather and use, would be replaced with the more user friendly, and historically correct looking, cast aluminum benches that currently accompany the reproduction light fixtures in nearby Wenonah Park. Our local Environmental Commission has been involved in many projects where historically native plants are utilized for landscaping purposes. We will be considering their recommendations for this area as well. In addition, curbing would be added to the west side of N. East Avenue, along the front entrance of the train station. Currently, there is no distinguishable entrance path and some deteriorated railroad ties are imbedded in the ground to distinguish the asphalt street from the concrete sidewalk. Curbing would distinguish the entranceway to the building and provide for a safer pedestrian path.

Restoration of the passenger platform - This area is filled in with a combination of asphalt and concrete. It is cracked, uneven and very unstable. The Borough is seeking assistance in restoring the 16 x 110 ft, platform with the same antique style pavers that would be used in sections of the pedestrian paths around the building and crosswalks. The asphalt pedestrian trails could then be tied in to this area. More stable footing area expands the feasible use area of the facility and provides a clear and safe area differentiating the passenger area from the tracks. The installation of a cast aluminum fence for this area (the length of the patio only) would also be very helpful in protecting those using the building from their exposure to the tracks which still have moderate use by slow moving Conrail trains, mostly in the evening hours, Such a fence is shown in old photos protecting residents from walking near the infamous electrified "third rail".

Obviously, due to passage of time, it has been two years since the approval of the grant; most everything costs more including the work to be done on the station. At a recent meeting of the TEA-21 committee I was advised there may be need to apply for additional funds from the Community Block Grant program to complete all of the desired repair and improvement items. For that reason all that will be completed this year will be the roof work.

At the same meeting we were advised that the roof work will start almost immediately, must be completed within 60-days of granting the contract, and the building may be closed for approximately 48-hours at some time during the roof installation work.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1 January 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

The Wenonah Historical Society has had a very active 2003. Our membership has reached an all time high of over 100 Families. We have been reaching out to the community and have been actively recruiting new members, particularly targeting new residents with welcoming packets.

We have advertised our monthly programs and meetings in both our local newsletter and the Gloucester County Times. Two of our programs were both sponsored and paid for by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities-Horizon Speakers Bureau. Margaret Westfield, a Historic Architect, Preservation Consultant and Coordinator of the Burlington County College Historic Preservation Certificate Program also provided two programs.

We have been very active in fundraisers and have added several new items for purchase including a Garden Flag of Princess Wenonah, and an updated mug with a color photo of the Historic Train station.

Lastly we have started to plan for the conversion of the upper

floor of the train station into a Wenonah Museum. The museum will showcase our collection of artifacts, maps, newspapers and pictures. This endeavor may be costly and time consuming and we will be reaching out to the community for financial contributions and Volunteers. We would like to have the Museum Officially open for our Fourth of July Celebration.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

President: *Rocco Doto*
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Trustee

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

we will continue to work with the Mayor and Council with regard to the renovations planned for the Train Station as part of the T21 grant that Wenonah was awarded by the State.

We will also be responding and clarifying our Nomination of Historic Places (Train Depot) to the State Historic Preservation office which has tentatively approved our submission.

2004 will be an exciting year and I am so thankful to be your President and coordinate with the other Trustees our long dreamed about museum. I am sure that the whole town will be as surprised as I was in seeing all of the various artifacts in our possession and the many more that we continue to receive.

I wish all of you a Peaceful, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The railroad station Community Center finally has its new roof, matching that of the new Borough Hall building opposite the post office. To say that we are happy would be an understatement, as the building was fast becoming an eyesore.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE WENONAH INN HOTEL

"People desirous of witnessing the program for the celebration of the Fourth of July in Wenonah and remain throughout the day will be served with dinner and supper at reduced rates. Prices for dinner, 75 cents, supper 50 cents."

From the Constitution newspaper circa 1880

The following notice was retrieved from the files of Milton H. Webb

SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias, to me directed. issued out of the Court of Chancery of the State -of New Jersey, will be exposed at Public Sale, on

Friday, the 18th day of October 1935

next, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock, to-wit, at 2 o'clock Standard Time in the afternoon of said-day, at the Sheriff's Office, County Building, In the City of Woodbury. County of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey, all the following described Real Estate, that is to say:

ALL the following tract or parcel of land and premises hereinafter particularly described, situate; lying and being In the Borough of Wenonah In the County of Gloucester and State, of New Jersey, bounded and described as follows;

BEGINNING at a point In the East line of Clinton Avenue 150 feet South of the. South-east corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues and running thence (1) In an Easterly direction parallel with Mantua Avenue, 300 feet to the West line of Marion Avenue; thence (2) in a Southerly direction along the said line of Marion Avenue, 297 feet 6 inches to the North line of Cherry-Street; thence (3) in a Westerly direction along the said line of Cherry Street 150 feet to a point; thence (4) in a Northerly direction at right angles with said line of Cherry Street 100 feet to-a corner; thence (5) In a Westerly direction parallel with said North line of Cherry ,Street 150 feet to the said East line of Clinton Avenue; thence (6) in a Northerly direction along the said line of Clinton Avenue 197 feet 6 -inches to the place of beginning.

TOGETHER with all and singular the goods and chattels, furniture, household utensils, machinery, books, linen, rifles, equipment, and any and all other property of every kind and description contained in those certain building or buildings known as The Wenonah Military Academy and used in connection with that institution, including all, good and chattels which may hereafter replace the same and all goods for which the same may be exchanged.

It being the intent that the above description includes all of the property, real and personal, used in the. operation of the military academy formerly the Wenonah Military Academy and now known as Wenonah Military Academy, Inc.

The approximate amount of decree sought .to be satisfied by this sale is\$65,500.

Seized as the property of Anna J; .Lorence, widow, et als, Defendants, and taken in execution at the suit of. Walter Lee Sheppard, substituted trustee, et als, Complainants, and to be sold by

WILLIAM A. DOWNER, Jr., Sheriff

Dated September 24, 1935.

RIGGINS & DAVIS, Solicitors

Price of above advertisement is \$25.16.

Although the automobile forced the closing of the Wenonah Inn built in 1871, a new era opened in Wenonah. Major J.R. Jones, former head of the drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, riding past the vacant Wenonah Inn, conceived an idea for the use of the facility. He immediately relayed his plan to Stephen Greene.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened September 20, 1904.

In rooms that formerly accommodated hotel guests interested in hops and cuisine, the rooms now accommodated cadets interested in horsemanship and, supposedly, Cicero. Hotel rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitories, a library, a chapel and an infirmary, although a communication to parents hinted the infirmary would rarely be used.

Although Wenonah was accustomed to the social activities of the Wenonah Inn during the summer, the Wenonah Military Academy kept the town hopping during the school term. The first month the Academy was opened, there were a reception and dance for two hundred people, a skating carnival on Warner's Lake with hundreds of lighted lanterns, a minstrel show, a house party and numerous football games. This was the beginning of a social whirl that kept Wenonah spinning for the next thirty years. Wenonah residents were invited to band concerts, glee club performances, drama productions, declamation contests and horsemanship exhibitions. Local girls vied for invitations to dances and on Sunday the whole town turned out for the dress parade and drill demonstrations.

During the presidency of Dr. Charles H. Lorence, the Wenonah Military Academy reached its peak with an enrollment of 200 cadets who arrived from as far away as California and Cuba. Upon the death of Dr. Lorence, Major Clayton A. Snyder assumed the presidency. For 23 years Major Lloyd L. Lammert was headmaster and athletic director. Other key members of the faculty included Captain Thomas A. Clingan, instructor in mathematics and Mary Bilderback, instructor in instrumental music. Dr. Thomas J. Mulvey was director of advertising. Cadets enrolled in the classical, Latin-scientific, or English-commercial courses. Military science included instruction in rifle practice, infantry drills, horsemanship and military discipline. Horsemanship instruction was \$100 extra, but it included the rental of the horse.

In 1913 the annual charges of \$600 included "tuition, board, heat light, twelve pieces of laundry and mending of underclothing." Tuition doubled during the years but included "table linen, pressing and use of firearms." However this charge did not include the \$250 cost for a uniform. The cadet wore a uniform of gray with a white belt and white crisscross straps both in front and back of the jacket and the hat was held by a chinstrap. The officers' full dress uniform included a sword, sash and shako. By 1916 the Academy announced that there is "now a waiting list; every available space is filled."

While military discipline soon earned the Academy the name of "The West Point of South Jersey," athletics brought fame to the school. On Stephen Greene's athletic field where the grandstand held 500 spectators, cadets ran a quarter-mile cinder track, played football with prep schools like Malvern, Seton Hall and Pennington, played baseball and practiced horsemanship and military tactics. A twelve-acre field along Glassboro Road was used for polo and lacrosse. Golf was played at the Oak Valley Country Club, sometimes referred to as the Wenonah Country Club or, originally Altwald Golf Links, which was situated in a wooded area off Ogden Road. The word "ogden" is derived from the Swedish word meaning "valley of oaks."

During the summer the polo ponies were taken to the Pocono area where Camp Wenonah was established for a number of years. On the Wenonah polo field one polo team defeated a West Point team. Many graduating cadets gained recognition on college teams and Herbert J. Pennock, who became a major league pitcher, is named in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY

In addition to the former Wenonah Inn, the Wenonah Military Academy occupied the Charles H. Lorence Cottage that housed senior cadets and the Clayton A. Snyder Cottage that housed junior cadets. A drill hall was built behind the Academy and it was claimed to have the largest floor space of any gymnasium in South Jersey. It was large enough to drill an entire battalion, and of course, to accommodate the dances. At one mid-term reception and dance six hundred people attended.

After the games and dances the cadets escorted their guests to the Wenonah Drug Store and to Walter Wentzell's store for sandwiches and ice cream.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2 February 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

If you would like to learn more about the history of our great town, please consider joining the Wenonah Historical Society. We meet at 7:30 on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Historic Train Station. We offer informative newsletters and great monthly programs. For 2004, programs about the history of Gloucester County, a presentation on other Wenonah's around the country and a round table discussion by long term Wenonah Residents are being planned to name just a few.

Great news about our planned Wenonah Museum! The borough has already turned over two of the three rooms in the upper level of the Train Station to the Historical Society. This now provides a permanent safe storage area for our artifacts and documents as well as a work area to organize our possessions.

We have begun working with a local resident who has volunteered his time to help design the official Museum. This individual is a professional display expert and has worked on the museum at the Baseball hall of fame.

If you would like more information or want to make a tax-deductible contribution to the WHS to help with the museum, please contact Rocco F Doto at 415-1215

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The following is a communication from the Borough Engineer to Mayor Capaldi providing the latest information concerning the much needed repairs to the Community Center.

From: KLE Consultants
To: Mayor Tom Capaldi
Subject: TEA 21 Grant

Dear Mayor,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to update you as to the status of the TEA 21 Project so you can relay the information to the Historical Society.

Late last week, I rec'd comments from the NJDOT Bureau of Environmental Services regarding the information that was submitted by ARH. Basically, there were a number of issues that still need to be addressed in order to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I will be reviewing and addressing these comments during the next few weeks and I may

need the assistance of the Historical Commission.

Therefore, should the Society ask you regarding the status, feel free to relay this message and I will most likely be asking for a contact person at the Historical Society that I can work with to coordinate a few of the remaining requirements.

Signed; David Kreck, P.E.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The speaker at our February meeting will be William Kephart from Pitman, NJ. Bill is a local living in Pitman for 47 years. He has a keen interest in history and is a former Trustee of the County Historical Society.

Bill will present a slide program entitled "Historical Sites of Gloucester County" which he has previously presented to many organizations, schools and colleges in the region. He is a member of the American Museum of Glass in Millville, NJ. Should be an interesting session.

Mark your calendars for the next meeting March 12th as our speaker will be world-renowned glass artist Paul Stankard who lives in neighboring Mantua. Those who have seen his work will not want to miss this meeting.

1912 - 1913

Excerpts from the Catalogue of the
Wenonah Military Academy

The Wenonah Military Academy was instituted during the winter of 1904, and opened its doors to its first pupils September 19th of that year.

Major John R. Jones, of Camden, New Jersey, was the organizer and superintendent. The Academy has grown in size and in efficiency under practically the same academic staff, with Major Jones as superintendent and proprietor.

The Academy aims at giving the boy a physical, moral and intellectual training; accepting boys as young as ten years of age, it fits them for college or for business life.

While the college preparatory training is a feature of the school, it does not dominate it; consequently, in response to a widely felt need, it supplements the four years of high school work with courses in advanced English, and subjects of practical value in the scientific, business and political world.

The idea that the high school course should simply train for college entrance examinations is fast disappearing, and the integrity of the preparatory school as an independent unit in education and in culture is being sought and fostered by the leaders of secondary education.

The achievement of this modern product in its graduates is one of the aims and ideals of W. M. A.

Testimonial Letter from Pleased Father

May 20, 1912.

Major John R. Jones, Superintendent
Wenonah Military Academy
Wenonah, N. J.

My Dear Major Jones;

Permit me to thank you for the very satisfactory manner in which you have educated my son, Raymond.

The progress he has made in his studies is most pleasing. I do not doubt that any boy of average ability could make rapid advancement at W. M. A. for he tells me "If a fellow shows inclination for his work, the faculty are only too glad to give him personal attention."

From my recent visit to Wenonah I was deeply impressed by the beautiful town in which the Academy is located. It is so free from all temptations which seek young men that I believe it is not too much to say the moral surroundings are ideal.

Another great item of school life is athletics and I must congratulate you on the fine records your school has made in that branch. The reason no doubt is the encouragement which sports receive at W. M. A. My son has told me you request the boys to spend the most of their recreation time on the athletic field and the gymnasium. This I approve of very much and the boys will know how to thank you only when they begin to realize their physical development.

A military school in my estimation is the only kind of a school for boys of the habit-forming age. The sooner parents realize this the better for their boys, the benefit which my son received from the daily Setting Up exercise and military drill is evident in his carriage and general bearing. I must say the discipline of your school is firm without being severe and the habits which my son has formed under your influence will be of great value to him during his college career and later in life.

Again I want to thank you for the splendid results accomplished.

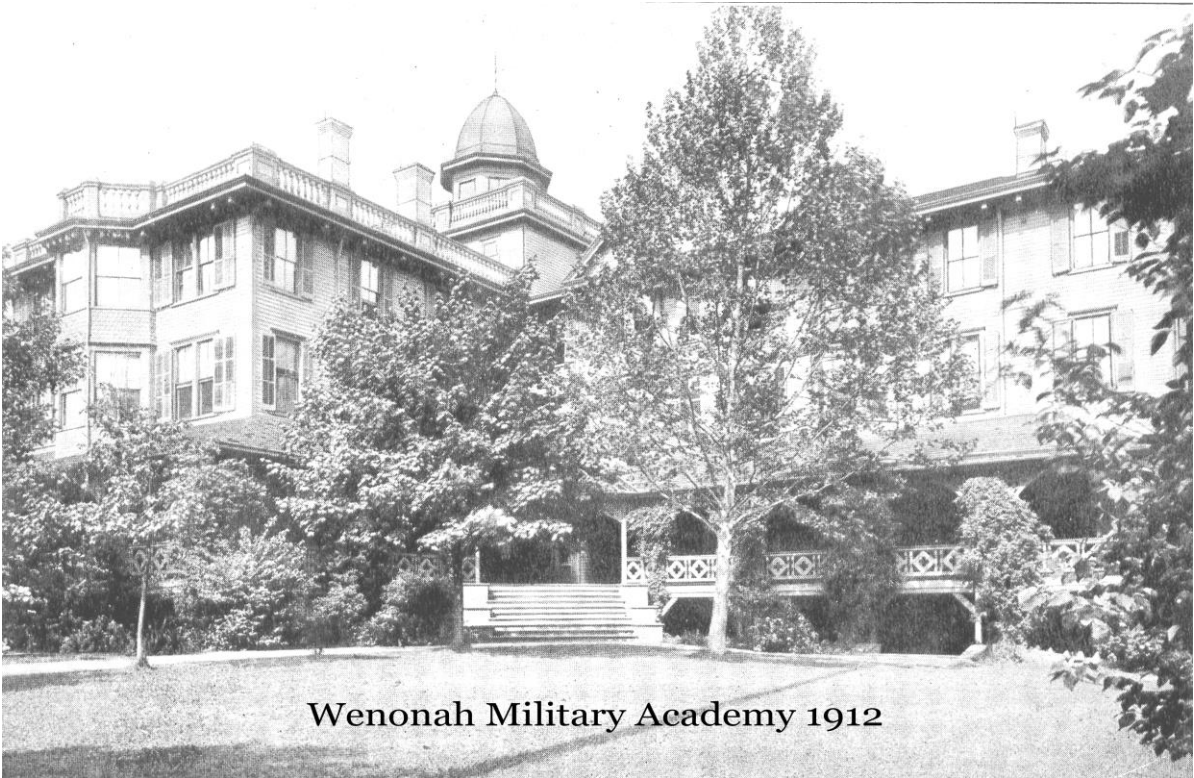
In closing will say I know of no other school in which I would rather have sent him to complete his preparatory work.

Wishing you and W. M. A. continued success, I remain;

Very Respectfully Yours,
J. V. OSMUN
31 Alton Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey



Wenonah Military Academy Football Team 1912 (L.L. Lammert top left)



Wenonah Military Academy 1912

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

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4 April 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

Spring is in the air and flowers and trees are blooming all around town. Ideas are also blooming about the creation of the Wenonah Museum. We are still waiting for the Court and Court Clerks office to move to the new building so that we can begin some of the physical changes. Hopefully the move, planned for April will be on schedule. We have been provided with some preliminary Museum designs but are still in the fact gathering stages. We will have to work hard in order to have the grand opening of the Museum for July 4th.

Many volunteers are needed and as I like to say we can find a job for anyone. Not all of it is physical and much cataloging and identification of artifacts and photographs are needed. I have had requests by at least five different people for either copies of photographs or News articles and House plaque information that I no longer can accommodate until the complete transition of The Wenonah Historical Societies collection is reorganized.

I am lucky to have a great group of Trustees that I can rely on but welcome any help that you offer. Please call me at 415-1215 if you are available or sign up at our next regular meeting.

Talking about our next meeting, it should be quite exciting. Frank

Eggert is bringing together a group of individuals for a "round table" program of live Historical accounts of early Wenonah experiences. I am sure that we will all share some laughs and tears and be reminded of the "simpler" days. It's a program not to be missed and please bring along one of your neighbors!

I look forward to seeing you all on April 9th.

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

APRIL PROGRAM

The format for the April 9th meeting will be unusual and hopefully very informative and entertaining.

Member Frank Eggert, a life-long resident of Wenonah has proposed a "round-table" format comprised of other residents of our region with memories of an earlier time in our town.

The idea will be for those who have volunteered to be part of the group arrangement to recall as many

memories as they can about growing up in or near Wenonah.

There will be a record kept of the proceedings using both visual and voice recording equipment so the recollections will become part of the Society's permanent record.

All members and attendees are invited, in fact encouraged to join in with any memorabilia they may recall or bring with them.

This kind of meeting, should it prove successful, could bear repeating. It is the kind of activity our Mission Statement envisioned.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

It was a nice little village, bearing an Indian name "Wenonah"; a quiet safe country town, ideal for bringing up children.

I was born in Philadelphia in 1885, but my first recollection of being alive would be 1890 in Wenonah where both my sisters were born. There was a ravine called "The Glen" in that part of the town then known as Frogtown. The glen was a shady, cool place, containing a spring with good, pure clear water. The outflow from the spring had been dammed up to form a very small pond in which I remember seeing catfish, probably placed there by some neighborhood men for future use in a frying pan. Many a drink we boys enjoyed from that spring, returning home from swimming in the railroad culvert, the outlet from upper lakes....If you want to hear more of the story come to the meeting on April 9th.

Dr. George W. Bailey

1841 - 1916

George W. Bailey was born near Clarksboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey, December 5, 1840, and eventually lived in both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Wenonah, New Jersey. He was born on his father's farm and for his early education was sent to the public schools of Gloucester County and to the State Normal School.

He served loyally and faithfully on the side of the North in the civil war as a sergeant in in the Twenty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers with distinguished service at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. He also served in the hospital service in the Spanish American War.

After the civil war he entered the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1868, and then engaged in the general practice of his profession in Philadelphia. In 1872 his health began to fail under the strenuous labor in which he was engaged, and he was compelled to abandon his practice.

It was about this time that he bought land in Wenonah and built his home on the southeast corner of Mantua Avenue and South Clinton.

Very much interested in religion he was elected Superintendent of Wenonah Presbyterian Sunday School in 1871, shortly after the church first located in Wenonah.

He then for a time engaged in the real estate business in Camden, New Jersey, and after this in the wholesale coal business in Philadelphia. Finally he entered into the business of mining and shipping coal, and was for many years an influential member of the boards of directors of a number of business corporations. He was one of the prominent organizers of the Camden National Bank;

He eventually withdrew from his connection with all financial organizations with the exception of the Bridgeton National Bank and the Glassboro National Bank. Among the other important organizations with which Dr. Bailey was prominently connected should be mentioned Whitney Glass Works Company.

In 1906 he finally withdrew from active business.

Since early manhood Dr. Bailey was greatly interested in the organization and advancement of Sunday school work and he was a prominent and active member of some of the most important associations and organizations with that object in the country.

He was for many years the president of the New Jersey State Sunday School Association, and chairman emeritus of the executive committee of that association.

For many years also he was the treasurer of the International Sunday School Association, and chairman of the executive committee of the World's Sunday School Association.

In religion he was a Presbyterian and he was for many years a member of the board of trustees of the general assembly of that denomination as well as the vice-president of the general assembly's board of education. He was also a member of several special committees of that body and a member of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Hospital. He was vice-chairman of the West Jersey Orphanage for Destitute Colored Children. In politics Dr. Bailey was a Republican,

Dr. Bailey married Annie McGill on June 2, 1891 at Wenonah, New Jersey. Annie was the daughter of, George L. McGill, a Philadelphia molasses merchant. They had two children, both of whom were born in Wenonah.

While in Wenonah Dr. Bailey was a very important person with involvement in community affairs as well as the church.

He was instrumental in the acquisition of the Commission form of government convincing the state legislature to introduce and adopt that legislation.

Dr. Bailey was as President of the Wenonah Commission and served in that capacity through 1885 and as a member of the body until 1893.

He was one of the owners of the private water company that served Wenonah. Wenonah eventually bought the water system in 1912 after a 106 to 48 vote by Wenonah citizens. The election was held at Joseph Noblitt's Hall on N. Marion Ave.

In a eulogy following the death of Dr. Bailey it was said Dr. Bailey was a true soldier. "He distinguished himself in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, but he will be best known as a "soldier of the Cross". He was a champion of evangelism, a promoter of world movements, a business man and a Christian gentleman."

Dr. George W. Bailey was one of the main forces in the creation of Wenonah and for its widespread reputation as a Christian community.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that this will be our last formal meeting before our June picnic and summer break.

Our program last month was great. For those of you who couldn't attend, it was a "round table" format of twelve "long time" residents who gave live historical recollections of early Wenonah experiences.

Member Frank Eggert stepped up to the plate and coordinated the discussions.

It is truly something to hear first hand accounts of Wenonah history. Nothing can replace live accounts of the past. We were lucky enough to have a volunteer videotape the entire discussion. This tape will surely be a part of the planned museum. We also recorded the audio separately and I am hoping to have my wife transcribe them over the summer. Depending how they come out we may bind them and sell them as a fundraiser.

Speaking of fundraisers I thought I would list all of the items that we have available for sale. Small Tote Bags (\$12.00), Large tote Bags (\$15.00), Buttons with the Wenonah Train Station pictured, Wenonah Realty Booklets circa 1906, (\$5.00), Princess Wenonah Banners (\$45.00), Princess Wenonah Garden Flags (\$15.00), with holder (\$20.00), Mugs with color photos of the Wenonah Train Station. (\$12.00 or 2/ \$20.00. Last but not least,

"Wenonah, growing up in the 40's & 50's". (\$6.00). This is a book of Poems written and donated by Patricia Wellingham-Jones (Clunn), who grew up in Wenonah and now lives in California. Her sister Betsy still lives in town. It's a refreshing book of poems, which no matter where and when you grew up you will appreciate. Anyone wishing to make a purchase can call me anytime at 415-1215.

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

The status of our Museum has had another delay with the court not scheduled to move into the new municipal building before mid-May. There is much to be done and it is difficult to do with the Court Clerks quarters still occupied so it will be impossible to have a Fourth of July opening. It does still mean that we need volunteers and lots of them. We have lots of memorabilia and files and Pictures etc to identify and catalogue.

It's also come to my attention that the condition of the building is getting worse. I was at a meeting on

Wednesday night and there weren't even trash bags for the kitchen. I will once again ask The Mayor and Council to allow the Historical Society to be the Curators of the whole building so that we can be sure our great Landmark is always looking good.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 14th. Rocco

MAY PROGRAM

Charles (Chuck) Forsman, Bob Bevilacqua and John Schad were the prime movers for the recreation of the "Tea House" in Wenonah Woods. They will be present to tell us about the idea, the research, the approval process and it's construction.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

By a special act of the State of New Jersey, the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was incorporated on February 21, 1871. The Company was authorized to erect buildings for residences as well as to sell and mortgage them and it could make regulations "to prevent the manufacturing or sale of intoxicating liquors" or "the carrying on of offensive trades."

Directors were Samuel A. Whitney, General William J. Sewell, George Wood and Horatio J. Mulford who helped formulate the resolution to organize the Company. Also elected were George S. Harris, John F. Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas P. Carpenter, Stephen Greene and Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the West Jersey Railroad.

200 East Mantua Avenue
Hannah B. Farr Residence
circa 1877

The following information was provided by Wally Farr, son of Edward and Bertha Farr, and grandson of Hannah Farr:

Hannah B. Farr was a daughter of a leading manufacturer and niece of C.M. Bailey, a financial magnate and oilcloth manufacturer of Winthrop, Maine.

Hannah Bailey Farr and her husband, Lincoln D. Farr, originally from Maine, was from a long line of Puritan and Quaker stock, including direct lineage tracing back to the early days of Plymouth Rock.

Hannah Bailey Farr together with her son Edward and his young family lived at 200 East Mantua Avenue on the S.E. Corner of

Marion and Mantua Avenues until Edward Farr deemed the house he was building at Princeton and Mantua Avenues, "Little Grange", complete enough during 1897 for his wife and children (a growing family needing more room) to leave the mother's home and move into his newly built stone residence just on the other side of the Presbyterian Church from Grandmother Hannah.

This move by Edward left the roomy residence to Hannah to enjoy and entertain her grandchildren as they came and went by train to their schools including MIT and Princeton University.

Hannah's son Edward eventually became a founding member of the Mantua Land and Improvement Co. that was instrumental in developing Wenonah. He was President of the family's business in Camden, the Farr and Bailey Manufacturing Co. that developed linoleum from its oilcloth business before merging with the Congoleum Company in the early 1920's, President of the Camden Safe Deposit and

Trust Company, served the Wenonah Board of Education for 25 years, President of the Wenonah Free Public Library and headed Cooper Hospital as its Manager (chairman) of the Board (Cooper was Edward's first

wife's family name. She died suddenly after they moved away from Hannah and into Little Grange).

The Farr's were a driving force in Wenonah very much involved in the social activities in the town and contributors of time, money and physical facilities, the most notable of which, our public library.

Today, the original Hannah B. Farr residence serves as the Wyckoff dental offices. It bears her name on a Historical Society plaque in front of the residence as testament and in memoriam to the grand matriarch of one of Wenonah's original and most volunteer oriented families.



Wenonah 97 Years Ago 1907

The star entertainment given by the Jericho Military Guards, here, last evening was a grand success; about one hundred enjoyed the fun. Ice cream and dancing helped make the occasion delightful.

It is reported that Mr. Loomis and Mr. Genter will put up an ice cream plant here.

Mr. Wright, our new operator (telegraph) and ticket agent, thinks Wenonah is just the right place for a slim man to spend the summer.

FOR SALE one rooster and three Bantam hens - Charles Youst

Andrew H. Savage will sell his six weeks old bull to the butcher this week.

Oscar Redrow, who was hit by an electric train in Woodbury Saturday evening is still confined to his house.

Howard Vandergrift, who lights the gas lamps here was knocked down and rendered unconscious Friday night by a live wire. He was lighting the lamp at the main entrance to the park when the accident occurred. His left hand was burned nearly to the bone. The current had been turned off and the company offers a reward of \$50 for the identification of the party who turned the switch on.

The Wenonah Military Academy baseball team won their fourth straight victory by defeating the strong Villanova Academy team. The game was close from beginning to end.

The roof is nearly completed on R. H. Comey's mansion.

The cadets of the W.M.A. went on a practice march to Blackwood yesterday and to National Park today.

I am glad to see by Tuesday's paper that someone has interest enough in our park to bring its condition to the attention of the councilmen. It seems strange that they had not discovered it themselves. Isn't it a pity that one day in the year (4th of July) should be set aside to make the park so beautiful while the other three hundred and sixty-four days it looks like an abandoned beer garden. Why not take enough money from the 4th of July fund to keep the park in order, if the borough can't afford it. Citizen

Two rooms of the school were closed this morning on account of a case of scarlet fever.

Health Inspector Dawson, of Woodbury, was down this morning and fumigated the schoolrooms.

Theo. Geisel, of Woodbury, came near being run over at Middleton's crossing (there was a crossing at Cherry Street during this period) by an electric express Monday afternoon. He had just drove his laundry wagon on the track when he noticed the north bound coming a few feet away. With rare presence of mind he backed his horse off just as the train passed by. It was a narrow escape and Mr. Geisel has been quite nervous and unable to sleep since. This is the place that butcher Robinson's team had such a narrow escape.

A young man by the name of Slavin, who said he represented a cigar firm, called at Holeton's livery here and said he would be around several days. He had his team put up and fed and he got his supper and breakfast but nothing has been heard of his since. Mr. Holeton would like him to call and settle the bill.

George L. Dilks got lost last night while going through the park. The grass was so high he lost his way

Stephen Greene received 1,000 small perch yesterday which he will stock his beautiful lake here.

Come to the Spinsters Convention and see the old maids transformed into beautiful young maidens before your own eyes at Noblitt's Hall May 7. Benefit of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Woodbury. Admission 25 cents

FOR SALE - Model F Ford Touring Car, with top, in first class condition. Address Box 67, Wenonah, NJ

The fountain has not started yet, and some people are anxious to have it in operation. (There was a public water fountain in town for horses and people donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The big mystery is where it was located.)

The Academy relay team covered themselves with glory Saturday by winning their race against Blight School, Philip Brooks School, Franklin and Marshall Academy, Hamilton Institute, Glen Mill School, Maplewood Academy, Perkiomen Academy and Wilmington Friends School. Winning in the fast time of 3:57. The school received a banner.

The man who was arrested here for threatening Adam Knight was caught while sitting at Mrs. Lashly's table (She ran the drug store at 1 East Mantua Avenue.) The fellow walked in and said he wanted his dinner.

The people of this village in general are glad that Edward Gibson who attacked Miss Dorothy Paris, here last week, landed in State Prison, but some seem to think they could get better satisfaction and feel more satisfied if they could get their hands on him.

Mr. Harry Genter is running a huckster wagon in Wenonah.

The entertainment given for the benefit of the M.E. Sunday School by the Vespers Sketch Club was not very well attended.

Notice- On account of death in my family I will not be able to run my huckster wagon here before next Wednesday. E. Sharp

Those interested in Fourth of July celebration met last evening in Noblitt's Hall, and good hustling committees were appointed to look after matters.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6 September 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that this will be our last formal meeting before our June picnic and summer break.

Our program last month was great. For those of you who couldn't attend, it was a "round table" format of twelve "long time" residents who gave live historical recollections of early Wenonah experiences.

Member Frank Eggert stepped up to the plate and coordinated the discussions.

It is truly something to hear first hand accounts of Wenonah history. Nothing can replace live accounts of the past. We were lucky enough to have a volunteer videotape the entire discussion. This tape will surely be a part of the planned museum. We also recorded the audio separately and I am hoping to have my wife transcribe them over the summer. Depending how they come out we may bind them and sell them as a fundraiser.

Speaking of fundraisers I thought I would list all of the items that we have available for sale. Small Tote Bags (\$12.00), Large tote Bags (\$15.00), Buttons with the Wenonah Train Station pictured, Wenonah Realty Booklets circa 1906, (\$5.00), Princess Wenonah Banners (\$45.00), Princess Wenonah Garden Flags (\$15.00), with holder (\$20.00), Mugs with color photos of the Wenonah Train Station. (\$12.00 or 2/ \$20.00. Last but not least,

"Wenonah, growing up in the 40's & 50's". (\$6.00). This is a book of Poems written and donated by Patricia Wellingham-Jones (Clunn), who grew up in Wenonah and now lives in California. Her sister Betsy still lives in town. It's a refreshing book of poems, which no matter where and when you grew up you will appreciate. Anyone wishing to make a purchase can call me anytime at 415-1215.

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

The status of our Museum has had another delay with the court not scheduled to move into the new municipal building before mid-May. There is much to be done and it is difficult to do with the Court Clerks quarters still occupied so it will be impossible to have a Fourth of July opening. It does still mean that we need volunteers and lots of them. We have lots of memorabilia and files and Pictures etc to identify and catalogue.

It's also come to my attention that the condition of the building is getting worse. I was at a meeting on

Wednesday night and there weren't even trash bags for the kitchen. I will once again ask The Mayor and Council to allow the Historical Society to be the Curators of the whole building so that we can be sure our great Landmark is always looking good.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 14th. Rocco

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Charles (Chuck) Forsman, Bob Bevilqua and John Schad were the prime movers for the recreation of the "Tea House" in Wenonah Woods. They will be present to tell us about the idea, the research, the approval process and it's construction.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

By a special act of the State of New Jersey, the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was incorporated on February 21, 1871. The Company was authorized to erect buildings for residences as well as to sell and mortgage them and it could make regulations "to prevent the manufacturing or sale of intoxicating liquors" or "the carrying on of offensive trades."

Directors were Samuel A. Whitney, General William J. Sewell, George Wood and Horatio J. Mulford who helped formulate the resolution to organize the Company. Also elected were George S. Harris, John F. Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas P. Carpenter, Stephen Greene and Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the West Jersey Railroad.

The Wenonah Military Academy, a Brief History

By Linda Haegele

During the 1920's, military academies were held in high esteem as an institution of learning. Even though World War I ended during 1918, patriotism still ran high in the country, and as a result, military academies flourished (Jay Scott, personal communication, March 7, 1989). One academy in particular was a roaring success, as demonstrated by the loyalty and love its alumni hold for it; namely the Wenonah Military Academy (WMA).

Fortunately, some of the former cadets of the WMA were willing to share some memories they have of life at the Academy. Edward Bayuk, Richard S. Beebe, Edgar W. Holton, and Robert Q. Hinckle attended the Academy during the early 1920's, and Percy Wise, Jay Scott and Joseph A. DiLemmo were students during the later 1920's. Even the wife of one of the teachers, Kathryn Knight, supplied invaluable information on life at the Academy. They each provided a deep insight into the loyalty and affection that developed there, as a result of the rural surroundings, the military training, the faculty and schooling, sports events and the various social activities in which the cadets vigorously participated.

The WMA opened its doors in 1904, and grew in popularity until, due to the Depression, it was forced, to close in 1935. It was founded by Stephen Greene, a wealthy printer from Philadelphia who, while driving through Wenonah, saw the potential in the old Wenonah Inn for a military academy (Richard S. Beebe, personal communication, March 31, 1989). In the early 1900's, Wenonah was a small town with only one thousand people, according to Jay Scott (1989). He says that the town was surrounded on all sides by woods. Warner's Lake, used for swimming and skating, added to the peaceful, secluded setting (1989). To Stephen t Greene, it was the perfect place for a military academy (Beebe, 1989).

The Academy was situated on the block opposite Wenonah Park. It consisted of a main building, gymnasium, two cottages, two athletic fields, and stables for their horses. The main building, three stories high, contained the lobby, a large dining hall, a kitchen and bakery, a library and reading room, the Science Hall, an infirmary

with six beds, and sixty rooms which made up the dormitory section and classrooms (Joseph A. DiLemmo, personal communication, February 22, 1989). Next to the main building was the gymnasium, which was considered to be the largest gymnasium of a New Jersey school at that time (Quigley, 1986). This building was used as a drill hall, shooting range, during Commencement exercises at year end, and for the Mid-Year Drill and Spring Dance (DiLemmo, 1989). The two cottages, Charles H. Lorence cottage and the Clayton A. Snyder cottage were used by the junior and senior class, and officers of the class (O'Neill, 1963). Situated nearby was a five acre athletic field, which was used for football, baseball and track, and a twelve acre field used for lacross and polo (Pituk, 1976).

The cadets who attended the WMA were, for the most part, from wealthy families (Kathryn Knight, personal communication, February 13, 1989). They came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, NY, Ohio, NJ, and from as far away as South America, Mexico, and Puerto Rico (Scott, 1989). They comprised grades five through twelve, with the junior grades (five through eight) kept separate from the older boys (Hansen, 1954). The student body enrollment averaged about 125 students during the peak years of the Academy (Scott, 1989).

Sources for this article;

Linda Haegele, a Gloucester County College student wrote this piece in 1989 as a research paper with help from members of the Academy Alumni Association.

According to Mr. Joe DiLemmo, then President of the Association, "Everyone was most cooperative and as a result she received an A+ for a grade."

The "Junior House" (S.W Cor. Marion and Mantua Aves.) photo on the next page was contributed by relatives of former Wenonah resident Clifford S. Greenig who was a cadet at the Wenonah Military Academy during the final class in 1934.

A military atmosphere pervaded every aspect of life at the Academy. Military training was under ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) regulations, and under the supervision of a U.S. Army Officer (Edgar W. Hoiton, personal communication, March 2, 1989). It was taught in accordance with the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations (Beebe, 1989). According to Edward Bayuk (Personal communication, 1989), "all formations were in a military manner," and cadets were expected to stand erect at all times, and salute their officers. "Proper arrangement of all articles" were also required, says Mr. Bayuk. Rooms were inspected every day for dust and dirt, and properly made beds (1989). The U.S. Army assigned guns, ammunition, and equipment to the cadets, which had to be returned at the end of the school year (Beebe 1989).

Each cadet was therefore responsible for the maintenance of his equipment (1989). To ensure that the cadets were on their toes, an inspection of rifles, bayonets, uniforms and shoes was performed every week, and dirty equipment earned extra duty for the offending cadet (Bayuk, 1989).

Extra duty consisted of walking guard duty at 128 steps per minute in the cadet's spare time (Scott, 1989), polishing the Civil War cannons at the campus entrance (Bayuk, 1989), or walking around the track in the athletic field with rifle in hand (1989). Several violations earned extra duty in addition to dirty equipment; insubordination, visiting friend's rooms without permission, fighting, and smoking in your room (1989). Smoking was considered the worst offense; it earned fifty hours of extra duty, and a two week suspension (1989).

Clothing was also regulated by military rules. The cadets wore uniforms that alternated between the khaki of the U.S. Army, and the grey of West Point Academy, until the late 1920's (DiLemmo, 1989, Bayuk, 1989). After that, the uniforms stayed the same as the ones that the U.S. Army wore in WWI; khaki puttees, high laced shoes, jackets that buttoned at the neck, and overseas caps (a tall, neat cap worn by French soldiers)" (Scott, 1989).

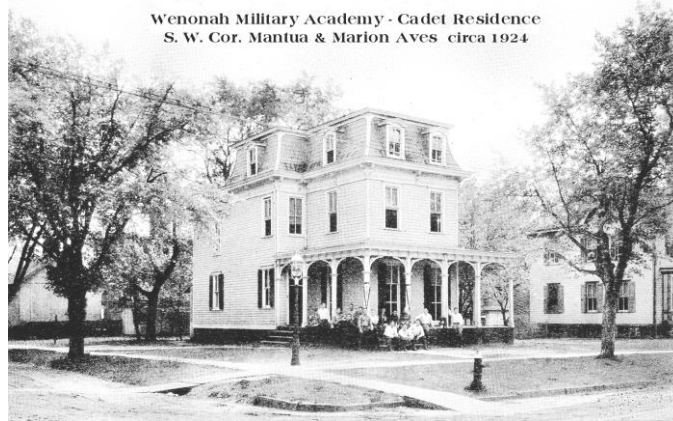
A typical day for the cadets was militarily structured from morning to night. At 6:00 am, reveille was called, signaling raising of the flag and setting up exercises (Beebe, 1989). Exercises consisted of calisthenics, which developed muscles and lungs, and the Butt's Manual, which developed shoulders and back muscles (Ihe Sabre, 1922). After exercises, cadets dressed for breakfast and ate in the dining hall (Percy Wise, personal communication, April 3, 1989).

Classes started at 8:00 am, with a twenty-five word spelling test (Bayuk, 1989), and finished at around 2:00. From 2:00 until 4:00, drills took place out in the park or in the field, practicing field maneuvers (Wise, 1989). At 4:00, some of the cadets had sports practice (1989), while the other cadets were allowed to socialize

around the local drug store, or on the Academy steps (Beebe, 1989).

Formal assemblies were held every evening before dinner (Scott, 1989). According to Bayuk, "the cadets assembled in front of the Academy, and with the band playing, marched in parade formation for Retreat- the lowering of the flag" (1989).

Dinner, at 6:00, was held in the Mess Hall (Beebe, 1989). After dinner, until 9:00 pm, cadets studied in their quarters (1989). From 9-9:30, cadets who had permission from their parents were allowed to go to the smoking room (1989). At 9:30, there was a call to quarters, when the cadets prepared for bed (1989). Final room check was called at 10:00, and taps was sounded to signal the end of the day (1989).



This strict military regimentation at the academy extended into the scholastic atmosphere. The curriculum was also strictly regimented, as the "Secretary of War directed that the WMA" was permitted "to devote 1 ½ hours daily in instruction in branches not devoted to the military department of the Academy"

(War Department, Adjutant General's Office, KMA Washington, D.C., Letter to WMA, February 24, 1913).

Classes were small, with only eight to twelve students in each class (Wise, 1989). The former cadets considered the faculty excellent. Teachers were expected to stay close to the cadets; for example, "each faculty member had his own group of boys. Officers lived with his group, and ate in the Mess Hall with his group" (Pituk, 1976). During study hours, the faculty members were close at hand for any help that the students might need (Beebe, 1989).

The cadets did not receive letter grades (Pituk, 1976). Instead they were divided into four classifications (1976). These classifications, Distinguished, Honor, Proficient, and Unclassified, were based on the cadets averages in conduct and scholastics, with added emphasis on Military Science and Tactics (The Sabre, 1922). Grades were posted quarterly and decorations awarded, to be worn only while the class standing was maintained (1922).

In addition to decorations, cadets maintaining a B average with no infractions were placed on the Honor Roll, which allowed them certain privileges, including the privilege of reporting in late on Saturday night (Bayuk, 1989).

In addition to maintaining the full, rigidly structured day of military drills and classes, the cadets of the WMA found time for extracurricular activities, such as sports, social events, and clubs. For instance, sporting events were essential to the boys, and they excelled in more than their share. WMA was referred to as the West Point of New Jersey, because of their consistently superior polo team (Robert Q. Hinckle, personal communication, 1989). In fact, in 1927 the WMA polo team traveled to West Point to play their freshman team, and won (Wise, 1989)! The WMA played other preparatory schools and some college freshman teams in baseball, basketball, and football, as well (Hinckle, 1989). For instance, in 1923, they won the University of Pennsylvania Scholastic Basketball Tournament (Bayuk, 1989). Also, "one year, the football team was undefeated and untied. It was not scored upon until the final season game against National State Farm School, who blocked a kick behind a goal" (Scott, 1989). And, on November 22, 1930, President Herbert Hoover met the cadets at a White House Reception for the Football team in Washington, D.C. Naturally, there were many first place banners hanging on the assembly room walls at the WMA (Beebe, 1989).

Social events were also greeted with enthusiasm by the cadets. There was an informal dance in the gym every Friday night, with music provided by an orchestra made up of cadets (Beebe, 1989). These dances were attended by girls from Wenonah and surrounding towns (1989). But the big events were the two gala dances - the Mid-Year Drill and Dance, and the Senior Prom at the end of the year. Cadets spent a week cleaning, dusting, shining, and decorating the gym with real trees and plants (Hoiton, 1989), and draping the room with flags. They wore white cotton gloves with their uniforms (Bayuk, 1989), and the girls wore floor length formal gowns (Knight, 1989). Propriety ensured that partners danced with at least six inches between them (Bayuk, 1989). There was no charge for these galas, but the guests had to be invited by a cadet to attend (1989).

To start the affair, the gymnasium doors, which took up an entire wall, were fully opened (Knight, 1989). It was an impressive sight, as the Cadet Drill Team then came out onto the floor and went through their drill, with the sounds of gun butts resounding as

they hit the floor when the cadets came to attention (Scott, 1989). For the Senior Prom, the final event was "always a military parade or exhibition, or sometimes a sham battle on the athletic field" (Hinckle, 1989).

Cadets also actively participated in several clubs at the Academy, such as the Dramatic Society, the Adelpic Literary Society, and the Radio Club which worked on the theory and building of radio receiving sets (The Sabre, June, 1923). Another club, the Sabre Club, put on plays, such as "Nothing But the Truth" (Scott, 1989), "That's That", a musical comedy, and even staged a scene with cadets performing a Tango (1989). The cadets also published their own yearbook, The Sabre, complete with a Class Poem, Class Prophecy, Last Will and Testament, Y's Cracks (humor), and highlights of the year's sporting events.

In addition to the sports, clubs, and dances, the cadets organized their own bands. According to a letter by Win Shewell, two cadets, Minor McGeorge and Henry LeCour, organized a jazz band in 1932 called the "Wenonians" (May 13, 1974, private letter to anonymous person). This band was made up of eight talented boys who, amazingly, played eighteen instruments; two trombones, a baritone horn, piano, two trumpets, slide cornet, two clarinets, three alto saxophones, tenor sax, C-melody sax, musette, piccolo, drums, and bass horn (1974).

Some of the stories related to me by former cadets help to illustrate the camaraderie of the boys at the WMA. For example, Edward Bayuk said that the "cadets living on the second floor would climb out through their window, and walk along the roof to visit other cadets" thereby risking disciplinary action. Mr. Bayuk explained that it wasn't really dangerous but that it was considered adventurous by the boys (1989). Also, Richard S. Beebe said that some of the cadets who wanted to sneak a cigarette in their rooms would pry up the wood planks in the floor, to provide a draft that would dissipate the smoke (1989). According to Beebe, cadets managed to keep this secret from their superiors, and so didn't get caught very often (1989).

The cadets also liked to band together to pull pranks on their teachers and each other. For example, Robert Q. Hinckle told of the time that Captain Gulden, the English teacher, found his false teeth posted on the bulletin board (1989). Another time, at night after the lights were out, one of the boys closed the two gates of the driveway after one of the teachers drove into town (1989).

When the unsuspecting teacher "returned, he made a wide sweep to come through the stone pillars" on either side of the driveway, and was surprised "when the head lights picked up the black iron gates. It left quite an impression on his front bumper" (1989).

Even the rigidity of the Military Drills wasn't immune to the imagination of the cadets. The Military Drills were a formal display, held at graduation, and judged by a Marine Officer from Philadelphia (Scott, 1989). One year, Captain Swartz of South America was in charge of the drill (1989). That year, one of Capt. Swartz's cadets always went right when he was supposed to go left, and went left when the order was to go right. For the drill, the captain locked this cadet in his room, and told the rest of his group, "We're now going to win!", and they did (1989)!

The cadets of the WMA were close knit, motivated, highly competitive, active, and imaginative. How did the Academy achieve these goals in its student body? The emblem associated with the Academy, "Vincit Qui Se Vincit," which means "He conquers, who conquers self" (Beebe, 1989) gives an idea of the type of school this was. The school gave its cadets not only an excellent education in scholastics, but also an education in themselves. The school motto "Send us the boy and we will return to you the man" (Beebe, 1989) illustrates that one of the primary motives of the school encompassed the education of the whole boy. It pushed them to their limits, both physically and mentally. In 1921, when Dr. Charles H. Lorence became president of the Academy, he expressed that "the purpose of education was to teach the pupil how to live" (O'Neill, 1963). The "Academy placed great emphasis on training for high intellectual achievement, but with equal consideration to the development of a sound body and superior ideals" (1963).

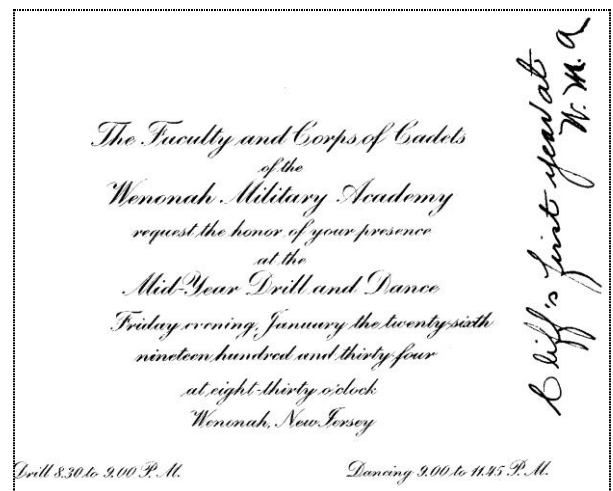
The WMA was successful in achieving these ideals, in that all aspects of life at the Academy seemed to encourage development of high physical and mental standards. For example, the Academy being in a secluded community, and the typically busy day, left no room for socializing outside of the Academy. As a result, the cadets turned to each other for friendship, and healthy competition. Further, the military training, and the military form of self-government also helped the cadets develop a respect for each other, along with authority figures. In addition to learning Math, Science and English, the boys learned the value of discipline, obedience, leadership, and judgment (Beebe, 1989). Also, the

highly respected faculty and grading system made the cadets competitive, yet respectful of each other. Last, the high activity level in sports, clubs, and social activities, which indicates the strong bonds felt by the cadets for each other, was effective in developing high standards.

After graduating, many cadets went on to various universities (Bayuk, 1989, Scott, 1989). Some cadets were inducted into the U.S. Army, where they excelled as Commissioned Officers (DiLemmo, 1989). Other cadets went on to become influential, successful businessmen (Bayuk, 1989).

Life at the Academy clearly made a profound impact on the cadets' lives, and successfully prepared them for their place in society.

All that is left of this fine institution is a part of the stone wall that once surrounded the campus, and the vivid memories that the former cadets cherish of their days at the Academy. Since 1954, when the Wenonah Military Academy Alumni Association first met to honor Captain Lammert on his 70th birthday, some of the former cadets have met to reminisce about those days, and to catch up on the events going on in their lives now. They have never missed a year, and "although the troops are thinning, there is always an enthusiastic turn-out" (DiLemmo, 1989). These men are proud to have attended the Wenonah Military Academy and although the buildings are long gone, the institution continues to live on in their hearts and minds.



Apparently Cliff Greenig's first year at WMA was his last as the institution closed at the end of the year, never to reopen.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6 October 2004

RESIGNATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

As most of you know I have enjoyed being the President of this organization for the last 18 months. I enjoyed every minute of it and I am confident that we accomplished many things together. One of the most important accomplishments was achieving a sense of status with the Mayor and Town Council, as an important and vital organization in our Town. Nothing pleases me more than the recognition of the Wenonah Historical Society as the authority on historical events, documentation and artifacts of Wenonah's past.

Most importantly the sense of being the "unofficial curator" of the Town Treasure, the Train Depot.

I no longer feel that I can achieve my ambition of creating the Museum in our Historical Train Station and lead our Organization. In no way is my decision based on any negative WHS event. It is based on personal issues that include a new business, my well-being, and my family. I will continue to be a cheerleader and supporter for the WHS but cannot serve as President or in any other officer or trustee position.

According to our Bylaws the Vice President shall in the absence of the President have all the Powers and prerogatives of the President.

New elections are to be held in January with a nominating committee chosen in November.

OCTOBER 8TH PROGRAM

The October meeting of the Society will be held starting at 7:30 p.m. in the train station community center at Mantua Avenue at the railroad tracks.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Eileen Caraker
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Macy Pedersen
Trustee	Lucy Schuiz

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

Following a brief business meeting we will be entertained by Wenonah resident Arnold Karp. Arnold is a Master Sergeant in the NJ National Guard serving in the 177th fighter wing.

He will present a slide program relating to the Civil War entitled "Three Days that Changed a Nation". Light refreshments will be provided.

Please bring or send your dues, which are \$15.00 per year. For information call (856) 468-6981.

HISTORICAL AFGHANS

The Wenonah Fire Company Auxiliary has asked us to mention that Wenonah Coverlets are available again this year. These 50 X 70 inch Afghans of red, white & blue Jacquard depict historical Wenonah buildings and scenes.

The price for them is \$50.00 and they make lovely Christmas gifts. Order forms will be available at this meeting. For more information call (856) 468-5345.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

The Myers, Don and Cecelia and their daughters have left Wenonah for a new home out West. Those of you who knew them were aware they lived, as we say in Wenonah, in the historic "Peddle House" at the corner of Mantua and N. Clinton Aves.

The handsome dwelling was actually built by Mr. J. Frank Shull, one of the original members of the first formal Wenonah government established April 10, 1883. He served for two years. Apparently bad feelings occurred between the Commission members and Mr. Shull when Shull constructed a "small, cheap and undesirable building" east of the railroad tracks. This resulted in a Commission Resolution restricting the construction of buildings under \$2,000 east of the railroad and \$1,000 west of the railroad. The Shull residence was eventually occupied by Harry G. Peddle, a relative, who served on Borough Council from 1899 through 1910.

The Wenonah Military Academy, a Brief History

By Linda Haegele

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A military atmosphere pervaded every aspect of life at the Academy. Military training was under ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) regulations, and under the supervision of a U.S. Army Officer (Edgar W. Hoiton, personal communication, March 2, 1989). It was taught in accordance with the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations (Beebe, 1989). According to Edward Bayuk (Personal communication, 1989), "all formations were in a military manner," and cadets were expected to stand erect at all times, and salute their officers. "Proper arrangement of all articles" were also required, says Mr. Bayuk. Rooms were inspected every day for dust and dirt, and properly made beds (1989). The U.S. Army assigned guns, ammunition, and equipment to the cadets, which had to be returned at the end of the school year (Beebe 1989).

Each cadet was therefore responsible for the maintenance of his equipment (1989). To ensure that the cadets were on their toes, an inspection of rifles, bayonets, uniforms and shoes was performed every week, and dirty equipment earned extra duty for the offending cadet (Bayuk, 1989).

Extra duty consisted of walking guard duty at 128 steps per minute in the cadet's spare time (Scott, 1989), polishing the Civil War cannons at the campus entrance (Bayuk, 1989), or walking around the track in the athletic field with rifle in hand (1989). Several violations earned extra duty in addition to dirty equipment; insubordination, visiting friend's rooms without permission, fighting, and smoking in your room (1989). Smoking was considered the worst offense; it earned fifty hours of extra duty, and a two week suspension (1989).

Clothing was also regulated by military rules. The cadets wore uniforms that alternated between the khaki of the U.S. Army, and the grey of West Point Academy, until the late 1920's (DiLemmo, 1989, Bayuk, 1989). After that, the uniforms stayed the same as the ones that the U.S. Army wore in WWI; khaki puttees, high laced shoes, jackets that buttoned at the neck, and overseas caps (a tall, neat cap worn by French soldiers)" (Scott, 1989).

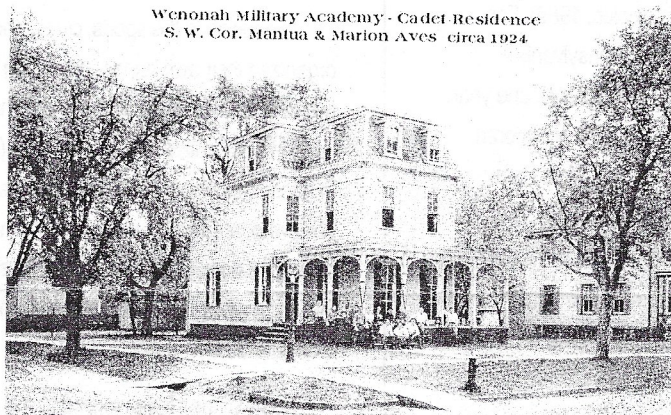
A typical day for the cadets was militarily structured from morning to night. At 6:00 am, reveille was called, signaling raising of the flag and setting up exercises (Beebe, 1989). Exercises consisted of calisthenics, which developed muscles and lungs, and the Butt's Manual, which developed shoulders and back muscles (The Sabre, 1922). After exercises, cadets dressed for breakfast and ate in the dining hall (Percy Wise, personal communication, April 3, 1989).

Classes started at 8:00 am, with a twenty-five word spelling test (Bayuk, 1989), and finished at around 2:00. From 2:00 until 4:00, drills took place out in the park or in the field, practicing field maneuvers (Wise, 1989). At 4:00, some of the cadets had sports practice (1989), while the other cadets were allowed to socialize

around the local drug store, or on the Academy steps (Beebe, 1989).

Formal assemblies were held every evening before dinner (Scott, 1989). According to Bayuk, "the cadets assembled in front of the Academy, and with the band playing, marched in parade formation for Retreat- the lowering of the flag" (1989).

Dinner, at 6:00, was held in the Mess Hall (Beebe, 1989). After dinner, until 9:00 pm, cadets studied in their quarters (1989). From 9-9:30, cadets who had permission from their parents were allowed to go to the smoking room (1989). At 9:30, there was a call to quarters, when the cadets prepared for bed (1989). Final room check was called at 10:00, and taps was sounded to signal the end of the day (1989).



This strict military regimentation at the academy extended into the scholastic atmosphere. The curriculum was also strictly regimented, as the "Secretary of War directed that the WMA" was permitted "to devote 1 ½ hours daily in instruction in branches not devoted to the military department of the Academy"

(War Department, Adjutant General's Office, KMA Washington, D.C., Letter to WMA, February 24, 1913).

Classes were small, with only eight to twelve students in each class (Wise, 1989). The former cadets considered the faculty excellent. Teachers were expected to stay close to the cadets; for example, "each faculty member had his own group of boys. Officers lived with his group, and ate in the Mess Hall with his group" (Pituk, 1976). During study hours, the faculty members were close at hand for any help that the students might need (Beebe, 1989).

The cadets did not receive letter grades (Pituk, 1976). Instead they were divided into four classifications (1976). These classifications, Distinguished, Honor, Proficient, and Unclassified, were based on the cadets averages in conduct and scholastics, with added emphasis on Military Science and Tactics (The Sabre, 1922). Grades were posted quarterly and decorations awarded, to be worn only while the class standing was maintained (1922).

In addition to decorations, cadets maintaining a B average with no infractions were placed on the Honor Roll, which allowed them certain privileges, including the privilege of reporting in late on Saturday night (Bayuk, 1989).

In addition to maintaining the full, rigidly structured day of military drills and classes, the cadets of the WMA found time for extracurricular activities, such as sports, social events, and clubs. For instance, sporting events were essential to the boys, and they excelled in more than their share. WMA was referred to as the West Point of New Jersey, because of their consistently superior polo team (Robert Q. Hinckle, personal communication, 1989). In fact, in 1927 the WMA polo team traveled to West Point to play their freshman team, and won (Wise, 1989)! The WMA played other preparatory schools and some college freshman teams in baseball, basketball, and football, as well (Hinckle, 1989). For instance, in 1923, they won the University of Pennsylvania Scholastic Basketball Tournament (Bayuk, 1989). Also, "one year, the football team was undefeated and untied. It was not scored upon until the final season game against National State Farm School, who blocked a kick behind a goal" (Scott, 1989). And, on November 22, 1930, President Herbert Hoover met the cadets at a White House Reception for the Football team in Washington, D.C. Naturally, there were many first place banners hanging on the assembly room walls at the WMA (Beebe, 1989).

Social events were also greeted with enthusiasm by the cadets. There was an informal dance in the gym every Friday night, with music provided by an orchestra made up of cadets (Beebe, 1989). These dances were attended by girls from Wenonah and surrounding towns (1989). But the big events were the two gala dances - the Mid-Year Drill and Dance, and the Senior Prom at the end of the year. Cadets spent a week cleaning, dusting, shining, and decorating the gym with real trees and plants (Hoiton, 1989), and draping the room with flags. They wore white cotton gloves with their uniforms (Bayuk, 1989), and the girls wore floor length formal gowns (Knight, 1989). Propriety ensured that partners danced with at least six inches between them (Bayuk, 1989). There was no charge for these galas, but the guests had to be invited by a cadet to attend (1989).

To start the affair, the gymnasium doors, which took up an entire wall, were fully opened (Knight, 1989). It was an impressive sight, as the Cadet Drill Team then came out onto the floor and went through their drill, with the sounds of gun butts resounding as

they hit the floor when the cadets came to attention (Scott, 1989). For the Senior Prom, the final event was "always a military parade or exhibition, or sometimes a sham battle on the athletic field" (Hinckle, 1989).

Cadets also actively participated in several clubs at the Academy, such as the Dramatic Society, the Adelpic Literary Society, and the Radio Club which worked on the theory and building of radio receiving sets (The Sabre, June, 1923). Another club, the Sabre Club, put on plays, such as "Nothing But the Truth" (Scott, 1989), "That's That", a musical comedy, and even staged a scene with cadets performing a Tango (1989). The cadets also published their own yearbook, The Sabre, complete with a Class Poem, Class Prophecy, Last Will and Testament, Y's Cracks (humor), and highlights of the year's sporting events.

In addition to the sports, clubs, and dances, the cadets organized their own bands. According to a letter by Win Shewell, two cadets, Minor McGeorge and Henry LeCour, organized a jazz band in 1932 called the "Wenonians" (May 13, 1974, private letter to anonymous person). This band was made up of eight talented boys who, amazingly, played eighteen instruments; two trombones, a baritone horn, piano, two trumpets, slide cornet, two clarinets, three alto saxophones, tenor sax, C-melody sax, musette, piccolo, drums, and bass horn (1974).

Some of the stories related to me by former cadets help to illustrate the camaraderie of the boys at the WMA. For example, Edward Bayuk said that the "cadets living on the second floor would climb out through their window, and walk along the roof to visit other cadets" thereby risking disciplinary action. Mr. Bayuk explained that it wasn't really dangerous but that it was considered adventurous by the boys (1989). Also, Richard S. Beebe said that some of the cadets who wanted to sneak a cigarette in their rooms would pry up the wood planks in the floor, to provide a draft that would dissipate the smoke (1989). According to Beebe, cadets managed to keep this secret from their superiors, and so didn't get caught very often (1989).

The cadets also liked to band together to pull pranks on their teachers and each other. For example, Robert Q. Hinckle told of the time that Captain Gulden, the English teacher, found his false teeth posted on the bulletin board (1989). Another time, at night after the lights were out, one of the boys closed the two gates of the driveway after one of the teachers drove into town (1989).

When the unsuspecting teacher "returned, he made a wide sweep to come through the stone pillars" on either side of the driveway, and was surprised "when the head lights picked up the black iron gates. It left quite an impression on his front bumper" (1989).

Even the rigidity of the Military Drills wasn't immune to the imagination of the cadets. The Military Drills were a formal display, held at graduation, and judged by a Marine Officer from Philadelphia (Scott, 1989). One year, Captain Swartz of South America was in charge of the drill (1989). That year, one of Capt. Swartz's cadets always went right when he was supposed to go left, and went left when the order was to go right. For the drill, the captain locked this cadet in his room, and told the rest of his group, "We're now going to win!", and they did (1989)!

The cadets of the WMA were close knit, motivated, highly competitive, active, and imaginative. How did the Academy achieve these goals in its student body? The emblem associated with the Academy, "Vincit Qui Se Vincit," which means "He conquers, who conquers self" (Beebe, 1989) gives an idea of the type of school this was. The school gave its cadets not only an excellent education in scholastics, but also an education in themselves. The school motto "Send us the boy and we will return to you the man" (Beebe, 1989) illustrates that one of the primary motives of the school encompassed the education of the whole boy. It pushed them to their limits, both physically and mentally. In 1921, when Dr. Charles H. Lorence became president of the Academy, he expressed that "the purpose of education was to teach the pupil how to live" (O'Neill, 1963). The "Academy placed great emphasis on training for high intellectual achievement, but with equal consideration to the development of a sound body and superior ideals" (1963).

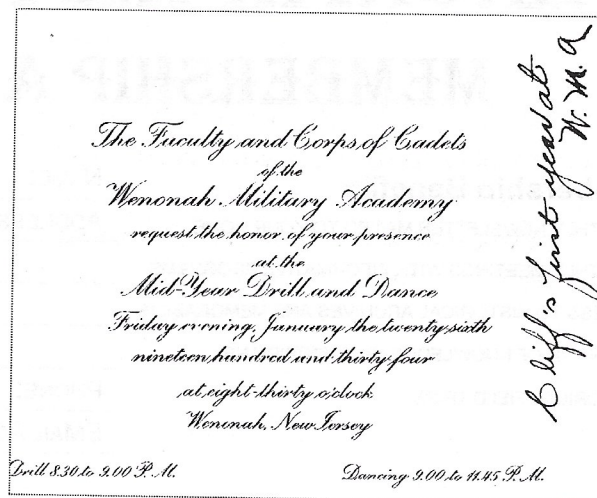
The WMA was successful in achieving these ideals, in that all aspects of life at the Academy seemed to encourage development of high physical and mental standards. For example, the Academy being in a secluded community, and the typically busy day, left no room for socializing outside of the Academy. As a result, the cadets turned to each other for friendship, and healthy competition. Further, the military training, and the military form of self-government also helped the cadets develop a respect for each other, along with authority figures. In addition to learning Math, Science and English, the boys learned the value of discipline, obedience, leadership, and judgment (Beebe, 1989). Also, the

highly respected faculty and grading system made the cadets competitive, yet respectful of each other. Last, the high activity level in sports, clubs, and social activities, which indicates the strong bonds felt by the cadets for each other, was effective in developing high standards.

After graduating, many cadets went on to various universities (Bayuk, 1989, Scott, 1989). Some cadets were inducted into the U.S. Army, where they excelled as Commissioned Officers (DiLemmo, 1989). Other cadets went on to become influential, successful businessmen (Bayuk, 1989).

Life at the Academy clearly made a profound impact on the cadets' lives, and successfully prepared them for their place in society.

All that is left of this fine institution is a part of the stone wall that once surrounded the campus, and the vivid memories that the former cadets cherish of their days at the Academy. Since 1954, when the Wenonah Military Academy Alumni Association first met to honor Captain Lammert on his 70th birthday, some of the former cadets have met to reminisce about those days, and to catch up on the events going on in their lives now. They have never missed a year, and "although the troops are thinning, there is always an enthusiastic turn-out" (DiLemmo, 1989). These men are proud to have attended the Wenonah Military Academy and although the buildings are long gone, the institution continues to live on in their hearts and minds.



Apparently Cliff Greenig's first year at WMA was his last as the institution closed at the end of the year, never to reopen.

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 7 November 2004

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT JACK SHEPPARD

Dear Members,

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Wenonah Historical Society require us to have a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees for terms of two years. This group constitutes the Board of Trustees of the organization.

We are also required to appoint a Nominating Committee at the November meeting for the purpose of presenting a slate of names for those positions at the January Meeting. The Nominating Committee is to be made up of two members of the Trustee Board and two regular members.

The terms of office on the Board are two years and all terms are due to expire at the end of 2004.

At a recent meeting of the officers and Trustees the current situation, that of the President stepping down and the entire Board needing to be replaced was duly noted. There was then a general discussion of names in the entire membership in an attempt to determine members who might want to become more involved in Society activities, either as candidates for the Board or as volunteers for museum creation activities.

There was also considerable discussion of the great need to get moving on the objectives of the

Society, especially those related to the preservation of historic documents, records, artifacts and memorabilia of our community.

The future of the Community Center as a repository and museum for these purposes is in our hands but if we don't get moving on the project soon we may lose our claim to the building.

Accordingly we are looking toward establishing volunteer "work parties" very soon to

WHS OFFICERS 2004

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

commence work on the following tasks;

- Second floor clean up, fix up.
- Move Military Academy artifacts from the Library.
- Sort, identify, classify and store those materials.

We do have a list of volunteers from a previous solicitation but all members are encouraged to get in touch if in fact you haven't been contacted before now.

The first of these "work party" activities will occur Friday the 19th of November when we will move the Military Academy material from our Public Library into the Community Center first floor, and then up to the second floor storage area. Anyone wishing to help with this please make yourself known at the November 12th meeting.

NOVEMBER 12TH PROGRAM

The November meeting of the Society will be held starting at 7:30 p.m. in the train station Community Center at Mantua Avenue at the railroad tracks. Member Rocco Doto will present a history of the Wenonah Military Academy.

It is also nearly time for dues payments for the coming year 2005. Please bring or send your dues by the end of December. They are still \$15.00 per year. For Information call (856) 468-6981.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Wenonah was created from a group of five adjacent farms that mostly grew sweet potatoes. Animal manure was used to fertilize the crops and the manure cars were delivered to a siding in the center of town. Apparently the smell was horrible and by 1892 the Borough Commission and citizens appealed to the West Jersey RR Company for relief. A new siding was then built at the current location of the Borough garage, Maple Street at the railroad.

Mr. Oscar Ogden, Thomas Ritson and Clement Mattson have purchased handsome Waltham-Orient touring cars from H.D. Leap who represents the Waltham Manufacturing Company in this area.

The best supper ever had for 25 cents will be served at Noblitt's Hall in connection with the fair next week.

All Saints Episcopal Mission. Service in Noblitts Hall tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. All welcome.

The town was very lively yesterday. Every train bringing a load of visitors and the beautiful weather kept them on the streets enjoying the air.

The woods were full of gunners here yesterday, but the bags were rather small. Whether due to unskillful marksmanship or lack of rabbits is hard to tell. It is certain that enough shots were fired in the neighborhood.

Captain Persey is no longer a member of the Campers Union at the Wenonah Military Academy. The union was organized for the special benefit of the bachelors of the academy and lost a very active member when he quietly married Miss Racliffe of Camden.

A family passing through the town on the way to their Thanksgiving dinner meet with an accident on Marion Avenue. The horse they were driving fell and broke a leg and had to be shot.

The epidemic of colds, which almost put a number of cadets in bed, has almost subsided and all were able to eat turkey today.

The Ladies Aid of the M.E. Church particularly requests that you defer buying your Christmas gifts till you come to their supper and bazaar next Tuesday. Beautiful articles, useful and ornamental will be on sale. A table of dressed dolls, at very reasonable prices, presided over by Miss Jessie Baylies' class of little girls will be one of the features. Mrs. Cline's class of young ladies will have a Christmas tree covered with gifts. Ice cream will be on sale, also cakes, bread and pie.

A large shipment of live pigeons was made from this station this morning-about 100.

Mrs. James Carey gave a "500" last evening.

A traveling Uncle Tom's Cabin Company will entertain our people tonight at Noblitt's Hall.

The public school building has been connected to the sewerage system and sanitary conditions will be much improved.

John L. Drummer was elected constable over Thomas J. Savage, who was on both tickets by 61 majority.

There is considerable discussion as to what use the room over the new fire house should be put other than regular meetings of the Fire Company. There seems to be a desire on the part of some to use it as a smoking room and a place to play cards. Of course there will be no gambling under the new administration.

A ballot was taken this morning at the Academy on the Presidential candidates and the results are as follows. Taft 38, Chafin 3, Bryan 6.

Politics, politics, there is more politics in this town today than any other town of its size in the state.

Fine Black Sateen Petticoats \$1.00 Outing Flannel 25 and 50 cents Gingham 25, 50 and 75 cents try a pair of our ladies 25 cent stockings. H.E. Wood 185 So. Broad Street, Woodbury

Try Pan Dandy Bread

The painting of the Methodist Church is about to be done and it will be a decided improvement.

A REPUBLICAN LANDSLIDE TAFT SWEEPS THE COUNTRY IN THE GREAT CONTEST FOR THE NATION'S NEXT EXECUTIVE. Gloucester County gives Taft 1610 plurality and elects entire county ticket. (Wenonah's vote Taft 138 Bryan 18)

The young ladies of the Embroidery Club which meet at the home of Miss Clara Turner Saturday afternoon proposes to fill a bride's chest for the first member married.

With the streets well scattered with masqueraders and the Academy dance in full swing Saturday evening, Wenonah was quite lively for once.

Woodbury Constitution Milton H. Webb

There is to be a Fair in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, November 4th Fancywork, groceries, candy, home made bread and cake. Supper 35 cents.

Wonder whom the two young ladies were who got bewildered on the road between Cooper's Hill and Wenonah.

The River and Harbor Committee meet at Hohlweg's Hotel (now Telford Inn) yesterday to determine whether to have the Mantua Creek dug out. Several appeared before the committee urging the creek be opened up to the Wenonah Bridge.

A workman in the employ of the gas company was knocked unconscious here yesterday by the bursting of a gas pipe. He was taken home in serious condition. No one would have thought there was so much force in the pipes.

In order to make an equitable charge for water to all customers, the Wenonah Water Company will place water meters on the premises of all water takers. The installing of the meters will be done during the present month and the meter rates will commence January 1st, 1910.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union held their business meeting and finding out that they had money immediately proceeded to spend it. It was voted to offer a prize of \$5.00 to the Wenonah Military Academy and \$5.00 to our public school for the best scientific temperance essay.

Bryn Athyn and Wenonah Military Academy played a tie game on Bryn Athyn grounds Saturday, neither team being able to score. The game was fast and clean throughout.

Call at the public library and look over the latest books. (The library was in the former Presbyterian Church Chapel which was moved from North Clinton Avenue to West Mantua Avenue in the first block.)

The Wenonah Mutual Improvement Association will place three carloads of manure on the lawn of the park. (This is one way to get peoples attention to the park.)

There was a fire last night at the M.E. parsonage on Willow Street, and but for its timely discovery the parsonage would have been burned down. Miss Cornelia Truncer saw a light in the third story of the building and concluded at once that there was something wrong. She went to the parsonage and asked if there was anyone in the third floor with a lamp. She was told there was not, and upon investigation it was found that a box of papers was on fire. A bucket brigade was formed and the blaze was soon subdued. The Fire Company did not go into service. Just how the fire started is a mystery, but it might be the old story of mice and matches.

Pastor Senser worked like a beaver in carrying buckets of water up the stairs and he thinks that his heart is all right or he could never have stood it.

Mr. Thomas W.Synnott will lead the prayer meeting this evening at the Memorial Presbyterian Church. (Mr.Synnott was one of the founders of the town and at this period had land holdings of almost one fourth of the total area of the town.)

Lost, strayed or stolen-One black and white hound dog, black face. Answers to the name "Doc" John T. Moore

The question, which is puzzling our gunners, is where to gun on Monday, when the rabbit season opens. In almost every direction one looks in the country his eyes beholds a notice, which forbids gunning on the premises.

An exciting runaway occurred here last evening. A farmer drove into town to meet the train, and his horse was frightened and ran up the street east of the depot and down the embankment north of the station where it meet an express train and turned off the track at the flag house completely circling the depot. No damage was done, but how the horse missed the third rail is a mystery. It also had a narrow escape from the express train.

The machine pipeline digger of the Pitman Gas Company is digging a trench from the Wenonah Bridge to Woodbury Heights,. This will give gas to all the farmers along the line.

Quite a number of our young matrons have enrolled themselves as students in the "Domestic Science Class" recently organized.

Mrs. McGill's house looks well with its new coat of paint. (N.E. corner of Clinton and Cherry Streets –Now the home of the Thompsons.)

Our Improvement Association has two classes of members, those who contribute money and those who contribute advise as to how it should be spent. These later are mostly knockers and are a hindrance to the growth of the town.

Woodbury Heights is improving rapidly notwithstanding its lack of electric lights, sewer, artesian water, library, fire company, and church and school facilities such as Wenonah has.

A little girl visiting barber Fisher's was badly cut about the head Saturday by a flowerpot. The flowerpot was in the second story window and fell on the little girls head.

We see the hurdles have disappeared in the park and hope they will not come back. (People had been making their own paths through the park.)

Source *Woodbury Daily Times* by Milton H. Webb

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 8 December 2004

A MESSAGE FROM VICE
PRESIDENT JACK SHEPPARD

Dear Members;

Wherever did the time go? Seems like yesterday was the start of 2004, our June picnic was last week and now we are almost into 2005.

Well the year isn't officially over for the Wenonah Historical Society until after we have our annual Christmas Party at the Community Center.

This year's event will take place on Friday December 10th and we are hoping for a good turnout to be with each other and to enjoy the cheerfulness of the holiday season.

Getting back to the swift passage of time I remind everyone that in January at our annual Reorganization Meeting we must choose a president to lead us along with a team of officers to assist in the endeavor. By the time you receive this newsletter the nominating committee will have met and selected a slate of individuals to recommend to you at that meeting. Hopefully it will have chosen members who are totally interested and capable of moving us forward in our role as historians for Wenonah. There is much to be done if we are to create a repository for historic memorabilia before it is lost forever and provide for its classification and proper storage.

We know there is much material held by members and others and realize everyone wants to be assured the materials will have a proper and secure home.

What is also very important the continuation of a relationship with Mayor Capaldi and the Borough administration that will provide for the proper care and maintenance of the railroad station Community

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

Center. The objective will be to create a system of care for the structure itself and suitable procedures for the use of the building.

It must be kept in mind at all times that the building is held in trust by the Borough for the use of all of Wenonah's citizens. However the historical society must be assured of primary responsibility inasmuch as the building will ultimately contain all of the records and artifacts of Wenonah's history and these items must be maintained securely at all

times, yet be available for viewing and study.

Quite a challenge but I am sure that with proper leadership we are up to the task.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas get together.

DECEMBER 10TH CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our annual Christmas Party will be Friday December 10th at the Community Center. Wine and Cheese at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. "Chef Bud" will cater it. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped). It will be helpful if you will RSVP to Betty MacLeod at 468-6981 or Lucy Schulz at 468-5392 before Friday Dec. 3rd.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Saturday November 27th 2004 about 100 Wenonah residents gathered in Wenonah Park for the 2nd annual Christmas tree lighting and Cookie fest in the railroad station Community Center.

If only we had access to a time machine and were able to go back in time 100 years to the same two locations we might have seen a lot of similar activity in both the park and the station.

100 years ago in 1904 the Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors for the first time. Wouldn't it have been great to see?

Reagan Surgeon Raised In Wenonah

Gloucester County Times September 24, 1989_ByFrank Kummer, Staff Writer

What has been the highlight of Thoralf M. Sundt's career so far, asked an increasingly nervous reporter from a phone several thousand miles away.

Being named head of the Mayo Clinic's neurology department? Working as editor of a leading neurology journal? Being a veteran of the infamous "Pork Chop Hill" battle in Korea? Graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point? Or being named the country's top neurologist by a national magazine?

Was it as a paperboy for the Woodbury Daily Times, now the Gloucester County Times? Doubtful,

The highlight probably came two weeks ago when former President Ronald Reagan, suffering from complications after falling off a wildly bucking horse in July, underwent brain surgery and Sundt was called in to perform the operation.

Sundt, chairman of the Mayo Clinic's Department of Neurology, thought the term "highlight" was a poor choice of words and the now-sweating reporter had to admit he was right.

Despite the admittedly ill-chosen phrasing, Sundt, former Wenonah resident and Woodbury High School student, was pushed into the world of the mainstream media.

For one hour Sundt, on Sept. 9, was assisted in his operation on Reagan by two neurological surgeons, three nurses and an

anesthesiologist at the clinic, located about 70 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

Sundt drilled a hole in Reagan's skull to remove a buildup of blood detected during a routine physical examination. The operation went smoothly and the "evacuation" of the puddle of blood *was* successful.

The next day a CAT scan viewed the upper right portion of Reagan's head where the hole was drilled. A drain was placed on the skull and Reagan went on to recuperate rapidly.

"He's a very, very nice person. That's all I'll say about it," Sundt said about the surgery to an increasingly relaxed reporter.

Sundt is down-to-earth and affable. Or, as one medical journal put it, "unpretentious."

"I used to deliver the Woodbury Times. I was a delivery boy when they changed

the price from 2 to 3 cents and I lost eighty-some customers,"

Sundt said with a laugh from his

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., office.

Sundt lived in Wenonah until he was 16. The year was 1945 and his family moved to Tucson, Ariz. where young Thor, or "Brud" as he was nicknamed here, entered the construction business.

After two years of working as a contractor with the family firm of M.M. Sundt, the Gloucester County native decided to apply to West Point and eventually make the military his career.



Dr. Thoralf Sundt
former Times Newsboy

"It was the hardest examination I ever had to pass," Sundt said in a recent interview with a neurological journal.

After graduation he was assigned to the Engineers in Korea in 1952. A platoon leader and later company commander in the 32nd Regimental Combat Team, Sundt was the last to leave the battleground at Pork Chop Hill. He left unscathed and was later awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Cluster.

Peacetime proved boring, so Sundt enrolled in medical school at the University of Tennessee. He took his residency in neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic and pursued pioneering work in the field.

In fact, while still a student, Sundt developed a technique in repairing aneurysms ripped from the parent vessel during surgery. He devised other new surgical techniques that improved patient recovery and performed a large number of aneurysm procedures and endarterectomies.

Setting big Latin words and titles aside Sundt is indeed unpretentious. Shunning the posture taken by the public relations department at the Mayo Clinic Sundt talked freely about himself.

"I came back last year and Woodbury High hasn't changed much," Sundt said. "Around

the outside areas though, the anatomy is all torn up with off-ramps. That's really changed.

"By the way, how's the Woodbury High football team doing this year?"

Sundt's family has a strong lineage in Gloucester County. His maternal grandfather Harry Stoudt, was the first physician in Gloucester County and was known as "the old family doctor," according to one local resident of Wenonah. An uncle was also a local physician.



The original Sundt residence located at Jackson and Mantua Avenues.
Now the home of Mr. & Mrs D. Shaver

Old friends say they are proud of Sundt.

"He was a real nice guy," said Milton Webb, an old high school friend from Wenonah. "Very typical We're sort of proud of him. I mean all my friends are truck drivers."

Still, what was Sundt's proudest moment? '

Could it have been in 1945 when he was elevated to Eagle Scout? The Times carried a picture Mar. 28, 1945 of two merit badges earned by Sundt with another boy who also received scouting's highest honor. '

One of the merit badges is for first aid.

Editor's Note:

Dr. Thoralf Sundt died from cancer of the bone marrow, an affliction he fought for 8 years before succumbing in 1992