

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4 April 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

Spring is in the air and flowers and trees are blooming all around town. Ideas are also blooming about the creation of the Wenonah Museum. We are still waiting for the Court and Court Clerks office to move to the new building so that we can begin some of the physical changes. Hopefully the move, planned for April will be on schedule. We have been provided with some preliminary Museum designs but are still in the fact gathering stages. We will have to work hard in order to have the grand opening of the Museum for July 4th.

Many volunteers are needed and as I like to say we can find a job for anyone. Not all of it is physical and much cataloging and identification of artifacts and photographs are needed. I have had requests by at least five different people for either copies of photographs or News articles and House plaque information that I no longer can accommodate until the complete transition of The Wenonah Historical Societies collection is reorganized.

I am lucky to have a great group of Trustees that I can rely on but welcome any help that you offer. Please call me at 415-1215 if you are available or sign up at our next regular meeting.

Talking about our next meeting, it should be quite exciting. Frank

Eggert is bringing together a group of individuals for a "round table" program of live Historical accounts of early Wenonah experiences. I am sure that we will all share some laughs and tears and be reminded of the "simpler" days. It's a program not to be missed and please bring along one of your neighbors!

I look forward to seeing you all on April 9th.

WHS OFFICERS 2004

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

APRIL PROGRAM

The format for the April 9th meeting will be unusual and hopefully very informative and entertaining.

Member Frank Eggert, a life-long resident of Wenonah has proposed a "round-table" format comprised of other residents of our region with memories of an earlier time in our town.

The idea will be for those who have volunteered to be part of the group arrangement to recall as many

memories as they can about growing up in or near Wenonah.

There will be a record kept of the proceedings using both visual and voice recording equipment so the recollections will become part of the Society's permanent record.

All members and attendees are invited, in fact encouraged to join in with any memorabilia they may recall or bring with them.

This kind of meeting, should it prove successful, could bear repeating. It is the kind of activity our Mission Statement envisioned.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

It was a nice little village, bearing an Indian name "Wenonah"; a quiet safe country town, ideal for bringing up children.

I was born in Philadelphia in 1885, but my first recollection of being alive would be 1890 in Wenonah where both my sisters were born. There was a ravine called "The Glen" in that part of the town then known as Frogtown. The glen was a shady, cool place, containing a spring with good, pure clear water. The outflow from the spring had been dammed up to form a very small pond in which I remember seeing catfish, probably placed there by some neighborhood men for future use in a frying pan. Many a drink we boys enjoyed from that spring, returning home from swimming in the railroad culvert, the outlet from upper lakes....If you want to hear more of the story come to the meeting on April 9th.

Dr. George W. Bailey

1841 - 1916

George W. Bailey was born near Clarksboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey, December 5, 1840, and eventually lived in both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Wenonah, New Jersey. He was born on his father's farm and for his early education was sent to the public schools of Gloucester County and to the State Normal School.

He served loyally and faithfully on the side of the North in the civil war as a sergeant in in the Twenty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers with distinguished service at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. He also served in the hospital service in the Spanish American War.

After the civil war he entered the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1868, and then engaged in the general practice of his profession in Philadelphia. In 1872 his health began to fail under the strenuous labor in which he was engaged, and he was compelled to abandon his practice.

It was about this time that he bought land in Wenonah and built his home on the southeast corner of Mantua Avenue and South Clinton.

Very much interested in religion he was elected Superintendent of Wenonah Presbyterian Sunday School in 1871, shortly after the church first located in Wenonah.

He then for a time engaged in the real estate business in Camden, New Jersey, and after this in the wholesale coal business in Philadelphia. Finally he entered into the business of mining and shipping coal, and was for many years an influential member of the boards of directors of a number of business corporations. He was one of the prominent organizers of the Camden National Bank;

He eventually withdrew from his connection with all financial organizations with the exception of the Bridgeton National Bank and the Glassboro National Bank. Among the other important organizations with which Dr. Bailey was prominently connected should be mentioned Whitney Glass Works Company.

In 1906 he finally withdrew from active business.

Since early manhood Dr. Bailey was greatly interested in the organization and advancement of Sunday school work and he was a prominent and active member of some of the most important associations and organizations with that object in the country.

He was for many years the president of the New Jersey State Sunday School Association, and chairman emeritus of the executive committee of that association.

For many years also he was the treasurer of the International Sunday School Association, and chairman of the executive committee of the World's Sunday School Association.

In religion he was a Presbyterian and he was for many years a member of the board of trustees of the general assembly of that denomination as well as the vice-president of the general assembly's board of education. He was also a member of several special committees of that body and a member of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Hospital. He was vice-chairman of the West Jersey Orphanage for Destitute Colored Children. In politics Dr. Bailey was a Republican,

Dr. Bailey married Annie McGill on June 2, 1891 at Wenonah, New Jersey. Annie was the daughter of, George L. McGill, a Philadelphia molasses merchant. They had two children, both of whom were born in Wenonah.

While in Wenonah Dr. Bailey was a very important person with involvement in community affairs as well as the church.

He was instrumental in the acquisition of the Commission form of government convincing the state legislature to introduce and adopt that legislation.

Dr. Bailey was as President of the Wenonah Commission and served in that capacity through 1885 and as a member of the body until 1893.

He was one of the owners of the private water company that served Wenonah. Wenonah eventually bought the water system in 1912 after a 106 to 48 vote by Wenonah citizens. The election was held at Joseph Noblitt's Hall on N. Marion Ave.

In a eulogy following the death of Dr. Bailey it was said Dr. Bailey was a true soldier. "He distinguished himself in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, but he will be best known as a "soldier of the Cross". He was a champion of evangelism, a promoter of world movements, a business man and a Christian gentleman."

Dr. George W. Bailey was one of the main forces in the creation of Wenonah and for its widespread reputation as a Christian community.



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Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOUR HOME
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGEABLE HISTORIANS
- HISTORICAL FIELD TRIPS

NAME: _____

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PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

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BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

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