

WHS OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President, Charles Horan

Vice-President, Nora Taylor

Secretary, Jennie McQuaide

Treasurer, Scott Barnes

Trustee, Lou McCall

Trustee, Paul Lader

TRUSTEES MESSAGE

We hope all of you are enjoying some much needed time outside and some time with an ever enlarging circle of friends and family. As we continue to follow COVID protocols, know we miss seeing you and are thinking of you. While we cannot hold our picnic this May (and yes this is now 2 years!), we hope you all can get out to some fun and socially safe events this Spring and Summer.

Be sure to look for more Story Walks from the Wenonah Historical Society as we continue to partner with the Library on this wonderful tradition.

We will hopefully be seeing you IN PERSON for a September Meet and Greet and a Cemetery Tour in October! Look for more information in our next newsletter to come out in the summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6, 2021

Wenonah Farmers market in the Park (Woman's Club of Wenonah) 4-7pm and every Thursday from 4-7pm

May 8, 2021

Clean Communities Day at the Train Station (Jack Sheppard Community Center) start time 8:30 am

May 14, 2021

Wenonah Historical Society Meeting (jitsi) 7:30 pm

May 31, 2021

American Legion Memorial Day Parade 8:45

June 5, 2021

Comey Grounds Tour 1-4 pm (See p. 3for details.)

May Wenonah History Quiz

How many correct answers can you come up with?

1. Charles Hobson experimented with the early uses of Teflon on a stove in the basement of which Wenonah home?
2. On what street in Wenonah was the first Presbyterian Church located?
3. Groucho Marx often visited his family at what address?
4. At what time did the fire siren ring for one minute every night?
5. Which home in Wenonah was designed by the famous architect, William Lightfoot Price?

Wenonah American Legion Post 192

By John Forren



From the Gloucester County Wall of Heroes
In the Gloucester County Justice Complex

“Fall In!” reported the *Woodbury Daily Times* on December 1, 1919. “Service men help round up everybody who was in the service and be at the Y.M.C.A. Hall at 8 p.m., on Thursday, December 4th, to form a Wenonah Post of the American Legion. Each man must come out to fix up the Charter. Remember Thursday at 8 for the kick-off.”

And so it was that in the aftermath of World War I, for which hostilities ended on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918, also known as Armistice Day, this public call was made throughout the Wenonah area for those who just returned from the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in Europe during World War I. The call was to marshal those returning war-weary military veterans in and around Wenonah to plan the founding of Wenonah’s Post of The American Legion. Only a little more than a couple months prior, on September 16th, 1919, The American Legion was nationally chartered and incorporated to support US military service members, veterans, and their families by the US Congress, which also established membership criteria.

Those veterans who gathered to set about the work of organizing, electing officers, and planning for a future Wenonah Post held their first meeting on Thursday, January 22, 1920. The purpose of their work was ultimately realized when on August 1, 1920 the Wenonah Post of The American Legion was formally chartered as New Jersey Post 192 and named in honor of Arthur J. Holetton, a US Army 1st Lieutenant in the AEF and a 1912 graduate of the Wenonah Military Academy. The formal charter still hangs in the Jack C. Sheppard Community Center.


Lt. Holetton was killed after the Armistice was signed in an accident while boarding a train in France in December 1918 but his remains were not returned to the United States for burial until November 1920. His funeral was held at the Wenonah Military Academy attended by two thousand people, including local officials. Following the service, his caisson-borne casket was followed by members of his namesake Post, the Arthur J. Holetton American Legion Post 192 of Wenonah, New Jersey, in a procession to Wenonah Cemetery, where an Honor Guard fired its rifles in a memorial salute and where he was interred.

Through the years since then, membership in the Wenonah Post of the American Legion has been comprised of veterans who served during World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam, and more recently, the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism. Since creating The American Legion, Congress subsequently modified eligibility requirements through the years to include veterans who served during each of these wartime periods. However, veterans who served during 12 previously undeclared periods of war such as Lebanon, Iran Hostage Crisis, Salvadoran Civil War, and the Libyan Conflict were not eligible for Legion membership.

In 2019, Congress extended Legion membership to those previously ineligible veterans by passing the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act), which declares that the United States has been

in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. This federal law is a declaration to honor approximately 1,600 US service members who were killed or wounded in combat and their comrades who served during those 12 previously undeclared periods of war. The Legion Act expressed the following: "It is the sense of Congress that, in accordance with the history, tradition, and purposes of The American Legion, it is fair, proper, and reasonable that the privilege of membership in The American Legion should be extended to all military personnel who served on active military duty during all of the unrecognized war eras involving active United States military personnel." As a result, the LEGION Act opened the door for approximately 6 million veterans across our nation to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

Since its founding in August 1920, the Arthur J. Holeton American Legion Post 192 of Wenonah has had a rich history of service to veterans, their families, and communities in and around Wenonah. In a pandemic-constrained 2020, Post 192 quietly observed its 100th year of service to Wenonah and surrounding communities. And in that time, we in Post 192 took stock of the accomplishments of all those who served before us and reaffirmed our mission to serve active duty military, veterans, their families, and our communities. With hopes that 2021 will put the pandemic behind us, we look to the future to find new opportunities to fulfill our commitment as we continue to pay tribute to and honor the men and women who serve in our nation's armed forces and their families. We believe that we can be most effective in that service by working in collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with all civic organizations in and around Wenonah.



Just a Reminder...

Membership dues are still being accepted.

New members are always welcome!

Join the Gloucester County Historical Society for a Zoom Presentation



May 20, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

G.G. Green: His Life and Legacy

Presented by Eileen Shanahan

Contact gchspresident1903@gmail.com for reservations. A link will be sent on the day of the event.



One of Wenonah's historic and beautiful gardens will be available to visit in June to benefit the Children's Home Society of New Jersey.

Stroll along on a self-guided tour of the grounds of the Comey House, "Oakwood," learn a little history, listen to the beautiful music of the Quattro Bassi Quartet in the gazebo and enjoy the light refreshments!

Date/time of event: Saturday, June 5th, with rain dates of June 6 and 12th, 1-4pm

Price: \$25 per ticket

Tickets can be purchased at chsofnj.org/comey-grounds-tour-fundraiser or check the Wenonah Our Town Facebook page for a link.

Wenonah A Century Ago—May 1921
Excerpts from *The Woodbury Daily Times*

- ◆ Mayor and Mrs. Charles Lorence and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Keeler participated in the Masonic Auto Run today to Browns Mills, where a dinner was enjoyed at the “Pig’n Whistle Inn.”
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Abbott moved yesterday from here to Detroit.
- ◆ Pleasant rooms and board. Mrs. Neely. S.E. Corner Clinton Ave. & Poplar St., Wenonah, NJ. Bell Phone 18-R.
- ◆ For Rent—A nice three-room cottage, furnished, for light housekeeping for small family or young married couple; fine place for summer. For information, call at the flagman’s house, Wenonah Station, or at the place, east of Glassboro Rd. back of Pile’s pond. Mrs. George Wilson. Only 15 minutes from Wenonah Station.
- ◆ Howard Ingram Plumbing and Heating. Roofing and spouting given prompt attention. Cor. Park and Cherry Sts., Wenonah. Bell phone 33-W.
- ◆ Shoe Repairing Neatly Done. Buy and Sell Second-Hand Shoes. Charles Broes, Next to Fire House, Wenonah, NJ.
- ◆ Auto Bargains. 1917 Allen Touring, very fine shape, \$400. Cadillac Touring \$75. Maxwell Touring, good shape, \$300. Wenonah Garage. Geo. Fredrick, Bell Phone 93.
- ◆ Miss Mary Bilderback attended her Conservatory Alumni banquet held at the Bellevue-Stratford the other evening.
- ◆ The recent American Legion dance held in the Academy Drill Hall was a wonderful success. The guests came from near and far, some even coming from New York to attend this last and finest dance of the series termed a “Far East” dance. Everything about the decorations was of the oriental, and much credit is due to Miss Phyllis Wood and the committee in charge. Wysocki’s Orchestra from Camden rendered delightful music till a late hour when the midnight-flyer was stopped to carry the merrymakers to their homes.

Answers to the April Wenonah History Quiz

1. Who was Wenonah’s first mayor?
E.M.Wilkins
2. What year as the Wenonah Fire Company incorporated?
1901
3. Between 1896 and 1935, how many trains traveled from Philadelphia to Wenonah in one day?
Sixty-one
4. What year did the Wenonah Military Academy open?
1904
5. Who was Arthur J. Holeton?
Dr. Arthur Holeton was killed in WWI. The American Legion Post 192 is named in his honor.
6. What year was Mantua Avenue paved?
1925

Join the Gloucester County Historical Society for a Zoom Presentation

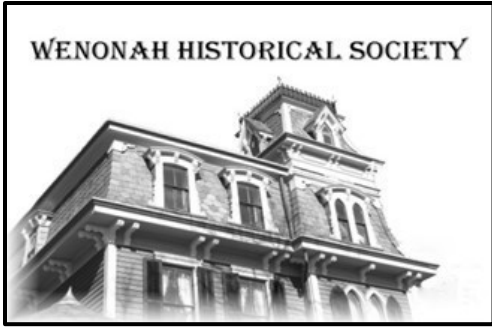


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G.G. Green: His Life and Legacy

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PO Box 32

Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Benefits

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS

ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA

INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL.

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK _____ CASH _____

Any information you would like to see presented in future programs or newsletters?

