

# Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 6 July 2006

MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT DON RALSTON

Dear Members;

This past winter and spring we had very pleasant meetings. I hope you all enjoyed them. We can now look forward to our summer of individual activities.

I wish to note some news about our members and their families. Pat and Andy Sole's son Dr. David P. Sole was named to the Personal Achievement Hall of Fame of the Gateway Regional High School. David is a 1985 graduate. He is enshrined with two other Wenonah graduates, Stephen Squyres, head of the NASA Mars Probe and his brother Tim named to the Academy Awards for Film Editing. Our congratulations to all three of these fine Wenonah youngsters.

Four Junior High School students at Gateway Regional have been selected to attend the American Legion Boys State. It is held at Rider College from June 18 to June 23. The boys are Louis McCall, son of Vicki and Lou McCall, Chris Mayer-Bacon, Christian Morency and Jonathan Stranahan. Jersey Boys State is a fictitious 51<sup>st</sup> state organization under the direction of the American Legion. Its objectives are to educate and familiarize our young people with the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.

I want to thank those members, who were responsible for setting up and handling the June picnic. They were Helen and Jack Sheppard, Betty MacLeod and Pat Sole and others who

contributed. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and sociability. .

For Kathryn and myself I want to thank Jack Sheppard for the very fine tribute paid to my father, Wayne M. Ralston and to the Ralston family.

On a sad note we extend our condolences to Bill and Eileen Caraker and Bill and Eileen Honabach for the loss of Bradley, their son and grandson.

### 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**

Plans are progressing for the Fourth of July open house. Betty Rose is heading up the committee.

She has contacted and made arrangements for twelve local organizations to display the historic artifacts of each organization. They are the Fire Company, Free Library, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lions Club, Women's Club, Lutheran Church, Episcopal Church, Methodist church, Presbyterian Church, the American Legion and of course, our Wenonah Historical Society.

We encourage members to visit the Community Center on the Fourth of July. We will need volunteers to help set up on July 3rd.

We will also need members to watch the displays and exhibits. The Open House will be from 11: a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If the crowd is large we may extend the amount of open time.

Our fund raising for the year will be sale of merchandise. A price list is attached. Help support our organization by purchasing one or more items for sale. They make wonderful gifts.

In addition to our usual goods Chuck Foreman has revised and updated his booklet "Map Overview of Wenonah". It covers other topics of interest to our citizens. There is a limit of 50 copies and we will sell them for \$3.00 per copy.

Last year's open house was well received and we believe this year's will be equally as well attended.

Our next meeting will in September and once again Vicki and Lou McCall will host it at their home "Little Grange" on Mantua Ave.

I wish all a happy and healthy summer. Don Ralston President.

### HISTORICAL TIDBITS

On March 16, 1928 a Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Wenonah Borough Council petitioning the New Jersey Legislature to allow the annexation of Deptford Township land east of the railroad tracks and south of Linden Ave.

Parts of this land are currently occupied by the Lizzie property along Glassboro Road and the Wenonah Swim Club. Residents in the area requested the action and Deptford Township had no objection.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

**THE RALSTON'S OF WENONAH**  
The Epitome of Duty, Honor and Country  
A collection of excerpts from the archives of the *Woodbury Daily Times*  
as researched and recorded by former member Milton H. Webb Jr.

- Aug 1907 Wayne Ralston, one of the “gold dust twins” caught a bass weighing 3-½ pounds in the Mantua Creek on Tuesday.
- Oct 1912 Young Arthur Holton is on his way to California where he will attend the Seventh Day Adventist School at Towa Linda. His purpose is to prepare himself for medical missionary work in some foreign country. (Arthur J. Holton died in France at the end of WWI. “Nearly 2,000 persons attended his funeral in Wenonah in November, 1920. Wenonah’s Legion post is named for him).
- Oct 1912 Munico Crogralia noticed a wire dangling on Mantua Ave. on Thursday morning and seeing that children could easily reach it, decided to see if it was alive. He picked it up and wrapped it around a utility pole. The pole was wet and when the wire came in contact with the damp wood 2,400 volts passed through his body. Wayne Ralston (Sr.) who was going gunning noticed him lying against the pole. He went over and seeing the predicament, in which he was in, placed his gun to the wire and shot it off. Munico was then carried to Dr. Stout’s office unconscious and after much difficulty was brought around all right.
- July 1917 Wayne (Sr.) Ralston’s name was among those drafted into the army although he didn’t wait to be drafted as he was among the first volunteers for service on the Mexican border where he served seven months in the Engineer Corps of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He is now at Fort Myer qualifying for an officer’s position.
- Sept 1918 It is interesting to look back to notice the career of your former Daily Times carriers. Ten years ago they were Fred Kray, Hugh Mehorter and Wayne Ralston (Sr.). All three are at present in the military somewhere in France.
- Oct 1919 Captain Wayne Ralston (Sr.) is receiving a hearty welcome home from his many friends who are glad to see him after his 18-months absence overseas.
- June 1925 On June 16th the voters of Wenonah will select their candidates for the various borough offices. Among the candidates will be Mr. Wayne M. Ralston Sr. who seeks the nomination on the Republican ballot for the office of Borough tax collector.
- June 1925 Alexander Hamilton Ralston died at his home on North Marion Avenue early Tuesday morning from pneumonia. Mr. Ralston was born near Aberdeen, Scotland seventy years ago and was brought to Philadelphia at the age of 10 where he resided until 20-years ago, at which time he and his family took up their residence in Wenonah. He leaves a widow Mary McKowen Ralston, two daughters Mrs. Frank Black of Wenonah and Mrs. Eugene Brownsworth of Mt. Vernon NY, and a son Wayne MacVeigh Ralston of Wenonah.
- Sept 1927 Dr. H. Lake Gilmour, Wayne MacVeigh Ralston, J. A. Carey, Raymond Clark, George Hendrickson and Oscar Toomey sailed on the S/S Leviathan for Europe on Saturday morning where they will attend the American Legion Convention. \*
- May 1931 Wayne Ralston Sr., chief of the Wenonah fire department addressed members of the Friendship Fire Company in Woodbury speaking on “The Organization and Training of a Volunteer Fire Company”.
- May 1934 County Fire Marshal Nelson Furman, who is not a candidate to succeed himself, nominated Wayne Ralston of Wenonah for fire marshal. Ralston is unopposed.

- Dec 1936 Mrs. Mary Ralston Laird, mother of Wayne Ralston Sr. of Wenonah, died yesterday in Philadelphia. While a resident of Wenonah Mrs. Laird was active in the Wenonah Presbyterian Church.
- Aug 1942 Prominent Wenonah resident Wayne M. Ralston Sr. has been called into active army service and is now stationed at Fort Dix. He was a captain during World War I and since promoted to the rank of major. His son Wayne Jr. is now a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. A younger son, Donald is a student at the University of North Carolina. (editor's note: I didn't know Don when I was growing up in Woodbury but Wayne Ralston Jr. was my camp counselor at the YMCA Camp Ockanickin in Medford)
- Feb 1943 Lieutenant Wayne M. Ralston Jr. married Beatrice Dobbs at the Presbyterian Church in Brady Texas. Major and Mrs. Ralston on their return trip from Texas visited their son Donald at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill NC.
- July 1943 Major Wayne M. Ralston Sr. of Wenonah has been ordered to overseas duty and left for his new assignment on July 19th. He was stationed for seven months at the Army Air Forces training center at Atlantic City. Major Ralston, former county fire marshal and clerk of the Wenonah Board of education has two sons in service.
- Jan 1945 Lieut. Wayne M. Ralston Jr. was killed Tuesday at an army air base in Texas. Lieut. Ralston was the husband of the former Beatrice Dobbs of Mt. Royal, who has been in Texas with him. His father Major Ralston is in China and a brother Lieut. Don Ralston is with the Army Air Force in Italy.
- June 1945 First Lieutenant Donald N. Ralston of Wenonah, a 22-year-old combat veteran received the Distinguished Flying Cross at a formal presentation ceremony held at Ellington Field, Texas. Recently returned from seven months of combat duty as a navigator with the Fifteenth Air Force in the Mediterranean theater, Lt. Ralston also has been awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Don's father also served on Wenonah Borough Council in the early 1920's as did Don from 1967 through 1969. Don also served Wenonah as Zoning Administrative Officer during the 1980's.

And many of you are aware of Don's long-term activity with our American Legion Post as a Past Commander and long-time Post Service Officer and of course the current WHS President.

We must also recognize and praise Don's companion of 55-years, Kathryn, who excelled as one of Wenonah School's finest teachers for 25 years retiring in 1987. In fact on June 11, 1987 I had the privilege and honor of introducing a Borough Council Resolution at the time of her retirement honoring Kathryn for her teaching accomplishments. Congratulations to Don and Kathy who recently celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

But the point of reviewing this history of the Ralston family, both current and past, is to honor Don, Kathy and the entire Ralston family for their involvement in America and Wenonah.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to have known and worked with father Wayne Ralston Sr., son Wayne Jr., son Don and wife Kathy. The Ralston's have provided our country and our town with an outstanding example of patriotism, dedication to duty and honorable service that is sadly lacking in our country today.

Jack C. Sheppard Sr., Editor

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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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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