

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, January 13, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 1, January 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

I wish a Happy and Healthy 2012 to all of our members. Try to remember that resolution to invite a neighbor to one our meetings in 2012.

The program for January 13, 2012 (described below) promises to be informative, entertaining and the topic is very close to home.

I want to thank Larry Smith for producing this newsletter over the past year. He does a very nice job with a difficult task. His December article on "Wenonah Water (1885 - 1945)" may have seemed a bit "dry" to some but municipal water and sewer services are the unglamorous infrastructure vital to the existence of any town.

Before There Was Wenonah ...

The community of Wenonah was founded 141 years ago and the history of this charming town is a rich and fascinating one. But, occasionally all of us have all wondered about what was here before there was a Wenonah—before the lovely Victorian homes and grid of peaceful tree-lined streets, and before the directors of the Mantua Land & Improvement Co. came and chose this place as the site for the planned community that has endured and become our home.

For our January program, Richard Dilks—a life-

long Wenonah resident—will present Before There Was Wenonah:

The past is a vast territory to explore. In Wenonah's most distant past, its land was part of a supercontinent, then the floor of a shallow sea at the end of the age of dinosaurs. When men and women first came here 12,000 years ago, our town was part of a subarctic tundra where the now extinct mega fauna grazed. For thousands of years the Lenni Lannapi people

lived peacefully in our region and have left behind their trails and artifacts to remind us that they too were here. In the 17th century, European powers—Holland, Sweden and Great Britain—sought, won and eventually lost colonial empires here. The American Revolution swept through this one square mile that would become Wenonah and the men who lived here played their parts in that struggle. We will explore not only what was here in Pre-Wenonah's ancient past and

colorful history, but what was here in the final decades before 1871, and what remnants of that time still survive in our town today. Join us on this journey through time and discover what was here before there was Wenonah.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, let me know at smithlr@att.net. The newsletter will arrive sooner, reduce our printing and postage costs, and if there is something in color photo you will be able to see the colors.

2011 WHS OFFICERS

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| President | Charles Horan |
| Vice President | Paul Lader |
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Thoughts about Leaving Wenonah
by Marjorie Lentz

December 30, 2011

Over fifty years ago my husband Bob and I moved to Wenonah and immediately we were earmarked as an odd couple. We did not own a car. Everybody in Wenonah had one. As Bob often said that it was not that we could not afford a car, but that it was not needed in Wenonah.

It was only a hop and a skip and jump to walk up the street where squeezed together were a meat market (Tony Sacca's), a grocery store (George and Jane Bowker), a post office, a barber shop (Oram Shuster), a haberdasher (Wayne Post) and a notions store (Southard's). Every town should have a notions store and Wenonah had one. The best part of walking uptown was that you met other people walking and you were able to socialize. That was the way you met people in Wenonah.

Eventually we had two boys who attended the grammar school where they walked home for lunch. Because we probably lived the farthest distance from the school, they often had to run back before the second bell rang. The teachers were stern and that was all right. Because of the solid foundation in learning they received many students including our sons went on to secure advanced degrees.

The best part in living in Wenonah was the opportunity to share your talents. Volunteerism was a way of life. Every one had an opportunity

whether it was coaching baseball, hacking trails along the Mantua Creek, reading stories to children in the library. With all the many clubs in town there were lots of ways to volunteer.

Another of the rewarding aspects of living in Wenonah was the diverse population. People came from all parts of our country and shared their stories which enriched our knowledge.

Now at 96 years and with limited mobility I have had to adjust to a new way of living in Pitman Manor. I miss my home and the woods and the frequent deer that visited our property.

Frequently there were three deer but one morning there were eight.



Living here has been a big step for me. However with your frequent visitations and communications you have helped me with the transition. Thank you

Jennie McQuaide gave me a book containing about three hundred pages. The book is

currently empty. Jennie suggested that every day I write something for which I am grateful. So on the first day of 2012 I will begin. First I am grateful that I spent my mature years in Wenonah where I took time out to volunteer, where I could enrich my life by contact with diverse people. With your assistance and helpful thoughts I will learn to adjust to a new way of living.

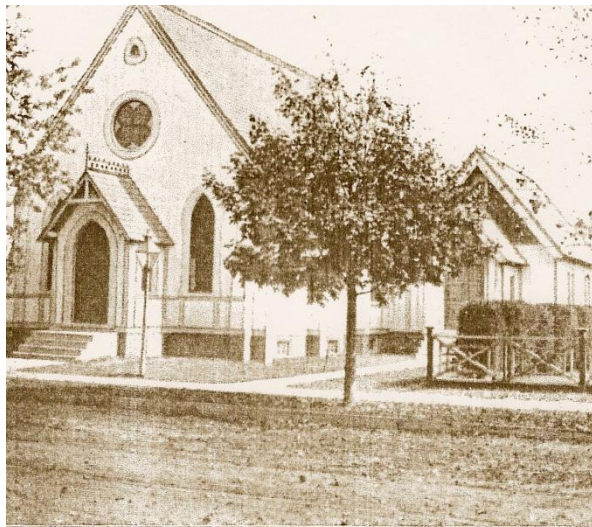
Oh, yes, we did eventually purchase a car. I forgot to mention that.

* * * * *

The following house photos and information have been provided by Frank Eggert.

FEATURE HOUSES
5 North Clinton Avenue and 8 West Mantua Avenue

The house at 5 North Clinton Avenue was built in 1873 by the First Presbyterian Church (now Memorial Presbyterian Church). The building at the rear of the original church, as shown in the photograph below, was moved to 8 West Mantua Avenue in 1883. It has housed various enterprises over the years, including the Lutheran Church, and is now September Rose Studio.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WENONAH, N. J.



Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, February 10, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 2, February 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer than usual weather we have been blessed with, and hope that I am not jinxing things by making such a comment.

Many thanks to Richard Dilks for his comprehensive presentation about "Wenonah Before There Was Wenonah" in January.

For this month's program, Vice President Paul Lader will be presenting the History Channel documentary on the Andersonville Prison and Trial of Captain Henry Wirz. Henry Wirz was the commandant of Andersonville prison during the War between the States and the only Civil War officer to be tried and executed for war crimes.

Please come out this Friday, February 10th at 7:30 P.M. and shake off a little of that "cabin fever."

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UPDATE ON THE WENONAH VIDEO PROJECT

With the holidays over, work has resumed on the Wenonah Video Project. Jack Sheppard Sr. gave a wonderful presentation that was captured on video chronicling Wenonah's history. This segment is being edited and has a tentative completion date of March 31, 2012.

Cara DeHart-Lewis and Gerard McGarrity, who are coordinating the video project, had the opportunity to attend the WHS meeting in October and gathered more potential names to interview this summer. A big thank you to Lisa Flowers who sent them a videotape containing footage of the Wenonah Parade. If you have old film/video of the town or parade or questions, please contact them at: gerard_mcgarrity@yahoo.com or cardehlew@yahoo.com.

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

REFRESHMENTS

Instead of soliciting volunteers for the entire year at one time, Jo Dominy will ask for volunteers to provide refreshments at the next meeting. If you would like to volunteer for the March meeting, please advise Jo at the meeting on Friday or give her a call. You will be reimbursed for the refreshments.

2012 WHS DUES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that the 2012 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer.

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. The source of the article was the 1909-1910 Catalogue of the Academy, published by Stephen Greene just five years after the Academy opened. Greene was the founder of the Wenonah Military Academy and a successful printer in Philadelphia. His publications contained a great deal of information about the functioning of the Academy, individual cadets, and benefits to parents considering sending their sons to the Academy.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

The Kind of Boy We Want

We are desirous of welcoming boys who are imbued with manly hopes and ambitions. Wenonah Military Academy is essentially a school for gentlemen's sons. We want only boys and young men who will work during study time; who will play, and play heartily, during play time; boys who will at all times be high-toned, courteous gentlemen. With such material it is a teacher's greatest happiness to get at the boys and instill ideals and principles that may guide them through life. The teachers enter into all the interests of the boys, and seek to develop their best potentialities on every side.



Typical Cadet Room

Self-government is, we are sure, the best of all governments in the junior republics as well as the great ones. So far as possible, then, we try to foster this expression of the principles that we inculcate. We believe that American boys need a stronger and more defined system of self-government than other boys. Often they are more indulged at home, and as a whole are rather less tractable. Hence we have adopted the military system, with its steady regularity and

impartiality, its wide room for gradation of responsibilities, its traditions of fidelity to honor, and its forcible appeal to imagination. We trace its permanent influence in the after-careers of our graduates, which proves that an *esprit de corps* in school life is of priceless value. In maintaining the hold over boys, we place the greatest dependence upon the close touch and cordial relations between teacher and pupil; the master insisting on a firm, dignified and systematic classroom discipline, the pupils showing proper obedience and deference without familiarity.

Moral Culture

As the moral development of a Christian character is a matter of first importance, care is taken that the boys committed to the charge of the institution shall become Christian gentlemen and shall be trained to lead a godly and Christian life.

Devotional exercises, at which all must be present, are conducted daily. On Sunday, the students in a body, accompanied by the Superintendent and his associates, attend public worship once at least in some church, and as nearly as may be in accordance with the denominational preferences of the parents. Other exercises suitable for the Sabbath are held in the Academy itself, the intention being to make the home a Christian one, but free from all sectarian bias.

The moral training of the establishment is practical and corrective, and will positively arrest all practices and habits that are of an immoral character and tendency. Especially will it deal with profanity, obscenity, and the use of intoxicants and tobacco in all their forms; also any form of *hazing is positively prohibited.*

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, March 9, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 3, March 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Many thanks to our VP Paul Lader for his most interesting and moving presentation at last month's meeting of the WHS. Having the main character of the documentary as a member and present that evening added to the appeal of the presentation. Terrific acting job Jeff Rodriguez!! Kudos also to Vicki (and Lou) McCall for the wonderful Valentine's Day themed refreshments / "wedding reception" for Barbara and me. It was very much appreciated.

The presenter this month will also feature a WHS member, Karen Heller. Her topic will focus on the life and times of Ann Whitall who resided in the James and Ann Whitall House located at Red Bank Battleground Park. We look forward to Karen's program as we are always interested in local history.

Also, please remember that your 2012 WHS dues are due and are still a bargain at \$15 per family. The dues can be given to any WHS officer.

Hope to see you this Friday March 9th at 7:30 P.M.

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REFRESHMENTS

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Photos courtesy of the McCalls. As Vicki and Lou say "miss one meeting and you miss a lot."

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. The source of the article was the 1909-1910 Catalogue of the Academy, published by Stephen Greene just five years after the Academy opened. Greene was the founder of the Wenonah Military Academy and a successful printer in Philadelphia. His publications contained a great deal of information about the functioning of the Academy, individual cadets, and benefits to parents considering sending their sons to the Academy.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

Location

The location of Wenonah Military Academy is in the choicest section of south and west New Jersey, possessing pre-eminently the advantages of healthfulness, beauty, accessibility and quiet seclusion—sufficiently removed from the dangerous enticements of the city, and yet within easy reach of city patrons.

The conditions desirable for an institution of this character have been fully realized in the selection of its site. The sale of intoxicants within a mile of the Academy is absolutely prohibited by law.

It is about twelve miles distant from Philadelphia, with which it is in communication by frequent trains over the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad.

Wenonah being situated on high grounds, the natural drainage is as perfect as possible, and the Academy has an entirely independent sanitary drainage system, designed and constructed under the personal supervision of one of the most accomplished and experienced engineers of the country; it is believed to be as nearly perfect as expert skill can make it.

Wenonah is an entirely residential town; there are no factories, and the charter of the town absolutely prohibits saloons, a clause to this effect being incorporated in every original land title deed.

The Academy building is a handsome structure of attractive modern architecture. It stands on an apex of the highlands in the midst of spacious grounds that are ornamented with stately oaks, balsams and maples, attractive evergreens, well-trimmed hedges of acacia and ornamental shrubs in abundance. Indeed, so complete and admirable are these premises for the purposes to which they are now devoted, that, with the supplemental improvements, made with special reference to that use, they constitute a model establishment not excelled in the particulars named by any similar educational institution in the country.

Buildings

The Academy building is only a few minutes' walk from the railroad station, telegraph office and churches; it has three stories, and has comfortable rooms for all students under one roof. The rooms are heated by steam, and lighted by electricity and gas and furnished with an ample supply of pure water from the plant of the borough, in addition to which the Academy has a separate and entirely independent supply from an artesian well 351 feet in depth. Careful analysis has demonstrated this water to be of absolute hygienic purity, and this purity is assured for all time, as the water cannot become contaminated by organic matter from surface drainage.

The Academy main building is the home of the cadets. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, this building is one of the best-adapted school edifices in the East. Its unique plan affords peculiar advantages for a school home for boys.

A description of the building follows: On a central angle of 50 feet three wings of 100 feet extend, with a massive tower rising 80 feet over the central angle; consequently the building has abundance of light all day long. The lower floor is occupied by the store-rooms, boiler-room, laboratory, lavatories and laundry. On the main floor are rooms for the superintendent and masters. The general assembly room is in the south wing, the lower school in the east wing. In the central angle are the reception-rooms, the library and reading-room. From this diverge the assembly, class and dining rooms. The second and third floors each contain 30 sleeping-rooms, besides lavatories. An 8-foot hallway extends the full length of each wing. The sleeping-rooms are warmed by steam, regulated to keep an even temperature. Danger from fire is at a minimum, for the reason that no stoves nor heating apparatus other than the steam heat are allowed in the building. Two exits for each hallway, one by a short stairway of only twelve feet, the other by an enclosed stairway, furnish immediate access to the main entrance. Extreme caution has been taken in providing for the general care and safety of the students. The students' rooms are large, heated by steam and nicely furnished with first-class furniture, the beds having re-enforced woven-wire springs and hair mattresses. These rooms are all outside rooms and are so situated as to receive light all day long; they are 12 x 16 feet, and all open into halls that have light and ventilation at both ends. Each room is furnished with one bed for each occupant, a five-drawer chiffonier with a mirror, a wardrobe 7 x 3 feet, and two chairs. They are arranged for cadets wishing to room alone, or for two cadets. The furnishings have been selected carefully, and with a view not only to convenience and comfort, but also to attractive appearance. Bath and toilet rooms are on each floor, supplied with hot and cold water, the plumbing being constructed in the most modern and improved manner.

The classrooms are provided with every convenience for the work of instruction. They are ample in size and number, and convenient in arrangement.

The library, 43 by 50 feet in size, is lighted by large windows opening upon the great piazza, beyond which may be seen the beautiful park and Academy campus. The library is always open to the booklovers among the cadets. Among the periodicals on file are Harper's Magazine, The Century, Scribner's, The Cosmopolitan, McClure's, Munsey's, Review of Reviews, World's Work, Outing, St. Nicholas, The American Boy, Harper's Weekly, Collier's Weekly, Country Life, The Churchman, The Church Standard, The Outlook, The Army and Navy Register and Army and Navy Journal.

From WMA archives. Research by Jack Sheppard Sr 2/12

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, April 13, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 4, April 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Charles Horan

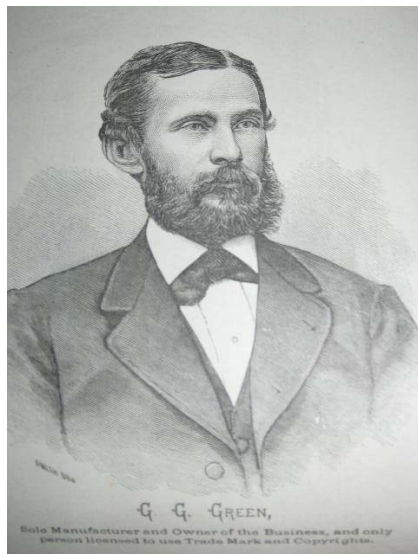
Dear Members,

Greetings to all. I hope everyone is enjoying that Spring Has Sprung (as has the pollen count!!). April 28 th, the last Saturday of April, is the annual Borough-wide yard sale. If you are on the prowl for bargains, keep your eyes open for any Wenonah historic artifacts (4th of July mugs excluded).

We are happy to partner with the Gloucester County Historical Society at our April meeting in mutual efforts and interest in local history. The presentation is titled "Colonel G. G. Green Laboratory Buildings."

One name of a prominent Gloucester County resident that has been in the news quite often lately is that of

George Gill Green, Gloucester County's first multi-millionaire. The city of Woodbury is indeed indebted to the industry and vision of Colonel G. G. Green,



who was known primarily as Woodbury's and the country's patent medicine king from 1872 until his death in 1925. The city's name of Woodbury and the products *August Flower*, *Dr. Boschee's German Syrup* and *Ague Conqueror* were world-renowned.

Phenomenal sales and unprecedented profits realized during Green's first seven years running the company forced him to build a second

structure to replace his 1873 factory. *Green's Laboratories and Offices*, located on Green Street, was completed in 1879 at a cost of \$35,000-\$40,000. In 2001, much of what remained of the factory and laboratory was used in the renovation and additional construction of the Woodbury Mews complex.

The presentation features biographical information about G. G. Green and his family, early pictures and drawings that were used in his sales promotions, the

Green family connection to Pasadena, CA, and an inside look at the factory and laboratory before and after renovations of what is now the Woodbury Mews.

Hope to see you this Friday, April 13th (uh-oh, Friday the 13th) at 7:30 P.M.

UPDATE ON MARJORIE LENTZ

Marjorie is recovering in the nursing care section of Pitman Manor, Room 308. She is conversing with visitors, eating, taking brief walks in the hallway and receiving limited physical therapy. It appears she is back near the level of health she enjoyed before her recent illness and time in the hospital.

The following article was provided by Jack C. Sheppard Sr. The source of the article was the 1909-1910 Catalogue of the Academy, published by Stephen Greene just five years after the Academy opened. Greene was the founder of the Wenonah Military Academy and a successful printer in Philadelphia. His publications contained a great deal of information about the functioning of the Academy, individual cadets, and benefits to parents considering sending their sons to the Academy.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY

Facilities for Physical Training

On the south campus is the new drill hall and gymnasium, well equipped with modern apparatus. Adjoining the main buildings is the "Annex," equipped with a pair of excellent bowling alleys, shuffleboards, billiard and pool tables furnishing abundant facilities for recreation and healthful exercises in winter and summer.

Physical culture is of so much importance that in addition to the methodical exercise of the military drill, a generous provision is made for indoor athletic sports and gymnastic training.

A large new gymnasium and drill-hall has been constructed and in addition to the fine campus, a new and spacious enclosed athletic field has been provided, including a quarter-mile cinder-track; with all the facilities for foot-ball, base-ball, track athletics and all the usual field sports.

On the north end is situated the covered pavilion with seating capacity for five hundred spectators.

New Drill Hall and Gymnasium

The new Drill Hall and Gymnasium completed recently is situated on the south campus.

The main room is seventy feet wide, one hundred and twenty feet long and thirty-three feet high, containing eight thousand four hundred square feet of floor space, with a large stage on the west end. It is constructed of concrete blocks with gothic roof.

It is lighted by electricity and gas, heated by steam, perfectly ventilated and fully equipped with gymnastic apparatus.

Few military schools or even colleges can boast of a more spacious, attractive or better equipped drill hall and gymnasium.

It not only serves its legitimate purpose as a place for indoor military work, for daily gymnastic exercises, as a basketball and tennis court, and an indoor baseball diamond, but also is especially serviceable as a lecture room and social hall. Here will be held frequent official functions and informal dances.

Adjoining the Drill Hall is a well-rolled and equipped tennis court.

A competent instructor will supervise and direct all physical exercises.

Military Department

For centuries, the military organization has been recognized as the most effective in controlling men in the enforcement of obedience to lawful authority. The military department of this Academy is one of its most prominent and effective features. The feeling of loyalty to the school is one of the conspicuous traits of our graduates. There is a feeling in the air not only of devotion to the flag but also of devotion to the welfare of the particular group to which one belongs and esprit de corps.

A young man who has made little progress in his studies, who dislikes school and his classmates and teachers, will often come to take an entirely different view of life after he has lived in the atmosphere of a military school. It has been found by experience that to be beneficial and enjoyable, the military system must be enforced with thoroughness in execution of detail. To this end, the Superintendent, a military officer of wide experience and great enthusiasm, who has had special training in his work, assumes command of this department. Under his direction the orders are issued, and the cheerful compliance therewith is evidence that the performance of military duty is a fascinating pleasure rather than an irksome punishment.

From WMA archives. Research by Jack Sheppard Sr 2/12

Frank Eggert's long-term project to memorialize the historic structures of Wenonah was discussed in the January 2011 issue of the Wenonah Historical Society newsletter. Several of the houses have been featured in other newsletter issues. And, many of you have perused through the binders that Frank has compiled of all the structures. Frank has now prepared a listing of the structures, categorized by year, and with the original owner (as shown on the WHS plaque) and the current owner. A sampling of Frank's latest effort to preserve the history of Wenonah follows.

| |
|---|
| THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES OF WENONAH |
|---|

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1763 | | |
| 100 S. West Ave. | Moffett, Samuel | Comella, Terrance C. |
| 1800 | | |
| 111 N. Lincoln Ave. | Stone House Tenant Farm | Howard, John F. & Kathleen C. |
| 406 W. Mantua Ave. | Tenant House for Stone House | Henry Jr, Kenneth S. & Marilyn S. |
| 1850 | | |
| 109 S. Clinton Ave. | Tatum, William R. | Honabach, Mark F. & Wisely, William J. |
| 1854 | | |
| 1473 Glassboro Rd. | Chew, Nathaniel | Buongiovanni Jr., Angelo |
| 509 E. Elm St. | Newshafer, George | Constantino, Jay & Stacey |

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, May 11, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 5, May 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Hello to all. May 11th will be our last formal meeting of the season. Our program will feature the abbreviated finale of Richard Dilks' "Wenonah Before it Was Wenonah" (described below). Richard, a life-long resident of Wenonah, talked at our January meeting about the land that would become Wenonah before there were inhabitants and then of the land when the first inhabitants arrived some 12,000 years ago, taking us to the 19th century. This Friday, Richard concludes his presentation with a tour through the place that was here in those mid-19th century decades that immediately preceded the founding of Wenonah in 1871. He will explore those buildings still standing and other elements still visible that continue to link us to the time and place before there was Wenonah.

Mark June 8th on your calendar as it is the date of our annual picnic. The picnic will start at 5:00 P.M. and the main course will be catered. On Friday, Jean Cowles will be asking for volunteers to provide appetizers and desserts.

I want to thank Jo Dominy for taking on the lion's share of the wonderful post meeting refreshment duties at our meetings this year, as well as all others who

generously contributed. I hope you will agree with me that this has been another good year for the WHS with insightful and interesting programs. Please feel free to put on your thinking cap and give me ideas for next year's programs. Our Kick-off Classic will be on September 14th. Details will follow.

I hope to see you this Friday, May 11th at 7:30 P.M. Don't forget our New Year's resolution to bring a neighbor to a WHS meeting. This Friday would be a great opportunity to do so.

Before There Was Wenonah: Gentle Fields and Country Lanes...

Imagine it is 150 years ago, maybe a little bit more. You find yourself in the rural fields and farmlands of Southern New Jersey, a prime agricultural area close to the markets of bustling, urban Philadelphia. The first thing you notice is how open the place is. The land

is high and well drained and surprisingly rolling and hilly in places. There are almost no trees, just fields filled with a variety of vegetables. Sweet potatoes are a common crop but there are other things too, and they are destined for the dinner tables of Philadelphia and surrounding communities. The fields had been cleared in the early 18th century and farmed for generations. There are a few trees, perhaps a hedgerow here or there and small clusters of shade trees near the scattered farmhouses. The most imposing farmhouse

has thick stone walls and is the oldest building in the area. Built in the mid-18th

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century, it was a tavern in colonial and revolutionary times. There are a few other farm houses, barns and out buildings. One dates from the 1770's and others from a bit later. A couple are the sturdy homes of tenant farmers and one is the home of a tanner. All these structures are connected by a lacework of unpaved country lanes, usually intersecting at odd angles. One lane leads to a grist mill with the mill pond and miller's home nearby. Another leads to the banks of a navigable creek, the busiest place around

with wharves, warehouses and barges shipping goods to and from Philadelphia.

This could have been one of innumerable places in our region in 1850. But it was here. Before the railroads came and changed everything, before a group of businessmen and investors (mostly railroad men) formed themselves into the Mantua Land & Improvement Co., proposing a venture to turn these fields into a most remarkable community, this was the place that became Wenonah.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY
by Herbert R. Rambo of the *Times* Staff
July 12, 1967

WENONAH—All that remains of the Wenonah Military Academy is a few yellowed catalogues, portions of a brick wall and memories. But to the men who called WMA their alma mater, it will always exist.

Officially the academy closed its doors for the last time in 1935 at the height of the Great Depression. The main building was razed as a fire hazard in 1937, not because it was unsafe, but simply because it was unoccupied.

At one time the campus included two athletic fields and the educational complex. The huge, main building, five stories in one place, dominated the community of Wenonah.

Originally the Academy had been the Wenonah Inn, a fashionable place for Philadelphia society to retreat in the 1880s and 1890s. In the days of horses and carriages, city people would drive out to savor the pleasures of country life.

But as trains and automobiles made their appearance, the shore resorts began to

siphon off the vacationers. The big inn was closed in 1900.

One Captain Jones—whose first name has been lost to history—got the idea for a military school while riding past the old inn on his way to Philadelphia, where he headed the now-defunct Wanamaker Cadets. The cadets were a drill team sponsored by the department store.

He approached the Stephen Greene family, Philadelphians who owned the inn, who agreed and the academy was opened in 1904. Financial backing was provided by the Greens.

In 1912, Doctor Charles H. Lorence, of Wenonah, assumed the presidency and the academy experience its greatest growth. At its peak, WMA enrolled over 200 young men.

The Depression, the opening of Valley Forge Military Academy and other private schools and other factors contributed to the closing of the once-renowned school. The institution went bankrupt.

David Knight, the last living member of the WMA faculty, lives at the site of the old academy. He taught there from 1920-25 as a mechanical drawing teacher. In 1925 he joined the county public school system as a teacher, but still taught at Wenonah as a relief officer, or substitute.

He purchased part of the academy property at a tax sale a number of years ago. He built a home there where he and his wife, Kathryn, live, often playing hosts to visiting alumni and answering the few letters that WMA still receives.

"Every once in awhile, I get a letter from somebody asking the rates for sending a boy to the school. I answer every letter that comes here," Knight said, "telling them the school is no longer operating."

A few years ago the alumni association was going to start a new military academy. It was their hope to carry on the "Wenonah tradition." Among the graduates are State Sen. Frank S. Farley, of Atlantic County, and former NY Yankee pitcher Herb Pennock (now a Cooperstown NY Baseball Hall of Fame member). But alumni were unable to obtain the rights to the name Wenonah Military Academy and gave up the plan.

The association still meets each year in Atlantic City and every year the aging grads talk about starting a new academy. But Knight feels it is just talk.

"We're getting too old now to start all over again, it just wouldn't work. But we can always hope," he said with a smile.

Getting the money wouldn't be too much trouble. Many of the WMA grads have fared well in their respective professions. They're all willing to put money into it.

Back in the days when WMA was one of the leading schools in the East, it was noted

for its athletic prowess and academic excellence. The school was frequently called "The West Point of New Jersey."

The school offered four courses of instruction: science, English, commercial and Latin scientific. Instead of honor rolls, the academy used four classifications: distinguished, honor, proficient and unclassified.

On the playing fields, WMA was known for its polo and football teams. Once the cadets beat a championship polo squad from West Point.

The only reminder of where the Academy once stood is a rampart-like stone wall that once was reinforced by two brass cannon maintained in their pristine glory by countless number of cadets whose errant ways earned them demerits, each representing two hours of extra duty.

"Gone are the barracks, the gym and drill halls where in pre-World War days the corps entertained as its guests at the mid-year dances with a drill of the "Butts Manual of Arms" done in cadence to some of the best bugling this side of taps."

Perhaps someday there may be a new WMA, but until that time, the alumni must content themselves with the only thing left to commemorate: a plaque imbedded in the old stone wall that once surrounded the academy.

It reads "Lest We Forget—on this site was located the Wenonah Military Academy — 1902-1935. Fond memories, the Alumni Association."

Gloucester County Times
Research by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on
Friday, September 14, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 6, September 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Greetings fellow Wenonah Historical Society members. It has been a long, brutally hot Summer. Hopefully we can look forward to relief with a beautiful Autumn season and our usual WHS camaraderie. It seems as though our annual picnic (June 8, 2012) was just a few weeks ago. We now look forward to the 2012-2013 Wenonah Historical Society season.

Our September "Meet and Greet / Kickoff Classic" is scheduled for Friday, September 14th at 6:00 PM. Sue and Larry Smith have once again generously offered to open their home at 110 S. Clinton Ave. for this annual event. I ask that attendees bring appetizers and desserts based on the first letter of your last name:

- A through M - please bring a dessert.
- N through Z - please bring an appetizer.

Please note that we are reversing the usual order (Larry's idea) to mix things up a bit.

Beverages will be provided.

This event is always an excellent opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who may be a prospective new member of the WHS.

I look forward to meeting again and reuniting after our "Long Hot Summer."



WENONAH MEMORIES ON FACEBOOK

Dave Brangan's idea of a "Facebook Reunion" came to fruition on July 4, 2012. A card table and sign marked the spot, just outside the Firehouse festivities, and folks stopped by to share memories of growing up in Wenonah. Marjorie Lentz's "Wenonah" was in demand and Marjorie spent time reminiscing with the crowd. Cara DeHart Lewis and Gerard McGarrity also returned to their hometown and said that their video of Wenonah is slowly progressing. They reminded us that any old film or video of Wenonah or the parade would be a welcome addition to the production. Please contact Cara at

cardehlew@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

2012 WHS OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Charles Horan |
| Vice President | Paul Lader |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Louis McCall |

Meetings are normally held on the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at the Train Station Community Center. Our September "meet & greet" will be held at 110 S. Clinton Ave.

Frank Eggert's project to memorialize the historic structures of Wenonah was discussed in the January 2011 issue of the Wenonah Historical Society newsletter. Several of the houses have been featured in other newsletter issues. And, many of you have perused through the binders that Frank has compiled of all the structures. Frank has now prepared a listing of the structures, categorized by year, and with the original owner (as shown on the WHS plaque) and current owner. Frank's listing of the circa 18th- and 19th- century Wenonah structures follows. Twentieth-century structures will be included in the next newsletter.

| |
|---|
| THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES OF WENONAH |
|---|

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|--|---|---|
| 1763 100 S. West Ave. | Moffett, Samuel | Comella, Terrance C. |
| 1800 111 N. Lincoln Ave. 406 W. Mantua Ave. | Stone House Tenant Farm Tenant House for Stone House | Howard, John F. & Kathleen C. Henry, Kenneth S. Jr. & Marilyn S. |
| 1850 109 S. Clinton Ave. | Tatum, William R. | Honabach, Mark F. & Wisely, William J. |
| 1854 1473 Glassboro Rd. 509 E. Elm St. | Chew, Nathaniel Newshafer, George | Buongiovanni Jr., Angelo Constantino, Jay & Stacey |
| 1870 201 S. Clinton Ave. 203 S. Clinton Ave. 106 E. Willow St. 8 S. West Ave. | Greene, Stephen Greene, Stephen Greene, Stephen West Jersey & Seashore Railroad | Sporer, David & Katherine Meil, Adam & Chodorow, Piera Cleveland, Janet Dohanish, Susan A. |
| 1871 1 E. Mantua Ave. | Morgan, William | Pelican Rental Properties, LLC |
| 1872 1 S. Clinton Ave. 11 W. Mantua Ave. 11 N. Clinton Ave. 7 W. Mantua Ave. 209 W. Mantua Ave. 12 Lenape Trail 8 N. West Ave. | Bailey, Dr. George W. Brown, Daniel W. Carey, Andrew W. Howard, Ransom Melvil, James H. Pierce, Milton P. West Jersey & Seashore Railroad | Sindoni, James E. Kapus, Curtis W. & Karen L. Doto, Rocco F. & Coleen M. Doto, Rocco F. & Coleen M. Grayson, Dorothy S. Grigri, Bernard & Jeanne Sloan Family Properties, LLC |

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|--|--|---|
| 1873 6 E. Cherry St. 5 N. Clinton Ave. 101 S. Clinton Ave. 11 S. Clinton Ave. | Buzby, Rebecca First Presbyterian Church Hughes, Elia McGill, George L. | Levens, Scott & Kuhn, Victoria Farrell, J. Michael & Sharon Bretherick, Donald P. & Nancy L. Thompson, Richard & Judith J. |
| 1874 13 W. Mantua Ave. 3 E. Poplar St. 4 E. Willow St. 105 S. Clinton Ave. | Brown, Daniel W. Brown, Daniel W. Melvil, James Scott, Isaac | Burke, Edward & Patricia Wiltsee, Harry G. & Carol N. Corbett, John & Jennifer Dominy, John R. & Deborah C. |
| 1875 8 E. Cherry St. 7 E. Poplar St. 7 E. Mantua Ave. | Carey, James W. Gilmour, Henry Shull, Frank J. | Lader, Paul & Scheurenbrand, Sandra Christinzio, Angelo P. & Laurie A. Lamborne, David & Donna |
| 1876 100 S. Marion Ave. 12 N. Clinton Ave. 100 W. Mantua Ave. | Stevenson, Isaac C. Thackara, Daniel Viereck, John A. | Lerner, John W. & Beth Baer, John M. & Sylvia Knisell, Ralph M. & Emily Rachel B. |
| 1877 11 N. East Ave. | Leigh, Mary | Vandine, John E. & Renee A. |
| 1878 6 N. Marion Ave. | Trustees of School District 54 | Gentile, Joseph C. Jr. & Garris, KimberleeAnn |
| 1879 201 S. Monroe Ave. | Brown, Daniel W. | Ruszin, John F. |
| 1880 101 E. Poplar St. 201 E. Willow St. 105 N. East Ave. | Arnesbroug, E.A. Harris, George S. Mulford, Horatio J. | Lefakis, John & Stephanie Lanzalotti, Christopher & Marie Gilfoy, Michael |
| 1882 12 N. West Ave. 14 N. West Ave. 100 E Cedar St. 203 W. Mantua Ave. | Brown, D.W. Brown, D.W. Fay, Roland Purdy, James C. | Campbell, Gregory S. & Katherine Campbell, Gregory S. & Katherine Galczinski, Joseph Lepley, Shawn & Keebler, Lynda |

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|--|---|---|
| 1883 8 W. Mantua Ave. 108 E. Elm St. | First Presbyterian Church Mulford, Horatio J. | Christensen, Emmie Rose Andrews, Robert W. |
| 1884 200 E. Mantua Ave. 107 E. Willow St. 7 N. East Ave. 2 E. Cherry St. 205 E. Buttonwood St. 201 E. Mantua Ave. | Farr, Hannah Greene, Stephen Holloway, William Middleton, Samuel Synnott, Thomas W. Synnott, Thomas W. | 200 E. Mantua Ave. LLC, Nester DDS Rizzuto, John C. & Linda T. Heimer, Daniel I. & Karen Cook, James & Linda Murphy, John & Laura DeAscentis, William O. & Rosean M. |
| 1885 202 E. Willow St. 105 S. Marion Ave. 107 S. Marion Ave. 106 W. Mantua Ave. 200 S. Monroe Ave. | Greene, Stephen Marrick, Woodward Marrick, Woodward Randolph, Thomas Scott, Job | Barbone, Frank & June Magin, Franklin Jr. & Claire D. Romeo, George C. & Vitto, Cindy L. Guest, Michael H. Pozza, Alexander & Susan |
| 1886 200 E. Willow St. 104 E. Mantua Ave. | Greene, Stephen Smith, Tacy Duell | Hummel, Kenneth R. & Ellen K. Eiden, Francis D. & Virginia T. |
| 1887 12 W. Willow St. | Brown, Daniel W. | Zagone, John M. & Jacquelyn R. |
| 1888 4 E. Cherry St. 107 E. Mantua Ave. 101 W. Mantua Ave. 206 E. Willow St. | Buzby, George Dawson, William J. Johnson, J. Wilkens, Charles | Pellegrino, Michael & Theresa Wenonah Medical Associates Capelli, Barbara A. Mitchell, Richard & Marna Plourde |
| 1889 201 S. Princeton Ave. | Cookson, Rachel | Lock, John P. & Melissa R. |

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|--|--|---|
| 1890 6 W. Mantua Ave. 7 W. Park Ave. 4 W. Park Ave. 12 S. Monroe Ave. 11 S. Lincoln Ave. 12 S. Princeton Ave. 207 E. Willow St. | Bailey, Dr. George W. Bailey, Dr. George W. Bailey, Dr. George W. Bee, Anna H. Greening, Sara Jane Langston, Jessica Stokes, Merdia | DiBona, David M. Watson, Jana D. & Joan C. Dominy, John F. & Jo A. Bender, Wayne A. Messaros, Steven E. & Sherron E. Tzitzifas, Konstantinos & Effie Ramsay, David & Linda |
| 1891 103 N. Lincoln Ave. | Beucler, R. | Helmbrecht, William D. & Linda S. |
| 1892 12 N. Marion Ave. 10 N. Marion Ave. | Carey, Andrew W. Kipper, Fredericka | Zimmer, Joseph F. Cimino, Mark & Laurie F. |
| 1893 205 E. Willow St. 102 W. Mantua Ave. 14 S. Monroe Ave. 8 N. Monroe Ave. 105 E. Mantua Ave. 204 W. Mantua Ave. 1 E. Poplar St. Mantua Ave. & N. East Ave. | English, Jessie Leap, Henry M. Savage, Catherine Scott, Job Smith, Blair Smith, Blair Trask, Harry M. West Jersey & Seashore Railroad | Farina, Ronald J. & Deborah R. Seville, Joan B. Sparks, Steven W. & Florentina H. Snock, Ronald E. & Linda L. Dugan, Janice S. DiLisciandro, Pietro & Kimberly Kelly, Ian E. & Christa R. Borough of Wenonah |
| 1896 300 E. Mantua Ave. 202 W. Mantua Ave. 6 N. Clinton Ave. | Farr, Edward L. Smith, Blair Stout-Vogt | McCall, Louis C.J. & Vicki Braun Innes, Neil & Catherine Malfitano, Vincent C. & Jennifer |
| 1897 401 E. Cherry St. 8 N. Clinton Ave. | Farr, Edward L. Sooy, Samuel T. | Murtha, Thomas M. & Kristina G. Lewis, Gregory & Melisa |
| 1898 203 E. Willow St. | VanMeter, Wiliam | Streck, Leonard E. & Maureen H. |
| 1899 300 W. Mantua Ave. 107 S. Clinton Ave. | Colbert, Clarence Holeton, John | Finch, Edmund Birkland, Scott G. & Brenda A. |

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on
Friday, October 12, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 7, October 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Charles Horan

Dear Members,

I hope that all those who attended the September 2012 Meet and Greet had an enjoyable evening. It certainly seemed like that was the case. Again, many thanks to our hosts, Sue and Larry Smith. Now we move into our "regular" meetings that feature programs of a historical nature. As always, I am open to any ideas or suggestions for future program topics.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Barbara Solem-Stull, author of *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens*. Barbara will speak about the towns that rose up around the iron furnaces, glass factories, paper mills, cranberry farms and brick making establishments of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Her book provides directions and walking tours of many of the Pine Barrens historic sites and ruins. Copies of her book will be available for sale and signing. Barbara was once a resident of Wenonah.

I have recently read this book and it is a fascinating history as well as a practical modern guide for those intrepid souls who wish to drive to the "Pines" and visit some of the sights detailed in Barbara's most interesting book.

Hope to see you Friday evening, October 12th at 7:30 at the Train Station Community Center. Bring a guest or two along.

SUGGESTION BOX

Please send me an email (smithlr@att.net) or a letter (110 S Clinton Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090), or give me a call (856-468-3480) should you have any thoughts on future programs for our meetings or ideas for feature stories or enhancements to the newsletter. President Horan and I would greatly appreciate your suggestions.

A Little More about our Guest Speaker -- Barbara Solem-Stull

Barbara Solem-Stull has an undergraduate degree in psychology from The College of New Jersey (formerly known as Trenton State

College). She has completed graduate work in education administration and has been a special education teacher, a trainer, a principal, and an administrator. Barbara retired from the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, Office of Education, in 2002, having worked as an education administrator for 15 years. Barbara is the author of *The Forks: A Brief History of the Area* (2002) and *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens* (2005),

both published by Plexus Publishing Inc. of Medford, New Jersey. Barbara may be contacted at BarbSolem@aol.com.

2012 WHS OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Charles Horan |
| Vice President | Paul Lader |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Louis McCall |

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

The circa 18th- and 19th-century structures as compiled by Frank Eggert in his project to memorialize the historic structures of Wenonah were included in the September newsletter. Twentieth-century structures are listed below.

| |
|---|
| THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES OF WENONAH |
|---|

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1901 | | |
| 104 S. West Ave. | Smith, Blair | Pallies, Jeffrey A. |
| 1902 | | |
| 200 W. Mantua Ave. | Cattell, Wiliam | Johnson, Wayne R. & George H. |
| 8 S. Princeton Ave. | Eberly, Harlin | Taitano, Jason T. & Stephanie |
| 1903 | | |
| 110 S. Clinton Ave. | Jordan, Samuel M. | Smith, Larry R. & Susan S. |
| 6 S. Princeton Ave. | Memorial Presbyterian Church | Memorial Presbyterian Church |
| 201 W. Mantua Ave. | Stephenson, Aaron | Koenig, Ryan D. & Lara Z. |
| 1904 | | |
| 205 S. Princeton Ave. | Baylies, James | McCormick, James H. & Rosalie P. |
| 5 E. Poplar St. | Cline, C. Fowler | Stranahan, Michael J. & Tracy M. |
| 109 W. Mantua Ave. | Hendrickson, Howard | Papanier, Stephan |
| 109 N. East Ave. | Shiesser, John | Eimer, Edward C. |
| 1905 | | |
| 8 N. Marion Ave. | Javins, William | Clementi, Francis V. & Traum, Mary C. |
| 1906 | | |
| 311 S. Princeton Ave. | Caparn, William S. | Viviani, Christopher & Angela |
| 500 E. Mantua Ave. | Corney, Robert H. & Theresa P. | Salomone, Diana J. |
| 103 E. Mantua Ave. | Heritage, G. Ward | Donnelly, Arthur & Sarah A. |
| 101 S. Marion Ave. | McKeighan, Robert | Redrow, Lawrence A. & Michele E. |
| 1907 | | |
| 8 S. Monroe Ave. | Viereck, John A. | Garcia, Arthur N. |
| 1908 | | |
| 207 W. Mantua Ave. | Davis, A.A. | Snyder-Stocklin, Sharon |
| 108 N. Monroe Ave. | Frederick, George | Coates, David J. & Raquel |
| 9 W. Buttonwood St. | Grosscup, Edward G. | Breslin, William C. & Judith |
| 100 N. West Ave. | Hobson, Charles | Astorga, Doreteo J. & Barbara H. |
| 101 N. Jefferson Ave. | Holloway, E.O. | Roth, Margaret |

| Address | Original Owner | Current Owner |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1909 | | |
| 204 N. West Ave. | Grosscup, George | Muller, William P. & Laura E. |
| 107 W. Mantua Ave. | Vogt, John H. | Raccabaldo, Philip S. & Diane L. |
| 1910 | | |
| 104 N. West Ave. | Burt, Alexander | Jennings, Sean & Kristi |
| 110 N. West Ave. | Davis, James | Sheridan III, Edward F. & Helen M. |
| 5 S. Jefferson Ave. | Davis, Alvin A. | Headman IV, Thomas V. |
| 1 W. Mantua Ave. | Grosscup, Edward G. | Sloan Family Properties, LLC |
| 200 S. Jefferson Ave. | Papania, Guiseppe | Debreseni, Bela F. & Robin P. |
| 104 N. Jefferson Ave. | Savidge, Joseph P. | Fox, Virginia M. |
| 10 N. Marion Ave. | Shuster, James | Mazzone, Dominick N. & Constance J. |
| 302 W. Cherry St. | Tuff, Harry V. | Carter, Peggy D. |
| 1911 | | |
| 100 N. Jefferson Ave. | Borg, Helen F. | Vogelsong, Eric & Dawn M. |
| 102 N. Jefferson Ave. | Greene, Stephen | Hernandez, Daniel E. |
| 105 N. Jefferson Ave. | Grosscup, George | Davis, Donald D. & Marion |
| 1912 | | |
| 6 W. Willow St. | Bown, Daniel W. | Godsey, Nicholas C. |
| 210 S. Jefferson Ave. | Cann, Lidie V. | Becker, Eugene J. & Dutton, Kathleen |
| 106 N. Jefferson Ave. | Cassel, John G. | Conway, Barbara Anne |
| 203 W. Willow St | Viereck, John A. | Mix, Michael & Deborah |
| 1913 | | |
| 106 N. Monroe Ave. | Bergen, George | Miserendino, Stephen J. & Renee |
| 12 S. Jefferson Ave. | Greene, Stephen | Martin, John P. & Daly, Jaclyn T. |
| 5 W. Elm St. | Kimble, Bailey W. | Jenkins Jr., Robert T. |
| 101 E. Elm St. | Mulvey, Paris | Smith, Kevin T. & Bumb, Renee M. |
| 107 N. Jefferson Ave. | Ogden, J. Foster | Parkinson, Paul D. & Lara J. |
| 204 W. Willow St. | Viereck, John A. | Lentz, Marjorie K. |
| 1914 | | |
| 13 S. Monroe Ave. | Greene, William H. | Cop Jr., Gary & Alyssa |
| 1916 | | |
| 206 N. West Ave. | Leap, B.H. | Sabetta, Thomas J. |
| 107 N. Monroe Ave. | Reinard, Frank | Ceravolo, William S. & Sharon M. |
| 1921 | | |
| 8 N. Jefferson Ave. | Nelson, Peter O. | Angelucci, Joseph & Holder Jeffrey |

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7.30 P.M. on
Friday, November 9, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 8, November 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

It seems as though our Borough has endured Hurricane Sandy and emerged relatively unscathed save for a few fallen trees and a relatively short power outage. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this coming Friday for our November 9th meeting. Let our hearts and prayers go out to those who were impacted much more severely by the hurricane than we were here in Wenonah and Gloucester County.

Our November program will feature Dr. Kenneth J. Lacovara who is an Associate Professor at Drexel University in the Department of Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science. Dr. Lacovara holds a PhD in Geology from the University of Delaware and is an elected fellow of the prestigious Explorers Club.

He has traveled the world in pursuit of dinosaur fossils, appeared on several national news outlets, authored books on related topics, and guided viewers through a tour of the earth's history on a two-hour documentary on the Discovery Channel.

Dr. Lacovara has been excavating at the Inversand site located behind the Lowes store on Woodbury-Glassboro Road in Mantua. There will be a pre-lecture site visit available on Friday from 2-4 PM. (Access is

via a left turn into the driveway past the Lowes entrance). Our regular evening program will feature a summary of the progress and discoveries that Dr. Lacovara and his paleontology students have made at the site "in our backyard." I hope to see a good turn out for what promises to be a very interesting presentation as evidenced from the following headlines from our local papers:

Mantua Township's Inversand site may be of national

importance to paleontologists

Gloucester County Times, June 28, 2012

Fossils from the Cretaceous Period unearthed at Inversand in Mantua, June 26, 2012

Gloucester County Times, June 27, 2012

Heavy lifting in N.J.: A 65 million-year-old sea turtle

Philadelphia Inquirer, June 9, 2011

2011 WHS OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Charles Horan |
| Vice President | Paul Lader |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Louis McCall |

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

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be on Friday, December 14th. The cost is \$20 per person. Please bring your check (payable to Wenonah Historical Society) to our meeting on Friday or mail it to Jean Cowles at 304 N Stockton Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090. This is always a great affair so please make plans to kick off the holiday season close to home.

JOSEPH NOBLIT'S HALL, 6 NORTH MARION AVENUE
by Milton Webb (research by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.)

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 Hotel 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 twenty five hundred dollars. George Bailey 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 \$2,500 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 \$2,245.95. 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 \$31; and May Clark to assist Tracy Waddington at a salary of \$1 a day.

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 Grange 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 and continued for over one hundred years.

In June of 1894, the Trustees of the school district sold the building at auction to Joseph Noblit for \$1,500. He was a well-known citizen of the community and farmer by trade. He also was the Deptford Township clerk. Wenonah was still a part of Deptford 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, a 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 of varied social affairs. The Mantua Grange continued to use the hall as well as several political organizations. In 1989, the Wenonah Field Club, which was the forerunner of our modern Wenonah Athletic Association, was formed and the club used the building for a number of years.

In 1913, the YMCA 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 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 where he died in 1915. The YMCA 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 there was 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 Arthur J. Holeton Post 192, American Legion purchased the Hall from the YMCA. Previous to this, the Legion was 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 built an indoor pistol range in the basement. On 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.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 5:00 P.M. on
Friday, December 14, 2012

Volume 10, Issue 9, December 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Dear Members,

Happy Holidays everyone! Our Holiday Dinner is this Friday, December 14th at 5 PM. It will be catered by the Telford Inn as usual and promises to be an enjoyable and festive occasion. To those who are unable to attend, I look forward to seeing you on Friday January 11th at 7:30 P.M. at our first regular meeting of 2013. Our presenter will be an interesting local author from Pitman who has co-authored a book about "New Jersey Firsts" (details to follow). Please save the date.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season and I wish you good health and prosperity in the new year.

WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO – 1912
Woodbury Daily Times (research by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.)

Section 1

A report received from Mr. Joseph Truncer, chief of the Wenonah Fire Company, showed that in the last year the company had been called to four different fires: boat house of R.H. Comey stables of the Telford Inn, stables

of Mr. Kircher, Mantua, and stables of H.B. Coles. The chief also reported that the apparatus was in first-class condition and ready for instant use. *January 7 1912*

8-inch ice is being harvested here, the best for years. *January 16 1912*

John F. Madera of Clayton, who purchased R.J. Clark's grocery store, will take charge

March 1. Mr. Clark has been in business here for the past 17 years and during that time has had nine different competitors in that line. Mr. Clark will leave the business with the good wishes of all, as yet he has not determined what business he will engage in. *January 17 1912*

On Friday afternoon, Frank Peddle broke through the ice on Synnott's pond where the water was over his head and was rescued by Hugh Mehorter and Richard

Stockton. *January 29 1912*

The school here was closed last Thursday on account of scarlet fever and was opened yesterday morning, but the trustees decided not to reopen the school and the scholars were sent home for the week. *January 30 1912*

Mr. Edward Pyle, chairman of the fire and lighting committee, addressed council stating that the committee had heard nothing but

| 2011 WHS OFFICERS | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| President | Charles Horan |
| Vice President | Paul Lader |
| Secretary | Vicki McCall |
| Treasurer | Carol Wiltsee |
| Trustee | Betty MacLeod |
| Trustee | Louis McCall |

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

good concerning the sample lights placed in the park and moved that council enter into a contract with the Welsbach Company for 57 street lights at \$30.00 each per year for a term of five years. *February 2 1912*

Scoutmaster Benjamin Cloud took ten of our boy scouts to Philadelphia last evening to meet General Baden-Powell. *February 14 1912*

No doubt all of our citizens are more or less interested in the building of the proposed tunnel under the Delaware River and it is certainly the duty of every citizen residing in South Jersey to give to this movement his or her hearty support. We may not all be financiers but the moral and physical support that each and every one of us can give to those who can finance such an undertaking is a powerful adjunct to further this much needed improvement. *February 16 1912*

John Williams who lives near the pumping station has had as high as 35 chickens a day killed by electric trains. *February 22 1912*

Daniel W. Brown of Wenonah died at Palm Springs, Florida this morning. Mr. Brown went to Palm Springs last year for his health. He was about 68 years old. Mr. Brown leaves a widow, son George, and four daughters, Nellie, Melvina, Bertha and Olive. Mr. Brown was a well known contractor and builder. He was president of the Wenonah Fire Company. *February 26 1912*

Earle Wentzell, son of A. W. Wentzell who has been seriously ill for several days and who was at the point of death for 6 days, is getting along very nicely and has been down stairs. *February 29 1912*

There is a scarcity of milk occasioned by Mr. Berg discontinuing his route. For some years past Mr. Berg has rented R.H. Comey's stock farm and carried on the dairy business. Mr. Comey has been interested in maintaining a high class herd with fancy Jersey stock and high grades. Mr. Berg's lease expired February 29th and as many

of his customers have been unable to arrange for a supply of milk. Mr. Comey intends to supply Mr. Berg's old customers as far as possible for a few days until his cow sale without regard to cost. Mr. Comey has always kept his herd free from tuberculosis by annual inspector's tests and he declares that the present herd is entirely free from it. *March 2 1912*

The borough council reports the taking out of a building permit for Mr. J.A. Viereck for a dwelling on the lot adjoining the N.W. corner of Jefferson Avenue and Willow Street. *March 8 1912*

The fire company has kindly given permission to the Poultry Association the use of the fire house for their future meetings which is greatly appreciated by the association. *March 20 1912*

A sad drowning. On Saturday afternoon Robert Rebar aged 3 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rebar, was accidentally drowned in the first culvert just below the academy field. The little fellow had wandered away from home with his sister and another little playmate. They took a long walk and finally wound up just where the bridge built by Battery B crosses the stream. While his companions amused themselves by throwing chips in the water little Robert lay on the bridge watching the make believe boats flout in the water. In endeavoring to note their progress, he leaned too far forward, lost his balance and fell in the stream. He came up two or three times but his companions were too little to render him any aid. Frightened beyond means they hastened home meeting several people on the way but too scared to say anything. The mother of the little fellow saw them coming and questioned where Robert was. She finally got from them that Robert had fallen in the water. When help was finally secured in the person of Mr. Wm. Cattell, he secured other volunteers and hurried to the spot where the lad had gone under. With the help of a ten foot boat hook, the little body was brought to the surface by Mr. Charles Fisher. The father of the boy carried him in his arms to the office of Dr. Harry Stout but life was extinct. His parents could not give up hope and for hours everything they knew was tried to bring the boy back. Robert was

a beautiful bright boy and loved by everyone who knew him. His parents have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

A 40 hp Apperson touring car in splendid condition, just overhauled was repainted last spring. A great change to purchase a really good car at a reasonable price For further details apply to F.W. Benson, Wenonah, New Jersey. *March 26 1912*

Thomas J. Mulvey PhD will deliver the first of his series of lectures at the academy gymnasium Saturday March 30 at 8 P.M. His subject will be "Paris the beautiful" admission free. *March 28 1912*

Section 2

Chairman Ogden of the street and sidewalk committee recommended that council purchase gravel for resurfacing of Mantua Avenue from Clinton to Princeton Avenues. *April 12 1912*

The mayor, clerk and collector signed Wenonah's first municipal bond last evening \$35,000. This was a water bond. *April 13 1912*

A sample of the Wenonah artesian well water can be seen in the Times window. It was drawn from a faucet in the kitchen of postmaster English's house and has not been filtered. Wenonah has six wells about 128 feet deep and the machinery is as good today as it was 17 years ago. All the wells have a splendid flow. Wenonah water has brought many people to that place as residents. *April 20 1912*

The minstrel show by the Wenonah Athletic Club Saturday night was a grand success. The boys looked great in their make-up and everything was done with vigor and vim. *April 30 1912*

There is someone rumoring among my customers that I am going out of the milk business in about two months. This rumor is untrue and I will continue to serve my customers as heretofore with the best grade of milk and hope for a continuance of business and your favors. C.P. Lyons.

Mr. Pyle moved that council instruct the clerk to write Welsbach Co. requesting that they give

their lamp posts another coat of aluminum paint. *May 5 1912*

J. Williams has a gobbler that weighs 38 lbs and expects it to weigh 50 by Thanksgiving. *May 7 1912*

Captain Abraham B. Miller died Monday May 13 at his home in Wenonah. Captain Miller was born at Cooper's Point Camden in 1822. Left at the age of 14 to care for his widowed mother he worked on the ship "Marlette Tiltan" for four years and was put in as captain at the age of 18. He followed the water for 15 years. During the civil war he was taken from his ship by President Lincoln and placed on the Minnesota as fleet pilot at the time of the sinking of the Merrimac. After the war he went into the service of the Philadelphia and Reading Company where he remained for 20 years. *May 15 1912*

Colonel Roosevelt will be here tomorrow evening about 6 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the park if the weather is fair. Should it be stormy it will be held in the drill hall of the academy. Let everybody turn out and greet the colonel. *May 24 1912*

For good three ply rubber garden hose (not 3-ply canvas hose) inquire of John A. Viereck before going elsewhere. *June 7 1912*

David Thomas contractor is now building the concrete curbs and gutters around the park. *June 7 1912*

Borough council: The borough clerk reported the issuance of a building permit to the Chase Lumber Company for the erection of office buildings sheds etc.

Mr. Charles requested permission to place 10 or 12 benches in the park for the convenience of the public at no expense to the borough by voluntary contribution.

Resolved that bathing or swimming in the lower lake or pond situated on the property of the borough water works also the throwing of stones sticks brush paper or other rubbish in said pond or lake is hereby prohibited by law.

That bathing or swimming in the upper lake known as Warner's pond situated on the property of the borough water works in the nude state is prohibited under the penalty of law Those desiring to avail themselves of the bathing privilege must be provided with suitable clothing and avoid indecent or unseemly exposure of person.

Elwood Price, the borough engineer at the water works was sworn in as a special officer.

Moved that the clerk be instructed to communicate with the fish and game commission of the state with reference to having Warner's Lake stocked with fish. *June 8 1912*

Council has given consent for benches to be placed in the park and the Improvement Association with the aid of the citizens are undertaking to supply them standard five foot park benches with iron frames and oak slats seats and backs with the promise they will be in place before the 4th of July. Some of our people oppose this move on the grounds they will be abused, that they will harbor "loafers," that the grass will suffer, that the boys will move them about and break them up. They say that all these things have happened before and they expect them to happen again. *June 21 1912*

Chase Lumber Company Lumber and Millwork of every description and hardware. Mantua Avenue at the bridge *July 1 1912*

The 4th of July Committee on the parade route requests those living along the line of march to water the streets as well as may be so as to lay the dust. The men who are going to do the marching will appreciate it not to speak of the auto owners and the children who will ride in the machines. *July 4 1912*

Borough Council: The borough Clerk reported issuing a pool license as per instructions of borough council to Albert Fisher for the operation of two pool tables at the barber shop.

Council authorized the borough engineer to run grades on North Clinton Avenue Elm to Maple Street so that proper calculations could be made

for the extension of water mains into this section. *July 8, 1912*

There was never a much prettier sight than that presented at the lawn fete on the grounds of Mrs. Ira Burdsall Tuesday evening. The occasion was an ice cream sale for the benefit of the building fund of the Episcopal Church. Chinese lanterns were hung from one end of the lawn to the other and little tables with white covers and bouquets dotted the greens. A fine Graphophone loaned by Mr. Edward Knight did its part in attracting and entertaining the people. *July 25 1912*

The Boy Scouts of Wenonah and Woodbury Heights under Mr. Gage and Mr. Davenport visited League Island yesterday taking in all the points of interest on the Battleship Idaho. *July 28 1912*

Harold Urian, a boy scout saved a colored boy from drowning in Warner's pond. The boy in attempting to swim across the pond had become exhausted and had gone down twice when Harold reached his side and took him safely to shore. *July 31 1912*

If you want to see the beauty and elite of Wenonah come out tonight to the ice cream sale for the benefit of the Wenonah Athletic Association. There will be good music all evening. *August 2 1912*

Section 3

Mr. Pyle moved that fire and lighting committee be authorized to lay about 90 feet of 3 inch pipe to reach the property now being constructed on Princeton Avenue by Mr. Charles Keeler. *August 3 1912*

Miss Myrtle Blackwood will not return to her position as principal of the Wenonah Public School but will be head of the Latin department of Kent's Hill Seminary in Maine the coming year. *August 7 1912*

Tom Murray is thinking of purchasing a White Steamer to chase burglars with. *August 9 1912*

Miss Alice Farr gave an automobile party to a number of her friends Friday afternoon. They had

a delightful ride to Salem and after partaking of supper returned in the early evening. *August 12 1912*

Mr. R. H. Comey is having alterations made to the store property adjoining the post office which he bought of Mrs. Lashly and a cement sidewalk laid. *August 25 1912*

An academy horse attached to a wagon ran away throwing the wagon into the middle of the creek.

C. Fowler Cline will give us a good business administration if elected mayor; a voter *September 25 1912*

Young Arthur Holeyton is on his way to California where he will attend the 7th day Adventist school at Loma Linda. His purpose is to prepare himself for medical missionary work in some foreign country. The chestnuts are falling fast. *September 30 1912*

The moving of the realty office is rapidly forging ahead. *October 16 1912*

Mr. Charles Keeler's house which is made of fire proof brick is rapidly nearing completion. *October 17 1912*

Mrs. Lloyd's grocery store is now opened and everything is of the very best.

The digging of the cellar of the former realty office site is nearing completion.

"Battleship" Toomey is open to meet anyone for the pool championship of the town. *October 27 1912*

Someone tried to burn an opossum out of a tree in Warner's wood and as a consequence the woods were set afire. *November 8 1912*

Vague reports are floating around concerning a bank which will be built.

The newly opened drug store on Mantua Avenue next to the Post Office owned by Mr. Cozens has a complete and thorough equipment. *November 10 1912*

Mr. Pyle and the borough council gave a dinner last night at Mr. Pyles bungalow in honor of Mr. Charles Lorence, the retiring mayor. There were

fifteen guests present including C. Fowler Cline, the mayor elect. *December 6 1912*

The family store, Wenonah where quality counts and prices are right a full line of shoes and rubbers always in stock. All kinds of repairing done at short notice Charles Broes Wenonah. *December 16 1912*

It is reported there are 20 cases of chicken pox in town.

One of the prettiest sights in Wenonah is George Baylies' greenhouses. *November 1 1912*

After the publication in this paper of Mayor Lorence's declination to accept the nomination for mayor, Mr. Charles Fowler Cline was selected by a number of taxpayers who are acquainted with Mr. Cline's ability as a businessman fully qualified to fill any public office in this state. Mr. Cline after due consideration signed his nomination papers which were signed by twenty-five legal voters mostly heavy taxpayers of our borough. *November 4 1912*

The following is the way the election in Wenonah turned out President Taft and Sherman 36 Roosevelt and Johnson 101 Chafin and Watkins 3 Debs and Seidel 1 Wilson and Marshall 57. *November 6 1912*

Died suddenly in Rome, Italy November 4th Mrs. Hannah B. Farr of Philadelphia widow of Lincoln D. Farr aged 71 years. Services at the home of her son Edward L. Farr Wenonah, New Jersey Thursday evening November 7th at 8:15. Conveyances will meet train leaving Market Street Ferry Philadelphia at 6:30. *November 6, 1912*

The Wenonah Public Library will be closed tonight in respect to the memory of Mrs. Hannah Farr. *November 7 1912*