

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, May 9, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 5, May 2014



Several years ago the Gloucester County Historical Society (GCHS) notified our organization that to regain space they wished to offer our Society the Wenonah Military Academy (WMA) artifacts donated to them by the WMA Alumni Organization. We agreed to accept it.

It was then decided by WHS leaders to use the materials as the basis to construct a museum on the second floor of the Wenonah Station/Community Center if members would volunteer to do the work necessary. Member Rocco Doto accepted the challenge and started on the project but soon, due to his demanding work activities, was forced to step away and leave the activity to others, should anyone step forward for the purpose. Being asked, I volunteered to give the museum a try.

The first thing I did was conduct an informal inventory of the materials received from the GCHS and learned that the WMA materials consisted of uniform parts and decorations, yearbooks and student publications, sales promotion brochures, sports

paraphernalia, and sports and educational activity photographs.

Other than WMA materials, we have many photographs of town activities, government records, records and photographs of service and women's club activity, Fourth of July programs and other holiday activities and church photos and writings.

There are also many plans and details of borough water, sewer and public works information donated by the estate of former Borough Engineer Bill Baum, along with the excellent Wenonah history written by the late Marjorie Lentz, and a history of Wenonah government activity from official Borough Minutes that I wrote following my terms in Wenonah government.

Once I had an idea of the type and quantity of historic materials we had to work with, I was fortunate to acquire the volunteered services of resident Julie Ream, who single-handedly identified, tagged and stored the materials while entering their identification information into our Past Perfect Museum Software computer program.

Julie spent countless hours, especially on week-ends, entering the material with the result that it can be located and accessed on a moment's notice. Without her assistance what we now have could not have been completed.

And what do we have at this time? The good news is that we have a significant amount of Wenonah's past put away in a retrievable manner that can be accessed relatively easily. The uniforms and other WMA memorabilia have been photographed, recorded, and then stored in museum-quality containers and acid-free wrappings. The written materials and photographs are stored in file cabinets and a flat-file and also tagged and numbered for

2014 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 2nd Friday of each month
(except June, July and August)
at the Train Station Community Center

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

This Friday evening we will mark the end of another successful season for the Wenonah Historical Society with our annual picnic beginning at 5:00 at the Community Center/Train Station. Hawks Corner Deli is providing two variety hoagie trays as well as potato and macaroni salads. Many thanks to those who signed up to bring appetizers, side dishes or desserts.

I want to thank the WHS executives VP Paul Lader, Secretary Vicki McCall, and Treasurer Carol Wiltsee for their dedicated service. Also, thanks to Jack "of all trades" Sheppard for his leadership of our museum. Barbara Price and Larry Smith also need to be commended for their contributions to our fine organization.

easy retrieval.

Most of the individual Wenonah artifacts such as locally made medicine bottles and the original Wenonah House Hotel desk bell (c 1872), etc. have been photographed. Many photographs chronicling the creation of the town from the Wenonah House Hotel through the Military Academy era have been assembled as a Power Point presentation and with the capable assistance of member Karen Heller are shown to the Wenonah Elementary fifth grade classes each year as a program entitled *Origins of Wenonah*. The WHS Mission Statement lists making history available to Wenonah school students as a major objective. And for good reason, for if we don't make it available to them, who will?

Having said all of the above, what is the "bad-news?" The "bad news" is that we have no space on the ground floor of the Community Center for display cabinets. Due to the narrow, steep stairs to the second floor, we have the same lack of display space there. With the potential for fire in this 120-year old structure, we cannot afford access to the collection as is done in most other museums. It is just not worth the risk.

So what is the answer? What can be done to overcome this access problem? It is this: For a long period of time I have been

seeking the assistance of a person or persons capable of creating an Internet website that could be used to display the Wenonah Museum materials without need for personal access to our building. I envision either a stand-alone website or preferably a site that could be attached to the official Wenonah borough website. Anyone, whether it be school personnel, students, our library or an Internet visitor, could enter the site and see photographs and text records of our entire collection. The Power Point programs, *Wenonah Origins* and *Wenonah Military Academy*, could also be accessed to provide both entertainment and education and thus provide the history of Wenonah to our children and other interested parties.

Can this and will this happen? I certainly hope so and our new "tech-savvy" museum curator, volunteer Larry Smith, is investigating the possibility. Relatively few have any idea of how wonderfully unique our little town is. The more that is known, the better chance of Wenonah's survival for future generations.

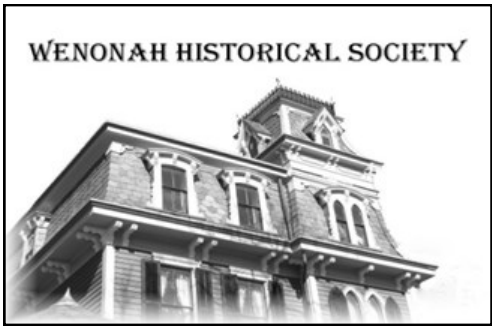
Anyone reading this who has energy and ideas and wishes to volunteer time and talent, please contact me at shepardsr@comcast.net or Larry Smith at 468-3480 or smithlr@att.net, at your convenience.

Jack Sheppard

WENONAH

MAY 1914

- ◇ Mr. William Hallman has sold his home on South Monroe Avenue and will move his family to South Monroe Avenue in the house formerly occupied by Benjamin Robotham.
- ◇ Our four graduates of the Class of '14 of the Woodbury High School attended the reception given by the Juniors to the Class of '14 on Friday evening at the Woodbury Country Club.
- ◇ The special election held on Tuesday for the purpose of voting for or against a free public library for the Borough of Wenonah resulted in favor of having a free library. Only about four were not in favor of it.
- ◇ The salary of Rev. Relyea has been increased \$200 per year making a salary of \$1200.
- ◇ Parties from Franklinville have purchased Mrs. Cooper's large house on the east side of West Jersey Avenue and will renovate it. This property has stood idle for a number of years.
- ◇ The members of the Chippewa Canoe Club will hold their annual dance at the gymnasium on Saturday evening to raise funds for the improvement of their boat house on Mantua Creek.
- ◇ Mr. Ogden of Philadelphia will erect a house on Jefferson Avenue in the near future.
- ◇ Mr. W.K. Patton has purchased a new five passenger touring car.
- ◇ The sixth and seventh grades of the public school are having their examinations this week.
- ◇ Mr. William Updegrave of Mantua has started an ice route in Wenonah and Mantua, and will run his wagon every day in the year except Sundays.
- ◇ Mr. Norman Schock, who is stationed at Pocomoke City, MD, sent his mother a huge shad by parcel post the other day. The fish weighed nearly eight pounds.
- ◇ Thomas Townsend moved his family into their new home on N. Clinton Avenue on Saturday.
- ◇ Dr. C.H. Lorence, president of the Academy, has made arrangements to have the boys of the school encamp at Cape May after the close of the Academy in June. They will camp there ten days.
- ◇ Dr. Harry Stout is contemplating building a house next to Mrs. Mehorter's which will be occupied by one of our recent bride and grooms.
- ◇ Mr. S. Forsman, the watchman at the gate crossing on Mantua Avenue, has filled his idle minutes by making a pretty flower bed on the railroad property, improving the surroundings very much.
- ◇ Mr. Geo. Grosscup moved his family into their new home which he recently purchased and which he has had thoroughly renovated.
- ◇ Mrs. Swartz marched in the Suffrage parade in Philadelphia Saturday.



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PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK _____ CASH _____

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

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

WHS PO BOX 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090