

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Wenonah Historical Society*

Vol. 1 Issue No. 1 January, 2003

## **Next Meeting Friday January 10<sup>th</sup> 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

*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!!!

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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**Vice Pres.** *Jack Sheppard*  
**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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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.

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

## 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.

### WHS OFFICERS 2003

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

#### WHS OFFICERS 2003

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**Trustee**

**Meetings second Friday of the  
month at the Wenonah  
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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*  
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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

**President:** *Rocco Doto*  
**Vice Pres.** *Jack Sheppard Sr.*  
**Secretary** *Eileen Caraker*  
**Treasurer** *Carol Wiltsee*  
**Corr. Sec.** *Betty MacLeod*  
**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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.