

# Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 2 February 2006

MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

The regular meeting of the Wenonah Historical Society will be held Friday February 10, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Wenonah Community Center.

Our meetings this past year of 2005 have been well attended. The meetings gave us an opportunity to learn more about the history of our town and the progress we have made in increasing our knowledge through the collection of many artifacts, photos and documents.

I am pleased to report on the health of a few of our members who were incapacitated. Marge Lentz is now recovering nicely at her home after her hip operation. Jennie McQuaide is no longer "house bound". We look forward to both again attending our meetings.

At our January executive meeting it was agreed to again sponsor an "Open House" on the Fourth of July. We will show more artifacts and items from our past rather than just those related to the Wenonah Military Academy.

We will solicit other organizations in town, such as churches, Lions Club, Fire Company and the Wenonah Public School to display any artifacts they may have and even individual citizens who may have such artifacts in their homes.

We still have some fund raising objects remaining to be sold and we will order more of these items such as banners, hats, postcards and booklets of the history of Wenonah. They are an excellent means of raising funds for WHS operations.

The speaker at our February meeting will be Anne Zuber who is currently the part-time librarian in the Wenonah Elementary School and is also director of the Wenonah Free Public Library.

She began the process of automating the library collection through the World-wide Web it is connected to the website of our school.

Victor Anderson, the speaker at our January meeting gave an interesting program on his experiences of selling contents of estates in Wenonah.

A request was made for our programs, to have other organizations in town appear and advise of their history in the formulating of our town.

### WHS OFFICERS 2006

<b>President</b>	<b>Don Ralston</b>
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Jack Sheppard Sr.</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jo Dominy</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carol Wiltsee</b>
<b>Corr. Sec.</b>	<b>Betty MacLeod</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Vicki McCall</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Lucy Schulz</b>

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

A banner has been ordered to be part of the display at the ball field on South East Ave. It will say "Preserving Wenonah's Heritage" with the WHS logo, a picture of the "tower" of the historic Shull House on Mantua Ave.

Bradley Caraker, son of Eileen Caraker and grandson of Eileen Honabach, both Society members, is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant on February 7th. Let us all pray that it will be successful.

"A Ladies Night Out" is planned for March 25th, at the Incarnation Hall, Mantua, NJ. This is a fund-raiser to help with the tremendous expenses involved in Bradley's treatment and recovery.

I refer you to our January Newsletter for the tasks we wish to complete during 2006..

Sincerely yours, Don Ralston

### HISTORICAL TIDBIT

From the Minute books of Wenonah Borough Council. (and Commission)

April 10, 1883 "The first meeting of the Wenonah Borough Commission was held in the public school house of Wenonah for the purpose of electing a permanent organization, and transacting such business as may come before it".

"T.W.Synnott called the meeting to order and a permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers." President Dr. George W. Bailey, Secretary C.B. Johnson, Treasurer I.C. Stevenson, other members A.W. Carey, M.H. Perry, T.W. Synnott, and J. Frank Shull.

At the April 17, 1883 meeting "Dr. G. Bailey, on behalf of the Mantua Land & Improvement Co. presented to the borough 2 squares of land for our Borough Park. It was formally accepted by the Borough by means of a Deed received Sept. 11, 1883.

Editor's Note: The meaning of "2 squares of land" is that a street, Park Avenue split what now is our park into squares, or blocks. Park Avenue east of the railroad was vacated in 1896 and the park then became 1 square or block as it is today. This accounts for the Park frequently being referenced as "squares" in many meeting Minute notations.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

## 110 Years Ago in Wenonah

Last Thursday morning the trolley poles from a short distance south of Stille Chew's (CVS is there now on route 45) residence to the Mantua Creek, a distance of about 3000 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. Dmetrius-Mrs. Nellie Keenan; 5. Character Impersonations-Mrs. C.A. Wahlstrom; 6. The Forge in the Forest-Night-Storm-Thunder and Lightning-Dawn-Song of the Birds-Daybreak-Birds singing near the running brook- Sounds of Domestic Fowls-The Clock Strikes Five- The Smith at Work.

The stables of John Verrick were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon entailing a heavy loss. The flames were not discovered until it was impossible to save the building and the contents were consumed with the exception of a few articles. One horse was taken from the burning structure after some difficulty. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Job Scott is improving his meadow by the use of a mud digger and at the same time making the creek more navigable by deepening the channel.

On Thursday of last week more people traveled on the trolley than on any one day since it has been in operation. (Mantua)

The trolley ride participated in by a jolly party from our village to Willow Grove Park was one worth repeating. (with the exception of the ferry ride across the Delaware, the whole trip was by trolley-they could have gone as far as Easton, Pa.)

The closing event of the ballroom series at the Inn was held on Wednesday evening last.

Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom led the grand march. A number of Philadelphia guests participated and a most delightful evening was spent. Mr. and Mrs. W.J. McCahan, who spent the summer at the Inn will move today into their handsome residence in West Philadelphia. (He was married to Frank Shull's daughter-NW comer Clinton and Mantua Avenue-he was founder and CEO of Quaker City Sugar Company and later was one of the founders of what was to be the American Stores)

Rev. H.J. Zelle, president of the New Jersey Conference Epworth League and pastor of the Methodist Episcopal 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*

Turner and McCormick will furnish Java coffee for the missionary supper at Noblit's Hall tonight.

The thermometer registered 4 above zero here this morning

The safety gates are now assured us. It seems almost incredible that over 300 teams use the crossing at the depot in a day

The library association is rapidly arranging matters to have the room in the rear of the post office open for use soon, which will be highly appreciated by our people. (This was at 1 East Mantua Avenue.)

The iron fence to be placed between the tracks has arrived and now when the safety gates get here we will be nearly satisfied. (The iron fence was short lived as the advent of the electric line in 1905 made the fence a potential hazard.)

The only drawback to the ice cream social of the Forget-Me-Not Mission Band at the home of Mrs. English was the spoiling of about 10 quarts of ice cream by it being saturated with salt water. (Remember when we made ice cream using rock salt in the hand cranked ice cream maker?)

Some think there will be a Democratic and Republican ticket in the field here for borough officers this spring while it is hinted by others that this is just what some do not want-for their own success. However it will soon be known positively and then the political pot may boil with a vengeance.

Since the death of Mr. Fullerton we have been without a Justice of the Peace. But we have very little need for such an officer here, but they are rather handy to have around when they are needed.

The pleasant "at homes" which were held quite frequently not long ago have been discontinued for some unaccountable reason.

Daniel W. Brown went to Burlington yesterday to hear the "silver tongued" orator, William Jennings Bryant.

There was a little excitement on the ice pond Saturday while the house of Turner and McCormick was being filled. Frank Clark, driving the team of J. Chew, thought he would show them how to cut ice and picked up a saw. When he cut off the cake he was standing on and took an icy bath for his health. Thomas Savage heard a splash and gurgling sound and as he turned around saw George Dilkes pulling Clark out of the water.

Poor Dash, he came all the way from Barnesboro to get a bone, and as he was crossing the track ahead of the Cape May express about 5 o'clock last night,

lost his life by collision with the engine, which was moving faster than he was.

C.W. Hussey had a serious runaway yesterday. While hitched in front of John Vierick's place on Mantua Avenue, the horse flew back and broke the bridle and halter, and dashed up the street, striking a post or two, almost completely demolishing the wagon. No one was injured.

The Cape May freight, due here about six o'clock last night was laid over till 2 o'clock this morning because the engine threw a tire from one of her drive wheels. Two engines and a wrecker were sent down and travel was delayed. The wheel broke 100 yards north of the depot but the train could not be stopped for nearly a half mile. There was considerable excitement for a while.

We have become accustomed to the new lights at the depot, and they are so in keeping with the other streetlights, that we can scarcely realize that we put up with oil lights for so long. Progress is the motto of the age.

Grocer Richard Clark has a curiosity on exhibition in the shape of a monster collar button which is a showcase for eight different styles. It is at least 10 inches high and the same across and is a striking advertisement for patent buttons he has for sale.

Our people are anxiously awaiting the result of the skating contest.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society in Noblit's Hall will give a supper tomorrow from 6 to 8. Tickets 25 cents

Turner & McCormick have secured a vicious bulldog to guard their store. A stitch in time saves nine.

The shelter on the southbound track is completed except the tin on the roof and it meets the requirements.

J.S. Chew had to call Dr. E. Bassett Kirby of Woodbury to see two of his horses, which were sick, this morning.

J.W. English, treasurer of the Wenonah Conclave, I.O.H. has received a check for \$2,000 death benefit for the late Benjamin F. Coles, a member of the order, to be paid to his widow.

We had almost another sleighing snow Saturday night and the coal dealers are smiling, but warmer weather is promised tonight.

Some of our people complain of the dearth of amusements here this winter, compared with other seasons.

*Woodbury Daily Times* Courtesy Milton Webb

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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Here

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# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2006

### Membership Benefits

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_

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

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

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